

F.D Emperor 1381

Chapter 1381 Dao Overlords' Mind

Red Mist Forbidden Land:

Heavenly Book sensed something and opened his eyes, immediately checking the content of his book. There were more writings, but most of them were events that had already occurred, meaning he could not benefit from them.

'Something is wrong,' he first thought. He mulled over every detail of information available, trying to get a bigger picture of the situation.

'His growth has accelerated,' Heavenly Book summarized. This was even more apparent when he compared the information he acquired about Grand Dao Son.

'The challenges he faced drastically increased, forcing his growth to accelerate at an alarming rate. Moreover, the information I can receive has drastically decreased or become less useful.' His eyes shone brightly.

'It seems his future self has made a move. He has intercepted the information Grand Dao can provide me while accelerating his younger self's growth. Is he already preparing to deal with me?'

Heavenly Book remained calm despite the unexpected events. However, as a Dao Overlord, anticipating the plans that would go wrong and knowing how to adjust them accordingly are basic skills. His main concern is how to proceed next.

'It's now completely impossible for me to interfere in the Eternal Ascension World in any shape or form,' Heavenly Book analyzed. He, along with all the people with eyes on the Eternal Ascension World, knew of the current blockade.

'Should I accelerate my plans?' Heavenly Book had made a great stride in tracking down the origin of Buddhism to exchange with Madman Chu for a way to split [Existence] to finish his deal with Supreme Unity.

'This is not feasible,' Heavenly Book realized, shaking his head with some frustration. He was already in cahoots with Grand Dao, but the way that thing operates is so rigid. The origin of Buddhism is what people could refer to as a sub-taboo, meaning such a level of secrets is not directly outlawed by Grand Dao, but anyone who tries to find the truth will also be hindered by it. As such, Heavenly Book was having some trouble finishing his task.

'So, is this it? There is nothing I can do?' Heavenly Book frowned. Although he was convinced of his strength and would not take Wang Wei too seriously even if he became a peak Paragon, he also did not want to let him grow peacefully.

'I could have another transcendent interfere in the affairs of the Eternal Ascension World,' Heavenly Book thought. 'Such a powerhouse is enough to change the current state of affairs and provide an opportunity for me to interfere, maybe even have an opportunity to kill him directly.'

Heavenly Dao's eyes shone brilliantly. Most people would roll their eyes at his thought, but he already had a feasible plan. He knew of a second generation with a transcendent father who doted heavily on him. It was easy for Heavenly Dao to lure that bastard to the Eternal Ascension World and ensure an accident occurred, forcing his father to intervene in the conflict.

'This plan is feasible, but what are the cons,' Heavenly Book analyzed calmly. 'A high risk of overthrowing the board.' Heavenly Dao's plan was bold and risky. If he succeeds, he will achieve transcendence in one fell swoop, or at the very least, achieve power on par with Grand Dao. However, he also understood he was playing with fire, and his greatest fear was that Grand Dao or the future Wang Wei would overthrow the gameboard by destroying the universe and killing everybody.

'An animal is most dangerous when cornered, let alone a transcendent being,' Heavenly Book analyzed. 'If he cannot see his younger self have any chance at survival, he will start acting like a cornered animal, which is the last thing I want.'

Heavenly Book frowned, realizing he was back to the beginning. His best option now is just to wait and continue doing what he was doing.

'What should I do?' he pondered. Just as he was indecisive, new information appeared in the book. 'Their first meeting is about to take place? Is this Grand Dao's hint that I should do something?' Heavenly Book calculated swiftly before realizing that this was indeed an opportunity.

'I could...Wait, my mindset has been a little too excited. The original plan was to survive the cracks between these two titans and wait for the right opportunity to strike. Being too excited and showing myself too much before them will ruin my chances of the final strike.'

Heavenly Book finished the new page in the book and decisively closed it. Sometimes, doing less is doing more. So, he resisted the temptation and let Grand Dao deal with this mess. Although he was a pawn, he was not the absolutely loyal kind, meaning he was also not the kind that could be discarded at will.

Heavenly Book did not wait long before receiving another secret contact from the Heaven Cardinal, but he ignored it. Since he had made his decision, nothing could change it. Anyways, he can benefit from whoever is the final winner in this upcoming confrontation.

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Eternal Ascension World, secret dimension:

Wang Wei returned to his hideout, thinking about what he experienced, what to learn from it, and how to operate in the future. 'Paranoia is an excellent way to protect myself, but it also made me predictable. So, how do I act from now on?'

Wang Wei focused on his personality and how he usually acts; he also tried to put himself in his opponent's shoes.

'I'm arrogant by nature, and this recent failure is a big blow to me. Ninety-nine percent of people — especially Dao Overlords — would become even more cautious and timid after that defeat. So, I must be unpredictable and start acting even more aggressively. Then, when people think they've figured me out, I switch to a more timid way of behaving.'

Wang Wei was calm and composed, analyzing his thoughts and behavior in a cold, calculating, and logical manner and without bias; it was as if he was not talking about himself but a complete stranger.

'For my first aggressive act, First Sun must die,' Wang Wei analyzed. 'It doesn't matter whether the information is true or not. The fact that he might be his bloodline and the perfect replacement vessel is enough for him to be eliminated. Additionally, I can also get some revenge.'

After making an initial plan/response to what happened in the Ten Thousand Buddha Have, Wang Wei shifted his focus to something else — something more important:

'I must regain my strength. It would be better if I could find a way to increase my cultivation despite the lock's effect,' Wang Wei thought, shaking his head; he had to think of something more doable.

Wang Wei then stood up, preparing to leave the hideout. He already had an idea of how to get his strength back, but he needed to see his ancestor first. However, before he could teleport away, Wang Wei received an emergency contact from Red Mask, so he sent a projection.

"What happened?"

"My lord, are you alright?" Red Mask immediately asked.

"Am I alright? Oh, right, you must have lost most of your strength," Wang Wei figured out. One of the side-effects of the Lord Shadow Technique is the connection between them, so now that Wang Wei had drastically weakened, Red Mask also suffered a similar fate.

"A small accident occurred, but I'm fine, so don't worry."

Small accident? Red Mask did not believe these words for a second. She knew how strong her lord was, meaning she could also deduce what kind of enemy could injure him in such a state. However, since the latter told him not to worry, there was nothing she could do. Plus, even if she had the will, her strength and wisdom did not allow her to provide any form of aid.

"I understand."

"You should probably stop your personal activities and tasks," Wang Wei said.

Lord, I may be weakened, but I'm not entirely useless."

'It's too risky,' Wang Wei shook his head. Red Mask could use his highest strength level, which is the Empyrean Peak. However, she had a time limit, which was even lower than normal due to the fact Wang Wei's cultivation was still in the Great Emperor Realm.

"But, sir —"

"Do as I say," Wang Wei stopped her. "You're too valuable, and the risks are not worth it." Wang Wei did not say these words on an emotional basis. Wang Ju had a great place in his heart, so his relationship with Red Mask was purely boss and subordinate. However, he meant what he said. Losing her would mean finding another talented individual and training them again.

With the current world's situation, it was not worth the trouble. So, he wanted her to stay at her desk and give orders instead of going into the field herself.

"...As you wish.

Chapter 1382 Strength Regaining Method

Wang Wei teleported to the Origin Seal Continent, and as soon as he appeared, he sensed a sharp sword energy followed by Yan Hai suddenly appearing before him.

"What happened to you? What did the sect contact me and tell me your Soul Lamp was about to go out?"

"I — Wait, how do you have my Soul Lamp?" Wang Wei asked. He made one in the lower dimension even before he started cultivating, but he never made one for the upper-dimension branch.

"Boy, is this what's important right now?"

"I'm just curious."

Yan Hai looked at him: "Do you want another beating? In your current state, I don't even need the Ancestral Stick to show you my majesty."

"Ancestor, relax," Wang Wei swiftly said before explaining everything.

"That bold nun always complained about how she had a tumultuous fate with Taoism, but it seems true," Yan Hai muttered. "Now, I feel bad for dismissing her." She removed these thoughts from her mind:

"I'm glad you're alive, kid."

"Yes, it's always good to be alive," Wang Wei nodded.

"So, why are you here?"

"I remember I sent a few talented people with Human Fiendgod Bloodline to ascend. The sect should have taken good care of them, correct?"

"That's right."

"I need you to secretly contact the sect and one of them to come out. Don't use the previous contact method — it would be best to ask them indirectly."

"You came here for this?" she asked with a frown.

"He has a tight watch over me, so I cannot risk contacting the sect," Wang Wei explained. "And I don't know enough about our secrets for any form of true secret contact."

"True." Yan Hai nodded. "But why do you need these people?"

"I need to borrow their bodies," Wang Wei said. "You see my situation, and the fastest way to regain my strength is to take over another body. The best body is those people with the same bloodline, and only they currently have the Human Fiendgod Bloodline."

"In that case, I can't help you."

"What?"

"We have strict rules about taking over clan members' bodies."

"Ancestor, this is an emergency — the rules can be slightly bent."

"No," Yan Hai responded, her voice firm.

"Ancestor," Wang Wei replied, his voice slightly raised.

Yan Hai shook her head: "I know you're thinking that I'm being old-fashioned and rigid, but that's not true — I'm doing this for the good of the sect."

"What do you mean?"

"Do you know what our sect's greatest advantage is over the other Overlords?"

