

## Necropolis 1141

### Chapter 1141: The Demon of Immortal Dao

The Blood Sea was deemed out of bounds and a forbidden area ever since three empyrean realm experts died in it. Empyrean realm, or great emperor as it was previously known, was the strongest level of immortals in the world at the moment. Since even they had perished, no one else dared draw near.

A scene of desolation reigned around the bloody waters. Countless blood sea creatures roiled in its depths, but they didn't dare come ashore. Their deterrent was four enormous coffins lying horizontal to the water's banks, emanating piercing sword intent that cowed all of the Blood Sea.

Ge Long had returned to hell, but his four evil coffins and the swords sealed within remained to keep the Blood Sea and its denizens under control.

Of course, the world of immortals was also no longer what it'd once been. If the Blood Sea creatures really did dare invade, they wouldn't find the easy pickings they expected.

There were at least a hundred empyrean experts in the current world of immortals—a sum not yet on par with the heyday of human dao, but making this the strongest age of the immortal dao era.

Immortal Emperor Qing Taxian had broken through empyrean realm and set foot into the chaos realm. He was the first to manage this feat beneath the immortal dao, making him the emperor of all immortals in both name and deed.

Of the entire world of immortals, he was the only one who dared have “emperor” in his title.

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“It's been a long time, fellow daoists.” A figure walked gracefully out of the parting Blood Sea and approached Lu Yun and Qing Yu.

Light-footed like flowing water, she looked sixteen and her elegant form was wreathed in a layer of mist. Despite that, the couple could sense a perpetual air of sorrow and loss about her.

“Greetings to fellow daoist.” Lu Yun nodded slightly at the woman. She was the vengeful spirit that he'd encountered in the ruins of the Firmament Prison, the last soul of one of the ages of immortal dao.

If it hadn't been for her paper boats, Lu Yun and the others probably wouldn't have made it out alive.

“For what matter have fellow daoists come?” The girl dismissed the layer of mist around her and revealed her true form. Her limpid eyes stared unblinkingly at Lu Yun and Qing Yu.

“Since you already know, fellow daoist, why do you ask?” It was Qing Yu who responded. “Do you wish to stop us?”

The girl shook her head. “My name is... Di Ling. Di as in ‘emperor’, which is found in ‘great emperor’, and Ling as in ‘grave’, which is found in ‘Violetgrave’.”

Lu Yun frowned and subconsciously met Qing Yu's eyes.

“The curse on the word ‘emperor’ has been lifted, your name no longer poses a danger.” Lu Yun’s frown deepened. It made him quite uncomfortable that Di Ling had mentioned Violetgrave, and explained that part of her name shared the same character. He now knew what kind of existence Violetgrave was.

There were two great masters in the chaos who’d ascended beyond the realm. One of them was Lu Qing in the chaos sea, the other was Violetgrave.

Violetgrave was even more ancient than Lu Qing as traces of her presence had existed in the mythological realm. However, that was the extent of Lu Yun’s knowledge about the sword. He had no idea where she came from or what exactly she was. What his past self had found in the mythological realm only pointed to her being an inauspicious omen.

“How is the curse on emperors so easily lifted? It is the immortal dao that has given way and changed great emperor realm back to empyrean instead,” murmured Di Ling with a lowered head.

Qing Yu was the one frowning now, and a well hidden streak of worry flashed through her eyes. There was still one person who used the emperor title in the world of immortals—her father, Immortal Emperor Qing Taxian.

Though it’d been Lu Yun orchestrating the change of great emperor realm, he wouldn’t have been able to do it if the immortal dao hadn’t been willing.

“The word curses me still.” Di Ling jerked her head up. “Violetgrave is the source of all curses. My name puts the emperor character first and the grave character second, which makes it the source of the curse on emperors.

“All will be resolved when I truly die.”

“Are you saying that Violetgrave is the instrument of the curse?” Lu Yun’s brows furrowed tightly and he recalled what Violetgrave had once said in front of the World Gates. If he didn’t retrieve her in a hundred years, then she would turn into something even more frightening than the dead spirits.

“Yes,” Di Ling responded. “The immortal dao is vast and far reaching, and the only dao that can traverse the four realms. My Di Clan is from the Hongmeng, and we came to the world of immortals to safeguard the immortal dao. However, we ended up becoming sinners against our ward instead, and I, the source of all evil.”

When Di Ling raised her head again, her eyes were a piercing crimson and bloody tears trickled out of them. Every drop seemed to be another Blood Sea that contained all beings.

Lu Yun and Qing Yu hastily backed away as rays of crimson light flared from her body. A giant, demonic shape was slowly forming behind her!

She was caught between two extremes—her regular form on the left was still as gentle and placid as still water, deep sorrow flowing out of her eyes.

Her right side, however, was the form of a demon. Brutal, violent, and exuding a tyrannical air.

“Kill me, kill the last of the Di bloodline and end it all. The immortal dao will be pristine, pure, and travel through the four realms!” Di Ling’s voice was split into two—tender feminine tones and raging masculine tones. The two joined together in an extremely weird combination.

“Come on, then! Kill me! I am the spirit of this Blood Sea! You’ll be able to take it if you kill me, and the last of the curse on the immortal dao will vanish!” The left side of Di Ling’s face continued to cry bloody tears, but her right side leered savagely, as if goading Lu Yun to kill her.

“The demon of the immortal dao!” Qing Yu took a step forward and forced out through grit teeth, “It’s you!”

Di Ling paused and looked at Qing Yu. “Since you know it’s me, why don’t you hurry and kill me?”

The demon of the immortal dao!

A chaos realm Fuxi had had to strip away his own senses after facing it, and his eyes corrupted by the simple sight!

“Don’t move, this isn’t the real body of the demon of the immortal dao!” Lu Yun yanked Qing Yu to his side. “Don’t get close to it. The left side is still Di Ling, while the right side is the demon. It hasn’t fully occupied Di Ling’s body yet, so we’d be helping it if we killed her.”

Black flames danced in Lu Yun’s eyes.

“So you’re the source of the uncanny zombies!” Lu Yun sneered at the demon of the immortal dao. “You’re getting ahead of yourself to corrupt the Blood Sea.”

The uncanny zombies! The kind that assimilated whoever killed or touched them!

Those zombies rampaged through all of the tombs in the world of immortals and Lu Yun had even run into them in the outskirts of the Tomb of Heaven and Earth. All of that originated from the demon of the immortal dao.

Di Ling had tried to kill it when it’d invaded the Blood Sea. Thankfully, she was the spirit of these waters and too strong to be assimilated even after all this time. When she told the story of her past, her mind had been controlled by the demon. She was almost taken over, and when the process was complete, she would be Di Ling, the demon of the immortal dao.

#### **Chapter 1142: To Reverse Time**

The left side of Di Ling’s face gradually began to turn as well. Her gentle features started to vanish, replaced by a snarling demonic face.

“We need to stop it!” Qing Yu’s eyes widened. If the demon of the immortal dao fully devoured Di Ling, then they would never be able to claim the Blood Sea. More importantly, once Di Ling was subsumed, the curse on the emperor title would be reignited and completely integrated into the immortal dao as a curse of eternity.

She rushed forward and brought her hand down on the demon’s head; the Dao Flower bloomed to protect her body.

However, that didn’t shake the demon at all. An eerie smile still clung to its face as it watched Qing Yu while still consuming Di Ling.

“Let me.” Lu Yun threw out his hand to stop her second charge and pulled her behind his back. “The demon’s target is you. It knew we would come, so it came to the Blood Sea to finish assimilating Di Ling. Everything she said just now was under its influence.”

He stared fixedly at the demon and concentrated all of his energy to his right hand, forming an ancient spear—Heavenfall.

Whoosh!

Lu Yun stabbed forward at an unmoving target. Instead of dodging or evading, the demon smirked to see the spear come toward it.

Hummm.

Instead of biting into Di Ling, the spear flared with the purple radiance of a combat art when it neared the demon.

Time Reincarnation!

Lu Yun sealed away the demon of the immortal dao with a time domain formed by this combat art.

“Lu Yun, should I say you’re an idiot or adorable?” the demon snorted with laughter to see this combat art, of all things, being used against it. “My existence pervades the entire immortal dao. No time beneath it can contain me.”

The demon was born of the immortal dao, and any demon originating from the immortal dao was also it, whether in the past, present, or future.

“Besides, I’m the one who invented your time combat art and taught it to that group of fools. You want to use my own art against me?” The demon’s unnatural smile deepened with weirdness and it stretched out misshapen fingers to flick the time domain.

Pop!

A tiny ripple undulated over the pale purple domain after a crisp snap and then... nothing. The smile slid off the demon’s face; it was suddenly all business.

“I might have truly been helpless if I’d met you before visiting the chaos, but you’re just a demonic whelp in my eyes now.” Lu Yun barked with laughter as lights of six different colors swirled in his eyes.

The orders of inception, ethos, burgeon, creation, opposition, and nirvana materialized as a perfect circulation in his body.

“I don’t even know how many demonic brats like you I snuffed out in the mythological realm, and you want to use a trifling replica to scheme against me and my dao partner?”

“Mythological realm? Who are you?!” The demon began to struggle, but the time domain entirely surpassed the limits of its replica and gradually closed around it.

“You know about the mythological realm, so you really have been to the Tomb of Heaven and Earth. You’re the one behind that kind of zombie in there, aren’t you? You wanted to make use of that

opportunity to gain the powers of the chaos,” Lu Yun muttered to himself and ignored the demon’s struggles.

