

F.D Emperor 1411

Chapter 1411 Pig Teamate

Wang Wei opened his eyes and immediately checked how long had passed. "300 years is not as bad as I thought." He synched with his clone and had a quick update on the major events. The mortals built their Gundam and the [Law World], officially becoming a Tier 9 civilization. However, they haven't given up and have been studying the power of Immortal Venerables and the Dao Source of Dao Ancestors.

Wang Wei did not comment on this endeavor. Whether they succeed or not is entirely up to Grand Dao. However, one day, once he is powerful enough to confront the latter, he might be able to remove all the obstacles blocking their way forward.

"The plague has spread a little too fast, hasn't it?" Wang Wei thought as he reviewed the memories. He analyzed everything and soon had a reason. The spread did accelerate, but the primary reason it was so exaggerated was that these overlords were too busy dealing with the aftermath of the return of destiny and thus did not allocate as much time or effort as before.

"Are they trying to find ways to revive their ancestors while still under the suppression of the lock? These people always run to their ancestors every time things get serious — what a bunch of fools," he cursed. The priority should be the curse, as the lock will not allow these ancestors to return. Unfortunately, these people do not like the uncertainty or lack of security in dealing with world-ending events with the protection and guidance of their ancestors.

"These fools might not be able to see the situation, but these people in Limbo are not stupid. So, why didn't they say anything? Huh? They are silent?" According to the info Wang Wei had, these people desperately contacted their ancestors in Limbo, but almost no one received an answer.

"They must be plotting something. I hope it's useful," Wang Wei sighed before focusing on the last major news, and he finally smiled. "At least there is one good news." The Sage Council he used to lure Pure Flame did proceed as usual, with his clone participating. As Wang Wei expected, there were quite a few level 1 and even level 2 Sages hidden in these ancient sects.

After everyone pooled their knowledge and experience, they devised a solution: an evolving purifying power. No matter how terrifying the plague is, this purifying power can analyze it and evolve to counter it. The council released this power, curing the plague for cultivators below Tier 10.

Soon after, there were rumors that this cure was a way for the overlords to control people, but this approach did not have much effect. The Overlords did not care about these loose cultivators and would capture them to cure them. Sadly, as previously stated, they did not focus too much on giving the cure, thus aggravating the situation.

Of course, Supreme Unity would not accept defeat so easily. Countless new strands of the plague appeared, but it was useless — until a brand capable of affecting immortals appeared. The thing spread like wildfire, and in less than 25 years, it affected Dao Ancestors.

"Truly a bunch of pig teammates," Wang Wei cursed, and that included his sect. Ancestor Yan Hai also mysteriously disappeared, making the Dao Opening Sect freak out, and these idiots started acting like the other factions. Wang Wei's clone urged them repeatedly, but his words had little to no effect.

"Luckily, Buddhism and the Demon race still have some smart people. Otherwise, the situation would have been worse," Wang Wei exhaled to calm down. The situation was not looking good. The Sage Council was confident they could make Tier 10 and higher cures, but the rate at which they could create the cures was not comparable to the rate at which this plague was mutating.

"Luckily, I found Sage Pure Flame," Wang Wei sighed. There were a few minor events, so he focused on them to ensure he did not miss anything special.

'What a persistent bastard,' Wang Wei thought. Divine Zhu sent an envoy to the Dao Opening Sect, trying to get his hands on the mortal civilization through diplomacy. Once that approach failed, the Fate Shadow Guard soon discovered they had the method as someone from the lower dimension sold it. However, these bastards were not satisfied with this and started kidnapping the pilots, puppets, and legions sent from those bases when they were on a mission.

'Divine Faith Heaven, if your faction still exists in the transcendent era, then my name will no longer be Wang Wei,' Wang Wei thought with gritted teeth. He was already in a bad mood; unfortunately, these bastards became the last straw. He controlled his emotions as he needed to be calm for his upcoming action.

Capturing Pure Flame is a must, but he will not just rush into it without any preparations. Wang Wei will not wholly trust the Heaven Secret Crystal and prepare for many possibilities. The process took him three days.

Limbo:

A handsome man with luscious black hair adorned in golden robes opened his eyes. They had no pupils but glowed like stars — this man was the First Primal of the Divine Faith Haven: Supreme God Tian.

"Father, is something wrong?" asked a young boy about 12 years old beside him.

"I sense a warning," Tian said with a frown. "Something must have happened to heaven."

The young boy frowned after hearing this. He knew his father was a Deva, meaning he was extremely loved by Heaven and Earth, thus granting him extreme senses. So, if he sensed something, there must be a reason.

"I'll go check it out."

"Father, you can't. Remember? We already signed the contract."

Tian paused. If he returned to the world of the living, he might indeed ruin the plan. However, he only accepts out of the interest of his faction, so what would be the point if the plan succeeds and his faction is no longer?

"I'll go talk to Qiyuan and the others to see if they can compromise." Although Tian said this, he was not too hopeful. Everyone understood what kind of opponent they were facing, and no one would want to jeopardize this plan because of his sudden whim. The worst part is ensuring success; the price engraved in their signed contract was horrifying, and no one could accept it.

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Wang Wei looked at this tiny mountain located at what could be considered the fringes of this world. His eyes penetrated the hidden dimension and spied on the people inside.

'Is that a Tier 12 Creation Life? No wonder no one could catch him?' Wang Wei thought. His gaze turned to Pure Flame, who was purifying countless cultivators with a look of anger and madness. Wang Wei sneered. The status of [Sage] does not have a morality restraint — at least not from Heavenly Dao. If someone meets the merit requirements, they can condense the Golden Body of Merit and the status will not be revoked.

Wang Wei loves his freedom, meaning he would have never accepted the restriction of morality for the Golden Body. Despite what Pure Flame did, he was still a Sage. However, Heavenly Dao was unhappy with his shady move of helping Supreme Unity and locked his Golden Body at level 1.

"He might really be mad," Wang Wei said as he observed. Pure Flame behaves like his Golden Body should have improved as long as he purified these captures. However, that's not how it works; it's all about merit, and he should know this.

'Something is definitely wrong,' Wang Wei thought, feeling he may have overlooked something significant. 'If Supreme Unity wanted the source of the virus that made Pure Flame into a sage, he already has it. So, why is he still alive?'

That virus is the last piece of Five Feather's plague formula. Anyone with some wisdom will understand how necessary that knowledge is, so why does Supreme Unity keep anyone with the information alive?

'Is he trying to lure me here? Possible, but without direct intervention, the chances of him killing me are low,' Wang Wei thought as he raised his alert to the highest level. He observed Pure Flame's every move while trying to hide his presence from the Dao Ruler.

'Something is wrong with that dimension. The entire layout is a strange formation,' Wang Wei thought with squinted eyes. 'No, not a formation — a ceremony. To be precise, a sacrifice.'

Wang Wei had dabbled in ceremony magic in the lower dimension, and he had read much in his future wife's library, so he swiftly put the pieces together.

"The madness of a sage, symbolizing the transition from glory to decadence, from light to darkness — in other words, a yin-yang transition. There is a second core that seems to be self-sacrifice — that's obvious: Pure Flame is about to kill himself in his madness.

'Once these two requirements are met, this ceremony will release a devastating power, but what is the target? Why can I figure it out? Damn it, regardless, I can't allow this bastard to die.'

Chapter 1412 Is this Checkmate? No, It's Not

As soon as Wang Wei barged in, his mind quickly detected new aspects of this ceremony that he couldn't see from the outside. He saw a significant part involving destiny and a second aspect made for him: the act of trying to stop this ceremony and failing will convert into the power of regret that further boosted its strength.

'Damn it,' he cursed before using a sure-kill technique he had recently developed: [The Transcendent Sword Slash]. Wang Wei took the fundamental essence of his Transcendent Luck and his Perfection, allowing him to access the power of transcendent. Of course, this power of transcendence is not even one trillionth of the true power of Half-Step Transcendent, but it is a devastating attack for anyone in the Paragon Realm.

Wang Wei swung his sword, and with that one strike, he should have annihilated this dimension alone with this ceremony. However, things didn't go as he wanted. The Dao Ruler protecting Pure Flame reacted to his attack by summoning a Paragon Artifact — the Ten Thousand Layer Pagoda.

So, the result of that devastating blow only did one thing: destroy the body Wang Wei was occupying and kill the Dao Ruler. Wang Wei's soul looked at the pagoda that remained intact from his attack. 'I could never destroy the ceremony in the first place,' Wang Wei thought with a grave expression. The pagoda contained even more power of transcendence than his attack; no, the comparison was like a river and a tiny mosquito, meaning this thing was created by Supreme Unity's vessel.

"It's you," Pure Flame yelled with a twisted expression. "It's all your fault — everything is all your fault." Wang Wei glanced at him. It was impossible to get to him with this damn pagoda, and this bastard's mind was too far gone for any effective communication.

'My next step is containment,' Wang Wei thought, feeling a sense of urgency. His intuition had risen to the highest level, telling him not to allow this ceremony to continue. Wang Wei disappeared from the dimension.

"Get back here," Pure Flame yelled. "You bastard, don't you dare ignore me?"

Wang Wei had already isolated this area before coming; that's the most basic cautionary measure. Now, he was going to use that idea to the extreme. He did not hesitate to remove the limit on his soul to access his hidden soul power from his time in the void and used that energy to engrave sealing formations.