Wang Wei frowned before answering: "We are one of the most powerful while also extremely united."

"That's right," Yan Hai nodded. "Although I cannot see as far as you or Brother Qiyuan, I understand that the key to our prosperity in the upcoming era is this unity, and your actions will undermine that unity."

"Aren't you being a little dramatic?"

"I'm not," Yan Hai rebutted. "Although we are united, we still have a few problems. Ten factions rule the sect, including nine clans and the sectarian faction. Our Yan, Wang, and Li clan are at the top because all 4 Primals come from our clan. Meanwhile, the sectarian side is the largest faction with the most Paragons. However, they are also the most suppressed of the groups because of one rule — no more powerful clans are allowed to be born in the sect again.

"Over the years, we have spent countless time and effort to ensure the sanctity of the sect rules — especially the major one. So, you, of all people, breaking such a significant rule will definitely be used by other factions to create instability, undermining our unity.

"And I don't think I need to tell you who will strike first."

"The Myriad Clan Union," Wang Wei replied.

"That's right. The Wang Clan division started due to the fight over Bloodline Imprint, so can you imagine the field day they would have if this was the rule that you broke?"

Wang Wei groaned softly: "I thought our relationship was better."

"It is, but this also resulted in many people fearing about the reunification of the Wang Clan," Yan Hai explained. "The first thing the union would do is to pressure Heaven Opening to strike first. Unfortunately, our relationship is not really to the point of unification, so he will not hesitate to do it."

Wang Wei was silent.

"Now, do you understand the ramifications your action will have?"

"But all that is predicated on the fact that we will survive this catastrophe to see the next era," Wang Wei complained.

"I have never doubted you would succeed," Yan Haid replied without hesitation.

"You have more trust in me than I do in myself."

"My trust is not in you but in the person who believes in you," Yan Hai explained. "After the Ultimate Taboo, Brother Qiyuan once said his destiny as the sect's guide and wisdom provider ended, and someone else was about to take his place. As soon as he learned about you, he said you were the chosen one and placed all his faith in you."

"And I believe in his vision."

Wang Wei was momentarily quiet before sighing: "What do you want me to do?"

"You're smart — you'll figure it out."

"Alright," Wang Wei sighed, preparing to leave.

"Don't put on such a sour face. Anyway, you can come to me if you need anything else."

"...I will," Wang Wei said before suddenly stopping: "I need to assassinate someone, but there is a danger that he might be a trap."

"Oh? Who?" Wang Wei then explained who the First Sun was and why he wanted to kill him.

"Don't worry, I'll deal with it."

"You can't do it yourself, ancestor," Wang Wei immediately added. "Nor used someone directly linked to you like a shadow."

"I know."

"There is also the fact that this man might have countless ways to save his life and even more longevity resources."

"I understand," Yan Hai said. "But like I said, I'll deal with it."

Wang Wei wanted to say more, but he had to stop after seeing the impatient look on her face. Regardless, he warned her one last time before teleporting away. At his hideout, Wang Wei had to contemplate another solution to regain his strength. An idea suddenly popped into his mind, so he contacted the Flame Blacksmith and Puppet Demon through the Void Illusion Realm.

"I need a well-made puppet," Wang Wei said. "It must be done to the exact proportion of my body, down to my [Existence]. Is that possible?"

"You want a New Life Puppet?" Puppet Demon asked.

"What's that?" Wang Wei asked, not familiar with that term.

"You know how there are two schools of puppetry?"

"Yes, external and internal puppetry," Wang Wei nodded. The former focused on making and controlling puppets, while the latter turned their bodies into puppets.

"The ultimate goal of all Internal Puppetry is to create a New Life Puppet or a puppet based on their [Existence]. Such a puppet can grow and evolve without changing the parts — just like flesh and the soul."

"On paper, this sounds easy, but your tone indicates it's not," Wang Wei commented.

"Of course, it's difficult," Puppet Demon said. "In the history of Puppet Dao, the number of people who have succeeded probably can be counted on two hands."

"Is that so?" Wang Wei frowned

"His explanation is flat-out wrong," Flame Blacksmith suddenly added.

"What do you mean by this?" Puppet Demon swiftly asked.

"Any puppeteer who has mastered the technique of [Existence Reconstruction] could make a puppet based on someone's [Existence]," he explained. "New Life Puppets is about fusing the essence or concept of [Puppetry] into your [Existence]."

"I see." Wang Wei understood that New Life Puppets was a method for Puppeteers to enter the Taboo Battle Realm, hence why so few people have succeeded.

"So, can you build my puppet?" Wang Wei asked, ignoring the Puppet Demon's embarrassment.

"Although it's not my expertise, with his help, it should not be an issue," the Flame Blacksmith nodded.

"Excellent. How long will that take?"

"Is it urgent?"

"I need it as soon as possible."

"In that case, let me calculate. If we have abundant resources, hire a few more puppeteers, and with your full cooperation, it should be done in about 2500 yuan epochs."

Wang Wei's lips immediately twitched: "Can't it be faster?"

Flame Blacksmith frowned — this was the fastest estimate he deduced. "How fast are we talking about?"

"I'm talking in a few hundred years."

"Are you mad?" he asked with a raised voice.

"How about a few thousand years?" Wang Wei swiftly added. However, the only answer he received was a hard stare.

"We have Time Formations, don't we?"

"The best of those are between 10 to 12 times the normal time, so unless you have access to a Wonder of Heaven and Earth, it won't make much of a difference," the Flame Blacksmith retorted.

Wang Wei sighed. This plan was not feasible. 'So, what else can I do?'

Chapter 1383 Buddha's Fury

"What about a body made entirely of energy?" Wang Wei asked. "How long would that take?"

"If it's just a regular body, then it would be feasible in your ridiculous time span," Flame Blacksmith answered. "Even if we had access to the Source Qi Space, we might have been able to pull something."

"However, you said you wanted one on par with your current body. Although I don't know much about your fleshly body, I can deduce how much time it would require to make the weakest peak Indestructible Emphyrean body, which would still require a few hundred yuan epochs."

Wang Wei groaned, and after thinking about it briefly, he dismissed these two. "Since I can't make one, I must use one already available." He waved his hand to summon his guardian puppet. Wang Wei looked at it and frowned. Technically speaking, he could put his soul into the puppet, thus acquiring Paragon's strength.

'This thing is too rigid for intense combat,' Wang Wei analyzed. The highest strength output he can use in this puppet is 92%, and its greatest flaw is the lack of regenerative ability. Any injuries to the puppet are permanent and require time and resources to fix, which is different from a fleshly body.

'I need a body of flesh and blood,' Wang Wei analyzed. However, this approach had even more significant problems. His body was unique, and he's not talking about how perfectly he has trained it. His body has been ideally attuned to carry his terrifying soul and willpower. According to Wang Wei's calculation, even if he used the best fleshly body similar to Mongke, he would destroy that body after one battle.

His powerful soul and willpower would permanently damage the body, and after one intense battle, such flesh would collapse without any way to prevent that from happening. 'However, I don't have much of a choice.'

In fact, Wang Wei had two other targets: Old Man Dai and Paragon Jimin. Their paragon flesh would be the perfect vessel for him, but unfortunately, the former disappeared from the Lawless Zone, and he had no idea where Jimin was operating.

Wang Wei first sent an order to Red Mask to kidnap body refiners in the peak of the Emphyrean realm, preferably devil cultivators, before teleporting back to the Origin Seal Continent.

"Have you figured out something?" Yan Hai asked while sitting cross-legged and drinking tea.

"I guess," Wang Wei explained. "My request is still the same, but I won't use clan members. These people must be body refiners."

"That's the best you can come up with?"

"All other methods require too much time, and I can't wait," Wang Wei shrugged. Yan Hai nodded. She understood how small of a margin for action that Wang Wei has in the current situation, so she no longer commented on his approach.

"There are plenty of prisoners in the Suppressing Essence Tower," Yan Hai said before frowning.

"What's that? And why don't you look confident?"

"It's a place we imprisoned body refiners to use as trials for the sect and as emergency energy when needed," Yan Hai explained.

"Are there any problems with it?"

"It's sealed."

"Sealed? You mean?"

"A few paragons were imprisoned, so that bastard wanted to destroy it. However, Supreme Unity convinced him, and they only sealed it."

"So, it's useless."

"Not necessarily," Yan Hai continued. "The sect reported to me long ago that the bottom parts of the seal were slowly enwrapping on their own. I reckon I can forcefully open the area with the Empyrean Prisoners."

Wang Wei's eyes lit up: "How many people are available?"

"Are you talking about Empyreans? Too many to count."

"That's good to hear," Wang Wei said. Even if he could only use these bodies once, there should be enough for him not to worry much about future battles until he found a way to return to his peak.

Yan Hai looked at him but said nothing: "I need to return to the sect. I should be done in less than a month."

"Do you want me to stay here?"

"No need," Yan Hai replied. She doesn't think it's a good idea for him to stay in one place for too long. Although Maitreya said he would do a better job at guarding Supreme Unity, it was not worth taking the risk.

"I'll activate all the formations and put this place on the highest alert state." Yan Hai explained.
"They should be fine until I return."

"Alright," Wang Wei nodded before leaving. He did not stay around to wait for his ancestor's good news. Instead, he started preparing himself. He created a large pool before dropping one drop of his blood that soon turned into an ocean to fill that area. Wang Wei proceeded to add another drop of Soul Blood, deepening the redness of this blood pool.

