

Necropolis 1111

Chapter 1111: I'm Here

Lu Yun had wanted to collect the lightning bolts and save them as another trump card, but his death art was plainly not up to the task. It couldn't fully deal with the lightning storm, but this was his best response to the situation.

Thankfully, he was in the principal realm now and his death arts had evolved multiple times. Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to withstand even a single bolt of the scarlet lightning.

Granted, the most he dared to absorb was still five bolts. After five scarlet thunder beads appeared in his dantian, he had to release them so he could take in more. Thus, he kept absorbing one bolt of lightning and flinging it back out to negate another bolt descending from above.

Terrifying sound waves rumbled in all directions as a result of the standoff. Various beings fled every which way for shelter, and part of the hundred and eight thousand defensive formation array below Lu Yun fractured with every breath. Even the yin yang Formation Orb started to show cracks.

Upon the yin and yang portions of the orb coming together, they formed a connate treasure. But while that was incredible in the worlds, it was nothing in the chaos. There were even stronger chaos spirit treasures in the chaos and even ultimate chaos treasures!

Hence, the Formation Orb was unable to match the scarlet lightning. It could only manage to nullify the shockwaves from the clashes between Lu Yun and the scarlet layer of clouds!

As for Lu Yun's body... it disintegrated into dust with every collision. But at the same moment of time, the six paths of his nascent spirit created a new body to replace the old one. From a visual perspective, it seemed like he constantly remained where he was and never left.

Thankfully, there was no mastermind behind the scarlet lightning. If a master of the same level was present, he'd be able to destroy Lu Yun's nascent spirit with a single blow.

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"I know now!" Qing Yu's eyes shot open and she ceased her usage of formula dao. The moment she did so, endless thunder and lightning ceased and the scarlet tribulation clouds slowly faded away.

"Pity, I wasn't fast enough to save a bolt of lightning," Lu Yun heaved a sigh of both relief and pity.

Everything returned to its previous calm. The scarlet lightning had retreated faster than it'd come, as if nothing had taken place at all. Feinie curtsied to Lu Yun and Qing Yu before returning to her previous duties.

"What did you find out?" Lu Yun walked up to Qing Yu and closely inspected her body, relaxing only when he saw that she wasn't hurt.

Qing Yu was also doing the same thing in reverse. Lu Yun hadn't suffered any major injuries; he would live as long as his nascent spirit remained intact. The power of reincarnation was the most mysterious power of their time. Any body created from that power was a body that he'd once destroyed. As long as the six paths of his nascent spirit remained intact, he would never die.

“The underworld is swallowing the Tomb of Heaven and Earth,” Qing Yu said slowly as she looked at the tomb and scanned the underworld around it. “The underworld isn’t coming from the tomb. It’s always been here, surrounding the entire chaos.

“The underworld is actually an enormous mausoleum holding all of the realms that once existed in the chaos!”

Lu Yun nodded slowly. He’d guessed some of this before, but he’d thought that the underworld buried the various civilizations that’d once existed in the realms. Who would’ve thought that it’d be the resting place of the realms themselves?

It was now devouring the Tomb of Heaven and Earth and incorporating that resting place of another world into itself.

“Actually, you probably thought wrong before.” Qing Yu looked solemnly at Lu Yun. “The tombs of most realms don’t have the right to enter the underworld. The count of the realms born since the fall of the mythological realm numbers at least eighty thousand, if not a hundred thousand. But of those, the only one that can enter the underworld is this tomb!

“There are already too many tombs like this one in the underworld, and more worlds stronger than the mythological realm than we can count!” Her voice began to shake at the end of this revelation.

On their way here, Lu Yun had painted the general circumstances of the chaos for Qing Yu and explained the significance and might of the mythological realm. But now she was saying that the realms buried within the underworld were even stronger than it!

What kind of concept was that?

The mythological realm in front of them had once almost swallowed and replaced the entire chaos!

A world even stronger than it... Had it swallowed the entire chaos and started to expand to the third realm, the legendary Hongmeng?

Regardless, all of them now lay in ruins and as rubble in the underworld. Or would it be more accurate to say that the underworld had formed because of those destroyed realms?

Lu Yun felt his scalp go numb. He knew full well how powerful the mythological realm was as his past self had once lived out his entire life in there.

“The world of immortals... our world... Can it survive this disaster? Even if the chaos creatures don’t do anything, there will be a stronger existence that reaches out at us, no?” the little fox asked carefully from Qing Yu’s embrace.

“Survive disaster? Why are we just surviving? No, we’re going to take the fight to them and rip them up from the roots!” Lu Yun declared confidently. “You have me here.”

Those four words were as if a lighthouse in turbulent seas. Qing Yu’s disorderly emotions immediately latched onto this pillar of strength and calmed down.

“That’s right, we have you here.” She smiled faintly.

“Since the underworld has come and wants to devour the tomb, our chances of obtaining the Blood Sea just got bigger,” Lu Yun shifted away from the weighty topic. “The four holy kings of the underworld are much stronger in home territory than compared to anywhere else.”

Truth be told, he didn’t know how strong the four holy kings could be in the underworld. His replica had been at the peak of his prime when he was in the underworld. When Xing Chen turned into the cosmos, he hadn’t been as strong as he was when he was a holy king.

It hadn’t been his own strength, but what the underworld bestowed onto him.

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There was a natural boundary between the underworld and the rest of the realm, but there was no such obstacle between it and the chaos. After they entered the underworld, the Tomb of Heaven and Earth was still present in front of them, as was the chaos behind them!

The underworld seemed like a boundless ocean jutting up against one of its shores—the chaos. This was a rare occasion as one usually wandered around, lost, in this place.

A tiny sparkle danced on Lu Yun’s fingertip as he etched a minute communication formation in the void. Before long, the image of Holy King Desolation appeared within it.

Chapter 1112: New Holy Kings

The holy kings of the underworld possessed their own unique forms of communication. The underworld was too vast and the few holy kings situated in different locales. They usually relied on these kinds of communication formations to talk to each other.

Of course, these formations only worked in the underworld. They were ineffective once the user left.

“Eh? Lu Yun? Aren’t you overseeing things from your Dao Academy? What are you doing here?” Holy King Desolation blinked when he saw the communication formation suddenly light up next to him.

It was top secret that Lu Yun was in the chaos. Apart from those of the nine sacred lands—nine sects picking up on it, no one else knew of this. In addition, Lu Yun’s replica appeared in the Dao Academy every now and then, creating the illusion that he was still in the world of immortals.

Holy King Desolation kept a close eye on matters in the world of immortals, so he’d been taken in as well.

“I’m here for the Blood Sea.” Lu Yun cut straight to the chase. “Help me.”

“The Blood Sea? Has the underworld started to devour the Tomb of Heaven and Earth in the chaos again?!” Holy King Desolation jolted to alertness and immediately strode across the void, ending up in front of Lu Yun and Qing Yu.

Lu Yun had no idea how the holy king had done that. It’d almost been an instantaneous teleportation and a combat art far more terrifying than Boundless Step.

“Indeed... the underworld is devouring the tomb again.” The holy king considered the situation with utmost gravity.

“Can you tell me what’s going on here?” Lu Yun asked, realizing from the holy king’s expression that something was seriously amiss.

The underworld was like a sea within the shadows. The chaos was its shore and the tomb a lonely island adrift in it.

Lu Yun hadn’t come across the underworld when he was in the great wilderness. He’d thought that meant the underworld hadn’t been born then, but he also hadn’t seen the underworld when he was in the mythological realm.

Though Qing Yu had derived where the underworld came from, it was still a puzzle to Lu Yun.

“New mausoleum keepers are coming and new holy kings have been born. We finally have less to fear about the future now.” A bit of ease threaded through the holy king’s face.

