

Myth Beyond 2071

Chapter 2071 Decree From Heaven

Everyone glanced at each other silently. The possibility, once uttered aloud, hung heavy in the air.

Yun Lintian's eyes narrowed. It was a theory he'd entertained, a nagging suspicion lingering at the back of his mind. The similarities were too conspicuous to ignore.

"It's not impossible," he admitted, stroking his chin thoughtfully. "Both figures possess immense power and display an uncanny ability to manipulate the fabric of reality. Additionally, the timing of their disappearances coinciding with pivotal moments in their respective worlds is too coincidental to be a mere chance occurrence."

Yun Huanxin furrowed her brow, expressing her doubt. "But why? What would be her motive for leaving the Azure World and now the Nine Heavens Realm, especially under such a cryptic persona?"

"As we've noticed," Yun Qianxue said calmly, "everything this person did was to pave the way for Lintian. If she's truly the Chaos Goddess, her timely disappearance from the Nine Heavens Realm should hold a similar reason. It is to allow Lintian to grow further."

Han Bingling frowned slightly. "There's always this nagging feeling that there's more to it," she said. "The evidence is clear that the Beyond Heaven King was aware of his own status as the God of Fate's inheritor. Since he tasked the mysterious woman with preparing Lintian's path, there's a high chance she's aware as well."

Her gaze swept across the room. "Furthermore, it's possible they're aware of the other inheritors. Now, put yourself in their shoes. Would you eliminate these people?"

A thoughtful silence descended upon the room. Whether the mysterious woman and the Chaos Goddess were one and the same became irrelevant. The core issue was the Chaos Goddess's seemingly intentional disappearance, allowing Ren Yuan to revive the Heavenly Court. What was the motive behind it?

The Beyond Heaven King and the Chaos Goddess couldn't be unaware of Ren Yuan's identity as the God of Heaven's inheritor and Yun Lintian's enemy. So why would they allow him to grow stronger?

Yun Lintian suddenly thought of Lin Yitong. He didn't know why she went away in this situation. Without a doubt, there must be something more important than the God Tomb... something related to the future.

The missing pieces of the puzzle were starting to form a disturbing picture. Lin Yitong's sudden departure, the cryptic actions of the Chaos Goddess, and Ren Yuan's rise to power - all of it felt orchestrated, a grand play with unseen strings pulling the characters towards an unknown climax.

"We need more information," declared Yun Qianxue, her voice echoing in the tense silence. "The God Tomb might hold some clues. If the Chaos Goddess was involved, there's a high chance she left something behind."

Yun Lintian nodded grimly. "We'll go to the God Tomb, but we can't neglect the situation outside. Ren Yuan won't wait for us to become stronger."

Yun Lintian turned to Yun Meilan. "Meilan, can you establish an intelligent network here in the Nine Heavens Realm?"

"It will take time," Yun Meilan responded calmly.

"That's alright," Yun Lintian said. "We're not in any rush to confront Ren Yuan. My primary concern is gauging the sentiment of the true gods, particularly the Jade Emperor, the Western Emperor, and the Northern Demon Lord. Right now, they're likely waiting to see how Ren Yuan handles the other powerhouses first."

"As long as these former subordinates of the God of Heaven don't rush to recognize Ren Yuan as their master, we will still have enough time to deal with him."

He looked at everyone and said. "We will leave for the God Tomb in a week."

Everyone had no objection.

A week later, Yun Lintian's group prepared to depart for the God Tomb after failing to secure proper information about the Chaos Goddess and the God Tomb.

The atmosphere in the Jade Mountain God Realm felt noticeably different. News traveled fast, especially when it involved a power shift as significant as the Heavenly Court's resurgence.

As Yun Lintian's group was about to board the ship and leave, a booming voice resonated across the realm, catching everyone by surprise. It emanated from the direction of the Heavenly Palace, the seat of power for the Heavenly Court.

"By decree of the Heavenly Emperor, Ren Yuan, the God Tomb, previously sealed for eons, shall be opened to practitioners above the Divine King Realm starting from today. Those who enter and contribute to the Heavenly Court's glory shall be handsomely rewarded."

The announcement reverberated through the airwaves, instantly sparking a storm of reactions. Practitioners across the Nine Heavens Realm stopped in their tracks, jaws agape in surprise. The God Tomb! A legendary location shrouded in mystery, rumored to hold unimaginable treasures and secrets of the ancient gods. And now, it was being thrown open?

Yun Lintian's group exchanged glances. Ren Yuan's public gesture was undoubtedly a calculated move, a way to attract followers and bolster his growing power.

"Just as we expected," Yun Lintian said calmly. "He's using people to mess with us."

There was no doubt Ren Yuan was aware of Yun Lintian's plan to visit the God Tomb.

"This is quite troublesome," Yun Huanxin frowned in dissatisfaction.

"On the contrary," Yun Lintian countered, meeting her gaze, "this presents an opportunity. We can infiltrate these gatherings."

Yun Huanxin's eyebrows rose slightly, but she remained silent.

"Sadly," Yun Lintian continued, his voice deepening, "many will fall victim to his manipulation."

Lin Xinyao offered a gentle touch, her voice soft. "The choice is theirs, ultimately."

Yun Lintian shook his head. "I understand, of course. It's not their plight that troubles me. It's the tragic irony – they're pawns, unwitting participants in his grand scheme."

Yun Lintian couldn't imagine what would have happened if the Beyond Heaven King and the other seniors hadn't insisted on pushing the Primordial God Tribe's people out of the Divine Realm back then after being ambushed by Ren Yuan. A billion lives would have been lost that day.

Now, the situation was the same. Yun Lintian could reckon with a massive group of people flocking towards the God Tomb to try their luck. They had no idea what they would encounter inside.

Just as Yun Lintian and the others prepared to leave, a gentle female voice suddenly resonated in their minds.

"I would like to invite everyone to my place," the voice said.

Yun Lintian and the others subconsciously turned towards the Jade Mountain at the end of their line of sight.

They exchanged brief glances before boarding the skyship and heading towards the mountain...

Chapter 2072 Jade Mountain God

The Fleeting Cloud Skyship soared towards the peak of Jade Mountain. As they approached, the clouds seemed to part before them, revealing a hidden paradise nestled amongst the celestial peaks.

Lush greenery carpeted the slopes, dotted with vibrant flowers and cascading waterfalls that shimmered like scattered diamonds. Atop the highest peak, a magnificent palace materialized from the mist. Its architecture defied any known style, a harmonious blend of elegance and ethereal beauty.

Landing on a platform carved from a single, colossal jade stone, Yun Lintian and his companions disembarked, a mix of apprehension and curiosity swirling within them. The invitation from the Jade Mountain God was unexpected, to say the least.

As they stepped off the platform, a figure materialized before them. Tall and slender, cloaked in a shimmering white robe that seemed woven from moonlight, her features were obscured by a gentle luminescence. This was the Jade Mountain God, her presence radiating an otherworldly calmness.

"Welcome," her voice resonated in their minds, bypassing the need for words. It was a voice that held the melody of a cascading stream and the wisdom of ancient mountains. "I apologize for the sudden summons. However, the matter I wish to discuss is of utmost urgency."

A tense silence descended. Yun Lintian and the others detected no malice from the voice. Coupled with Lan Qinghe's assurances about the Jade Mountain God's reliability, they felt no apprehension about being attacked here.