Finally, he started carving arrays. His attainment in arrays was not on par with what he wanted to do, so he used a common tactic of cultivators with higher cultivation but low knowledge: stacking. His soul was powerful enough to create millions, if not billions, of arrays and stack their effects together.

"Excellent," Wang Wei nodded before sensing something. He checked his communication talisman: "Perfect timing." He pointed to the void, and after a slight spatial fluctuation, a body appeared in this dimension, and he sent it into the pool. He observed quietly.

"There needs to be some adjustment, but everything seems to be working," Wang Wei muttered. The pool slowly adjusted this body to be more like his, thus allowing him to use his power better. However, Wang Wei was not too happy. His original intention was to change/temper these bodies and ensure a single one could allow him to experience at least two bodies.

The result told him that without the pool, most bodies wouldn't survive more than three attacks with his soul and willpower.

'Although this guy cultivated to the peak, he only survived a little over 2000 tribulations. Maybe the others will be better.' Wang Wei was not too hopeful, especially since he knew how rare it was for someone to cultivate all 3800 tribulations, let alone go beyond it and achieve [Limit Indestructibility] like him and Mongke.

Body refining is already rare, and in the current era where people fear showing too much of their talents, Wang Wei was not confident in finding an excellent vessel. 'I guess I can only wait and hope my luck is better.'

Time passed, and three days later, the world's turmoil once again started. The Twin Sun Border was a prosperous area, arguably one of the most thriving areas in this turbulent era. It was once the border between Buddhism and Taoism Territory. As the two unofficial rulers of this world, the two titans had to promote unity and prosperity, and the existence of the Twin Sun Border was proof of that.

However, today, this area is full of life and resources and is now a desert. There was no sign of life, but that was only temporary. Around noon, Wuzhe appeared in the area with shining golden eyes, followed by countless monks.

Maitreya waited less than five seconds before Supreme Unity and his people arrived.

"You know this won't change anything, do you?" he said in his cold and indifferent voice. "You cannot win, so why must you insist?"

"It seems that everyone has underestimated me," Maitreya replied calmly. "It's understandable, given my prior results. However, do you think you're the only one who has been laying chess pieces on this board for a long time?"

Supreme Unity frowned while raising his alert to the highest level. He thought Maitreya's previous attack was her only trump card, and this war was a desperate move to hold him back and buy this world enough time.

"Do it," Maitreya ordered. One of the Emypreans behind Supreme Unity suddenly summoned an artifact and spoke out loud:

"Taoism is about following nature, not ignoring or taking it over. Our roots have been corrupted by villains, forcing us to lose our ways. I refuse to accept such Taoist practice. Heaven and Earth above, be a witness as I stand for righteousness. "From now on, the Seven Virtues Sect has broken off from this corrupt sect. We will return to our roots, practicing genuine Taoism that pursues the sublimation of the self and the harmony of man and nature."

As soon as this man uttered these words, the enormous Qi Luck Dragon of Taoism manifested between Heaven and Earth before roaring in pain. A small chunk of its body was divided before turning into a smaller dragon.

Supreme Unity looked at this happening. He still looked cold and indifferent, but the small spatial fluctuations around him were indicative of his actual mood. He wanted to stop this from happening, but he sensed something locking in his every move.

So, without much of a choice, he watched as more and more people or sects separated from Taoism.

"Over 65%," Maitreya commented. "It seems that more people despise your reign than I anticipated."

Chapter 1384 Wars After Wars

"Well played," Supreme Unity said indifferently.

"You always looked at these people as ants, thinking they would never dare to rebel against you," Maitreya said calmly. "But you overestimate the human spirit. No, I should say you probably never understood. They have their own goals, dreams, and pursuits. Do you really think your overwhelming power was enough for them to give these things up?"

"Ants are ants," Supreme Unity replied calmly. "Without your protection, none of them dare to rebel."

"They dare," she rebutted. "It's just that you already killed those with the spirit, and these ones only needed a small boost."

"This conversation is pointless," Supreme Unity added. "Don't think you've won this war."

"We will see."

Wang Wei and the entire world watched the beginning of the Buddhism-Taoism War. Specifically, this war should be called the Unity of Buddhism and Taoism against Corrupted Taoism, and that's

how historians will write this war unless Supreme Unity is the final victor. The first battle was an overwhelming victory.

Without Supreme Unity's strength, corrupt Taoism was overwhelmed by the allied force. Maitreya was ruthless, forcing the first battle to last as long as possible and allowing her forces to kill as many people as possible. By the end of this fight, the Twin Sun Border became an inhabitable area due to how much immortal blood fell on the soil. Of course, this also meant that the place became a holy place for anyone who cultivated Blood Dao or any technique involved in Fiend Qi/Aura.

After this defeat, Taoism did two things: used a more defensive approach to this war and summoned reinforcement. The former was quite effective as they successfully blocked the madness from these monks or the enraged Taoists who wanted to eliminate their other counterparts to ensure their prosperity and prevent future revenge.

However, the plan to receive reinforcement was not as successful. Supreme Unity's target was obviously his goons — the moons. However, as soon as the summon arrived, Five Feathers and Undead Phoenix intensified their war. Time Eater is sealed, and the manpower available is in a semi-shamble state, leaving only Shu Ren, the Earth Emperor.

He was the only one without any excuses to refuse the summon. With these reinforcements, Supreme Unity was able to take a breather. However, Maitreya succeeded in her attempt to occupy and reduce his political power.

'Supreme Unity's loss was too great in this fight,' Wang Wei analyzed the information. 'These overlords must have secretly taken this opportunity to weaken Taoism. I reckon they even secretly killed many monks as well.'

This war concerns not only the fate of the world but also the reshuffle of power. Everyone is waiting for the new era, and everyone wants to dominate it. Buddhism and Taoism already have an overwhelming lead, so these Overlords have already started taking measures to weaken them.

While Wang Wei was deep in thought, his communication talisman trembled. He activated it and saw a picture: a head with a look of fear, anger, and regret. He recognized this person — the leader of the Hidden Moon-Sun Sect, First Sun. Wang Wei did not hesitate to contact his ancestor.

"He's dead?"

"Yep, just as I promised."

"Is he dead dead or..."

"True death," Yan Hai convinced.

"How did you do it?"

"Many swordsmen in the Sword League Path owe me karma," Yan Hai explained.

"I see," Wang Wei nodded. "Was there anything weird about him?"

"Besides having a Paragon Artifact as protection, there were no anomalies."

Wang Wei frowned, thinking whether he had missed something. "Well, forget him for now. How are things on your side?"

"The unsealing process will not take as long as I thought. It should be done in about 2 weeks."

"That's good to hear." The two chatted briefly before ending the conversation.

'Five Feathers and Undead Phoenix's current confrontation is not enough as an excuse to reject the summon, so these two should prepare for a direct confrontation,' Wang Wei analyzed. 'The issue is whether they will fake it and wait until they are both ready for the real fight or directly fight to the death.'

Wang Wei's analysis favored the latter. These people genuinely hated each other, so even if they tried to fake it, their animosity would leak out during the confrontation, turning the fake scenario into a genuine one. So, he waited while ordering his people to protect as many mortals as possible and keeping watch on Time Eater.

Wang Wei's prediction became true when a battle started between these two five days later. He had his answer from their killing intent and the killing blow these two were using. So, he calmly observed that battle:

'Undead Phoenix is not as mad as the previous fight. His mode of fighting is relatively reserved — he must have a trump card he's waiting to use at the right moment.

'Meanwhile, Five Feather is using this fight to control her strength. Speaking of which, her karma has also drastically increased, but I haven't heard of any plague-like curse in the world. Damn it, has this woman been secretly killing mortals.'

He contacted Red Mask, asking her if she had received any news. She answered that Five Feathers had hired many Curse Masters but hadn't received any results yet.

"Find how she has so much negative karma," Wang Wei ordered. Red Moks was efficient, and she soon had the answer. Many mortals were in isolated dimensions and realms in the Eternal Ascension World, and Five Feather's target was these people.

Wang Wei exhaled to calm down: "I should have guessed animals like her only respond to painful threats. I won't make the same mistake twice." He continued observing this war, and Wang Wei frowned as he noticed something else.

'These temporal fluctuations — is this woman mad?' Wang Wei thought. 'No, she's not mad but can't control her power. Good, good.' Wang Wei immediately closed her eyes to sense these fluctuations.

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West of the Time Eater's Territory, Heavenly Serpent Empress Domain:

A beautiful woman with luscious purple hair with black tips sat on a throne. She wore an all-white and tight robe that revealed her ample figure. Her beauty could be described as devilish — that's how alluring she was. If Xun Junyao was the epitome of beauty, this woman was the closest to the epitome of sexiness.

A man sat on her lap, kissing her while muttering sweet words. "Oh, Wu Jing, you always have a way with words," the Heavenly Serpent Empress said.

"Who made his majesty so alluring," Wu Jing replied.

"I know, right?" she replied. "You can say my charm is a..." The Heavenly Serpent Empress suddenly stopped before looking at the shadow that appeared in the room.

"You must have a reason for interrupting me."

"Your majesty, we have found the target," said a woman's voice.

"Are you sure?" the Heavenly Serpent Empress asked. "It won't be like last time with a bunch of abundant remains?"

"I have checked personally."

"Good," the Empress replied.

"Do you want me to mobilize the troops?"