The underworld had once possessed countless holy kings, but they’d all perished in battle after battle. There were only four of them now, and the fourth king Violetshade was someone that Holy King Desolation had roped in from the world of immortals.

A new tomb entering the underworld meant the birth of new holy kings and mausoleum keepers, greatly adding to the underworld’s strength.

“Who created the underworld?” asked Lu Yun.

“I don’t know.” Desolation shook his head. “The truth behind who created the underworld and when has been long lost to time. We only know that our duties are to protect it. This mythological realm isn’t that strong compared to the other inhabitants of the underworld, so we’ll see at most two new holy kings this time.”

He suddenly sighed with a bit of regret while Lu Yun and Qing Yu widened their eyes at each other. They hadn’t thought that this legendary, highly venerated realm in the chaos, once that almost swallowed its lifelong rival, would be “not that strong” in the holy king’s eyes.

While Qing Yu had also derived this earlier, it was another matter to hear someone else speak of it.

Holy Kings Atrophy, Antiquity, and Violetshade also arrived on the scene at this time.

A gray avenue slowly extended from the Tomb of Heaven and Earth, paving the way for two dim figures on it. This road was extremely similar to the bloody path before it, but it lacked the tang of blood and hint of spirit from the latter.

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“I see, so the tomb was using Chi Wuxia to destroy the rules of trial. If not him, someone else would’ve acted.” Lu Yun suddenly understood more of earlier events.

It was no coincidence that the Tomb of Heaven and Earth had appeared here, at this time. The layout of burial was fully complete within it, and the next step was to assimilate it into the underworld.

Though its layout centered around a massive burial pit, it was still a layout of burial all the same.

The gray avenue gradually extended to the group in the underworld, bringing the two figures into focus.

“You two?!” Lu Yun’s eyes shot wide open when he took a clear look.

Coldnight Merefrost, Dawnruin! Two of the four chaos experts first to discover the creation seed and recruited to Lu Yun’s banner!

The other two had died before the tomb appeared, and Lu Yun hadn’t seen Merefrost or Dawnruin after entering the tomb. He’d thought they were dead too, but to think they’d become holy kings of the underworld instead!

...wait, if they’re holy kings... Doesn’t that mean they really did die?

Dense hordes of zombies followed behind the two—the inhabitants of the zombie sea and burial pit within the tomb.

“Greetings to milord.” Merefrost and Dawnruin bowed circumspectly to Lu Yun, surprising the other holy kings. They didn’t know of the relationship between Lu Yun and their two newest brethren.

“No worries, let’s forget the matters of the past since you two are holy kings of the underworld now.” Lu Yun waved a hand.

“While the past is indeed in the past, the two of us have become holy kings only due to your grace.” Dawnruin shook her head.

“Eh?” Lu Yun blinked.

“We died in the tomb, but became holy kings because of milord.” Merefrost straightened up.

“I know what happened,” Holy King Desolation interrupted. “The holy kings to be born from the mythological realm should’ve been you and someone else. But since you’d departed beyond the realm’s reaches, and Merefrost and Dawnruin have a karmic relationship with you, they took your place. ...you come from the mythological realm?”

Desolation had been a heavyweight of an incomparable realm when alive. Though he’d lost his memories of that life, he still understood the rules.

“Ah, it probably has to do with my past self. If I hadn’t absorbed it again, then it would’ve slipped out from the state of being a dao fruit and become a holy king instead.” Lu Yun snapped his fingers.

This made sense—his Xing Chen replica had once accepted the heritage of the underworld and been a holy king. Therefore, his past self would’ve been instantly selected as a holy king candidate by these mysterious rules. As for the other to come from the mythological realm... it was most likely Qing Han.

However, the Tome of Life and Death severed this connection to the underworld, so the rules had no choice but to shift to the dead Merefrost and Dawnruin.

Chapter 1113: I Want the Blood Sea

They were naturally beyond grateful to Lu Yun. If not for him, the two would’ve also been killed by others before the Tomb of Heaven and Earth opened. And now, their new titles were Holy King Merefrost and Holy King Dawnruin!

They were the fifth and sixth holy kings of the underworld!

The heritage of the underworld descended upon them the moment they set foot onto this charred land. Their cultivation rolled back from chaos realm all the way to peak fifth level mortal realm—the equivalent of human king in the Primeval Era. However, they were able to deploy far greater strength than that when they were in the underworld.

The zombie hordes that followed them out of the tomb turned into the living dead and mausoleum keepers through the underworld's power. They were creatures without a past, just the present. Safeguarding this mysterious land was their eternal mission.

So this is where mausoleum keepers and holy kings of the underworld come from, Lu Yun thought. They were natives of the tombs resting in the underworld.

Apart from that, sometimes the holy kings entered the worlds to entice those with great potential to join the underworld. Ling Weiyang, for instance, had been hauled here after his death. So had the previous Xing Chen and current Violetshade been lured here from the realms.

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"I want the Blood Sea!" Lu Yun suddenly said. "The Blood Sea is in the Tomb of Heaven and Earth. Help me relocate it to hell."

He no longer focused on matters between the tomb and the underworld, what he and Qing Yu were here for was most important!

"You want the Blood Sea?" The six holy kings looked at each other.

"I'm afraid that won't be possible, the implications of the Blood Sea are too great. No one will be able to save you if you dare make any designs on it. Certain death will come for you!" As the strongest and longest veteran of the group, Holy King Desolation knew a few more secrets than the others.

"...does the Blood Sea have something to do with the Hadal Hell?" Lu Yun tried to make whatever connections he could.

"Lu Yun, I'll be honest with you," sighed Desolation when he heard Lu Yun mention the Hadal Hell. "Your current worlds will become the next great tomb to take up residence in the underworld!"

"What?!" Lu Yun and Qing Yu looked at each other, and even the little fox jumped out with her fur bristling.

"Any world born in the chaos, whether large or small, strong or weak, can grow to swallow all of the chaos if its core essence is strong enough. It can extend to the Hongmeng and even the fourth realm as the most unparalleled of existences.

"Those that are too weak, born lacking, or have shaky foundations will destruct on their own at a certain size. No one else needs to scheme against it for that to happen.

"Other than what is known as the mythological realm, worlds with strong foundations include only yours," explained Holy King Desolation.

“To be frank, any other realm would’ve been destroyed ten thousand times over by the machinations of the former nine sacred lands, but they keep meeting with failure when it comes to yours. This is because not only is there a strong guardian in your realm, but that the realm’s core essence is strong enough!”

A strong guardian... in other words, Leize, Huaxu, Fuxi, and Wahuang. This family was a crucial component as to why the nine sacred lands hadn’t been able to destroy the worlds in all this time, as was Lu Yun’s unexpected appearance.

However, the root cause was that the realm’s core essence was strong enough. This core essence had been why Leize’s family had chosen this particular realm and been reborn into the great wilderness, even at the risk of costing their own lives.

“The strength of your realm comes from the Blood Sea, in other words, the Hadal Hell,” sighed Holy King Desolation. “When the great wilderness was born, the Blood Sea and Hadal Hell formed its roots. Though they both later departed, their strength became part of the realm’s core essence and elevated it far beyond the others.

“At the same time, the Blood Sea and Hadal Hell were also present at the birth of the mythological realm. All of the realms in the tombs of the underworld saw the shadows of these two at their births as well.”

Lu Yun nodded solemnly.

“Ordinarily speaking, the chaos creatures can’t possibly destroy your realm, of that you can rest assured.” Holy King Desolation smiled.

“The chaos creatures may not be able to destroy my world, but they can kill everyone in it. There are less than twenty years before the World Gates are breached, heralding a calamity for the world of immortals and all of the lower worlds,” Lu Yun responded expressionlessly.

Holy King Desolation gaped.

“I want the Blood Sea!” The exchange only solidified Lu Yun’s thoughts. Not only did he want the Blood Sea, he was also going to drag the Hadal Hell out of his netherworld and stick it to all thirty-three layers of the world of immortals!

