

## Necropolis 1211

### Chapter 1211: Formation of Illusion and Time

If a hundred and eight premium crystal veins were converted to their monetary value in purple crystal, it would be an astronomical sum.

However, they were unusable when sealed away. Lu Yun would have to undo the seal if he wanted to make use of them, but that would leak the presence of purple crystal and result in unwanted attention.

He still wanted to decline the gift, but accepted them when he took another look at the Redbud token in his hand. The Karmic Tree clearly sensed the Redbud King's emotions—she bore him no ill will. On the contrary, there was an unspoken plea that lingered in her heart.

Lu Yun quickly understood what was on her mind when he gave it some thought.

"In that case, we'll accept the crystal veins. Additionally, Miao and I will work together to set up a formation of time and illusion for the chrysalis. That'll help it grow up faster," Lu Yun said with a smile.

"Really?!" The Redbud King's eyes lit up. "My greatest thanks to you both!"

The new Redbud Butterfly chrysalis from the mountain had become very near and dear to her heart. Her ultimate goal in bringing Lu Yun and the little fox here was to ask them to set up formations for the chrysalis. A supplemental grandmaster who specialized in time was simply too rare in the Hongmeng.

Lu Yun raising the idea of his own volition spared some awkwardness for the king. After all, it hadn't been that long ago that she'd threatened to kill them both.

"It's just a minor task." Lu Yun waved a hand. "Miao, let's work together."

"Sensible enough of you." The little fox rolled her eyes at him. She was quite satisfied that he'd used her real name instead of "little fox" in front of the Redbud King. An imprint of a silver moon crescent had appeared between her brows; a sign that the king-level Oddmoon had become one with its last wielder.

Lu Yun set up a formation of time in the spot where the chrysalis rested. Time was sped up there so the chrysalis would mature faster, and the little fox's formation of illusion would provide it with ample protection. Her illusion was of the mind—the mental realm that'd surrounded the Tomb of Heaven and Earth in the chaos and the one around Qing Han's zombified body had all been her work.

Even something like the Hongmeng Treasurehunter Rat would fall victim to her manipulation if it barged into the illusion. It would turn muddle-headed, completely forgetting its innate talents. A formation of illusion was the strangest of all formations and the most terrifying. It could both attack and defend, wordlessly reaping the lives of its victims.

Once the formation was set up, the Redbud King personally ventured into it and let the rat loose in it. The Treasurehunter Rat became thoroughly lost among illusions and ran in circles, whereas the Redbud King's eyes widened when she almost lost herself in the formation.

Overjoyed, she opened the mountain treasury and dumped a plethora of treasures onto Lu Yun and the little fox.

Bowled over by the bounty, the two were so overwhelmed that they didn't even know how they returned to Redbud City. The king had also restricted the rat's true spirit and forced it to take Lu Yun for its master.

The Treasurehunter Rat was an inordinately terrifying creature in the Hongmeng. In the face of treasure, even kings were hard pressed to detect them. If it hadn't been for Lu Yun saving the chrysalis and putting the Redbud King in his debt, she would've kept the rat for herself.

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The ruined Redbud City lay in shambles and more than half of its cultivators were dead. This was a devastating blow to a city, but there was no resentment brewing within it.

Their city lord had offended a king and almost ended the king's line. It was already the best possible outcome that three enforcers had prevented the entire city from being razed down to the foundations. How would the people dare voice any complaints?

Not to mention, the Redbud King was the ruler of the entire Redbud Region. The territory and the city they lived in were named after that king, and that was the personage their city lord had offended.

The current atmosphere within the city was still extremely gloomy, like a layer of heavy clouds blanketed it. No one dared say anything and repairs to the destroyed walls, architecture, and formations were carried out in complete silence.

Zhuo Bufan displayed his authority as an executive enforcer at this time. He commandeered a team of enforcers from other cities and stabilized the situation in Redbud, then also joined the reconstruction efforts.

Redbud City selected a new lord—a confidante that Zhuo Bufan redeployed from Starcloud City. Though Redbud City wasn't a major metropolis, it was still situated on the fringes of the Redbud Plains and was the only city for cultivators in the plains. Controlling the city meant occupying first mover advantage in the area.

In addition, it was an obvious sign of favor that the Redbud King had invited Lu Yun and the little fox to the Redbud Mountain. Zhuo Bufan was deeply entrenched with the two and if he didn't use the opportunity to make the city his, he wouldn't just be a buffoon. He'd be a complete idiot.

