

Necropolis 1061

Chapter 1061: Hadal Hell

“I can save her. I can save her,” murmured Lu Yun as he gazed upon the woman’s fading figure.

He knew that if she vanished into the depths, so would her reason and memories. She would return to being a dead spirit inhabiting a skeleton, one that guarded the chaos dragon zombies within the zombie sea.

The mountain of white bone projected by the dragon pearl would also collapse, condensing into a tiny dot of power and entering Aoxin’s body to become his cultivation potential.

Lu Yun was an orphan. Raised by his master, he’d never been familiar with the concept of a mother. He craved to have someone to call that, and it was the greatest regret of his life that he would never be able to fulfill this wish. He didn’t want the same to happen to Aoxin.

Blazing hellfire flickered to life around him as the Tome of Life and Death materialized over his head. Profound black light covered the white bone mountain, forcefully pulling back the figure that’d just left.

“What are you doing?!” Dread flashed through the woman’s eyes; she sensed a presence from Lu Yun that shook her heart! She was a dead spirit instead of a zombie—in other words, something truly dead. Anything dead fell under Lu Yun’s purview.

“Your soul has scattered and there’s only a trace of your true spirit left. But for me...”

“Stop!” the woman shrieked. Though she was still a skeleton, emotion somehow floated onto her face. “Please... he is my only hope... As long as he lives, I will disappear content, even if I am to suffer in the depths of the hadal hell...”

If she came back to life, she would attract the attention of many existences in the tomb. They would search out Lu Yun, even if they had to turn the chaos upside down to find him. Her son would be implicated as well.

The curse afflicting the chaos dragons in the Tomb of Heaven and Earth was too horrifying to comprehend. Once it was known that Aoxin was a descendent of the chaos dragons, he would fall to its cruelty.

“Hadal hell?” A sudden thought struck Lu Yun and he smiled. “Then, off you go!”

Whoosh.

The enormous Gates of the Abyss suddenly appeared upon the bedrock of the zombie sea, next to the mountain of white bone. They swung ponderously open to the Hadal Prisons, radiating the aura of what the woman called hadal hell.

As the aura filtered through the area, the zombie sea churned and surged while hordes of zombies fled in all directions with gibbering panic. Even the three-headed lizard in the air squawked with terror and shot for the other end of the waters.

Ready to commence heroic battle, Jin Gushen's jaw dropped and he stared blankly at the agitating waves below, not sure of what to do. He could keenly sense that a titanic being was slowly awakening at the bottom of the zombie sea; its fearsome thought ripples emanated in all directions.

He'd only ever felt such immense mental strength from a sovereign before, and the thoughts of this one were deeply tinged with fear!

A sovereign powerhouse was afraid!

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"The hadal hell... This really is the hadal hell..."

An enormous suction force devoured the mountain of white bone before the large door slowly creaked shut. Aoxin and his mother now resided in hell.

"The Hadal Prisons intimidate even sovereigns! Just what are they and what is imprisoned within them?!" Lu Yun was a newly formed speck of dust in the zombie sea. He looked dumbly at his empty surroundings, unable to believe what'd just happened. It was exceedingly hard for him to open the Gates of the Abyss within the chaos and even more impossible to summon anyone from hell.

But after entering the Tomb of Heaven and Earth, he could easily call upon the gates and bring Aoxin here. The second time he'd opened them, he'd set their destination to the fringes of known hell, where the deep void started.

He'd never fathomed that the presence of the Hadal Prisons would startle the terrifying being at the bottommost depths of the zombie sea!

Nervousness set in upon this new revelation and a new worry presented itself—was it a good idea to connect the Hadal Prisons with the world of immortals and use them to make the thirty-three layers whole again?

The immortal dao wouldn't be able to fully exert itself if the world of immortals remained incomplete. When the World Gates opened and the final battle commenced, it was highly likely that the world would be broken again.

Apart from the Hadal Prisons, Lu Yun really didn't know what else he could use to make the world of immortals whole.

"I'll visit the prisons with the bridge once I return and get to the bottom of what it is once and for all!" He and Qing Yu had followed the edges of hell and the Hadal Prisons last time to search for fragments of human dao hell, but somehow made their way into the fourth realm instead.

"They're still here!" He immediately spied the fish-shaped submarine still in the same spot. He smiled ruefully, he didn't dare become further entangled with Ying Luo.

He was a being of the worlds and she a chaos creature. He wouldn't be staying in the chaos, and neither could she enter his world. Even if his heart wasn't occupied by Qing Yu, nothing would ever be possible between him and Ying Luo.

Though she didn't bear any romantic inclinations toward him at the moment... It was only a matter of time before the innocent little girl formed feelings for him. He wouldn't be worried if it was Leng Xian they were talking about.

"Jin Gushen hasn't left yet either. The three-headed lizard was also scared off by the Hadal Prisons." Lu Yun heaved a sigh of relief to confirm that Jin Gushen was fine. The same could hardly be said for the zombie sea.

When the aura of the Hadal Prisons traveled through its waters, ordinary zombies scattered in hysterical alarm while some of the local tyrants took shelter as well. In other words, it was currently the safest time for them to cross the zombie sea.

Lu Yun flashed back into the submarine.

"What are you waiting for? Go!" he roared.

"Junior brother Lu Yun!" Ying Luo lit up and bounded to his side, grabbing his arm.

Though Leng Xian didn't know what had taken place outside, she didn't hesitate. Acting with swift decisiveness, she steered the treasure forward.

Lu Yun put thought of Jin Gushen out of his mind. That dude's an eternal overlord, he's totally fine as long as he's not surrounded.

"Eh? Did something just leave?" Jin Gushen spent a while longer in baffled incomprehension before vanishing from the premises in a streak of golden light.

"I can't forget about the Untroubled Blood Ganoderma that I promised junior brother Lu Yun. There should be one around here somewhere..." Jin Gushen mumbled as he flew to the other side of the zombie sea.

In the chaos, all of Lu Yun's thirty-six golden warriors used his name.

Chapter 1062: The Other Shore of the Zombie Sea

With the titans of the zombie sea fleeing for dear life, its previously placid depths thrashed and heaved with activity. The riotous disturbance enabled Lu Yun and the others to travel smoothly, unimpeded and unchallenged in their frenzied charge for the other shore.

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"Are, are you alright?" Ying Luo carefully asked Lu Yun.

"I'm fine." He shook his head. "We shouldn't meet with any danger after this."

The emergence of hadal aura had swept all of the zombies and dead things from their path. None of them were in a state of mind to pay attention to anything happening in their home. As long as the group didn't court death and antagonize certain horrific things, they would remain safe from attack.

Lu Yun sat down cross-legged and sent his mind into hell, where the six paths of his nascent spirit were.

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“Where are we?” Aoxin’s mother frowned elegantly at the four giant evil coffins in front of her.

She was an eternal overlord, far superior to creators and immortal lords. She could clearly sense the profound, terrifying hadal presence from the void next to her—as if a demon would break free from it any time and swallow her whole.

But these laughably weak coffins kept the hadal hell under control?

And there were two even more insignificant presences next to the coffins, somehow suppressing the hadal hell as well??

To her, everything about the scene seemed as nonsensical as two ants restraining a nest of evil dragons!

She placed her dragon pearl back into her body. In this realm, her skeletal form had receded, replaced by a body of flesh and blood. It was a body different from the one she’d projected before; this was a real one that belonged to the dead.

A ghost.