The chaos creatures were nothing to be concerned about and couldn’t destroy his world?

The six sacred palaces had long been irked by the nine sacred lands, but didn’t dare do anything to them. When Wen Jian stripped them of their title, someone had struck out at him. If it hadn’t been for nether fire, he would’ve died a hundred times over.

The nine sects couldn’t destroy the worlds, but what about their backer?

The underworld seemed more like an undertaker than anything. Its only function was to collect the dead worlds so their tombs wouldn’t pollute the chaos... that was all.

“We... can’t help you with this.” Holy King Desolation shook his head slightly. “If you wish to go, you’ll have to go yourself, and before the Blood Sea leaves. You can take some of it or its core essence, but if we try, we’ll be annihilated.”

“Milord, I can show you the way!” Silent up to this point, Dawnruin suddenly piped up. “I just exited the tomb and know what it’s become and where the Blood Sea is. I’m already the living dead anyway, so it doesn’t matter if I die once more.”

“No need.” Qing Yu shook her head. “I’ve more or less calculated everything about the tomb just now. You really will die if you go with us, and you might be able to help us if you stay.”

Dawnruin and Mere frost looked at each other without a word.

“With your current cultivation, you’ll just hold us back if you enter the tomb. Stay here and guard the underworld well. Perhaps this will be our home in the future,” Qing Yu sighed. This wasn’t a show of uncertainty, but truly a desire to think of a future retreat plan first.

There wasn’t any obstacle for them to enter the tomb from the underworld. The latter was swallowing the tomb to make it a new inhabitant, and the tomb’s strength was slowly becoming one with the underworld.

“Lu Yun, what did you say the Blood Sea in Life Province is?” the little fox suddenly asked.

Chapter 1114: Contesting the Blood Sea

“The Blood Sea in Life Province?” Both Lu Yun and Qing Yu paused.

“Do you remember the little girl?” Qing Yu rummaged through her memories. “She mentioned that the real Blood Sea once appeared when her era was about to end.”

“That tomb,” Lu Yun elaborated, “which could be found beneath the Blood Sea, was the ruins of her era. The Blood Sea of Life Province is also a Blood Sea, but it’s a new one. There should be some sort of connection between the two.”

He frowned slightly, knowing only that the Blood Sea of Life Province was someone’s setup, but not who’s. His trip to the great wilderness had been too early, the prototype of many things were nowhere to be seen yet.

It was also possible that that Blood Sea wasn’t the plan of some empyrean realm master, but an origination from the chaos or the result of an even higher powerhouse.

“If the Blood Sea could form in Life Province, then it can also form in hell.” Lu Yun suddenly thought of the hell of the mythological realm.

When his past self entered that realm, the heavenly palace and kingdom of hell had both materialized and were the rulers of that age. He’d snuck into the kingdom of hell at one point and found that the hell of that time didn’t possess the Blood Sea.

A hell without the Blood Sea wasn’t a complete hell.

Meanwhile, the kingdom of hell also existed in the current world of immortals and the eighteen levels of hell could be found in many corners of the world.

“Someone wanted to refine the world of immortals into the kingdom of hell, but they failed.” A new line of thought suddenly struck Lu Yun. “We need to get going. The Blood Sea will depart from here before long and if my guess is right, we’re not the only ones after it.”

There was something in the chaos that could direct the Blood Sea’s movements. The sea’s appearance in the world of immortals was a result of that item, and during its visit, the watery depths destroyed an entire civilization by itself. Lu Yun and Qing Yu picked up their pace when their thoughts traveled here.

The Tomb of Heaven and Earth was empty after its zombies and ghosts entered the underworld as new mausoleum keepers. While countless realm monsters still lay embedded in the air in the outermost fringe, the Blood Sea beneath their corpses had vanished.

It’d been replaced by a swathe of dazzlingly white bones.

“The Blood Sea has receded, but not yet left. We’ll be able to see it once we cross this land of white bone!” Qing Yu inferred. “But we need to be careful, these white bones aren’t some dead, inert things. They’re the skeletons of what once lived in the Blood Sea!”

Just about to set his foot onto a piece of bone, Lu Yun’s foot froze in the air.

Creatures of the Blood Sea were as their name, beings that lived in the Blood Sea. They were dead spirits, but also possessed life, as if they were alive. They were an uncommonly eerie and paradoxical existence.

Clatter!

Lu Yun had just taken a few steps back to assess the land when clear sounds rang through the air. Skeleton upon skeleton lifted their heads from the ground, a tiny flame burning in their skulls. Scarlet flesh and blood began to grow over their bones and turned them into strangely shaped beings.

These were true creatures of the Blood Sea, nurtured in the bloody depths for an unknown span of years—hardly the weaklings created by Life Province’s Blood Sea.

But when he saw this, Lu Yun understood that the sea could’ve left its denizens behind at any point in time. The Blood Sea of the human hell had lacked these terrifying inhabitants, or that hell would’ve become their territory long ago.

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Lu Yun and Qing Yu were wholly unafraid to face these creatures. A faint, bloody shadow floated out from Lu Yun’s body—Carmine Eternal!

Carmine Eternal and Arbiter hailed from mysterious origins. They’d first borrowed the bodies of connate demon gods to enter the great wilderness, but someone then successfully schemed against them and stole the rest of their opportunities from them. Later on, Taiyi and Yinglong collected their fragmented souls and adopted them as their daughters.

Lu Yun had eventually taken Eternal to the Blood Sea so she could be nurtured by its core essence. She shared the same foundation as the sea, and it wasn’t something easily obtainable like Mount Buzhou. It’d originally been Arbiter who was supposed to be born from the Blood Sea, but Patriarch Darkriver had stolen that from her.

However, Darkriver's usage of the sea hadn't been as strong or thorough as Eternal's usage, and that was all because of Lu Yun. He'd utilized the power of the Tome of Life and Death and hellfire to enable Eternal to fully absorb the sea's core essence.

Lu Yun hadn't known the true nature of the Blood Sea at the time, so it'd all been a happy coincidence. Carmine Eternal was the source of his confidence in being able to lay claim to this sea.

"What do you think?" he carefully asked the snake in human form.

"It'll be fine," chuckled Carmine Eternal. She stood in front of the land of white bones and flared with bloody light, broadcasting the image of a bloody sea in the air. That instantly stilled the creatures stirring from the ground and they laid down again as disassembled skeletons.

"The Blood Sea is ahead of us and about to recede fully. We can still catch a wisp of its tail if we hurry." Carmine Eternal suddenly looked forward with alarm. "Someone else is trying to capture it!"

Whoosh!

She streaked forward as a bloody shadow and vanished at the end of the land of white bone.

"Bridge of Forgetfulness!!" Lu Yun roared.

Boom!

The bridge barrelled out of nowhere and set itself on the two sides of the land of white bone. Lu Yun and Qing Yu walked onto it and instantly passed through the domain.

When Carmine Eternal left, the creatures of the Blood Sea showed signs of awakening. However, they all shrank back again the moment the Bridge of Forgetfulness appeared.

No, not shrank back. They fled away.

In the eyes of the Blood Sea, the bridge was much more terrifying than Carmine Eternal!

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"Arrogant cretin, how dare you try to take my Blood Sea!" The moment Carmine Eternal arrived at the end of the land of bones, she violently expanded her aura to call out to the Blood Sea.

Locked down in place, the bloody waters frothed and churned to break out of their restraints.

Carmine Eternal was only at empyrean realm and yet to recover her full strength. But within the Blood Sea, she was almost invincible.

The Blood Sea had been ready to recede gracefully, but an undefined power had trapped it and wanted to lead it in another direction. A tall and magnificent figure stood atop the Blood Sea, directing the boundless waters to an unknown land.