The demon had indeed visited the tomb before, but hadn’t been able to penetrate the interior of the tomb with its level of strength. It could only leave behind those peculiar zombies in the outskirts. While it was invincible within the immortal dao, it was just an ordinary demonic spirit outside of it.

The immortal dao of the mythological realm had long been corrupted and heavily cursed to the point where it didn’t dare connect with it either.

“Wait, wait, don’t you want to know the secrets of this Blood Sea and the immortal dao??” It quickly offered when it saw that Lu Yun was about to destroy its replica.

It hadn’t been afraid before because it would assimilate Lu Yun if the slightest brush of energy touched it. Even if Lu Yun killed it, that would just mean that Lu Yun would replace Di Ling as the demon’s replica.

However, the ugly reality was that Lu Yun’s power exceeded the range of its knowledge and couldn’t be assimilated or replaced!

“Nope,” Lu Yun responded matter-of-factly.

Pop!

He snapped his fingers and sent the light purple domain into motion, reversing time. His Time Reincarnation had truly attained the effect of reincarnation and he could rewind time within a radius of three meters.

Once his strength reached the level of the fourth realm and the Tome of Life and Death became his nascent spirit, and hellfire his power, then he could likely reverse everything in existence with a simple thought and have it all start anew.

That wasn’t just the power of time, but of reincarnation.

Befuddlement appeared in the demon’s eyes as its body morphed from the image of a demon back to Di Ling. Wisps of bloody light swam out of Di Ling’s body and collected in a bloody pearl that was the size of a fist.

At the conclusion of the time art, the pearl dissolved and the demon’s replica was no more. Di Ling reappeared with a face of pain and sorrow.

“If you kill me, you will be able to obtain the Blood Sea and the last of the curse on the immortal dao will vanish.” She repeated the same words she’d said while under the demon’s control. Her thoughts just now had been the same as the demon’s, which was why it’d so easily assimilated her at the end.

“If you don’t kill me, I will kill you... and become a demon that is the enemy of the entire immortal dao.” The anguish in her voice echoed that of her face.

As a creature of the Blood Sea, she was under the control of the being from the third realm and had long lost her sense of self. She could retain the barest sliver of her being only when she was close to Lu Yun, because the Tome of Life and Death awoke her.

Carmine Eternal walked out from behind Lu Yun and took Di Ling's hand.

"Come with me and let's send this Blood Sea to where it should be." Having been born of the Blood Sea, Carmine Eternal was the walking essence of these waters. Whether it was the Blood Sea in front of them or its main body, both were under Carmine Eternal's authority.

She sent her power into Di Ling's body through their connected hands and freed the latter from the bonds of the Blood Sea. The Gates of the Abyss ponderously swung open and the Blood Sea agitated, surging through the doors.

An enormous human face suddenly appeared in the skies over the Blood Sea.

"Di Ling, how dare you betray me?" it demanded coolly.

### **Chapter 1143: A Game of Chess**

This was the great master from the third realm who appeared in the Blood Sea in the Tomb of Heaven and Earth—and also the originator of the sea in Life Province.

He hadn't appeared when the demon of the immortal dao devoured Di Ling, but couldn't sit still when Lu Yun activated the Gates of the Abyss and wanted to take both Di Ling and the Blood Sea away. He petrified all thirty thousand meters of the scarlet waters, turning it into a piece of bloody amber.

Lu Yun and Qing Yu looked up at the huge face.

"You ran away with your tail between your legs last time, so you want seconds this time?" Lu Yun snorted and stepped in front of Di Ling.

"I admit there's something odd about that bridge." The face slowly faded away to reveal a tall, limber man with a head full of crimson hair. His facial features were unearthly and his brows and pupils were bright red. An uncanny air wrapped around him—this wasn't his true body, just a projection.

"But dare you let that bridge out here?" It was his turn to laugh. "This world can't contain it."

Dark red stairs appeared in the void and the man walked down them, alighting in front of Lu Yun. He was very tall, roughly six meters, and looked down loftily as he towered over the human.

"Di Ling," he commanded frostily. "Get back over here."

Di Ling shook and trembled, but she still felt very safe beside Lu Yun. Her true essence was an immortal ghost, one plagued by resentment and violence. Lu Yun contained the presence of hell and the Gates of the Abyss were open at the moment, so Di Ling didn't fall under the man's control while she stood by Lu Yun.

"Alright, enough of the swagger and bluster." Qing Yu frowned. "You would've done something a long time ago if you could. Speak, what do you want?"

The crimson-haired man's lips curved when he refocused on Qing Yu. "It's so nice dealing with another smart person. You can have the Blood Sea, you can also have Di Ling." The man wiped all expression off his face. "When the immortal dao traverses the fourth realm, I will have this world of immortals."

“You want the world of immortals?” Lu Yun frowned slightly; he wasn’t surprised either that the man mentioned the fourth realm.

Di Ling’s clan hailed from the third realm and had fallen to the world of immortals to protect the immortal dao. She’d mentioned before that the immortal dao possessed the power to traverse all four realms, so experts of the third realm naturally knew of the existence of the fourth.

“That’s right, I want the world of immortals.” Twin lights brightened in the man’s bloody eyes. “When the immortal dao runs through all four realms, the creatures of this world will depart from it and the entire world will be mine. If we strike this deal, then I will refrain from creating trouble for you today and you can have the Blood Sea. Di Ling can remain as well.”

“In that case,” Lu Yun nodded after thinking it over. “I agree.”

Qing Yu looked at her dao partner and added her voice, “I agree too.”

“No!” Di Ling panicked at seeing Lu Yun and Qing Yu agree so easily.

Beside her, Carmine Eternal squeezed her hand and sent a flow of peaceful energy into her body, calming her emotions.

“The world of immortals is too important—” Di Ling was suddenly unable to speak after the crimson-haired man swept her a glance.

“Don’t you want to think it over some more?” The man looked at the couple, equally surprised by the ease of negotiations. “You need to realize what the consequences of lying to me are. Even that bridge may not be able to protect you if it appears again.”

“There’s nothing to think about. When the immortal dao traverses the fourth realm, we will give you the world of immortals if you want it.” Qing Yu chuckled, “Our only concern is that you won’t dare want it then.”

“Hahahaha!!” The man threw his head back in laughter. “Good, good, very good! Since even the dao sovereign has spoken thus, it would be contemptible of me if I continued to drag things out.

“Dao Sovereign, you must know that your every word and gesture represents the immortal dao. You making this decision means the same of the immortal dao. Then, I shall return to this place once the immortal dao reaches the ends of the fourth realm.”

He took a meaningful look at Di Ling before turning to leave.

Di Ling trembled as some sort of restriction seemed to shatter within her body, releasing her from the crimson-haired man’s clutches. He was a great master of the third realm, one known by all. Since he’d reached an agreement with Lu Yun and Qing Yu, he wouldn’t play any other tricks.

“How could you agree to that??” Di Ling frowned tightly with dismay. “This Blood Sea is only the weakest one out of all the ones he has. There are countless other Blood Seas in other worlds and they can all be used to capture the true Blood Sea!

“The world of immortals is too important and has something to do with the secrets of the fourth realm. There are more than him in the third realm who want the world of immortals! He also holds some

terrifying karmic relationship in the third realm, making it so that no one dares interact with him, much less a promise!”

In her unease, she fired off her words at a rapid clip. She’d originally fallen into the chaos from the third realm, then reincarnated into a being beneath the immortal dao. Now that she was free from the cycle of rebirth, she remembered everything she’d ever come across.

“Don’t worry, he can have it if he wants it.” Unbidden, Qing Yu caressed Di Ling’s head. The Blood Sea was flowing into hell under Carmine Eternal’s direction.

“Since there are so many in the third realm who want the world of immortals, then they can fight over it themselves. Perhaps none of them will dare want the world when the time comes,” Qing Yu chuckled again.

Both Lu Yun and Qing Yu now fully understood what the world of immortals was. This was an enormous game of chess and the players weren’t the masters of the great wilderness. They, too, were just pawns. If Leize and the others came to this world, they would also fall under someone else’s control.

All the signs pointed to various setups designed not to destroy the world, but to destroy all life in the world and sweep away some sort of obstacle.

“The Di Clan should have some lingering wills in the Blood Sea. Collect them and take them to the Hell Flowers. Your clan might have a chance to be reborn then.” Lu Yun smiled to see Di Ling still staring off in a daze. She trembled like a leaf when his words registered.

“Do you mean... they can come back to life?!” She stared incredulously at Lu Yun.

“We’ll know if we try.” Carmine Eternal took Di Ling’s hand and set foot into the Gates of the Abyss.

“I’ve been short on someone I can haul out as a convenient patron. That guy delivered himself on a silver platter.” A relaxed Lu Yun raised an eyebrow at Qing Yu. “This gives us enough time to strengthen ourselves.”

“That may be the case, but if he knows that we want to combine the Hadal Hell with the world of immortals...” Qing Yu paused.

“No worries, he won’t find out.” Lu Yun grinned confidently.

#### **Chapter 1144: Returning to the Fourth Realm**

“Not only will he not know, but no one will know.” Two black sparkles danced through Lu Yun’s eyes.

“You’re going to the fourth realm?” Qing Yu instantly grasped her beloved’s meaning.

If they tried to incorporate the Hadal Hell into the world of immortals out in the open, the ensuing ripples would affect all of the other worlds and even the chaos. The fallout would draw so much attention that anyone and everyone would come in pursuit.