"No, I want to do it myself to ensure that nothing happens," Heavenly Serpent Empress replied. She glanced at Wu Jing: "I have work to do. Wait for my return, and we can continue where we left off." The Empress suddenly thought of something: "Tell Di Liang to wait with you."

Wu Jing's smile abated considerably after hearing these words: "Does he need to be there? Can't it be the two of us?"

"Can you handle me alone?" Heavenly Serpent Empress asked.

"Alright, I'll call him."

The Empress patted his ass before standing up. She received the information from the agent. "So, that's where you, little rats, have been hiding? No wonder I couldn't find you anywhere," she muttered before focusing on the agent.

"How did you find them?" These people's hiding spots were excellent, so the Empress wanted to know how his agents found them. She had lived long enough to know when to be careful against plots and schemes.

"They were gritty, Your Highness," the agent responded. "They sent people into the Twin Suns Border, probably to find the blood of the two suns, and that's how we found them."

"The two suns' blood? That makes sense," the Heavenly Serpent Empress nodded. She no longer hesitated and teleported away. She did not play around and broke through their world's barrier with force and strength.

The Empress found herself in a world full of devils — yes, not devil cultivators but authentic devils. She was not surprised by this outcome and started her killing. Her hair moved under her control, killing anyone in sight. This was a one-sided massacre, and these devils could not even fight back.

"Find you, descendants of the Primogenitor Devil," the Heavenly Serpent Empress said excitedly. She finally released all her power, capturing these people as fast as possible. These devils had a peak Emphyrean and several Paragon Artifacts, but they were useless before the Empress.

'I can finally put my plan into motion,' she thought before leaving this place. The Empress was in a good mood when she returned home. She went directly to have some fun with Wu Jing and Di Liang, but these two were not enough for her excited mood, so she summoned more of her harem. Today was a day worth celebrating and indulging.

Chapter 1385 Someone Finally Acted

Five Feathers suddenly stopped her onslaught of attacks. She looked at her opponent with disdain before mocking him: "What happened to all that hatred and rage? Are you even trying to kill me?" "I don't need to try," Undead Phoenix replied.

"What do you mean?"

"I've realized that there is no need to worry about your death," he explained. "With how you're behaving and the terrifying nature of that curse, you will die eventually without the cure. So, why must I become the variable that helps you escape the curse? I only need to survive long enough, lay back, and watch you slowly march to your doom.'

Five Feather's face twisted in anger. The latter was correct. Her curse and the Body of Sin were a ticking time bomb, and without the cure, it was only a matter of time before she died from their powers. In other words, the one in a hurry was her — not Undead Phoenix.

"Your plan hinged on staying alive," Five Feathers rebutted. "And I'll make sure to hand you your ticket to the underworld." She attacked, and she was ever fiercer this time around. This prideful phoenix had one objective — kill this bastard and end the fate between them. Unfortunately, Undead Phoenix remained calm and composed; his primary mode of fighting was more defensive and reserved, not giving Five Feather a chance at even injuring him.

"You coward!" Five Feathers yelled. "Are you a man? How can you fight in such a cowardly manner?" Undead Phoenix's lips twitched, but his tactic remained the same. Five Feathers grew more frustrated with this battle. Although she was confident in her newfound strength, the difference between them was not significant enough for her to kill him swiftly, and the situation worsened because he fought.

"Do you want to know a little secret?" Five Feathers said with a cruel sneer. "You should know by now that I never loved you, but did you know I've always loved your best friend — Bai Songxuan? He was such a kind and handsome man with a heart of gold. It was sad he had to live all his life in your shadows."

A terrifying killing intent flashed in Undead Phoenix's eyes. However, such a reaction only made Five Feathers smirked before she continued:

"I tried confessing my love, but he was too loyal. I even used an aphrodisiac to get his body, but he insisted on his loyalty. That's why I had to kill him. Although I loved him, I couldn't allow him to mess up my plans for you."

"YOU WH****!" Undead Phoenix roared before launching toward her. He acted like a madman, trying to kill her without any consequences. However, Five Feathers only giggled joyously: "That's more like it." She fought back vigorously, trying to use this opportunity to find a flaw and capture him.

"Calm down," yelled a voice inside Undead Phoenix's head, but he was not listening.

"We are not ready yet, and you're going to ruin the plan." Unfortunately, this message might have also been sent to the endless void. 'Damn it, I should have expected this idiot to cause trouble,' muttered the voice, not caring whether Undead Phoenix heard him. 'In that case, let's change things.'

The battle intensified as these two mad titans clashed, almost losing their sanity. The destruction they caused could be imagined, but no one cared. In this vast world, population, and territory were never lacking.

At the peak of these people's battles, something unexpected suddenly occurred. A golden light suddenly flew out of Undead Phoenix's body and turned into ropes that bound the two of them. Five Feathers sensed something and tried to evade, but the golden rope was attracted to the sins on her body like metal to a magnet, making it impossible to avoid.

She immediately tried to break it off, but it was useless. This rope would be bound to her as long as she had such a vast amount of karmic sins. She could use brute force to destroy it, but that process would take time, and she felt that the schemer would not give her this chance.

"This power — the Golden Body of Merit," Five Feathers analyzed. "Wang Wei — is that you? No, this aura is different. It's something I've seen before — Kong."

"We've met so many times, but it took you so long to recognize me. Is this how little I mean to you, or has your sanity degraded to such a level?"

"What is the meaning of this?"

"I also would like to know," Undead Phoenix added. "Why am I also captured?"

"What do you think?" Emperor Kong responded.

"So, you've betrayed me," Undead Phoenix replied calmly. "But do you think I wasn't prepared for this possibility?"

Emperor Kong looked at him: "You have literally killed all the talented people under your watch and destroyed valuable knowledge. Do you really think you could have done something that could escape my watch? Besides your powerful strength and resources, you have nothing."

Emperor Kong shook his head. The moment Undead Phoenix agreed to work with him, he was doomed to die.

'It's a shame the plan had to start early,' Emperor Kong sighed. According to his original plan, Undead Phoenix was supposed to continue the fight long enough for him to secretly establish a No-Life Array. After betraying him, Emperor Kong would have successfully killed two Paragons at once. But now, he had to be satisfied with eliminating one of their lives.

Undead Phoenix panicked a little after hearing these words and activated his backup. But, as expected, nothing failed. The formation that was the core of their plan remained intact. Emperor Kong ignored him and activated the genuine formation.

An enormous amount of grievances gathered above their heads before rapidly condensing into a blade. Emperor Kong was the person who cleaned up the grievances of the world after making a deal with the moons; his actions significantly prolonged their reign by preventing the grievances from slowly eroding their Qi Luck Dragon. However, today, he used the same grievance to kill two of these moons.

"No," Five Feathers yelled. She had just gained some control over this curse, and death would only aggravate her situation. She pushed her Five Elements and Minor Karma Dao to the limit, trying to break the golden rope. Sadly, the nature of that rope was the antithesis of sinful people like her, not to mention that Emperor Kong convinced Undead Phoenix to boost its power further to ensure it lasted long enough to bind someone of Five Feather's power.

"You're first," Emperor Kong said, looking at Undead Phoenix. The golden rope contained the latter's power, so Kong knew it would not last long against Undead Phoenix. He waved his hand, and the dark purple sword descended on this man with the utmost swiftness. All resistances were futile.

These moons have committed too many atrocities, and the world's grievances were a manifestation of the people — both mortals and cultivators — dissatisfaction with them. Emperor Kong's way of killing them is almost poetic, embodying the ultimate form of karma.

Crack!

A sound of breakage echoed in the sky, shifting Emperor Kong's focus. Five Feathers' desperate measure was almost successful. Emperor Kong did not waste any more time and killed her. As he watched her body dissipate, Kong had a sense of completion — a moment of a circle coming around, to be specific. He wondered where this absurd feeling originated from until he thought about it more deeply.

'So, everything was connected, and come back around,' he thought. He used the world's grievances to boost his career and prolonged these people's reign. However, Heavenly Dao never punished him for his actions. Kong always wondered why their academy's luck never suffered. His actions should have brought him some karmic connection to the moons that affected his and the academy's luck.

Now, he understood. Heavenly Dao's plan all along was for him to pay back his actions by eliminating these people using the very thing that prolonged their aid. Emperor Kong sighed. Today's event was further proof that Wang Wei's analysis about the future was correct.

Emperor Kong looked in the academy's direction. He sensed the tremendous amount of luck and destiny that he had just acquired. He nodded in satisfaction before looking in the distance. He had feared that someone else would come to intervene in his plan and was prepared. Luckily, all the people who could help were either busy or too selfish to come.

'No, I need to lay low for a while,' Emperor Kong thought. After today's events, many eyes will be on him. His academy was not one of the Overlords or an ancient top Paragon Lineage. As such, many people will be interested in the luck and destiny he has just acquired.

...

Wang Wei opened his eyes, his pupils shining with brilliant light. He had successfully analyzed those fluctuations, and now, he shifted his focus to the war's outcome. Although he was in deep meditation, he still understood what was happening in this fight.

Chapter 1386 Old Friend's Visit

'Should I take this opportunity to kill her?' Wang Wei thought. Five Feathers was currently vulnerable, and this was indeed the best time. However, Wang Wei shook his head. 'Many eyes are on her, and since Supreme Unity has shown he doesn't want these people to die completely, he might use extreme means to save her.'