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When Lu Yun and the little fox returned, heaven-shaking cheers rose from Redbud City and the grave atmosphere over the city instantly evaporated.

The little fox was in a fresh enforcer uniform and had hidden her stunning countenance behind long black robes, but that did nothing to stop the Redbud cultivators from sending ardent gazes her way.

Uncomfortable with the attention, she hid behind Lu Yun. Zhuo Bufan had to emerge to chase away the gawking spectators.

"Zhuo Yu greets the two lords!" The new city lord Zhuo Yu knelt in front of the two and kowtowed respectfully. He was one of Zhuo Bufan's trusted men and not an enforcer. Now that Redbud City lacked

people and the position of city lord sat empty, someone from Zhuo Bufan's faction immediately came by to fill the void of authority.

The various kings of the Hongmeng were on equal footing with each other and there were no signs of them coming together to share power. Most cities fell under a king's domain, such as Starcloud City under the Scorch King's.

Redbud City, however, was an exception. Since it was on the fringes of Redbud Plains, it should've come under the Redbud King's purview. But since she was an arcane beast king, she wasn't very interested in a city for cultivators.

Thus, Redbud City remained an independent city as no other kings dared set sights on something that should belong to the Redbud King. That was how Jian Wenhe had slipped through the cracks and become city lord.

Cities varied in size throughout the Hongmeng and each possessed its own core essence. Refining that made one the city lord. Zhuo Yu had refined Redbud's core essence and he was uncommonly strong, a solid powerhouse in the superior realm.

"Alright, you are dismissed." Lu Yun waved his hand.

"Understood." Zhuo Yu quickly backed out of the residence they were meeting in.

"Now you can tell me what you wanted to say when we left the alliance headquarters," Lu Yun turned to Zhuo Bufan.

### **Chapter 1212: The Four Realms As One**

Zhuo Bufan shook his head with a rueful chuckle when he heard Lu Yun's words.

"The ramifications of that place are too great. If I say its name out loud, its experts will detect the utterance and come for our heads." Fear flashed across Zhuo Bufan's face. "Only when we reach Starcloud City, where the power of a king's domain envelops the land, will I dare say the name."

Lu Yun and the little fox looked at each other, shock charging the look between them. What kind of place was it to scare Zhuo Bufan like this?

As Lu Yun had just arrived in the Hongmeng, he didn't know anything about the political landscape. Even if Zhuo Bufan said the place's name and where it was, Lu Yun still wouldn't know where to find it.

"Are you thinking of the Valley of Ten Evils in the Hongmeng?" the little fox leaned in and asked haltingly.

All color drained from Zhuo Bufan's face when he heard the name and he hastily made a shushing motion.

"No! Don't speak of it! The Valley of Ten Evils is a place of great depravity. We mustn't speak of it!" Zhuo Bufan wanted to clap his hand over the little fox's mouth, but couldn't bring himself to do it. After an internal struggle, he settled for gesturing wildly on the spot.

“It looks like that is the place then.” The little fox rested her face in her hands. “Our son does indeed have some connections to a certain place in the valley, but let’s talk about it when we reach Starcloud City.”

She blushed hotly when she said “our son”, and Zhuo Bufan ducked his head, averting his eyes.

Lu Yun arched a brow at her. “I thought you said you weren’t going to refine the crystal ball?”

“It belongs to me!” Panic floated onto her face and she continued on with her brand of logic, “So what if I refined one of my possessions? We’re in the Hongmeng where dangers lurk around every corner. Don’t I get some extra ability to protect myself if I regain my replica?”

“You don’t want Lu Qing to lose his mother at his tender age, do you?” huffed the little fox. “And, you’re not allowed to make any more little foxes with me! I’m still young! And, and, we only, we only did it that once...”

Her voice grew steadily smaller until she sounded like a mosquito at the end.

Zhuo Bufan decided the best course of action was to lie on the ground and pretend he’d fainted. The young mistress always shocked the living daylight out of her audience when she talked!

Lu Yun didn’t continue the conversation, instead taking out the one hundred and eight purple crystal veins that the Redbud King had given him.

The little fox immediately forgot about the awkward situation and drew close with interest.

Purple crystals were wonderful things. The amount of Hongmeng qi in one piece of premium purple crystal was several times more than all of the immortal qi in the world of immortals combined.