The preparations that Hongjun and Fuxi were making weren’t for this occasion, but for a final battle to the death.



Lu Yun had thought about utilizing the fourth realm to accomplish his goal, but he'd previously possessed only the requisite strength and not the corresponding way. He was as if an incredibly strong giant, adept at wreaking havoc in all directions, but completely impossible at performing any delicate tasks.

Now that he'd recovered his past self, he'd incorporated his previous knowledge into his current self. Though the enhancement still wasn't much once he walked into the fourth realm, it was sufficient to make the world of immortals whole again.

That he dared make any decisions and scheme against an expert of the third realm was due to the existence of the fourth realm. With the immortal dao just now coming into its completed form and slowly permeating the chaos, it was a newly sprouted seed in the eyes of third realm masters.

The current world of immortals and iteration of the immortal dao wasn't very useful for them. Their planned course of action was to eliminate as many life forms beneath the immortal dao as possible, to prevent the natives from growing alongside their dao.

Naturally, these masters had their own set of concerns and restrictions that prevented them from actively interfering. They had to act through the chaos creatures to reach their goal of destroying the beings of the world of immortals.

The chaos creatures had no idea what they were doing; they thought they were following the same course of action from time immemorial—continuously destroying the newly born worlds so that they could survive.

Only the six sacred palaces stood alert for themselves and were free from third realm control, and it was all because Lu Qing stood behind them.

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Conflicts abounded in the world of immortals, perpetuating age old feuds and grudges. Countless geniuses appeared, rose, and fell in an endless cycle.

The Dao Academy was now the bonafide sacred land of immortal dao within the world. Boundless combat arts and cultivation methods flowed from its halls and took root all throughout the land.

There were more than a hundred empyrean realm experts residing in the world of immortals and innumerable masters in the supreme pure, jade pure, and grand pure realms—the equivalent of the human kings of the Primeval Era.

More than ninety percent of the dead and yin spirits had been swept out of the lower worlds, and increasing numbers of major worlds rebuilt themselves into better versions of their previous selves. Likewise, the immortal dao grew stronger when more people cultivated it in the lower worlds.

When the dead spirits of the lower worlds were mostly cleared away, the various denizens of the world of immortals proposed heading through the World Gates and eliminating the dead spirits there as well.

However, when ten peak grand pure masters walked through the World Gates together, they were disintegrated by the opposition before they could form a single hand seal!

It was only then that the world realized how terrifying the tide of dead spirits outside the World Gates were. If the ten masters had died in a blaze of glory, that still would've given hope to the countless immortals and empyrean masters back home.

That they'd flown apart the moment they walked out... was entirely too terrifying.

So terrifying that it caused one to despair.

Despite that, the Dao Academy remained as steady as Mount Tai. It didn't react to the attempt and continued publicizing a variety of sophisticated methods. At peak empyrean realm, the headmaster and dao sovereign occasionally gave lectures on dao, imparting new hope to the people.

In the eighty-ninth year of the Xuanhuang calendar, the world of immortals possessed twenty-four chaos realm masters. Apart from the immortal emperor, the rulers of the nine majors, ten lands, and four immortal seas had also ascended to the chaos realm.

Of course, there were certainly more chaos realm immortals in the Dao Academy, but no one knew how many there might be. It was also unknown whether there were chaos realm masters in the assorted hidden factions of the world—the Purple, Green, and Crimson Firmaments, as well as the Fangyang Royals and other clans from the Primordial Era.

The current world of immortals was a picture of thriving prosperity. If it wasn't for the hordes of dead spirits waiting on the other side of the World Gates, the immortals might've even started making their way into the chaos.

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Mount Tai.

Once the intersection between the great wilderness and the netherdark. Magnificent and spectacular, it was now the tallest peak of the five sacred mountains. What was known as Mount Tai on Earth was just a hint of its true greatness.

"Master, I've recollected the power of Mount Tai and can direct the Hadal Hell to connect to the world at any time!" Tianqi had returned to hell with a tiny mountain peak in his hand—the true form of the mountain.

Mount Tai was a divine mountain resulting from the hadal power. Now that two worlds were to become one, the mountain was the key.

"There's no rush." Lu Yun shook his head. "There's a great danger in there, so we need to clean house first before doing anything."

"Understood!" Tianqi trembled with emotion as he looked at his master. Even though he was a creator now and stronger than his master, he was still the same naive boy as always when facing Lu Yun.

"Come, let's go to the fourth realm." Lu Yun waved a hand and summoned the Bridge of Forgetfulness to carry him and his disciple to the fourth realm.

When they arrived, they had to deploy every single death art at their disposal to make it into the Hadal Prisons. If they'd just walked in, they likely would've been instantly devoured, not even a bone fragment left of them.

The prisoners kept in these dungeons were characters that even masters of the third realm dared not provoke. They were the most terrifying fiends of the fourth realm!

Lu Yun and Qing Yu had accidentally wandered into the fourth realm last time through the Stone of Three Lives tracking the bridge's ripples. With the bridge leading the way this time, the second trip was much smoother.

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The fourth realm was as it'd appeared before. Spacious, empty, and nothing there, like it was a world of nothing. However, there were numerous specks of light, large and small, like stars hanging in the air. They seemed close at hand, but were, in reality, an indeterminable distance away.

"Bridgie, you've come back!" A tiny thought ripple probed them when Lu Yun, Tianqi, and the Bridge of Forgetfulness set foot into the fourth realm. "You disappeared after I took a nap, I thought someone ate you! But here you are again in the blink of an eye!"

#### **Chapter 1145: She Nong**

The thought ripple was very out of place, sending Tianqi into a panic before he had time to closely inspect the fourth realm.

"Don't be afraid." Lu Yun patted his disciple's shoulder, but Tianqi still felt uncomfortable.

The fourth realm was a plane of existence held in high veneration by everyone in the third realm. Legend spoke of an enormous wall between the third and fourth realm; whoever could break through the wall would become an unparalleled existence of the fourth. Lu Yun had just casually dropped into the plane with Tianqi, making everything seem incredibly surreal.

"So you've come back, and with two tiny creatures! Are they your new toys?" It wasn't a thought ripple this time, but a tangible voice.

Last time Lu Yun and Qing Yu visited, they'd only seen the bridge and nothing else. Their return visit brought them a close encounter with a local denizen at first light.

"Who goes there?!" Tianqi roared. He didn't see anything and his consciousness was sweeping at its maximum range of a hundred thousand kilometers, but to no avail.

The fourth realm was so empty, so expansive that it made one despair.

"You can stop looking, he's right in front of us," sighed Lu Yun and pointed at the darkness ahead of them. "That's his eye."

Tianqi shuddered.

Instead of responding, the Bridge of Forgetfulness began to expand to the size it'd been when Lu Yun first bumped into it. The bigger it was, the stronger it was. Of course, its spirit was still too weak to control its body when it grew that big.

But becoming larger was the only recourse to standing toe-to-toe with this ponderous existence.

The darkness in the void shifted, as if something was moving in another direction.

“Say, Bridgie, will you give me one of the little creatures on you?”

Tianqi still couldn't see where the being was, but Lu Yun's eyes were staring straight ahead of them. He could see his reflection with the Spectral Eye, one coming out of a pupil larger than the entire chaos!

The Bridge of Forgetfulness didn't respond. If it'd been any other time, it would've already turned itself into a zombie and unleashed a flood of ghostface maggots and corpseflies. It could disgust its opponent to death, even if it couldn't beat him!

As things were, it was very much at ease, despite the encounter, since there was an even more dreadful being on its back.

“Tianqi, do you remember the death art I taught you before?” Lu Yun suddenly grinned. “Deploy Size Manipulation to its greatest.”

Boom.

With a tremble, Lu Yun began to grow explosively in size himself. Tianqi was half a second behind his master, but his body swiftly increased in volume as well. He grew so quickly that the immortal force within his body was diffused to its maximum and was beginning to become too thin.

Whoosh!

The Karmic Tree inside of him blazed with black flame and replaced his original immortal force. New strength flooded his limbs and his cultivation realm bounded forward. He was the mountain god of Mount Tai, and the mountain was a divine mountain formed out of the Hadal Hell. He was also the second person after Lu Yun to practice the Method of Life and Death and wield hellfire.

Though he wasn't bolstered by the Tome of Life and Death, anything Lu Yun could do, he could do too.

A large eyeball appeared in his line of sight and quickly grew smaller. His field of vision zoomed out to see a face, a head, and then a full being standing in the void.

Tianqi stopped growing at this point, his body the size of the giant's head. However, that was enough for him to take in every detail about the other.

This was a man rippling with muscles and clad in black armor. The skin exposed to the outside air was deeply tanned and corded with sinewy muscle threatening to burst through his armor.

“Who are you calling tiny creatures?” Lu Yun's voice traveled down from above.

Tianqi shuddered again and subconsciously looked upward, finding his master the size of a large mountain. Tianqi was a pebble at the foot of a towering mountain!

The man in black armor also stared dumbly at Lu Yun. He wasn't surprised that Tianqi had suddenly grown to the size of his head. In that condition, Tianqi just barely reached the threshold to set foot into the fourth realm.

But what was with the giant in front of him?

Compared to Lu Yun, the man in black armor was a dwarf, a woodcutter beneath a mountain!