The body of water was so vast that it couldn't be captured by any singular power. The figure on top of it wasn't forcing it to bend to his will, but using its momentum upon departure to direct it into another world.

With Carmine Eternal on the scene, she immediately forced the Blood Sea out of its restraints and sent it roiling through the void.

“Vile spawn!” the figure cursed at seeing its target agitate with resistance. “How dare a tiny carmine snake ruin my plans?! Die!”

It pointed at Carmine Eternal, a gesture that expanded violently into a mountain that bore down on the snake.

“Just one moment, I get it! You’re the one who created the Blood Sea in Life Province of the world of immortals. You want to use that Blood Sea to claim the real Blood Sea here!” The truth of the matter suddenly struck Carmine Eternal and she also understood where the figure wanted to take the Blood Sea—to Life Province, the world of immortals!

But hot on the heels of her revelation, she realized with shock that her connection to the bloody waters had been severed by that point!

With nothing calling out to it anymore, the churning Blood Sea returned to its tranquil state and continued flowing to an unknown space. Meanwhile, Carmine Eternal was firmly suppressed in the void, blood oozing out of the corner of her lips.

Boom!

An enormous bridge rushed out of thin air, crashing down upon the shadowy figure.

Chapter 1115: The Purpose of the Blood Sea in Life Province

Carmine Eternal was seconds away from being crushed into dust by that horrific point, but the Bridge of Forgetfulness barrelled out at a crucial moment.

“What is that?!” The shadowy finger jerked back, as if electrocuted, and the figure swiftly dodged to the side, evading the blow by the skin of its teeth.

Sadly, the bridge couldn’t exert even a thousandth of its power here. If it did, the Tomb of Heaven and Earth would instantly explode at the seams, but it would also take the figure with it.

However, the figure still sensed the terrifying depths of the bridge and turned pale with dread.

“Lu Yun, he’s the one behind the Blood Sea in Life Province!” Carmine Eternal swiftly hopped onto the bridge when she had a moment of breathing space and gasped out this tidbit with the last of her strength.

And then she collapsed, having fainted dead away.

Lu Yun stood at the top of the bridge and narrowed his eyes at the figure. It didn’t seem to be actually alive—it was more a shadow projected into their realm through the void. Hazy and indistinct, Lu Yun couldn’t make out its face.

He could tell it was humanoid, but nothing else.

Two beams of light shot out from the figure’s eyes and fixed onto the Bridge of Forgetfulness. It didn’t pay any attention to the insignificant entities on the bridge.

“What are you?” the figure asked warily.

Lu Yun stepped on the bridge a few times, conveying his intentions. An enormous face floated onto the Bridge of Forgetfulness.

“And who are you?” it asked in return.

“Hmph!” snorted the figure instead of answering. Its form grew fainter and slowly faded away.

“Wait, that’s it? That’s all it took to scare it off?” Lu Yun blinked with great surprise.

“Its plan to capture the Blood Sea has failed and the bridge demonstrated strength on par with it just now. There’s no point in it further remaining here,” Qing Yu breathed out with relief.

The bridge hadn’t been able to deploy all of its strength because for one, the tomb was unable to withstand its full might, and secondly, its spirit was too weak to control its entire body.

Forcing that impossibly strong existence into a retreat was the best outcome for them. Lu Yun didn’t want to really fight the figure either. One was never afraid of thieves stealing away goods, but of thieves committing their marks to memory.

“Can you tell where it comes from?” Lu Yun asked the Bridge of Forgetfulness.

“No... No such being exists in the fourth realm, and it’s not strong enough to go there either.” Though the bridge wasn’t a great heavyweight in the fourth realm, it didn’t number among the weakest, either. While it’d once turned into a zombie bridge and used the ghostface maggots and corpse flies to hunt for food, it still possessed its own barometer of strength.

“The third realm, then?” Lu Yun and Qing Yu looked at each other, both thinking of the little girl in a red dress.

She’d said that a great war had once taken place in the third realm and devastated it entirely. The realm was almost entirely a collection of tombs, and the Bridge of Forgetfulness had also called the strange little girl a tomb keeper.

“He should be.” The bridge’s giant face sank into deep contemplation. “When I was one of the most sophisticated beings in the fourth realm, the war in the third realm had already ended. It’d turned into a massive mausoleum, and the only being I found alive was the little girl.”

The bridge was too ponderous and its true spirit much too weak. It couldn’t move the bridge a single inch and had only met the little girl because she’d visited the fourth realm multiple times to interfere in its hunts.

“I’m not sure who the little girl in the red dress is either,” the bridge said with some frustration. “I don’t know what’s in the third realm, but I’m certain that there’s people alive there.”

“The great war of the third realm...” Lu Yun and Qing Yu looked at each other, reading anxiety in each other’s gazes.

“Our only advantage now is that we’re weak,” Qing Yu whispered. “We’re weak, so certain people won’t pay too much attention to us.”

“Quietly making a fortune is the true way.” Lu Yun nodded. “But sometimes, we need to take the fight to them. Passively getting beaten up all the time isn’t my style.”

The Bridge of Forgetfulness was one of his biggest trump cards, and he was equally unafraid of the third realm. When his death arts were deployed to their utmost and hellfire powered them, both guided by the Tome of Life and Death, even the bridge couldn’t touch him then.

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Free of interference, the Blood Sea retreated along its usual path. It wasn’t claimed by the shadowy stranger, nor was it taken by Lu Yun. Their attempt had failed, but another set of statements from Carmine Eternal when she awoke ignited new hope.

The Blood Sea in Life Province was meant to direct the real version into the world of immortals!

If they obtained the Blood Sea there and delivered it into hell, then Lu Yun could utilize the Tome of Life and Death to retrieve the real entity. However, where it resided in Life Province was currently a restricted area. Even great emperors couldn’t easily set foot in it.

In the twenty or so years since Lu Yun departed from the world, many more stunning geniuses had ascended to great emperor realm. There were also many with great ambitions to fill in the Blood Sea.

In pursuit of the cause, three great emperors once led an expedition of eighteen grand pure immortals into the Blood Sea—whereupon they all perished. And in retaliation, bloody clouds enveloped Life Province and rained a scarlet rain for three days straight, enabling countless Blood Sea creatures to come ashore.

In the end, Ge Long had to emerge from hell with the four evil coffins and brandished them at the banks of the Blood Sea, both to suppress it and to force the rain and creatures to retreat.

The four coffins were tempered by their long vigil at the edges of the Hadal Hell, and the four swords within had long absorbed some of that strength, transforming into terrifying weapons. The creatures within the Blood Sea couldn’t withstand this level of force.

.....

Carmine Eternal returned to hell while Lu Yun, Qing Yu, and the little fox left the Tomb of Heaven and Earth. It had decoupled from the chaos and officially come under the underworld’s jurisdiction, also leading many chaos creatures to discover the underworld’s secrets.

The previous sacred lands had renamed themselves to the nine divine sects. They immediately gathered their armies to conquer this new realm, but the underworld had been reinforced with fresh recruits.

The mausoleum keepers recently freed from the Tomb of Heaven and Earth could absolutely rival chaos realm and even creator realm. That was the highest level in the battlefield as the even stronger immortal lords and eternal overlords didn’t join the fray.

Chapter 1116: Two Birds With One Stone

While Lu Yun, Qing Yu, and the little fox didn’t leave the tomb with the Blood Sea, they grasped new hope that only needed the right timing to be executed upon.

The nine divine sects' offensive into the underworld greatly worried them, but there was nothing they could do to help. The underworld had its own rules, and no one apart from the mausoleum keepers could intervene.

This was also why its holy kings would try whatever method possible to bring in others from the outside world, but never formed an alliance with outsiders.

.....

"If those from the world of immortals enter the underworld, we probably wouldn't be even an appetizer for the nine divine sects..." Lu Yun and Qing Yu sat across from each other in the Creation Palace while the little fox sprawled quietly in Qing Yu's arms. The three weren't in the mood to cultivate and were rather fretful.