The third realm was so much more sophisticated than the current world of immortals, a fact that extended to its level of qi by several hundreds of million times over. Of course, premium purple crystal was also the highest level of crystalline qi in the Hongmeng. Ordinary common and inferior realm cultivators had no right to obtain it.

“You want to send them to the world of immortals?” The little fox quickly grasped Lu Yun’s intentions.

“Yes.” He nodded. “The world of immortals needs a massive amount of qi in order to grow. The more qi there is, the faster it expands and the immortal dao develops! These one hundred and eight purple crystal veins are the best fertilizer for the world!”

“Only through continued maturation of the world and strengthening of the immortal dao will the immortals of the world grow stronger as well! Just you, Little Yu, and I are insufficient to protect that massive world. The only way forward is to ensure that it has the ability to protect itself!”

This was the most fundamental reason why Lu Yun had ultimately accepted the crystal veins. Purple crystals? Zhuo Bufan had plenty of them. Lu Yun could just take his if he wanted some.

“You’re not keeping a single one for yourself?” the little fox asked with some pain as she watched Lu Yun shove crystal vein after crystal vein into the abyss. Having knowledge and experience of the Hongmeng thanks to her son, she knew full well the value of a premium purple crystal vein.

“Then... let’s keep nine.” Lu Yun paused and took back nine veins, sending the remaining ninety-nine through to hell.

Though the ninety-nine were sealed, the lizard-dragon, Di Ling, and her Di Clan reviving through the sea of Hell Flowers all knew how to break the seal. They also knew how to most appropriately use the crystal veins.

Lu Yun didn’t put much thought into how to divvy up the ninety-nine; he was certain that the ten Yama Kings would make the best decision.

“How extravagant!” Zhuo Bufan clucked his tongue. “As a titled king, all of my father’s riches added together are just a hundred purple crystal veins. The Redbud King so easily gifted the young master with the fortune of a king!”

Lu Yun jerked with shock and the little fox regarded the revelation uncomfortably as well.

“The king bears no ill will toward me and she didn’t think much of gifting me the crystal veins. This means...” Lu Yun hummed with thought.

“Her emotional intelligence isn’t that high,” the little fox finished for him.

“Right, it’s on par with yours.” He flicked a sideways glance at the fox, who remained silent.

“Young master and mistress, shall we head on to Starcloud City?” Zhuo Bufan broke the silence before it turned too awkward. “Once we reach the city, this humble one will tell you everything you wish to know!”

His internal demon wasn’t Hopeless Major of the Valley of Ten Evils, but that the venerated one of the alliance had told him this.

“Mm, alright.” Lu Yun inclined his head.

The little fox butted in, “Nothing’s going to go wrong with the transportation formation this time, right?”

“No, no!” Zhuo Bufan smiled wryly. “The Redbud King is such a special existence—she can manipulate all of the purple crystal mines in the region. They form a unique forcefield of heaven and earth, which is how she can interrupt the light of transportation.”

“Forcefield of heaven and earth? There’s heaven and earth in the Hongmeng?” Lu Yun blinked.

“Heaven.” Zhuo Bufan pointed upward, then pointed down. “Earth.”

“...I... see.” Lu Yun paused, then frowned slightly before nodding slowly.

“Heaven and earth are a vast concept. The ones of the Hongmeng are illusory, while heaven and earth in the chaos come from real worlds.

“Many kings have guessed that the power of heaven and earth in our realm comes from the worlds located in the chaos. While they’re continuously destroyed, their core essence, the seed of heaven and earth, always remain. It constantly germinates and gives rise to new worlds.

“If the great sun and true moon of the chaos are the sun and moon in ours, then the heaven and earth in the chaos are also that of the Hongmeng,” Zhuo Bufan concluded his impromptu lecture. “Perhaps... heaven and earth, the chaos, and Hongmeng are from the same root. They might even be the same entity.”

“The Scorch King told you this, didn’t he?” Lu Yun smiled at Zhuo Bufan.

“Ahem! My father didn’t tell me this, I read about it from one of his journals,” Zhuo Bufan responded awkwardly.

Qing Yu had deduced all this when entering the fourth realm, that the worlds, chaos, Hongmeng, and even the fourth realm all stemmed from the same point. They were one.

### **Chapter 1213: Martial Grandson**

There were countless Hongmeng worlds in the fourth realm, but theirs was the most noteworthy one of them all.