If one had to place Aoxin’s mother in a category, then she would currently be a horrifying ghostly soul. The power of hell had recollected her tattered true spirit and soul parts, turning her into a ghostly soul.

When she saw that Aoxin was still standing next to her, she clasped him in a tight hug.

“This is hell.” The blood demon paused at the sudden appearance of a woman, but relaxed when he saw Aoxin in her embrace. Plainly, Lu Yun was the reason for their visitor.

“Hell? Has the hell of the mythological realm not been broken yet?” Aoxin’s mother blinked.

“Aouu aouu aouu!” Aoxin lifted his head while hugging his mother back and garbled something at her.

The two dragons that Lu Yun had sent into hell awoke, swiftly flying over and circling around their mother. Their expressions and gestures were the same as Aoxin—one being inhabiting three bodies!

“A newly born hell...” Nodding, she carefully observed the premises and patted Aoxin absentmindedly.

“Senior, you’ve only recovered your true spirit and ghostly soul, you haven’t really come back to life yet. Flaws remain in your body. If you’d like to resurrect as a living being, please visit the sea of Hell Flowers and use its power to return to the world of yang.” Lu Yun’s nascent spirit approached the mother son duo.

“Ah... alright.” Aoxin’s mother inclined her head. She naturally didn’t want to die if she could return to life. She’d declined Lu Yun’s offer earlier because she didn’t want her child to pay for her decision.

“I... I have another favor to ask.” She bit her lip.

“I can’t do anything for the chaos dragon zombies in the zombie sea.” Lu Yun knew what she wanted to say. “But the chaos dragons still exist in the chaos, outside the Tomb of Heaven and Earth. They are one of the greatest rulers of the chaos, of that you can be assured.”

“...I see.” Aoxin’s mother nodded and put the matter out of her mind.

Her consciousness swept through all of hell. There was only one chaos realm expert in this new netherworld, there wasn't even a creator here. This level of strength was much too weak in her eyes. Even Lu Yun was just a little fellow at second level mortal realm. It was impossible for him to save her clan in the zombie sea.

"But I can think of a way to break the curse on the chaos dragons. Curse breaking happens to be a speciality of mine," Lu Yun added.

"Then I thank my young friend." Gratitude sparkled in her eyes.

"Ah yes, you shouldn't leave your new home, senior. What lies outside is a new realm born in the chaos. If you go out, you'll be attacked by the energy of the worlds," Lu Yun hastily added.

"We don't suffer those effects when the Dragonquake Scripture reaches great perfection." Aoxin's mother smiled. "I am the matriarch of the chaos dragons and my grasp of the Dragonquake Scripture has long since reached great perfection. The energy outside is no threat to me at all."

Lu Yun's eyes widened.

"This is also precisely why the experts of that mythical realm cursed the chaos dragons," she sighed. "Be at ease, I am no longer my past self. I will no longer oppose the worlds." She tightly hugged Aoxin again. "I was once willing to sacrifice my life for my clan... Now, he is everything.

"At the same time, you cannot teach the Dragonquake Scripture to anything else in the chaos. If they practice it, that will herald the doomsday of this realm."

"...I understand!" Lu Yun took a deep breath and nodded slowly.

Thank goodness the three-eyed man was a rebel and otherkind who didn't wish to destroy the worlds. Otherwise, life as Lu Yun knew it would've perished long ago.

The three-eyed man was certainly a sovereign, and he was even stronger after grasping the Dragonquake Scripture. He'd killed a sovereign level chaos dragon and taken his victim's identity. Meanwhile, those of the nine sacred lands also searched for the Dragonquake Scripture. They didn't only want to enhance their strength, but also wished to use it to enter the worlds.

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Aoxin and his mother settled down in the sea of Hell Flowers. Lu Yun briefed the blood demon and Ge Long on recent happenings before withdrawing his mind from hell.

"We're here!" Leng Xian suddenly said. "We've arrived on the other shore of the zombie sea. This is the heart of the Tomb of Heaven and Earth!"

The submarine slowly surfaced out of the zombie sea and inched its way ashore. Murky yellowish corpse qi filled the air. Lu Yun could smell its pungent stench even through the submarine.

"Go inside!" He grit his teeth. "This corpse qi is a protective layer for the things inside. We'll be able to get the creation seed if we pierce through it, as well as the heritage of the great ones who ascended beyond the chaos!"

Ying Luo, Leng Xian, and Wang Shu started breathing heavily. The way to cast off the limitations of their existence lay right ahead of them!

Chapter 1063: A Fog of Corpse Qi

Crumble!

The submarine that the group had taken finally buckled beneath the pressure and broke down in pieces. Lu Yun and the others tumbled out, still as zombies.

Remarkably, they all seemed to be on the same page regarding what had happened earlier. No one asked any questions, and neither did anyone raise the issue of the cold black fire.

Dense orange qi drifted in front of them, blocking the way forward.

Leng Xian stowed the water curtain and frowned faintly. "How should we get through? This layer of corpse qi is enough to turn the living straight into a zombie!"

She turned back to see that boundless zombie sea had already disappeared. But to her senses, there was an enormous zombie river oozing out of the depths of corpse qi. It continuously replenished the zombie sea with endless new inhabitants.

Thus, the source of the zombie sea lay somewhere within this miasma of corpse qi.

"We're zombies right now," Lu Yun said calmly as he looked at Leng Xian. "Though this talisman is a combat art talisman, it's transformed us to zombies on a fundamental level. Therefore, that corpse qi won't harm us."

Leng Xian, Ying Luo, and Wang Shu goggled at him. An impenetrable haze seemed to shroud Lu Yun, making him even more mysterious than this vast Tomb of Heaven and Earth.

Who was he, really? Was he really just a secluded disciple of Inception Palace?

"Though these Shapeshifting Talismans have transformed us on an intrinsic level, we still have nowhere to hide in front of the sovereigns. They may not be able to see through to our underlying selves, but they'll sense the ripples of combat arts over our bodies," Lu Yun added.

Ordinary mortals were hard pressed to detect the ripples of combat arts in operation. But to a sovereign or even an eternal overlord, there was nothing clandestine about the Shapeshifting death art at all.

"The corpse qi is a dead entity and we're just zombies to it. We need to go. More people will arrive if we're too slow." Taking the lead, Lu Yun bounded into the yellowish fog.

"That jerk! Doesn't he know that other zombies will be hiding inside the corpse qi?" Cursing, Leng Xian followed him in.

Ying Luo and Wang Shu were even faster than her. They were hot on Lu Yun's heels the second he stepped in.

This slightly aggravated Leng Xian.

Vision was so obscured in the fog of corpse qi that one's fingers would be impossible to make out on an outstretched hand. However, since the four of them were zombies, they didn't meet with any hindrance in the yellow miasma. In fact, it was extremely comfortable to have the corpse qi flow into their bodies.

"Am I... am I really a zombie now??" Sensing this newfound enjoyment and that his cultivation was even beginning to grow, Wang Shu panicked and worried that he really was becoming a zombie.

"Well, you're a zombie right now." Lu Yun looked sideways at Wang Shu. Though he couldn't see the boy at the moment, the unique perception of a zombie painted a clear picture of his surroundings to his senses.

Wang Shu trembled.

"If you undo the talisman on your body, you'll really turn into a full zombie." Leng Xian suddenly smirked at him. She could feel Wang Shu's subconscious movements to shatter the talisman on him.

Wang Shu wanted to bawl loudly with fear.

"What's a man like you afraid of? I'm not afraid of anything," Ying Luo snorted from her position next to Lu Yun.

