

F.D Emperor 241

Chapter 241: Anxious

Obviously the leaders of these powerful races would never allow such a tragedy to happen, so despite their peaceful nature, they decided to annihilate the human races and prevent their rise.

Now, given that the human races survived and the Primordial Gods and Innate Demons are nowhere to be found in the Myriad Emperor World except for a few remains or the Blood Earth Forbidden Land, obviously they did not succeed in their endeavor.

As for what truly occurred, that is something that Wang Wei will discover for himself one day in the distant future.

Back to the present:

The reason that Innate Treasures were mentioned was because they are treasures born from Heaven and Earth back in the Primordial Era through the baptism of Chaos Qi and Innate Qi. Only a few of them remained in the world, and only a few of the very ancient sects that existed back in the Ancient Emperor Era still have some of them available in their reserves.

As for Wang Wei, he used the Wood Essence, which is an Innate treasure that contains a tremendous amount of vitality to refine his liver. As a matter of fact, the vitality inside is enough to heal a Great Emperor on the verge of death.

Additionally, this material will also help the next part that he is going to have to temper: his blood.

He used a drop of Karmic Washing Water to refine his kidney. According to records, this Karmic Washing Water is said to have the ability to wash away a person's karma in vast quantities. However, this rumor has never been verified due to the scarcity of this material remaining throughout the world,

Otherwise, this Innate treasure would be seen by so many factions that it would be ridiculous. With it, they will not need the help of a Great Emperor in order to wash away their Karmas; their disciples will not have to seal themselves for countless generations to be eligible to fight for the next Heaven Will Battle after one failure, or being born at the wrong time.

These two Innate Materials were the only ones that the Dao Opening Sect had in their possession relating to the Five Elements. As for the third one that Wang Wei used, it was traded by the Great Zhou Imperial Dynasty in exchange for Ji Song to enter the Pagoda Trials.

It was called the [Root Metal Qi], and as the name implies, this Qi is considered by all cultivators as the source or origin of all metal--both normal and spiritual--in the Myriad Emperor World.

Wang Wei remembered that after he received that material, his father had a very long and deep envious look on his face; the reason being that this Innate Qi was the perfect material to create a sword. According to him, this thing was the dream material of every swordsman as they could create the ultimate sword with it.

It took Wang Tian a great deal of effort not to secretly steal that material and not tell his son of its existence in the first place.

As for the remaining two materials that he needed, he had to search for them himself. However, he was not worried that he would not find any Innate Treasure as he knew that some still existed in Secret Realms that had not been discovered.

As long as he activates his ability to become a Son of Destiny, he believes that he will find two Innate materials related to Earth and Fire. However, he really does not want to use this ability.

From his knowledge, he knew that Sons of Destiny was essentially granted by the Will of the World, or to be specific, Heavenly Dao. The reason is always because the world is facing some kind of danger, and Heavenly Dao needed someone to save it.

Laws of Heaven and Earth are fair and absolute, so no one--including a Son of Destiny--can escape the restraints of Karma. So, although their title as Son of Destiny grants them heaven-defying Luck or fortune, they are also required to pay a certain price for it.

Furthermore, after these Sons of Destiny repay their karma and save the world that granted them such a position, usually they will be rewarded with tremendous luck for their future, then have their title taken away from them; meaning that being a Son of Destiny is nothing but a temporary job with great benefit.

However, this is not always the case. Sometimes the person chosen as Son of Destiny does not agree very well with Heavenly Dao. As such after they accomplish their tasks, they will be left with nothing after their title is taken away.

The fate of these people are usually very miserable. Without powerful Qi Luck to protect, the majority of them--who have developed the idea that they can do what they want and will still survive--ended up dying due to their own stupidity.

The only way that someone can become a Son of Destiny without the help of Heavenly Dao was to conquer the world, then gather the Qi Luck of the entire world, condensed it and baptized yourself with it; this is essentially a process of transforming Earthly Luck to Heavenly Luck.

This is basically how Sun Jiaolong became the Son of Destiny through the [Human Destiny Sword].

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Back to the present:

After the Third Round Slaughter ended, all the participants left the Secret Realm that the previous rounds took place. Given that the final round is a fighting competition one against one, it will take place in the massive stadium in the Academy.

However, before everything began, the 1000 remaining participants had a few months off before the start of the competition. During this time, they can either stay in their own Residence in the Academy, they can visit the Academy's cities or Domain, or they can temporarily return to their own sect; it all depends on their own choice.

Inside one of the Academy's Residences.

All the formation were activated, and Fan Li was walking side to side while muttering to himself:

"I will be safe for a while inside the Academy while everyone is looking for me. After the Tournament, as long as I get one of the Top 30 Spots and place my name on the Heavenly Dao Protection Book, I will not be able to be killed until the Primordial Spirit Realm. Meaning, I have a few thousand years of safety.

"The problem now is what I should do after that? Should I just join one of these factions? If so, which one?

"Damn these Emperor Lineages. When I had nothing, none of them wanted to accept me due to my low talent. Now that I have an Emperor Scripture of my own, suddenly I turn into the most delicious piece of meat.

"So, curse those hypocrites. No, I should curse myself for being so stupid. I should have known that showing that I had the Yin Soul Emperor's inheritance would bring me so much trouble. After all, the rumors that his scripture can bring the dead back to life has been circulating around the world for countless millennia."

Then, Fan Li started to walk faster. The more he thought about the situation, the more anxious he became. Sweats started appearing in his forehead--despite the fact that such physiological function should not appear on a cultivator in the Supernatural Realm, and one that cultivates an Emperor Grade technique.

"Maybe I should find a way to secretly leave the Myriad Emperor World after entering the Primordial Spirit Realm and lay low until the Heaven Will Battle. However, where can a loose cultivator like me have the ability to travel to other planes?

"Maybe I should contact the people of the Loose Cultivator Alliance! No, no, these people are the same as those Emperor Lineage hypocrites. They will still ask me to hand over my inheritance.

"Curse you, Yin Soul Emperor! Why couldn't you leave me other resources to cultivate? Why leave me just an inheritance! What's with all this bullshit about not relying on others, about being self-sufficient!

"Have you seen any of these Heaven Chosens not relying on their background to acquire and utilize massive resources? Have you seen any of them being self-reliant and self-sufficient?

"As a loose cultivator who became a Great Emperor, you should aware of the struggle and discrimination that we have to suffer through in this world. So, why couldn't you just leave plenty of resources for me to cultivate?"

Fan Li started to pull his hair and he screamed out loud; his footsteps echoed in the room as he paced back and forth, worries oozing out his pores.

"What to do, what to do, what to do?" he muttered non-stop to himself as if some magical answer would appear to him.

Well, it did.

"You can hand over the scripture in your possession, or I can take it from the cold hand of your corps," said another cold and indifferent voice from inside of the heavily protected room.

Chapter 242: Ninger

Fan Li turned his head with great shock in his face when he saw a young man with white hair and cold and ruthless eyes staring at him like a predator on the hunt. He looked around and discovered that all the formations in his residence were still working properly, so he wondered how this person entered his room.

After taking a brief moment to calm himself down, he realized who was standing in front of him, so he stuttered: "D...Di Tian?"

The two most famous Heaven Chosens of this generation are Wang Wei and Di Tian, and both of them have very distinct and recognizable features: one had grey hair, while the other had white hair.

"How did you enter my room?" asked Fan Li--while pretending to be calm and collected. "This is the site of the Emperor Enlightening Academy. If you do not want your Di family to have any conflict with the Academy, please leave my room as soon as possible and I will pretend that nothing happened here."

However, Di Tian still had a cold and ruthless look on his face. Then, a powerful killing intent enveloped the room, making Fan Li breathless.

"There is no need to use these low level threats against me, nor is it useful for you to stall for time. I can also tell you no matter what happens inside this room, no one will be the wiser. So, either hand over the [Yin Soul Scripture] voluntarily and you may have a chance to survive, or suffer the consequences."

Fan Li's face became very ugly after hearing this, so he thought about the situation for a moment, then he made his decision.

With a wave of his hand, a gigantic ghost appeared in front of him. The ghost had bronze skin, was more than 6 meters tall and had ox for a head and very muscular human body. Then, Fan Li fused with the Ghost General that he summoned.

However, this was not the end. A powerful Yin energy suddenly appeared inside the room and fused with Fan Li's new form. His skin then turned pale and his height grew by another 4 meters.

An army composed of countless ghosts appeared behind him; these ghosts looked very creepy as most of them were pale in complexion, and had some sort of animal for a head.

Unfortunately for Fan Li, due to the limitation of space, the amount of ghosts he could summon was somewhat limited. However, he had another way to get around this problem.

Without hesitation, he activated his Innate Talent: Ghost Swallowing.

After opening his mouth, Fan Li started to eat these ghosts like they were a delicious snack from a well-known restaurant. More importantly, these ghosts did not resist. On the contrary, they seemed to be excited to be a part of Fan Li; it was like they were sailors lost at sea for countless years and were excited to return to land, to return to their home.

As Fan Li swallowed ghosts, his body size continued to increase. From the origins 10 meters, it quickly rose to 15 meters; only stopping once he reached a height of 25 meters.

Be that as it may, during the entire process, Di Tian still had the cold look in his face like the whole world owed him a large sum of money; he did not stop Fan Li's action as if it was inconsequential to him.