Yun Lintian took the lead. "We appreciate the invitation, esteemed Jade Mountain God. We were about to depart for the God Tomb when your message arrived. May we inquire about the nature of this urgent matter?"

The Jade Mountain God inclined her head slightly. "The God Tomb holds secrets best left undisturbed for now. But more importantly, there is a greater threat looming, a power that seeks to manipulate the fabric of reality for its own gain."

Her words sent a jolt through the group. Yun Lintian exchanged a worried glance with his companions. Could it be the Chasm of Uncreation?

"Do you know the identity of this threat?" Yun Huanxin asked, her voice laced with urgency.

The Jade Mountain God paused, a flicker of something akin to sadness crossing her luminous form. "I do not possess a complete picture, but glimpses... visions of a being of immense power, manipulating fate and destiny. It appears to be connected to you, Yun Lintian."

Yun Lintian wasn't surprised at how she knew his name. What intrigued him was her power. Was it another divination power?

"What do you propose we do?" Yun Lintian inquired, his voice firm despite the weight of this revelation.

"The path ahead is shrouded in mist," the Jade Mountain God replied. "However, I can offer you guidance. Within the God Tomb lies a fragment of the Tome of Chaos, an ancient artifact said to hold knowledge of the era before the Primal Chaos. It may provide the key to understanding this threat and potentially even... altering the course of destiny."

"The Tome of Chaos?" Yun Lintian's brow furrowed in confusion. He'd never heard of such a thing.

"Master possesses a fragment of the tome," the Jade Mountain God explained solemnly. "I was fortunate enough to have glimpsed it. There is a darkness lurking, waiting for an opportunity to return."

Yun Lintian, upon hearing this, felt certain she was referring to the Chasm of Uncreation.

"Senior," Yun Lintian began cautiously, "who is your master?" Though he harbored a strong suspicion it was the Chaos Goddess, he sought confirmation.

The Jade Mountain God's response was gentle. "The Chaos Goddess."

"Do you have any idea of her whereabouts?" Yun Lintian pressed quickly.

The Jade Mountain God sighed softly. "Sadly, no. She vanished without a trace. My search for her has proven fruitless."

Yun Lintian's brow furrowed further. Where could she have gone?

"With the God of Heaven's heir appearing," the Jade Mountain God continued, "chaos will soon engulf the Nine Heavens Realm."

Yun Lintian fell silent momentarily before asking, "What is your plan, Senior? How will you handle the Heavenly Court?"

"Sister Mei and I have agreed to maintain a low profile for now," the Jade Mountain God said softly. "The Heavenly Court is actively recruiting, and the northern demons are restless... War is imminent."

"Without Master, confronting them is beyond Sister Mei and me. We can only prepare for the potential outbreak."

Yun Lintian nodded in understanding. "Sister Mei" undoubtedly referred to the Plum Blossom God.

"While I cannot accompany you to the God Tomb," the Jade Mountain God concluded, "I can ensure your undetected arrival."

She held out her hand, and a radiant orb materialized above it. The orb pulsed with an otherworldly energy, swirling with a myriad of colors.

"This is a fragment of my essence," she explained. "It will shield you from immediate detection and grant you access to hidden passages within the God Tomb. But be warned, its power is limited, and it will fade with time."

Yun Lintian accepted the orb cautiously, feeling a surge of potent energy emanating from it. "Thank you, Senior. This will be invaluable."

A solemn air settled upon the group as Yun Lintian grasped the fragment of the Jade Mountain God's essence. The weight of the revelation about the Tome of Chaos and the looming chaos pressed heavily on them.

"I'm sorry I cannot help you much," the Jade Mountain God said softly. "Once you obtain the fragment of the tome, please return to me. I will do my utmost to interpret it."

"Understood," Yun Lintian readily agreed.

"You may depart now. Don't worry about the Heavenly Court for the time being," the Jade Mountain God spoke.

Yun Lintian cupped his fists in respect. "Then we shall take our leave." He boarded the skyship and steered it away under the watchful gaze of the Jade Mountain God.

A long sigh escaped the Jade Mountain God's lips. "What a shame..."

With a turn, she vanished from the spot.

After leaving the Jade Mountain God Realm, Lin Xinyao sent a sound transmission to Yun Lintian. "What are your thoughts?"

Yun Lintian's eyes flickered with a hint of suspicion as he examined the Jade Mountain God's essence in his palm. "It is strange. She's clearly eager for the fragment of the tome but unwilling to truly commit. She didn't even send her people over with such a dangerous endeavor... How can she be so confident in our success?"

He looked at her and continued. "Unless, of course, she is fully aware of my identity. However, I doubt the Chaos Goddess would reveal such a secret."

Chapter 2073 Entrance To The God Tomb

"Perhaps she's testing us," Lin Xinyao offered, her brow furrowed in thought. "If she truly believes you're the key to combating this threat, she might be gauging your strength and resolve before offering more substantial aid."

Yun Lintian looked at her and asked, "Do you even believe that?"

Lin Xinyao responded calmly, "Of course not. I'm merely trying to be positive. After all, she is vouched for by Senior Lan."

"Then there's the so-called Tome of Chaos," Yun Lintian furrowed his brow. "From her words, it doesn't seem to be a mere ancient record. If it is truly related to the Chasm of Uncreation, it means the record

Senior Lin found in Senior Huang's treasury must have been intentionally placed there by someone else. Possibly the inheritor of the God of Life and that mysterious man."

Lin Xinyao voiced her doubts, "I always feel like something's missing here. First, the people behind all of this have laid a path for you, step by step, and revealed next to nothing regarding the final destination."

"As you walked along the path, we've gradually learned about threats, starting from the smallest and progressing to the bigger ones. And now, the biggest threat we've encountered is the Chasm of Uncreation."

Looking deeply at Yun Lintian, she continued, "This step feels too big. It doesn't seem like the usual approach of these people. There's obviously a huge gap between learning about the Primordial War and the revelation of the Chasm of Uncreation. It's too inconsistent in my opinion."

"I understand your point," Yun Lintian frowned slightly. "In fact, I share your concerns. These people have shielded me from information, claiming it would be a burden. Then, the Chasm of Uncreation suddenly appears. No threats shouldn't be bigger than the Chasm of Uncreation, right? Why would it be revealed now?"

"It feels like a diversion from the real problem," he continued. "The Chasm is undoubtedly the biggest threat, but it shouldn't be happening soon. As you said, something's missing here."

Before Lin Yitong discovered the record of the Chasm of Uncreation, Si Junyi presented the most significant threat. He aimed to convert the Primal Chaos into the Netherworld. Yun Lintian couldn't even fathom what awaited him beyond Si Junyi. This was the gap they were discussing.

Furthermore, the Beyond Heaven King's arrangements remain shrouded in mystery. Even now, Yun Lintian can't grasp their purpose.

Yun Lintian sighed inwardly. Unraveling everything felt impossible. Unless the Beyond Heaven King chose to reveal the truth entirely, he would remain shrouded in darkness.

He glanced at the Jade Mountain God's essence in his hand, then put it away. Using it now wasn't on his agenda.

"We'll put it aside for now," he declared. "Si Junyi is the immediate threat, regardless of her motives. We deal with him first, then we can address this new mystery."

Lin Xinyao nodded gently and said nothing more.

Yun Lintian continued to steer the skyship towards the God Tomb. The path, once devoid of life, teemed with activity. Practitioners from various corners of the continent converged, their numbers steadily increasing with each passing hour.