"I..." Wang Shu pulled a long face.

"Stop talking, there's something in the corpse qi!" Leng Xian's voice suddenly echoed in their minds.

They snapped to attention and shut their mouths. Deep inside the fog, a mammoth shadow drew close to them, shaking the earth beneath their feet.

"Shit, what is that?!" came a loud roar behind them. A surge of power rose into the air and blasted at the shadow.

An eternal overlord had crossed the zombie sea at some time and entered the fog of corpse qi as well. He rushed the shadow the moment it appeared.

"It seems to be a huge zombie... we need to be careful. The things in this corpse qi fog are even more horrifying than the zombie sea!" sounded a second voice.

It would seem the eternal overlord had a companion on the same cultivation level as him. Shortly thereafter, a third voice rang out as well.

"Screw it, we'll kill this one first. It has to be a king on the outskirts of the fog!" Three pillars of razor-sharp power shot into the air and dove at the mammoth shadow.

The presence of an eternal overlord was ethereal and intangible. It was hard for beings weaker than them to detect their existence, even without the overlord purposefully concealing himself. With their sudden attack on the huge unknown, they stirred up frightful ripples of power in the area that washed over Lu Yun and the others.

"Shitheads! They can go court death if they want to, but they're dragging us down with them!" Lu Yun's eyes bugged out. He didn't have time to summon the Gates of the Abyss or communicate with the Bridge of Forgetfulness by Qing Yu's side.

It all happened so quickly. They would be dead before he even gained the breathing space to react.

Boom.

A surge of tremendous power suddenly rose from his side, protecting the four in a mountain of golden light. The ripples from the three eternal overlords broke upon the mountain.

“I knew it was you! You’ve got some nerve, kid! Finding your way here when you’re second level mortal realm just because you have a creator leading the way?” Jin Gushen appeared next to Lu Yun and tousled the young man’s hair. “Look at this half dead half ghost thing you’ve turned yourself into! You’re the reason why those two zombie beasts suddenly ran away earlier, aren’t you?”

He cackled as he stared at Lu Yun with faintly golden eyes.

“Eh, ah, senior brother Jin. I...” Lu Yun looked at his savior, dazed. Wait, Jin Gushen’s seen the ripples of my combat art talismans before and he’s a peak eternal overlord. Of course he picked up on the familiar ripples as we walked through the fog.

“Alright, no need for explanations. The one in the metal elemental land is your replica and this is your true body, right?” Jin Gushen mentally transmitted this part to Lu Yun.

Lu Yun nodded without deflecting. If a right and proper eternal overlord couldn’t even determine the difference between a replica and a true body, then he would be an absolute joke.

“Alright, the four of you should follow me now. Otherwise, you won’t make it through this fog even in your current state. And there’s no need to look at me like this. If an opportunity is yours, I won’t take it from you.” Noticing the looks from Leng Xian and Wang Shu, Jin Gushen shrugged uncomfortably. Of course he could tell what was on their minds.

Chapter 1064: Borrowing Influence

That Lu Yun’s group had passed the two tests on the outskirts of the tomb meant that they’d met with approval. They would find the opportunity that belonged to them here, as long as they didn’t die. Such was the rule of the Tomb of Heaven and Earth.

Of course, it was another matter entirely whether they could make it out alive after locating their opportunity or heritage. That was up to the whims of the eternal overlords. If these lofty beings wished to take something, ants of the mortal realm wouldn’t be able to put up a fight.

Lu Yun knew Jin Gushen well and wasn’t worried that the eternal overlord would covet what was someone else’s. Leng Xian and Wang Shu, however, remained on high alert. Though the genius was a prime recruitment target for the six sacred palaces, he was still an outsider at the moment.

Meanwhile, Ying Luo didn’t care about any of this. She was here only because her palace monarch had told her to adventure in the chaos for tempering. She didn’t think much about opportunities or heritage to be won.

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Although Leng Xian and Wang Shu didn't fully trust Jin Gushen's words, he had indeed just saved their lives. If he hadn't suddenly appeared, revival through their soul lamps would be their only option and they would have to start anew.

Just as Lu Yun previously had been resigned to going along with the flow when Leng Xian wanted to take him to the Inception Palace contingent, so did Leng Xian have no other choice but to stay by Jin Gushen's side.

The fog of corpse qi was too dangerous and all sorts of zombies shambled through it. There were even some unknown beasts wandering the miasma. With the quartet's strength, they would've died here sooner or later. Even turning into a zombie left them open to attacks from "their kind".

But with Jin Gushen present, he only needed to flare his aura to scare off the dangers in the corpse qi.

As for the kings in the miasma...

He'd already learned his lesson and didn't dare go toe-to-toe with anything he encountered in the tomb. A slight crossing of paths was enough for him to yield the way.

Those on par with eternal overlords also didn't want to antagonize someone of their own level. It would be a most ignoble defeat if someone else reaped the benefits of their hot-headedness, especially when they'd come so far in the tomb.

A sizable crowd of chaos creatures had crossed the zombie sea and entered the fog of corpse qi. Usually overweening and dominating figures, the eternal overlords kept themselves strictly in check.

The huge shadow from earlier had fallen to the three overlords, but they'd also paid a hefty price—one of them had been ripped to pieces. They weren't overlords from the sacred palaces, so death for them meant eternal slumber.

Therefore, Jin Gushen traveled with utmost caution along the way, his greatest treasure tightly grasped in hand and ready to do battle at any moment. Thankfully, there was nothing more serious than close calls along the way. The fog of corpse qi eventually cleared up and further shapes could be glimpsed through it.

"There's other people ahead, you guys should put your talismans away." Jin Gushen stopped and flared his power around the four.

They quickly did as they were told and peeled off Lu Yun's Shapeshifting Talisman, returning to their true, living selves. It felt like a curtain had lifted in front of them and a breeze of fresh air blew into their faces, delivering great comfort.

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"Jin Gushen, you're still alive!" Someone reacted less than pleasantly when they saw Jin Gushen walk out at the head of four others. Three eternal overlords immediately approached him and formed a triangle around the group.

"The fire origin sacred land!" Jin Gushen frowned faintly. The fire origin land was on unfriendly terms with the elemental sacred lands—one could say outright hostile. Now that three of its overlords saw him here all alone, they naturally wouldn't pass up this opportunity.

In the five elements, fire countered metal. Therefore, fire origin power could also offset his strength.

Fear gripped the hearts of Lu Yun and the others. They hadn't thought that these immortal lords and eternal overlords would be even faster than them!

They were at the foot of a gigantic mountain, one so immense that Lu Yun couldn't see its peak. However, a strange sort of summons emanated from the landmass, calling him into it. He snuck a peek at Ying Luo and Wang Shu. The same inclination showed on their faces, a sign that they were being called to as well.

However, no one dared make any brash moves. There was now a crowd of several hundred strong gathered on this side of the corpse qi fog. The weakest among them was immortal lord—there were no creators, chaos realm, or mortal realm beings.

Lu Yun and his companions were a rare sight in this location.

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"Stop!" A figure in bright red barreled in, stopping the three eternal overlords.

"Shentong!" Startled, the three relaxed from their threatening posture. Their young lord, Huo Shentong, had stopped them.

After Chi Wuxia murdered the entire fire origin land delegation, the sacred land sent many more experts to the tomb. This time, they didn't send any cannon fodder.

Huo Shentong was also a genius of the nine sacred lands. Though he was less than Chi Wuxia, he was absolutely a peak genius.