Pure Flame had about two to three minutes before he succumbed to his madness, and this was enough time for Wang Wei's Paragon Soul to engrave billions of these seals.

Boom!

The dimension finally collapsed, turning into 33 red magic circles stacked on each other to form a funnel. However, before the circles could be fully deployed, a white shield composed of countless smaller sealing arrays formed a barrier to isolate their effects.

Was it a success? Well, Wang Wei wasn't celebrating yet. His eyes remained closed, focusing on building more and more sealing arrays. His reaction was proved correct as the 33 magic circles started to fight back, creating cracks in the barrier. But as soon as a tiny flaw, countless new arrays would appear to make it up.

Time was on Wang Wei's side since the longer this confrontation lasted, the more sealing arrays he would have built. But would the person who designed such a brilliant ceremony let his work be destroyed so easily?

Tao Beginning Palace:

A red mist suddenly surrounded the entire place, followed by an order for all Taoists to return. It did not matter whether they were still fighting against Buddhism or had permission for a special retreat—they had to return. Although confused, these people had no choice but to follow: Who made their boss one of the two suns?

People were intrigued by this sudden move. Ever since Shu Ren's death, Corrupted Taoism had practically lost the war and was forced to guide a few areas. Neo-Taoism, who followed Maitreya, now controlled most of the former territories.

After the corrupt priest returned to the Tao Beginning Palace, an intense blood light rushed into the sky, entering a spatial portal that everyone wanted to know led to where. However, before anyone had a chance to move, another vision appeared between Heaven and Earth.

Taoism' Qi Luck Dragon manifested in the air and roared in agony before its body shrunk to the same size as the other Overlords. Everyone was shocked, wondering what the meaning of those two visions was.

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Wang Wei opened his eyes with an ugly expression and appeared a few kilometers to his right. He released the best protective shield he knew. A terrifying red light burst in that exact spot, instantly annihilating his shield. The red light headed toward him, and Wang Wei's expression immediately changed. He was currently in soul form, meaning it was easier to get contaminated by something. So, he distanced himself from this thing.

Unfortunately for him, the red light seemed to have expected this outcome and immediately headed for his barrier. Wang Wei realized his mistake and rushed over, but it was too late. The red light freed the magic circles before fusing with them. Then, the world saw a third worldwide vision: 33 blood-red magic circles fused into one before dissipating.

Wang Wei looked at the sky; to say he was gloomy was an understatement. Currently, his intuition was screaming — it's game over, we have lost. He exhaled deeply, waiting for whatever this thing was, and he was not the only one. However, a few minutes later, nothing seemed to have changed.

'Am I overthinking?' Wang Wei thought, but he hadn't finished his thought when he received an emergency call from Chancellor Du Cong, so he accessed the Void Illusion Realm.

"Great Guardian, please save us," Du Cong yelled, tears streaming down his eyes like a baby. The prideful and confident High Chancellor was panicking beyond words could explain.

"What happened?"

"They are dying. More than a hundred trillion every second," Du Cong said with a choked voice. Wang Wei's face became ugly as he immediately teleported to the bases.

"I should have thought about this — his original target has always been the mortals," Wang Wei said with gritted teeth. He was so focused on the fact that Supreme Unity wanted cultivators to kill the mortals as that would deal the greatest blow to Heavenly Dao that he ignored that Supreme Unity's ultimate goal is to wipe out all life, and how achieved it is just a bonus point. It's not like he's a perfectionist and must do things in specific ways.

The curse had reached the mortals, and this version was cruel. As soon as someone caught it, they would die in seconds.

Wang Wei summoned his Golden Body of Merit to release a blessing throughout the base. 'Death is extended to 20 seconds,' he thought with a grave expression; his attempt was essentially useless. He activated a technique called Death Senses, and he soon saw it.

The curse was already worldwide, and mortals died in the trillions every second. 'At this rate, we have less than 5 years before all mortals disappear from the Eternal Ascension World.' Wang Wei was not angry, discouraged, despaired, or felt any desire to curse or vent. Instead, he felt remarkably calm.

Red Mask contacted, so he answered.

"I know about the mortals, so there is no need to report that part," Wang Wei said directly. "Use Divine Sense for the fastest communication speed."

"Huh, yes. All the survival members from the Corrupt Taoism side have been sacrificed in the Tao Beginning Palace, and Taoism no longer has the destiny of a Sun."

"Oh?"

Red Masked showed him a recording of the vision.

"So, that's how it is," Wang Wei muttered. He understood how far this bastard went to release this incurable plague to the world. The good news is he is now technically no longer the leader of Taoism and has no access to their luck and resources. His access to the world has been cut off beside the lock.

'Of course, once all the mortals die, the blow it will deal to Heavenly Dao is enough for him to wrestle more power and allow for his return,' Wang Wei sneered. Although it seems he made great sacrifices for the mortal plague, it was not as much when you consider how he will recuperate them later and even make more profit.

"Anything else?"

"Everyone is panicking about the situation of the mortals, and the sect has ordered that you return home at once to take control," Red Mask reported. Wang Wei nodded before dismissing her. Returning to the sect is pointless unless there is a solution there.

The current situation screamed checkmate, but Wang Wei's doesn't. There is still a way — there must be.

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"Brother, things are getting out of hand," Yan Hai said.

"Don't worry about them. They signed the contract and must abide by it."

"But that was before."

"Nothing has changed," Qiyuan replied calmly.

"Are you really leaving everything to that kid Wang Wei? It's obvious that he failed."

"No, I agree with Big Brother," Battle Maniac added. "Look at his eyes — this is not the eyes of someone that has admitted defeat. No, this is the eyes of a beast that has been cornered for the first time and is about to tear apart his opponent."

"Third Brother is right," Qiyuan said. "This kid has never meant his match intellectually until now. In a technical sense, this is his first time being cornered in an intellectual battle, and it seems to have sublimated him."

"That's why I insist we wait and continue with the original plan."

Chapter 1413 The Awakening Mind

Wang Wei calmly looked at all these mortals dying. The surviving one gazed at him in the sky with fear and hope. 'I opened Pandora's box by suggesting the plague curse to Five Feathers.' An intense flood of regret rushed into his mind, but Wang Wei's mind — who was already in an extreme mode of dealing with the solution — automatically cut off these negative emotions as they were useless in coming up with a solution.

Wang Wei's senses locked into a dying young man. This young pilot should have died long ago, but the blessing from the Golden Body extended his life. Wang Wei's mind immediately caught into something. 'The main cause of this disaster is a Sage and a Sage should end it.' He immediately extrapolated a new solution from this idea.

Wang Wei disappeared, first contacting Sage Lin Qi; they rapidly through divine sense, trying not to waste any time at all.

"I apologize, but this is the only method I can think of."

"No need. I'm glad to help, and something told me this would be my destiny," Lin Qi said.

"Is there anything you need?" Wang Wei continued.

"Just keep your promise."

"Don't worry, as long as the Dao Opening Sect exists, your life work will also exist."

"That's all I want to hear."

Wang Wei bowed deeply to him before leaving. However, just as he was about to disappear, Sage Lin Qi asked: "After this is over, I mean, after you destroy the lock, is it possible —"

"I'm sorry, but no."

"I figured as much," Lin Qi sighed. "But I couldn't help asking. Thank you for the mortal civilization. Nothing brought me more joy than seeing them develop and grow to the point of being self-independent."

"No problem," Wang Wei said before disappearing. He had to call a meeting of the highest order from the Sage Council, followed by asking for help from the Overlords, and lastly, track down Jimin.

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"This is the plan," Wang Wei stated to the Sage Council. "Anything to add?"

"I can improve your formation by 10-15%," Emperor Kong added.

"Good."

"Do we all have —"

"This is a small price we will pay compared to Sage Lin Qi," Wang Wei cut him off before finishing.

"No, I just —"

"Since no one has anything else to say, let's have it in writing before proceeding with the ceremony." Once everyone wrote their names, Wang Wei and Emperor Kong headed to Light City Domain, a small area in the Myriad Clan Union's territory; this place is also where Sage Lin Qi was born. Establishing the ceremony at a place of origin can increase its potency.

They found a small mountain range and re-arranged the mountains to form the core array of the ceremony. Wang Wei twisted countless Tier 12 metals into a small altar that he placed on top of the hill at the center. Everything was finished an hour later, and they immediately started the ceremony.

Sage Lin Qi took his place at the center while the remaining 22 Sages each stood on an individual mountain.

"All bow to the Sage of Virtue," Wang Wei said, and all the sages, including himself, bowed 180 degrees to Lin Qi. Their actions kicked started the ceremony as an intense power condensed in this area with this simple bow.

"A bow from the Chosen of Destiny." After uttering these words, Wang Wei flew in the air, ensuring he was exactly 33 meters from his spot, and bowed a second time before descending.

"A bow from the one who seeks to enlighten all sentient beings." Emperor Kong followed his exact steps, and Wang Wei proceeded to call the remaining Level 2 Golden Bodies.

"Now, for the honorary guests," Wang Wei continued. "The one who started the end of this era." A projection of Xun Junyao appeared 33 meters above the sky and bowed politely to Sage Lin Qi before dissipating.

"The one who put the last nail on this era." Mongke's projection appeared, and he saluted. By now, the amount of power condensed by these acts had turned into his golden ocean circulating around the central mountain.

"A salute from the Paragon of Hope," Wang Wei continued. Paragon Jimin's projection appeared and saluted Sage Lin Qi.