The air crackled with a mix of anticipation and apprehension. Whispers swirled amongst the crowd, speculating about the God Tomb's secrets and the potential dangers lurking within. Yun Lintian couldn't help but overhear snippets of their conversations.

"Did you hear? Apparently, the God Tomb hasn't been opened in millennia. Imagine the treasures that lie dormant inside!"

"Treasures are all good, but have you considered the guardians? Legends say the God Tomb is protected by fearsome entities."

"Who cares about guardians? With so many of us here, surely we can overpower anything in our way."

Long Qingxuan surveyed the massive throng with a calm expression. "Ren Yuan's scheme is undeniably efficient. It's drawn in a sizeable crowd of pawns."

In her eyes, these people were like moths to a flame, drawn in by a glimmer of opportunity yet oblivious to the potential danger. There was nothing wrong with seeking a chance to better oneself, but doing so blindly can be disastrous.

Seeing the raw enthusiasm etched on the faces around him, Yun Lintian released a silent sigh. Steering the skyship, he merged it seamlessly into the vast fleet, becoming one with the crowd.

A month passed uneventfully. Yun Lintian's group reached the God Tomb without drawing a curious glance from their fellow travelers.

A sea of practitioners surged forward, a cacophony of excited chatter and clashing steel filling the air. Among them were representatives from all corners of the Nine Heavens Realm, their colorful attire and diverse cultivation techniques painting a vibrant tapestry.

In front of them loomed a legendary resting place of a forgotten god, rumored to hold treasures and secrets beyond imagination.

Awe filled Han Bingling's voice as she gazed upon the massive gate hovering amidst the stars. "So, this is the God Tomb," she whispered.

The entrance to the God Tomb wasn't a simple doorway. It was a spectacle designed to humble even the most arrogant god. Carved from a single block of obsidian so dark it seemed to devour light, the entrance took the form of a colossal, broken fang.

Legends whispered the fang belonged to a celestial beast that rivaled gods themselves. The fractured edge dripped with a shimmering, jade-green liquid that radiated an otherworldly aura, its purpose unknown.

Above the fang, colossal stone tablets, etched with an ancient script that pulsed with faint luminescence, flanked the entrance like silent guardians. The inscriptions swirled and shifted, defying comprehension for those below a certain cultivation level.

A palpable pressure emanated from the tomb, a heavy weight that pressed down on the minds and bodies of those gathered. It was a test, a silent challenge – only the worthy or the foolhardy would dare enter.

Behind the broken fang, a gaping maw led into darkness. An inky blackness that seemed to swallow any light that dared approach. A cold wind, redolent of forgotten ages and untold power, emanated from the abyss, sending shivers down spines even clad in the finest spirit armor. It was a chilling invitation, a promise of both fortune and peril for those who dared cross the threshold.

Bang!

Suddenly, the obsidian fang, entrance to the God Tomb, began to emit a low, ominous hum. The emerald liquid dripping from its fractured edge intensified its glow, swirling and coiling like a living serpent. The ancient script etched on the flanking tablets flared to life, the characters pulsing with an ethereal light that danced across the assembled crowd.

"It's open!"

Chapter 2074 Outer Region (1)

The air crackled with anticipation, charged with a potent mix of awe and trepidation. The hum escalated into a deep, resonating thrum that vibrated through the very ground.

Crackle!

With a deafening crack that split the sky, the broken fang split further. Not with a jagged tear but with a smooth, almost surgical precision. The two halves ground open, revealing not a passage into darkness but a shimmering portal that pulsed with an otherworldly light.

The portal's surface was a swirling vortex of jade and gold, the colors seeming to breathe and shift like living things. Within its depths, wisps of mist swirled, hinting at fantastical landscapes and forgotten chambers.

A wave of unimaginable power emanated from the portal, a pressure that pressed down on the practitioners, testing their resolve. It was an invitation, a challenge, and a warning all rolled into one.

"Hiss."

A collective gasp erupted from the crowd. Some people, faces pale with fear, stumbled back. Others, their eyes gleaming with avarice and ambition, surged forward, only to be halted by an invisible barrier that crackled with energy a hair's breadth from the portal's edge.

In that electric moment, the entrance to the God Tomb stood unveiled, a gateway to a forgotten world brimming with untold secrets and unimaginable power. The scene hung suspended, a tableau of anticipation and trepidation, waiting for the first brave souls to step through the shimmering portal and into the heart of legend.

Tension grew as the shimmering portal pulsed like a beating heart. The barrier that held back the surging mass of practitioners flickered ominously, threatening to shatter under the combined pressure of their desperation. Yet, a tense standoff persisted.

"What an oppressive aura." Yun Huanxin, fresh from years of peaceful training, furrowed her brow at the intimidating aura radiating from the God Tomb. It was unlike anything she'd encountered before.

Suddenly, a group clad in black boldly navigated towards the God Tomb. A quick glance from Yun Lintian revealed their strength - the weakest, a Middle God, the strongest, a peak God Ascension Realm practitioner. These were clearly disciples of a prominent force.

"Their aura..." Yun Lintian narrowed his eyes. Despite their efforts to conceal it, he could still sense a dark energy pulsing beneath the surface, laced with something far more sinister.

A solemn voice echoed from the crowd, "Demons!"

Understanding dawned on everyone's faces. These were demonic practitioners. A ripple of unease spread through the crowd as many subconsciously retreated, the potential danger sinking in.

The black-robed people launched themselves through the portal, disappearing in a flash of emerald light.

A tense silence descended upon the crowd. A few breaths later, several people surged towards the portal and vanished into it. This action served as a trigger, making more and more people courageous and following them into the portal.

Yun Lintian wasn't in a hurry. He calmly watched the crowd squeezed into the portal.

Yun Lintian remained patient, observing the crowd squeezed through the portal.

"Safety first," he addressed everyone, his expression serious. "There's a chance we'll be sent to a random location. Head towards the tomb's center. We'll regroup there."

A chorus of "Understood" echoed from the group.

"Try your best to avoid those demonic people," he continued, a hint of unease flickering across his eyes. "I sensed something sinister in their aura, some form of dark art."

Yun Qianxue's voice softened, "You should also be careful."

He offered a reassuring nod, his gaze fixed on the imposing God Tomb. "Let's go," he declared, a quiet determination lacing his voice.

With the skyship deactivated, Yun Lintian led the way towards the portal, Yun Qianxue and the others following closely behind.

As Yun Lintian stepped through the shimmering portal, the emerald light engulfed him, and the world dissolved into a swirling vortex of color and light. When his vision cleared, he found himself standing on a precipice overlooking a breathtaking vista.

Below him stretched a landscape of impossible beauty—

floating islands bathed in an ethereal glow, crystalline waterfalls cascading down jade cliffs, and strange flora that pulsed with an inner light.

The air itself vibrated with a potent energy similar to that of the Nine Firmament City.

Yun Lintian spun around, relief washing over him as he spotted his companions. But a cursory glance revealed a disquieting truth - many who had entered alongside them were missing.

"It seems they have landed in a different place," Lin Xinyao had also noticed this.

Swish! Swish!

Swishes of air split the silence as more figures materialized. Yun Lintian scanned the newcomers, but no trace of demonic practitioners was found.

"No wonder Senior Lan told us to come here," Han Bingling said gently, taking in the environment. "Without the Nine Firmament City, this would undoubtedly be the best training ground."

Murmurs of agreement rippled through the group.