Though Ying Luo ranked the strongest among second level mortal realm, her potential was far inferior to that of Chi Wuxia and Huo Shentong's. If it wasn't for her affiliation with a sacred palace and being part of the sacred clan, she wouldn't have the chance to become a sovereign.

Strength was one matter in the mortal realm, potential was another. Huo Shentong, Chi Wuxia, and Jin Gushen were examples of talents with both strength and potential.

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"We meet again, senior brother Jin." Huo Shentong raised a cupped fist salute to Jin Gushen and spoke merrily, "Senior brother, could you reconsider joining Ethos Palace?"

Huo Shentong was the young lord of the fire origin land. His patron and the patron of the sacred lands was Ethos Palace. Ethos was the true nature and disposition of things—not just of the four origin sacred lands, but the source of all things.

"Join Ethos Palace?" Jin Gushen relaxed and grinned evilly. "But I have these from three other sacred palaces by my side. Which do you think I should join?"

Leng Xian and the others started. They hadn't thought that Jin Gushen would use them as a shield!

However, given Lu Yun's understanding of this genius, he immediately stepped forward and blasted outward with the power of inception. It rushed about as the outline of a dragon, as if confirming the genius' words.

Ying Luo was hot on his heels and released her power of creation, stacking it close to the power of inception.

A brief moment of hesitation later, Wang Shu also deployed his power of burgeon. The power of Inception, Creation, and Burgeon Palaces interwove with each other next to Jin Gushen—the true strength of the sacred clan.

Huo Shentong's face darkened ominously; even the three eternal overlords by his side didn't know what to do.

Chapter 1065: Three Sacred Palaces

"Why are there four from the sacred clan by his side? ... we should've killed him when we had the chance!" Huo Shentong dearly wanted to slap himself across the face. If he'd known the truth of the situation, he would've taken care of Jin Gushen at first sight. He hadn't thought that there'd be four sacred palace disciples by the genius' side, and that they'd come from three different sacred palaces!

It would be one thing if they all came from the same palace—Huo Shentong wouldn't think much of them then. Unfortunately, three sacred palaces were represented by the four of them. Ethos Palace would never offend three other peers for a mere Huo Shentong.

He'd already seen an emblematic display of their power; ignorance was no longer a plausible defense if he continued to make a move. Inception, Burgeon, and Creation Palaces would never let him off the hook for it.

Though he possessed a soul lamp within Ethos Palace, the faction would surely hand it over if three sacred palaces came knocking. The dignity of one sacred palace was not to be defiled. Offending three at once was worse than courting death.

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"Long time no see, Huo Shentong." Leng Xian scanned the scene with her frosty beauty. She hadn't released the power of creation on her, but she also took a step forward at this time.

"Junior sister Leng Xian!" Though Huo Shentong was an eternal overlord and had reached the level of a sacred land prime, he still had to bow his head when facing a creator of the sacred clan.

His eyes began to shift around. Leng Xian enjoyed an uncommon status within the Creation Palace and was one of the monarch's most favored disciples. Though she was only a creator for now, her potential was extraordinary.

Even Creation Palace's most notable treasure had been bestowed to Leng Xian for use in self defense.

"Is there anything else?" Leng Xian asked coolly as she stood firmly in front of Ying Luo.

"No, nothing else..." Cold sweat beaded the foreheads of Huo Shentong and the three other eternal overlords.

“Then get out of here,” Leng Xian concluded with some impatience.

“Y-yes...” Even with all the borrowed courage in the world, Huo Shentong didn’t dare make a move against Leng Xian in broad daylight. There was no way to kill the woman; the moment she resurrected from the soul lamp was the moment of doom for the fire origin land.

Besides, there was also Wang Shu here!

As the son of the Burgeon monarch, he was infinitely more important than Leng Xian. Huo Shentong might have a chance of emerging alive if he offended Leng Xian, but if he accidentally irritated Wang Shu... that was the precursor to utter annihilation.

Thus, Huo Shentong led the others from the fire origin land in a quick, sheepish retreat.

Utter annihilation was no hyperbole. Experts of the water elemental land once killed an Inception creator when they fought over a treasure. When that disciple revived from their soul lamp, three sovereigns departed from the palace and razed the water elemental land to the ground. It’d been rebuilt only with the help of the other four elemental lands and was still the weakest among its brethren.

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Jin Gushen relaxed when he saw Huo Shentong leave with his men. He was stronger than Huo Shentong, but just barely. There was a sacred palace behind Huo Shentong and another three eternal overlords as bodyguards. If it came down to a fight, Jin Gushen would also be heavily injured, if not outright dead.

In a place rife with dangers like the Tomb of Heaven and Earth, to be gravely injured was the same as being dead.

“We saved you this time.” Lu Yun retracted his power and bumped Jin Gushen’s shoulder with his. The latter looked dubiously at Lu Yun. He’d clearly felt the purest power of inception from Lu Yun just now!

What was labeled the power of inception was a strength derived from the six laws of highest order in the chaos. The sacred clan was who they were because they could control these orders. If an ordinary chaos creature ascended to sovereign realm, they still wouldn’t be a sacred clan member if they didn’t grasp one of the orders.

Though Jin Gushen was extremely baffled, he wasn’t fool enough to question Lu Yun in front of everyone.

“It is indeed thanks to you all this time, or I might’ve been in true danger.” He smiled at the others.

“Senior brother Jin, would you like to join the Creation Palace?” Ying Luo immediately asked when Jin Gushen thanked them.

“My Burgeon Palace is not bad as well,” Wang Shu grumbled, then looked at Lu Yun. “What, are you not inviting senior brother Jin to join Inception Palace? Or have you two already reached an agreement?” His gaze turned suspicious.

“I would rather senior brother Jin never join a sacred palace,” Lu Yun snorted back. “He’s about our age, but already infinitely close to sovereign realm. If he joined a sacred palace, some old freak inside would want to dissect him and study him in detail.”

“Dissect him?” Ying Luo blinked her large eyes, not understanding.

“To slice senior brother Jin’s body and true spirit into pieces so they can observe what makes him tick,” Lu Yun explained.

Wang Shu and Ying Luo shuddered in unison.

“That is indeed the case.” Leng Xian nodded. “Senior brother Jin avoids the sacred palaces likely because of this reason.”

Jin Gushen nodded.

“Let us go. The big mountain ahead of us is the main tomb of the Tomb of Heaven and Earth, and where that massive pit holding everyone is,” murmured Lu Yun as he looked at the enormous mountain ahead of them. “This pit doesn’t just hold mundane beings, but everything that existed in the mythological realm—including masters that’d ascended beyond the chaos.

“This mountain that soars into the clouds is propped up by their endless resentment.”

Jin Gushen and the others remained silent. They weren’t creatures of the realms that were wholly ignorant in the dao of burial. They naturally understood what Lu Yun was saying.

“We might be separated after we head inside, so I won’t be able to protect you any further. You must be careful.” Jin Gushen glanced at Lu Yun.

He didn’t care about the others, but he did care about Lu Yun’s safety. In all his years and throughout his journey from mortal soul to eternal overlord, this was likely the first person to befriend him.

Thus, he didn’t care who Lu Yun was. This only friend had risked his life to save him in the zombie sea and lured away two murderous beasts for him. This brotherhood was more precious than anything else.

“Mmhmm.”

Like many of those around them, the five of them headed toward the enormous mountain. The moment they touched the actual mountain, they vanished into thin air.

