

## Necropolis 1201

### Chapter 1201: We're Saved

Fluffy clouds scuttling across a purple sky suddenly smashed into each other as a bolt of black lightning arced through the firmament.

Rumble—

Halfway through his teleportation, Lu Yun felt the world spin before he, the little fox, and Zhuo Bufan fell out of the formation light.

“Eh? Are we there already?” The little fox picked herself up from the ground and rubbed her aching bottom. She looked around with confusion, taking in purple grassy fields that stretched on without end until they met the purple sky. It was almost impossible to tell where the horizon was.

“No, something went wrong with the transportation formation.” Lu Yun stood up, his expression solemn behind the mask.

“Something did indeed go wrong.” Zhuo Bufan hastily adjusted his executive enforcer’s mask to ensure that his face and cultivation remained fully concealed. “Please be careful, young master and mistress. Don’t take off the enforcer uniform no matter what! The wilds of the Hongmeng are extraordinarily dangerous. Apart from desperate renegades, there are also countless vengeful spirits and violent ghosts wandering the land.”

His tone was incomparably serious, but he was more baffled than anything. The transportation formation at alliance headquarters was the strongest of its kind in the Hongmeng. It never malfunctioned, but this time, it’d failed halfway through transportation.

“Did you say vengeful spirits and violent ghosts?” Lu Yun’s eyes widened. “There are ghosts in the Hongmeng, and they even wander around in the wild?”

“Yes!” Zhuo Bufan nodded. “It’s rumored that there’s an illusory world in the Hongmeng filled with macabre mausoleums. Apparently, the vicious ghosts in our realm all come from the mausoleums of that world.”

Lu Yun and the little fox looked at each other; they’d just been discussing the mausoleum of the Hongmeng.

“An illusory world?” Lu Yun swept the surroundings with the Spectral Eye, but didn’t see anything out of the ordinary.

“Don’t worry, young master. If I’m seeing things correctly, we’re at the Redbud Plains [1] of the Redbud Region. It’s not too far away from Starcloud City. There should be a lot of inhabitants around the Redbud Plains, so we can use the transportation formation at the nearest city and complete our trip to Starcloud,” Zhuo Bufan reassured.

“Ah yes, talk to us about stuff that’s commonly known in the Hongmeng—the cultivation levels here, for instance,” mentioned the little fox.

“Understood.” Zhuo Bufan nodded. “Cultivation division in the Hongmeng is simple and much less complicated than the chaos. There are only three realms: inferior, common, and superior.”

“That’s simple enough. You’re in the common realm, aren’t you?” asked Lu Yun.

Zhuo Bufan chuckled ruefully and nodded. “The lizard-dragon is a superior, and one of the greats in that realm.”

“What about the kings?” the little fox wanted to know.

“Kings aren’t a cultivation realm, they’re a title bestowed on the basis of strength! One can become a king if their strength is acknowledged by the Hongmeng Tower!” Yearning flashed through Zhuo Bufan’s eyes when he mentioned the tower and the title of king.

“Then what are we? Stowaways in the Hongmeng?” grumbled the little fox.

“In... inferiors,” whispered Zhuo Bufan. “Just like the chaos, there are ordinary beings here too. They need to climb their way up step by step. Anyone who isn’t in the common realm is considered inferior.”

Lu Yun rubbed his forehead. His past self should’ve been at the apex of Hongmeng superiors, but his strength hadn’t been to the level of being bestowed a title of king.

Honestly, it wouldn’t have been too hard if his past self had wanted to be a king. However, he’d been focused on studying dao fruits and never purposefully pursued battle strength, though he brimmed with tremendous combat arts.

When sovereigns from the chaos arrived in the Hongmeng, they were also in the inferior realm—but at its peak. When their battle strength could pierce through the barrier between the second and third realms, that placed them in the common realm.

Zhuo Bufan looked through his storage treasure and took out a flight treasure shaped like a bird. The three set foot on it and soared into the sky with a shake of the bird’s wings.

The Hongmeng was truly extensive, immeasurable and broad. Even its kings had never found the end of the realm. Where Hongmeng beings lived seemed to be only the tip of the iceberg.

“Is the Hongmeng really that big?” Lu Yun scratched his head. “It only looked like a tiny bubble from the fourth realm.”

“The fourth realm?!” Zhuo Bufan jerked out of his litany of Hongmeng basics and nearly sent the flight treasure off course. “Young master, you’ve been to the fourth realm?!”

“Yes.” Lu Yun nodded.

“What’s it like?” All agog, Zhuo Bufan looked at Lu Yun with great expectation.

“The fourth realm... is vacant and bare. There’s nothing there, it’s just empty.” Lu Yun thought for a moment. “Perhaps it’s because that realm is too big and everything is too far away from each other for me to see.”

Zhuo Bufan blinked, then nodded. “Legends say that the fourth realm is also called the empty realm, that there’s nothing there and it’s the start of all life. Entering the emptiness will grant one the power of nothing and elevation to the highest peak of existence.

“The young master is the young master, alright. You’ve been to the fourth realm!” Marvel and pining colored his voice. Zhuo Bufan didn’t doubt Lu Yun in the slightest, not when the Purple King—he who made the realm tremble at his name—was Lu Yun’s son.

“And what use is my strength of the fourth realm?” Lu Yun curled his lip. “I can’t use it in the third realm, I’m just an inferior.”

Zhuo Bufan stared blankly at his master, not knowing what to say.

“Eh? We’re here, we’re here!” Map in hand, the little fox exclaimed with suddenness. “We’re at the Redbud City that you mentioned!”

A huge city had abruptly appeared in the windows of the flying bird treasure. It was as large as a sun star and crystalline throughout, like an exquisitely shaped work of crystal art. It hung quietly in the void.

A... city as large as a sun?

This is a city?

Lu Yun and the little fox looked in disbelief at each other. There were cities in the chaos as well, but none on a ridiculous scale like this apart from the six sacred palaces.

There had been three hundred and sixty-five main cities in the era of human dao, each of them as large as a star. But when compared to this Redbud City, they were just particles of dust.

“Ahem! Young master and mistress, though Redbud City is not bad, it hardly measures up to the Starcloud City that we’re going to. This is just a small city in the Hongmeng.” Zhuo Bufan had finally found something that he could be proud of.

He put away the flight treasure when they reached the city, and the three entered through the main gates.

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“What? You say that three noble enforcers have arrived in Redbud City?!” The Redbud city lord, Jian Wenhe, was a middle-aged man who fell on the short and fat side of the spectrum. He jumped a meter into the air when he heard the messenger’s report and grabbed his man’s collar. “What level enforcer? Blue robes or red?!”

“One executive enforcer, milord, and two black robes!” the subordinate quickly responded.

“We’re saved! Redbud City is saved!” Jian Wenhe jumped up again. “Come on, come on! Come with me to meet the three noble enforcers! Send word for ten Hongmeng beasts to be prepared! We set a feast for the distinguished enforcers!”

“An executive and two black robes... There’s hope for us yet, we really are saved!” He was so overcome that he nearly burst into tears.

## Chapter 1202: A Dunce of a City Lord

“Redbud City Lord Jian Wenhe greets the three eminent lords!” Jian Wenhe and his men fell on their faces in a grand gesture of considerable respect when they reached Zhuo Bufan and other two.

Lu Yun looked at the meatball sprawled on the ground and cast a wordless glance at Zhuo Bufan, transmitting, “Is lying on the ground when you bow one of your customs here?”

The enforcer’s face spasmed and he snapped coldly at Jian Wenhe, “Get up, you embarrassing thing!”

“Yes, yes, of course!” Wreathed in smiles, Jian Wenhe bounced right up. “Right this way, august lords! This lowly one has set a welcome banquet and dearly hopes that the distinguished guests will grace us with your presence!”

“There’s no reason for him to be fawning over us like this. Let’s go and see what he’s got cooking,” transmitted a perplexed Lu Yun. This Jian Wenhe was plainly in the superior cultivation realm, but he was humbling himself to an absurd degree. Obviously, he had a favor to ask.

Having newly arrived in the Hongmeng, Lu Yun was inordinately interested in everything. Though their destination was Starcloud City, that wasn’t his final goal. He was here to raise his cultivation, improve his strength, and find Qing Yu.

“Fine, then.” Zhuo Bufan naturally wouldn’t turn down the meatball now that Lu Yun had made his preferences clear.

In front of others, however, Executive Zhuo Bufan outranked black-robed Lu Yun and the little fox. Thus, the two stayed half a step behind the man.