Indeed, Lu Yun was more than ten thousand times stronger now compared to his first visit to the fourth realm. His death arts had undergone countless evolutions, and only an incomparably spacious plane like the fourth realm could withstand their power.

Not even the third realm could contain such strength.

The moment the Tome of Life and Death replaced Lu Yun's immortal force and nascent spirit was the moment his strength reached the fourth realm. Any strength in this plane was something that the worlds, the chaos, and Hongmeng was unable to endure.

When Lu Yun first entered the fourth realm, he was still in the empyrean realm. Hellfire and Tome of Life and Death were the sources of his transformation. He strode down from the bridge and peered down at the man in black armor.

"M-m-m-mmm—" stammered the man.

"Mm what? Are you eating something?" Lu Yun asked.

"Milord!"

Plop!

The shaking man fell to his knees in midair. The fourth realm was a place so empty that the bigger one's body was, the more power it could contain. Lu Yun's current size absolutely made him worthy of being hailed with an honorific.

The larger one was, the stronger, and thus the greater one's status. This former tiny creature was absolutely a lord.

"Sir, please don't make things difficult for She Nong. When I first formed my true spirit in the fourth realm, it was all due to his help that I survived and became a local inhabitant," said the bridge.

"She Nong? Interesting name. Why don't you call yourself Nong She, as in snake charmer?" Lu Yun grinned.

"If milord wishes this humble one to change my name, I will immediately rename myself as Snakecharmer!" She Nong hurriedly offered.

"Er, stick with She Nong." Lu Yun calmed the corners of his lips. "I'm short on people at the moment. Since you're here, come help."

He didn't plan on gathering information about the fourth realm. He wasn't a resident and he didn't have much ambition about this plane. It'd be a waste of time to ask, other than to once again marvel at how big this world was.

“This humble one is willing to serve the lord!” She Nong quickly assented.

### **Chapter 1146.1: The Great Peak of the Five Hells**

The fourth realm was so vast that it exceeded the limits of understanding of any creature from the worlds, chaos, and Hongmeng. It was called thus only because the inhabitants of the third realm and Lu Yun had named it so.

When compared to the fourth realm, the Hongmeng was just a speck of dust. There were even some denizens of the fourth realm that were bigger than all of the third.

Take She Nong, for instance. He was larger than all of the chaos, but he wasn't even one of the peak existences here. He counted as middle of the pack, at most, a most ordinary life form in the vast population of the fourth realm. He was only a tiny bit stronger than the Bridge of Forgetfulness.

What Lu Yun displayed with his boosted death art unequivocally placed him in the upper echelon of the fourth realm. Thus, She Nong didn't dare disrespect any of the human's orders.

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“Come with me.” Lu Yun opened the Gates of the Abyss with a wave of his hand.

The doors opened to the ninth level of the Hadal Hell. They were the front doors to the Hadal Hell to begin with, just that Tianqi had commandeered them to be the doors of the human dao hell instead.

Their size was peerless without match, as if they were the gates to an entire world. Towering in the void of the fourth realm, they exuded an unquestionable authority that surveyed everything within its purview. It felt like only in the fourth realm could the Gates of the Abyss fully recover its true self—just like the Bridge of Forgetfulness.

“The Hadal Hell!” shrieked She Nong when he took a clear look at the other side.

“Eh?” Lu Yun and Tianqi paused, looking at the man in unison.

“You know about the Hadal Hell?” Lu Yun asked with surprise.

“Who doesn't know about that incredibly mysterious and terrifying hell!” She Nong smiled ruefully. “It holds the most ruthless and evil villains of all time. Not only are their hands drenched in blood from their ravaging of the land, but they've destroyed countless Hongmeng realms on their rampages.

“They're so strong that even the unparalleled existences that exist cannot destroy them. The only recourse is to lock them away within the Hadal Hell.”

“Destroyed countless Hongmeng realms?” Tianqi asked with astonishment. Hongmeng was the name of the third realm, but it sounded like there was more than one of it?

She Nong glanced at the figure roughly the size of his head and heard the question in Tianqi's tones.

“There are many Hongmeng realms scattered in the corners of that plane.

“What we call the Hongmeng isn't a singular realm, but a multitude of cages that incubate life. When life inside a cage transforms to levels high enough to break through the Hongmeng wall, they gain the right to open the cage and enter the real world.”

“You... mean... that the Hongmeng is just a series of holding pens and not the third realm?” Tianqi was beginning to doubt his very life.

“Naturally, how can there be a realm that small?” She Nong pointed at Lu Yun. “Your lord is bigger than even the greatest Hongmeng realm.”

“Master!” An extremely confused Tianqi smiled lopsidedly at Lu Yun.

“The Hongmeng and chaos aren’t true realms, but ours—the world of immortals and the rest of the worlds, is a bonafide, complete realm.” Lu Yun grinned back, knowing that She Nong’s words were too much of a shock to Tianqi’s worldview. His disciple wouldn’t be able to accept them for a while.

Lu Yun also fully understood what the man meant. To sophisticated life forms of the fourth realm, the creatures of the Hongmeng were the equivalent of amoebas to humans on Earth.

“Right, that’s right, our world is a true realm!” Tianqi’s dao heart began to settle down. The world of immortals, or the worlds, rather, was a true realm. Whether it was the chaos or the Hongmeng, both of them were after it.

The immortal dao in the world of immortals had the potential to traverse the fourth realm. Once the immortal dao ruled the chaos, Hongmeng, and ran through the fourth realm, there would be no difference between any of them. All life forms would be on par with the most sophisticated in the fourth realm.

“Milord, why did you suddenly open the way to the Hadal Hell?” She Nong asked cautiously.

“Where does the Hadal Hell originate from and who created it?” Lu Yun asked instead.

“I don’t know... I don’t have the right to look upon such persons. All I know are the rumors that everyone knows. Only a select few know the truth,” She Nong quickly responded.

“I see, that will do then.” Lu Yun inclined his head.

The situation in the Hadal Hell was likely far more complicated than what She Nong spoke of. Hellfire originated from there, and it blazing in Lu Yun’s body was the basis for him becoming an ultimate powerhouse of the fourth realm. Tianqi also relied on it to possess power in the fourth realm.

“Let us clear out the prisoners inside. I have other uses for this hell,” said Lu Yun.

She Nong sighed with relief upon hearing this. “I’d thought that milord wanted to do something with hellfire. Hellfire is the greatest fire in all of existence and the foundation of the Hadal Hell. Everything is fine as long as we don’t touch hellfire!

“These prisoners have been kept there so long that their strength has long eroded away. Just stand to the side and watch, milord! Me and this little brother are enough to take care of them all!” She Nong extended a finger and stroked Tianqi’s tiny head, prompting a glowering look from the latter.

“Milord, this humble one has some fast friends. Why don’t I call them over to help?” She Nong suddenly asked fawningly, right before he entered the Gates of the Abyss.

“No need, you and Tianqi, as well as the Bridge of Forgetfulness, are enough,” Lu Yun declined.

“Oh, alright!” Far from being disappointed at Lu Yun’s refusal, She Nong dashed merrily into the Hadal Hell.

Dangers abounded in the fourth realm, and a being like him was just of mediocre level. He had to face threats at every turn, so having such a powerful lord as his patron was a great stroke of fortune.

He hadn’t really wanted to summon his friends to help, he’d just wanted them all to latch onto this thigh.

.....

The Hadal Hell went by many names—Hadal Battlefront, Hadal Prisons, Hadal World... All were monikers for this dreadful hell.

Numerous worlds had been born in the chaos since the dawn of time, and many hells had been born within them. All of them were a result of power leaking out from the Hadal Hell—the human dao hell included.

Lu Yun had followed the perimeter of this hell to enter the fourth realm last time, which meant the Hadal Hell was constantly connected to the fourth realm and other worlds. This was why he said that their worlds were the true realm.

The void that comprised of the Hadal Hell wasn’t that much different from the fourth realm, so it could fully accommodate power from the fourth. There were nine enormous worlds to the Hadal Hell, each of them vast without end and nurturing a terrifying core.

The closest prison to the kingdom of hell was the first level, its inhabitants long withered away. It held prisoners from the human dao era and traitors that Tianqi had later thrown in. The level closest to the fourth realm was the innermost one, and it held prisoners that were once the greatest existences of the fourth realm.

Human dao’s hell had possessed eighteen levels—a structure that was based off of the nine layers of Hadal Hell. The latter was the true source of human dao hell.

When Lu Yun and the others set foot past the Gates of the Abyss, demonic howls filled their ears. These were the cries of anguish, of struggle, of torment that persisted life after life.

“Little thing, you’ve finally come in here!” An enormous howl rang through Hadal Hell as a tremendous skeleton appeared out of the gloom and smacked down on Lu Yun.

This skeleton was the one that’d projected its will to the first level of hell before, seeking to escape through the weakest layer. It’d been beaten back countless times by Lu Yun, Ge Long, and the blood demon. It’d even once been target practice for Lu Yun to hone his sword dao.

Today, Lu Yun—the instigator of all—was here in the flesh! Naturally, the skeleton couldn’t contain its eagerness to pulverize this foe. It could exert all of its strength in the ninth layer of Hadal Hell—strength of the fourth realm!

Overwhelming fury and desire for freedom stampeded in its mind, supplanting its rationale to first determine what cultivation realm Lu Yun was currently at.



“How dare a pile of bones be so presumptuous?!” She Nong sneered at the sight and stepped forward, materializing a black spear in his hands. Glinting with a keen light, he stabbed right down upon the skeleton.