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A putrid rotting smell burrowed into Lu Yun’s nostrils. He almost fainted, even with his mental fortitude.

“The corpse qi outside comes out from here.” Slightly dizzy, he pinched his nose and used Shapeshifting to turn himself into a zombie before feeling a little better.

“I wonder how the little fox and the others are doing?” He was thinking of Miao, Qiu Luoyu, and the two chaos creatures that’d sworn loyalty to him.

Chapter 1066: The Ghouls Inside the Putrid Corpse Air

“Junior brother Lu Yun!” Ying Luo’s surprised voice came from behind Lu Yun.

He whirled around to see a somewhat pale Ying Luo beam at him delightedly. She was plainly suppressing her urge to vomit, but that bout with the stench of decay inside the realm monster had toughened her up.

Lu Yun had thought that they would be randomly scattered after entering the massive burial pit, yet Ying Luo still remained by his side. Sounds of violent retching echoed around them before he had a chance to respond.

“Wang Shu’s here too! Then what about senior sister Leng Xian and Jin Gushen?” Ying Luo frowned—both of them recognized the origin of the nauseating vomit.

“Eurpppppp what kind of smell is this?! Why does it smell so baaaaaaauuuughd!! Help paughhh!” Wang Shu cried as he emptied all the contents of his stomach.

How would he ever have had to endure something like this as the son of the Burgeon monarch? This awful putrid air was impossible to defend against; it seemed to burrow into his body through every pore and sweat gland.

“Senior, senior brother Lu Yun, could you lend me another talisman...” Weeping from the force of throwing up so hard, Wang Shu looked piteously at Lu Yun.

Lu Yun had dismissed the Shapeshifting death art and returned to human form.

“There are other people here and even a little girl like Ying Luo can withstand this stench. What’s a grown man like you afraid of?” Lu Yun hectored. “If you can’t stand even a bit of corpse smell, don’t even think about challenging me until your next life.”

Wang Shu snuck a peek at Ying Luo. Though her face was pale, she proudly arched her neck at Lu Yun’s praise and radiated self assurance.

The young lord of Burgeon Palace heaved a few more times before becoming more accustomed to the air.

“I’m not going to turn into a zombie, am I?” he asked gingerly.

“No. Though the air here is foul, there’s no poison in it.” Lu Yun grabbed a random ball of putrid air and peered at it closely, enabling Wang Shu to relax.

“Are you alright?” Lu Yun asked Ying Luo.

“I’m fine!” Ying Luo nodded firmly. “Is this like the second test, where only those of the same cultivation level can appear in the same spot?”

She looked around and saw orange air in all directions. She couldn’t see beyond their immediate surroundings, and she’d completely lost contact with Leng Xian. She didn’t even know where Jin Gushen was, which was what prompted her suspicion.

“Mhmm,” Lu Yun confirmed. “Our opportunity should be here, at the source of this foul air!”

“Junior sister Ying Luo!” Wei Yuan called out with great joy after Lu Yun finished speaking. “So you’ve made it here as well!”

His expression immediately took a downward turn when he saw Lu Yun next. This Inception disciple had beaten him on the shores of the Blood Sea and told him to retread the bloody path. Though Wei Yuan had grown stronger for it, he’d viewed Lu Yun as the enemy all this time.

It wasn't a death feud, more a reluctance to accept how things had turned out and a desire to beat Lu Yun, to wash away his previous humiliation.

Lu Yun nodded at Wei Yuan without saying a word.

"Haha, Wei Yuan! I've heard your name long ago as the most treasured disciple of Nirvana Palace! Come come come, let the two of us fight and see if the combat arts of your Nirvana Palace are stronger, or mine of Burgeon Palace!" Wang Shu lit up when he saw Wei Yuan and unsheathed his sword, charging at the newcomer.

"Wait!!" Wei Yuan knew of Wang Shu and was familiar with his personality. He quickly backed a few steps away. "This isn't a place for us to fight!"

"Stop!" Lu Yun roared at Wang Shu, which did successfully stop the genius mid charge. That drew a sideways glance from Wei Yuan.

"This is indeed not a good place to fight among ourselves." Lu Yun frowned and rumbled, "Be ready for combat. There are other things in the putrid air and I don't know what they are."

Wang Shu blinked while Ying Luo brought out her chain, scanning the premises alertly.

"There seems to be some sort of wild beast that's a zombie in the area, a... zombie beast?" Wei Yuan came over to stand by them as well. Even a fool could tell from Wang Shu's attitude that this young lord of Burgeon Palace was beginning to treat Lu Yun as his leader.

Plainly, the many things they'd met with before had convinced Wang Shu and Ying Luo of Lu Yun's abilities.

This caused Wei Yuan to be highly put out. Ying Luo was the greatest beauty of the six sacred palaces and the foremost expert within second level mortal realm. Though her current potential may not be as ferocious in the future, the monarch of Creation Palace would certainly find ways to enhance it. Ying Luo was presently the dream lover of many sacred palace youths.

"A zombie beast?" Lu Yun naturally read the unfriendliness in Wei Yuan's eyes, but he didn't care. He was an imposter to begin with. Once they left this tomb, none of this would have anything more to do with him.

"Help! Help!" Another voice traveled in from the distance and... it was another familiar one—You Huoran of Opposition Palace.

He was extremely bedraggled and his pristine white robes flapped around him as tattered rags. A dense crowd of... things snarled behind him in hot pursuit. When he saw the crowd here, it seemed like the light of salvation had dawned on him and he shot toward them for dear life.

"Bastard!" Wei Yuan's expression turned extremely ugly. Instead of crossing the zombie sea, he'd taken another route to arrive here even earlier than Lu Yun and the others. He'd been careful to give the zombie beasts a wide berth all along and never purposefully provoked them.

But this little bastard here had appeared out of nowhere and led a pack of zombie beasts straight to them!

Lu Yun stared fixedly at what was chasing You Huoran; his jaw dropped when he identified the creatures.

“These aren’t zombie beasts, they’re ghouls!” He shuddered.

In the world of immortals, he’d once seen ghouls at the bottom of the Abyss of Divine Burial in Dusk Province. However, the ghouls there were hundreds of times weaker than the ones here.

The ones in front of them were all peak second level mortal realm. Their limbs rotated in all directions, enabling them to assume bizarre positions on their backs and scuttle quickly across the terrain. One of them quickly pounced on You Huoran, but a great treasure on his body immediately flared with snowy radiance, blasting the ghoul back.

“Junior sister Ying Luo!” You Huoran lit up when he saw Ying Luo and yelled, “Save me, junior sister!”

Scrambling on all fours, he ran over to the group.

Chapter 1067: The Heritage Appears

Lu Yun wasn’t the least bit surprised that there were ghouls here. Places such as ancient battlefields or burial pits of millions of souls were natural breeding grounds for ghouls.

In certain respects, ghouls were a kind of zombie, but they were also very different. They preferred yin energy and feared the yang, possessed very little intelligence, were as cowardly as mice, and very rarely attacked the living.

Thus, a sight like thousands of them chasing You Huoran was one to behold.

The ghouls within the Tomb of Heaven and Earth would remain ghouls within the chaos, they wouldn’t change on a fundamental level. There must be something inside the yellowish fetid air controlling the horde of ghouls and agitating these ordinarily fearful creatures.

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You Huoran scabbled and tumbled his way to Ying Luo and reached out to hug her legs, but she lifted her foot and kicked him out of the way.