Though the underworld would vanish from the chaos after swallowing the Tomb of Heaven and Earth, who knew how long it'd take for that process to be completed?

It would be an indeterminably long period of time.

Though the nine divine sects had set up a variety of plans in the worlds and even sent in the six dao palaces, would they need to go to all that trouble if they could simply stomp the worlds into nonexistence?

Hence, directly attacking the world of immortals through the underworld was an alternative they'd never given up on. They were the ones who sent the dead spirits into the underworld, but the boundary of heaven and earth between the underworld and the world of immortals had long prevented the spirits from streaming in en masse.

However, after all these years, the boundary was a leaky sieve that could completely collapse at any given time. Once the divine sects conquered the underworld, it would be child's play for them to destroy the world of immortals through their new domain.

Lu Yun and Qing Yu pulled long faces at each other.

"Well, it's not like there isn't a way. It's just a bit risky," the little fox suddenly said thoughtfully.

"No!" Qing Yu refused before the little fox even had a chance to finish the thought. Plainly, she'd thought of the same way too. "It's too dangerous."

"I think it's worth a try." Lu Yun seemed to know what the little fox was talking about as well.

"I haven't said what it is yet." The little fox tilted her head dazedly first at Qing Yu, then at Lu Yun.

"If you really want to do that, you can send your ten Yama Kings." Qing Yu relented slightly as she looked into her beloved's eyes.

"They can't hold the nine divine sects down, it's got to be me." Lu Yun shook his head and then added as a thought struck him, "You can't either! You can't suppress the nine divine sects either!"

Of course he knew what his dao partner was thinking. Qing Yu stared wordlessly back at him.

"I haven't said what it is yet..." the little fox continued grumbling. "Why do you guys know already?"

Lu Yun was locked in a staring contest with Qing Yu. "I'm going by myself. Don't forget, my nascent soul is in hell! The Bridge of Forgetfulness can—"

"Don't think I don't know that an immortal lord can destroy your nascent spirit through your body!" Qing Yu's response was a mental transmission this time. "When you previously withdrew the bridge to protect your nascent soul, that was just an act. It can't really protect you at all!"

Her captivating eyes narrowed in a firm, unblinking glare at Lu Yun. She really was quite angry about the proposition.

Lu Yun fell silent. The nascent soul was a fragile construct, and while the six paths of his were very strong, they weren't invincible. If it was attacked through his body, there was no defense that could be set in place for an attack from the inside.

Whether it was the Bridge of Forgetfulness enveloping his nascent spirit or swallowing it whole, it wouldn't be able to defend against an attack coming from the most fundamental level. Only if Lu Yun had the courage to incorporate his nascent spirit back into his body could he borrow his primary body's strength to refine a treasure to protect it.

But in that case, even a creator would be able to kill him with one smack, much less an immortal lord.

Storing his nascent spirit in hell made him invincible beneath the heavens. No one could kill him then, but that was no longer the case in the chaos. Here, he was still a tiny ant.

As for the method that the little fox had brainstormed, it was easy for them to figure out what she meant even without an explicit explanation.

Blocking their doors!

Lu Yun would personally go and block their door!

It was plain to see that the six sacred palaces didn't dare move against the nine divine sects. Stripping the sacred land name was the limit of what they could do, and Leize had almost died on his last trip to the water elemental land.

It was impossible to ask them to prevent the divine sects from attacking the underworld.

Destroying the worlds was the common goal of all chaos creatures. If the six sacred palaces dared take any action that ran counter to this, not only would the divine sects' backer take a stand, but so would all chaos creatures denounce them as the six demonic palaces.

Therefore, everything was up to Lu Yun and the others now.

Just like he'd once sent Aoxue to blockade the doors of the Lu Clan in Xiankan, so, too, did Lu Yun have ample reason to do the same and slap the faces off of the divine sects. This was the little fox's idea, something that also occurred to Lu Yun and Qing Yu. However, Qing Yu's gaze was incomparably resolute.

No!

No way, no matter what!

“Little Yu... if the immortal dao is to traverse the chaos, I need to keep battling. Blocking the doors of the nine divine sects is the most direct way. We kill two birds with one stone like this!” Lu Yun sighed. “I have Her Majesty Wahuang as my patron, so the divine sects won’t dare do anything to me.”

Qing Yu bit her lip, but still didn’t say anything.

“Ai...” Lu Yun didn’t know what to do as she continued to stare him down.

“So you two guessed it all,” the little fox continued grumbling.

“Only if I go with you.” Qing Yu wouldn’t back down at all. She was great emperor realm and not far from chaos realm.

However, Lu Yun shook his head. “I’m not going right away. I’ll go when I’ve broken through to empyrean realm! Plus, you have more important things to do.”

Qing Yu blinked in surprise.

“The cultivation realm of ‘great emperor’ is too weighty. Few are those who’ve been called that since the ancient times. How many people can truly shoulder the title? I won’t go until I’ve broken through to empyrean realm and changed ‘great emperor’ back to empyrean.”

Qing Yu started with this unexpected development.

“When I block their doors, you need to integrate the order of creation into the immortal dao. Use that order to help the immortal dao assimilate into everything in the chaos and then blossom in this realm!” It wasn’t until this moment that Lu Yun understood why Qing Yu had been brought to the Creation Palace.

Creation represented all lives in the chaos, and integrating its order into the immortal dao meant merging the immortal dao into all of the chaos as well. Meanwhile, he’d been sent to Inception Palace to form a point of initiation for the immortal dao, to bring its seed to the chaos and help it take root.

Chapter 1117: The Scripture of Dragon Quake, the Scripture of Dao Quake

“The only way to truly solve the problem is to integrate the immortal dao into the chaos and transitioning all chaos denizens into cultivating the immortal dao. If they can live within the worlds, then they’ll become citizens of their long-time enemy and want to protect them instead.” Lu Yun looked deeply at Qing Yu.

Their twofold goal for this trip wasn’t just cultivation, but also to find a way to incorporate the immortal dao into the chaos. What seemed impossible became the possible when the six sacred palaces were on their side.

“Alright then.” Convinced, Qing Yu took a deep breath. “But if anything happens to you, I’ll be right behind you.” She declared this with utmost conviction.

With this exchange, the little fox in her arms and the surreptitiously peeping Qing Han in hell finally understood why they’d never been able to replace Qing Yu. Even in the past, when she wasn’t by Lu Yun’s side, they still weren’t able to replace her place in his heart.

Lu Yun looked back at her without agreeing or denying anything. “Don’t worry, I’ll be fine. You need to be careful yourself.”

“I know.”

Their shared smile dispersed the tense atmosphere from earlier.

.....

Lu Yun painstakingly crafted a Shapeshifting Talisman for his dao partner so she could become a true Creation sacred clan member, thereby cultivating both the order of creation and the immortal dao at the same time.

Now at peak principal realm, his command over the death arts had reached a staggering level. Shapeshifting was at the unfathomable heights of being able to change the physical form, constitution, and innate talent!

However, Qing Yu wasn’t Lu Yun. Lu Yun could cultivate all six orders at the same time and perfectly meld them into his body as a full system. Qing Yu could only concentrate on one at the most. If another order was introduced into her body, they would mutually repulse each other.

This had nothing to do with her physical constitution or innate potential; it was just a natural limitation.

There were only three within the chaos who could go beyond this limitation—Lu Yun, Wahuang, and Fuxi!

After helping Qing Yu settle in, Lu Yun left the little fox at Creation Palace to keep her company. He followed Wahuang back to Inception Palace and shut himself up in closed door cultivation. No one dared challenge him after he’d defeated Luo Chen with one move, so he could focus on his cultivation in peace and without disturbance.