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Hongmeng beasts, also known as chaos beasts, were an unparalleled delicacy in the Hongmeng. Full of vitality, they were the highest honor one could show a guest. All Redbud experts had been gathered for the banquet. Roughly a hundred people drank toast after toast to each other in the enormous banquet hall, exchanging empty pleasantries and feting Lu Yun and the other two like a sky full of stars clustering around the moon.

“Hongmeng beasts again? I’ve gotten so tired of them,” muttered the downcast little fox as she looked at the delicacies in front of her made from Hongmeng beasts.

Countless chaos beasts lived in the abyss and as a veteran foodie, the lizard-dragon frequently grabbed a few to fry, bake, boil, or stew. The little fox often entered the fissure in search of a free meal.

The lizard-dragon was a preeminent existence within the superior realm. It was close to being hailed a king, and its culinary skills far outstripped what was on display for this banquet. Just the smell of the dishes on display alone killed the little fox’s urge to raise her chopsticks.

The masks that enforcers wore were a strange item. They seemed like a layer of colored gas, but fully covered the face and didn’t affect the wearer’s ability to eat or swallow.

As quiet as the little fox's voice was, her every word traveled clearly into everyone's ears and delight seized Jian Wenhe. If they'd gotten tired of even Hongmeng beasts, then these three were highly important beings and the city really was saved this time!

"Servants, clean up the banquet and serve our unique Redbud fish feast!" he quickly commanded.

"Enough!" Lu Yun slapped the table out of impatience. "Be frank about whatever's on your mind, there's no need for this exaggerated servility."

"Yes, yes!" Jian Wenhe shot to his feet when he realized that one of the black robes was directly addressing him. He bowed circumspectly and said, "Please save my people, oh revered lords!"

"Hurry up." Zhuo Bufan was also losing patience.

"A tide of beasts has erupted from the depths of Redbud Plains. Endless wild beasts are flooding out of the land. They'll reach us in three days' time, and we won't be able to withstand a horde of their scale with our current strength. "Jian Wenhe explained with a long face, "A mysterious power has interfered with our transportation formation and broken it. We can't get any word out regarding the beast tide, much less withdraw..."

Lu Yun's face sank. "Then what are you doing currying favor with us and not making defense preparations for the beast tide? There's only three of us, what can we do? Do you take us for titled kings?"

He really wanted to cuss with everything in his vocabulary at their current straits. There'd been nothing out of the ordinary after they entered the city; citizens went about their business as they would without the slightest hint of nervousness or trepidation.

Lu Yun also finally understood why they'd suddenly landed here.

A strange power enveloped the area. Any transportation formation or light from a formation that passed through was instantly rendered ineffective.

Jian Wenhe gaped slightly at Lu Yun's words. "I, I haven't announced the matter. I was afraid of the people rioting or panicking once they heard..."

Lu Yun itched to stomp all over the meatball's face. The tide of beasts would be here in three days, but this fellow was more worried about civil unrest?!

He really wanted to lift the man's scalp to see what was in that head of his.

"Take away this mind-numbingly unappetizing banquet and announce the tide of beasts. You will set up your defenses immediately!" the little fox suddenly raised her voice. "Everything is to be completed within forty-five minutes, or you'll pay with your life!"

A command token appeared in her hands as she spoke. It was one that looked extremely similar to Zhuo Bufan's Execution command token, but the word "justice" was on it instead.

Execution command tokens were used on Hongmeng beings that barged into the chaos without authorization, while Justice tokens carried out the death penalty on heavyweights that violated the rules of the Hongmeng.

Not even black-robed enforcers had the right to own a Justice token. The karmic repercussions of it were so great that they could only be used on Hongmeng heavyweights that'd flouted the laws. Even so, this command token possessed an immense deterring effect in the third realm.

Both Lu Yun and the little fox owned one, and they'd come about it through Zhuo Bufan utilizing his father's connections.

A sheen of cold sweat immediately beaded Jian Wenhe's forehead.

"Servants, quickly, do as the noble lords say! Release the information and set up the city's defenses!" The city lord spun around in a knot of anxiety.

"He's the same as you." Lu Yun flicked a sideways glance at Zhuo Bufan.

"Eh?" The man blinked.

"Both bumbling dunces," Lu Yun snorted.

Zhuo Bufan shrank in on himself.

"See if you can communicate with the other enforcers." Surprisingly, the little fox was very cool and collected. Though she was a bit of a ditz, she never failed when it came to important matters.

"I've already tried—no word can get out. There seems to be an immense forcefield surrounding Redbud City and the Redbud Plains," Zhuo Bufan hastily responded.

Both he and the little fox looked at Lu Yun.

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News of an incoming tide of beasts spread like wildfire. After momentary disorder, Redbud City began methodically setting up all sorts of defensive measures. Since its transportation formation was broken, everyone had to fight to the death if they didn't want to die.

With the arrival of two black robes and one executive from the Enforcer Alliance, the presence of three great personages infused the citizens with surging hope.

Lu Yun stayed behind closed doors during these three days. He was just in the lowly inferior realm at the moment; he didn't even count as cannon fodder in the face of a tide like this. Instead, he spent his time studying the Abyssal and Nihil Flame that Violetgrave had given him. The Sanguine, Hadal, and Netherdark Flames also floated in front of him.

The Karmic Tree had relit the gray Abyssal Flame and white Nihil Flame. They glowed with vitality, and even the Sanguine Flame slowly returned to its former glory.

"These five hellfires probably won't be of much use for the moment, and they shouldn't be easily exposed." After some thought, he flipped his hand over to materialize a silver moon that glowed softly.

The Oddmoon—the treasure that he'd obtained after Zhuo Bufan killed Evilfox.

**Chapter 1203: You Need to Work Hard**

The moon was an ultimate treasure that three kings of Mangcang Mountain had crafted using everything at their disposal. It was meant for use in the world of immortals, and even Lu Yun wasn't certain of how strong it was.

If it hadn't been for the abyss materializing in the chaos and swallowing the moon, it would've crushed a hundred Zhuo Bufans.

Of the five hellfires, the three that weren't the Hadal and Netherdark Flames had just grown from being an ember, so they couldn't release overly strong power. In addition, the Sanguine Flame was a special hellfire. It had to devour Lu Yun's own immortal force in order to develop. Only through the increase of his own cultivation would it continue to mature.

The remaining Nihil and Abyssal Flames only needed to be infused with the power of merit from the Karmic Tree to steadily improve.

"It's up to you then." Lu Yun gently caressed the moon floating in the air. The abyss had tamed it into one of his treasures; only a simple thought was required to deploy the fearsome energy within.

However, if it appeared in the Hongmeng, that would draw attention from Mangcang Mountain and trouble would swiftly come knocking.

Regardless, there was no other option available given the current situation. Not only did this matter have to do with a hundred million lives residing in Redbud City, but it also had to do with the survival of him and the little fox.

The tide of beasts would arrive in three days. He and the little fox wouldn't be able to get too far in that amount of time. They wouldn't make it out of Redbud Plains even if he deployed the Boundless Step with everything he had.

The plains were too big and the incoming hordes too great. When they arrived, they would cover the sky and earth. Nothing could escape—their only hope was to defend the city to their last breath.

Shame. Though I can open the gates to hell and return to the world of immortals through it, I won't be able to come back here because it's a real world. Lu Yun thought wistfully.

Hell was also developing and had exceeded the sophistication of the world of immortals. However, it couldn't leave any spatial coordinates in the third realm since it had yet to reach the Hongmeng's level.

Over the next three days, Lu Yun fully called upon all of his supplemental arts and enjoyed unfettered access to the Redbud treasury. Formation after fearsome formation flew out of his hands and landed in all corners of the city. They were proper Hongmeng level formations, not ones of the world of immortals.

Thanks to the dao fruit of his past self, his mastery over the supplemental paths had long since reached the Hongmeng and soared to terrifying heights. It would be no hyperbole to call him a grandmaster of supplemental daos. Unfortunately, this level of mastery was useful only in the Hongmeng, where he could utilize the greatest treasures of the realm.

There'd been many in the mythological realm who exceeded the chaos. Of them, those who landed in the common or superior realm of the Hongmeng were too many to be counted. There were even some who'd been made kings!

Thus, Lu Yun's current realm in the supplemental paths wasn't too out of the ordinary.

The frightening aspect of supplemental grandmasters lay in that they could deploy strength that was an infinite times greater than their frail bodies. In the Hongmeng, even the weakest grandmaster was a walking cannon.

This was also Lu Yun's greatest assurance in coming to the third realm.

"If I can locate the dao fruit of my future self, perhaps my cultivation will rise to peak inferior realm—placing me in the sovereign realm." He swallowed another pill and calmly restored his internal energy.