The five hells and even the Tome of Life and Death had all appeared in this Hongmeng world. That meant it was exceedingly possible that the heaven and earth in the deepest reaches of this realm, the root of heaven and earth, was the origin point of the entire fourth realm.

But that was just speculation. No one knew the truth of the matter. The only thing known was that it was indeed possible to enter the fourth realm here from the depths of the first realm.

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Redbud City quickly fell fully into Zhuo Bufan’s hands, making it the newest addition to the Scorch King’s banner. As unwilling as the many moguls in the city might be, there was nothing they could do about it. Their new city lord was a subordinate to a king and had already refined the city’s core essence. He wielded complete authority over the city.

Although the Redbud King had never acknowledged that this city was part of her demesne, no one dared have designs on it given its location on the fringes of the Redbud Plains. Now that the Scorch King’s men had taken it, but the Redbud King remained unmoved, that meant she was tacitly allowing the handover.

Naturally, Lu Yun didn’t care about what happened to the city. His relationship with the Redbud King wasn’t to the point where they’d trust each other with their lives, or he would’ve already asked her about Qing Yu.

With a flash of transportation brilliance, the group of three once more vanished inside a formation. When Lu Yun next appeared, he was situated inside an extremely prosperous city. This city was enormous, many times bigger than Redbud City, and so colossal that it was like a major world.

Starcloud City of Starspace Region!

Starspace Region was one of the strongest regions in the Hongmeng. It boasted of countless experts and titled kings—the Scorch King was only one of many. Starcloud City and another thousand and eighty other cities were his territory.

Though he was one of the hundred and eight kings of the Enforcer Alliance, he possessed a faction in his own right and had two other kings beneath his banner.

The Enforcer Alliance was a loose alliance instead of a regular faction. As immense as it was, its main purpose was to uphold the various orders and laws of the Hongmeng, not to be involved in conflict and power struggles.

Otherwise, there would be exceedingly few in the realm who could withstand all one hundred and eight kings acting in concert.

Starcloud City was under Zhuo Bufan's purview. The Scorch King only had three sons and the other two were peak superior realm. In comparison, Zhuo Bufan well deserved his reputation as a bumbling fool.

But even so, his father still loved him very much.

Zhuo Bufan was only in the common realm, which meant the limits on his reproductive capabilities were far, far less stringent than his two older brothers. It was up to him to perpetuate the family line.

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"Greetings to the young lord!"

"Greetings to the young lord!"

"Greetings to the young lord!"

Cultivators were waiting on the other side of the transportation formation; they bowed in unison when they saw Zhuo Bufan. They were dressed in uniform outfits, but not of the Enforcer Alliance. They were plainly the Scorch King's private army—Starcloud City didn't belong to the alliance either.

"All of you are dismissed." Zhuo Bufan waved them off and then beckoned with a hand, bringing a tiny flying treasure in front of the three. The group vanished in a streak of golden light after setting foot on it.

Following their orders, the cultivators assembled in front of the transportation formation promptly scattered.

Zhuo Bufan's residence was magnificent and opulent, occupying an absolutely massive lot. To Lu Yun, this residence was bigger than all of Nephrite Major!

Servants and maids that were Hongmeng cultivators staffed it. Even those in the inferior realm possessed strength on par with chaos sovereigns. A residence as large as Nephrite Major was nothing much in their eyes—they could easily cross it with a single step.

"Alright, now you can tell me where Little Yu is," Lu Yun said eagerly as he looked at Zhuo Bufan, who in turn looked at the little fox.

Both Lu Yun and the little fox had taken off their black robe uniforms since there was no need for disguise here. In this residence, they were Zhuo Bufan's guest elders—visitors with extremely high status. They could absolutely view themselves as masters of the house.

The little fox made a welcoming gesture. "Go ahead."

“Hopeless Major!” Zhuo Bufan answered. “The venerated one told me that when the young master and mistress are strong enough, you can pay a visit to Hopeless Major in the Valley of Ten Evils.”

He chuckled ruefully. It’d be one thing if he’d found this out through his own investigations, but it made him very uneasy that the venerated enforcer had been the one to tell him this.

“The venerated one?” Lu Yun blinked.

“Our martial grandson,” the little fox chuckled merrily. “The only disciple that our son took, his name is...”

She scratched her head and looked at Zhuo Bufan with some confusion.

Zhuo Bufan’s jaw dropped. The Purple King was the singular greatest villain in the entire Hongmeng! When he fought his way back to the chaos, he personally slaughtered countless experts from the third realm. The blood of kings stained his hands!