With the experience of his past self, he wouldn’t experience any hiccups in breaking through to empyrean realm. The true test would come with ascending from empyrean to chaos realm.

Within the chaos, stepping from sixth level mortal realm to chaos realm was the world of immortals equivalent of ascending from the void realm to true immortality. That simple step meant reaching the heavens and being forever freed of the chaos tribulations. If it was unattainable, one would continue to struggle and suffer in the chaos until one’s eventual death at the dreadful trials.

Bereft of any mental pressure, all Lu Yun needed to do was cultivate. He had to reach peak sixth level mortal realm and change great emperor realm back to empyrean realm. He absolutely had the ability to do so!

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

Currents of pristine energy gathered around him and formed massive dragon figures that circled around his body—images of chaos dragons.

Once again, Lu Yun focused his efforts on the Dragonquake Scripture.

This method had existed in the mythological realm and had, in fact, been the foremost method of the chaos in any era. His past self had cultivated it in the mythological realm to eventually make his way to the top.

His past self hadn't cultivated the Method of Life and Death as he lacked the Tome of Life and Death and hellfire. All he could make use of was the Dragonquake Scripture!

"The chaos dragons definitely didn't pioneer this method! The Dragonquake part of its name means to shake true dragons, the dragons of heaven and earth, the dragons of the chaos, of Hongmeng, and even the fourth realm. The dragons of the fourth realm didn't even possess physical shape!

"This is a matchless method of paramount sophistication!" When Lu Yun opened his eyes, two hazy purple thunderbolts flashed through them. It didn't occur to him until now that he could use the Tome of Life and Death to study this method.

But even with the aid of this unparalleled treasure, the Dragonquake Scripture remained profound and unfathomable. The Dragonsearch, Dragonshift, and Dragonspike Methods were but the tip of the iceberg and just three minor methods in the greater picture of things. The true Dragonquake Scripture was vast, limitless, and incomparably esoteric. It was impossible to fully explore it within a short amount of time.

"Dragons... are derived from the laws of creation. When we say from dao comes one, we don't mean the number one or a single line, but the shape of a dragon. A dragon in motion is the shape of one from the dao!

"When dao takes the shape of living creatures, it does so in the form of a dragon!"

As he deployed the Tome of Life and Death to study the Dragonquake Scripture, its deeper levels of meaning opened up to Lu Yun. From dao came one meant the form of a dragon, and so the scripture was a scripture to quake the dao!

The order of inception within the chaos also represented the true meaning of from dao came one, and one beget two, two gave birth to three, and from three resulted all living things. Monarch Leize of Inception Place was a connate divine dragon—the first dragon within the chaos, the dragon of inception.

Thus, Leize naturally became its ruler after Inception Palace came into being. Or it could be accurately said that it'd been Leize who refined the order of inception in a chaos star, created the Inception Dao Palace, and then the Inception Sacred Palace to shelter all chaos creatures.

The Dragonquake Scripture also contained the meaning of inception, but the draconic meaning within the method was at a higher level than the dragon of inception.

Focusing completely on the meaning of dao within the Dragonquake Scripture, Lu Yun's cultivation shot forward by leaps and bounds, crossing into supreme pure realm.

.....

Lu Yun had no idea that while he studied the Dragonquake Scripture and probed its innermost meaning, a bank of tribulation clouds as thick as a world moved over Inception Palace. The previously jade green sacred palace turned dark, as if all sources of light had been severed.

Only the darkest of night reigned over their heads.

“What is this?” Leize was startled out of seclusion. He was assimilating the reflection beyond the chaos that Lu Yun had gifted him, but now, suddenly felt a powerless fear from the top of his head.

Unbidden, he, Wahuang, and a hundred Inception sovereigns took to the air.

“This bank of tribulation clouds...” Eyes wide at the sight, he stared at a black hole of clouds in the void and murmured to himself, “This is the thunder tribulation that once destroyed the chaos dragons... Just what is going on?”

“It’s the Dragonquake Scripture. Someone’s gleaned the forbidden texts of that method beyond the Dragonsearch, Dragonshift, and Dragonspike Methods,” an aged voice slowly rose behind Leize. “That person is within the sacred palace. Since the Dragonquake Scripture has returned, why does Your Majesty keep it from us?”

Dissatisfaction and gratification marked the wizened voice.

Chapter 1118: The Ten Yama Kings

Dissatisfaction brimmed in the old man’s voice because Leize hadn’t told them about the Dragonquake Scripture returning to Inception Palace. Instead, he’d idly stood by while they attacked the three-eyed man and tried to take the scripture from him.

They’d suffered heavy casualties after a series of battles and, apart from the old dragon speaking to the Inception monarch, everyone else was being reborn in a soul lamp.

However, neither did the three-eyed man come off unscathed after being surrounded by five sovereign realm chaos dragons. His soul had almost completely scattered and he’d escaped with only a sliver of true spirit.

At the same time, the old dragon was immensely gratified that they hadn’t obtained the real Dragonquake Scripture. If they had, anyone who tried to cultivate it would be struck dead by the fearsome tribulation in front of them!

The Dragonquake Scripture was similar to the Myriad Inception Fist. The Dragonsearch, Dragonshift, and Dragonspike Methods seemed to be the entirety of the scripture on the surface, but they could be combined to create a plethora of mystic arts.

However, everything else was taboo apart from those three methods. Attempting to access anything else would result in the sight over the palace. Not only that, but the layer of tribulation clouds that resembled a black hole overhead would affect any cultivator who’d ever practiced the Dragonquake Scripture.

Leize turned his head and swept a cold glance over the old dragon. Shuddering, the old dragon kept quiet. The Inception monarch looked back upon the sacred prince’s palace with worry.

“Wait!” Alarm crossed his face when he suddenly recalled that Lu Yun and the three-eyed man weren’t the only ones to have practiced the Dragonquake Scripture—so had Qing Yu and the little fox, who were now both in Creation Palace!

“But, if Lu Yun can withstand this tribulation, then anything to come will be but a joke. If he can’t...” Leize took a deep breath. He and Huaxu were of one mind, and his dao partner naturally knew what’d happened here. She’d already reached out protectively around Qing Yu and the little fox.

For the moment, the thunder tribulation surrounded only Inception Palace and didn’t show signs of manifesting at Creation Palace.

.....

Black tribulation clouds had enveloped Inception Palace to the point where not even a breeze or hint of light peeked out. Dark electricity sizzled through the clouds like water ripples, permeating with the power of something alive.

Despite the commotion, Lu Yun remained deep in the throes of studying the Dragonquake Scripture and had no idea what was taking place in the outside world.

“Hear my orders! All Inception disciples... anyone living within Inception Palace should retreat to the outskirts of Dubiety Realm!” Leize intoned.

“Understood!” All of Inception’s denizens, whether they were in closed door cultivation or preoccupied elsewhere, immediately dropped their task at hand and proceeded to the Dubiety Realm gate in an orderly fashion.

There was no one else left within the palace grounds after five breaths, apart from Leize, Wahuang, the old dragon, and Lu Yun. The old dragon hadn’t left because he wanted to see who was disturbing the prohibited methods in the Dragonquake Scripture.

“He’s still cultivating, he hasn’t registered the appearance of the thunder tribulation yet!” Wahuang could see everything taking place inside the prince’s palace. Lu Yun’s breathing was calm and steady, wholly unperturbed by the occurrences outside. While sparks of black lightning flickered around his body, he remained completely oblivious.

“He’s already broken through.” Leize nodded faintly. “He’s supreme pure realm now and likely won’t awaken until he reaches empyrean realm.”

Wahuang’s slender eyebrows drew together in a tight frown. She, too, had discovered Lu Yun’s current state. He was as if a preset timer, unable to return to his senses before he reached empyrean realm.

Overhead, the thunder tribulation brewed in the clouds and grew ominously stronger. Even Leize was feeling the pressure now, while the old dragon was forced to retreat to Dubiety Realm from the harrowing presence in the air.