"Respect from destiny," Wang Wei continued. All 13 Qi Luck Dragons from the Overlords manifested 33,000 meters above the sky, circling Lin Qi's mountain while singing the most beautiful song between Heaven and Earth. "Next is the power of vengeance," Wang Wei stated as the dragons disappeared. A Taoist Priest appeared 33 meters below the mountains and threw what seemed to be a broken piece from a Luck-Condensing Artifact. His action immediately condensed a newfound power to add to the overall vast reserve.

The priest did not stay long as there were more acts of grievance. Wang Wei did not have to do much for this part of the ceremony since the world had too many grievances, including cultivators and mortals.

"The Sages' Sacrifice," Wang Wei uttered with squinted eyes. This was the most important aspect of the ceremony and the part that will truly determine whether Lin Qi can save the mortals. Wang Wei and all the other Sages' Golden Body manifested 33 meters above the sky before dissipating into golden sand particles.

Lin Qi's golden body appeared at the center and immediately absorbed the particles. Then, in a matter of seconds, it grew to level 3. Everyone calmly watched this happen; while some did not hide the pain of losing their golden body, no one hesitated.

"Finally, it's the Ultimate Sacrifice from a Sage of Virtue," Wang Wei said softly. Lin Qi asked him whether there was hope for his revival or possible return, and Wang Wei told him no. But in fact, he did not know whether that was true. However, he knew that only a true act of sacrifice would make this ceremony possible, so it would be detrimental to the process if Lin Qi had any kind of hope when he did it.

'Everything started with the Mad Sage Pure Flame, but it will end with the Sage of Virtue, Lin Qi,' Wang Wei thought. Among all the sages, Lin Qi is the only one who can bear the title of [Virtue].

He never became a Sage out of any desire for power or merit. No, his golden body was only the product of doing what he wanted in life — protecting people.

The Third-Tier Golden Body started absorbing all the condensed power from the ceremony before fusing into Lin Qi, turning his demeanor nobler and gentler. Then, Lin Qi flew into the sky, far away from the ceremony.

"Heaven and Earth above," his voice, which still contained an inherent kindness, bombed between Heaven and Earth. "The world is in turmoil, with all sentient beings tormented by a sea of suffering. All my life, I have lived by the creed that you must help as long as you can.

"I was helpless before, but now, I know what must be done. I hope this humble life of mine can become a beacon of hope for the world." As Lin Qi uttered his last words, he took one last look at the world before turning into this mass of golden light that spread in all directions. Wang Wei and everyone paying attention to this ceremony followed the light to see whether this thing was successful.

And it was.

Any mortal or cultivator touched by the golden light will be instantly cured. There was zero resistance for the entire process; it was as if this golden light wave was the embodiment of all that was holy and pure.

The golden light washed every corner of this vast world, not leaving a single diseased individual without a cure. Then, it became a golden sword attacking this invisible humanoid-shaped red ghost. This thing was the source of the Pure Flame Ceremony, and the golden sword extinguished it with only a few slashes.

However, to everyone's surprise, the golden sword did not dissipate but rushed into the sky directly toward the lock. Many people immediately hoped, thinking, could this be how they attain their freedom? Sadly, they were soon disappointed. The golden sword tried its best but did not even leave a mark on the lock.

The world heard a deep sigh of regret as the sword dissipated. Wang Wei calmly watched all of this. He was not surprised by the sword's outcome against the lock. However, just as he was about to leave to proceed to the next step, something unexpected occurred:

"You can summon me once."

"Sage Lin Qi?"

"Remember — one more time."

"I understand," Wang Wei nodded. It seems Sage Lin Qi did not immediately disappear, but Heavenly Dao turned him into a powerful force between Heaven and Earth.

"That's good to hear since I'll be needing all the help I need,' Wang Wei thought before leaving with everybody else. He needed to check on his mortal civilization to see how many people survived.

Chapter 1414 Return Home

Of the 3 million bases, only 333 remained, meaning the number of mortals that died is simply incalculable. As Area 0 of this plague, Wang Wei was expecting this outcome and even worse.

"You're alive," Wang Wei stated as he gazed at Du Cong.

"Unfortunately," Du Cong replied in a hoarse voice with clothes splattered in blood, listless eyes, and unkempt hair. Suddenly, he thought of something and stood up. He rushed toward Wang Wei and knelt on the ground: "Great Guardian, you're a mighty cultivator with godly power. You must be able to do it, right? After all, we are mortals, so it should be easy to bring them back, right?"

"I can't," Wang Wei said, shaking his head. Du Cong's body paused before he asked in gritted teeth: "Can't or won't."

"Can't," Wang Wei replied truthfully. "The person who killed them is much more powerful than me, and that's not to mention Samsara is currently isolated, so I couldn't even find their souls if I wanted to."

Du Cong let go of his clothes before sitting loathingly on the floor. His last hope was gone, and the truth punched harder than the power armor their civilization had built. Du Cong could no longer help it and started bailing on the ground like a baby.

Wang Wei was waiting for him to finish, and he had the intention to wait a few hours. However, he sensed despair, overwhelming Du Cong with each passing second. 'Survivor guilt, huh?' he thought before finally speaking:

"Do you intend to continue your job?" Du Cong's crying abated slowly until he was silent, but he did not look at Wang Wei or move from his crying position.

"I'm about to move the survivors," Wang Wei continued. "Your new location will have countless members of your species. I need someone to continue leading them and finish what this place started. So, I need to know whether I can count on you or if I need to find someone else."

Du Cong looked at the sky for a few seconds before standing up and fixing up his attire. He bowed politely to Wang Wei before walking to his post. 'It's better to be taciturn than give up in despair,' Wang Wei thought before helping. He spent three days reassuring the survivors, but the primary reason it took so long was because he held the grandest funeral for all the departed. Wang Wei even built a monument that contained all the names of the fallen, both in the final plague or the previous civilization wars. Finally, once that was dealt with, he put the remaining base in his personal dimension before returning to the Dao Burial Ground, taking away all his people.

Central Origin Realm:

As soon as Wang Wei arrived in that area, he activated a token that teleported him to another dimension. The first thing he experienced was chains of mountains and islands floating in the air, forming a ring. The beautiful and familiar sight brought Wang Wei a sense of peace and calmness he hadn't felt since ascending.

"They should have kept the massive chains," Wang Wei commented. The main difference between this place and the lower dimension was not the vastness but the lack of chains connecting the different mountains."

"They were there long ago but became a liability at one point and were removed," said an elderly woman with a bright smile.

"You are?" Wang Wei asked the woman leading the delegation.

"I'm Grand Elder Yan Xue," she said before introducing the man next to her: "This is this generation's sect master, Yu Cai." Wang Wei cupped his hands and bowed to them: "It's an honor."

"The honor is all ours," Yu Cai said with a smile, and he meant those words. Although he hadn't met Wang Wei, he knew of the latter's achievements outside and how capable he was through their communication that often used Red Mask as a medium.

"We've re-created your Transcending Fate Mountain from the news we gathered about you. I hope you don't mind."

"No, it's fine. I think I need something familiar about now," Wang Wei nodded.

"That's good to hear. This is your official token," Yu Cai said as he handed him a purple token with the character seed.

"This is?"

"Your official title is the sect's Primal Seed, but we can change it to something else if you need."

"No, but I'm curious about the different divisions."

"Why don't I explain why we fly to our destination?" Yu Cai suggested, and this small group flew toward [Transcending Fate Mountain].

"All mortal disciples are divided into regular and Sacred Sons," Yu Cai explained. "Although there are other divisions like outer and inner disciples, they are only used to measure their training speed. What truly matters is whether they can become one of the 3000 Sacred Sons."

"Sacred Son — this word brought memories," Wang Wei commented.

"The role of all Sacred Sons is to become, at minimum, a Pseudo Eternal. Those who succeed will become True Disciples and continue to receive unlimited support from the sect to become Everlasting Emphyreans. Those who failed will become Outer Deacon Elders.

"Afterward, True Disciples will become Legacy Disciples if they become Everlasting, and Peak Seeds if they become Boundless."

"Peak Seeds?"

"They have the potential to become peak Paragons," Yu Cai explained. "Peak Seeds, like Legacy Disciples, do not have to participate in the sect's management and have priorities over most resources."

"So, the two ascending paths of power in the sect are the Disciple and Elder Way?"

"That's correct," Yu Cai nodded. "Non-Everlasting Emphyreans become Inner Deacon Elders, and Paragons become Great Elders."

"Are Peak Paragons Supreme Elders?"

"That's right."

"Then, what about the other path cultivators," Wang Wei asked. All these statuses and labels seemed only to mention the Emperor Path.

"They are also Outer and Inner Deacon Elders, except with worse status and power, and can only become Elders at Tier 12 unless they prove themselves as True Insurgents."

"I can already tell how much these Emperor Path people would complain," Wang Wei commented, and Yu Cai gave him the look of someone who understood his pain. These rules have existed for a long time, but every sect master must handle these people's nonstop complaints.

"What about the sect master position — how is that chosen?" Wang Wei asked.

"From the Legacy Disciples," Yu Cai explained. "The luck from the position greatly increases the possibility of passing the Paragon Immeasurable Tribulation, so many Legacy Disciples who are not too confident will compete for the position."

"That makes sense," Wang Wei nodded. "I guess there are no longer any rules about the shadow being able to replace the sect master."

"That rule still exists for the mortal disciples. As long as their shadows show more promise than their master, they can take the Sacred Son position away."