Suddenly, a surprised shout pierced the air. "Whoa, we're lucky this time!" A young man gaped at his surroundings.

A gentle-looking woman in white beside him rolled her eyes playfully. "Don't get cocky again this time," she chided softly.

The young man swatted dismissively at the air. "Come on, sis, lighten up! Can't a guy enjoy some good fortune?"

A kind-faced middle-aged man approached the young couple. "Seems you two aren't newcomers. Perhaps you could share some knowledge about this place?"

"Allow me to introduce myself first," he continued, extending a hand. "Xun Lang, from the Tyrannical Wolf Sect."

The young man grinned, flashing a thumbs up. "Your sect has a cool name, Uncle Xun! I'm Tang Wei, and this is my sister, Tang Yumei. Third time's the charm for us here."

Xun Lang's eyes gleamed. "A pleasure, Little Brother Tang and Young Miss Tang," he greeted politely. "So, you've entered the God Tomb before?"

Tang Wei puffed out his chest a little. "We weren't strong enough the previous two times and had to retreat. But this time," he slammed his fist into his open palm, "we're here to conquer!"

Tang Yumei rolled her eyes again, a familiar gesture. "Don't get ahead of yourself,"

Xun Lang chuckled, "So, you have experience within the God Tomb. Perhaps you can enlighten us a little?"

Tang Wei's chest puffed out even further. "Sure, consider it a welcome gift for entering the same zone!" He gestured broadly at the breathtaking vista.

Surprise flickered across Yun Lintian and his companions' faces. The intel from Lan Qinghe and Lin Yitong was vague - just five regions without further detail.

All eyes turned to Tang Wei, anticipation hanging heavy in the air...

Chapter 2075 Outer Region (2)

"The God Tomb is divided into five major regions," Tang Wei explained, his voice taking on a professorial tone. "The first, where we currently stand, is the floating island. Filled with natural beauty and abundant resources, it's perfect for those new to the Tomb's energies. But don't let the scenery fool you – even low-level profound beasts here pack a punch."

He pointed towards a distant island where a creature with shimmering fur grazed, its eyes glowing with an unsettling intelligence.

"The second region," he continued, pointing in a different direction, "is the Trial Grounds. Here, formations and challenges test your strength and mental fortitude. It's a brutal weeding-out process, separating the strong from the weak."

"Beyond that lies a desolate land," Tang Wei said, his voice dropping a notch lower. It's a harsh environment teeming with powerful, profound beasts and volatile energies. It's said that remnants of God's power linger there, waiting to be claimed by the worthy—or consumed by the foolish.

A shiver ran down some spines at the mention of the God's power.

"The fourth region," Tang Wei went on, a hint of awe creeping into his voice, "is the Palace of Illusions. A labyrinth of mental deception said to hold the deepest desires and darkest fears of those who enter. Only the most resolute minds can navigate its treacherous path."

"And finally," he concluded, his voice dropping to a hushed whisper, "lies the heart of the God Tomb—the Divine Mausoleum, where the God's true resting place is rumored to be. Legends speak of treasures beyond imagination and power beyond comprehension. But it's also said to be guarded by entities so formidable, even the strongest cultivators tremble at the thought."

A collective gasp rippled through the crowd. The God Tomb was indeed filled with danger but also the promise of unimaginable rewards. The question now was, who would be brave enough – or foolish enough – to delve deeper?

Yun Lintian listened intently as Tang Wei finished his explanation. The God Tomb sounded different from what he initially thought. Five distinct regions offered a different challenge – from resource-rich beauty to trials of strength and mind to the lure of God's power.

"So, this island is a safe zone then?" Xun Lang asked, his brows furrowed. "Except for the profound beasts, of course."

Tang Wei chuckled awkwardly. "Safe zone? Not exactly. It's more like a... kindergarten for newbies in the God Tomb. There might not be immediate danger, but complacency can be deadly here. Remember, even the 'low-level' profound beasts here are more ferocious than anything you'd encounter outside."

Roar!

Tang Wei's last words hung heavy in the air as a sudden tremor shook the ground beneath them. The once serene landscape seemed to twist in response, settling over the group with a disquiet. Birds scattered from the nearby trees, their frantic cries echoing.

"What's happening?"

The crowd became panic, searching for the source of the disturbance.

Boom! Boom! BOOM!

In the distance, a low rumble echoed, growing louder with each passing moment. The ground throbbed rhythmically, and a plume of dust rose from the horizon, obscuring the view. A sense of immense pressure began to build, an invisible weight pressing down on them.

Xun Lang, his jovial demeanor replaced by stark terror, croaked, "T-that aura..."

Even Tang Wei, usually full of bluster, paled considerably. His eyes darted around frantically, searching for an escape route. "No... We can't be this unlucky," he exclaimed, his voice barely a whisper.

His worst fear materialized as the dust cloud finally parted, revealing a sight that sent shivers down their spines. A colossal creature emerged, its form dwarfing the surrounding mountains. Its obsidian scales glinted in the sunlight, and each step it took sent tremors through the ground.

The beast, a monstrous serpent with eyes like molten gold, surveyed the landscape with a predatory gaze. Its aura, heavy with ancient power, pressed down on them like an invisible hand, choking the air from their lungs. The world seemed to slow down, the only sound of their terrified hearts pounding.

Recognition dawned on Yun Lintian's face. This was no ordinary profound beast. Its oppressive aura, sheer size, and power all pointed to one terrifying possibility—a profound beast on the Lower God Realm.

Except for Yun Lintian's group and the Tang siblings, most people here were on the Divine Emperor Realm. There was no way for them to fight such a powerful beast.

"Ah..."

A collective gasp escaped the group as the enormity of the situation sank in. They were mere ants before such a creature, and their hopes of claiming treasures were instantly dashed.

"This..." Fear, cold and primal, gripped them all. Xun Lang, his legs buckling under him, crumpled to the ground, whimpering incoherently. He was a God Emperor, but it was useless here.

"Run!" Tang Wei roared, his voice cracking with strain. "Scatter and run for your lives! Maybe, just maybe, it won't chase after you!"

His words sparked a flicker of hope. With a surge of adrenaline, the group broke formation, desperate to escape the Lower God profound beast's notice.

Tang Yumei glanced at Yun Lintian's group with a hint of surprise in her eyes. Because of the concealment, Yun Lintian and his companions appeared to be God Emperors. It was normal for Tang Yumei to be surprised by their calm demeanors.

"Hey, big brother. Why don't you run with your sisters?" Tang Wei looked at Yun Lintian and shouted anxiously. "Don't look at me like that. I am no match for this big guy. But don't worry. I will distract it. Hurry up and run!"

Yun Lintian looked at Tang Wei with a hint of appreciation. It was rare to see a kindhearted person here.

"Roar!" The Lower God beast's gaze fixed on everyone here unleashed a deafening roar that split the sky. The very air crackled with power as it opened its enormous maw, revealing rows of razor-sharp teeth. A wave of terrifying energy surged towards them, threatening to obliterate them all.

"F*ck!" Tang Wei exclaimed in shock. "It's the peak level one!"

Tang Wei gritted his teeth, his earlier anxiety replaced by a reckless determination. He thrust his hand forward, summoning a shimmering blade of pure energy.

He channeled every ounce of his power, making the energy blade hum with a vibrant glow. He knew attacking this Lower God beast was utter madness – a suicide mission at best. But the sight of those faces, filled with terror, had ignited a spark of courage within him. He wouldn't let them die without a fight!