Though Dubiety Realm was very dangerous, it was currently the safest location in all of Inception Palace.

Hummm.

A ripple spread through the void as ten worlds in succession appeared over Inception Palace. A graceful figure stood atop all of them, each of them holding something similar to the Tome of Life and Death with both hands.

The Ten Yama Kings and the Ten Yama Worlds!

In Lu Yun's moment of need, the Tome of Life and Death summoned his envoys and materialized the ten Yama Worlds from hell. When they took form in the chaos, they assembled into a unified whole and transformed into an enormous world that isolated the layer of tribulation clouds around the palace.

"The kingdom of hell that exists in the mythological realm!" Leize gasped when he saw the world created by the ten Yama Kings. He was the first dragon to exist in the chaos and had weathered countless rises and falls. He'd naturally also witnessed the heavenly palace and kingdom of hell in the mythological realm.

That was why he'd been able to identify the world with one glance.

"But how is this possible? Wasn't the kingdom of hell destroyed? How can it be here again? These ten women..." Leize frowned ferociously. "They seem to be the ten rulers of hell, the existences beyond the chaos!"

Wahuang gaped at the developments, not knowing what to say. Though she was Leize's daughter, she'd been born after the establishment of Inception Palace. As such, there were many secrets about the chaos that she didn't know of.

"They're still alive?"

.....

Boom.

Boom.

Boom.

There was no time for Leize to mull over the matter. The thunder tribulation had finished brewing overhead and spewed forth in a waterfall of black lightning. It raced down toward Lu Yun in the sacred prince's palace, but a titanic world loomed in front of the human.

The mythical kingdom of hell!

A storm of black electricity barrelled into hell. The ten Yama Kings were only great emperors, but the kingdom of hell bolstered them beyond chaos realm for the duration. This was very similar to how the mausoleum keepers and holy kings were likewise reinforced in the underworld.

"Hah!" Standing at the front, Yuying crossed her arms in front of her chest and released a painting of black ink from her body. It circled the void like a divine white dragon, tearing at the black lightning above.

Her most well versed treasure was the Panorama of Clarity, but it'd combined with the Portrait of Emptiness and Profile of Harmony to form the Scroll of Shepherding Immortals, which now belonged to the little fox.

The painting scroll that she wielded in lieu was a treasure born of the ten Yama Worlds. She'd summoned it to her with a thought, and it joined the ten Yama Kings in blasting away at the tribulation clouds overhead.

With this development, a pair of inky black eyes came into being over the clouds and coolly regarded the ten women.

Chapter 1119: Great Emperors No More

The black eyes looked down dispassionately at the ten Yama Kings. The ladies met it tit-for-tat and regarded it frostily back.

"So you ten are still alive." An immense will exuded from the eyes.

"The ten you speak of are dead, we are we," Yuying responded calmly as the scroll returned to her hands.

The pair of eyes looked deeply at them, and the hint of a sneer seemed to waft through the void. And then...

Light abruptly returned overhead and the tribulation clouds dissipated, silencing the thunder and lightning. With peace restored, the pair of eyes were nowhere to be seen.

The mythological kingdom of hell disassembled in the next second and returned to the ten Yama Worlds, which swiftly vanished as well.

All was as if it'd never taken place.

.....

"Was that really the mythological kingdom of hell... and its ten rulers?" Enormously shocked, Wahuang looked at her father with confusion.

"She was right, the ten rulers are dead. These are their own people," Leize responded slowly. "What kind of person is Lu Yun? Not only did he dispel the curse on the chaos dragons, he can summon these ten masters to come to his aid and resolve the tribulation of the forbidden."

Leize knew that Lu Yun's past self had been part of the mythological realm, but a past self was a past self. Everything stayed in the past and karmic relationships were forbidden with the present. Otherwise, if the past affected the present, then Lu Yun's past self would be a fruit of malevolence, instead of a dao fruit.

Regardless, the Inception monarch spoke no more. When he next looked at the young man, Lu Yun had reached peak grand pure realm and was only half a step away from empyrean realm.

He'd devoted everything and brought out every trick in his book to study the Dragonquake Scripture, enabling his breakthrough to empyrean realm in the shortest period of time possible. At the same time,

the dense presence of the immortal dao flowed from his body and permeated the chaos, creating a starting point for the immortal dao in the chaos.

A smile finally graced Leize's face, and Wahuang breathed out more easily as well.

"Dad, how did you choose Lu Yun back in the day?" Wahuang asked with sudden curiosity.

It hadn't been Fuxi's idea to send Lu Yun to the great wilderness; everything had been orchestrated by Leize and Huaxu. Even characters like Hongjun and Pangu had received pointers from Leize when it came to their plans.

"I didn't choose him, he chose me." Leize slowly lifted his head and looked into the boundless chaos. There seemed to be a tiny purple flame there, retreating into nothingness.

He'd always thought that Lu Yun was the important pawn of a great master in the third realm, but when the ten Yama Kings showed themselves, he realized how ridiculously wrong he'd been.

"Everything he is today is his alone. No one can dictate Lu Yun's actions, not even him." Leize was still looking at where the purple flame had disappeared.

.....

Rumble—

Peals of thunder roared out from Lu Yun's body. The peak of grand pure realm was great emperor!

When he broke through to this realm, he abruptly woke up. Two rays of hazy black light flared from his eyes—hellfire. If he wanted to change great emperor realm back to empyrean realm, he had to borrow the strength of hellfire.

Another pillar of light erupted from Mount Xuanhuang in Dusk Province, transcending the limits of space to hurtle straight through the chaos and connect with Lu Yun.

Currently, all was not well in the world of immortals.

They'd received word of chaos creatures attacking the underworld with dead spirits, but this wasn't a battle that immortals could involve themselves in. If they entered the underworld, they would be treated as another enemy by the living dead and destroyed as well.

However, that didn't prevent them from setting up layers upon layers of formation at the end of the East Sea, trying to repair the boundary riddled with holes that was all that stood between them and the underworld.

Thus, no one paid much attention to Mount Xuanhuang erupting again. Last time it'd done so, it hadn't affected the world of immortals that much.

They were all wrong this time.

RUMBLE!

Thunder howled and lightning crashed in the world of immortals. Qing Yu's dao fruit—the Dao Flower, materialized in the sky and blossomed throughout the world.

“What’s going on?!” All of the great emperors in the world lifted their heads in unison to look at the flower. Some changes seemed to be taking place with their cultivation level and a vague, negative emotion departed from their minds.

“The great emperor realm... has been modified to the empyrean realm!” All of the former great emperors inhaled sharply. Though the title of great emperor seemed glorious, there was too much of an imperceptible and inexorable burden that came with it. It was too heavy to bear for the privilege of the title.

In the era of the human dao, all of the great emperors alive perished in the battle of Emperors Fall and transformed into akasha ghosts.

In this era, the immortal dao thrived and prospered, seeing to the revival of great emperors in the world, but the name still clung with a heavy weight.

In the eighty-third year of the Xuanhuang calendar, the Dao Flower bloomed once more and the great emperor realm... vanished!

“From henceforth, the great emperor realm is renamed the empyrean realm. There will be no more great emperors in the immortal dao!” Lu Yun’s voice echoed from the Dao Flower and traveled to all corners of the world.

“The empyrean realm means the ultimate peak of heaven and earth!”

The immortal dao shook and trembled as the great emperor realm was refashioned into empyrean realm.

“For the good of all!” Fuxi and Hongjun smiled at each other on Mount Buzhou. Elsewhere in an unknown part of space, God and Pangu also smiled broadly with great relief.

“The empyrean realm is nigh, we can return home now.” In the chaos, Qiang Liang and three thousand connate demon gods gingerly approached a towering figure.

“Not yet.” Wielding Quietus, an aloof Tianqi shook his head at them. “Another seven years.”