'The best move is to wait until Mongke makes his move. All eyes will be on him, and I can use this opportunity to eliminate her. By then, if Mongke's plans go smoothly, two of these bastards will die in a short period.'

Wang Wei agreed with this plan. However, before that, he felt he might need to warn someone. He contacted Red Mask before teleporting away.

...

Five Feathers opened her eyes in a secret room in her palace. An intense pain assaulted her senses and her soul. The curse marks spread through every part of her body.

'Sins, I need sins,' Five Feathers thought. She gritted her teeth before opening her space ring and taking out the reserved sins she stored for such a situation. She swiftly absorbed it like a man lost in a desert for days without water.

'It's not enough,' she thought. Five Feathers immediately contacted her shadow: "Do we have any more mortal worlds?" The shadow was quiet.

"Well?" Five Feather snapped.

"No, Your Majesty, you've used all of them."

"Go find a few as fast as possible."

"As you wish."

The ten minutes spent waiting was hell for Five Feathers. This damn curse wanted her to suffer before she died. She wanted to curse and kill that damn Jimin and Wang Wei for making her suffer so much.

"What took you so long?" Five Feathers said with a sharp look, but the shadow could only lower her head. Many secret dimensions/worlds were hidden by Heavenly Dao instead of powerful cultivators. That's why some random secret realm from an ancient era could suddenly appear out of nowhere. These mortal dimensions are a backup protection for mortals, meaning they were a high priority for safely hiding them. The fact they found so many of them so quickly was a miracle.

"I'm sorry for the delay, but moving the dimension to the palace will take a few minutes," the shadow explained.

"That's too long. I'll go there myself."

Five Feathers teleported away, immediately entering this new world. Her red eyes glanced at this vast, prosperous land ruled by 33 mortal dynasties. She did not care for these ants; their purpose

was only to alleviate her pain. She did not care that she was about to massacre trillions of individuals.

Swish!

Before she could act, a bright red flame encapsulated Five Feathers' body, and she started screaming and moaning in pain. Countless grieving souls rushed out of her body and floated above her head. They laughed at her before entering her body again, but each time, the pain intensified.

"I warned you, didn't I?" said a cold voice. "Did you think I was bluffing?"

"Please...make it...stop."

"I've realized your current state is like a mad animal," Wang Wei sneered. "Without a painful lesson, you won't remember. You won't behave. So, it's teaching time." For the next hour, Wang Wei utilized his Pain Innate Talent to its full effect as he punished Five Feathers for her action.

"I think you'll remember my words now."

Five Feathers swallowed a handful of pills before slowly flying away. She immediately summoned her subordinates, and the first thing she did was eradicate her shadow. She does not care how Wang Wei knew her whereabouts but only the fact he did, and she suffered for it.

"How far has my plague curse been developed?" Five Feathers asked coldly. The pain she just suffered superseded the curse, allowing her to adapt quickly. However, she could feel this curse was raising the intensity to meet her new pain threshold. Five Feather knew she would not survive long If she had to live with that pain for the rest of her life.

Everyone was quiet, too afraid to answer. But when they sensed she was about to explode, someone finally answered: "We have just started, your majesty."

"It seems I have to kill a few of these bastards to light a fire under them."

"...I'm sorry, Your Majesty, but you can't."

"What did you say?"

"The contract we signed with these Curse Masters is iron-clad."

The crease on Five Feather's forehead increased as she remembered her promise to these people.

"Hire more of them and tell them I will double the rewards if they finish early."

"Y-Yes."

"Also, start hunting devil cultivators," Five Feathers ordered. She figured she could alleviate her situation by taking their karmic sins.

"Lastly, offer 10 Paragon Artifacts as a reward for Emperor Kong's head, and 2 for any of his disciples."

These ministers looked at each other. This pierce was indeed tempting, especially in the current situation where strength matters more than cultivation. Unfortunately, their lord has refused to pay an assassination contract more than once, meaning few people will even trust her words this time. However, they did not say anything and just nodded.

...

Wang Wei had just received the news about Emperor Kong's bounty, but he did not care. The world had entered a semi-peaceful state. The two wars were still ongoing but with some minor differences. The two sun vessels fought in this world's version of a Void Battlefield. Meanwhile, Five Feathers and Undead Phoenix were recuperating from their terrible loss.

He knew these two would not stop trying to kill each other, but they were now on guard of other people taking advantage of their confrontation. Such a balanced state should remain as such for a while, so Wang Wei was waiting while training the mortals. They were still the crux of this catastrophe, and their prosperity was the key to their survival.

Wang Wei thought this "peace" would last for a while, but an old contact talisman from the lower dimension activated. He pondered deeply before accepting the call, and they met at his chosen location.

"Wrath, how have you been?" Wang Wei asked, looking at her. She was at the peak of the Great Emperor Realm, which was not surprising. Although she was talented and had merit from the lower dimension, without a powerful enough faction, breaking the Empyrean barrier as swiftly as some of the others is challenging.

"I need your help."

"So direct, I see," Wang Wei replied.

"You promised my master to take care of me, right?"

"I'm pretty sure I have accomplished what I promised him in the lower dimension," Wang Wei replied with his lips twitching.

"Have you?" Wrath asked, looking him in the eyes.

"Fine, tell me what is so important."

"My master's few remaining descendants were captured by a woman named Madam Lu. I need your help to save them."

"Madam Lu? Where have I heard this name before?" Wang Wei muttered.

"She's the real controller of the Sunshine Pavillion. She has another name — the Heavenly Serpent Empress."

"That's right," Wang Wei nodded. He has dealt with many spy agencies, and the Sunshine Pavilion is one of them. However, he also knew little about them except Madam Shun was the mistress, but the real power was someone else called Madam Lu.

"Why did she take them?" Wang Wei asked. "More importantly, why are you still involved with these people?"

"They are my master's last remaining descendants. How can I not —"

"You've done so much for your Neo-Devils, but aren't you worried about the consequences of associating with them? Most people do not care about the devil race, but your master's descendants are something else."

"They are the last proof of his existence, so I must save them," Wrath said stubbornly.

"You are the last proof of his existence, not them," Wang Wei countered. However, what he saw as a response was a pair of wilful eyes. "Alright, I'll look into it, but make no promises."

"But—"

Wang Wei raised his hand to stop her: "I have a lot on my plate currently, and if it is as my intuition is telling me, your affairs will not be simple. In that case, you will have to wait."

"But waiting means decreasing their chances of survival."

"Then, let's hope my intuition is wrong," Wang Wei replied. He ended the conversation by dissipating his projection. He asked Red Mask for all their information about the Sunshine Pavilion and Madame Lu. The information was not much, but it was enough for Wang Wei to know she had a reputation for being lustful and extremely powerful. Some people even proclaimed her as the most powerful Emphyrean.

However, one of the Fate Shadow Guard's notes about her information caught his attention: it said it was suspected she was someone from an old era, possibly the Golden or even further.

'Someone from that era that is still alive? Did she not participate in the ultimate taboo? She probably stayed and destroyed her cultivation during the cleanup.'

Wang Wei had only one way to check this information, so he went to see his ancestor.

Chapter 1387 The Quitters

Wang Wei activated the Communication Array, and Yan Hai's beautiful but stern face showed on the other side. "Boy, I'm still busy with your affairs, and your constant call won't speed up things."

"I'm not here about that."

"Then, why are you contacting me?"

"I want to know about someone called Madam Lu."

"Who?"

"Madam Lu, also known as the Heavenly Serpent Empress — she's the behind-the-scenes person of the Sunshine Pavillion."

"The name Sunshine Pavillion rings a bell, but not the others. Hold on, let me check." Yan Hai disappeared while Wang Wei spent the next few seconds thinking about scandalous scenarios in which his ancestor learned about the Sunshine Pavilion. He doubted they were true, but it was fun to sully her name in his mind. Of course, even if the world were to collapse, he would never reveal to anyone what devious thing his mind was cooking.

Yan Hai's face appeared, holding a scroll. She read it for a few seconds before a realization dawned on her: "Oh, it's Lu Chuntao or the Boulder Serpent Empress. Has she changed her name again?"

"You know her?"

"Yes, she's from my era," Yan Hai nodded. "Are you going to deal with her? You should be extra careful. As a matter of fact, I recommend you don't in your current state."

"She's that formidable?" Wang Wei asked. "Can you tell me more?"

"I don't really know much since my interactions with her were far and few."

"Is that so? I figured she would be in your woman's support group," Wang Wei stated.

"We invited her, but she was a loner and refused," Yan Hai explained.

"I see," Wang Wei nodded. "What else can you tell me?"

"She's very cunning," Yan Hai explained. "Her rise started after successfully stealing the bloodline of a Primordial Earth Serpent, a one-of-a-kind Primordial Chaos lifeform under the watch of both the demon and the Innate Demon God race.

"After that, her reputation was mostly because of her beauty and lustful nature."

Wang Wei nodded. The information he knew did mention how Madam Lu liked to collect handsome men into her harem.

"She then showed her power during the Paragon Heaven Will Battle, becoming one of the final 33 winners. Afterward, no one paid true attention to her until the Ultimate Taboo."

"So, she did participate?" Wang Wei asked.

"Yes —"

"So, why is she still alive?"

"Can't you let me finish?" Yan Hai stared at him,

"Sorry," he swiftly apologized.

Yan Hai calmed down before continuing: "She is one of the quitters." Wang Wei did not ask and waited for her to explain.