“What?!” Surprise came from the bones and it instinctively retreated. However, the spear followed it like a snake’s tongue, swift and furious, piercing through its head before anything realized what was happening.

The skeleton instantly fell apart and a tiny flower of white flame vanished through the air.

“The fire spirit of Hadal Bonefire!” She Nong started and sent his spear after the tiny fire spirit.

“The doors to the Hadal Hell are open. We can all be free if we kill these four life forms!” The tiny fire spirit suddenly sent an immense sound wave through all nine layers.

Wails and shrieks from the imprisoned grew and intensified as shadow upon shadow upon shadow shot out of the depths. They weren’t aiming for Lu Yun and the others, but the Gates of the Abyss behind them, the exit!

They would be free if they could charge out!

#### **Chapter 1146.2: The Great Peak of the Five Hells**

“Hmph, a pack of spirit fragments almost extinguished by hellfire wants to escape from my hands?” She Nong snorted and brandished his spear, rushing the prisoners in turn.

Other than the prisoners of the first layer, any other that could survive in the other eight would be great experts of the fourth realm. Though they’d been refined by hellfire for endless eons, the irresistible allure of freedom inspired a prodigious desire for survival.

Caught off guard by the depths of their desperation, She Nong was swept off his feet by their momentum.

“Tianqi!” Lu Yun shouted.

“Yes, master!” Tianqi’s body ballooned several sizes bigger and he sent out the peak of Mount Tai, turning it into an uncrossable mountain in front of the Gates of the Abyss.

The mountain of the two realms would sever the two!

Upon the towering landmass, the words “Great Peak of the Five Mountains” flashed with bloody radiance and shifted into “Great Peak of the Five Prisons”!

Boom—

The prisoners that circled around She Nong crashed to a violent halt when they ran into Mount Tai, and were sent flying backward by a flare of bloody light. Mount Tai wasn’t just a mountain between two realms of the great wilderness, but the most magnificent divine mountain of the fourth realm, one that could sever yin from yang!

In this case, yin referenced hell and yang referenced the fourth realm. There were five hells in the fourth realm, with the Hadal Hell as the foremost. Mount Tai could suppress all five with its strength alone!

Being the mountain god of Mount Tai, what Tianqi released in the Hadal Hell was far beyond the limits of the fourth realm and unequivocally stopped the prisoners in their tracks.

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“Holy, this kid’s the god of Mount Tai!” She Nong shuddered when he scrambled up from the ground and saw Tianqi summon Mount Tai in a fit of blazing glory.

“Didn’t the god of Mount Tai die? How is he alive again?” He swept a glance over Lu Yun. “If this lord is the master of the god of Mount Tai, won’t he be even greater than the legendary mountain god?”

She Nong shuddered again and tightened his hand around his spear, howling a war cry as he charged forward. Plainly, Tianqi’s identity was greater than what Lu Yun understood it to be.

Within the Hadal Hell, the Bridge of Forgetfulness fully released its true might. It was formed from the seepage of this hell’s energy to begin with, so its spirit could grow in this realm and perfectly control its body.

The bridge and She Nong flanked Tianqi and brought up his rear, scything through the dense horde like two dragons.

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Lu Yun stood next to Tianqi, having shrunk himself to be the same size as his disciple. He frowned as he gazed upon the harrowing battle before him.

The prisoners had been weakened to the extreme. They were on par with Tianqi, just barely reaching the threshold for the fourth realm. They would likely regress from their sophisticated existences after a while longer and devolve into the lower life forms of the third realm, nothing else in their future but to wither away and die.

“Tianqi, what crime have they committed to be locked away here, never to see the light of day again?” Lu Yun suddenly asked.

“Well...” Tianqi blinked. “I once entered the Hadal Hell after I became master of the human hell, adding some truly wicked beings who were a plague upon life. Those who later betrayed humanity and swore fealty to other races were thrown in here as well.”

“Betrayal is just a matter of perspective and change. These people just wanted to live,” Lu Yun refuted thoughtfully.

“Indeed.” Tianqi nodded. “In their eyes, they did no wrong. But in mine, they committed unforgivable sins. Death would be a blessing to them.”

If one shed the constraints of morals and ethics, then there was no right or wrong in the matters of the world. Everything was a matter of personal perspective, just like the age old enmity between the chaos creatures and the worlds. Both sides just wanted to survive and protect their own interests.

However, living beings were also no primitive beasts. They possessed civilization, ethics, restrictions, and thus naturally right and wrong, good and evil came into being.

The Sal Tree of Life and Death had grown in hellfire and supported the human dao hell. When later irrigated by civilization, it'd turned into the Karmic Tree to determine right from wrong, define good and evil, and pass due judgment!

"Master, are you pitying them? You must know that, just like what She Nong said, they've destroyed countless Hongmeng realms. They carry boundless retribution on their shoulders," Tianqi quickly said when he saw Lu Yun's expression.

"Sometimes what you see and hear isn't the truth. Su Xiaoxiao was once covered with retribution because she poisoned multiple major worlds." Lu Yun shook his head lightly. "If there comes a day in which we are defeated... do you think we'll be imprisoned here as well?" he murmured as he watched the prisoners furiously throw themselves against Mount Tai, the Bridge of Forgetfulness, and She Nong in a maddened bid for freedom.

Tianqi's eyes widened.

"They're not necessarily characters of extreme evil. Maybe they're just failures. After all, history is written by the victorious. The retribution they bear might be just the result of a different definition of good and evil compared to the victors." Lu Yun suddenly thought of the history of the world of immortals he'd compiled. Though he was an immortal now, he was still human and thus harbored innate prejudices and biases. There was good and evil in his book, and his enemies were all down as villains.

"Master, do you mean to release them back into the fourth realm?" Tianqi seemed to understand something when he looked at his master's expression.

"I need to make plans for the future. If there comes a day in which the immortal dao travels through the fourth realm, we need to have a foundation in this world! The two of us won't be able to stir up even a ripple in the fourth realm with our strength alone. We need to gain a foothold here!

"And, what if we're defeated? This could be another potential avenue of retreat for us." A crazy thought rose in Lu Yun's mind as he scanned the multitudes of prisoners. He could bring them under his banner and have them fight for him!

If there came a day in which he failed and lost the world of immortals, he could withdraw with everyone in the world and fight for a chance of survival in the fourth realm.

Though he was strong here, he was completely without foundations. Most importantly, he knew nothing of this realm. It wasn't until he saw all of these prisoners that he realized he'd been so grossly optimistic before.

If he failed, that could very well be him among the crowd.

"I've tasted defeat before too..." sighed Tianqi. "In all of our calculations and plans, we never thought that the human dao hell would be destroyed. It is indeed time to plan for the future."

Lu Yun had always focused on how to succeed, how to win. He'd never considered the possibility that he might fail. Most of the prisoners here existed in a state between life and death. The Spectral Eye revealed the specifics of their information, painting a picture of how stunning their talents had been

during development, how domineering they were at their peak, and how inconsolable they were in defeat.

Their life experiences were more wondrous than Lu Yun's, their achievements more glorious, and their defeat more thorough.

Through observation of others could one reflect upon one's own shortcomings. Each of the prisoners in front of them was a mirror for Lu Yun, showing him different kinds of failure and their consequences.

He'd never thought that he was the son of heaven or a favored child of destiny, that he'd never run the risk of falling short. He just hadn't had that experience yet. Forming a backup plan was a necessity—he had to pave a way out for those who followed him!

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Boom!

Mount Tai trembled as the words "Great Peak of the Five Hells" flared painfully and dyed all of the Hadal Hell with a crimson light. A sparkling Karmic Tree materialized behind Lu Yun. With his current level of strength, he suppressed all of the beings and existences inside the Hadal Hell. The Tome of Life and Death also glowed with black light in his consciousness.

He was once more the incomparably large giant, so titanic that She Nong was a tiny ant in front of him. The prisoners all cowed on the ground from the force of his terrifying aura.

"If you submit unto me, I shall return you your freedom." Lu Yun's voice rumbled through the Hadal Hell.

Kneeling on the ground, the prisoners lifted numb expressions to peer at Lu Yun. Some of them had once been stronger than even his current form, but they were all pathetic worms now. All of their confidence, pride, and past glories were nothing when stripped of freedom.

Death wasn't frightening; what was frightening was endless drifting in eternal emptiness, unable to live or die, forever suffering torment.

"I am willing to submit." Goodwill rose from one, two, three... more and more prisoners and gathered on the Karmic Tree behind Lu Yun.

This was a sign that they were willing to serve Lu Yun. After a hundred breaths, any prisoners that hadn't produced goodwill were turned to dust with the Judgment of Life or Death.

"She Nong, I leave these people to you. I hope that the next time we meet, you'll have carved out a territory for me." Lu Yun pointed at She Nong and sent a karmic fruit into the man's body. An extraordinary treasure such as this fruit condensed the power of goodwill; it would bring great benefits even for a life form of She Nong's level.

"Understood!" Shaking with emotion, he dropped to one knee in front of Lu Yun, fully becoming his new patron's man in this moment.

"Alright, you may all depart." Lu Yun looked at the remaining prisoners. Their current strength was the same as Tianqi—barely reaching the threshold of the fourth realm.

However, they'd all been great personages in this realm some time in the past. Recovering their past strength was only a matter of time after they returned home.

"Free... Freedom at last." The skeleton had reassembled itself and looked around blankly when it walked out of the Gates of the Abyss. It couldn't believe that its prolonged nightmare was finally over.