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Three days passed by very quickly, and the horrific tide of beasts arrived on schedule.

The mammoth Redbud City, an enormous metropolis as large as a sun star, seemed incredibly minuscule in comparison. To avoid being attacked from multiple directions, the city had landed on the ground and firmly put down roots. Lu Yun strongly suspected that if it was possible, Jian Wenhe would've had it burrow completely beneath the earth.

Lu Yun and the little fox were standing side by side on the city walls, watching the surging hordes. Lu Yun's brows knit tightly together.

"This tide of beasts isn't just passing by. They're here specifically for Redbud City," he noted.

Zhuo Bufan was marshaling the city cultivators for various defensive maneuvers. Though he was a bumbling fool, he was a hundred times better than the city lord in Lu Yun's eyes. At least the buffon knew what to do and when.

A variety of arcane and divine beasts made up the tide that stemmed from deep within the Redbud Plains. Lu Yun couldn't identify the end of the swarm no matter how he looked. Most of the arcane beasts were in the inferior and common realm, but there were so many of them that a lower cultivation realm didn't matter anymore. They turned the purple skies and plains into a murky gray.

Quite a few superior realm beasts ran with them as well.

"Mhmm." The little fox nodded slightly. She showed no trace of her usual flippancy—only gravity was on her face behind the mask.

"Let me send you back," Lu Yun suddenly said.

"What, you want to wash your hands of your responsibility now?" She looked sideways at him.

Lu Yun almost choked on the unexpected response and hacked a cough. "It's too dangerous here."

"I won't be able to come back here if I go down. Hmph, I need to keep an eye on you for Qing Yu's sake! What will Qing Yu and I do if you find another woman?" The little fox refused to let up on this crooked line of reasoning.



Lu Yun was rather speechless. Hadn't she just seemed dependable, especially in times of need? It looked like her true nature was coming out to play again.

"Mi, milords! E-everytthng is ready, ready in the, ci-city! Everything!" A high-strung Jian Wenhe stumbled over to Lu Yun. Here he was, a proper Hongmeng superior, but he couldn't even form a full sentence when faced with such an overwhelming enemy.

How the hell did he make it to his current realm and the city lord of Redbud? Lu Yun had no idea.

But according to Zhuo Bufan, Redbud City was just a minor city in the Hongmeng. It all made sense then.

"Alright, you're dismissed. Don't get in other people's way." Lu Yun had wanted to ask the city lord a few questions, but Jian Wenhe didn't look like he'd be able to manage any answers.

"Under, understood!" As if pardoned from a death sentence, the meatball scrambled out of sight.

"That seemed to be an act, he's definitely hiding something from us." The little fox frowned at the departing Jian Wenhe.

"We'll handle him after we handle the tide of beasts." Lu Yun nodded. "His acting skills aren't half bad, but his fear is real."

The Karmic Tree was still useful in the Hongmeng; Lu Yun had been able to clearly pick up on Jian Wenhe's emotions. That city lord was a dunce through and through, there was no doubt about that.

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Rumble.

Rumble.

Rumble.

All of Redbud City began to vibrate from the assembled tide. An enormous dark green beast with horns on its head and several thousand kilometers long began to crazily ram the city walls. It would've already charged through them if they hadn't been reinforced by Lu Yun's formations.

"Activate the formation!" Zhuo Bufan took to the air with a roar.

BOOM.

Beams of radiant gold flashed through the air outside Redbud City. An aureate curtain draped down from overhead, slowly fluttering toward the outskirts of the city. Wherever it passed through, countless Hongmeng beasts flew apart upon the wind.

When the curtain reached five hundred thousand kilometers outside the city, it hardened into a sturdy barrier that fully enveloped the territory within. Heaven-shaking cheers sounded from Redbud, and in his hiding place, Jian Wenhe wiped off beads of sweat from his forehead.

"Thank, thank goodness that black-robed enforcer is a Hongmeng level supplemental grandmaster!"

Zhuo Bufan blinked as well. He knew that Oddmoon was on Lu Yun, which was why he felt very confident in their chances. But... he hadn't thought that Lu Yun's formations would contain such power!

A supplemental grandmaster, and a Hongmeng level one! Even the kings would treat such a personage with respect!

Despite the show of force, the tide outside the city didn't pause. They furiously threw themselves against the golden curtain, trying to tear it to pieces.

A blood-red streak slowly gathered on the curtain and its power rapidly declined. Finally, a tiny crack formed in it.

Crackle!

The curtain shattered completely and the boundless tides poured through.

"Activate the next!" Zhuo Bufan roared again.

A second curtain descended and slowly swept to the outskirts of the city like before. It dusted every beast it touched, no matter inferior or common realm. When it reached the range of its predecessor, it hardened and halted the tide's momentum.

"Aooo aooo aoo!!" A furious howl came from the beasts and a titanic purple creature, five hundred kilometers tall, dove from the sky at the curtain.

A superior realm arcane beast!

#### **Chapter 1204: The Sound of War Drums**

The superior realm beast looked like a rhinoceros. It bore three horns on its head that were fifteen thousand kilometers long—the point of impact between its head and the curtain.

Crackle!

The curtain that'd just snapped into place disintegrated out of existence, along with the enormous rhinoceros.

That sent the tide of beasts into a crazed frenzy against the city. They were all intelligent arcane beasts, and it enraged them to see one of their superior realm peers die.

"Activate another," Zhuo Bufan repeated his words from earlier with a frown.

Hummm.

A third golden curtain blossomed and swept toward the hordes outside the city.

The beasts were beside themselves with fury and frustration. Rebud City was just a border city in Redbud Plains. They should've been able to run right over it. When had it become so mighty?!

The beasts at the front of the horde were once more obliterated when the golden curtain brushed over them. The ones at the rear slowed down, dogged by indecision. They weren't afraid of death, but to mindlessly die like this was a fatal blow to their confidence.

"Mooooooooo!" rasped out as a titanic golden cow landed from above. It smashed right into the curtain and went down in a fiery shower of mutual destruction.

The cow was another superior realm arcane beast!

This time, however, no one stepped forward to take its place. All of the beasts remained standing where they were and silently looked on, fearful of the fourth curtain blooming from the city.

“Ahem!” Lu Yun suddenly spoke from his position on the city walls. “The golden curtain is part of the Nineturns Sky Curtain Formation and there’s nine layers of defenses to the formation. Oh, another one? So there’s five left now. Good luck and work hard!”

He pumped his fist in the air for the tide of beasts while the fifth sparkling curtain slowly traveled through the outskirts of the city and halted solidly five hundred thousand kilometers out.

The entire tide rolled to a halt and the attackers looked at each other, unwilling to move further.

Hoots of laughter sounded from Redbud’s citizens when they saw Lu Yun’s exaggerated movements. Their mirth swept away the gloomy atmosphere that’d hung over the city. What had been bleak despair moments ago was now airy, boundless hope.

The Nineturns Sky Curtain Formation!

Though none of them had known about the formation before, its current performance was absolutely worthy of the name “sky curtain”.

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“Despicable cultivators,” cursed the arcane beasts in front of the curtain. But as much as they sneered and snarled, none dared come forward to pointless deaths any longer.

Each curtain took the life of a superior realm beast! This was absolutely ludicrous! They were all familiar with the defensive formations that cultivators harnessed, but they’d never run into such an uncanny formation. One that was useful both defensively and offensively? Needing to use lives and fresh blood to break them??

Just who was the formation grandmaster in the city?!

Apart from the occasional vengeful ghost and spirit that appeared in the Hongmeng, the third realm was partitioned into two main camps.

The first camp was the cultivators. They were born weak and had to grow into their strength through cultivation. Command of secret methods and powerful combat arts were a necessity for their arsenal.

The second camp was the arcane beasts currently in front of the city. They were born incredibly strong and naturally possessed cultivation realms, which would grow with their physical development. They had no need to cultivate. In fact, they couldn’t cultivate or use combat arts, but could make use of innate talents and abilities.

What were known as Hongmeng beasts were also arcane beasts. Hongmeng beasts were called thus because they were juicy, fragrant, and full of qi. Thus, cultivators specifically labeled them differently and raised them as livestock.

When Hongmeng beasts entered the chaos realm, they became known as chaos beasts, but there was no difference between the two.

When Lu Yun and the three others entered the chaos, the little fox had instinctively grabbed a chaos beast and cooked it, thus breaking through to chaos realm. Qing Yu had also made use of the qi inside the chaos beasts to break through to empyrean realm as well.

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With the fifth curtain in front of them, the endless tide of Hongmeng beasts came to a stop and didn't dare further challenge the formation.