"My memory is vague, but a few things remained vivid," Yan Hai continued. "The taboo was this endless world divided into three areas: outer, middle, and inner. Each area contained countless ruins, each containing some information about transcendence. However, there were two types of ruins: free ruins and trial ruins.

"Trial ruins contained rewards and way more information, but as the name suggested, the participants needed to pass a trial to access the information. During that trial, Lu Chuntao revealed the strength of Primal despite the world always believing she was only a peak Paragon."

Wang Wei frowned: "Has she always been hiding her strength, or did she have an opportunity during the taboo?"

"No one knows truly, but my intuition told me it was the former," Yan Hai replied.

"A cunning woman indeed," Wang Wei nodded. Primals are the equivalent of nuclear deterrents in the cultivation world. So, that means it is in the ruling factions' best interest to know who is one. It is not a simple matter to hide one cultivation before experts of the same level, and anyone who has succeeded and done so for an extended period can be labeled as [competent].

"So, what does it mean to be a quitter?" Wang Wei asked.

"After passing a trial, everyone had three choices: random reward, ticket of exit, and accumulated points. The rewards were random but the weakest level was Tier 12. And as you can imagine, a few more Primals were born from those rewards.

"The exit ticket is self-explanatory — no one could leave that place without one. However, the deeper the area, the more tickets were required to leave. While we were in the middle area, Lu Chuntao gathered enough tickets and left early."

"She left? Why? Is it because it was getting too dangerous?"

"Not necessarily."

Wang Wei waited for her to explain but no sounds came out of her mouth for a few seconds: "What other possibilities are there?"

"If she found an incomplete method."

"Incomplete method? Isn't that the same as, you know, those two?"

"No, it's not the same," Yan Hai shook her head. "Their methods are flawed, meaning there are some restrictions and the probability of success is low. Incomplete methods mean the creator was in the right direction but they never even succeeded."

"So, incomplete methods cannot be cultivated and must be perfected?"

"That's right."

"So, she found an incomplete method, left early, and started to repair it. She even destroyed her cultivation during those two's clean up so she would not have to enter limbo," Wang Wei summarized. "I think I know why she captured the Primorigenator Devil's descendant."

"She did? Why?" Yan Hai asked.

"Don't you remember what happened to the Primorigenator after his death?"

"Him? Or, are you insinuating that his transcendent artifact fell in Lu Chuntao's hands?"

"Most likely," Wang Wei nodded. "She needed his blood to control the artifact, and it might also be the source of the transcendent method that she fixed."

"Hmm, Brother Qiyuan once theorized that Heavenly Dao took the artifact to use as a fortunate encounter for someone worthy, but your explanation is also possible," Yan Hai commented.

"In fact, the more I think deeply about this woman, the more suspicions that I have," Wang Wei continued. "How did she survive under these two people's watch? I'm sure they were both interested in her method, but here she is, alive and well."

"The artifact could explain how she hid from them."

"In that case, why did she destroy her cultivation," Wang Wei continued. "The artifact should allow her to keep her strength while remaining in hiding. It's possible that she did not want a target in her back since these two would feel uneasy with such a powerful Paragon in their corners, but based on what I know of her so far, she doesn't seem the kind of person to back down because of such challenge."

"You overlooked another possibility: she did not know how to use the weapon to hide before," Yan Hai added.

"Even after having it for so long?"

"That artifact was a weapon of killing, not for hiding. So, you can imagine the knowledge required to use it for other things."

"I see," Wang Wei said with shining eyes. "She had no choice but to destroy her cultivation and get them off her back. However, while these two were reaching higher levels, she used the knowledge she had acquired from the taboo to better understand and utilize the artifact."

"That's probably the closest truth we can deduce without knowing exactly what happened," Yan Hai nodded.

"However, my suspicions about her cultivation have increased instead of abated," Wang Wei added. "It's been so long, so it's possible for her to return to her peak secretly and hide it with the artifact. At the very least, she has returned to the Paragon Realm."

"I guess Wrath will be disappointed," Wang Wei sighed. He knew of his intuition, so he was not surprised by this outcome. However, he shook his head and regained focus; he still had questions about the ultimate taboo.

"Ancestor, what about the other quitters?" Wang Wei asked. "Lu Chuntao cannot be the only one, right?"

"They were hunted," she replied.

"By the two suns?"

"Only a tiny portion of them," Yan Hai explained.

"Then who?"

"Many cultivators did not have the ball to enter the taboo and waited outside," Yan Hai elaborated. "They hunted these quitters to take their rewards or methods."

"So, there are people who did not participate in the events with methods? That's good to know."

"The number is not as high as you think," Yan Hai responded. "Only the middle area rewarded incomplete methods, and few people could get their hands on one and get enough tickets to escape. Those capable people will not be killed easily, and that's not to mention no one can pry the information from their souls."

"You mean?"

"There is a powerful restriction on this knowledge, so unless they open their mouth and willingly reveal it, no one can get it from their mind or souls," Yan Hai said.

Wang Wei nodded. Grand Dao did its best to prevent these incomplete or flawed methods from spreading far and wide.

"What about the accumulated points you mentioned?"

"We pass trials, accumulate points until the inner area where we should have been able to exchange for a perfect method."

"Should?" Wang Wei asked, quite curious.

Chapter 1388 2500 Years

Yan Hai showed a look of anger and frustration after hearing these words; "That trial was bullshit. Although I don't remember much, I still remember it was nothing but bullshit."

"Calm down, ancestor," Wang Wei swiftly said.

"You don't understand," Yan Hai said with gritted teeth. "After countless trials and tribulations, we finally reached the deepest part of the inner area and were given a choice: accept the flawed method or pass that bullshit trial to get a perfect method."

"But there was no perfect method. All the best talents and greatest minds of the Chaos Universe participated in the trial, and only five people survived; on top of that, we all failed. It was nothing but bullshit. Grand Dao did not want anyone with a perfect method, so he made that impossible trial."

Wang Wei was embarrassed as he realized he may have triggered some bad memories for her. Luckily, she did not remember exactly what happened during that trial or her reaction might have been more severe.

"You're right, ancestor, but there is nothing we can do now besides letting go," Wang Wei persuaded her. Yan Hai's chest rose up and down as she controlled her breathing to calm down. She snorted coldly to herself, her eyes displaying a sharp and intense killing intent that only she knew was the target.

"Is there anything else?"

"Huh, no," Wang Wei replied. Although he had a few more questions, he did not dare ask. Yan Hai ended the communication, and Wang Wei finally breathed in relief. He took a moment to regain his composure before meeting Wrath again.

"I'm sorry but I can't help you," Wang Wei said directly.

"Why?" Wrath asked, and Wang Wei explained everything, including Lu Chuntao's past and his deduction.

"Maybe you're wrong," Wrath argued. "After all, these are nothing but speculations."

"Even if that's true, I'm not willing to take the risk — at least, not now," Wang Wei replied calmly.

"By the time you're ready, it will be too late." Wang Wei shrugged at these words.

"Wang Wei, you —"

"Okay, don't say anything that will ruin our relationship," Wang Wei stopped her. "Don't forget your mission to your people. You should focus on surviving this catastrophe and become stronger in the upcoming era. That's the only way you'll be able to protect the Neo-Demons."

Wang Wei's words were sincere, and he hoped she would listen to him. Wrath stared at him before closing her eyes, exhaling deeply to calm down.

"You're extremely talented and have inherited the destiny of the devil race, meaning your future is very bright. However, you need time to grow and maybe even protection, so I recommend you join a faction," Wang Wei continued.

"Including your sect?" Wrath asked, looking directly in the eyes.

"Yes, including mine," Wang Wei nodded. "This is not the lower dimension, so you don't have to live with a chip on your shoulder. What the devil race has done was so long ago that few people care. And the ones who do remember do not care since they consider you guys losers.

"The only thing that may cause you problems is your identity as your master's disciple, but once people know Lu Chuntao has that artifact, no one will care about that."

"I see," Wrath nodded before turning around, preparing to leave.

"Wait."

"Is there anything else?"

Wang Wei frowned as he looked at her: "Don't do stupid like trying to exchange the news about Lu Chuntao in exchange for rescuing these descendants."

"I won't."

Wang Wei sighed before snapping his finger. Chains materialized and caught Wrath before she could react.

"What is the meaning of this?"

"Your eyes betrayed you," Wang Wei said.

"I don't understand what you're saying."

"Do you know how much is on my plate?" Wang Wei complained. "The last thing I need is for you to complicate the situation by making Lu Chuntao into an active chess player."

The Heavenly Serpent Empress was still lying low-key and hiding in the shadows, which was beneficial to Wang Wei. So, the last thing he wanted was for Wrath's action to make her more active, maybe even turning her into his enemy.

"Are you going to kill me?" Wrath asked calmly. Now that the truth was revealed, she accepted her fate.

"No, but I'll seal you," Wang Wei replied. He waved his hand, and she turned into a marble. Wang Wei sighed. He did many things for the devil race and fulfilled his promise to the primogenitor. But what has he gotten in return? Wang Wei was now sure that someone — most likely Heavenly Book — had stolen his fortunate encounter that contained that transcendent artifact.

'Why is my life so hard?' Wang Wei complained before dissipating. Time passed, and a month passed by. Wang Wei was cultivating his flesh puppets in the blood pool. Then, he summoned Dulgun to check on Mongke's progress:

"How long do you think it will take?"