The Enforcer Alliance had named him their primary enemy and sent three of its most fearsome kings to capture him during the recent Hongmeng dealings in the second realm. But now the little fox was telling him that the venerated one of the alliance was the Purple King’s disciple? And only disciple??

“The mighty Purple King is your son, so I suppose there’s nothing shocking about the venerated one being his disciple,” mumbled Zhuo Bufan. “This humble one doesn’t know the venerated one’s name either, just his title.”

“Okay, then.” The little fox nodded. “Then let’s call him the venerated one for now. He’s our martial grandson, in any case, the spy that our son sent into the Enforcer Alliance!”

Zhuo Bufan chuckled helplessly. The Purple King’s restriction was active in his true spirit, making him one of the king’s, but he hadn’t lost his sense of self. He didn’t know what to think about the little fox’s words.

“Tell us about Hopeless Major.” Lu Yun took a deep breath and put thought of the venerated one out of his mind. He was too weak at present. Since Lu Qing had long set up his plans in the third realm, Lu Yun didn’t want to intervene, lest he ruin one of his son’s schemes.

“Hopeless Major!” Zhuo Bufan shuddered at the name. “One of the ten most dangerous places in the Hongmeng... The Valley of Ten Evils thinks nothing of life and leaves no atrocity uncommitted. It’s a poisonous tumor in our realm!

“The Enforcer Alliance was originally formed to withstand the valley, and in the eyes of all Hongmeng beings, the Valley of Ten Evils is worse than all of the wild ghosts and spirits that run amok in our home!”

### **Chapter 1214: Hopeless Major**

The Valley of Ten Evils was infamous throughout the Hongmeng. Heinous and monstrous to the extreme, it was a public enemy. If its experts detected anyone saying the place’s name aloud, they would smack the offender to death through the air.

Even numerous kings were unwilling to provoke the organization, and Hopeless Major was one of the ten.

Lu Yun felt a headache set in when he heard the little fox and Zhuo Bufan chatter on about the valley and Hopeless Major.

“No wonder Violetgrave was oh so mysterious and didn’t tell me where Little Yu went. She was probably too ashamed to admit to it.” Lu Yun’s cheek spasmed.

“The venerated one said that once the young master and mistress have the ability to protect yourselves, you can try visiting Hopeless Major,” Zhuo Bufan ventured carefully.

“Protect ourselves? Of course we have the ability to protect ourselves,” the little fox responded merrily. “Lu Yun and I are Hongmeng level supplemental grandmasters. A little jaunt in Hopeless Major is totally fine for us!”

Though she found mention of the place from memories that her son had given her, she wasn’t a denizen of the Hongmeng at the end of the day. She didn’t understand much about the Valley of Ten Evils and Hopeless Major.

Illusions were also a supplemental path and she was most skilled in formations of illusions. Her greatest achievement was Return to Origin and refining illusion into reality.

“Young master and mistress... at least eight kings have died in Hopeless Major, if not ten,” Zhuo Bufan explained.

The little fox couldn’t help a shudder.

“Don’t be brash, Hopeless Major isn’t some place overflowing with kindness. Little Yu most likely can’t do much if she’s there all by herself. We can’t go find her now, we’ll have to wait for when we’re strong enough,” Lu Yun took a deep breath.

Since Violetgrave had sent her there, she shouldn’t be in any danger. However, it was also a tall task for her to truly control the faction. What Lu Yun could do now was improve his own capabilities to help her in the future.

Hongmeng level supplemental grandmasters? That sounded grand enough. However, even a common realm cultivator could easily kill the two of them, much less a king. A simple unexpected blow wouldn’t even allow them to react.

Creators were nothing but inferiors in the Hongmeng, and ants scrounging among the inferior realm.

“In that case, please stay and cultivate in Starcloud City as you would. This is the core essence of the city, young master and mistress can refine it to become the city lords!” Zhuo Bufan hastily took out the city’s core essence and offered it with both hands to Lu Yun.

Starcloud City was his territory to begin with and Zhuo Bufan exercised absolute authority here. He didn’t need to refine the core essence, so the city had always lacked a city lord.

“You keep it.” Lu Yun waved him off. “The little fox and I won’t be here for long. When we reach the common realm, we’ll journey the Hongmeng.”

“Journey the Hongmeng!” The little fox lit up.