"Bastard!" An enormous claw probed out from the rear of the horde and smashed down on the golden curtain.

Boom!

The golden curtain fell apart, as did the gigantic claw.

"Kill! Kill! Kill! Whoever dares take a step back will see their entire race exterminated!" the owner of the claw roared. It was another superior realm beast, but a great powerhouse of the realm. The sky curtain had only destroyed one of its fore claws.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

Earthshaking pounding from a war drum traveled from the rear. When the beasts heard the ferocious drumming, their eyes turned red with bloodlust. Heaven-shattering shrieks and roars rose from the hordes and, roused by the new stimulation, the beasts threw themselves at the city without regard for their own lives.

A sixth sky curtain immediately materialized, as did a bloody claw. It raked down on the golden shimmer of light and destroyed it, yet the ruined curtain also took the claw with it.

The owner of the claw had acted again—its strength far outstripped the capabilities of a regular Hongmeng superior.

It destroyed the next couple of curtains in short order through this most simplistic manner, but fell silent after the ninth. Backlash from the nine layers of the Nineturns Sky Curtain Formation had inflicted grave injuries on it as well.

After negating the formation, the unending waves of arcane beasts once more reached the city walls and rammed the gates. Setting their sights on footholds in the walls, beasts scrambled upwards to overwhelm the guards on the walls.

Poised to meet them in battle, the city defenders had recovered their courage and could now face the terrifying enemy. Though they were still afraid, it was more hope that occupied their hearts. The tide of beasts wasn't insurmountable!

“All of you, stand down,” Lu Yun said softly. “I etched three formation disks.”

He turned around to look at Zhuo Bufan, who nodded, and then...

Hummm.

A tenth sky curtain appeared. The huge beasts that’d just scaled the walls were spontaneously annihilated.

The extraordinarily strong arcane beast to the rear of the flood howled with wrath, but didn’t make a move. Its doom was assured if it attacked the curtain again!

While jubilation rose from the cultivators in the city, the drum behind the beasts pounded with increasing ferocity. The beasts lost all reason and fear, surging into feral waves with the drumming and crashing into the sky curtain.

It was no longer a scene of superior realm beasts sacrificing themselves to the formation, but one of attrition through sheer numbers!

Boom!

The eleventh curtain went down!

The twelfth curtain went down!

The thirteenth curtain went down!

The purple hues of the Redbud Plains turned into red as a sea of fresh blood grew in front of Redbud City. The sky curtains continued to appear and the arcane beasts grew ever more frenzied.

The twenty-eighth curtain went down!

The twenty-ninth curtain went down!

Rumble—

The ground itself began to quake as arcane beasts gathered from all directions, feverishly slamming themselves against the city. The metropolis as large as a blazing sun began to rock and sway like a skiff in a storm. Numerous flying beasts dove from the sky, but Redbud City’s original aerial defenses held them at bay. Redbud cultivators gripped their treasures tight, ready to make their final stand with the enemy.

RUMBLE!

Another deafening explosion sounded from the city as a purple ripple burst from a tiny foundation point. It oscillated into undulations of pure force that unfurled in all directions beyond the city; a full hundred million beasts met their end at this purple ripple.

“Ai, what a pity.” Lu Yun shook his head gently. “I didn’t have enough time. I could only do so much with three days.”

He'd etched three Nineturns Sky Curtain Formation disks during this time, fortified the city's defensive formation, etched the domineering Detonation Talisman that'd just ripped through the beasts, as well as refined multiple weapons that bristled on the city walls.

He hadn't had time to prepare anything else beyond that.

Time hadn't been on his side, neither had his stamina. He was only a creator, just a lowly inferior being in the Hongmeng.

"I leave the rest to you. You will not lose this city even if you die!" he shouted at the defenders around him.

"Understood!" they roared back. Having seen the exalted enforcer expunge all beasts within fifty million miles using just a talisman, the millions of city guards on the walls were flush with adrenaline. This illustrious enforcer was almost a king, if not one already.

The tide of beasts took a moment to gather themselves, giving the Redbud cultivators additional time to prepare.

Soon enough, the war drum crescendoed and a black tide of beasts was upon them once more. This time, they were even more manic than before.

#### **Chapter 1205: With Moonlight as Blade**

Lu Yun and the little fox had withdrawn from the battlefield. All available force within Redbud City had been mobilized, and everyone waited with orderly readiness for the beasts to come again.

It wasn't Zhuo Bufan commanding the cultivators, nor was it the useless fool of a city lord. The true heavyweights of the city had taken control. They'd been suppressed by the bumbling buffoon before and had been unable to display their skill. Now that Lu Yun and the others were here, the city lord no longer dared throw his weight around, making way for the powerhouses to assume the reins of command.

Redbud City sat at the edges of the Redbud Plains. Though it wasn't a large city, the forces that dwelled within were no minor ones. Legends of beast tides had always existed within the plains and the city did indeed fend them off with surprising regularity.

Only, one of this scale had never occurred before.

.....

"The tide of beasts is far beyond my expectation. I need to make use of this time to etch some more formations." Lu Yun settled down into meditative thought when he returned to the abode that Jian Wenhe had prepared for them.

He'd wanted to send out Oddmoon and kill everything in his path, but the arcane beast that'd destroyed several of his sky curtains gave him pause. It didn't seem to be the leader of the operation.

"Zhuo Bufan, who's stronger—the lizard-dragon or that beast?" He asked as Zhuo Bufan had come back with him. Being in the common realm, he'd just be cannon fodder in the tide of beasts.

“The lizard-dragon!” Zhuo Bufan answered confidently. “The lizard-dragon is one of the premier powerhouses of Dragonhollow Mountain. It has the potential to be king, so it’s not anything that that reptile can measure up to.

“That reptile outside is a steelback golden armored dragon—one of the best among the superior realm arcane beasts. However, there’s no possibility for it to ever become a king or even progress in that direction!”

“What the fuck,” Lu Yun cursed. “Shit like that broke my Nineturns Sky Curtain Formation?”

Zhuo Bufan shrank in on himself and didn’t dare say another word, though he spoke only the truth.

“Lu Yun.” The little fox suddenly hopped in front of him and cupped her lily-white hands around his face, turning his gaze toward her. “Those arcane beasts are intelligent and possess their own thoughts!”

“Mhmm.” Lu Yun nodded.

“Having thoughts and wisdom also means fear!” she continued seriously. “When we first saw the beasts, they didn’t have death wishes or want to take down Redbud City at all costs. But now, they’ve forgotten fear and death.”

“...the drum!” Lu Yun and the little fox exclaimed in unison.

“That’s right, the drum! What level treasure is that drum?” The little fox turned around to look at Zhuo Bufan.

“In response to the young mistress, this humble one doesn’t know either.” Zhuo Bufan shook his head blankly. Though he knew a few things about the Redbud Plains, he only possessed surface level knowledge.

“How useless,” grumbled the little fox.

Zhuo Bufan smiled wryly in response. He couldn’t refute that assessment, nor did he dare to.

“Little fox, take this Oddmoon treasure and try to stall for as much time as possible. I’m going to think of something I can refine to battle the drum.” Lu Yun handed Oddmoon to the fox.

Since Oddmoon had been tamed by the abyss, no one needed to refine it. The abyss’ power was enough to compel the moon to release its full power.

Since the little fox was with him, he’d naturally had her refine the shard of Mount Tai in the abyss. She could now come and go from the abyss at will and call upon its strength as well.

“Will do!” She nodded and accepted the treasure. “Don’t think of going anywhere, you’re coming with me!”

She flicked a glance at a rueful Zhuo Bufan. He knew that there was nowhere he could go.

He’d thought that his new masters would become burdens after arriving in the Hongmeng and attract trouble to him, but each was stronger than the last, and Lu Yun was a supplemental grandmaster!

It was rather he who was in the way.

He'd originally planned on first escorting and helping them settle in at Starcloud City. He would then return to headquarters to take care of his matters so that his affairs wouldn't affect them. But now he could tell that even if he and Du Guxun decided to fight to the death, that still wouldn't affect his new masters. If Lu Yun revealed his identity as a supplemental grandmaster, Du Guxun would have to get on his knees and call him daddy.

"Wait!" Lu Yun called out to the little fox. "Take this, just in case!"

He shoved a tiny jade slip into her hands.

"What is...?" she blinked.

"This is a Resurrection Talisman. After you refine it into your body, you'll be instantly reborn even if you're blown to pieces and your true spirit scattered!" he transmitted.

The little fox's eyes went wide and she stared incredulously at him.

"I have many trump cards, this is only one of them." Lu Yun grinned broadly. His greatest trump card was the Bridge of Forgetfulness!