Chapter 2076 Tang Siblings (1)

"Hah!" With a battle cry that echoed across the landscape, Tang Wei launched himself towards the colossal serpent. Compared to the beast, he was a mere speck, easily swallowed whole. Yet, his defiance was undeniable, his attack a desperate act of rebellion against an overwhelming force.

The Lower God beast, surprised by his audacity, turned its molten eyes towards Tang Wei. A snort of amusement rumbled from its throat, the sound shaking the very foundation of the land. It barely registered Tang Wei's attack, the energy blade leaving a minor scorch mark on its obsidian scales.

"Roar!"

The serpent unleashed a retaliatory swipe with its massive tail. The air crackled with raw power as the appendage whipped through it. In the blink of an eye, Tang Wei's defiant charge was met with an unstoppable force.

Boom!

The energy blade in Tang Wei's hand shattered on impact, its fragments scattering like dust.

Just as the serpent's tail was about to connect with Tang Wei, a blinding flash of blue light erupted from the side, throwing itself between the two. The light coalesced, revealing Tang Yumei, her hand outstretched, a crackling orb of pure energy shimmering in her palm.

Bang!

The force from the orb slammed into the serpent's tail, sending a shockwave through the air. The colossal appendage, imbued with the beast's immense power, was momentarily deflected. The ground beneath the point of impact exploded in a crater, sending dust and debris swirling into the sky.

A surprised hiss escaped the serpent's maw. Its amusement was quickly replaced by a flicker of annoyance, then fury, as it realized this new opponent. Tang Yumei, her face set in a mask of fierce determination, pushed her energy further, the blue orb intensifying in its glow.

Tang Yumei narrowed her eyes and let out a battle cry as she unleashed the full force of the attack.

Boom!

The concentrated blast of energy struck the serpent's underbelly, a vulnerable spot less protected by its thick scales. The beast recoiled with a deafening screech, its massive body thrown back several meters.

The impact sent tremors through the ground, causing Tang Wei to stumble and lose his footing. He watched in awe as his sister, seemingly unfazed by the colossal creature she faced, landed gracefully a few meters away from him.

Despite the dust still settling around him and the aftershocks vibrating the earth, Tang Wei couldn't help the grin that spread across his face.

He shot his sister a quick thumbs up, a silent "good job" amidst the chaos. Relief and a surge of pride washed over him. Tang Yumei, ever the dependable older sister, had arrived just in the nick of time.

Tang Yumei, however, didn't have time to acknowledge her brother's playful praise. The colossal serpent, its fury now a tangible presence in the air, reared its head and let out a deafening roar that challenged the very heavens.

The beast's molten eyes locked onto Tang Yumei, burning with an otherworldly hatred. It charged forward, its body a battering ram of pure rage aiming to crush the audacious human who dared to wound it.

Undeterred, Tang Yumei met the serpent's charge head-on. Her hands danced, weaving intricate patterns in the air. With each movement, the blue energy that crackled around her intensified, swirling and coalescing into a shimmering shield before her.

Bang!

The serpent slammed into the shield with a force that could level mountains. The ground groaned under the impact, and cracks snaked outwards like spiderwebs. Yet, the shield held, the blue energy absorbing the brunt of the attack.

Tang Yumei, pushed back by the sheer force of the collision, gritted her teeth. She knew the brute defense wouldn't be enough. She needed to find a way to exploit the serpent's weakness, the underbelly exposed by her previous attack. But with the beast's relentless assault, finding an opening would be a challenge.

The wind whipped through Yun Lintian's long hair as he surveyed the scene – Tang Yumei struggling to hold against the serpent's onslaught, Tang Wei dazed but recovering.

He turned to look at his companions and asked. "Who wants to take it?"

"Leave this one to me," Han Bingling was the first to respond. A cold energy immediately appeared around her body.

The air shimmered as Han Bingling stepped forward. Unlike Tang Yumei's vibrant blue energy, hers was a chilling frost that seemed to suck the heat from the very air. The temperature plummeted, causing Tang Wei to shiver.

Tang Wei opened his mouth wide as he looked at Han Bingling. He immediately realized she wasn't a God Emperor but a Lower God... a mighty one!

With a flick of her wrist, Han Bingling sent out a wave of pure cold. It wasn't a direct attack but rather a creeping frost that snaked toward the colossal serpent, encasing its massive lower body in a layer of shimmering ice. The serpent, distracted by its rage against Tang Yumei, barely noticed the subtle change until it was too late.

"Hiss!" A surprised hiss tore from its throat as the cold solidified, quickly spreading up its underbelly, the vulnerable spot revealed by Tang Yumei's attack. The beast writhed in fury, thrashing against the encroaching frost, but it seemed to have a life of its own, spreading with an unnatural speed.

Seeing the opportunity, Tang Yumei seized the moment. With a renewed surge of energy, she launched a concentrated blast towards the serpent's head, just where the ice met its obsidian scales.

BANG!

The impact of the attack wasn't meant to cause a major injury but rather to create a point of least resistance for the rapidly spreading frost.

The plan worked. The combined onslaught proved too much. The ice, fueled by both Han Bingling and the energy blast, shattered the serpent's defenses.

In a matter of seconds, the previously exposed underbelly was completely encased in a thick layer of ice, hindering its movement and causing its fiery breath to sputter into impotent puffs of mist.

The colossal serpent, once a terrifying force of nature, now resembled a grotesque statue, frozen mid-strike. Its remaining molten eye glinted with a desperate fury, but it was trapped, rendered powerless by the combined might of the two beauties.

A tense silence descended upon the battlefield. Slowly, the serpent's struggles subsided. The once vibrant red glow emanating from its body dimmed, replaced by a dull grey, the telltale sign of its defeat. With a final shudder, the colossal serpent went still, a frozen monument to the audacity of mortals who dared to challenge a god...

Chapter 2077 Tang Siblings (2)

The silence stretched, broken only by Tang Wei's gasps as he regained his breath. Relief washed over him. He looked at his sister, her face etched with exhaustion but her eyes shining with triumph. Then, his gaze shifted to Han Bingling, who stood beside her, her expression unreadable.

Hesitantly, Tang Wei approached them. "That was... incredible," he stammered, his voice barely a whisper. "The profound law of ice..."

Having stepped into the Lower God Realm, anyone would have grasped one or two fundamental laws. However, grasping them wouldn't equate to fully comprehending them. The power of law Han Bingling displayed was undoubtedly the strongest Tang Wei had ever witnessed.

Meanwhile, Tang Yumei looked curiously at Han Bingling and her companions. She knew they all concealed their auras but couldn't understand how.

"Very powerful," Yun Lintian praised with a smile.

Han Bingling offered a curt nod of acknowledgment, but her eyes remained fixed on the frozen serpent. "It's far from mastered," she said.

"You will soon," Yun Lintian offered encouragement. In his opinion, everyone here just needed a true experience to improve their power.

Tang Wei rose from the ground, dusted off his robe, and looked at the frozen serpent. "What should we do with this guy?... I think its meat would be delicious."

He had eaten many profound beasts but had never tried one on the Lower God level.

"It's all yours," Yun Lintian said with a smile. "Both of you have put in a lot of effort to help everyone. It should be yours to claim."

"Really!?" Tang Wei's eyes lit up.

Tang Yumei quickly interjected. "No, we should split it equally."

Yun Lintian met her gaze for a moment before nodding. "Leave it to me then."