He crashed heavily to the side and looked blearily at the others around him.

“You blithering idiot!” Wei Yuan was about to spit fire from his eyes. Not only had the fool attracted a large sum of ghouls to their location, he’d even wanted to use the situation to feel up Ying Luo!

Wei Yuan wanted to throw him right back into the horde, but it was too late to do anything now. Several thousand ghouls were upon them.

“Ying Luo, cold air!” Lu Yun suddenly roared.

“Okay!” The girl lit up when she heard the command. There were still plenty of realm monster core fragments in her storage treasure.

She waved a hand without skipping a beat and summoned the pile of shards as a river of frigid air, surrounding herself and Lu Yun. Wang Shu, Wei Yuan, and You Huoran shivered uncontrollably when the arctic flow appeared, trembling and freezing in its wake.

The ghouls charging them instantly slowed down; those at the forefront froze over as ice sculptures and toppled to the ground. That gradually brought the horde of ghouls to a halt.

“Zombies are afraid of the cold?!” Wang Shu’s eyes gleamed.

“Zombies aren’t afraid of the cold.” Ying Luo looked at Wang Shu. “These ghouls are afraid of the cold.”

“Aren’t ghouls a type of zombie? So why are zombies indifferent to cold and ghouls afraid?” Wang Shu argued back. He was the young lord of Burgeon Palace and possessed uncommon knowledge of the realm. Of course he recognized ghouls.

Ying Luo looked at Lu Yun instead of answering him.

“Ghouls are both zombies and not zombies,” Lu Yun responded. “Zombies are formed by something with a knot of resentment in its chest. They are neither alive nor dead, living somewhere in between living and dead souls. They do not fear fire, water, cold, or flame.

“Ghouls, however, are different. They devour yin energy and are filled with it, which makes them the equivalent of a cold-blooded being. When yin energy meets with cold, they interact with each other and worsen each other’s effects. Yin energy immediately freezes over and immobilizes the ghouls.

“But, that’s the most the cold air can do. It won’t actually harm the ghouls, and once it dissipates, they’ll be able to move around again.

“Let’s go and see what’s at the origin of this gross smell. I wonder what’s manipulating these ghouls?” Two streaks of faintly golden light flashed through Lu Yun’s eyes and an image of the luopan existed for a brief moment.

He saw an enormous corpse at the center of this region—the source of the yellowish corpse qi. It hadn’t mutated into anything or spawned a vicious ghost, appearing to be a very ordinary, highly rotted body.

Lu Yun knew that the secrets of the region must lie within it. Thus, he set out in that direction, Ying Luo and Wang Shu following him with no hesitation, while You Huoran and Wei Yuan looked at each other.

“There are more zombie beasts—ghouls in that direction! Don’t go there!” You Huoran called out.

“With this cold air, the ghouls won’t be able to hurt us. Let’s follow them and take a peek, maybe we’ll find some treasure!” Wei Yuan frowned.

The situation was very clear, Ying Luo and Wang Shu were bent on following Lu Yun as their leader. Wei Yuan and You Huoran certainly weren’t about to do that, so they had to team up with each other.

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“Strange, we saw the creation seed when we were in that fog of zombie qi. How come we haven’t seen it after entering the area?” Wang Shu grumbled.

“The creation seed is immeasurable and indeterminable. What we’ve seen and sensed so far are just illusions projected by its main body. The real creation seed may not be here,” Ying Luo explained. “It’s said that the creation seed is alive and that the nine sacred lands used the power of chaos derived from them to build the sacred lands. The nine powers that they hold are second to only the highest orders that we grasp.”

“Nine powers? I’ve heard of a tenth creation seed before, apparently some bastard swallowed it in a complete waste of a great treasure...” Wang Shu added.

“Alright, enough chatter,” Lu Yun interrupted them. “Be ready, the foul stench ahead doesn’t just smell bad, it’s actually corpse qi.”

The pungent air around them had been a dark yellow, but the space ahead was enveloped by grayish-yellow fog. That was corpse qi, not just a disgusting stink. The stink wasn't just a smell emanated by the corpse qi. Its origins also lay with the huge corpse in the middle of the grayish-yellow corpse qi.

Wei Yuan and You Huoran approached them as well.

“How about we turn ourselves into zombies before going inside?” Wang Shu proposed cautiously.

Lu Yun shook his head. “We can’t, there’s poison in this corpse qi as well. If you enter it as a zombie, the poison will take control of you just like it did the ghouls.”

The ghouls were still following them, but were held at bay by Ying Luo’s torrent of arctic air.

“Seal off your nine orifices and all pores of your body, we’re going inside!” Lu Yun grunted.

“But what if there’s some sort of monster in the corpse qi?” Wei Yuan asked hesitantly.

“Even if there is, they’d only be second level mortal realm.” Lu Yun swept him a glance. “If my speculations are right, the opportunity to ascend beyond the chaos lies within this layer of corpse qi.”

“What?!” Heightened tension gripped the group.

“She may be dead and her true spirit scattered, but a trace of will lingers on. She guided us here to select an heir to inherit her legacy,” Lu Yun said slowly. “All of the living beings that have arrived in this area are her target.”

Chapter 1068: Zombie Flood

When it came down to it, the Age of Myth legacy of immortal dao that Lu Yun had received earlier was also one of the inheritances in the tomb. If even a creator could keep his heritage intact, then what of those existences beyond the chaos?

The huge corpse-qi-shrouded body also retained her own heritage. She’d set up their current tests to identify her most suitable heir. There were too many man made traces in this pit of mythological lives—it’d long grown out of a pure tomb and into a testing grounds.

It also wasn’t until this test that Lu Yun detected the truth of the Tomb of Heaven and Earth.

Testing grounds!

Only a testing ground would collect cultivators of the same level and bring them to the same place...

Additionally, though there were artificial modifications to be seen here, the changes didn't seem to be the result of one singular guiding hand. A certain set of rules had come into being here—rules to test those who'd ventured into the tomb. The ghouls that'd attacked the living earlier were also affected by these rules.

Previously, Lu Yun had mentioned offhandedly that perhaps the realm monster core fragments might be useful later on. It was as much a surprise to him as any of the others that realm monster arctic air would really restrain the ghouls here.

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The others stirred to greater wakefulness when they heard Lu Yun's words, anticipation shining out of their eyes. However, they were all elite disciples of the sacred palaces—geniuses among geniuses. They wouldn't charge in with abandon simply because someone else had mentioned something they wanted.

Everyone remained staring at Lu Yun.

"We'll each take a fragment of realm monster core and head inside! Remember, under no circumstances can we fight each other when we're in there!" His tone was incomparably grave. "I strongly suspect that if you die in there, you won't revive from the soul lamps."

"What?" Everyone's eyes widened when they heard this.

"Impossible, soul lamps are the greatest of sacred palace secret arts! Legend has it that a master who exceeded the chaos left it to us..." You Huoran exclaimed.

"How is it impossible?!" Ying Luo rolled her eyes at him. "Before this, junior brother Lu Yun and I lost our souls at one point! Our souls slipped off our soul lamps and we almost died here!"

She had indeed been terrified that her soul had mysteriously detached from its soul lamp and come here. It was then that she'd formed her attachment toward Lu Yun. For the very first time in her life, she'd sensed the approaching specter of death.

Wang Shu, You Huoran, and Wei Yuan trembled collectively and Wei Yuan began to look shiftily around the scene. He was absolutely stricken by the idea of death. If his only reassurance in coming here—the soul lamp—could fail at any time, it was enough to give him pause.