If worst came to worst, he'd bring out the bridge. Even kings would have to kneel down to him then, much less a tide of arcane beasts.

However, if he did so, then Jin Naluo would sense his presence in the realm. Lu Yun's identity would be a secret no longer. Though there was an agreement between the two of them, someone on Jin Naluo's level wouldn't mind ripping up a toothless agreement if Lu Yun was on his doorstep.

Thus, he wouldn't utilize the bridge unless he really had no other choice.

"Okay!" The little fox carefully put away the jade slip and refined it into herself. This was the equivalent of a second life!

"Let's go!" She acted decisively and returned to the city, where a ghastly battle had broken out.

Countless beasts raced up the walls and threw themselves at the city defenders. The treasures that Lu Yun had refined—like the crystal cannons of the world of immortals, blasted forth tempestuous pillars of light at the approaching beasts.

When the cannons eventually melted from continued deployment at full power, the city guards took up arms and engaged the beasts in close combat. While they were no less than the beasts one-on-one, and most of them actually stronger than the enemy, there were too many beasts to contend with.

As it was several thousand or tens of thousands of beasts against one cultivator, they swiftly ripped apart any defender they met. It seemed only a matter of time before the city fell.

The defensive formation that Lu Yun had enhanced teetered dangerously. Many locations were damaged and even the city walls began to crumble.

"We can't hold on!" Teeth gnashed, despair reappeared on everyone's faces.

"Where are the three noble lords? Have they gone?"



“They can’t leave because the city transportation formation is broken. The three lords should still be thinking of strategies!”

“That’s right, we still have the three noble enforcers!”

Some confidence trickled back to the people when they thought of the Nineturns Sky Curtain Formation and the domineering Detonation Talisman. However, that reassurance seemed much too feeble in front of the unending hordes.

The arcane beasts and the drums of war had penetrated the city.

Hummm.

A faint hum echoed through the air as a silver moon rose from the city, illuminating everything it touched. The little fox stood beneath the moon, dressed in long, black enforcer robes and wearing a black veil over her face.

Moonlight spilled out, sharp as blades, instantly slaying all of the beasts within the city with its gentle luminescence.

### **Chapter 1206: Hide of the Kui Cow, Bone of the Azure Dragon**

Deafening cheers rose from the city. Their savior hadn’t failed them!

Though the little fox was completely obscured beneath the black enforcer robes and black veil, her stance beneath the silver moon made her seem like a goddess that’d walked out of the moonlight.

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“Aooo!” A roar swelled out of the tide of beasts when the gigantic moon suddenly appeared from the city. The steelback golden armored dragon that’d remained in the rear all this time finally showed itself.

It looked like a lizard and was pure gold in color, as if it wore a set of armor in the same color. Eighteen reversed black spikes grew out of its spine and it shook the earth with every ponderous step it took, since it was five hundred thousand kilometers long.

It rammed savagely through the Redbud city walls and charged into the city, making straight for the little fox.

“Die!” She placed her hands together and coalesced beams of moonlight that shot at the golden armored dragon. Sparks sprayed from its back and the golden armored dragon went flying, squealing and wailing as it tumbled away.

But it didn’t die; its defenses were too strong. With it as the vanguard, the arcane beasts behind it flooded into the city once again.

The little fox’s expression turned extremely grave and numerous Redbud superiors in the city swiftly gathered together, swarming protectively around her. A horrific atmosphere of bleak violence filled the city as horrific slaughter began once more.

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“So this is the legendary third realm!” The Divine Azure Dragon King stood next to Lu Yun and opened his arms, taking in a deep breath of rich Hongmeng qi. And then, he naturally broke through to creator realm.

Another figure stood beside him—Kui, his archenemy in the primordial world of immortals.

Kui was also a creator now, but the two still didn’t get along even after their rebirth. The Divine Azure Dragon King had returned to his position as patriarch of the azure dragons, while Kui had become one of Lu Yun’s Infernum.

Lu Yun wouldn’t be able to return to the Hongmeng once he went back to the world of immortals, but he could communicate through the abyss and hell to pull those from the world of immortals to the third realm.

“What business do you have with us, since you’ve brought us here?” The Azure Dragon King glanced sideways at his old rival and continued addressing Lu Yun, “As creators, the two of us can dominate the world of immortals, but here, we’re just two ants...”

“Master, if you wish for Kui’s hide, just take it!” Kui interrupted since it could tell what Lu Yun wanted to do.

“You want to refine the Kui Battle Drum?!” The Azure Dragon King understood as well when he heard the exclamation. “Legend has it that a battle drum refined from a kui’s skin can summon the wind and rain, bolstering an army’s morale. But the appropriate drumstick to use with the drum...”

“You want my dragon bone.” He looked at Lu Yun with a tight frown.

“If you write your names down here, you’ll be undying beings.” Lu Yun nodded and placed the Tome of Life and Death in front of the two. “After I take your hide and bone, you’ll be reborn in hell.”

The Azure Dragon King chuckled ruefully. “I’ve always shied away from your secrets because I didn’t want your label stamped on me. Ai... so it turns out it was inevitable. Alright then.”

He bit through his finger and wrote down his name in the treasure.

Meanwhile, Kui was champing at the bit and quickly wrote its name into the book. It knew of the treasure’s existence and its significance. After placing its name in the Tome of Life and Death, it would be a far cry from its former self. Instead of being a lowly Infernum, it would be second to only the ten Yama Kings!

Contrary to its rival’s anticipation, the Azure Dragon King looked woebegone.

The two vanished after a black light flashed through the area, leaving behind only a kui hide and an azure dragon bone.

Kui and the Azure Dragon King returned to hell before they even knew what’d happened. It was more like nothing had happened at all, but the latter was now fully Lu Yun’s.

“Well, I’m a dragon that’s gone to the third realm at least. Just that alone makes me stronger than a lot of immortals in the chaos and world of immortals!” A certain degree of pride returned to him when he thought of this, sweeping away the dejection looming in his heart.

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The hide of a kui and bone of an azure dragon were only creator realm. Thus, their core essence was inordinately weak and no one in the Hongmeng would even stop to pick them up if they were litter on the ground.

But to Lu Yun, these two were priceless treasures. He just needed to nourish them with the treasures of the Hongmeng to turn them into items of the same level!

As a supplemental grandmaster in possession of the five great fires of hell, he had an even more crucial heaven-defying combat art—Spacetime Reincarnation! Though the concept of time existed within the third realm, it didn't really hold any sway here. Him deploying that combat art wouldn't result in interference from the orders of the third realm.

During the past three days, he'd utilized the art to slow down time so that he could etch three Nineturns Sky Curtain Formation disks, one Detonation Talisman, and countless war treasures. He'd utilized only a tenth of the items in the Redbud treasury to do so, leaving countless ones untouched for future use.

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"Little fox, hang on for three more days!" Lu Yun's voice echoed in her mind.

"Mm... I'll be able to do that as long as no kings show up from the other side!" Her face was already slightly pale behind the enforcer mask, but she grit her teeth and nodded in agreement. Why, she hadn't even used Lu Yun's Resurrection Talisman yet!

Though she didn't need to support the Oddmoon with her own strength, the feedback from it still inflicted grave injuries. Just when she felt that her wounds were growing too severe, warm energy flowed out of her wrist and seeped into her body, instantaneously healing all of her injuries.

The thirty-six beads on her wrist glowed with a bright radiance, enveloping her and isolating her from Oddmoon's recoil.

"Hahahaha!!" She threw her head back with proud laughter. "Just look at who has a filial son! Don't worry, I'll be able to hold on for thirty, three hundred days, much less than three!"

The heavily injured golden armored dragon shuddered to hear these words. The drumming that spurred all of them on grew increasingly raucous, like the instrument had arrived beneath the city walls.

"You bunch of trash!" raged an irate voice. "Don't set yourself against the black robe! Hurry up and destroy the city! All of you will be exterminated, and your races too, if you delay the king's affairs!"

### **Chapter 1207: Grandmaster Level Illusions**

The entire city quaked after the denouncing, throwing countless scores of Redbud cultivators to the ground and injuring them. The new arcane beast grabbed them by the clawful and tore them to shreds before throwing them into its mouth.

Color drained from the little fox's face. This was a real powerhouse, an absolute heavyweight! While that beast may not be a king, it was far stronger than the steelback golden armored dragon.

“Die!!” She pointed and commanded an answering flare of silver moonlight from Oddmoon. It condensed into a sharp blade that drilled down at the dragon.