'The [Yin Soul Scripture] can indeed create a small world full of Yin Energy. And it seemed to be connected directly to Samsara. Maybe, this trip will be rewarding,' thought Di Tian to himself.

"Di Tian, today your arrogance will make you suffer. You should have never allowed me to reach my final form. Now, go die!" roared Fan Li as he threw a powerful punch.

Boom!

The entire room trembled, seeming as if it was about to be destroyed. The shockwave created by the attack started to spread from the room to the entire manor. Fortunately, all the formations activated themselves and reinforced everything and even prevented the outside from noticing what was happening inside.

After that powerful attack, Fan Li had a horrified look on his face as he watched his punch hit Di Tian, but not a single scratch appeared on him. Not even his clothes were damaged.

What made Fan Li more scared was the fact that he did not sense any spiritual qi or origin essence used.

"How could your fleshly body be so powerful?" as Fan Li while trembling and with a shaking voice.

However, Di Tian ignored his question. "Is that it? Now, it's my turn."

Then, he randomly threw a normal punch.

Boom!

Fan Li's left arm was completely annihilated.

Boom!

Fan Li's right arm was also destroyed.

Boom! Boom!

Fan Li's remaining limbs were crushed. He then laid on the ground with only his upper torso left intact. Blood was scattered all over the room, and Fan Li was whining in pain on the floor.

He felt painful and humiliated; his opponent just used a few random punches and his most powerful form was completely annihilated; he did not expect that Di Tian's fleshly body was so powerful. According to the information he knows, only Wang Wei had such a powerful fleshly body amongst all the top Heaven Chosens.

Even Ji Song who had the Heavy Axe Physique--which was a physique known for the strength of its fleshly body could barely compete with Wang Wei. And that information was outdated.

As a matter of fact, Fan Li battled with Ji Song during the third round of the tournament. Using this form, he was able to give the Heaven Chosen a fair fight solely based on his fleshly body.

Of course after Ji Song had some kind of fortunate encounter, he lost easily when he fought him again. However, he never felt such despair when facing another member of his peers.

"Who are you?" asked Fan Li. In his mind, he could not imagine not a member of the younger generation would be so powerful.

While Fan Li was waiting for the answer, the ghosts inside his body started to regenerate all his limbs, bones, and muscles. According to his calculation, he will need at least three hours to be back to normal. However, as long as he regained a certain level of battle strength, he could escape this room through the Yin World that his cultivation technique granted him.

Unfortunately for Fan Li, Di Tian did not talk any nonsense to him. He walked towards, with a wave of his hand, a black light flew from his hand and entered Fan Li's body.

Following which, a mournful scream echoed throughout the entire manor. This scream contained the power to destroy anyone with a weak soul. Luckily, Fan Li was very paranoid recently, so he fired all the maids and servants that were inside the manor to serve him.

After the scream, all the ghosts inside Fan Li's body felt a terrible fear deep in their souls. So, without hesitation, they left his body and returned to the underworld. The only left was the Ghost General.

Di Tian then placed his hand on top of Fan Li's head, grabbed his soul and removed it from his body. His soul looked exactly like the Ghost General.

Without pause, Di Tian ripped the soul into two; however, it was not to destroy it, but to separate them. He then looked at the floating cloud on his left side, and the small Ghost General on his right. With a fierce look, the Ghost General disappeared--leaving Fan Li's soul to fend for himself.

He then looked at Fan Li's soul remaining in his hand; he mobilized his terrifying Divine Sense and started searching Fan Li's memories. Although the latter tried to resist, his soul strength was nothing compared to Di Tian.

To be honest, it was not even close to comparison; it was like comparing a flame on a candle to a quasar--the brightest thing in the universe; well to mortal scientists.

After a few seconds of searching, Di Tian had a frown on his face as he discovered a powerful seal in Fan Li's memory regarding the knowledge about the [Yin Soul Scripture]. Furthermore, the level of the seal reached the Great Emperor Level.

Although with a certain amount of time, Di Tian knew that he could break that seal, but he could guess that it would instantly destroy Fan Li's soul before he could get what he wanted.

"You could either write the scripture down and hand over to me, or you can experience the pain of your soul burning for eternity."

After saying that, a strange silver-white flame appeared in his hand, right under Fan Li's soul. Soon afterward, a scream could be heard coming from the latter.

Less than an hour afterwards, Di Tian had a scripture in his hand and read it, while Fan Li's soul had returned to his body. However, without the ghosts to heal him, he was on the verge of dying.

"I have given you what you want, please let me live," said Fan Li with a pleading look on his face. However, Di Tian ignored him as he continued to read the scripture.

At first he had a gleam of joy deep in his eyes, however as time passed, a deep frown suddenly appeared on his face.

Then, a black and white light appeared from his hand shattering the scripture into countless tiny pieces smaller than sand.

"Damn, it's useless," cursed Di Tian out loud. He then looked at Fan Li--his eyes turning deep black. Fan Li opened his mouth to say something, but his head suddenly exploded before he could say anything: even his soul was completely annihilated, preventing him from entering reincarnation.

As for Di Tian, he took a deep breath to calm himself down. A half arc pendant suddenly appeared in his hand, and he caressed it with the utmost affection while looking at it.

"I should have known things would not be that simple. However, Ning'er, you do not need to worry. This time, I will be successful. We will finally be reunited.+"

Chapter 243: Aftermath

After Di Tian calmed himself down, he slowly walked out of Fan Li's Residence while thinking to himself.

'Although this [Yin Soul Scripture] can truly bring the dead back to life from the Cycle of Samsara, it is no help to me to revive Ning'er. Meaning, I still have to continue with my original plan.

'However, this scripture can help me greatly increase my [Nine Samsara Fist], thus increase my strength and ensure that my plans go smoothly'

After walking out of the residence, no one actually discovered him, so he walked in the direction of a hidden corner. There, someone with a hood was waiting for him.

As soon as the hooded figure saw Di Tian, he knelt on the floor before saying: "Sleeper code name [White Wolf] has seen the Lord; it is an honor to be able to serve you again in this reincarnation."

"White Wolf?" said Di Tian. "I remember you and your son have served as Sleepers for many years. He was very talented, so how is he doing?"

"My Lord, unfortunately, he reached his limit in the last reincarnation, so his soul was annihilated. However, he was glad to serve you for so long."

Di Tian sighed, then he said after a brief moment of pause: "I am afraid only a few of the original members still exist to this day. Well, I can't blame them; even I am starting to reach my limit."

"My Lord, there is no need to say such ill-fated words. I believe that you will succeed in this generation. We all believe in you."

"Okay, this is not the time to be sentimental," replied Di Tian. "There will be no problem on the Emperor Enlightening Academy' side, right?"

"No worry, my Lord. I have garnered the trust of headmaster Bai Han and belong to the faction that absolutely supports him. Additionally, I have made sure that all clues lead to another teacher, so there will be no problem."

"That's good. Now, you can return to your position in the Academy."

The next day, a maid came to Fan Li's residence to give him his resources. Although he was recently very paranoid, Fan Li did not completely cut out access to the outside world. As an outer member of the Academy and one as talented as him, he will receive a certain amount of resources to aid in his cultivation every week.

After the maid arrived in front of his residence, she waited for him to open the formation and send the resources inside like usual, but nothing happened. After waiting for the entire day with no response, the maid left and reported the situation to the higher-ups of the Academy.

However, given the recent pressure on Fan Li due to so many people eying his inheritance, the Academy figured that he might be hiding for a while, so they visited him personally to reassure him, and used the precious resources to lure him on their side.

Nevertheless, there was no response.

Thinking that Fan Li did not accept their solicitation, the Academy did not say anything but kept sending one teacher to try to contact him daily. However, three weeks passed by and Fan Li never came out of his residence.

It was then that the teacher in charge of the situation finally felt that something was wrong; it was one thing for Fan Li to reject their solicitation, but to just himself inside the room just like this without interacting with others, something must be wrong.

If it was any other time, the teacher might have thought that he was deep in meditation and was cultivating, but the Tournament was a few days away, but there was no news from him.

So, on a whim, the teacher went to check Fan Li's Soul Lamp as he had one like many of the Outer Members of the Academy; this was a symbolic act to show that the outer members were truly part of the Academy--despite the wanton discrimination they faced daily.

After checking the Soul Lamp, the teacher discovered to his surprise and horror that Fan Li was dead. So, he immediately went to report to Bai Han, who gave a secret order to forcefully open the formations in the residence.

Unfortunately for him, Fan Li was secretly being watched by so many Spy Agency that the Academy's actions were instantly discovered. As such, news of Fan Li's death soon traveled throughout the entire Myriad Emperor World.

Cultivators from different factions started to wonder how he died? Who killed him? And more importantly, who had the [Yin Soul Scripture] in their hands now?

Then, all eyes were on the Emperor Enlightening Academy. Since Fan Li died inside one of their residences, under their protection, the greatest suspicions fell on them.

After all, they are the only people capable of entering Fan Li's residence without anyone noticing. After coming to this conclusion, many other factions accused the Academy of playing foul by secretly killing Fan Li for his inheritance.

In their statement, they argued that it was alright if Fan Li chose to join the Academy on his own accord, but secretly killing him to take the inheritance is a vile move condemned by all the other factions. As such, the Academy should give a proper explanation to the world.