"I don't know if you'll die when we travel ahead, but you'll be dead without a doubt if you take a step back." Lu Yun flicked his eyes at Wei Yuan, seeing through the genius' intentions.

"We can't fall to internal conflict now. Since we're here at the same time, we should work together to pass this challenge. It can be every person for themselves when it comes to the opportunities later on," said Wang Shu. His eyes were full of battle intent and excitement. Life and death didn't matter to him, the test of the unknown was the most thrilling.

Wei Yuan and You Huoran looked at each other, understanding that those statements were spoken for them.

"Alright, I agree, let us work together for now." You Huoran was the first to nod.

Though Wei Yuan was unwilling, he didn't want to give up like this. Lu Yun and Ying Luo weren't necessarily telling the truth either, so he nodded as well.

"In that case, we'll head inside. We'll communicate through transmission from now on. Don't let that corpse qi enter your body no matter what, or you really will become a zombie!" reminded Lu Yun.

He stepped forward into the yellowish-gray corpse qi, Ying Luo and Wang Shu close behind. Wei Yuan and You Huoran hesitated, but ultimately followed as well.

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It seemed to be another world entirely inside the corpse qi. Grayish-yellow haze suffused the air and unearthly howls rang in their ears. The group sealed off their pores and forced their power outward as a tiny layer of light over their skin, isolating the terrifying haze from their bodies.

"Is this... another world? What about the way back?" Wei Yuan turned his head to see the same boundless corpse qi behind him as lay in front of him.

No one answered him, they'd all sealed off their nine orifices. They could only see with their eyes and hear with their ears. Opening their mouths didn't cross anyone's mind—if they breathed in any of this corpse qi, they'd be done for.

They proceeded slowly forward, Ying Luo subconsciously tugging on Lu Yun's hem. She didn't notice that the others spewed fire from their eyes at her subconscious gestures.

Whoosh.

An enormous sound rang over their heads as a huge furry hand descended from above—a zombie covered with green fur. Three hundred meters tall, its huge hand swung with pungent gales as it swatted down on them.

Whoosh!

Wang Shu sliced it off the second it appeared and sprayed grayish-yellow liquid across the void. Scrambling out of the way, the group dodged and ducked in a frenzy before they evaded all of the disgusting liquid.

Lu Yun glared ferociously at Wang Shu, who blinked and grinned sheepishly back.

The zombie went berserk after its injury—it stomped forward and brought a foot down on everyone.

Wang Shu took action again, slicing his sword through the air in a dazzling pattern. Vibrant power of burgeon flared from his body as rays of cuttngly sharp sword light and swiftly churned the huge zombie to pieces in the blink of an eye.

Before they could relax, scarlet corpseflies and ghostface maggots buzzed out in a swarm. Apart from Wang Shu, the rest were all within attack range of these creatures bred from the zombie's body.

The group reacted swiftly and exterminated all of the new threats the moment the creatures showed themselves.

More zombies within the depths of the corpse qi discovered the disturbance in this direction and came howling over. Lu Yun suddenly felt like he was back in the zombie sea. Zombies met the eye in every direction he turned; it was a literal flood of them.

The only thing that reassured him was that the strongest among them was only second level mortal realm, but there were too many of them!

“Gather together and don’t get separated. Stay within three meters of each other or we’re dead without a doubt!” he hastily transmitted.

Being no fools, the rest of them quickly drew close to each other. The power of inception, creation, burgeon, opposition, and nirvana soared into the air as five pillars of light. Splitting the area into five sections, they began to dice the overwhelming tides of zombies from all directions.

Chapter 1069: Li Xue

The five pillars of light were the only source of light in the vicinity; unbridled power of the sacred palaces roiled outward in all directions. They sliced through the churning tide of zombies before it reached the group.

“Go!” At the front of the squad, Lu Yun stood at the tip of an arrowhead formation. Wei Yuan and You Huoran stood behind him as they were the weakest of the bunch, so Lu Yun broke the brunt of the zombie charges for them. Wang Shu brought up the rear and Ying Luo hovered in midair, ready to support the four on the ground at any moment.

They moved extremely fast, cleaving through the horde of zombies like a sharp blade. Any zombies bold enough to charge them were immediately hacked to pieces.

Apart from zombies, there were also the more terrifying ghouls in the rush. Thankfully, the group was prepared as everyone had a chunk of realm monster core on their bodies. Ghouls that approached them were instantly frozen and clattered to the ground as ice sculptures.

There were also far more intrepid explorers than just Lu Yun and his group on the premises. After the five pillars of their power rose into the air, a few more beams soared high elsewhere in the haze. However, those were extinguished before long—an indicator that their owners had died.

“Should we go find and save them?” Wang Shu asked hesitantly.

Though zombies abounded in the poisonous haze, it wasn’t difficult for sacred palace disciples to withstand zombies of the same cultivation level once they banded together. The absurdly strong ghouls, however, came and disappeared mysteriously with the wind. Highly dangerous, they were hardier, faster, and stronger than the zombies.

Once targeted by a batch of ghouls, even the most elite palace disciple struggled to defend themselves. In an environment like their current one, the chances of survival were miniscule. If it wasn’t for the realm monster core fragments, at least two of Lu Yun’s group would’ve already fallen to the swarm.

“No!” Wei Yuan yelled his head off in response. He’d had to pull out a connate-grade dirk after his spirit-grade longsword shattered. “We can barely protect ourselves, do we look like we have the effort to spare for others?!”

He'd completely given up on vying for the opportunity. Survival in this forsaken place was the only thing on his mind!

Though the group was a well-oiled machine, they weren't having an easy time. There were too many zombies. Wei Yuan was already heaving for breath and looking for respite. If it wasn't for Ying Luo supporting him, he would've already been torn to pieces.

Though they were able to converse via speech due to the five pillars of light forcing the corpse qi back, creating this safe zone was also a huge drain on their resources. Unfortunately, they had no other choice available to them.

"We can't." Lu Yun threw a pill to Wei Yuan. The latter quickly swallowed it to recover some internal energy. "The five of us can barely manage to keep ourselves alive. If we try to save anyone else, our formation will break and we'll become their burial goods."

The five of them had connected their power to each other in a tiny battle formation. If they could further combine their powers, they would complement each other to a greater degree. One person by themselves wouldn't be able to survive in a place like this.

"I would've thought having another person would mean another addition to our strength," grumbled Wang Shu before suddenly whirling around and shaking his longsword to hew a pouncing zombie in half.

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The further in they went, the greater the resistance. Even Lu Yun began to falter under the relentless flood.

"Fall back, Lu Yun. Let me," Ying Luo whispered quietly as she flew over him.

"No, this is fine. This is good tempering for me," Lu Yun declined. "I haven't felt this kind of pressure in a very long time."

Ying Luo started, then nodded.

"Though my cultivation level hasn't increased, my strength and battle capabilities are five times stronger than when I first entered the corpse qi," he said loudly for the benefit of the group. "Even if I'm not the recipient of the final heritage, this has still been a rare opportunity for me."

Wei Yuan jerked with surprise when he heard this. Lu Yun had expressed similar sentiments the first time they'd met.

"You're right, our goal shouldn't be to simply weather a crisis, but to treat the crisis as a whetstone for our skills." He heaved a slight sigh, finally adjusting his mentality back to the right track.