Flesh and blood slowly grew over the bones, forming a handsome young man. He suddenly fell to his knees in the void and howled with tears.

"My life is yours forevermore!" He suddenly turned back and kowtowed to Lu Yun. He'd only submitted earlier because he saw the hope of freedom. But now, he truly gave his loyalty to the master of hell.

All of the prisoners still had nothing to their name, but they had their freedom.

"That's enough of that." Lu Yun looked solemnly at them. "I don't care what you do, but you must establish a domain that is completely mine in the fourth realm."

The prisoners had once observed all of the happenings in hell through the Hadal Hell and naturally understood what Lu Yun planned to do. They immediately gave loud assent.

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Lu Yun wasn't worried at all that they might turn traitor. The Karmic Tree had collected all of their goodwill, so he'd know at first light if anyone betrayed him.

The Hadal Hell was now empty. There was nothing either alive or dead in its mysterious depths anymore. At its center, its core, could be found a churning sea of hellfire. The Sal Tree of Life and Death had once been rooted here, and Lu Yun had borrowed the sea of hellfire to rampage through the great wilderness.

When both Lu Yun and Tianqi arrived at its shores, it became much more docile than normal.

"What is the secret to the Hadal Hell?" Tianqi asked with puzzlement.

Lu Yun smiled, then sighed softly at his disciple. "What kind of existence do you think you are?"

Tianqi blinked.

#### **Chapter 1147: Absolute Astonishment**

"Me?" Tianqi looked dumbly at his master.

"That's right, you." Lu Yun nodded with a smile. "Mount Tai is a mountain of two worlds and suppresses the five hells. I don't know what the other four hells are, but they're likely on par with the Hadal Hell. One Mount Tai can suppress five hells, and you're its god, so what does that make you?"

"I..." Tianqi blinked rapidly and chuckled ruefully. "I don't know either. Bashe targeted me the moment my consciousness was born. If it wasn't for your appearance, master, I'd be dead long ago."

"What's yours is yours, no one can take it away from you." Lu Yun shook his head. "Perhaps the moment the five hells are gathered is the moment your true self returns."

“Then I’ll find the other four and destroy one of them!” The light of resolution shone out of Tianqi’s eyes. With Mount Tai in his grasp, destroying one of the five hells was an easy task.

“It might not be a bad thing to find your true self again.” Lu Yun chuckled when he read his disciple’s expression. “Alright now, it’s time to meld the nine worlds of the Hadal Hell into the world of immortals.”

The greatest secret of this hell definitely had something to do with Tianqi. Lu Yun was certain that his disciple’s true self would return once the five hells were gathered together again. It was apparent from the fact that Tianqi exercised absolute authority in the Hadal Hell, just as Lu Yun did in the kingdom of hell. That Lu Yun was able to do the same in this hell was due to the Tome of Life and Death.

“Mm.” Tianqi nodded gently.

A concentrated crimson light exploded out of Mount Tai once more and enveloped the nine worlds within this hell, drawing in dense energy of a world from all directions to the mountain. The power of Mount Tai could now affect all of those worlds.

“This Hadal Hell...” Shock flitted across Tianqi’s face. “It was refined from nine worlds like ours!”

“Eh?” Lu Yun blinked and looked at his disciple.

Tianqi was now connected to the Hadal Hell through Mount Tai, so everything about this place was readily available to his consciousness. He’d once been the ruler of this realm and created everything here, but now he was only Tianqi, Lu Yun’s third disciple.

“They were nine worlds that had swallowed the chaos, devoured the Hongmeng, and reached the fourth realm!” Tianqi’s voice cracked. “After they expanded to the fourth realm and reached its level of evolution, their inhabitants were on par with those of the fourth realm! However, someone destroyed them all and refined them into the Hadal Hell.”

Or maybe even Tianqi’s true self had destroyed them to refine them into this hell.

Lu Yun inhaled sharply, his expression flickering rapidly through various thoughts.

“Master... do you really think we’ll succeed? Even if we defeat the chaos creatures and those bastards with ill intent in the Hongmeng, will we be able to shake off this misfortune?” Tianqi’s voice trembled. “Many of the prisoners that you released earlier come from these nine worlds. They were all premier existences of the fourth realm.”

“I don’t know.” Lu Yun shrugged. “But I do know that if we work hard in that direction, that will grant us a sliver of hope. If we hide in here and do nothing, then there really will be no future for us.”

“Agreed!” Tianqi nodded emphatically, a light dancing intermittently in his eyes.

“Don’t you worry, the five hells won’t be gathered together. After today, the Hadal Hell will become a footnote in history.” Lu Yun naturally knew what his disciple was thinking about.

Tianqi started.

“Let’s get started, dragging things out leads to unexpected changes.”

“Okay!”

Rumble—

Tianqi called upon the power of Hadal Hell and sent the nine worlds out of the netherworld, past the obstruction of space, and into the world of immortals.

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At the peak of Mount Buzhou, Leize, Huaxu, Wahuang, Fuxi, and Hongjun stood at strict attention, ready for an enormous battle. However, all of the worlds remained uncommonly peaceful with no ripples of change or strange phenomenon to be seen.

They were all extremely nervous.

“It’s the agreed upon date, why isn’t Lu Yun here?” Wahuang suddenly asked Hongjun.

“Well... I don’t know either.” Hongjun stroked his beard with a lost look.

He’d originally looked like a young man, but had transformed into an old man after completing Lu Yun’s reincarnation tribulation.

“I’ve already refined the world crystal that I collected from the Tomb of Heaven and Earth. We can resonate the world of immortals with the Hadal Hell at any time, sticking the two of them together...” Hongjun carried a gourd in his hand, one that contained a world crystal with the power to combine worlds. He was the first creature to enter the tomb and had brought out not only the world crystal, but also the last bloodline of the chaos dragons and delivered it to the world of immortals.

Making the world of immortals whole again with thirty-three layers was part of Leize’s plan from the very beginning. However, none of them had fathomed that Lu Yun would be so crazy as to use the Hadal Hell for the task.

“Has something unexpected come up?” Leize frowned slightly, his expression darkening.

Lu Yun possessed a swift and decisive style and was a man of his word. Since he’d said he’d do something, then he would accomplish it. That he wasn’t rendezvousing with them on Mount Buzhou could only mean that something was unexpectedly keeping him.

“How about we get started first? The five of us combined can compel the world of immortals to communicate with the Hadal Hell,” Hongjun took a deep breath and took out a piece of world crystal.

Having received the blessings of reincarnation and been revived through it, both Hongjun and Fuxi could enter hell to communicate with the Hadal Hell if they wanted to.

“Hold on!” Huaxu had him pause. “Look at the world of immortals!”

All five possessed the strength of sacred monarchs, so they could easily see the rest of the world of immortals from their vantage point on Mount Buzhou. They were stunned to see nine worlds larger than the world of immortals suddenly appear out of thin air. Something seemed to refine them, shrink them, and incorporate them with the world of immortals.

“How did he do it?! He took control of the Hadal Hell and had it voluntarily become one with the world of immortals!” Leize gasped.

In the legends of the chaos and third realm, the Hadal Hell was a demonic land. Even the masters of the third realm dared not easily set foot inside.

In their original plan, Lu Yun was to only borrow that hell’s power to support the world of immortals. The Hadal Hell would remain separate, despite using it to make the world whole again. The prisoners locked within would still remain, and the nine worlds within would become new forbidden zones within the world of immortals.

Reality proved to be completely different from their imagination. Someone had refined that hell and truly integrated it with the world of immortals!

Setting aside how Lu Yun had done it, did he want to turn the world into a new hell and ruin it entirely?!

“Let’s go to the world of immortals! I don’t believe Lu Yun would do something this dumb!” Wahuang was the first to move. She darted to the path outside of Earth and hurried along it to the world of immortals. Leize and the others were close behind her.

#### **Chapter 1148: Thirty-Three Layers of the World of Immortals**

Wahuang and the others came to a dazed halt when they came down Mount Xuanhuang and took a good look at the world of immortals.

All was a picture of peace and tranquility, as if it was an ordinary day like no other.

It was quiet within the Dao Academy as well. Immortal qi wreathed Mount Xuanhuang as immortals visited with each other, discussed dao, or sat on the ground studying ancient texts. There was nothing that even hinted at two worlds melding together.

Such an event was the collision between the core essences of two worlds. What should’ve occurred was the reversal of yin and yang, thrashing of thunderous tempests and smiting of devastating lightning, confusion in the five elements, and possibly even complete annihilation if not handled properly.

How did this scene look like the combination of two worlds? There were no signs at all or any extraordinary phenomenon.

“What’s going on?” Leize and the others looked blankly at each other. Had they seen a mirage on Mount Buzhou?

“Hmm? What brings you all here?” rang an ethereal voice before Qing Yu and the little fox appeared in front of them.

“Isn’t this the day to make the world of immortals whole again with the thirty-three layers? We’re here to help,” Wahuang responded awkwardly, reinforced by blank nods from Fuxi and the others.

“Little fox, why didn’t you tell your master and the others?” Qing Yu first looked askance at Wahuang, then turned her head to Miao.

“I... I... sent Qingmiao to tell them,” stammered the little fox.



“Nuh uh! The second mistress didn’t tell me to go to Mount Buzhou!” Liu Qingmiao’s childlike voice instantly sounded out. “Zou Longxiu wasn’t told either!”