As strong as Oddmoon was, its recoil was also tremendous. She hadn’t dared release too much of its strength before for fear of subsequent injury. But now, the string of beads that Lu Qing had given her was releasing multiple layers of defenses that surrounded her in comprehensive protection. With nothing further to worry about, she directly called upon Oddmoon’s domineering power.

The blade of moonlight sliced right through the golden armored dragon and reaped its life.

“Bastard!” came the voice once again as a pair of enormous wings suddenly appeared in the skies over Redbud City. The wingspan was larger than the entire city!

A pair of golden claws loomed down from the firmament and swiped at Oddmoon.

Boom!

Silver moonlight blossomed in retaliation and clashed with the sharp claws. The harrowing recoil disintegrated the black enforcer uniform and mask on the little fox, revealing her true features to everyone on the scene.

Her robes white as snow, hair floating like the clouds, and a face worth dynasties seemed to fulfill every standard of beauty that could ever exist. Even the beasts lunging in feverish frenzy thanks to the war drum felt their hearts skip a beat.

Within Redbud City, ranks of cultivators stared in awe. They’d never fathomed that their savior, the black-robed enforcer, would be such a stunning beauty! And most importantly, she was just in the inferior realm!

An inferior personage had killed a steelback golden armored dragon in the superior realm!

The little fox’s figure imprinted on everyone’s minds as an image they’d never forget. Even Jian Wenhe, hiding in a corner and staying out of all the action, poked out a head to greedily drink in her form.

Thirty-six beads sparkled with pale purple light on her wrist, safeguarding her body and preventing that horrendous backlash from disintegrating the little fox as well. She tilted her head back to look at the portent of doom in midair.

It was a black eagle that had a wingspan just bigger than the entire city! It radiated power like an enormous star, a true expert of the superior realm arcane beasts and more than ten times stronger than the golden armored dragon.

It was also assessing the little fox, shock and confusion clear in its pale gold eyes. The little fox’s appearance didn’t matter to it, but the layer of pale purple shimmers over it did. That was plainly the strength of a king!

Could it be that this young woman was the descendant of a king?

The little fox suddenly winked at the black eagle, dreamlike ripples oscillating out of her big eyes that sparkled with silver. And then...

The black eagle and endless horde of arcane beasts around them was abruptly transported to another place. Their most hated enemies were in front of them, their arch rivals and those with whom they nursed death feuds.

Astonished cultivators gaped as their never-ending enemies, vicious beasts that bayed for Redbud City blood, turned on each other and fought to the death under the haze of foggy moonlight!

Illusions!

The little fox's greatest combat art was illusion of the mind. She'd combined her illusory craft with the Oddmoon over her head, utilizing its moonlight to deploy her art. Everywhere the moonlight touched was where her illusion flourished.

However, she pouted instead at her success and was most unhappy.

"The cat's out of the bag, the cat's out of the bag. Lu Yun will guess that I refined Lu Qing's crystal ball as soon as he sees me deploy Hongmeng level illusions!" The little fox blushed with the implications.

Though she'd told him that she hadn't wanted to refine the ball just yet, she'd subconsciously refined everything within the ball—including the experiences of her soul force replica and what her son had experienced in their absence—as soon as she received it.

The current her had not only retrieved her memories of the mythological realm, but her cultivation then as well!

However, all she wanted to do now was to find a hole in the ground and throw herself in it. She hadn't dared tell Lu Yun about this, and now that she'd had no other choice but to deploy an illusion of the mind, that was tacit admission that she'd refined the ball.

"What if, what if he wants to create another kit with me?" Her thoughts ran wild. "Do I say no but let him have his way, or do I resist to the bitter end and protect my chastity at all costs?"

Thump!

Thump!

Thump!

Earth-shaking pounding came from the war drum and her illusion wavered, almost shattered by the sound.

"A king level treasure!" she gasped and threw all random thought from her mind, refocusing on overseeing her illusory realm.

Only momentary clarity appeared in the beasts' eyes before they lunged at each other again. However, the drum was too strong. The little fox's illusion wouldn't last long in the face of the continued barrage.

Though she was a Hongmeng grandmaster, she was still too weak. If it wasn't for using Oddmoon, her illusion would've covered only fifty kilometers at most.

"What are you waiting for?! Get rid of the big guy up there!" she shouted.

“Ah, understood!” Redbud cultivators snapped to attention and a hundred Hongmeng superiors took to the air, screaming war cries at the titanic black eagle.

This was a peak Hongmeng superior. Though it wasn’t on par with the lizard-dragon, it wasn’t far off. Currently caught in a mental realm and battling nonexistent enemies, it revealed all of its flaws and weaknesses.

The one hundred superior realm cultivators jointly released all of their strongest attacks, smashing the eagle’s head in. Razor-sharp moonlight closed in to tear apart its exposed nascent spirit and soul.

Redbud defenders breathed out in relief, but their respite was short-lived.

As the war drum crescendoed to new heights, the illusory realm began to waver. Still, the city’s cultivators made use of the opportunity to rush their enemies, killing as many beasts as they could.

Be that as it may, the tide of beasts outside the city remained endless, like it was a veritable ocean of beasts. It brought a suffocating sense of despair to everyone.

### **Chapter 1208: The Redbud King**

Once again, the city was cleared of all arcane beasts, but once again, more beasts outside of the city walls charged in.

Lost looks appeared in the eyes of Redbud cultivators when they looked outside their home. It was a similar look to when the beasts first encountered the Nineturns Sky Curtain Formation.

The mighty enforcers had continuously waded into battle and killed hordes of beasts—hordes that numbered in the hundreds of millions. Why was there still an unending tide of them outside, why were there still so many to be killed?

So many... too many... much too many. So many that it made one forget how hope felt!

A lethargy crept up on all of the cultivators—not of the body, but of the heart.

However, the little fox didn’t give up. She knew that Lu Yun had found a way to handle the tide of beasts. All would be over if that drum was taken out of commission.

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“Mi, milord!” Jian Wenhe surreptitiously sought out Zhuo Bufan and smiled fawningly. “The two black-robed enforcers have displayed your might. Is it your turn now?”

In the eyes of the public, black robed enforcers were the strongest group among the Enforcer Alliance. Only the executives ranked above them, and those almost possessed the battle strength of superiors.

Sadly, Zhuo Bufan had become an executive simply due to his father being a king within the alliance. He himself was a blockhead, made evident by the fact that the son of a king was just in the common realm.

“Hmph!” Zhuo Bufan snorted. “Two black robes are enough for a mere tide of beasts. There’s no need for this seat to personally take action.”

“U-understood!” Jian Wenhe tucked his head in, looking like he’d been released from a grave burden.

Zhuo Bufan flicked a glance at the city lord, frowning slightly behind his mask. He perceptively picked up on a feeling that there was something wrong with the man.

“Ah, yes!” Jian Wenhe suddenly shoved his face in front of Zhuo Bufan and asked merrily, “Master Enforcer, is the black robed enforcer married?”

He smiled the knowing smile of a man, whereas a Justice token appeared in Zhuo Bufan’s hands and flashed warningly.

“If you dare have any thoughts about her, I can kill you without having to report it to the Enforcer Alliance.” His voice sounded like a devil crawled out of the Hadal Hell.

The city lord shuddered with dread and fell to his knees to whine for mercy.

Deep disgust flashed through Zhuo Bufan’s eyes and he sent the man flying with a kick. After landing, Jian Wenhe raised his head and looked at the little fox in the air, then ducked his head, not daring to chance a second look. He was indeed afraid of death.

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Though Oddmoon didn’t require the little fox’s personal strength, the illusory realm did, and it was far too taxing on her mind. She didn’t know how long had passed either, she’d sunk into a deep fatigue a while ago.

Hummm.

A loud buzz rang through the air as fearsome drumming broke through her illusion. The countless beasts tearing at each other came to an abrupt halt, awakening to the true situation. Under further deployment from the war drum, they about-faced and pounced on the city cultivators.

The little fox sighed softly and directed the moonlight to take solid form again, cutting down the ferocious beasts.

However, they seemed to be acting under certain directions this time and tangled themselves with the Redbud defenders. If the keen moonlight descended, it would churn the cultivators to bits along with the beasts.

The little fox didn’t know what to do.

“Kill!” Eighteen superior realm beasts hidden in the shadows suddenly took to the air and charged the little fox.

Her thirty-six beads exploded with scintillating purple light and sent them flying.

“Eh, though I’m not as strong as you all, I have a filial son.” She raised the beads high to show purple brilliance circulating through them. The splendor covered her body and ensured that she wouldn’t come to any harm.

However, Redbud City teetered on the edge of destruction. Previously the size of a sun star, half of it had collapsed and the beasts had torn apart a great number of cultivators. The little fox would remain whole and unharmed if Redbud was overrun, but plainly the same couldn’t be said about the city.