He raised a hand, his palm glowing with a faint green light. As he focused his energy, intricate runes began to appear, swirling around his hand before detaching and flying towards the frozen serpent.

Crackle—

With a crackling sound, the runes embedded themselves in the ice, melting it before silently extinguishing the serpent's life force.

Yun Lintian then made a gentle sweeping motion with his hand, and the serpent was instantly cleaved into several cubic pieces. With another wave, blood, bones, the divine core, and serpent meat all landed neatly on a large table he had materialized.

Tang Yumei and Tang Wei were surprised. Even though the serpent was already frozen, cleanly cutting its body like this was no easy feat. They both immediately realized that Yun Lintian might be the strongest person present.

"I only need the divine core," Han Bingling said.

"No problem," Tang Yumei readily agreed.

Han Bingling waved her hand, pulling the golden divine core towards her. She glanced at it briefly before handing it to Linlin, who perched on Yun Lintian's shoulder. "Here you go, little sister."

"Thank you, Sister Bingling," Linlin chirped sweetly, popping the divine core into her mouth and crunching on it.

Tang Wei and Tang Yumei were astonished by this sight.

"A divine beast..." Tang Yumei murmured, bewildered. She hadn't expected such power to reside in this cute white cat.

Linlin munched contentedly on the divine core like a snack, her gaze flickering curiously between Tang Yumei and Tang Wei.

"Big Brother Yun, let's grill some of that!" Qingqing eyed the serpent meat with a drool-worthy stare.

As Yun Lintian's strength had grown considerably, so had Qingqing's appetite. Directly linked to his power, she now stood at the peak of the Lower God Realm.

Snapping out of his daze, Tang Wei quickly interjected, "Let's cook it!"

He immediately retrieved several pots and pans and set about building a fire, preparing for a grand feast.

"Allow me to lend a hand," Yun Lintian offered, stepping forward and showcasing his culinary expertise.

"What's your name, brother?" Tang Wei inquired as he observed Yun Lintian's skillful grilling technique.

"Yun Lintian," Yun Lintian replied, seeing no point in using an alias here. "These are my wives."

Tang Wei gave him an enthusiastic thumbs up. "You're incredibly strong, Brother Yun!" he exclaimed with envy.

"Are you both natives?" Yun Lintian asked, adding seasoning to the sizzling meat.

"No," Tang Wei shook his head. "We're from the Celestial Realm."

"The Celestial Realm?" Yun Lintian was surprised. "That's quite a distance. What brings you here?"

"The God Tomb, obviously," Tang Wei replied. "Our Master forced us to come."

Yun Lintian raised an eyebrow slightly. "This is a dangerous place, even for Peak Lower Gods like yourselves. Why would your Master send you on this mission?"

Ever the cautious one, Tang Yumei interjected before her brother could reveal any more secrets. "Let's not discuss this here," she said, her gaze darting nervously around the clearing. "We can explain everything after the meal."

Yun Lintian nodded in agreement and continued cooking.

The scent of grilled serpent meat filled the air, a tantalizing aroma that piqued everyone's curiosity. Unable to resist any longer, Qingqing darted towards the makeshift grill, her eyes sparkling with anticipation.

Yun Lintian chuckled and expertly flipped the meat with a practiced hand. "Alright," he conceded, "let's enjoy the meal."

As the group settled around the table, a sense of camaraderie began to form. Despite their initial apprehension, Tang Wei and Tang Yumei couldn't help but be drawn to Yun Lintian's easygoing nature and the playful banter between his wives.

Linlin, perched on Yun Lintian's shoulder, observed the scene with her large, intelligent eyes, occasionally letting out a soft purr when Yun Lintian scratched behind her ears.

At this moment, Xun Lang and the other practitioners who had fled earlier returned. They gaped in astonishment at the aromatic grilled meat on the table, undoubtedly the meat of the ferocious serpent they had encountered.

The colossal serpent, once a terrifying force of nature, was now reduced to a pile of steaming meat, ready to be devoured.

Tang Wei noticed them and waved a hand dismissively. "Come, everyone. Let's eat together," he said with a carefree smile.

Tang Yumei rolled her eyes at her brother's impulsiveness and apologized to Yun Lintian's group. "Sorry about that. My brother can be stupid sometimes."

Yun Lintian chuckled. "No worries. It's a rare thing to see someone with such a pure heart."

"What are you talking about, Sis?" Tang Wei looked at his sister in confusion.

Tang Yumei, too lazy to explain, continued eating silently.

Xun Lang and the other practitioners were mortified but couldn't resist the temptation of Lower God meat. Ultimately, unable to overcome their shamelessness, they stepped forward and joined the table...

Chapter 2078 Tang Siblings (3)

A wave of gratitude washed over Xun Lang as he stepped forward, his voice thick with emotion. "We are eternally grateful for your intervention," he declared, bowing deeply to Tang Wei and his companions. The other practitioners followed suit, their weary faces unable to hide the sincerity in their eyes.

"Words alone cannot express our debt," Xun Lang continued, his voice rising slightly. "Facing a Lower God beast was a death sentence for us all. You not only saved our lives, but you provided this... this bounty!" He gestured towards the steaming slabs of serpent meat.

Tang Wei smiled happily at the praise. He waved his hand dismissively. "Don't mind it," he said, his voice warm and friendly. "We wouldn't want to see innocent people devoured by a serpent, now would we?"

A smile broke across Xun Lang's weary face. The warmth in Tang Wei's voice was genuine, devoid of any pretense. He straightened his back, a newfound confidence glimmering in his eyes.

"May I inquire," he began, his voice regaining its strength, "Is it good for us to go to the other regions?"

Tang Wei hesitated, his smile faltering for a brief moment. He glanced at Tang Yumei, gauging her reaction before speaking.

"Well," Tang Wei began cautiously, "the other regions..." He cast Xun Lang and the others a look around the clearing, lowering his voice slightly. "They aren't exactly vacation spots. You see, things here are... volatile."

He gestured towards the remains of the colossal serpent. "This isn't the only Lower God beast roaming these lands. In fact, the closer you get to the heart of the God Tomb, the more dangerous it becomes."

Tang Yumei chimed in, her voice serious. "My brother's right," she said. "Higher-level beasts, unstable zones, and... well, other groups of people who might not be as friendly as us." She left the last part hanging, her gaze flicking towards the newcomers with a hint of apprehension.

Tang Wei, ever the optimist, quickly interjected. "But! With our combined strength, things might be a little easier to manage, right, Brother Yun?" He nudged Yun Lintian playfully with his elbow.

Tang Yumei was rendered speechless. She shot her younger brother a vicious glare. She had already made it explicitly clear that Xun Lang and the others should remain here, yet Tang Wei had gone ahead and undermined her directly.

Yun Lintian, however, didn't respond immediately. He tapped his chin thoughtfully, eyes scanning Xun Lang and the other practitioners. Their life and death didn't matter to him, but he didn't mind offering a warning.

"The decision is yours. We can offer protection here, but it won't extend to the next region. The God Tomb is no walk of the park. By now, you should realize your arrival here is fortunate." Yun Lintian spoke calmly.

A murmur of discussion rippled through Xun Lang's group. The God Tomb represented their only hope... but what about survival?

Xun Lang felt a weight settle in his stomach. The God Tomb was his only hope. Yet, the dangers Tang Wei and his companions described painted a grim picture. Here, they were relatively safe from monstrous creatures roaming the God Tomb.

With a sigh, he spoke, "I will stay here."