"Do you know what we're doing?" Dulgun asked.

"I have some ideas," Wang Wei replied. "The records said your clan was one of the most vengeful, and there is a reason for that."

Dulgun nodded. "The process takes time and requires a great price, so don't expect anything in the next few hundred years."

"That's really short," Wang Wei nodded approvingly. What he feared was that Mongke would take too long. "How confident is he?" Mongke has just acquired his current strength, so Wang Wei was worried about him.

"No need to worry. By the time the ceremony starts, he will be a full-fledged warrior with plenty of experience," Dulgun reassured.

"Is he going to inherit one of his ancestors' memory?" Wang Wei asked.

"That's right," she nodded.

"I'm more reassured now, but that won't affect his personality, will it?"

"I don't think so."

"You don't sound too reassured."

"He's doing things too fast," Dulgun admitted, hence her worries. "However, this is the path he chose, so I'll support him."

"I see," Wang Wei nodded. "Don't forget to remind me when it starts."

"No problem," Dulgun agreed. "Oh, one more thing — I've successfully separated 20% of the Heaven Wills from the Blood Dragon's shadow."

"You did an excellent job," Wang Wei praised. Typically, this news would be something to celebrate, but things like Heaven Will are useless in the current era/situation. "I would offer you a reward, but you understand."

"It's fine," Dulgun replied generously.

...

In just a flash, 2500 years passed. The world was still in chaos as the two major wars continued. The two suns' vessels have disappeared, fighting in the Void Battlefield and out of sight. Meanwhile, Taoism could barely hold on with support from the Earth Emperor.

Undead Phoenix and Five Feathers have had two direct confrontations in the past two millennia, but anyone could tell they were testing ground rather than genuine battles.

"So, those two are ready to fight to the death?"

"That's right," Red Mask reported. "Five Feather's curse has increased drastically after she finished the Heart Soul Plague two hundred years ago, and Undead Phoenix has lost too many people in such a short period. He cannot allow her to grow any more powerful."

"How did hell did she succeed so fast? And why is this plague so potent?" Wang Wei asked. It was okay if she developed a plague that could affect Non-Immortal Cultivators, but the latest news said this plague could even kill Immortal Sovereigns and Dao Monarchs.

"That's why I'm here," Red Mask reported after a brief silence.

"Did something happen?" Wang Wei asked with a frown.

"Sage Pure Flame disappeared."

"What do you mean he disappeared?"

"It appeared the person we captured was a well-made clone, and I couldn't even tell the difference."

"You're telling me this now?" Wang Wei asked with a harsh tone.

"That's because the clone suddenly disappeared less than a month ago," Red Mask reported. "I wanted to recapture or find more information before reporting."

"Report these kinds of things to me as soon as possible, understood?"

"Yes, sir."

Wang Wei massaged his temple as he pondered: "Are you saying the Five Feathers' plague is the same as Pure Flame?"

"Not the same, but based on it."

"Did he give it to her himself? Did they do it voluntarily, or is he someone else pawn? Something fishy is going on, but I can't wrap my head around it," Wang Wei muttered.

"How dangerous is this plague?"

"Preliminary analysis is that we should be able to cure it, but it takes time," Red Mask responded truthfully.

"Time we may not have," Wang Wei rebutted. As expected, after a short peace, everything was rapidly going to shit.

"According to the original plan, we should have had our people participate in the creation so we could have a cure at hand to prevent it from going out of control. How is that going?"

"I apologize, but something went wrong."

"Of course it did," Wang Wei complained. "What exactly?"

"None of our people participated in the final steps of its creation," Red Mask reported. "We know that only Five Feathers and one other individual know the final formula, but we don't even know who that is."

Chapter 1389 The Larger Implications

Wang Wei contemplated his next move. Five Feathers must die, but he also cannot allow her plague to get out of control. "Try to find the other person who knows the formula. Additionally, have the Curse Master study a sample, just in case."

"I understand," Red Mask nodded.

"Anything else?" Wang Wei asked.

"We received news of signs of instability in the Great Chu Dynasty."

"You said you received it?"

"Yes, from Lady Xun Junyao."

"I see. Continue."

"There are signs that someone is trying to overthrow the Earth Emperor," Red Mask stated.

"Who?"

"All signs point to the Empress."

"Her? But that doesn't sound like her personality," Wang Wei added as he remembered the knowledge he had about Shu Ren and his dynasty. When his clone was scheming against his downfall, he considered many possibilities, including using his family.

"That's right," Red Mask nodded. "The information stated that someone may be behind the scenes and the Empress is just a discarded pawn."

"Are they trying to force Shu Ren and the Third Prince to fight?" Wang Wei analyzed. "But this tactic is too obvious and shouldn't work — unless we are missing a crucial detail." He stopped as he suddenly remembered something: "Did we ever find out why Shu Ren tolerated the Third Prince?"

"Sadly, no."

Wang Wei nodded before looking in the distance:

"Everyone can feel it," he said. "A pivotal moment is approaching, and Shu Ren is one of the only open variables left that can intervene and change things. We can't allow this, so let's give him something to do."

"Lord, what do you need me to do?"

"Don't worry, I'll take care of it," Wang Wei added. "By the way, how much of our information do we still rely on foreign agencies to acquire?"

"Currently, more than 22% of our most valuable information comes from foreign agencies, with Lady Xun Yao's being our primary source," Red Mask reported.

"15%? It's lower than I anticipated," Wang Wei nodded. The last time he asked was before his 10,000 yuan epoch retreat, and the number was as high as 36%.

"I will do my best to reduce that number," Red Mask promised.

"I never doubted you," Wang Wei nodded before dismissing her. He closed his eyes to check on the mortals. The war has devastated the overall population, but the vastness of the world and the fact that many people actively protected mortals prevented the problem from reaching a higher level. However, Wang Wei knew these wars were just the beginning.

Since Supreme Unity's goal is to wipe out the mortal population, the bastard won't stop at anything before accomplishing his goal. Wang Wei strongly believes that Supreme Unity never planned to allow any of the moons to die so soon. If not for Maitreya and Wang Wei's intervention, he would have eased the relationship between Five Feathers and Undead Phoenix after their battle had killed enough mortals.

'He may still try this,' Wang Wei analyzed. The good news for him is that the mortals have already built the Law Soul and a prototype of a Law Weapon, meaning their civilization has reached Tier 7.

'Additionally, my theory was correct,' Wang Wei thought. One of the mortals proposed a mad theory on how to control law in a large area. The rune community treated his paper as the words of a madman, but Wang Wei saw the idea/prototype of a Law Domain, which is something Saints (Tier 8) can control in the Origin Cultivation System.

'I wonder whether Heavenly Dao realized it may have opened Pandora's box by allowing a mortal civilization that reaches Tier 9,' Wang Wei analyzed. This decision may appear as if it was a sudden choice to pass this catastrophe, but Wang Wei was a visionary and could see the ramifications.

For example, battles between two Chaos Worlds. Once two worlds fight, the true factor that decides victory is the top powerhouses. If one world has more Primal or more Paragons, their chances of winning a war are drastically higher. However, now, there was another possibility.

In the future, the Eternal Ascension World can choose another way of winning. They can send the mortal civilizations to eradicate all the enemy's mortals and cultivators below Tier 10. Everyone knows the weaker cultivators are the backbone of any world — especially during war.

They are the group that will eventually grow into Emperors, Empyreans, Paragons, and Primals. But what if that base is annihilated? In such a war, the Eternal Ascension World can just take its time and allow the damage acquired by its opponent to stack since it can no longer train new soldiers and powerhouses.

'The way war is fought will forever be changed,' Wang Wei analyzed. 'Such drastic change is not something Heavenly Dao can decide on its own. So, has Grand Dao allowed it? It makes sense. Grand Dao's only purpose is to guide the growth of the world.'

'Mortal Civilization's advantage was not only its war potential but the fact it drastically increased the talent pool of the cultivation system.'

The mortals in the Rune Civilization are what comics in Wang Wei's past life usually referred to as [peak humans]. Their bodies, souls, and bloodlines have reached the limit of humanity, making them easier to cultivate once they are detected to have talents. The enlightened humans who have gained early access to spiritual power and can carve runes have great talents for Spirit Cultivation and Professions. So, even if they don't have cultivation talent, their descendants are likelier to have such talents.

'If every Chaos World had a mortal civilization, the Chaos Universe would receive a boom of prosperity,' Wang Wei analyzed. 'With the advent of the Transcendent Era, such a boon might be necessary to ensure this new era is as prosperous as possible. However, are things so simple?'

Wang Wei can say for sure that 99% of Worlds will reject the notion of giving such power to mortals. Non-immortal cultivators will never allow these ants to have the power to hurt them, and Immortal Cultivators already believe they are a different species from non-immortals, let alone mortals. Most of these people will not care about the overall benefit to their worlds or cultivation civilizations since there was no direct benefit for them.

Finally, there is also the fear that mortal civilization might reach the level of [Immortal]. Although the possibility is relatively small, it is still possible. Such a fear is enough to stop most of these

powerhouses. A few might succeed in spreading it in their areas, but the entire Chaos World can't follow.

'Unless their worlds also faced a catastrophe,' Wang Wei thought. 'Or, they are invaded and see the benefit of this civilization.' Wang Wei could predict Grand Dao's method. Even if he did not start the Third Origin War as expected, the upcoming Transcendent Era will be a time of war and strife throughout the Chaos Universe. Transcendents also need resources, and unlike Paragons, one Chaos World is not enough for even a single one of them. In other words, the act of plundering will become routine.