Dao Opening Sect's Residence in the Academy:

Wang Wei--who had left his cultivation retreat to watch the final round of the Tournament--was sitting inside a room with Li Jun, Yan Liling, and Wang Ju.

After reading the information handed to him regarding Fan Li's fate, he said; "So, someone got there before us?"

"I am afraid that is correct, young master," replied Wang Ju.

Wang Wei then frowned as he thought about the situation. According to his original plan, he was going to use the Array Virus to secretly enter Fan Li's residence and acquire the [Yin Soul Scripture]. He was very interested in this kind of powerful technique--especially with the ability to bring the dead back to life.

Although Wang Wei did not have a person who he needed to bring back to death, it would be better to prepare just in case something bad happened in the future. Not to mention the fact that even if he did not have any use for the scripture, his family might need it--especially his grandfather, Wang Chang.

Although his grandfather never mentioned his grandmother, Wang Wei could tell that he sometimes missed her greatly. Maybe he would want to revive her.

Unfortunately for Wang Wei, the Array Virus was still in the early stage of development, so it still had many defects and limitations. For one, it could not work on Heaven Grade Formations--which was exactly the grade of the formations in Fan Li's residence.

Knowing the situation, Wang Wei planned to use the Array Virus to temporarily stop the formation for a brief moment, then taking the opportunity to enter. Unfortunately, before the Virus was developed to the point of executing his plan, someone got inside before him.

"Big brother, do you think that the Emperor Enlightening Academy is the one that killed him, just like the rumors said?" asked Li Jun.

"Not likely," replied Yan Liling instead. "Given the current situation of the Academy, and with the whole world watching, they should know that doing something to Fan Li would cause them a great deal of trouble, even further ruin their reputation."

"Not necessarily. If they manage to acquire his inheritance, the Academy would have Nine Emperor Scriptures--tying with our Dao Opening Sect. This is incentive enough for them to take the risk," replied Li Jun.

Both of them had excellent points, but Wang Wei was leaning more on Yan Liling's side. For some reason, after hearing this news, the picture of the white-haired young man who left a lasting impression on him appeared inside his mind. He had a feeling that he was the one responsible for this--despite not having any evidence.

The question now is why did he take the scripture? Could it be just like him, he wanted to have it just in case, or did he have someone precious to him that he wanted to revive?

Wang Wei was a little frustrated as he did not have much information to go with. So, after taking a deep breath to calm his mind, he looked at all of them before saying: "It does not matter whether the Academy did it or not as we can use this situation to our advantage.

"Wang Ju, tell my father to increase the rumors that the Academy killed Fan Li for his inheritance; this should be very beneficial to our plans."

"No problem, young master."

After that, Wang Wei looked at Li Jun, "Are you ready for the final round?"

"You do need to worry, big brother. I guarantee you a spot on the Top 30 with no problem."

"It's good that you are confident, but be careful."

"Why?"

"Well, I doubt that the Academy would let you easily enter the top 30 knowing that I want the token to enter the Secret Realm of the Dao Tablets."

"Are you saying that the Academy would cheat?" asked Li Jun with an incredible look on his face. Despite how terrible the Academy's reputation is currently, he knew that it was just his big brother who smeared their names.

Although the Academy is not full of Saints and has done many terrible things, compared to many other factions, they are relatively fair--especially when it comes to the Heaven Chosen Selection Trial.

The Academy would never cheat; at least, there has never been a discovered case of cheating for millions of years.

"I do not know," replied Wang Wei. "All I'm saying is that you should be more careful--just in case."

Li Jun nodded as he took these words to heart; he will be vigilant during all his matches.

After seeing his little brother's change in attitude, Wang Wei secretly nodded in satisfaction. "Well, if there is nothing to be further discussed, you call all leave. I have a date with the most beautiful woman in the world waiting for me."

"Big brother, do you have a date with Xi Shi?" yelled Li Jun in surprise. "You cannot do that Wu Hong's sister-in-law!"

Wang Wei looked at him with a speechless look, then smacked him in his head. "What Xi Shi! I'm talking about Wu Hong!"

"Oh," said Li Jun while scratching his head, and an embarrassment on his face. As he looked through the corner of his eyes, he saw Yan Liling gave him a look.

Instantly, he could understand what that look meant: You, of all people, should not be talking about being faithful.

So, he smiled wryly without looking at her.

Chapter 244: Qi of Calamity

A meeting of the upper echelons took place after news of Fan Li's death spread out quicker than any wildfires. All the teachers had a frown on their faces, rendering the atmosphere in the room quite somber and dreary.

"How is the situation?" asked headmaster Bai Han after a while, finally breaking the silence and starting the meeting.

"As bad as one would expect," replied the teacher in charge of gathering information for the Academy. "The rumors that we killed Fan Li for his inheritance have dramatically increased. No doubt that the people of the Dao Opening Sect are using this opportunity to further ruin our reputation.

"On top of that, many factions have started to ask our Academy for an explanation, putting pressure on us."

"So, what if they ask us for an explanation?" said one teacher. "Since when has our Academy ever been afraid of anyone?"

"In many situations, this might be the case, but when all of them have the opportunity to ally to fight against us, adding the possibility that the Dao Opening Sect might join in the situation, there is really nothing we can do at this point.

"On top of that, many of our allies have started to doubt us, thinking that we are selfish for taking the inheritance for ourselves without given them any benefits--even though they supported us during our lowest point. Some of them have even threatened to stop supporting us if we do not give them a proper explanation."

After hearing this explanation, a collective sigh could be heard inside the meeting room. This sigh symbolized all the grievances that these teachers have suffered in the past few decades; they wanted to lash out, but could not find a person or thing to lash out to--especially the person truly responsible for all their pain and suffering.

After a few seconds of silence, headmaster Bai Han asked: "Is there any good news at all?"

"Well the only good news is the fact that no sect or faction has brought the possibility of an Emperor Dao War so far; despite the rising tension, everything seemed to be under certain control. To be honest, headmaster, I find this fact very disturbing; it was as if everybody was waiting for something, but I do not know what exactly."

All the teachers had a serious look on their faces after hearing this. They did not doubt this teacher's words as he was in charge of not just gathering information for the Academy, but analyzing them as well. And until the recent events, he had been excellent at his job.

He had been with the headmaster since they were young. And in many of his confrontations with the Shadow of the Dao Opening Sect, his information has granted Bai Han many advantages over Wang Tian.

As for Bai Han, he too believed in his agent's words, but since they could not discover any concrete evidence, nor was there any speculation of what truly was going on, he had to move on.

"Keep a lookout for any sudden change in the situation. Now, what about how the person who killed Fan Li? Do we have any clues whatsoever--especially how that person managed to disarm all the formations?"

The Information Gathering Teacher looked in a certain direction for a brief moment before answering the question. There lied a group of teachers that had strongly disagreed with Bai Han's decision to rig the competition. Ever since that event, there has been a little rift among the upper echelons of the Emperor Enlightening Academy.

"One of our teachers opened the formation for someone else. After an investigation, we discovered that the teacher had committed suicide while leaving a note claiming that the people of the Dao Opening Sect forced him.

"However, after betraying the Academy, he felt ashamed of his actions, so he killed himself to atone for his sins."

"Was that person controlled? And how reliable is this suicide note?" asked Bai Han with a heavy tone.

"After our investigation, we could not determine whether he was under any spell or origin artifacts as his soul was annihilated. As for the note, there was no sign of tampering, meaning that the note was indeed written by the teacher., however..."

"This note means nothing," replied Bai Han. "Even if we were to announce it to the public, they will just think that we were trying to frame the Dao Opening Sect to get out of this sticky situation.

"Not to mention the fact that whoever did this is trying to further increase our conflict with the Dao Opening Sect."

"So, our Academy lost a Saint Realm powerhouse, our reputation was further tarnished, and the whole world appeared to be our enemy. Yet, we cannot do anything about it?" asked one teacher.

The room was once again covered by a depressing silence. The fact that what that person said was true and the fact that he stated such a fact as plainly and straightforward as possible made the entire situation even worse.

"What about divination? Could we divine the perpetrator? Or ask the Heaven Mystery Pavilion to do it for us?" said one person with hope and yearning.

"Divination did not have any result. As for the Heaven Mystery Pavilion, they said that they did not want to have anything to do with this situation."

"So, what do we do now?" asked one teacher with a weak and helpless voice.

Unfortunately, no one answered him, not even headmaster Bai Han. However, this time, the silence did not last long as one of the teachers in the faction that was opposing Bai Han slowly said:

"I think that there is plenty of room and time to salvage the situation. First, we could have the headmaster swear both a heavenly Dao Oath and Dao Oath that the Academy did not have anything to do with Fan Li's death in front of the entire world.

"Second, we can pay certain remuneration to all our allies for the support they have given us during these stressful times; this act should greatly appease them and strengthen our alliance.

"Finally, we can talk to Sacred Son Wang Wei and the people of the Dao Opening Sect. We can agree to allow him to enter the Secret Realm of the 3000 Dao Tablets. We can even negotiate to give him as much time as the champion of the Tournament."

The room became silent again, this time the teachers were thinking about the feasibility of this plan; the positive and negative of doing such a thing.

"This plan is feasible. Although our Emperor Enlightening Academy would lose a lot of resources and a little bit of face, it will not affect us too much."

"Plus, if Lin Fan manages to prove the Dao, who would care about the little loss of face. So, I think the best solution is to go through this rough time as quickly as possible, then, later on, we can repay 100 fold all the humiliation we suffered."