The weight in his heart lifted slightly. Perhaps his unwillingness to risk his life had hindered his progress. But that mattered little now. Survival came first.

Furthermore, the environment here was certainly beneficial. Xun Lang had even found a few precious treasures in the forest during his escape. Continued exploration could certainly improve his strength.

The other practitioners followed suit, none choosing to risk their lives.

"Come, let's eat." Yun Lintian smiled generously, offering Xun Lang's group the grilled meat.

"Many thanks, sir," Xun Lang and the others replied politely before digging in.

An hour later, the meal was finished. Xun Lang's group found a relatively safe spot to sit and digest the energy from the meat.

Yun Lintian cleaned and stored the table before looking at the Tang siblings. "We're heading to the next region. Will you be joining us?"

"That's great!" Tang Wei readily responded.

Tang Yumei considered for a moment, wanting to decline at first. However, finding a friendly group like Yun Lintian's was rare. Traveling together seemed wiser.

Yun Lintian said nothing further and walked towards the distant second region, followed by Tang Wei and the others.

As they ventured deeper into the foliage marking the entrance to the second region, a comfortable conversation flowed between Yun Lintian's group and the Tang siblings. The dense canopy overhead cast an emerald twilight, broken only by the occasional flit of an unseen bird.

Finally, unable to contain his curiosity, Tang Wei politely inquired, "Forgive my intrusion, Brother Yun. May I ask, are you natives of the Nine Heavens Realm?"

Yun Lintian smiled and replied, "We're not. We come from a relatively remote realm called the Azure Realm. We usually travel around, and it was pure coincidence that brought us here."

"The Azure Realm?" Tang Wei frowned slightly. "I've never heard of it before."

Tang Yumei studied Yun Lintian's group silently, trying to discern their truth.

"What about you?" Yun Lintian asked. "You must hail from a prominent sect, wouldn't you say?"

"Prominent?" Tang Wei waved his hand dismissively. "We're from the Tang Clan in the Undying God Realm. We're fortunate to have met our Master, though. Otherwise, we wouldn't have reached this level."

"I see," Yun Lintian nodded with understanding. As far as he knew, there weren't many gods in the Celestial Realm.

"You should visit our place, Brother Yun. I'll introduce you to some great spots," Tang Wei grinned.

Tang Yumei shot her brother a pointed look. She should have sealed his mouth from the beginning.

"What's your purpose here, Sister Tang?" Han Bingling inquired gently. "You've visited twice now. There must be something you're seeking, wouldn't you agree?"

Tang Yumei hesitated for a moment, then sighed inwardly. Nodding, she said, "Our Master instructed us to try our best to enter the inner area of the mausoleum. Apparently, borrowing God's residual power from there would allow us to break through to the next realm."

"What prevented you then?" Han Bingling inquired.

Tang Wei chimed in. "To enter the inner area, we need to pass a test in the Palace of Illusions. Unfortunately, we failed to reach there."

"He got us kicked out by provoking some powerful people," Tang Yumei added with a pointed glare at her brother.

Tang Wei scratched his head sheepishly.

He glanced at the trial grounds ahead and quickly diverted the conversation. "Look! We're here!"

Chapter 2079 A Strange Trial (1)

As they entered the second region, the air grew heavy with a strange energy. The lush greenery thinned, replaced by twisted, gnarled trees with bark that seemed to pulsate with a faint, purple glow. The ground crunched underfoot with an unsettling hollowness, and an unnatural silence hung in the air, broken only by the occasional low growl that sent shivers down everyone's spines.

Yun Lintian scanned the surroundings, his eyes narrowed. "This region feels different," he murmured, a hint of curiosity lacing his voice. "The miasma is thicker here, and the energy is... chaotic."

"Yes," Tang Wei agreed. "From what I've heard, this region seems distorted by chaotic energies."

"It is said," Tang Yumei explained, "that they have put a seal on this place when they buried gods here. However, as time passed, the seal began to lose its efficacy, and the gods' auras started to seep into the outer region."

"I see," Yun Lintian nodded slowly. Through the Eyes of Heaven, he detected a trace of a True God's aura lingering in the air. It was extremely ancient and decayed.

However, even this tiny fragment of the ancient aura demonstrably affected the land. It spoke volumes of the owner's immense power.

The distorted landscape continued as they ventured deeper. The twisted trees, their bark a canvas of faint purple, seemed to writhe subtly, like silent observers. The ground remained eerily silent beneath their feet, broken only by the occasional crunch of a displaced stone.

Suddenly, a flicker of movement in the distance snagged their attention. A clearing emerged amidst the gnarled landscape, revealing a sight that halted their advance.

Dozens of practitioners, clad in various robes and wielding various weapons, gathered around a towering structure. The structure, intricately carved from an unknown black stone, pulsed with an otherworldly light. It was unlike anything they had ever seen.

"This is one of the trials here," Tang Wei explained. "It's called the Tower of Limit. A test of strength, wit, and the challenger's resilience. So far, I have never seen anyone emerge victorious."

"Interesting," Yun Lintian said as he looked at the tower curiously. "Never seen anyone succeed? Sounds like a challenge worth attempting."

He turned to Tang Wei. "Is there any reward?"

Tang Wei shook his head. "There's no record of anyone receiving one so far."

"The benefit," Tang Yumei added, "seems to be self-evaluation. We normally use it as a test of our current strength. You can quit the trial at any point, and we can always choose to bypass it and head to the next region."

Yun Lintian nodded. "Anyone interested in attempting the tower?"

Yun Qianxue furrowed her brow. "Would this delay us significantly?"

"No," Yun Lintian reassured her. "It shouldn't take too long."

"Let's try it." Yun Huanxin spoke. She was eager to know her true strength.

Yun Lintian didn't say anything further and walked towards the gathered practitioners.

The air crackled with a strange tension as they neared the imposing black tower. The other challengers, upon noticing their arrival, turned towards them with a mix of curiosity and suspicion.

One of them, a burly man wielding a massive axe, lumbered forward. "Newcomers, eh? You'll have to wait a bit. The tower only allows a hundred challengers at a time."

Yun Lintian met the man's gaze steadily. "Thank you for the information," he replied gently.

The man gave Yun Lintian's group a cursory glance before refocusing on the towering structure.

Yun Lintian turned his gaze to the tower. Its intricate carvings seemed to pulsate with the same faint purple energy that permeated the air. Through the Eyes of Heaven, he sensed a faint, almost imperceptible hum emanating from the very core of the structure.

A question gnawed at Yun Lintian: why were there so many trials here, within the confines of a tomb? What purpose did they serve?

As Yun Lintian pondered the tower's purpose, a booming voice echoed across the clearing. The murmurs and chatter of the gathered challengers died down instantly, replaced by a profound silence. The voice emanated from the tower, resonating with an otherworldly power.

"Attention, challengers!" the booming voice echoed. "A hundred slots remain for entry into the Tower of Limit. Those who seek to test their mettle, step forward!"

A ripple of anticipation surged through the crowd. Some challengers faltered, their expressions etched with hesitation. Others, like Yun Huanxin, vibrated with excitement, their eyes gleaming with a competitive fire. Nervous glances flickered between them, betraying the tension in the air.

"Hold on a moment," the burly man boomed, his voice breaking the sudden tension. "Where did those who previously entered the tower go? I haven't seen anyone come out."

A wave of unease washed over the crowd as they exchanged worried glances.