“Call me auntie!” The little fox flung a glare in Liu Qingmiao’s direction.

Though Liu Qingmiao was derived from one of the little fox’s soul parts, her true spirit was her own. She was a wholly independent life form, just like Xing Mou, and no longer had a karmic relationship with the little fox.

“Can someone tell us what’s going on?” Fuxi chuckled ruefully. “We saw the Hadal Hell meld into the world of immortals just now, but nothing is reflected in the world.”

“It’s... a bit of a long story. To get straight to the point, Lu Yun figured out a brand new method to resolve all of the dangers in the Hadal Hell and have it smoothly integrate in the world of immortals,” Qing Yu explained.

She didn’t want to tell Leize and the others about the fourth realm yet. Those repercussions were too great and fully outside the scope of chaos knowledge. When Tianqi heard She Nong describe the relationship between the fourth realm and Hongmeng, he would’ve lost his dao heart and entered a cultivation deviation if Lu Yun hadn’t been by his side.

“Then that is wonderful and we can rest easy,” Hongjun chuckled. “We were prepared for a harrowing battle, how lovely it is that we’d worried too much.”

“Master, why do you look like an old man? You looked so much better before,” the little fox grumbled as she scanned Hongjun’s current form.

He was about to respond when Mount Xuanhuang trembled beneath their feet and an enormous pillar of light from the immortal dao erupted and shot for the horizon.

Jumping in shock, Leize and the group hastily dodged to the side. Meanwhile, the academy immortals and other immortals and cultivators in the world were completely used to the sight.

Ever since the founding of the Dao Academy, Mount Xuanhuang erupted with immortal light at regular intervals. Each occurrence resonated with the immortal dao and conferred great benefits to cultivators and immortals throughout the world.

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In the ninetieth year of the Xuanhuang calendar, the Hadal Hell assimilated into the world of immortals and thus made it whole again with thirty-three layers. The immortal dao was henceforth fully mended and without holes.

It was flawless, pristine.

The newborn hadal worlds were named the nine hells and were situated above the nine majors, ten lands, four immortal seas, and beneath the central world.

The newest facets of the world: the nine hells!

The first of Sky Hell, overseen by Ling Weiyang of the Dao Academy in Dusk Province.

The second of Earth Hell, overseen by Bai Zhaoju of the Dao Academy in Dusk Province.

The third of Human Hell, overseen by Chi Biaonu of the Dao Academy in Dusk Province.

The fourth of Divine Hell, overseen by Zhi Guangji of the Dao Academy in Dusk Province.

The fifth of Ghost Hell, overseen by Meng Wang of the Dao Academy in Dusk Province.

The sixth of Demon Hell, overseen by Qing Buyi of the Qing Clan in Dusk Province.

The seventh of Nether Hell, overseen by Lu Feng of the Lu Clan in Dusk Province.

The eighth of Dark Hell, overseen by Chen Xiao of the Chen Clan in Dusk Province.

The ninth of Immortal Hell, overseen by Mo Yi of the Dao Academy in Dusk Province.

The masters of the nine hells held the same status as the rulers of the other facets, and they all displayed chaos realm strength!

Meng Wang, Bai Zhaoju, Zhi Guangji, and Chi Biaonu had long since resurrected from the Hell Flowers and made use of several resonances with the immortal dao to reach chaos realm. Combined with Ashu, Mo Yi, Chen Xiao, Qing Buyi, and Lu Feng, that made all the masters of the nine hells either Lu Yun's good friend or confidante.

There were naturally those who refused to accept the sudden installation of rulers over the new facets of the world, but when Ling Weiyang, Zhi Guangji, Chi Biaonu, and Bai Zhaoju's names appeared, all of them promptly shut their mouths.

These were the legendary great emperors of the four directions and true heavyweights of the Primeval Era! They were already chaos realm in the era of human dao, and other contemporaries from their time didn't dare object after seeing that they were in charge.

Though there were no inhabitants in the nine hells for now, there would be a massive influx of immortals before long to create the first generation of immigrants. On the other hand, the Lu, Qing, Chen, and other clans of Dusk Province had already resettled in the nine hells.

These new facets were once the Hadal Hell and comparable to the nine worlds that had once reached the fourth realm. That made them the strongest in the world of immortals, stronger than even Dusk Province.

Of course, Tianqi had concealed their core essence, so they only looked like regular additions to the world for now.

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With the return of the nine hells making the thirty-three layers of the world whole again, the immortal dao was firmly rooted in the world of immortals and stretched toward the chaos.

In the second realm, the sacred monarchs used their palaces as a conduit with which to fully receive the immortal dao. They utilized the six highest orders to send the immortal dao through the chaos and subtly shift all of the chaos' orders.

Under Tianqi's guidance, the three thousand connate demon gods in the chaos could finally return to the world of immortals, as they so dearly wished. However, it was no longer a home that they could run rampant in.

There were innumerable chaos realm masters in the world and they all cultivated the purest of immortal dao. They were so many times stronger than the demon gods that cultivated human dao.

When Qiang Liang and the rest of the three thousand entered the world, they were overawed by the atmosphere and condition of their new home. Considering a creator realm Tianqi stood warily by their side, they dismissed any plots and schemes they might've harbored, no longer daring to nurse other thoughts in the world of immortals. Staying put and acclimating to the new dao was their only goal in life now.

Time passed slowly, bit by bit.

The ninety-ninth year of the Xuanhuang calendar arrived in the blink of an eye, leaving only one year until the World Gates failed.

On this day, Lu Yun came to this part of space.

"You're here!" Violetgrave sat hugging her knees in front of the World Gates, like the girl next door relaxing on the ground. Joy flashed through her eyes when she saw Lu Yun. Diexi, Yueshen, and Ruyi sat cross-legged next to her, eyes closed in a particular meditative state.

Lu Yun nodded at Violetgrave and looked up at Zhao Fengyang and the other previous celestial emperors. He'd originally wanted them to be the masters of the nine hells. However, they were only ingress realm and would thus be insufficient to rule their new territory. They'd missed out on the best days of the immortal dao.

### **Chapter 1149: The World Gates Fall**

"Lu Yun greets the nine celestial emperors." Lu Yun bowed with a respectful grand gesture of greeting when he faced the nine.

"The headmaster needs not to do such, we were no longer celestial emperors long ago." Zhao Fengyang smiled at Lu Yun with a slight shake of his head.

The nine former celestial emperors were seated within a great formation, bearing the brunt of maximum pressure from the World Gates. They'd become one with the formation and were no longer able to move.

Not only had they missed out on the best days of immortal dao, but they'd even offered up their very lives for the cause.

Lu Yun looked at the nine in the formation, his eyes stinging with unshed tears as he took in their condition.

"...can I save them?" He looked at Violetgrave.

Violetgrave was still seated on the ground, hugging her knees to herself. She looked back at him and shook her head. "They became one with the formation a long time ago. Their nascent spirits, souls, and

true spirits actually died a very long time ago as well, and they persist in their duties only through a bit of lingering will.”

Dead.

The previous celestial emperors had perished long ago, but their wills refused to dissipate and continued to support their bodies to protect the World Gates and everyone in the world of immortals.

Lu Yun had discovered this on his last visit. Hence, he’d gifted karmic fruits to the nine celestial emperors so they could recover some vitality. But instead of using the fruit on themselves and raising their cultivation, they sent the fruits’ power into the formation to reinforce the World Gates.

Though Lu Yun was now peak empyrean realm, he still wasn’t able to resurrect them. The nine celestial emperors hadn’t left even a strand of soul force behind.

They were also different from Fuxi in that Fuxi had resided in his own tomb. The Tome of Life and Death could easily call upon the karmic relationships of the tomb to resurrect him. Here, the nine celestial emperors were the equivalent of being exposed to the elements. Their souls had long since scattered, their true spirits extinguished, and there was nothing that Hell Flowers could do for them.

Their cultivation was also much weaker compared to Fuxi’s, which was why Lu Yun had planned on having them be the master of the nine hells and use those facets to recollect their true spirits and souls.

“Don’t be saddened, Lu Yun. Such has been the destiny of the nine celestial emperors for the past eighty thousand years. It is splendid that this fate ends with us.” Zhao Fengyang smiled.

He was just a strand of lingering will, but this will lingered with incomparable strength. As long as the World Gates stood, it would remain. But with the impending completion of their mission, the tremendous power gathered on their bodies was beginning to fade.

The last generation of celestial emperors were indescribable talents. What a pity that they’d been born too early and missed the glory days of immortal dao. If they’d been born just ten thousand years later, in this modern age, they would’ve certainly become chaos realm experts.

“Since you are here, we shall take our leave. Standing guard here for a hundred years has been such a tiresome duty. We are greatly looking forward to our rest.” Smiles on their faces deepened as they looked at Lu Yun.

“What a truly exhausting responsibility... Royal father, you never said that you would levy such a heavy burden on my shoulders when you made me your heir all those years ago. Thank goodness I bore it with distinction and did not disappoint you or the souls of the world of immortals.

“We may have missed out on this era, but to see its rise bestows meaning to our lives.”

The nine threw their heads back with joyous laughter and with one final smile, began fading away. Swiftly disintegrating in a shower of sparks, the disappearance of the last sparkling mote marked the collapse of the great formation with a boom.

Lu Yun stood in front of the World Gates—speechless, voiceless, motionless.

“They were all personages of great virtue. You can raise images of them and have them be reborn through worship as gods,” Violetgrave said softly as she took in how affected Lu Yun was.