"1000 fold would be better."

"I agree."

"Me too."

The majority of people agreed with this plan. To be precise, the majority of people in the opposite faction agreed with this plan--especially since one of their own came up with it.

So, after coming with a preliminary decision, they all looked at headmaster Bai Han for his final decision. After all, he is the one who has the final say.

"I agree with your first two points, but Wang Wei cannot get access to the Dao Tablets."

"Headmaster, this is not the time to be stubborn," yelled one teacher. "Please place your personal feeling aside for the benefit of the Academy."

"This is not about my personal feeling," replied Bai Han. "It's just too late. The plan for Li Jun has already been set in motion. Ji Song has already got his hands on the Demon God Bone; so, it is too late to stop our actions."

The people of the opposing factions looked at the stubborn Bai Han, then they looked at the people who supported him no matter what, hoping that someone with enough reason would try to persuade him. But it was useless as no one spoke.

As a matter of fact, many people felt as indignant as Bai Han. After going through so much effort, after sacrificing so much, they did not want to stop their actions. They can agree for the Academy to bow its head to the world, but not to a member of the younger generation--no matter how talented he was.

Maybe at first, these people supported Bai Han because they had faith in their leader or the fact that they were used to always supporting him. However, the recent events have changed their minds. Subconsciously, many people in Bai Han's faction blamed Wang Wei for all that has happened to them and the Academy.

Hence, the reason that they were adamant about stopping.

After realizing the situation, the opposing faction sighed melancholy, but they did not say anything. So, the Academy's plan for the current situation was established.

After the meeting, all the teachers went their separate ways. However, another secret meeting took place somewhere in the Academy. This time it was all the True Monarchs who were meeting.

"Have you guys noticed?" asked one of the True Monarchs communicating through Divine Sense.

"Yes, Bai Han and his supporters are enveloped by Qi of Calamity!" replied one of the True Monarch.

"So, should we intervene?"

Chapter 245: The Horror of Qi of Calamity

"We can tell him about it, but I doubt it will make any difference. After all, Qi of Calamity has the ability to influence a cultivator's mind," replied one of the Supreme Realm True Monarchs.

"We can place a seal to prevent other people from seeing it. After all, we do not want other factions to use this fact to their advantage."

"Plus, if Bai Han and his group can quickly awaken from this disaster, then their state of mind should sublimate. At that time, reaching the Supreme Realm will become easier."

"That's a good method. With this Path of Supreme slowly opening up, this is the perfect time."

So, all the True Monarchs decided on the next step of action. However, one person, Qiu Jin--Lin Fan's Dao Protector--said: "None of that truly matters as long as this Qi of Calamity does not force Bai Han to start an Emperor Dao War on a whim. What I really care about is the reason for such a thing to happen?"

"Isn't it obvious? Heavenly Dao used the Qi of Calamity to clout Bai Han's mind, thus making him act irrationally, thus ensuring that he remains Wang Wei's enemy--despite the fact that bowing his head would be the wisest and best choice in this situation," said one of the True Monarch.

"That's correct. If this was the normal Bai Han, he would never act in such a way," another another person.

"I know all of this," replied Qiu Jin. "The issue is why Heavenly Dao did this? Have you guys noticed that in this generation, the amount of time that Heavenly Dao intervened is quite high--especially the secret schemes?"

"All of us here have lived for a very long time, but in our generation, I doubt that Heavenly Dao intervened even once--except for granted merits. Even then, it did not really show up, but the mechanism that is responsible for granting the merit merely activated itself once the requirements were met.

"But in this generation, Heavenly Dao showed many times. And most of the time, it involved that Sacred Son Wang Wei. What I want to know is why?"

As Supreme Realm powerhouses, they are beings closest to the Dao. So, they can feel that Heavenly Dao does not really like Wang Wei. As a matter of fact, even the True Monarchs of the Dao Opening Sect have also started to notice something wrong. But they have not completely figured out the reason yet.

"Maybe it has to do with the fact he brought Divine Punishment Thunder a few years ago?"

"Or maybe because of his soul. That thing is not natural."

"Maybe things are not that simple," said one of the True Monarchs. "Maybe we should go over the Secret Archives of the Academy and see if we can discover something."

"Agree."

"Agree."

After everyone came to a decision, the meeting came to an end. However, one person still had something else to say.

"According to this situation, we might have to intervene in the control of the Academy."

The conversation became silent. After a while, someone said: "According to our previous agreement, we would not intervene in the Academy's management unless necessary, otherwise a power imbalance could be created, leading to infighting. Now, things have not reached such a level yet."

All the other True Monarchs nodded in acknowledgement.

The truth of the matter is that this generation was a strange one. According to precedent, all the previous headmasters, great teachers, and elder teachers were supposed to be in the Supreme Realm. As for the position of Supreme Elder or Supreme Teacher, this was a position or title reserved to the Dao Ancestors and Immortal Venerables of the Academy.

Unfortunately, the Path of Supreme was cut off in the last generation--making it impossible for the younger generations to reach similar height in cultivation level as the older generation.

Nevertheless, the older generation were old and weary, and in order for any factions to improve and move forwards, they needed the younger generation to take charge.

After noticing that there was no way to actually become True Monarch, the older generation realized that if they keep holding the power of their factions without passing it on, an imbalance of power might occur and the younger generation might become resentful; this was not conducive for the future development of their factions.

So, all of them came to the same decision: they will take a supporting role while giving all the power of their factions to the young generation. Hence the reason that Saint Realm True Persons like Wang Tian and Bai Han are in charge of their own factions despite their lack of cultivation,

As for the older generation like Wang Chang and Qiu Jin, they decided to only interfere when absolutely necessary.

...

Inside a plain and simple residence with few decorations. Bai Han had just returned to his residence when he received a notice from True Monarch Qiu Jin to come see him.

Albeit a little surprised and confused by the sudden visit, he still prepared tea to properly welcome the True Monarch. Although Bai Han used to be a True Monarch as well, since he was not currently, he still had to give the necessary respect.

"What? I'm enveloped by Qi of Calamity?" yelled Bai Han with great surprise. Then, instantly, he started using a secret technique. Immediately, he noticed a red hue hovering around his head, making his face very ugly.

As for Qiu Jin, he was a little surprised at Bai Han's technique; it must be a very powerful one to be able to notice the Qi of Calamity in the Saint Realm--especially since it allows Bai Han to see his own Qi of Calamity.

The odd thing about Qi of Calamity is that other powerful people can see it on other people, but it is extremely difficult to notice it on themselves--making it very difficult to deal with.

"What are you going to do now?" asked Qiu Jin calmly.

Bai Han's face became ugly after hearing this; he started to think about his next step of action. A part of him told him to stop his action against Wang Wei as he is just being used as Heavenly Dao's pawn. Another part of him is telling him that he has come so far, and he is so close to succeed, so there is no need to stop. As for the Qi of Calamity, it just brought the deep desire inside his heart and had little effect on him.

Sweat started to fall down from Bai Han's forehead, drenching his clothes wet. One of his eyes twitched constantly without stopping. After more than three hours, Bai Han sighed before saying: "The plan will continue!"

"Is that so?" replied Qiu Jin calmly without any surprise in his face; as he knew that this was the horror of Qi of Calamity. Even if someone knew that their mind was being influenced, they could not do anything about it. It takes a lot of effort and a very powerful state of mind to get rid of the influence of the Qi of Calamity. And sometimes, this was not even enough.

"So be it," replied Qiu Jin. After sealing the Qi of Calamity from Bai Han to prevent other people from noticing it, he left without saying anything else.

Qiu Jin and the other True Monarch did not really care about the situation; as long as the Academy had them and the Sleeping Ancestors, then nothing would truly happen besides maybe being forced to close their door for a while.

As for Bai Han, if he can go through this catastrophe, his mind will sublimate and set a powerful foundation for his Path of Supreme. If he fails, then he might lose everything.

Just like that, a few days passed by; the day of the Final Round of the Tournament began. Just like the First Round, Bai Han appeared in front of all the people watching to introduce the event. However, he did not immediately do so, but instead started to swear to Heaven and Earth and to the Dao that he and the Academy had nothing to do with Fan Li's death.

While Bai Han was doing his little speech, inside the Di Family's floating booth, Di Tian had a frown on his face as his eyes laid on Bai Han.

'Qi of Calamity? I remember the last time that I encountered this thing was during the Incense Era. These bald Buddhist Monks were covered from head to toe with that thing: it made them totally crazy.

'These monks' pursued of the power of Incense became a destructive obsession. They were willing to do anything and kill anyone in their pursuit of Faith. Now that I think about it, the Absolute Beginning Emperor might have been affected by that thing too, otherwise it could not explain his obsession to eradicate Buddhism altogether."

After thinking about this for a moment, Di Tian sneered: 'It all made sense now. Heavenly Dao probably did not want the Myriad Emperor World to turn into a civilization of Faith under the power of Buddhism, so it secretly planned their destruction.

'Using Qi of Calamity on the entire Buddhist Sect led to them offending so many people in their pursuit of Faith. All it had to do was wait for someone that had the talent to become an Eternal Emperor and had a deep grudge with Buddhism. Then, by using that same Qi of Calamity, it can make that person completely eradicate the Faith Based Buddhism.