Wang Wei was surprised. This rule was not something Qiyuan or Yan Hai created, so he thought it would not have applied to the upper dimension. 'Shadow Ruler must have added it after his ascension.'

The team arrived, and Wang Wei observed his new home. It looked exactly the same, except this mountain was towering compared to the one at home. As he glanced at his small manor, a look of nostalgia flashed in Wang Wei's eyes.

'Maybe it was the wrong choice not to involve the sect in all this confrontation.' He's been feeling like this, hence why he decided to return to the sect now. Of course, it's also because he had an outline of a plan in his mind and needed all the resources possible.

Wang Wei walked through his manor, his mind full of memories of his parents, Li Jun, Yan Liling, and Wu Hong. He touched the walls, looking at every corner: "I didn't realize how lonely I was until I saw this place," Wang Wei sighed. Now was not the time to reminisce, so he summoned the people outside.

"Thank you," Wang Wei said to Yu Cai.

"The credit is not mine, but Grand Elders Yan Xue," he swiftly explained. Wang Wei looked at her and thanked her sincerely.

"I'm old, so I've experienced the ascension of a few of the Supreme Elders. One thing they have in common is they usually grow nostalgic for their time in the lower dimension and find any way to keep the memory of that time alive. I figured you would be the same."

"No matter how powerful we are, ultimately, we are humans and creatures of habits," Wang Wei sighed. "Alright, let's get back to business. Why don't you introduce some of these people to me?" Yu Cai and Yan Xue were accompanied by a small group but these people didn't say anything during the entire journey.

"Oh, yes," Yu Cai said. "Let's start with the 9 patriarchs, beginning with the Wang Clan Patriarch."

A fat man with a bulging belly and the aura of a peak Everlasting stood up and bowed to Wang Wei: "I'm Patriarch Wang Si. Please take care of me."

Chapter 1415 The Counterattack Starts

"I'll be in your care," Wang Wei nodded politely.

"We need to find a date for your patriarch ceremony," Wang Si added.

"I just returned, so there is no need to be talking about the transfer of power," Wang Wei said.

"No, these are the rules," Wang Si insisted. "The Patriarch Position will be beneficial to your Paragon Tribulation, and all your achievements or accomplishments will further nourish the Wang Clan's luck and destiny."

"In that case, wait until I'm about to pass the tribulation."

"As you wish," Wang Si nodded. "One last thing, you can choose a few of the Human Fiendgods to serve you. Most of them worshipped you and would love to work for you again."

"I will," Wang Wei nodded. All the Human Fiendgods originated from the lower dimension and knew Wang Wei, so it might be a good idea to transfer them to his [Transcending Fate Mountain] to serve under him.

"Let's continue," Sect Master Yu Cai continued. "This is Matriarch Li Yang and Patriarch Yan Duyi." Li Yang was a beautiful woman with extraordinary red lips and naturally charming eyes. Yan Duyi was an emo man; his hair, clothes, eyes, and jewelry were all black, and even his aura was dark and depressing.

Wang Wei bowed to them, and Li Yang immediately asked: "When is the Eternal from our clan ascending? We understand their unique situation, but could you elaborate in more detail?"

"No problem," Wang Wei said before explaining Li Jun and Yan Liling's situation to them.

"So, it will take a while," Li Yang said in disappointment. The sect may have too many Eternals to count, but it was different for Eternals from the lower dimension. Destiny is in the lower dimension, meaning it was easier to give birth to great talents. From the information Li Yang and Yan Duyi have gathered, Li Jun and Yan Liling have already shown signs of being Peak Seeds, hence their excitement for their possible rise.

"Thank you for preserving the unity between our clans," Matriarch Li Yang said to Wang Wei. She understood the overwhelming power he had in the lower dimension, and if he wanted, he could have turned the lower dimension sect into the puppet of the Wang Clan. Wang Wei nodded to her, and Yu Cai introduced the other families.

"This is Patriarch Long, Matriarch Xie, Patriarch Tang, Matriarch Su, Patriarch Yin, and Patriarch Zhou." The six of them stood before Wang Wei and bowed politely. He returned the salute before looking at Matriarch Xie, a small woman with green clothes and intense eyes.

"If I remember correctly, the Supreme Elder Shadow Ruler took the name Xie?"

"He is our ancestor," she replied succinctly.

Wang Wei nodded and did not ask anymore. Yu Cai took over the conversation again: "Those are the Elders taking care of different aspects of the sect. Let's start with the Disciplinary Hall Elder..." For the next hour, Wang Wei met all the upper echelons and had a basic understanding of the upper dimension sect's operation and rules. Finally, he signaled that only the Grand Elder and Sect Master stayed for an important meeting.

"First thing first, I need you guys to perfectly replicate this thing before its owner comes asking for it," Wang Wei said, sitting cross-legged with a small golden tablet floating above his palm. The tablet released an intense Dao Rhyme, forcing Yu Cai and Yan Xue to squint.

"Is that the Skill Dao Association's Dao Path Tablet?" Elder Yan Xue asked.

"That's right," Wang Wei nodded. He split all the resources from the Northern Chu Dynasty with Mongke after killing Shu Ren, and this tablet was one of the prizes they shared.

Elder Yan Xue played with the tablet in her hands: "We currently have only one person who can refine Tier 12 products while still in Tier 11, but he's a Pill Refiner. The best we can do is a false product."

"The Overlords' destiny has returned, so it won't be long before the association asks for their treasure back," Yu Cai stated.

"In that case, we need to delay for as long as possible so we can buy time to copy it," Wang Wei decided. "In the meantime, we can start the preparation."

"That's not an issue," Yu Cai nodded.

"I promised the Barbarian Race they could copy our copies, don't forget that," Wang Wei added. One of the primary reasons this thing was in his hands, even though Mongke was the one who killed Shu Ren, is that the Barbarian Race could not bear the pressure from the Skill Dao Association, but the Dao Opening Sect could.

"If you say so," Yu Cai nodded. The Primal Seed has a lot of powers in the sect, especially regarding the utilization of resources. Besides a few things that may require the ancestors to sign up, there are almost no limits to their resources. Of course, the criteria needed to get this position are also insane. Throughout the sect's history, there have only been three prior Primal Seeds, and only one — Ancient Desolate — lived to that name.

"About the second matter," Wang Wei continued. "I need to comprehend something, but it is extremely challenging and will take me too long on my own. Is there a way for me to comprehend it in less than a Yuan Epoch?"

Elder Yan Xue frowned. He knew how talented this young man was, and he was saying someone of his caliber was about to comprehend something challenging — what level is such a thing? She suddenly thought of something, and a look of realization flashed in her eyes.

"You could use the Experience Pill, which would allow you to experience the point of view of whoever created whatever you wish to comprehend — even if it was Heaven and Earth," Elder Yan Xue suggested.

"No, he can't," Yu Cai said. "Don't you remember? We used the last Experience Pill trying to summon the Mortalhood Trial."

"Oh, that's right," Elder Yan Xue nodded before frowning as she could not think of another suggestion.

"The only option left is the Mind Dilation Pill, but..." Yu Cai said.

"The side effects are too severe," Elder Yan Xue disagreed.

"No, let's do it," Wang Wei said. He knew of the Mind Dilation Pill, a Paragon-ranked pill that can dilute time between the mind and the outside. In some extreme cases, one second inside a person's mind might equal 10,000 Yuan Epochs outside. However, the faster the time dilation, the greater the burden on the soul.

"Oh right, I forgot you already have a Paragon Soul," Yan Xue nodded. "Regardless, you should give him some Soul Protection Pills."

"No problem," Yu Cai said as he stood up. "Anything else?"

"No, that's it for now."

"Good." Although he didn't have to, Yu Cai went to gather the resources personally.

"I know you'll be busy, but I'll leave you on your own device. Don't hesitate to call me if you need something," Elder Yan Xue uttered before also leaving.

"What do you think?" Wang Wei asked the empty room. Swish! Red Mask appeared before him, kneeling on one knee.

"The Wang, Li, and Yan clan are excited for your return, but the other six — not so much." Wang Wei nodded before motioning her to continue:

"Your presence will further consolidate the three main clan's power, especially if you can become the Fifth Primal/Ancessor," Red Mask explained. "Most of the six clans appeared neutral of your presence, except for the Su and Zhou Clan. Their leaders tried to hide their emotions, but I could still detect it."

Wang Wei nodded as he looked at his token. The fact that they already had a status for him showed they had prepared long ago, most likely due to Ancestor Yan Hai's orders. "Anything else?"

"The Great Elder and Matriarch Xie detected my presence."

"Oh?" Wang Wei was not surprised Elder Yan Xue discovered her since he detected her essence was once that of a Paragon, but it was something else for Matriarch Xie.

"She's probably in the shadow business like myself," Red Mask continued. "And she's exceptional at her job."

"Is that so?" Wang Wei muttered. "During my retreat, I need you to establish yourself in the sect. Use the opportunity that these clans do not have the protection of their powerful ancestors to infiltrate their ranks. I want to be able to know what kind of underwear their patriarch is wearing. Do you understand?"

"No problem, but do I have a bottom line?"

"Play by the rules as long as they do the same," Wang Wei instructed. "I want to be informed, not break the foundation and unity of the sect." He needed to start preparing for the future, and that's one of the reasons he returned to the sect now.

The Seven Moon Era was gone, leaving only Seven Cauldron and Time Eater. Seven Cauldron is a walking skeleton, as her body will definitely collapse once she is no longer a vessel, leaving Time Eater as the last remnants of the previous era.