After a hundred years of close contact, she also greatly pitied and venerated the nine. How they’d remained standing guard here, as if still alive, though they were dead!

“There’s no need for that.” Lu Yun shook his head with a sigh. “They accepted their death the moment they set foot here. Life and death mattered no more to them, following in the footsteps of their fathers was their dying wish.

“The era of the celestial emperors is over. Since they are in the past, let the past be past. If they return as gods, they will no longer be them. The name of the nine celestial emperors will live on in immortal dao history forevermore, to be remembered by future descendants.”

Lu Yun wore a complicated expression on his face; he deeply wished for the nine to be reborn through the fires of worship to be divine spirits of the immortal court. But they didn’t wish for that to happen. Just as they’d said, they were too tired. It was time to rest.

The current celestial lords of the nine majors were also far from the old celestial emperors. Otherwise, Lu Yun would’ve saved the celestial emperor title even if he’d had to bear the brunt of the curse himself.

With the dissipation of the final vestiges of the curse on Di Ling, the great emperor and celestial emperor titles could return to use. However, Lu Yun didn’t want the mediocre and unworthy to insult these names.

Violetgrave looked at Lu Yun and nodded gently.

“There is one more year until the World Gates collapses. You have one more year to prepare, and you should take us away from here now,” she suddenly said to him.

“Alright.” Lu Yun pulled out the sword in the ground before the World Gates and sent Diexi, Yueshen, and Ruyi into hell before departing. Without protection, the World Gates would last for another year at the most.

He didn’t ask Violetgrave about her affairs. She’d helped him multiple times after he entered the chaos; sometimes, asking too many questions about personal affairs would only result in estrangement.

The World Gates continuously shuddered and buckled over the next year. The entire world of immortals could feel the vibrations of their shaking. Within the center of Witherdew Major, the image of the ghost ancestor slowly sharpened into focus. It seemed ready to be reborn at any time.

The ghost ancestor was a peculiar life form that could be reborn an infinite number of times upon its death. Lu Yun and Qing Yu hadn’t been able to find a way to end it for good, so Lu Yun had sealed away the part of the sky that the ghost ancestor resided in.

Armies of immortals raised their banners in the nine majors, ten lands, four immortal seas, and four oceans. The immortal emperor from the central world led them to the void where the World Gates were and set up extensive formations, ready for the cataclysm to arrive.

Though there were immortals residing in the nine hells, those facets had yet to form their courts. The nine masters were only keeping order as their guardians.

Tensions ran high and nerves were tightly strung. Everyone was waiting, waiting for doom to present itself.

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In the third month of the hundredth year in the Xuanhuang calendar, the ghost ancestor in Witherdew Major suddenly revealed itself in full and howled at the sky.

The demonic sound reverberated through the world of immortals, shattering the World Gates as if it were a call to arms. Countless dead spirits surged in through the broken gates and dove down at their prey.

### **Chapter 1150: Livestock**

“Charge!!” Immortal Emperor Qing Taxian and rulers of the thirty-two other facets soared into the air when the World Gates collapsed, landing in front of the assembled immortals. Thirty-three chaos realm masters fully deployed their strongest combat arts and blasted the yin spirits flooding into the world of immortals.

Gray yin spirits, black dead spirits, scarlet bale spirits, and even stronger existences teemed everywhere the eye could see. They all seemed to be berserk and surged madly toward the world of immortals. Every blade of grass and hint of life they passed through was stripped clean of life force and qi.

However, the thirty-three facet lords were the strongest existences in the world of immortals beneath the Dao Academy. As thirty-three chaos realm masters, they were on par with the battle strength of the human dao era. In addition, their combat arts and cultivation methods were even more sophisticated and packed greater power.

Their combined efforts immediately cut off the tide of yin spirits and doused the violence for a few moments.

“His Immortal Majesty is great!!”

“Hail the celestial lords!!” roared the immortals behind their lieges. As terrifying as the yin spirits were, they had their immortal emperor and the thirty-two lords!

These were powerhouses that not even the ancient world of immortals had possessed. And they, regular immortals who weren’t those esteemed characters, were also stronger than the legendary primordial immortals. The world exulted in an era of unheralded glory. What did mere yin spirits matter?!

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After three hundred breaths, the immortal emperor and thirty-two lords flashed to the rear—the signal for crystal cannons to start firing away. White pillars of light formed a curtain of lethal radiance in their multitude and swept in all directions.

Lu Yun had reconfigured the crystal cannons once more to exert even stronger power and instilled them with the frightening energy of the world. The chaos creatures had created the yin spirits, so while they could survive in the worlds, the energy of the worlds was still the spirits’ bane.

Fleets of fortress ships materialized after the crystal cannons fired their initial barrage, looming threateningly in the void and ready to do battle.

Lu Yun had fully instilled the concepts of modern Earth battle into the world of immortals. With such sturdy ships and fearsome cannons present, no one would brainlessly charge in for close quarter combat.

Though the World Gates had collapsed, the world they'd projected still existed and were mined with a plethora of formations and traps. All of the yin spirits that rushed in as soon as the gates fell were annihilated within a few breaths.

However, there were too many yin spirits still frothing in the cosmos outside. The ones that'd died were but a drop of water in the limitless ocean, and the rest stormed the immortals with increasing frenzy. If they broke into the world of immortals proper, then the ghastly ravaging of the yin tide in Azure Province would repeat itself in every corner of the land.

The world resulting from the World Gates was the final bulwark of defense.

Soon enough, a horrifying development took place. Never before seen silver yin spirits appeared in space. They started devouring the void the moment they rushed in, trying to consume the world from the World Gates.

They didn't just swallow the world—they ate any formations and traps that were within the world as well. This greatly increased the pressure on the immortals and yin spirits quickly surrounded individual fortress ships.

The defenders started suffering casualties.

"It's time for you to take to the field," Tianqi suddenly said, seated motionlessly in the air all this time.

"Already?" Qiang Liang and the other connate demon gods blinked.

"There's something big in the cosmos that wants in. Keep it outside." Tianqi frowned at Qiang Liang.

"...understood!" Qiang Liang dared hesitate no longer when he felt a palpitating presence exude from Tianqi.

The immortal armies parted to the sides when Qiang Liang rushed out with three thousand demon gods, shifting the main battle strength to them. The demon gods furiously hunted down silver yin spirits that could devour space itself.

An enormous hand burning with gray flames suddenly reached in from the cosmos, grabbing a connate demon god and crushing it to death.

Creator realm.

There were creators in the cosmos outside the world of immortals!

Tianqi sucked in a sharp breath and raised Quietus high, charging in with a howl.

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The ghost ancestor had fully revived in Witherdew Major and shrieked as it crashed against the seal that Lu Yun and Qing Yu had jointly set up. The seal wasn't that strong, but it was targeted specifically at the ghost ancestor. It was almost impossible for it to break free.

"That world won't hold for long." Qing Yu frowned as she looked in the direction of the World Gates. That part of the sky was already dyed red with fresh blood.

"It has to," Lu Yun took in a deep breath. "Tianqi and Qing Han are holding down the fort there and there are three thousand demon gods as well. Seventy to eighty years won't be a problem!"

Tianqi was a creator, Qing Han was a sovereign, and there were three thousand connate demon gods under their command—but all of that combined would last only eighty years at most! And that was with constant replenishment of experts from all directions.

Tianqi, Qing Han, and the three thousand demon gods faced a mammoth horde of yin spirits and other chaos creatures that'd entered the world of immortals through special means. The yin spirits that continuously rammed the world required the full force of all immortals to contend against them.

The immortal emperor and thirty-two lords had made the first move, retreating to the rear after breaking the strongest of the enemy's charge and bolstering the world's morale. They were the standard bearers of the world of immortals and everyone's pillar of strength. There could be no miscalculations or missteps when it came to them, or general morale would break and scatter.

Of course, the greatest source of courage for those to enter that world cast by the World Gates and contend with the yin spirits were the headmaster and dao sovereign that'd created countless miracles. They sat in residence at the sacred land of immortal dao, maintaining full control over everything.

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The apex of the world of immortals had become a battlefield, and similar confusion engulfed other areas in the world.

A group of human immortals had burrowed out of an unknown location, forded the North Sea, and started attacking the Dao Academy when they made landfall.

If the academy fell, then the world would be done for.

These immortals were mostly peak grand pure realm, but there were some empyrean and chaos realm immortals among them as well.

"The world of immortals is in shambles and Lu Yun and Qing Yu are keeping the ghost ancestor under control in Witherdew Major. They have no effort to spare for anything else. It would be a wondrous deed if we can resurrect the rule of human dao. Glory is only moments away!" A chaos realm immortal whistled as he charged into Dusk Province with a sword.

Boom.

A black iron rod suddenly crashed down from the air and sent the immortal flying. Goldenlight's massive form slowly walked out of the void.



“Of course you’ve come, you filth! With me here, you will set not a single foot into Dusk Province!” Goldenlight rested his metal rod on his shoulder and swept his pale golden eyes over the crowd of human traitors.

Both Goldenlight and Silverlight were the academy’s guardians, and Lu Yun had repaired Goldenlight’s metal club. Silverlight flitted through the air as a silver ghost.

“Vermin!” roared the chaos realm immortal. “Your ancestors were livestock of the human race! How dare you show such insubordination and defy your masters!”

He boiled with rage, as if having suffered the greatest of insults.