'Unfortunately, even Heavenly Dao miscalculated the hatred that the Absolute Beginning Emperor had and the power of Qi of Calamity.

"Buddhism as a sect is very beneficial to any civilization as it can bring peace and enlightening of the mind, only the faith aspect was detrimental. I'm guessing that Heavenly Dao only wanted that aspect to be eradicated--leaving the other part intact, but the Qi of Calamity might have affected the Absolute Beginning Emperor beyond its calculation--leading to him completely eradicating Buddhism from the Lower Dimension.'

Chapter 246: Null Era (I)

While Di Tian instantly took notice of the Qi of Calamity around Bai Han despite the seal of the True Monarchs, another person also noticed something odd: Wang Wei.

Inside the booth of the Dao Opening Sect, when he first saw Bai Han, he had a feeling that something was wrong, but he did not know what it was; he seemed to see something around the headmaster, but he could not truly see it after concentrating.

So, he activated his True Eye ability and saw a red hue floating around Bai Han's head, then he frowned while pondering what this thing was as it was not here before.

"Noticed it?" asked Wu Hong who was sitting next to him.

"Yes," nodded Wang Wei. "What is it? Or is this another secret that I should not know?"

"Not really," replied Wu Hong. "That thing is called [Qi of Calamity], although a rare thing, but knowledge of it is very common among powerful beings."

"So, what exactly is it?"

Wu Hong paused for a moment to gather her thoughts. "To put it simply, Qi of Calamity is the most powerful weapon that Heavenly Dao used when manipulating others. Its main purpose is to affect a person's mind and make them act irrational, stupid, or out of character.

"A perfect example when Qi of Calamity is often used is when dealing with Childs of Destiny. Every time they meet an opponent, Heavenly Dao would often use the Qi of Calamity to influence their enemy; that way, they will act stupidly. Their enemies--instead of using all their strength to eradicate these Childs of Destiny--they will send a person only one stage or realm higher than the Child of Destiny, basically giving them the chance to survive and break through in cultivating realm while fighting. Then their enemy will send a slightly more powerful person than the first, and the process will repeat itself until the Child of Destiny reaches the strength to completely eradicate their enemy.

"Of course this kind of treatment is only for the Children of Destiny of powerful worlds on the level of Heaven Will World. Additionally, this kind of Qi of Calamity is actually very easy to guard against."

Wang Wei nodded, then he asked: "Are you saying that Qi of Calamity has different ranks or levels?"

"Yes. And at the highest level, even you will not be spared," replied Wu Hong while looking deeply into Wang Wei's eyes. He immediately understood what she was trying to say: the highest level of Qi of Calamity can even affect Paragons, hence even he could be affected by it one day if he is not careful,

Immediately he took this information more seriously. "I understand. Is there anything else?"

"Yes," replied Wu Hong. "Actually, the main purpose of Qi of Calamity is to induce the [Great Calamity of Heaven and Earth] or the [Great Purge] as it is often referred to by many other worlds."

Wang Wei frowned as he remembered that he read about such a thing in the Sect's Library.

"Isn't the [Great Calamity of Heaven and Earth] the process by which a world decided to kill the majority of its inhabitants due to the issue of overpopulation?"

"That is correct. When the amount of cultivators in a world is too large, the level of spiritual qi between Heaven and Earth will decrease dramatically with so many people using it. At that time, the world will be on the verge of being demoted. For example, a Great Thousand World will turn into a Middle Thousand World.

"After reaching that point, Heavenly Dao will intervene to keep the balance of the world. By enveloping the entire world with Qi of Calamity and influencing the mind of all the cultivators, conflict will erupt throughout the entire world, leading to all cultivators killing one another. Then, Heavenly Dao will decompose the bodies of these cultivators and replenish the spiritual qi of Heaven and Earth. By then, both the population and spiritual qi problem will be solved."

Wang Wei sighed as he muttered to himself: "Cultivators absorb spiritual qi in order to one day become immortal and escape the shackles of death. If they fail, then their bodies will decompose and return to the embrace of mother nature, replenishing Heaven and Earth.

"What a horrifying and beautiful Cycle!"

"True," responded Wu Hong as she also sighed. How many people can become immortal? In each generation, there are probably a handful. Meanwhile, the number of cultivators are in the trillions. The terrible thing about this situation is that even if a person knows about this, there is nothing they can do besides fighting to be the few that actually become immortal.

"I was wondering, has there been a time that the Myriad Emperor World suffered a [Great Purge]?" asked Wang Wei curiously.

"Hmmm, it actually happened twice."

"Twice?"

"Yes. Once during the Null Era, and the second time during the Middle Emperor Era."

Wang Wei was slightly surprised; he could understand how such a thing happened in the Void Era, but he could not understand what this has to do with the Middle Emperor Era. If such a thing occurred, he would have known that this Era was very recent compared to the others.

Wu Hong noticed his surprise, so she explained: "I will talk about the Middle Emperor Era later. First, I will explain the general situation of the Primordial Era so that you can understand the entire situation."

Then, she proceeded to tell him about the situation of the Primordial Gods and Innate Demons, and the birth of the human race. Finally, she reached the point where the leader of these powerful races discovered the future destruction of their entire races and the rise of humanity.

"So, what happened after that?" asked Wang Wei.

"What do you think?"

After pondering a while, he replied: "Given the fact that the first Heaven Will appeared in the Emperor Beginning Era and the first person to crown itself Great Emperor is a human, I'm guessing that Heavenly Dao intervened again and sided with humans. That thing seemed to be everywhere."

A contemptuous sneer could be seen on his face.

"You are correct," replied Wu Hong. "Heavenly Dao did not want the Primordial Gods or Innate Demons as the main races of this world. Despite how powerful they were, these races were very rigid and slow in their development, not to mention their horrible reproductive ability.

"Meanwhile, humans--as the first acquired race--had unlimited potential despite their weakness at birth. With their rapid reproductive ability and an unnatural talent for comprehending the Laws of Heaven and Earth, humans were the perfect race to lead the Myriad Emperor World--who was called Innate Demon God World back then.

"So, Heavenly Dao secretly helped the race from facing extinction at the hands of the powerful Primordial Gods and Innate Demons. It created a Child of Destiny that would lead the human race from their demise."

"Are you talking about the first Great Emperor of this world, the one who created the Beginning Emperor Era, the Heaven Opening Emperor?" asked Wang Wei.

"That's right. The Heaven Opening Emperor was the chosen one. During his time, the human race was constantly being hunted down, and the only reason that some tribes were saved was because they were protected by other more peaceful Primordial Gods and Innate Demons--who did not agree with their leader's decisions.

"As for the Heaven Opening Emperor, he was truly a lucky person; it turns out that the Primordial God that protected the human tribe he was born in actually fell in love with him. So, they begin a relationship.

"However, the Heaven Opening Emperor was not only a cunning individual, but also a very ambitious one. During his relationship with her, he secretly studied her body composition. Given the fact that Primordial Gods were essentially gigantic human beings, the First Emperor believed that by studying their body composition, he could create a cultivation method perfectly suited for humans, and he succeeded."

Wang Wei was suddenly interested: "A cultivation system that existed before the Origin Path System? Can you tell me about it."

"Well, that system was actually very similar to your [Ancient Desolate Body Refining Scripture]--except not as much detail. Due to the vast amount of spiritual qi that existed at that time, cultivation was easier and the talent of humans was much better.

"The system invited by the First Emperor allowed humans to create a powerful body like Primordial Gods through breathing spiritual qi between Heaven and Earth. Unfortunately, only a few talented people could actually reach the level of Primordial Gods.

Wu Hon paused for a moment before saying: "If you are interested, I can give you a copy of the cultivation system that existed back then. However, If I were you, I would wait until you cultivate the [Ancient Desolate Scripture] to the highest level, then use these techniques as reference to further perfect it and even make it more powerful."

Wang Wei nodded as he accepted her advice, then he asked: "What happened after the First Emperor created this new cultivation system?"

Chapter 247: Null Era (II)

"Of course the First Emperor secretly spread it to the human tribes in an attempt for the human race to rise against their oppressors," replied Wu Hong. "Unfortunately for him, the vast difference between the Human Race and Primordial Races was simply too great.

Wang Wei nodded before saying with a sneer: "I can guess what happened next; Heavenly Dao interfered again, didn't?"

"That's correct."

Wang Wei snorted, "This thing seemed to be everywhere."

Wu Hong just gave a side look before continuing: "Knowing that the future of the world lied with the human race, Heavenly Dao then created the First Heaven Will, and basically granted it to the First Emperor. That way, the Heaven Opening Emperor not only became the First Great Emperor of this world, but also the first Eternal Emperor."

Wang Wei was not surprised that the First Emperor was an Eternal Emperor, and this was not because he was the first person to become a Great Emperor. After hearing the term Eternal Emperor, he did some research on these individuals--especially the most recent of them: the Heaven Devour Emperor.

One thing that he noticed was that Eternal Emperors seemed to have some ability of being omnipresent. For example, although all the cultivators in the world tried to erase the Heaven Devour Emperor from the historical records, everyone still knows that he is a Great Emperor.

As long as a cultivator reached a certain level of cultivation, it seemed that they would instantly know that this Great Emperor existed; it was like he was unforgettable, or that his existence was forever ingrained in the annals of history, for eternity.

The same thing can be said about the Heaven Opening Emperor; every cultivator in the world knows that he was the First Great Emperor in the world and started the Era of Emperor in this world--without anyone even telling them.