Wang Wei's plan might involve Time Eater's death, meaning he was also living on borrowed time. Now was the time to return to the sect and prepare for the future.

Chapter 1416 Asking Grand Dao

After receiving the resources, the first thing Wang Wei did was to re-install the formation on the [Transcending Fate Mountain]. Although he trusted the sect, it was not to this level. Once that was done, he released Wang Qi and the others and provided them with the proper identity to allow them

access to certain things in the sect. Only after dealing with these mundane tasks did Wang Wei finally enter his retreat.

"Let's get this over with," Wang Wei muttered. His first task was not to understand the lock. Instead, he used his ability acquired for his achievement as an Immeasurable Emperor, which allowed him to communicate with Grand Dao.

Wang Wei's spirit left his body before founding himself in this infinitely white space with one towering eyeball glancing at him. He immediately felt an immense pressure on his soul. Regular people cannot directly face Grand Dao's presence without any repercussions.

"What is your request?" Cold and indifferent words entered Wang Wei's mind; there was no source of sound or any fluctuation — these words just appeared in his mind as if they were a natural part of his memories. Wang Wei frowned before returning to normal:

"My request is simple: I need a karma-free cultivation technique that allows me to see my [Existence Blueprint]. The technique cannot be directly implanted in my mind nor use an information talisman. It must be written in books in the common Dao Language of the Chaos Universe, and it has to be a technique that my current self can cultivate."

Wang Wei has been thinking about his Fate Seed Status for a while and concluded instead of asking Grand Dao for help, it would be better to rely on himself. So, he asked for a way to detect his status as a Fate Seed so he could devise a way to erase it himself.

Grand Dao looked at him briefly before disappearing, leaving a world of books. Wang Wei checked, and the number of books could fill the entire observable universe — that's how many they were. He then immediately checked the content:

"Everything is labeled accordingly," Wang Wei commented. He could have been more specific but left many loopholes just to see whether Grand Dao would play with his request, and based on how it reacted, Wang Wei could deduce how trustworthy this request was.

"So far, there doesn't seem to be any problem," Wang Wei muttered. He will have his wife and many other people check this technique, but there doesn't seem to be an issue as of now. He put the books away before continuing his retreat.

He did not hesitate to take the Mind Dilation Pill and the other soul nourishment pills; he stretched his mind dilation to the limit, achieving a level of 1 second outside equal to 10,000 yuan epochs in

his mind. Then, he started comprehending the essence of the lock. Over the years, he tried to learn it and had some success, but the nature of the information inside reached the level of transcendence, meaning it required a lot of talent and time to understand truly.

Time felt endless, and if not for the fact he was focusing on a task, Wang Wei had a feeling he might have gone mad after experiencing so long in such a short period. It did not help that his soul started hurting after fifty years had passed on the outside.

Regardless of the pain he was experiencing, Wang Wei pushed himself to understand the nature of the lock and found a way to break it. Once that was done, he took some time to plan out his next moves before finally focusing on Grand Dao's technique.

Wang Wei ensured he knew this technique from front to back. In fact, during his long cultivation journey, he has never spent so much time on one method. The amount of time he spent understanding that thing was longer than he had been cultivating up until now.

'Everything makes up our blueprint,' Wang Wei thought as he looked up at the white space with dots, lines, and shapes. 'Our memories, actions, achievements, past life, luck, and even information we absorb from the environment will affect our [Existence] in one way or another.' The blueprint has elevated Wang Wei's understanding of [Existence] to a higher level.

His move and he soon found what he wanted — the part of his [Existence] influenced by fate. Wang Wei had to comb through much information and even experimented on himself before he found a few line groups that did not belong.

'I should have done this sooner,' Wang Wei thought as he had just learned the higher his cultivation realm, the harder it is to remove the influence of these things from his life. "Moreover, will it be that easy to remove this seed title? I doubt it." He shook his head, not focusing on the difficulty of the task. Now that he had identified the problem, it was time to solve it.

So, Wang Wei did not immediately end this retreat but spent a little more time redefining his plan before he finally left his exit. The first thing he did was to swallow a few pills to heal and soothe his soul. The effects were immediate, but Wang Wei soon noticed his soul was growing. The constant pressure from this pill and the act of healing actually increase his soul's quality and quantity.

He reacted swiftly by sealing the growth of his soul, ensuring he could use it for later. "That was closed," Wang Wei muttered. He was still living under the lock's effect, so this growth could have cost him his life. While healing, Wang Wei summoned Red Mask.

"I know only 300 years have passed, but how are things proceeding?"

"Better than I expected," Red Mask responded. "The Xie Clan has been helping us integrate — they have even handed us countless resources."

"Oh?"

"They are responsible for the entire sect's spy network," Red Mask added. "So, their help has been more than valuable, but I just wonder why they are doing it."

"It's probably an order from Shadow Ruler," Wang Wei responded. Qiyuan was already preparing to hand over the reign, so it made sense for the others to do the same. "Did you discover why these two families are hostile to me?"

"The Zhou Clan had a Legacy Disciple that wanted the Primal Seed Position," Red Mask explained. "Sadly, he embarrassed himself during the Seed Trial. They are not happy you received the position without passing the trial."

"If that's their only problem, they will be easy to pacify," Wang Wei nodded. Qiyuan has already hinted to him that the unity of the sect must be preserved to ensure their prosperity in the upcoming Transcendent Era, so Wang Wei's goal is to make these families submit willingly under his command.

"What's the Su Clan's problem?"

"Their issue stems from the [12 Fiendgod Revolution Body]," Red Mask replied. "They are dissatisfied that only the three main clans have a Human Fiendgod Bloodline." Wang Wei squinted his eyes.

"In fact, all the other clans and Yu Cai from the sectarian faction are also dissatisfied. However, they understood this issue required all the ancestors to decide, so they kept quiet. The Su Matriarch is a hot-head, so she did not keep quiet and complain nonstop about this issue."

"I can't believe I've been causing trouble before even ascending," Wang Wei chuckled.

"Lord, what are you going to do?"

"The other clans's approach is right — this is a matter that needs the Ancestor's authority," Wang Wei replied. He had no problem with the technique being spread. Still, there needed to be rules and restrictions to prevent other people from stealing his idea and to prevent the sect from turning into a bloodline faction that relied entirely on their blood for progress. His current strength and prestige were insufficient to make these rules, so he had to wait for the ancestors' return and discuss this issue.

"What should we do about these families?" Red Mask asked.

"Leave the Su Clan alone since they are only talking," Wang Wei replied. "As for the Zhou Clan? I'll take the test in a while to shut them up."

"As you wish," Red Mask nodded. "Do you have any other instructions?"

"No, you can continue your work." Wang Wei dismissed her before contacting Sect Master Yu Cai and Great Elder Yan Xue.

"You lasted 300 years — such willpower," Yu Cai said as he shook his head to show his envy.

"The world seems peaceful and quiet now, but all know this is just the surface," Wang Wei replied.

"What can we do for you?" Yan Xue asked. The elderly woman understood they were now at a tipping point in history and their actions would have severe consequences.

"I need you to do three things for me," Wang Wei said. "The first of which is simple: I only want to take the Primal Seed Trial." Yu Cai and Yan Xue looked at each other and understood, so they nodded without saying another word.

"The second thing is about ..."

"For the second request, I need you guys to summon the Mortalhood Trial," Wang Wei stated.

"The world is locked, so how are we supposed to do that?" Yu Cai asked with a frown. For a moment, he thought Wang Wei was purposely asking them to do something impossible.

"You don't need to summon it to our world but to our branch of the River of Time," Wang Wei explained. "The lock does not influence that place, and currently, his power is at an all-time weakness, making this the perfect time." For his plan to succeed, he needs to become a Paragon, and this trial is the only way he could think that would allow him to increase his cultivation realm in the current state of the Eternal Ascension World.

"That approach might work," Great Elder Yan Xue said. "We might need to tweak the ceremony a little, but it's doable." The Mortalhood Trial will not only allow people to become Paragon, but it could also be the only way for people like her to return to their former peak.

"Let's not get too excited too quickly," Yu Cai added. "The ceremony requires the luck of most of the world's geniuses and Heaven Chosens, meaning we will need the cooperation of the other Overlords and top Paragon Lineages to proceed."

"The desire for these people to increase their strength is as high as us, so there should be no problem with the suggestion," Yan Xue stated.

"I know this, but I just want to reiterate that the process will not be as easy as stated, and I will need a little bit of time to negotiate with these people," Yu Cai explained.

"The return of the Overlord's destiny will embolden these people, and many will try to bargain with you about this ceremony, trying to take a lead role," Wang Wei stated. "Don't play to their nonsense. We will set a date of 300 years, and your attitude when conversing with them is that they can participate if they want to."

"Is that a little too short? Plus, we really do need them for the ceremony."

"They don't know that, or they are not sure," Wang Wei stated. "So, we will act as if they are not that important. When they realize we might be training Paragons in this cage era, they will immediately accept our offer and may even bring gifts to ensure they have a spot."

"We don't need to be soft when negotiating with these people," Elder Yan Xue nodded.

"I know what to do," Yu Cai nodded.

"Good," Wang Wei nodded. "The third request is that I need a lot of Existence Healing Pills."

"How much are we talking about?" Yu Cai asked with a frown, and Wang Wei handed him a paper with a number.

"This is too much," Yu Cai immediately rejected.