'In fact, my analysis is just the bare surface,' Wang Wei thought. 'The Mortal Civilization or the Rune Civilization is a perfect blend of Science and Technology and Cultivation Civilization, made accessible to mortals. In some ways, Grand Dao has used me as a pawn to assimilate the Science and Technology Civilization of Earth or the Prehistoric World.'

Wang Wei sighed.

'According to my predictions, Ying Zheng and I were not the only ones who reincarnated/transmigrated from Earth, so the others may also be pawns to assimilate other ideas or concepts from Earth.'

Wang Wei squinted:

'I probably was not the first one. Whether it's Buddhism or even the Barbarian Clan based on Mongolian — they were all probably created by Grand Dao after assimilating certain aspects of Earth.

'In other words, Earth is a source of inspiration for Grand Dao, just like it is to me,' Wang Wei analyzed. 'I always assumed that Earth or the Prehistoric World was protected, hence why Grand Dao never targeted it. While this may be true, there is also the possibility that Grand Dao values it more — that's why it never put its entire focus on targeting it. But one day, once Earth is no longer valuable, I fear what is to come is a full-on destruction campaign.

'Wait, no, there is another possibility. Why did I theorize I was a Fate Seed even back on Earth? It made no sense for someone from Earth to be chosen for the Fate Cardinal position — until now. Grand Dao wanted someone to take and execute these ideas from Earth, thus contributing to the Chaos Universe's prosperity.

'That's why I was one of the Fate Seeds. Damn it, how deep is this conspiracy? How much of my life was planned by that bastard?'

Wang Wei felt a rage overcoming him. His very existence was probably due to Grand Dao using its limited power inside the Prehistoric World. The cracks that swallowed him were probably not an accident but an inevitable, even a test to determine whether he was the final Fate Seed.

Chapter 1390 Shu Ren's Bright Future

Wang Wei exhaled to calm down. 'No, things are not as bad as I think,' Wang Wei told himself. 'The moment I started my path to devour these purple orbs, I should have embarked on a path of breaking my fate.'

Wang Wei was not just saying these words to reassure himself; he had a logical analysis to arrive at this conclusion, and the answer was obvious — Hongjun. No matter how subtle and brilliant Grand Dao's plan was, Hongjun was a Transcendent and should have detected some hints.

'There is no way Hongjun would have helped me if he had any suspicions that I was a Fate Seed,' Wang Wei analyzed. 'So, what most likely happened was the other Fate Seeds were taken into the void, and Grand Dao's test was for them to survive for a period before taking them to reincarnation. However, I broke the mold of the test by surviving and turning into this soul monster.'

'This caught Hongjun's attention, and he watched over. He was planning something himself and thought I may become a variable, so he invested a little protection and luck blessing.'

Wang Wei's eyes shine with golden brilliance: 'I should not be too excited. I may have exceeded Grand Dao's test, but that did not change the fact I was branded with the [Fate Seed] title. In fact, my excellence meant I was the best choice for the job.'

He suddenly felt a sense of urgency. He needed to eliminate his status as a [Fate Seed]. 'I wanted to wait until I was about to achieve Half-Step Transcendence before asking Grand Dao, but it seems this must be done before becoming a Paragon. Additionally, I must prepare in case Grand Dao breaks the rule and refuses to tell me.'

If there is one lesson Wang Wei learned from previous experience is that he cannot rely on these powerful entities to be competent or keep their word. So, he needed a backup plan in case things

went wrong. Wang Wei stopped theorizing and focused on the task at hand — checking on these mortals.

He waved his hand, and a piece of information manifested in his palm. 'The Rune Body is finished, and it's usable to cultivators. This method should reduce the intensity of the war, but I cannot reveal it yet in case Supreme Unity makes countermeasures.'

He nodded in satisfaction before checking one last time. Most of these mortals were not training in mock battles in the Void Illusion Realm to prepare for the upcoming war.

'Good,' Wang Wei nodded. 'They are developing faster than I anticipated.' He looked in the distance while muttering: 'Mongke is ready, so all that's left is to distract Shu Ren.'

...

Great Chu Dynasty, 33 Nether Hell:

Shu Ren sat on a black throne with souls and bones as an aesthetic. His eyes were closed as he checked the situation of this dimension, and the smile on the corner of his mouth showed what kind of mood he was in.

'Can this work?' Shu Ren thought. His Nether Hell rapidly reached the finished stage after using Five Feather's method. Of course, another great contributor was these wars that allowed him to gather trillions upon trillions of souls.

'As long as I complete it and sacrifice his Nether Hell to the Underworld, they should give me the Earth Emperor Position,' Shu Ren thought excitedly. 'And even if that doesn't work, my actions should be enough to become a Yama King.'

Shu Ren's smile deepened as he thought about his bright future. Shu Ren was not stupid and knew what a bleak future awaited him. His Qi Luck was rapidly decreasing, and a sense of doom loomed over him. Shu Ren knew that even if he survived this catastrophe, two fates awaited him: being Supreme Unity's pawn or the Human Emperor's pawn.

'However, this will be my way out,' he analyzed. 'Either the Earth Emperor or the Yama King Positions are enough to survive this catastrophe and escape my fate as a pawn. And that's not mentioning the benefits of strength.'

Although Shu Ren acted arrogant on the outside, he knew he had long reached the limit of his talent. Even with the world's resources, he could no longer make much progress. However, the destiny of the Earth Emperor or Yama King was enough for him to become a peak Paragon, maybe even a Primal.

'And this may not be my limit,' Shu Ren thought with shining eyes. Previously, he knew his limit, so he never considered achieving such levels, but now, a seed called ambition was growing inside his heart.

'I need to calm down,' Shu Ren reminded himself. The Nether Hell was close to completion but not there yet. But the question is how to perfect it.

'Do I need to understand Samsara Dao? No, I came so far without it. Maybe I can use more people with Earth Dao, or I could use the more extreme way — fuse enough souls into the place and force it to evolve naturally.' These two approaches have merits, and they can be used simultaneously.

'The souls required would be astronomical, but luckily, this world lacks nothing but souls,' Shu Ren thought. However, he always felt there were better ways, but he couldn't think of it. 'Forget it. Maybe it will come to me later on.'

Shu Ren teleported away, returning to his throne in Great Chu. He did not summon his ministers but only contacted his shadow. "Report."

"Yes, lord," the shadow knelt on one knee. "Two major things, starting with this." He took out a scroll, and with a wave, the paper flew before Shu Ren. He immediately sneered after reading it. Taoism asked him to participate in this war directly, and this time, they were no longer playing around as they directly threatened him.

Shu Ren wrote an edict ordering his Military Director to increase troops and resources to reinforce Taoism. He also asked his ambassador to use any excuse to explain his absence.

'The issue of soul gathering should be dealt with now,' Shu Ren thought, hiding the smile on his face. "What's next?" The shadow handed him an information talisman.

"The Empress has committed treason?" Shu Ren asked. "It seems that some people treat me as stupid."

"Lord, do you want me to investigate?"

"No need." The shadow looked at him confusingly.

"It's time for me to deal with my unfilial third son," Shu Ren replied calmly. "And they just handed me the perfect reason." Shu Ren sneered. His son has been safe for so long for two interconnected reasons: the bastard allied himself with the Great Qin Dynasty and successfully schemed to take control of a significant part of his 33 Nether Hell.

But now that the thing was about to be complete and Shu Ren saw the hope of escaping his fate, it was time to destroy that annoying pest. His third son has always portrayed himself as filial to his mother, making her the best direction to deal with him.

Swish!

Shu Ren frowned as he looked at the shadowy figure in the room that appeared out of nowhere: "You better have a good reason to interrupt my meeting."

"Lord, there is an emergency."

"What is it?"

"Imperial Consort Shu Shu has fallen into a coma."

"What?" Shu Ren stood up; his body instinctively released a terrifying aura. "What do you mean by this?" However, he did not wait for an answer before teleporting to the Flawless Phoenix Palace. He saw Shu Shu lying in bed with countless maids around her, most of whom were trembling.

"What happened here?"

No one answered him, which riled up Shu Ren even more. He was about to kill someone when the handmaid reacted fast enough by kneeling on the floor:

"Your majesty, forgive us — we don't know what happened. The lady was eating her meals when she felt ill."

"Did someone poison her?"

"I...I don't think so."

"Think?"

"I tested the food, even drunk it myself," the headmaid swiftly replied. "I found no poison."

Shu Ren had calmed down somewhat as his divine sense did not detect anything wrong with the food on the table. "You better hope this has nothing to do with you," he warned, not hiding his killing intent. Shu Ren approached her, ready to check her current situation.

"Your majesty," the primary shadow suddenly appeared before him. "Let me do it."

"This is not the time for your nonsense."

"In times like these, it's best to be careful," the shadow continued.

"Get out of the way before I kill you," Shu Ren snapped.

"Your majesty, I insist," the shadow replied, his eyes firmer than ever in his life. He was prepared to die, but he could not allow his majesty to be the one investigating this woman.

A scythe manifested behind Shu Ren, ready to annihilate this disobedient subordinate. However, the look in the shadow's eyes made him stop.

'Yes, this is not the time to act on emotions.' He exhaled to calm down before canceling his technique.

"Go ahead," he ordered.