Cultivators wailed and screamed, children sobbed in the mouths of the beasts. The city had become a living hell. Many of the beasts discovered where Lu Yun was residing and furiously attacked the defensive formations outside of it.

“It’s been three days, why isn’t he out yet?” Panic began to lick at the little fox. Not only were there cultivators inside Redbud City, but there were also ordinary beings. They couldn’t resist the beasts at all; the slightest ripple from a nearby battle was sufficient to kill them outright.

She couldn’t bear the situation any more and mustered the final dregs of her mental power, about to set up another illusion formation.

Boom!

Rumble—

An enormous drum beat suddenly traveled out of Lu Yun’s residence. Wind and rain howled in the sky while clouds as dark as ink gathered from all directions, shadowing the entire city. Thunder roared and lightning crashed together with the sound of a battle drum, punching through the war drum outside that manipulated the tide of beasts.

Thonk!

Thonk!

Thonk!

Each crisp and urgent drum beat brought with it a strange fluctuation that reverberated through the premises, slowly growing in volume. Wind and lightning condensed in the air, forming jagged bolts of pure annihilation that careened down on the beasts in Redbud City.

The war drum outside the city had ceased its pounding and the assembled beasts shuddered in unison, their frenetic battle frenzy fading away to be replaced by thick fear.

High up in the sky, Oddmoon threw off a terrifying presence that elicited distress from deep within their souls. The wind and rain overhead also possessed a strange sort of magic that continued to disperse their battle intent.

Many of the beasts outside the city had already turned tail to run away, and the boundless tide of them showed signs of dispersing. The war drum in the plains started up again, but the king-level treasure failed to contend with the drumming within the city and the elements in the sky above.

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“What marvelous methods! To think that there’d be crouching tigers and hidden dragons within a tiny Redbud City, that there are two grandmasters here!” A low woman’s voice sounded from the depths of the plains as a figure of pale purple walked through the air, stopping on the outskirts of the city.

Lu Yun held an oddly shaped battle drum and a stick that looked to be made of bone. He emerged to take a position next to the little fox’s side.



“This lady must be the Redbud King of the Redbud Region.” Lu Yun bowed slightly at the young woman in purple. “Black robe enforcer Lu Yun greets the Redbud King. As a vaunted king, why do you take up such arms against an insignificant city?” he asked of the king close at hand, not understanding her actions.

### **Chapter 1209: Redbud Butterfly Chrysalis**

Arcane beasts were also divided into the superior, common, and inferior cultivation realms. Once a beast possessed the strength of a titled king, they could take human form.

From the worlds to the chaos and then to the Hongmeng, human form seemed to be an eternal constant. Most Hongmeng cultivators were also in human form; even the lizard-dragon had ultimately taken that shape.

The ruler of the Redbud Region was a king—the Redbud King. Living in the depths of the Redbud Plains, the young girl in purple was the human form of a Hongmeng beast and the aforementioned king.

What puzzled Lu Yun was that it was the matter of a simple thought if she wanted to destroy the tiny city. She didn’t need to mobilize her subjects and set this massive tide in motion. She was likely also the one behind the failure of the transportation formation.

Though cultivators and beasts were partitioned into two different camps, with occasional friction between the two, they weren’t at the stage of being completely unable to tolerate each other. If that’d been the case, the Redbud Plains would’ve long turned into forbidden grounds for cultivators and the city wouldn’t exist.

The Redbud King lowered her head when she heard the question and thought for a moment.

“Sometimes, death is a boon to those who’ve done wrong.” She raised her pale purple eyes and looked at Lu Yun with a piercing look. “To struggle in fear, wallow in regret, and finally die in despair is the true punishment.”

She swept a casual glance at the beads on the little fox’s wrist. It was due to these beads and the power of a king that sparkled on them that she didn’t immediately take action against these two.

Lu Yun couldn’t help a slight frown. He quite agreed with her viewpoint, that sometimes death was a blessing instead.

“I would request a clear indication from the Redbud King. What have the cultivators of Redbud City done so wrong to warrant such punishment?” Lu Yun remained polite, but his expression was neither humble nor overbearing.

“Did a king gift you the beads on her wrist and the moon over your heads?” asked the Redbud King instead of answering.

“How would two inferior realm beings be able to access their full power, if not a gift from a king?” Lu Yun hastened to answer before the little fox could; she sheepishly shut her mouth. He only needed half a brain cell to guess what she’d say if she’d been the one to answer.

“Mm.” The Redbud King inclined her head. “You two are worthy of being the offspring of kings. You’re much better than those bumbling fools currently ruling the realm.”

Zhuo Bufan's expression darkened in Redbud City. Hadn't that first been used to describe him?

"My true form is that of a Redbud Spirit Butterfly from the Redbud Mountain deep within the Redbud Plains. I am also the only Redbud Butterfly to ever exist in the Hongmeng, up until now," the Redbud King easily spoke of her true form. To the Hongmeng beasts, their true form was a source of great pride. There was no need to conceal it.

"Not long ago, the mountain nurtured a second Redbud Butterfly chrysalis. My race will finally continue!" But arctic frostiness blasted from her after speaking of this wonderful news. "Upon its appearance, I announced to the Hongmeng that whoever dares touch it will die the most gruesome death I can think of!

"Even your Enforcer Alliance issued a proclamation to protect the chrysalis, that whoever disturbs it will be hunted down by you cultivators.

"But! Someone from Redbud City intruded not long ago and stole the chrysalis, causing the death of the tiny life form growing inside. My line is ended—is this not worthy of heavy punishment?!"

Plop!

Ashen-faced, Jian Wenhe sagged to the ground, shaking like a leaf and unable to speak. He knew of this matter!

He even knew that it was the king's domain that'd enveloped the Redbud Plains and destroyed the transportation formation, so that the chrysalis wouldn't be able to leave. However, it was dead, so nothing could be done about the situation.

"A city full of cultivators and three enforcers as burial goods for me... that... will do," the city lord murmured.

"Not heavy enough." Lu Yun swept a glance at Jian Wenhe. He'd naturally heard the meatball's murmurings. In fact, all of the survivors had heard him and they itched to tear him to pieces. "If it was up to me, I'd levy an even heavier punishment. But, are you so sure that the chrysalis is dead?"

The Redbud King waved gently and lifted Jian Wenhe into the air. A chrysalis the size of a thumb and glittering like a purple crystal floated out of his body. It should've been a vibrant, pulsing seed of life. All it emitted now was the dense air of death as all of its vitality had been sucked dry by something.

Plainly, the buffoon that was the city lord should've been in the common realm, but he'd used the life force inside the chrysalis to force his way into the superior realm.

What a reckless waste of a priceless treasure! was all that Lu Yun could come up with.

The Redbud King waved again and smashed Jian Wenhe to the ground. After a few struggles, he turned into a large purple rat.

"A Hongmeng Treasurehunter Rat!" Zhuo Bufan gasped when he saw the city lord's true form. "Treasure seeker, treasure hunter, treasure taker... Once they discover treasure, they can call upon their natural talents to conceal all trace of themselves. Even kings find it difficult to detect them when the rats are right in front of treasure! Aren't they extinct?!"

A Treasurehunter Rat was a cultivator instead of an arcane beast. It could cultivate and take human form, but its existence was so heaven-defying that the laws of the Hongmeng couldn't tolerate it. Widespread extermination efforts had taken place in a long distant era until they were completely wiped out.

Who would've thought that the Redbud city lord would be a Treasurehunter Rat?! No wonder he could steal the Redbud King's most precious possession from right beneath her nose.

Having been exposed, he crouched on the ground and shivered, not daring to move. Cowardly and fearful, yet daring to steal a chrysalis of the Redbud Spirit Butterfly... That did indeed fit the profile of a Treasurehunter Rat.

"Since you say that my punishment isn't heavy enough, then the tide of beasts will continue. It's up to you two to see if you can survive. And from now on, the Redbud Region is forbidden to cultivators! Any cultivator that dares set half a foot into my domain will die!" The Redbud King declared calmly as she flicked a noncommittal glance at the Treasurehunter Rat quailing in the corner.

"One moment!" Lu Yun shook his head. "If I can bring the chrysalis back to life, will the Redbud King show mercy to the cultivators in the city?"

"Oh?" the king paused. "Can you resurrect beings that have died?"

"No." Lu Yun shook his head. "But the chrysalis wasn't a true life form. The life it nurtured hadn't fully taken shape. It lacked a true spirit and soul—only its vitality was robbed. I can return its life force to it."