"Before the ultimate taboo, we created a bunch for reserves, and the ancestors never had the opportunity to use them," Yan Xue added. "So, we have a lot of reserves, but even so, your demands are too high. Is there a reason you need so much?"

"I need them for my Paragon Tribulation," Wang Wei explained, but his words did not alleviate their concerns. However, he did not further elaborate. "I can access the Origin Seal Continent's treasury, but Wu Hong already used most of her reserves. In that case, we need to change things. The price for participating in the Mortalhood Trial will be at least five pills per individual."

"Isn't that a little too much?"

"Not at all," Wang Wei replied calmly. "Just like us, they must have prepared these pills for their ancestors but never had a chance to use them. Additionally, we need to limit the number of Paragons born in this era, which is an excellent restriction method."

"Not to mention the loose cultivators," Elder Yan Xue added. "They will hear the news and complain. Setting up a restriction is a great way to shut them up and limit their number as well."

"You two make excellent points, but I'm worried your approach will backfire," Yu Cai explained.

"If you're not up to the task, you can leave it to me," Wang Wei suddenly said.

"No, no, I can do it."

"Good," he patted Yu Cai's shoulder. "I know I could count on you." Yu Cai was immediately flattered. Wang Wei might not know it, but his reputation in the world was loud and prestigious. After all, he single-handedly engineered the destruction of the Seven Moon Era, and he's the reason this world hasn't headed to the abyss yet because of Supreme Unity. So, despite his lack of presence, people — especially the top lineages and Overlords — know him very well.

Yu Cai left the room with great confidence. However, after this old fox was alone, he realized Wang Wei's little trick and could only shake his head and praise the man's charisma.

"What do you think of him?" Elder Yan Xue asked after Yu Cai left.

"He's talented but insecure about his position," Wang Wei commented. "Plus, he doesn't seem to grasp what it means to be the sect master of the Dao Opening Sect."

"You can't blame him," Yan Xue said. "He lived in an era in which the sect's pride and prestige was at its lowest; for most of his reign, all he knew was bowing and cowering to ensure its survival. The time he had to experience the pride of an Overlord was short, to say the least."

Wang Wei nodded in understanding. He did not care for Yu Cai's emotional state as long as the latter was capable of doing his job. So, he changed the subject: "Where do I go for the Primal Seed Trial?"

"You haven't used your token, have you?" Yan Xue replied. "Put your divine sense into it, and you'll have access to all the information you want."

"I see," Wang Wei thanked him, and they chatted briefly before the Great Elder left. Wang Wei did not immediately use his token but summoned the Flame Blacksmith instead.

"The Overlords' destiny has returned. Do you plan to return to the Skill Dao Association?" Wang Wei asked directly.

"No. I owe you quite the karma, and I'll return only after I repay my debt," the Flame Blacksmith replied truthfully. He was not an ingrate, so he would not just abandon Wang Wei now that he could return to his faction.

"That's good to hear," Wang Wei nodded. "The people from the Skill Dao Association will arrive soon, and you can introduce yourself to them if you wish; it's not a bad idea to start laying out a deeper connection or alliance with our two factions."

"I understand."

"And if they ask you about the Dao Path Tablet, your answer is you don't know. Understand?"

Flame Blacksmith hesitated briefly: "I understand."

"Good. They are our future allies, and such a thing must be returned, but there is a time and a place, wouldn't you say so? After all, the Dao Opening Sect went to a lot of trouble to recuperate it from the hands of these villains."

"What you say makes sense," Flame Blacksmith nodded while sighing. Wang Wei dismissed him before teleporting to check on the Ma Clan.

'I was right, Ma Liqiu did do something to her clan's [Existence],' Wang Wei thought. He suspected Ma Liqiu was planning on using the Paragon he cultivated to revive herself, but he never had any proof. However, today, he peeped at this clan's [Existence Blueprint] and found a loophole to help her revive.

'Her method is indeed sophisticated, but I could still temper with them if I please,' Wang Wei analyzed. However, he had already designated Ma Liqiu as an ally, so there was no point in messing up her revival. 'I can start training the Ma Clan, but there is no need to allow them to participate in the current Mortalhood Trial.'

Ma Liqiu's revival cannot be this early, and even if Wang Wei wanted to give them a spot, none of their members were Emphyreans, so it was too late for them.

Wang Wei secretly left their dimension and finally used his token. 'Huh? Does the sect have their own internal version of the Void Illusion Realm?' This token connected him to this [Dao Connection Realm], which was basically the sect's version of the Void Illusion Realm for all disciples and elders to communicate and learn. Wang Wei even saw a version of the [Simulation] his Dream World had, which allowed disciples and elders to simulate techniques and pill refining in the Dao Connection Realm before learning in the real world.

"How modern," Wang Wei commented. The way the upper dimension sects operated was indeed more modern or advanced than the lower dimension.

For a brief moment, Wang Wei had an absurd feeling that he was back in the modern world. He shook his head to remove those feelings before registering an account, followed by watching a few recordings explaining his rights and power, navigating the Dao Connection Realm, and finally, the basic sect rules.

Chapter 1418 Reunions (I)

By using his token, Wang Wei directly teleported to the Primal Seed Trial, and with the first test, he understood why few people could get this position. His first task was to defeat a Paragon Projection with 90% strength; in other words, the minimum requirement for this test was to enter the Taboo Realm in the Empyrean Realm.

This test was not an issue for Wang Wei, and he passed without much effort. The second part of the trial tested his soul. The second requirement for the position was a Paragon Soul while in the peak of the Empyrean Realm, and the soul has to be at least 92%. The third test was for willpower. The trial had a way to quantify willpower based on a Paragon's cultivation, and the minimum requirement for this test was also 92% willpower. The fourth trial tested the Dao Foundation, and the minimum requirement is a Dao Re-establishment that achieves 1-Root strength.

The final test of this trial involved accomplishment. The owner of the Primal Seed Token must have something remarkable, for example, acquiring the Paragon Slayer Title. Although Wang Wei did not get the title, he has done countless remarkable things, including ending the Seven Moon Era and saving the world from Supreme Unity's evil machinations.

The news immediately spread through the Dao Communication Realm after Wang Wei passed the trial with passing colors. He did not hide his trial, so anyone could use their tokens to watch the process. Not long after his triumph, the Zhou Patriarch visited Wang Wei and brought gifts. Although the patriarch did not say anything about his previous animosity, he displayed his attitude with the gift, so Wang Wei accepted it.

The other clans came to congratulate him but did not bring gifts like the Zhou Clan. However, they showed more respect than they did during the first visit. Yan Hai left the position for him, but it was different when he showed that he could acquire the position on his own. Overall, Wang Wei's position in the sect was strengthened after this trial.

Time passed, and less than five years after releasing the news, the first guest arrived in the Dao Opening Sect, and they were Wang Wei's acquaintances. In fact, they directly visited him.

"Lady Xun, it's a pleasure to see you," Wang Wei said as he motioned for her to sit down.

"You know I'm here too," Xiao Tiandi complained. Wang Wei ignored him, serving tea to him, Lady Xun, and the last visitor — Chen Shu.

"You're the extraordinary chef, right?" Wang Wei said.

"Yes," Chen Shu nodded. "Thank you for saving my disciple."

"The little girl that abandoned me after meeting his master?" Wang Wei said casually. Ever since he sent that little girl to her master, she never returned, meaning he lost a talented chef from his team.

"She did not abandon you. I'm a little protective of her now, so I didn't allow her to stay outside," Chen Shu swiftly explained. "But I promised to repay you for what you did for my disciple."

"That's good to hear," Wang Wei nodded before focusing on his primary guest. "So, Lady Xun, have you been well lately?"

"Life would have been better if I wasn't poor," Xun Junyao replied, making Wang Wei speechless. "If you have something to say, you can be direct."

"Good," she nodded; that's what she wanted. "I've successfully gathered the ticket for me and my apprentice, but I'm short of one for Chen Shu. I would like for you to do me a favor and allow me to pay for another spot using anything else than those damn pills."

Xun Junyao had plenty of resources but did not have many Existence Healing Pills. She used her connection to get 10 pills, but she needed an extra five for her trusted chef.

"That's a small issue," Wang Wei agreed.

"What do you want as payment?" Xiao Tiandi asked; he did not want to owe this bastard anything. Wang Wei raised his hand to display a projection of a world.

"This is a small clan called the Hui family, which focuses on the Dao of Cooking. I need Chen Shu to accept one of their members as his disciple and teach them all his skills." The development of the Hui Clan involved whether Wang Wei could one day make his future wife admit his cooking is better than hers, so he hasn't forgotten about them.

Xun Junyao did not agree on Chen Shu's behalf; instead, she looked at him to make a decision.

"It may not appear so, but my techniques require high talent," Chen Shu said.

"It's okay. You can take your time to find someone talented enough or even artificially create such a talent."

"In that case, I don't have any issue."

Wang Wei nodded, and in front of all of them, he sent a message to Yu Cai asking for a ticket for Chen Shu. Once the latter confirmed the process, their deal was officially concluded. "Thank you," Xun Junyao said, and Wang Wei accepted her gratitude. He was then prepared to chit-chat with these people before sending them away, but it seems that all their objectives were not accomplished.

"One more thing," Xiao Tiandi said.

"If you want to ask me about the Mortalhood Trial, I know as much as you do," Wang Wei said.