Another example of this phenomena that Wang Wei noticed was regarding dragons and phoenixes. Every time he reads any records regarding these creatures, he will instinctively know that they were Innate Creatures that once lived in the Primordial Era.

After reigning in his thoughts, Wang Wei then asked: "What happened next? I'm guessing that being an Eternal Emperor, the Heaven Opening Emperor led the human race from the oppression of the other races?"

Wu Hong paused for a moment, then she said: "Unfortunately, you are wrong. Even being an Eternal Emperor could not save the human race, at least on its own. The leaders of the Primordial Races were not in any way inferior to an Eternal Emperor. Not to mention the Patriarch of the Dragon Race, Qilin Race, White Tiger Race and the Matriarch of the Phoenix--which were the leaders of the Innate Demon race--were also on par with an Eternal Race."

Wang Wei was a little surprised. 'It seems that my previous notion of Eternal Emperors being invincible among other Great Emperors and beings on that level might be wrong.'

"So, what happened next? Obviously the human race survived somehow, so how did it happen?"

"Well, after the First Emperor proved the Dao, Heavenly Dao kept lowering Heaven Will after a certain period of time, thus creating many Great Emperors for the human race."

"Wait, you mean..." asked Wang Wei with an incredible look on his face.

"That's correct. The Beginning Emperor Era was an age where many Great Emperors walked the world at the same time," replied Wu Hong calmly.

After taking a few seconds to process this news, he asked: "None of them, you know," then he motioned his head upward.

"Back then, the concept of Ascension was not very prevailing due to the fact that the spiritual qi between Heaven and Earth was very abundant, thus allowing these Great Emperors to cultivate with a peace of mind. Additionally, the human race needed their support and help. So, only a few of them actually left."

Wang Wei sighed as he imagined what it would be like to live in a world where so many Great Emperors walked the world and competed with another; well, maybe in the future, he still has the chance.

Then, a question suddenly appeared in his mind: "What about Dao Ancestors and Immortal Venerables, did these existences exist back then?"

"Yes," replied. "The realm of Dao Ancestor was created based on the existence of Plane Lord, while Immortal Venerables are nothing but a sublimation of a cultivator's internal qi or energy into a higher form."

'Plane Lord? If I remember correctly, these should be individuals born in Great Thousand Worlds who actually swallowed the Heavenly Dao of their worlds and became the sole controller. Are they related to Dao Ancestors? However, the information I read about them was very vague,' thought Wang Wei to himself.

"Back then, the Great Emperors created these methods after traveling to other World Communities in order to create Emperor Level strength for the human race without the Heaven Will. To be exact, they just copied these systems from other worlds, modified it a little and gave it their own name," continued Wu Hong without stopping.

Wang Wei nodded, however, he knew that things were not that simple. According to historical records, his ancestor--Emperor Qiyuan--is credited with creating both the Path of Dao Ancestor and the Path of Immortality. However, according to Wu Hong, these paths seemed to have long existed before then. So, there must be either something shady about this, or some great secret.

Nevertheless, Wang Wei did not ask. He was already receiving too much information in just a few minutes, so there was no need to acquire more. Furthermore, he still would like to discover some of these secrets on his own.

For example, according to Wu Hong, there may have been World Communities born before this one--meaning that there were Heaven Will World born or created way before the Myriad Emperor World, and even developed civilization way before them.

Although Wang Wei did not know how ancient his own world or community was compared to the others, he still wanted to find out--especially given his future plans after becoming a Great Emperor. This kind of information might be useful.

All of these thoughts appeared less than a milliseconds from his mind, so he continued his conversation: "Why didn't any of the Primordial Gods or Innate Demons also acquire a Heaven Will and become a Great Emperor?"

"That's because Heavenly Dao played a little trick on the Heaven Will," replied Wu Hong.

"Of course it did!"

Ignoring his remark, Wu Hong continued: "It added a condition to the Heaven Will: only Acquired Lifeforms could use it, thus prevented both the Primordial Gods and Innate Demons--who where Innate Lifeforms--from being able to use it, even if they acquired one.

"However, none of these two races gave up--especially the Innate Demons Race. So, they came together to create an acquired race. By constantly degrading their own bloodlines, they were able to create what we now know as the Demon Race."

'This explains how the Demon Race's cultivation system involves slowly purifying their own bloodline,' thought Wang Wei.

"The Innate Demon Race's plan was to use the Demon Race to compete for the Heaven Will, thus lowering the overall strength of their races. At first, their plan succeeded as many Demon Races actually became Great Emperors.

"However, under the machination of one the human race Great Emperors, the Demon Race eventually betrayed their own creators, then joined the human race side."

Wang Wei nodded, not surprised by that outcome. "Then?"

"Then, came the Null Era. After both the human race and the demon race concluded that they had enough strength to fight these Innate Races, they started an Earth shaking, Heaven Shattering War. As a matter of fact, neither of these two fighting factions knew beforehand how great that war would become, and the lasting impact that it would have."

"What do you mean?" asked Wang Wei with a concentrated look on his face.

"What I mean was that the scope of this war was beyond these factions' wildest imagination. Although the war started from our world, it soon spread to countless World Communities until the entire Lower Dimension was engulfed in war. The war soon turned into Acquired Lifeforms against Innate Lifeforms."

'Lower Dimensions? Is that the name for the entire Endless Void? Does that mean that the world that all Great Emperors go to is considered a Higher Dimension?,' secretly thought Wang Wei.

Then, he saw a fading smirk from Wu Hong's mouth, and he realized that she was testing what kind of information she was allowed to secretly say to him without arousing the awareness of that powerful and noble Will.

"As a matter of fact," continued Wu Hong as if nothing happened. "This war was actually a major plot. Someone or something did not want these Innate Lifeforms to continue living in the Lower Dimension, so they used this war as a way to remove them.

"After these Innate Lifeforms lost the war, the remaining survivors left, the record of their existence was mostly purged, hence the reason that there was little to no history or records left from before the Null Era. As a matter of fact, one day when you travel across many World Communities, you will discover that many worlds have a similar blank period in their history. In most cases, it means that it pertains to the [Innate-Acquired War]."

Wang Wei did not ask who was the person plotting all of this as he could guess that this was probably information that she could not say in any way shape of form, so he asked something else:

"I have a question about something you mentioned regarding Eternal Emp..." His word stopped midway as he noticed something strange happening on the Heaven Chosen Selection Trial.

Chapter 248: Rematch

A few minutes ago, while Wang Wei and Wu Hong were distracted talking to one another, headmaster Bai Han appeared in front of all the people watching the tournament. He first swore to Heavenly Dao and his Own Dao that the Academy has nothing to do with Fan Li's affairs, then he started introducing the rules of the tournament.

"Due to the fact that the Professional Champions are not allowed in the top 30 in this year's tournament, the rules are a little different. There are currently 1920 participants in the Final Round.

"Each participant will face a randomly selected opponent. The winner will move on to the next round, while the loser will be eliminated. This process will continue until the top 30 Heaven Chosen is selected.

"Now, let the Final Round of the Heaven Chosen Selection Trial Begins."

After Bai Han made the announcement, he returned to the floating booth of the Emperor Enlightening Academy with all the other teachers. During the process, he started thinking to himself:

'Hopefully, this move can buy some breathing room for the Academy. As for the Qi of Calamity, it is obvious that Heavenly Dao is using my projected hatred for Wang Wei to ensure that I become his enemy. However, as long as I manage to prevent him from entering the Secret Realm of the Dao Tablets, I can find a way to remove it.'

After thinking about this, Bai Han sighed deeply: 'If I still had my original body with my father's protection, I would never be so easily affected by Qi of Calamity. Well, there is no need to lament about the past now. Since I have decided to completely cut off my past, then I should have no regrets.'

After Bai Han returned to his booth, the majestic fighting ring in the middle of the large stadium was divided into many different rings. In each ring, there was a projected screen made of arrays that showed two numbers--which represent the participants chosen to fight one another as they all had to randomly choose a number before the Final Round began.

The audience surrounding the fighting rings had a giant projected screen that showed all the battles simultaneously, so that they could either watch everyone at once, or focus on a particular participant.

All the people watching the tournament remotely also had similar divided screens like the members of the audiences.

Inside the floating booths, each person had their own personal divided screen with all the participants. However, this particular one had the ability to only show one match based on the choice of the user.

While Wu Hong and Wang Wei were talking, they ignored the screen as they were too focused on their discussion--even when Li Jun's fight began.

Holding his trusted spear, Li Jun walked to one of the fighting rings after his name was chosen. After only waiting for a few seconds, his opponent also appeared in front of him; it was a beautiful girl with a blue dress and a shy look on her face. However, despite her appearance, she had a firm determination in her eyes.

Taking a brief moment to recall all the information he read about all the participants of this tournament, he recognized her as a genius from a Holy Land in the Eastern Azure Dragon Continent.

Li Jun secretly sighed as he acknowledged that she was either very lucky or very talented to reach the Final Round based on her background. Nevertheless, this will not change the fact that she had reached the end of the road after meeting him.

His big brother had given him a mission to get one of the Top 30 spots, and nothing or no one could stop him from fulfilling his mission. So, as soon as the battle began, Li Jun did not say anything to his opponent; he directly attacked her.