“...understood.” Qiang Liang nodded. There was no sense of time in the chaos, so seven years in the world of immortals was nothing.

.....

“If I may be so bold, Headmaster, what comes after empyrean realm?” A celestial lord of the nine majors in the world of immortals called out.

This was an era of great growth and development. Being close to the heart of things, the nine celestial lords easily reached empyrean realm and consolidated their authority as the true masters of their domain. Thus was the balance of power between the nine majors, ten lands, four immortal seas, and four great oceans truly restored.

“The chaos realm,” sounded Lu Yun’s voice. “Why chaos? In this realm, one ascends beyond the world, withstands the chaos tribulations, and journeys the chaos with complete freedom.”

Hummmm!

The chaos realm appeared from the unknown and emblazoned itself into the immortal dao, becoming a fully integrated part of it!

In the eyes of the empyrean immortals, another clearing had appeared in the indistinct road ahead, highlighting what it was they should strive for.

Chaos realm!

Qing Han released everything that the creator in the Tomb of Heaven and Earth had left them and assimilated it into the immortal dao.

No one in the world of immortals had expected that after his prolonged absence, the headmaster of the Dao Academy would reappear to delineate new cultivation realms in the immortal dao.

“And what after chaos realm?” came another question.

“Creator realm,” Lu Yun responded. “To create something from nothing, to be capable of all things, to be a creator of life!”

This realm sent the world into an uproar. Creator realm had always been a myth, a legend that people barely believed in. To think that this realm was real and within reach!

Chapter 1120: Knocking on Doors and Slapping Faces

Surprise and astonishment cascaded through the world of immortals; even the connate demon gods in the chaos were beside themselves.

They'd accepted the human dao and willingly took human form because the cultivation methods within human dao were accessible to them. It gave them the hope of becoming creators. However, even after learning the proper way and increasing their cultivation level, they still couldn't find the path to ascending to creator realm.

But now, creator realm was a real and tangible goal within the immortal dao! This meant that anyone with enough perseverance, dedication, potential, and fortune could break through to it.

It was no longer undefined and out of reach!

Previously swirling with worries due to the attacks on the underworld, the world of immortals calmed down entirely.

The Dao Flower had blossomed once again and resonated with the immortal dao. This was to be another era of great growth and advancement! If they could make full use of this opportunity, their cultivation would progress by leaps and bounds with a similar amount of effort employed as before.

Their current era far surpassed any since the founding of the immortal dao. The world was truly whole again and the twenty-four facets illuminated the heavens.

Out in the chaos, the three thousand demon gods itched to rush back to the world of immortals immediately. They could make use of this chance to be reborn as a being beneath the immortal dao and step into creator realm with one quick bound!

Tianqi, however, kept them firmly outside. Whoever dared set foot in the world of immortals would die! His Quietus was an ultimate treasure of the chaos and he'd already ascended to creator realm, thanks to his weapon. It would hardly be difficult for him to kill all three thousand of them.

.....

Within the Inception sacred prince palace, Lu Yun had truly broken through and consolidated his cultivation level in the empyrean realm. He'd returned to his prime in the great wilderness!

Though he had yet to reach chaos realm, the current Lu Yun was much stronger than his Xing Chen replica in the great wilderness.

A sharp aura blazed from his body and rushed around Inception Palace. The light of immortal dao from Mount Xuanhuang streamed into his body, transforming him into a true empyrean realm master beneath the immortal dao!

Most importantly was that the six sacred powers from the six orders he'd grasped all came under the jurisdiction of the immortal dao. Instead of being from the chaos, they were now the six ultimate sacred powers of the immortal dao.

These powers were a byproduct of the highest orders and would lead the order they originated from to joining the immortal dao's banner. Everything was in accordance, they awaited only on Qing Yu.

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Though the nine divine sects had been stripped of their sacred land title, they didn't relax with regard to their mission of destroying the worlds. The underworld was an opening into the world of immortals, so they had to try and conquer it, even if that resulted in painful casualties.

While eternal overlords didn't take to the field, immortal lords could be glimpsed in the underworld. Since the underworld was devouring the Tomb of Heaven and Earth, its power was limited to a certain degree. This imparted certain hope to the nine divine sects.

"If the eternal overlords are willing to make a move, those holy kings would be dead in short order." Nine divine sect leaders were gathered together and assessing the underworld with calculating gazes.

"Why won't the six sacred palaces destroy the worlds? If they launched a joint offensive at the perimeter of the worlds, they could instantly and easily destroy the worlds and the polluted part of the chaos!" The sect leader of the metal elemental sect brooded sullenly.

Though it'd been the six palaces that'd deposed them, the six palaces were still regarded as the final hope of the chaos.

"Because the energy of the worlds won't affect them, even if the chaos is completely swallowed up!" The leader of the earth elemental sect gnashed his teeth. "Their goal now is to ascend beyond the chaos, they don't care about us at all!"

The longstanding enmity between the four origin sects and five elemental sects had been greatly alleviated after their names had been taken from them. They were much more inclined to genuinely work together now.

“It’s all up to us. Once we destroy the worlds, there will certainly be great rewards from the creation seeds. Perhaps even...” the fire origin leader suddenly mused.

With that, the nine sect leaders shut their mouths in remarkable unity. A strange light sparkled out of all of their eyes.

“Perhaps we’ll replace the six sacred palaces and become the masters of the chaos. And those six palaces... heh heh,” the water elemental leader suggested merrily to the great amusement of the others.

“Send out the eternal overlords and conquer the underworld immediately. We’ll use that as a starting point to raze the world of immortals. We won’t have to bother with the six highest orders then,” frowned the leader of the earth origin sect. “The six sacred palaces were probably under some kind of pressure when they gave us the six dao palaces.

“Based on how they’re acting now, the six highest orders may not be sufficient to destroy that world anymore.”

“Very true.” The others all nodded in agreement.

Boom!

An absolutely astounding collision sounded from their main gates before a strange power appeared out of nowhere, connecting the nine divine sects with the rest of the chaos. Almost all chaos creatures could see the nine divine sects from wherever they were, as well as the figure standing in front of the sect gates.

“Who goes there?!” Experts of the various sects roused themselves with great shock and consternation. What was most alarming about the disturbance was that the nine divine sects were supposed to be scattered in various spots around the chaos, but they were somehow all gathered in one place at the moment!

Such was the power of space. While there was no such concept in the chaos, an expert with incredible spatial abilities could forcefully impose the notion on the chaos. It was a display of brute force.

“I do, the Inception sacred prince.” Lu Yun stood on a mammoth Inception Spiritrial Arena and frostily regarded the nine divine sects arrayed in front of him. “I hear that you call yourselves the divine sects these days after you lost the sacred land title?”

“The Inception sacred prince?” A variety of expressions crossed the faces of all chaos denizens. What did he mean by that? Did he take offense to the “divine sect” name?

“What do you want?” Everyone in the nine divine sects, including the sect leaders, scowled threateningly to see their own front gates being blocked by another.

Keeping them holed up inside?

It’d be one thing if it was a sovereign from the sacred palaces doing the deed, but a mere sixth level mortal realm ant? This was an insult of the gravest degree, even if he was the prince of Inception Palace!

Unfortunately, Lu Yun's patron had strength enough to impose the laws of space over all of the chaos, deterring the nine divine sects from taking any action.

"This prince has just ascended to this position and desires to confirm my cultivation." The corner of Lu Yun's mouth quirked upward as he looked at the sect leaders walking out of their territory. "And so, this prince has come to challenge the nine divine sects today. Any person of any realm may approach the arena for a battle!

"The name of sacred land will be returned to you if you triumph over this prince. If not, you will shed the 'divine' part of your name and be known as only the nine sects throughout the chaos!"

"You go too far!!" The sect disciples boiled over and three people vaulted onto the stage.