"No, that's not what we wanted to know," Xiao Tiandi replied. He took a moment to recognize his thoughts. "The Seven Moon Era has ended, and all signs indicate your next target should be the lock next." Wang Wei frowned but did not interrupt.

"We wanted to ask you for advice on the upcoming era," Xiao Tiandi asked. Wang Wei mulled it over, thinking how much to reveal or whether to say anything at all. "Well, we've been allies for a while, and I can trust you guys to a certain extent." He raised his hand to hide the secrets of Heaven and Earth in the surroundings. His cautions raised the other's guards to the highest level.

"The world will face another major catastrophe once the lock is gone."

"What? Shouldn't we be entering the era of transcendence?" Xiao Tiandi asked.

"It seems you know a lot," Wang Wei uttered.

"What catastrophe?"

"The board needs to be reshuffled before the transcendence era," Wang Wei said.

"So, a catastrophe targeting the Overlords," Xun Junyao summarized.

"That's right," Wang Wei nodded. "However, as you can imagine, no catastrophe is simple. If things go wrong, foreigners will occupy the Eternal Ascension World, and the Transcendence Era will have nothing to do with us, the natives." The room became silent as these three processed this news.

"Can you stop this catastrophe?" Xiao Tiandi asked.

"There are too many players involved, and I'm powerless to stop it," Wang Wei replied truthfully. Such simple words have revealed much information to the three of them.

"What do you suggest we do to survive the upcoming chaos?" Xiao Tiandi asked directly.

"Find a backer," Wang Wei replied. "Many transcendent powerhouses will be involved, and by then, Xun Junyao's [Perfection Essence] will be greatly sought after by people who seek the transcendence path or transcents who want to return to their peak."

"Are you suggesting we join Buddhism?"

"That's an option. However, we will have a home advantage in this catastrophe, so you can expect more transcents appearing amongst the Overlords and top lineages. You can choose one of them as your backer."

Chen Shu was quiet while the pair of master and disciples were deep in thought. They glanced at each other and communicated with their eyes. Although Wang Wei didn't know what they said, he could tell they must have come to an initial agreement.

"Thank you for this information," Xun Junyao declared, preparing to leave.

"No problem," Wang Wei said. "But I should warn you — you will be instrumental in destroying the lock, so you should prepare early."

Xun Junyao suddenly paused, and Xiao Tiandi quickly asked, "Is it dangerous?"

"Obviously."

"In that case —"

"The world's destiny is not mine alone to bear," Wang Wei cut him off. "Everyone must contribute if we want a chance at escaping that disgusting cage."

"I understand," Xun Junyao said. "I'll be prepared."

Wang Wei nodded before escorting them out of his mansion. 'Her perfection is indeed different from mine. My perfection focuses more on my cultivation foundation, while hers is the core of her entire being. She can probably achieve half-step transcendence as long as she can spread that perfection to her body and soul. However, once her soul becomes perfect, she'll become like a machine as all her emotions and desires evaporate — just like Grand Dao.'

Wang Wei knew the technique would bring him countless benefits, but he did not expect it to this extent. Seeing someone's blueprint is the best way to see their innermost essence; it's like having a key to the universe's deepest secrets.

'The path of imperfect perfection is indeed the best way forward for Xun Junyao,' he commented. 'Although this path is not suitable to me, the idea of a Perfect Fleshly Body to achieve transcendence is worth exploring.'

'Isn't nothingness be considered perfect?' Wang Wei asked himself. 'If there is nothing present — no matter, time, space, or concept — there is no flaw to have, so it could be argued that [nothingness] is also a perfect existence.'

Numerous thoughts flashed in his mind. Now that he has established a connection between the main power of his flesh and Xun Junyao's, he can learn from her.

'One of the steps for the flesh to be sanctified is one immortal characteristic. I chose the power of nothingness, and I've been cultivating that characteristic since then. What if that characteristic is also the key for the body to achieve transcendence?

'If I can spread that characteristic through a decent part of my [Existence] similar to Xun Junyao's perfection, I can eventually sublimate my body to a higher level. The highest level of [Nothingness] is True Nothingness, and once my body has this characteristic, it will officially sublimate to the realm of transcendence.'

A light of wisdom flashed in Wang Wei's eyes.

'No, no, what I'm talking about is the transformation process — not a true method itself.' If Wang Wei's body ever achieved transcendence, then his [Existence] would change based on his thoughts. However, he still hasn't considered a method to achieve said transformation.

'A direct manipulation of my [Existence] is not as simple as stated, especially when it involves transforming or evolving into a higher being. Xun Junyao's perfection is innate, making it easier for her to manipulate, but even someone like her cannot just increase the perfection of her body and slowly evolve into a transcendent being.

'I need a concrete method — a step-by-step idea,' Wang Wei thought. 'Let's see. The body has three gates, and opening each one grants exceptional powers. The Third Gate, the Gate of Flesh, allows a cultivator to be on par with a Paragon. So, what if there were a fourth gate?

'No, it doesn't matter whether the body has a third gate. The path of transcendence is about self-reliance, meaning I could still build a fourth gate even if there isn't one.'

Wang Wei immediately entered a state of epiphany.

'What do I need to build the fourth gate — the Gate of Transcendence? First, I would need to push my flesh to the absolute limit of the third gate. Second, I would need to deeply understand the concept of [Essence] so I know how the gates are created and why they represent the potential of the human flesh.

'Finally, I would combine my understanding of [Essence] with the [Power of Nothingness] as the foundation to build the fourth gate.'

Wang Wei woke up from his enlightenment and felt this idea was feasible for his transcendent path. However, he also realized he was missing many necessary things to make it possible. 'Maitreya's technique — I need to see a true method of transcendence before I can make my own.'

Wang Wei had some minor understanding of the transcendent path due to his Qi Luck Dragon, comprehending the lock's secrets, and, more importantly, learning the [Blueprint Existence Technique]. All these have granted him some advantages for when he becomes Half-Step Transcendence, but he felt they were not nearly enough.

'I hope she shares that technique once the lock is dealt with,' Wang Wei thought. Maitreya or even Supreme Unity's technique would significantly accelerate his transcendent path. Still, he was confident he could do it without them — especially now that he had a concrete idea that he could follow. Without their technique, it would only take longer, and Wang Wei might have to take the risk to try and observe their [Existence] with his new technique.

'What a good day,' Wang Wei thought as he returned to his retreat. Now that he had a way forward on his transcendent path, he was in the best mood he'd been in a while. Time passed, and Wang Wei had to open his eyes after a few decades.

'Finally, I'm back to the Empyrean Realm,' Wang Wei thought. Being able to see his blueprint had many advantages, one of which was he knew the best way to heal his [Existence Injury] and return to his former cultivation realm. "I should return to my peak before the 300 years are up," Wang Wei muttered with a grin. He walked out of the room.

"What's the urgency?"

"Lady Xi Shangyan wanted to see you," Wang Qi replied. "She was very insistent."

"Oh? Let her in." Wang Wei prepared the tea, table, and dessert, and a beautiful woman in yellow with star-like eyes walked into the room. He situated her before him and served tea.

"How have you been?"

"As good as anyone can be in these trying times," she replied.

"True," Wang Wei nodded. "But something seems on your mind."

Xi Shangyan sipped her tea. "As you already know, the lock has stranded the Celestial Race in the Source Qi Space, leaving a few of us." Xi Shangyan paused as she blushed a little. "The Mortalhood Trial is an important event — an opportunity I cannot pass down. However, without access to the clan, I cannot pay for those five pills I —"

"No need to worry," Wang Wei immediately reassured her. "The Celestial Clan is one of the first groups to believe and invest in me, so this is the least I can do."

"I promise to repay you as soon as I can contact the clan," Xi Shangyan promised. Wang Wei wanted to refuse but realized this girl was thin-skinned, and his refusal might make her even more embarrassed.

"No problem," Wang Wei agreed calmly. "I can give two additional spots if you wish."

"No, one is fine," Xi Shangyan swiftly denied.

"If you say so," Wang Wei nodded. The two chatted briefly before Xi Shangyan left for her accommodation in the sect.

"Many people should come to visit, so don't go into a deep retreat," Wang Qi warned, and Wang Wei waved him off. The latter was correct as another visitor came by soon — Xu Shi.

"Your eyes scream of your tiredness and loneliness."

"Well, hello to you too," Wang Wei said, trying hard not to roll his eyes. Who said these things are their greetings.

"Do you want me to play you a song?" Xu Shi suggested.

"I doubt your music can do anything for me," Wang Wei replied truthfully. There are a handful of people who can soothe his loneliness, and these people are either in the lower dimension, have disappeared, or are sealed in the Dark Truth.

"So, it's that bad, huh."

"Don't mention this," Wang Wei said. "What brought you here?"

Xu Shi glanced at him before saying: "Your tickets are too expensive."

"How many pills did you gather?"

"12."

"That's way more than I anticipated," Wang Wei acknowledged. The Academy was only an Empyrean Lineage, so it was rare that Emperor Kong gathered enough pills for two tickets.

"How many did you need?"

"Two extra tickets," Xu Shi revealed. "We are willing to pay something of equal value."

"That's not an issue," Wang Wei agreed and directly contacted Yu Cai to facilitate this deal. Afterward, the two chatted for a few hours, and at Xu Shi's insistence, she played him a song. Unfortunately, Wang Wei was correct when he said only a few people could genuinely help him.