The Redbud King blinked again.

Things were as the cultivator said—the chrysalis wasn't a true life form. It was just a ball of vitality that would slowly morph into new life, forming a true spirit and soul before breaking out of its shell. Only then would it be in the first stage of a Redbud Spirit Butterfly—a silkworm.

Once the silkworm formed a cocoon from its silk, it would then become a real Redbud Spirit Butterfly. The process would take a very long time.

"It's dead in your eyes anyway, so why not let me try?" Lu Yun sighed. "You won't be able to bring the chrysalis back to life even if you butcher everything in the city and mark the region off limits to cultivators, so how about I have a go?"

"...alright, then." The king nodded and delivered the chrysalis to Lu Yun. "If you cannot save it, I will kill you in addition to destroying the city. Not even the hundred and eight kings of the Enforcer Alliance all arriving at the same time will be able to save you."

A threatening tone laced her words, but hope burgeoned in her heart. After all, the young man in front of her was a supplemental grandmaster!

Lu Yun nodded. "Someone bring me the rat."

Zhuo Bufan quickly grabbed the nearly comatose rat on the ground. Though it was in the superior realm, it seemed to be scared senseless and didn't dare move, much less resist or escape.

In front of the eyes of all, Lu Yun placed the Treasurehunter Rat and chrysalis together.

“Inversion of... Spacetime!”

## **Chapter 1210: Repayment**

Humm—

Two rays of purple light blossomed from Lu Yun’s eyes. The power of time didn’t exist in the Hongmeng, but it suddenly materialized into being with the purple radiance.

And with that, time began to operate in this part of the land.

When the demon of the immortal dao possessed Di Ling, Lu Yun used the inversion portion of the Spacetime Reincarnation combat art to separate the two. It was even more effortless for him to deploy Inversion of Spacetime in a world that lacked the delineation of time, particularly when he was stronger than before.

Thus, under the Redbud King’s shocked gaze, purple light exploded out of the Hongmeng Treasurehunter Rat and rushed into the Redbud Butterfly chrysalis. Lu Yun wasn’t just reversing time, but both space and time!

Everything within three meters was fully reversed, traveling back to where Jian Wenhe stole the chrysalis and then... time itself also hurtled backward!

Jian Wenhe’s cultivation rapidly devolved from the superior realm to the common realm, then stabilized in the initial common realm. The vitality that’d been stripped away from the chrysalis fully made it back inside.

This wasn’t just a return of what had been lost, but turning back the clock so that what had happened was undone!

“You’re an heir of the Spacetime King!” exclaimed the Redbud King.

Lu Yun wasn’t fazed by the unexpected title. Though the power of time didn’t encompass the Hongmeng and force the passage of the years in it, there were still powerhouses in the third realm that specialized in this field of study. This so-called Spacetime King was likely one of them.

However, time within the Hongmeng was different from that of the world of immortals. In the third realm, time was a tiny creek that occasionally flowed past a spot and brought the movement of intervals to it.

Meanwhile, time in the world of immortals was a fathomless sea that drowned all of the worlds. It integrated the power of time into the land and dictated that everything have a preset lifespan. Those of the fourth realm didn’t see the Hongmeng as a true realm because, at the heart of it all, time held no sway here.

It was precisely due to this lack of an ocean of time that Lu Yun could easily reverse its flow, resetting a certain part of the land back to a previous moment. The caveat was that this only applied to certain weak entities or those that’d already been subdued. If his subject violently resisted, then Lu Yun would also be subject to the backlash of space and time.

In addition, he wouldn't be able to use Spacetime Reincarnation if a life form had truly died. That would be a blatant violation of Hongmeng laws and he'd be subject to arrest from the Enforcer Alliance.

The flip side to that was that he could employ the death arts instead, since they adhered to the rules of the Tome of Life and Death. The laws of the Hongmeng held no jurisdiction over it.

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The Redbud Butterfly chrysalis had returned to its previous condition and a tiny life form pulsed gently inside it.

The Redbud King stretched her hand out and gently cupped it around the chrysalis. She shook uncontrollably, completely beside herself. Tenderly extending her consciousness, she closely observed the tiny chrysalis in her hand.

"It's there, the tiny seed of a true spirit is still there. It hasn't been damaged!" An enormous burden lifting off her shoulders, the hint of a smile finally appeared on her face.

She waved a hand and dismissed the boundless tide of beasts inside and outside of the city. The forcefield enveloping the Redbud Plains also vanished and the transportation formation was restored.

"Many thanks to this little friend for saving my race's bloodline. Please visit me at Redbud Mountain so that I may properly thank you." The king was stunningly beautiful once she was in a good mood. When she smiled, the entire void exulted in an inexplicable delight.

She waved her hand again before either Lu Yun or the little fox could respond, shifting the scene in front of their eyes and bringing them to an unfamiliar place. All was crystalline purple and abundant purple qi filled the air here. It wasn't the Hongmeng qi commonly found in the realm, but a type of energy at an even higher level.

"This is the power of purple crystal!" Lu Yun blurted out.

"That's right, purple crystal," the Redbud King agreed with a smile.

Purple crystal was the ingredient of choice in Hongmeng cultivation, as well as the generally accepted currency. Purple crystal veins were scattered throughout the realm, but Redbud Mountain within the plains happened to be one of the largest mines.

As its liege lord, the Redbud King was the richest king in the realm.

She could lay claim to the Redbud Region and own the mountain because of her strength. As the only Redbud Spirit Butterfly in the Hongmeng, she was also one of the most preeminent kings. How else would she have dared issue a warning to everyone in the land when the chrysalis appeared? Even the Enforcer Alliance had to curry favor with her and announce their support.

It'd been most unfortunate that a rare Treasurehunter Rat had happened upon the scene. They were normally fearful and scared of their own shadow, but became invincibly bold when they sniffed out treasure.

The rat that had been the Redbud city lord was still dangling from Lu Yun's hand. He was now in the common realm and playing dead.

"I don't know how to thank you for saving my clansman... Hmm, I have quite some purple crystals here. How about I gift you some crystal veins?" The Redbud King cocked her head in thought, very perplexed by the conundrum.

There were only all sorts of arcane beasts by her side, each dumber than the next. Sometimes, they were so dumb that she wondered if they possessed any intelligence at all, so they would be of no help here. She was also very inexperienced in dealing with cultivators.

"That's alright, we did that only to save ourselves." Lu Yun chuckled ruefully. He did indeed want those veins, but he'd only be inviting fatal trouble if he accepted them. They were just two inferiors and had no business possessing such incredible wealth. It would result in unpleasant attention.

He wouldn't be able to conceal the dense qi of purple crystal even if he sent the crystal veins into the abyss. The qi would follow his every step and wrap around his body. The power of purple crystal could pierce through the void, so not even an ultimate treasure could seal away its presence.

"That's true, I'd be putting you in harm's way if I gifted you the crystal veins." The Redbud King realized the problem as well. "But the two of you have really got some nerve... You have the cultivation of an inferior realm, yet your skill in the supplemental paths and illusions have reached grandmaster. Walking the Hongmeng out in the open like this will elicit regard from those with other intentions.

"While you have the Spacetime King behind you, there are many in the realm who are audacious to the extreme. Plenty are those who would dare provoke a king." She shot a meaningful look at the rat in Lu Yun's hand.

The rat tensed, then turned stiff like it was dead.

The little fox pouted. Would they have so easily exposed themselves if not for running into the tide of beasts? This was all the fault of the Treasurehunter Rat in Lu Yun's hand!

The Redbud King had really mistaken Lu Yun and the little fox as disciples of the Spacetime King. What would her expression be if she found out that it was the infamous Purple King behind her two saviors instead?

"Here are two Redbud tokens that contain a replica of my will. Activate the token when you meet with danger and my replica will arrive. Don't worry," the smiling king seemed to read Lu Yun's mind, "they're empty replicas without my thoughts in them. They will not pry into your secrets." She offered them two command tokens carved from premium purple crystal.

"Our thanks to the Redbud King!" Lu Yun heaved a long sigh of relief when he received the two tokens. He finally had a real patron in the Hongmeng!

He didn't want to bother with explaining about the Spacetime King. He would admit or refute nothing. Let the Redbud King think as she would.

"I've gifted many people with these Redbud tokens, so that's not enough in the way of thanks. How about this, I'll give you another hundred and eight veins of premium purple crystal. Their presence won't leak out when my power seals them, unless you disturb them somehow.

“Supplemental and illusion grandmasters need a great deal of purple crystal for cultivation after all!” she chuckled. She’d brought them back to her home not out of consideration for the absent Spacetime King, but for their own identities of grandmasters!