"Forget that talk about trials and tempering for a moment, a big one's coming! It seems to be chasing... junior sister Li Xue of the Ethos Palace!" You Huoran shrieked.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

The ground shook beneath their feet as a huge zombie several thousands of meters tall approached from the distance. It trod countless zombies into paste when it passed over them while a young girl in white robes flew desperately in front of it.

She instinctively adjusted her flight course to Lu Yun and the others when she saw them, but shot off in another direction after a split second. It would seem that she didn't want to meet up with them.

"I'll go save her!" Ying Luo's eyes widened. "Junior sister Li Xue doesn't want to bring trouble to us, but she helped me once. I can't stand by when she's in danger!"

She made to break out of their formation.

"Don't go, Ying Luo!" Lu Yun yanked her back. "Stay here and protect them for me, I'll go!"

"But..."

Whoosh!

Hellfire ignited over Lu Yun's body before she finished protesting. When Ying Luo and Wang Shu saw the cold black fire, they both relaxed with ease. If zombies in the zombie sea hadn't been able to discover Lu Yun when this cold fire burned, neither would the zombies here.

Lu Yun understood Ying Luo's sentiments, he'd thrown caution to the wind to save Jin Gushen earlier as well. Besides, this palace disciple was close at hand and barely out of sight. Just like Ying Luo, Lu Yun was the type to pay his debts of gratitude.

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His body sucked hellfire back inside the moment it ignited and he vanished in the next second. When he reappeared, he stood in front of Li Xue.

"Lu Yun of the Inception Palace greets this senior sister." Lu Yun raised cupped fists to Li Xue.

Clad in white silk robes and a light veil covering her face, it was impossible to make out Li Xue's true form from her outfit. But in their current environment, Lu Yun didn't have the effort to spare to determine what the girl really looked like.

"The Inception Palace?" Li Xue blinked. "Hurry up and leave, the big guy behind me isn't easy—um..."

Pop!

She'd yet to finish her warning before the gigantic zombie behind her exploded like a bubble. A tiny flash of light from a talisman vanished from Lu Yun's upraised index and middle finger.

Chapter 1070: The Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals

"You killed it with one move?" Li Xue's eyes widened comically. She knew full well how strong that titanic zombie had been.

She herself was very strong, with some claiming that she was stronger than Ying Luo—first of the second level mortal realm cultivators. But when she'd faced that zombie, running away was her only option.

How had this suddenly appearing young man, a supposed disciple of Inception Palace, managed to eliminate it with one move? Was he really second level mortal realm?

Li Xue found this hard to believe.

“No time for explanations. Come with me, senior sister.”

While the zombies around them couldn't sense Lu Yun's existence, they could most certainly sniff out Li Xue's. Once their titanic fellow fell to Lu Yun's talismans, the other zombies in the area immediately surged to fill its vacancy.

They were in a horrific flood gushing with endless zombies. The sheer numbers made the flood much more terrifying than the gigantic zombie from earlier.

For Lu Yun, since he was a feng shui master and tomb raider, he had a hundred ways to counter zombies. If it wasn't for him having to redirect attention to Ying Luo and the others, or wanting to hone his strength, he would've deployed some talisman formations and quickly swept the area clean.

To him, the greatest wealth to be found here wasn't the creation seed or the heritage that exceeded the chaos, but the tempering and experiences to be found balancing between life and death.

Lu Yun's path of cultivation had been too smooth, and the existence of hell meant that he didn't have to bear the customary pressure of risking his life. If he wanted to keep growing, he would have to break through his limitations by venturing to the boundary of life and death.

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“Senior sister Li Xue!” Ying Luo lit up when she saw Li Xue arrive and her tumultuous emotions almost left her open to the zombies.

“Ignore me, focus on your formation!” Li Xue quickly called out.

Paling from her sudden weakness, Ying Luo steadied her posture and focused on keeping the horrific zombies at bay. Off to the side, Wang Shu and the others maneuvered a crack in the formation so that Li Xue could enter it.

The battle formation that'd continuously charged forward slowly came to a halt. Li Xue was injured and needed time to expel the corpse poison within her.

“Senior sister Li Xue is from the Ethos Palace.” Silent all this time, You Huoran suddenly spoke up. “We now have representatives from the Opposition, Ethos, Creation, Burgeon, Nirvana, and Inception Palaces. I... know of a joint battle formation that requires the strength of the six sacred palaces as its base. If we can assemble it, then there shouldn't be anything here that's stronger than us.”

“Oh?” Everyone greeted his suggestion with visible interest.

“Do you mean that?” Li Xue stood up with a sigh of relief. She hadn't fully recovered, but she'd restored roughly eighty percent of her battle strength.

“Of course I do.” You Huoran nodded. “I obtained this formation from this tomb and hadn't wanted to bring it out. But given the circumstances we're in...”

He pointed gently in the air and sent five small beams of light into the center of their foreheads. Those fighting the zombies slowed down ever so slightly.

“The Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals!” Everyone’s expression changed after they carefully perused the knowledge.

“Did... the seniors who once breached this realm create this formation?” Wang Shu’s jaw dropped. It was too complex. With their current strength, they wouldn’t be able to deploy even one ten thousandth of this great formation.

“No, the experts of this realm created it.” Lu Yun gently opened his eyes. “If we of the chaos could create such formations, then the realms wouldn’t threaten us at all.”

He was also overawed. The Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals was too marvelous, too frightening. He’d never met its like in the world of immortals and even other formations in the chaos fell far short of this formation.

It was on a completely different level, the pinnacle of formation craftsmanship. It was much more sophisticated than Return to Origin.

“You had some luck, alright, to lay hands on such a terrifying thing!” Lu Yun tsk’ed at You Huoran.

“What use is it if I can’t use it?” You Huoran curled his lip after casually chopping a zombie to pieces. “It requires the joint efforts of the six sacred palaces to activate it. When that happens, that’ll be when the chaos is facing its final destruction. What use is this formation?”

The six sacred palaces would never ally together, not unless their very existence was under consideration. They had their own interests to pursue and were hardly the picture of harmony that they presented on the surface.

It was only because of this that You Huoran was willing to share this formation. However, he didn’t know that Lu Yun alone possessed the power of all six palaces! He could absolutely master this grand formation!

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The six of them were all uncommon geniuses of the chaos. After reviewing the formation a few times, they immediately worked in tandem to materialize the formation. Six balls of sacred palace power rose in the air like radiant celestial bodies, scattering dazzling iridescence through the corpse qi.

Hummmm.

Horrific killing power ripped through the area and decimated all zombies that it shone on.

“Let’s go!” Most afraid of death out of the group, Wei Yuan threw his head back with laughter. He was instilled with new confidence at seeing these zombies turning as fragile as paper in front of this formation.

It wasn’t that they were too weak, but that the formation was simply too strong. Even Lu Yun felt like he was invincible.

The Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals are the perfect amalgamation of the six highest orders. It's a power that reigns supreme over the six orders! Lu Yun's heart pounded with excitement.

He was a freak in the chaos, the only one to control the power from all six sacred palaces. After employing formula dao on this formation, he realized with tremendous shock that it was a method to exceed the chaos!

If one combined the six highest orders as one, that would bestow the strength for the wielder to surpass the chaos. Despite possessing it, You Huoran hadn't realized this, and neither had the others.

Combining the six highest orders is the way to evolve beyond the chaos? Lu Yun took a deep breath and forced down the agitation of his heart, focusing on the overwhelming tides of zombies charging at them.

Finally, after an indeterminate period of time, the zombie flood began to recede. However, an even more dreadful killing intent seeped into the air.