As he watched Xu Shi leave, he was deep in thought. "The Chaos Demon Gods definitely had members of their kind that achieved Half-Step Transcendence through the flesh. If I can get their bloodline, the chances of condensing the fourth gate would drastically increase.'

Wang Wei was already scheming. In the upcoming catastrophe, Lin Fan will definitely play a significant role as a pawn of the Chaos Demon God. So, if he played his role correctly, Wang Wei might be able to get his hands on their bloodline through him. 'Let's wait and see,' Wang Wei thought with squinted eyes.

His next guest was somewhat unexpected.

"You're the only one participating in this trial?" Wang Wei asked.

"No, the others will arrive later," Ao Shen calmly replied.

"That's good to hear," Wang Wei nodded as he served wine instead of tea. "While you're here, I'll take this opportunity to thank you again for the ceremony." Ao Shen was one of the 22 Sages who participated in the ceremony, meaning he also sacrificed his level one Golden Body of Merit.

"The world was in danger, and it was my duty to help," Ao Shen said. "Plus, I understand the possible benefits later on once the lock is dealt with."

"Regardless," Wang Wei nodded. "So, what brings you here? I doubt the demon race would need any aid to gather the ticket price."

"Not at all," Ao Shen replied. "The Star Sage sent me to give you a message."

"Oh?"

"She said it was alright if you did not take the demon's side. She only asks for your neutrality."

"Interesting. Are the Innate Demon Gods about to make a move?" Wang Wei thought. "Tell her I will take this in mind."

Ao Shen did not stay long, and Wang Wei's guest arrived less than a year later. His guess was soon proved correct as the guest was an old acquaintance — the Primordial Dragon, Ao Tianyi.

Chapter 1420 Reunions (III)

"I haven't seen you in a long time," Wang Wei commented as he served Ao Tianyi the tea.

"Yes, it has been a while," the dragon nodded as he accepted the tea and sipped it.

"You look different," Wang Wei added.

"How so?"

"Your aura doesn't have the former arrogance that you were the most important thing between Heaven and Earth." Ao Tianyi almost choked after hearing these words.

"No, it's even more extreme than that. It's almost as if all your pride and arrogance are gone," Wang Wei continued.

"Well," Ao Tianyi sighed. "My father gave me a wake-up call and showed me the world's truth."

"Sounds like a good father," Wang Wei praised. He only took a small sip of his tea as he was tired of drinking tea. Although these meetings were a dozen or even years apart, he still felt they were too frequent, which is why he did not desire any tea or wine.

"Maybe," Ao Tianyi replied. He was happy his father woke him up from his stupor of arrogance and pride, but a part of him was resentful that he did it in such a rough manner. That terrible trial broke Ao Tianyi's spirit and rebuilt it step by step, and he was not happy with the experience.

"So, what brought you to see me?" Wang Wei asked directly.

"I'm here for two things," Ao Tianyi replied. "Firstly, it's about our clan's Ancestral Talisman."

"Ancestral Talisman? What does that have to do with me?"

"Nothing directly," Ao Tianyi replied. "We believed it was in Xun Junyao's hands after she killed Blood Dragon. The temple has been trying to recover it, but she is hard to find. Our information network indicated you had a close association with her, so we hoped you could help us regain the talisman."

"Then, you'll be disappointed," Wang Wei replied.

"Don't be in a hurry to refuse yet," Ao Tianyi said. "We are willing to offer you an additional 20 pills."

"That's an interesting offer, but that won't change my mind."

"How about 30 pills?"

Wang Wei frowned. "Since when is your temple so wealthy?"

"We are probably the oldest faction, so why are you surprised by our wealth?"

"No, you should have already wasted most of that wealth," Wang Wei countered.

Ao Tianyi coughed in embarrassment, "Anyway, you only need to know we are very wealthy regarding Existence Healing Pills."

"Is that so?" Wang Wei muttered.

"So, what do you say?"

"I can't help you get the talisman back."

"If —"

"Wait until I'm finished," Wang Wei raised his hand to stop him. "For the same price, I can help you communicate with her to come to an agreement."

"So, you make no promise of success?"

"My relationship with her is that of close acquaintances, so I couldn't guarantee success even if I wanted to," Wang Wei replied. "However, I can promise to persuade her, but if she refuses, I won't use any force or any kind of coercion to help your temple."

Ao Tianyi mulled it over and accepted this offer: "Alright, but if the negotiation fails, I hope you don't intervene in our effort to retake the talisman during the Mortalhood Trial."

"That's fine by me," Wang Wei responded before contacting Xun Junyao. Their negotiation was swift and the opposite of challenging. Xun Junyao is a remarkable woman, so she understood the danger of having a target on her back by one of the Overlords. So, she agreed to return to the Dragon Talisman, and what she wanted in exchange was a few Void-Breaking Talismans created by peak Paragons.

These talismans were not as good as the Dragon Talismans, but they made up in value with the number she asked for. Ao Tianyi wanted to refuse, but under Wang Wei's guarantee and protection, Xun Junyao finally got her asking price.

'I am one step closer to breaking the fate line between us,' Wang Wei contemplated calmly.

"Was there a need to go to this length to protect her?" Ao Tianyi complained.

"I always treat my friends well."

"I thought she was only an acquaintance," Ao Tianyi rebutted, and Wang Wei smiled, showing all his perfectly neat and white teeth. "Let's move on to your second problem. I have a feeling that's the primary reason you visited me."

Ao Tianyi became serious. "Our temple has predicted that your sect did ask for these pills simply to limit the number of people participating. There is a high chance you were in grave demand for some reason."

Wang Wei frowned, "So what?" He knew he wouldn't be able to hide the truth once the Mortalhood Trial started, and he started using these pills. Additionally, his tactic was an open one, meaning it was useless even if someone guessed his objective.

"Here, take a look at this."

Wang Wei took the gourd and opened it. An intense medicinal smell enveloped the room, and he immediately felt his injury improving.

"So potent?" he asked before swallowing one drop. "Is that Holy Dragon Water?"

"That's right," Ao Tianyi said proudly. "The holy medicine of curing [Existence] injuries. We can provide you with an entire pool."

Holy Dragon Water can only be created in the tombs of Tier 12 dragons and other Innate Demon Gods, so it was understandable why the Primarch Origin Temple has such a vast quantity. It also explained why they had so many healing pills since the diluted water can also be used to make Existence Healing Pills.

"And what do you want in exchange?" Wang Wei asked, even though he already had an idea.

"We only ask that you ban the demon race from participating in the Mortalhood Trial," Ao Tianyi said seriously.

"Hmm," Wang Wei muttered, taking a moment to think it over. "I can't do that."

"Why not?" Ao Tian asked with a frown. "I believe our offer is more than satisfactory."

"There are many reasons, but the primary one is that my desire for this holy water is personal, and I cannot use it to interfere in the matter between the demon and Innate Demon Gods."

Ao Tianyi understood his meaning. The battle between these two factions was a political event that all Overlords must be careful about. The Dao Opening Sect has always remained neutral — at least openly — regarding this conflict, and if Wang Wei accepted their deal, that would change their sect's entire public stance on the matter.

"How about we double the price, and in return, you only need to limit the number of demon participants," Ao Tianyi stated. "You can find an excuse that can keep your public neutral stance."

"The answer is still no."

"Many publicly neutral Overlords have done secret deals with us and the demon race, so why can't you do it?" Ao Tianyi argued. "Don't tell it's about principles."

"You have overestimated the power I have," Wang Wei replied truthfully.

"What do you mean?"

"Such a decision with such repercussions is something that the four Ancestors must decide," Wang Wei revealed. "I may have a lot of power, but if I try to decide on this matter, I guarantee that all the other clans and factions would stop me."

"I forgot about this," Ao Tianyi grunted, and Wang Wei shrugged; he was telling the truth — this is not something he could decide with his current political power in the sect.

"I heard you were great at convincing people. Can't you just convince them?"

"Let's say I convince them. What will happen afterward?" Wang Wei asked.

"What do you mean?"

"Do you think the ancestors will be happy I made such a major decision without them?" Wang Wei continued. "How will they see me?" Wang Wei was not talking nonsense. Qiyuan and his brothers might not say anything to support him, but it was something else for the Desolate Emperor. From what Wang Wei knows about the latter, he was extremely vocal and not afraid to contradict the other three.

"There is no point in ruining my future potential for this deal," Wang Wei said. "Anyway, there is no point in trying to stop the demon race. With this holy water, you can buy twice, no, thrice their number of spots."

"And your sect would allow that?" Ao Tianyi asked.

"I can make an exception to get the Holy Dragon Water," Wang Wei nodded. "However, don't forget the contract you signed that said we are not responsible for what happened to your people inside the trial."

Ao Tianyi looked at him, wondering what game he was playing.

"Additionally, we can buy the water from you with different resources," Wang Wei continued.

"It's not for sale," Ao Tianyi said directly, obviously showing his dissatisfaction with the failed agreement.

"Are you sure about that?"

"I am."

"One of our Supreme Elders has this unknown relationship with the demon race's Star Sage, meaning he has been biased regarding all decisions the sect made regarding your two factions," Wang Wei said with a strange look.

"Now is your chance to cultivate a better relationship with me and balance his bias, and you're refusing?"

Ao Tianyi's lips twitched due to how speechless he was.

"Not to mention your temple owes me karma for bringing back the Innate Demon Gods in the lower dimension," Wang Wei continued. "Are you sure you want to refuse?"

"I'll...I'll contact my father before making a decision," Ao Tianyi finally relented.