Holding his spear in his hand, Li Jun threw it with all of his strength, turning it into a red light that flew straight to the Holy Land genius. However, she was not to be underestimated. As a person who made it to the Final Round, she was one of the people who fought against the Seeded-Players and survived. Although she no longer had the advantage of large numbers, she would not give up so easily.

So, with a wave of her hand, a group of metal gates appeared in front of her as a form of protection. Unfortunately, the gates could only stop the spear for a brief moment before they were pierced one by one.

Fortunately, she only needed this brief pause to move out of the way of the spear, thus dodging the attack.

After seeing this, Li Jun made a grabbing motion with his hand, then his spear disappeared from the distance before appearing in his hand. Then, he made a circular motion with the spear while holding it with one hand.

Following which, more than ten spears materialized in front of him--an act which made the Holy Land genius's face become very ugly. Without hesitation, she encased herself in a very dense spherical metal shield.

Her actions were correct as soon as she finished, the first spear hit her. Immediately, she coughed a big mouthful of blood. Although she managed to defend the attack, the aftershock still penetrated her defense and injured her.

Then, her nightmare began.

Boom!

Nine explosions followed the nine spears as they attacked her metal shield. A cloud of dust enveloped her following the explosions, thus impeding the sight of the audience. Few seconds after the dust was swept away by the blowing wind, the Holy Land genius could be seen.

She was half kneeling on the ground with blood all over her body and partly destroyed clothes. Her hair was messy, and pieces of metals could be seen scattered next to her. She struggled to get up from her floor, but she was incapable of doing so.

Li Jun frowned after seeing this, then he said: "You should give up this fight; there is no need to risk your life for a battle that you know you will lose."

However, she did not immediately answer him as a metal rod appeared in her hand, which she used as support to get up from the ground.

"You do not understand," she replied with a firm determination on her face. "I have too many people counting on me; I cannot fail now."

As she said these words, she gave a brief glance at a particular glance in the audience where a group of disciples were looking at her with both worry and encouraging eyes.

"Everyone who can reach this level in the tournament has some sort of emotional support or conviction driving them forwards," replied Li Jun calmly. "This does not change the fact that you are weak and unable to win this battle. However, if you give up and save your life, then you still have a chance in the future. After all, one failure does not mean everything."

Unfortunately, she ignored his warning; her metal rod turned red as if wanting to melt. However, the metal still remained in the shape of a rod, just giving up a powerful heat.

After seeing this, Li Jun sighed, but did not say anything more. He moved his body and to the Holy Land genius' horror, Li Jun instantly appeared in front of her. Before she could even react, a spear pierced her heart and completely annihilated it.

She vomited a big mouthful of blood that landed all over Li Jun's spear. She had an incredible look on face for a moment, then she fell on her back, blood splattered all over the arena; until the end, she could not understand how she lost so easily.

Her last thoughts before dying were: 'Is the difference between ordinary geniuses and these Heaven Chosens so vast? I am not willing, I am not willing!'

As for Li Jun, he just looked at her for a brief moment before leaving the fighting ring; he had already given his opponent the chance to retreat intact. Since she was willing to fight for her conviction, then she was also willing to die for it. The Path of Cultivation has never been a peaceful one, let alone for the Heaven Chosens treading on the Path of Emperor.

Just like that, after a few hours, the first group match ended, and only 960 participants left. Just like that, the tournament continued for a few days, and Li Jun easily beat most of his opponents--until there were only 60 people left.

Li Jun was excited as he needed only one more win to enter the Top 30 and acquire the token that granted him access to the 3000 Dao Tablets. Then, his big brother can use it to further his Path of the Emperor.

Li Jun was standing in one of the arena waiting for his next opponent with a little excitement deep in his eyes. However, when he saw the person who showed up, he said with a grave voice:

"It's you!"

Chapter 249: Rematch (II)

Across from Li Jun stood a beautiful girl dressed in a golden dress, with a phoenix crown on her head; she had the majesty of a powerful Empress who looked down on myriad beings, and the pride of a Heavenly Peacock who cannot bear to be stained by mortal dust.

"This Goddess did not expect to meet you so soon. Very well, this Goddess can finally have her revenge," said the beautiful woman with a voice full of loftiness and aloofness.

"Fang Lijuan!" said Li Jun with deep furrow brows; he knew that there was a hidden rule that none of the Seeded-Players would meet before the Final 30 Rounds, but he actually met one beforehand.

Thinking about Wang Wei's warning before the battle, Li Jun could guess that something shady had taken place. However, he was not afraid.

"Revenge? Since I defeated you once, I can do it a second time." replied Li Jun with a sneer on his face. However, Fang Lijuan just smirked without saying anything, nevertheless, a powerful confidence could be seen radiating from her body.

Meanwhile, Wang Wei--who was talking with Wu Hong--noticed Li Jun's opponent, and like the latter, he came to the conclusion that something odd was going for Fang Lijuan to become Li Jun's opponent right before he could qualify for a spot on the Top 30.

Inside the Emperor Enlightening Academy's booth, all the teachers watched this battle with bated breath. One of them checked the formation to make sure that they had no problem, then he asked: "Headmaster, is it appropriate to use Fang Lijuan as an opponent? After all, Li Jun already defeated her once."

"You do not need to worry," replied Bai Han. "The reason that I chose Fang Lijuan instead of the more powerful Heaven Chosens is to not attract too much attention to ourselves. Additionally, she is not the same as back in the Divine Altar Realm."

Of course Bai Han did not tell the whole truth; he had something else prepared just in case something went wrong, however, the other teachers did not know this. Nevertheless, after seeing the headmaster's confidence, they were relieved.

After all, they've spent so much on this tournament, even risking destroying the Academy's million of years of reputation--well to be precise, the reputation of fairness that they still hold to this day.

...

Back to the fighting arena, both Li Jun and Fang Lijuan prepared for their rematch.

Without hesitation or pausing, Li Jun went on the offensive. Spears started to appear around him. Unlike his battle with the Holy Land genius, there were not only ten spears, but hundreds,

thousands even. With unmatched speed, they rushed towards Fang Lijuan, wishing to completely annihilate her.

The sound of the air breaking could be heard as these thousands of spears broke the speed of sound. A powerful explosion kilometers in diameters occurred at their landing spots. Fortunately, powerful arrays manifested in the arena to contain the battle, else the audience would be affected.

Despite the fact that his attack seemed to have worked, Li Jun was not happy as he could tell that something was wrong; everything was too easy. So, he immediately used his Divine Sense to locate Fang Lijuan's location, but he did not find anything.

Suddenly, Li Jun felt a killing intent right next to him, so he immediately ducked to the side. Unfortunately, he was too late and a crystal pierced straight into his body.

Turning his head, he saw Fang Lijuan was calmly standing next to him, and he did not even notice how she got there. Before he got time to think or act, he felt another killing intent and dodged again, but his right leg was still stabbed.

Knowing that the situation was dire for him, Li Jun mobilized all the strength of his Divine Sense to try to sense his opponent's attack, and for a brief moment, he was successful. By pinpointing the killing intent, he was able to deduce the location and timing of the attack.

Meanwhile, Fang Lijuan frowned after noticing this: 'Using the killing intent to determine my next attack? What if the killing intent also becomes invisible?'

Then, a crystal spear penetrated Li Jun's lungs, and he discovered that he could no longer anticipate his opponent's move. So, without hesitation, he activated his Innate Talent.

Countless runes or Origin Patterns appeared all over his body like tattoos, then a large army made of soldiers in red armors appeared in front of him. Without saying anything, they form a formation that encases Li Jun into a dome made of soldiers.

With a wave of his hand, he summoned another group of soldiers. However, as soon as these one appeared, they turned into a river of blood that was swallowed by Li Jun, healing all his injuries.

As for Fang Lijuan, she was calm during the whole situation, not even bothering to stop Li Jun's action. With a random wave of her hand, countless of the summoned soldiers suddenly had their throats cut, blood spewing all over the arena as they died without even knowing the cause.

Li Jun's face became ugly after seeing this; his Growing Innate Talent allowed him to summon soldiers to fight for him, but the number was not unlimited; as a matter of fact, it requires souls as sacrifice. Luckily for him, his talent allowed him to use the soul of the fallen soldiers in the location he was.

For example, he could use the souls of all the people who died in the location of the Emperor Enlightening Academy throughout all of history. Unfortunately for him, his cultivation level did not allow him to control so many souls.

In the Dao Opening Sect's booth, Wang Wei and Wu Hong were watching the battle. "Have you noticed?" she asked.

Wang Wei nodded as he responded: "I cannot believe that she can have such a level of fortunate encounter during the Qi Luck Trial." He paused for a brief moment before continuing: "Damn that Long Aotian. If I knew he had something like that, I would have personally hunted him down."

"Who's Long Aotian?" asked Wu Hong in confusion.

"A very lucky Son of Destiny. Well, I guess given his terrible ending, he is not so lucky after all."

Wu Hong nodded, but did not ask any further question; she did not care for such a little and insignificant character.

Meanwhile, in the battle, Li Jun's condition was not so good. A lot of his soldiers were lying dead on the floor, and his body was full of injuries. His summoning could not keep up with Fang Lijuan's mysterious attack. Additionally, he was still trying to discover what method she used.

Only by constantly swallowing the blood of his fallen soldiers that he was able to keep this battle going on.