"Don't fret about it," Tang Wei said with a nonchalant shrug. "They've already gone. They were too stubborn, I guess, and wouldn't quit even when they had the chance."

The burly man and the other challengers whipped their heads towards Tang Wei, their curiosity piqued.

"This ain't your first time, little brother, is it?" the burly man inquired. "Care to share what you know about this Tower of Limit?"

Feeling the weight of everyone's attention, Tang Wei cleared his throat and straightened his posture. "Like I mentioned before," he began, "you can always quit the trial by simply thinking about it. Poof, you'll be right back outside. Just don't be a bullheaded fool about it."

The burly man frowned and said. "Even so, it should be impossible for all the hundred people to stubbornly go further, right? There must be someone who gives up."

Tang Wei shrugged. "How would I know? I just talked about my experience. You don't have to believe me."

Yun Lintian's brow furrowed deeply. The notion of a hundred stubborn challengers refusing to quit simultaneously struck him as improbable. There had to be more to this tower than what they were being told.

However, Yun Lintian saw no deception in Tang Wei's eyes. Perhaps the situation within the tower had indeed changed.

"I'll be the first to try," he declared, turning to Yun Qianxue and the others. "Something doesn't sit right with me about this tower."

"No, let's just skip it," Yun Qianxue countered, her brow furrowed in worry.

"Don't worry," Yun Lintian reassured her with a smile. "This could be a good way to gauge the next trial."

Lin Xinyao, knowing his resolve was unyielding, simply said, "Be careful."

Yun Lintian gave her a gentle nod and entrusted Linlin and Qingqing to her care before striding towards the looming tower.

Everyone watched as Yun Lintian arrived in front of the tower. The imposing entrance of the Tower of Limit pulsed with an eerie purple light as Yun Lintian approached.

As Yun Lintian stepped forward, a subtle shift in the energy around the tower occurred. The faint hum he detected earlier intensified, resonating strangely with his own aura.

Buzz—

Suddenly, the tower itself seemed to react. Black runes, previously invisible, flickered to life across the entrance, swirling and merging into a shimmering portal. Before Yun Lintian could respond, a pull of unknown origin yanked him forward, engulfing him in blinding darkness.

Yun Lintian scanned his surroundings, his senses on high alert. The silence here was absolute, broken only by the faint hum emanating from the platform.

"Welcome, challenger," a voice echoed from everywhere and nowhere. It was the same booming voice that had spoken earlier, but here, it held a strange, almost sentient quality.

"Who are you?" Yun Lintian called out, his voice echoing in the emptiness.

"I am the guardian of this trial," the voice boomed. "To proceed, you must face your greatest fear."

Yun Lintian frowned. This wasn't the test of strength or wit he was expecting. A smile played on his lips. "My greatest fear?" he repeated, challenging the voice. "Tell me, guardian, what exactly do you think that is?"

The voice remained silent, but the platform beneath his feet began to glow brighter. Suddenly, a wispy tendril of inky blackness materialized above the rune, coiling and twisting until it formed a humanoid shape.

The figure was shrouded in darkness, its features obscured. It reached out a skeletal hand towards Yun Lintian, its touch promising an all-consuming oblivion.

Yun Lintian stared at the chilling apparition, his eyes narrowed. Fear? Was this shadowy monstrosity supposed to represent his greatest fear? A chuckle escaped his lips.

"Is this all you can muster?" he scoffed. "This pathetic attempt to exploit a nebulous concept falls short, guardian. You underestimate me."

The figure remained motionless, its touch unwavering. But a flicker of something akin to surprise flickered within its inky form.

Yun Lintian raised his hand, the Azure Dragon Scale materializing on his arm with a faint hum. "Perhaps your understanding of fear is limited," he declared. "Let me show you what true fear looks like for someone who has stared death in the face countless times."

With a surge of power, Yun Lintian channeled his energy into his arm. The azure dragon etched on its surface roared to life, its emerald eyes blazing with ferocity.

A wave of pure, unadulterated pressure crashed against the shadowy figure. The tendrils of darkness writhed in agony, the figure recoiling with a shriek that echoed through the empty space.

"This," Yun Lintian boomed, his voice resonating with power, "is the fear of stagnation, of failing to reach my full potential! It is the fear of losing those I hold dear! Is this the fear you were hoping to exploit?"

The figure recoiled further, its form flickering and wavering. For the first time, a hint of something akin to fear emanated from its inky form.

The booming voice echoed once more, tinged with a hint of awe. "An interesting interpretation... You have passed the first stage, challenger. Prepare yourself for the next challenge."

The platform beneath Yun Lintian's feet glowed brighter, and the shadowy figure dissolved into nothingness. He was suspended in the vast emptiness again, the silence broken only by the faint hum of anticipation.

The blinding white light subsided, revealing a breathtaking vista. Yun Lintian found himself standing on a pristine white platform hovering amidst a seemingly endless expanse of swirling nebulae. A kaleidoscope of colors danced before his eyes, each swirling cloud a vibrant tapestry of divine gas and dust.

But what truly stole his breath away was the colossal figure standing opposite him on another platform. It was a being of pure light, its form radiating an aura of power so immense it made the air crackle with energy.

Towering over Yun Lintian, the figure resembled a humanoid yet possessed features that defied mortal comprehension. Its eyes, swirling galaxies of swirling stars, seemed to pierce through his very soul.

A True God. The word immediately popped up in Yun Lintian's mind.

"Greetings, challenger," the being boomed, its voice resonating across the celestial expanse like a thousand thundering drums. "You stand before King of Destruction, a fragment of a True God's consciousness."

Yun Lintian, though amazed by the magnificent presence, stood firm. "King of Destruction," he acknowledged with a steady voice, "what kind of challenge do you present?"

"This," King of Destruction boomed, a gesture of its luminous hand conjuring a swirling vortex of starlight above the platform, "is a glimpse into the power of a True God. You will face a mere fraction of my might. Survive this onslaught, and you will pass the second stage."

Before Yun Lintian could respond, the vortex of starlight unleashed a torrent of divine energy. It tore through the void, aimed directly at him. The sheer pressure of the attack threatened to liquefy his bones, the intense heat threatening to turn him to ash.

Yun Lintian narrowed his eyes, channeling his divine energy to its limit. The Azure Dragon Scale materialized on his arm, its emerald scales glowing defiantly. He slammed his fist forward, meeting the torrent of divine energy head-on.

BOOOM—

The impact was earth-shattering. The platform beneath Yun Lintian groaned under the strain, the white surface cracking under immense pressure. His entire body thrummed with pain as he struggled to hold his ground.

But Yun Lintian wouldn't back down. He channeled the power of the Dragon God, its essence surging through him. The emerald scales on his arm flared brighter, pushing back against the onslaught.

The divine energy, however, seemed limitless. Slowly, inch by agonizing inch, it began to overpower Yun Lintian's defenses. His muscles screamed in protest, his profound energy reserves dwindling rapidly.

Just as Yun Lintian felt himself on the verge of collapse and was about to unleash his other powers, a voice, distinct from King of Destruction's, whispered into his ear. It was a voice filled with ancient wisdom and boundless power.

"Remember," the voice resonated, "True power lies not just in brute force but in the harmony of all your being. Channel your will, spirit, and essence into your defense!"

Yun Lintian felt strange for some reason but didn't have time to consider it further. With unwavering focus, he delved inward, his mind settling on his divine core where his Profound Veins resembled a network of celestial rivers...

Rumble—