Suddenly, an idea came to Li Jun's mind; he looked at Fang Lijuan before saying: "You have possession of one of the 12 Ancestral Talismans; it should be the Invisible Talisman."

"Oh, this Goddess is surprised that you figured it out so quickly. You are correct, this Goddess was fortunate enough to acquire one of the 12 Ancestral Talismans."

Li Jun secretly sighed on how lucky she was. The only reason he could figure it out so quickly was because he too was interested in these Talismans--especially the War Talisman--so he did his research.

According to his knowledge, the 12 Ancestral Talismans were created by the Talisman Ancestor back in the Ancient Emperor Era. Although the Talisman Ancestor or Fuyuan Emperor was not the most powerful amongst the other Ancestors--Formation, Pill, etc.--he had the greatest impact. After proving the Dao, the Talisman Ancestor created 12 extremely powerful talismans that were essentially a prototype of an entire Dao, scattered them throughout the world in hopes that destined people can find them and complete them, turning them from prototypes into perfect Daos.

Throughout the history of the Myriad Emperor World, anyone who acquired one of the Ancestral Talismans and managed to unleash their true powers had a great impact on the world, with many even becoming Great Emperors themselves.

By this current Era, only a few of the talismans were still not found, including the Invisible Talisman in Fang Lijuan's hand, and the War Talisman that Li Jun was after.

The Invisible Talisman was famous because of the words that the Talisman Ancestor said after creating it. According to her, the highest level of this talisman can allow a cultivator to reach a state of being "unknown to death, nor known to life."

All these thoughts only took less than a millisecond to flash across Li Jun's mind, then he asked: "Even if you acquire the Invisible Talisman, you should not be this powerful."

Fang Lijuan smiled coldly as she answered: "That's because this Goddess managed to comprehend the Dao in the talisman, absorb it into my bloodline to break the shackles of the ancestors. Now, with this Goddess having her own Dao, it is possible for me to bear the Heaven Will."

"Additionally, this Goddess is perfectly aware of the fact that you are trying to stall for time, but it will not change anything."

Chapter 250: Underhanded

Li Jun shook his head after hearing this, then he replied: "No matter how strong you become or how you broke the shackles of your bloodline, the arrogance of the Divine Clan embedded deep in your soul cannot be change."

Then, he waved his hand to summon countless soldiers; this time around, the number was immediately three to five times greater than previously. Immediately afterwards, all these soldiers suddenly committed suicide.

Countless bodies laid in the ground, turning the arena crimson red. Then, under the control of Li Jun, countless red lights--which were in fact Slaughter Qi--came from these dead soldiers' bodies, condensed into the form of a blade; a Slaughter Blade.

Fang Lijuan frowned after seeing this as she felt an immense threat from that blade. Without hesitation, she disappeared from her spot. Unfortunately for her, the blade seemed to have a powerful lock on her.

As soon as she disappeared and prepared to attack again, Li Jun just randomly waved his blade, then a powerful slash headed straight to Fang Lijuan's position. Knowing the danger of such a powerful attack, she instantly wrapped herself in a green crystal that blocked the attack.

The odd thing was that she was still invisible to most people in the audience--including Li Jun himself. All he did was wave his Slaughter Blade, and the attack will head directly to Fang Lijuan's direction.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Countless explosions occurred in the arena as Li Jun kept waving his blade. Knowing that the situation could not go on like this, Fang Lijuan used her Divine Sense to try to discover what this blade was using to track her whereabouts. After spending a few seconds, she discovered that the blade was locking on the slaughter qi in her body.

As a cultivator, she has killed many people, as such, accumulated a lot of Slaughter Qi. Some hidden so deeply that she was not even aware of their existence.

After discovering the problem, Fang Lijuan set out to deal with it quickly and efficiently. She first expelled the Slaughter Qi out of her body, unfortunately, some of them were too deeply rooted--to the point of even attaching to her soul. Then, a mysterious power came from her blood and entered these difficult Qi.

Instantly, they disappeared, became invisible.

Meanwhile, Li Jun--who had just used a random slash from his blade--had an ugly look on his face, and it was not because his attack did not find his opponent this time. It was because he discovered that his origin essence was less than it should be.

His big brother once told him that his control of origin qi was terrible, and Li Jun took this comment to heart. So, he spent many years practicing control over his own internal energy. He knows with perfect clarity how much he uses in every attack.

However, now, he discovered that the amount was less than it should. Knowing that something was wrong, Li Jun used another random slash while taking very close attention to his origin essence; it was then that he discovered that a small percentage of his origin essence mysteriously disappeared from his Divine Sea, without his consent or knowledge of where it went.

'What is going on?' thought Li Jun to himself. Unfortunately for him, he did not have a lot of time to ponder the answer to this question. Without the blade's ability to locate her, Fang Lijuan once again went on the offensive.

With a wave of her hand, countless clear crystals appeared around Li Jun; then they started to gather energy like an energy cannon from a Sci-Fi movie. Then, with absolute speed, they rushed towards Li Jun.

The latter--who still could not see these crystals--felt the threat of death rapidly approaching him. So, he instantly enveloped himself with a blood red shield or dome. Unfortunately for him, this move did little to help except for increasing the rate at which he lost his origin essence.

Meanwhile, in the Di Family's floating booth, Di Tian looked at the battle with a calm look on his face, then he muttered with a sneer on his face: "I cannot believe that the Academy has resulted in using such a method. This Bai Han is nothing like his father.

"Anyway, his actions are beneficial to me, so why should I complain?"

Inside the Dao Opening Sect's floating booth, Wang Wei looked at the battle with a frown on his face; instinctively, he felt that something was wrong, but he could not wrap his head around what it was.

So, he immediately activated his True Vision ability, so he instantly noticed that Li Jun's origin essence was diminishing at an alarming rate. But, he could not find the reason.

"What's going on?" he muttered to himself.

"The Absorbing Origin Formation," replied Wu Hong. "It's a Quasi-Emperor Grade formation that can drain the origin essence of a Supreme Realm True Monarch; it was very popular in the last Era as a way to imprison people."

After hearing this, he concentrated his ocular power, but he did not find anything. "Where?" he asked.

"Deep under the fighting arena," replied Wu Hong.

Wang Wei then focused his eyes there, but he still could not see anything. So, he closed his eyes, mobilized the power of his souls to fuel the strength of his True Vision. Finally, he discovered a very complex formation.

The amount of runes in that array even made him dizzy just by looking at it. Wang Wei's first thought was to reveal the Academy's cheating, but he soon gave up that idea. Even he needed the power of his soul to notice the existence of that formation, let alone others.

Since it is a Quasi-Emperor Tier, there is no guarantee that a True Monarch may be able to discover its existence. And even if they did, he could guess that the Academy has a back up plan for this formation to completely disappear before someone reveals its existence.

Nevertheless, he still used his Divine Sense to warn his Dao Protector. Unfortunately for him, a few minutes later, Yan Chen said to him: "I'm sorry, young master, I could not discover anything."

Wang Wei's brain rapidly operated in order to find a solution. 'Maybe I could use the Array Virus to try to remotely control it? No, that won't work. The Array Virus cannot even work on a Heaven Grade formation, let alone a Quasi-Emperor one.'

Then, he looked at Wu Hong, "Can't you do anything?"

"Unfortunately, no." replied Wu Hong as she shook her head. "This formation is actually linked to the 8 Emperor Tier formation of the Academy. As long as anyone tries to interfere with it in any way possible, it will self-destruct and erase any evidence of its existence."

He sighed after hearing this: "It seems that I can only count on Li Jun to turn the odds in this battle."

Meanwhile, Li Jun's body was battered with wounds all over his body; his legs and hands were pierced by the lasers shooting from Fang Lijuan's crystal gun. Many of his internal organs were also pierced; in general, he was in a pretty terrible shape.

The only reason that he was not dead yet was due to the fact that he kept on summoning more soldiers, then sacrificed their blood and life energy to heal himself. Unfortunately, both the amount of summon and his body was slowly reaching their limits

Despite all of this, there was no look of despair in his eyes. On the contrary, his determination to win this battle did not waver in the slightest; he was desperately trying to discover the location.

Suddenly, Li Jun mobilized all the strength of his body and instantly appeared in a certain location; he was so fast that few people could actually catch his movement.

Without hesitation, he stabbed his Slaughter Blade in the direction that he appeared in. Weirdly, blood started falling from the empty air, then Fang Lijuan's body materialized with a saber right through her heart.

She coughed on a mouthful of blood that fell on Li Jun, then she asked: "How did you discover me?"

"I located you through the blood floating through your veins."

"I should have expected that someone who cultivated the Dao of Slaughter would have some powers related to the blood," replied Fang Lijuan calmly. A calmness that ringed alarming bells on Li Jun's mind.

With the same calmness, Fang Lijuan removed the blade from her body, then a crystal heart appeared in the place where she was stabbed. Li Jun could actually see that a new heart was slowly being cultivated inside the crystal heart.

Following which, all of Fang Lijuan's muscles and skins that were pierced rapidly healed--even her dress returned to a normal state. She looked at Li Jun, smiled coldly before saying: "Now, let the real battle commence. Of course, that is if you can still keep up."

Li Jun's heart skipped a beat after hearing this; with his current shape, he was incapable of any intense fight. Not to mention that his origin essence was almost bottom out.

'Do I have to use my Taboo Innate Talent?' secretly thought Li Jun to himself.