“Get to cultivating!” harrumphed Lu Yun. “You’ll need to be in at least the common realm if you want to travel around, and you need to be a titled king in your supplemental path! If anyone sets their sights on us now, we’re dead without a doubt.”

The little fox stuck her tongue out and Zhuo Bufan quietly put the core essence away.

“If the young master and mistress wish to cultivate the supplemental paths, you’ll need a large amount of treasures and resources. This is the key to Starcloud’s treasury, please use all of the materials and purple crystal inside as you see fit!”

Lu Yun didn’t decline this time. He did indeed require large amounts of ingredients to experiment with so he could fully integrate the supplemental paths of his past life with his current self.

Since his experience all stemmed from the mythological realm, he had to relearn everything about the Hongmeng, its cultivation methods, combat arts, and supplemental paths.

Zhuo Bufan heaved a slight sigh of relief when Lu Yun accepted the treasury’s key.

“Young master and mistress, this humble one is plagued with too much karmic repercussion and might accidentally implicate you. You are so precious, and death would be too good for me if anything happened to you,” Zhuo Bufan smiled ruefully. “So please stay safely in Starcloud City. This humble one will return to the alliance and also find out more about Hopeless Major.”

“Mm, go on.” Lu Yun nodded.

“Ah, yes!” Something suddenly occurred to the executive enforcer. “The Oddmoon that belongs to Mangcang Mountain? Zhuo Yu just sent word that the mountain’s sent someone to investigate the news of it appearing in Redbud City. I’m afraid it won’t be long before their investigation leads them to the young master and mistress.”

The little fox had revealed her true form in the city, so it wouldn’t be difficult to trace things to her, not with the power that Mangcang Mountain had at their disposal.

Lu Yun and the little fox looked at each other, twin looks of concern on their faces. Mangcang Mountain was a heavyweight in the Hongmeng with three titled kings, countless superiors, and most importantly, the potential to find out their true identities.

“Don’t worry, young master and mistress, we just need to defend against their arrows from the dark. They won’t dare openly come at us,” Zhuo Bufan hastily reassured when he picked up on Lu Yun’s concern. “They refined Oddmoon for the chaos and the worlds. Now that I’ve brought back Evilfox’s body and indicated that he had something to do with the chaos sun and moon, Mangcang Mountain won’t dare levy their influence with great fanfare.”

Meanwhile, Lu Yun wasn’t afraid of hidden schemes and plots, he was afraid of something out in the open. Just like Mangcang Mountain couldn’t be exposed to the light, neither could he. Besides, their final investigative conclusion would be that Zhuo Bufan was so greedy that he took the treasure for himself.

If the mountain wanted Oddmoon back, they would have to go for it under the table.

“Alright, I understand. Go do whatever you need to do.” Lu Yun nodded.

Zhuo Bufan bowed to Lu Yun and the little fox, then backed out of the room. He’d arranged for the two to reside in the deepest parts of the residence. The Hongmeng qi here was uncommonly rich and security heavy.

Zhuo Bufan was very confident in the security measures here—even ordinary titled kings wouldn’t have any easy time making it in. He’d arranged for the two to be guest elders. Such visitors were extremely prestigious in Starcloud City, on par with Zhuo Bufan. Currently, there were only three total in residence.

Apart from Lu Yun and the little fox, the other was sent by the Scorch King—a peak superior realm expert to protect the city.

After Lu Yun and the little fox settled in, the days passed without incident. They focused on cultivating and raising their strength, whether in terms of cultivation or supplemental path level.

One had to say that cultivating in the Hongmeng brought about progress much faster than in the chaos or world of immortals. Though there was no immortal dao here, Lu Yun and the little fox’s realms were high enough to still communicate with the great dao in the world of immortals and continue their path of cultivation.

### **Chapter 1215: The Little Fox’s Experiment**

The days blended into each other until three years passed by in the blink of an eye. Though there was no time in the Hongmeng, making it so that Hongmeng beings wouldn’t die, there was still the concept of time.

One year in the Hongmeng was a great cycle—three hundred and sixty-five days. One rise and fall from both the chaos sun and moon made for one day, and three hundred and sixty-five of them made for a year.

The chaos sun and moon were the only things that imparted a sense of time to the realm’s denizens.

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Lu Yun’s cultivation grew by leaps and bounds over the past three years. He smoothly broke through creator realm to immortal lord. Such cultivation speed was unheard of in the chaos, a rate more terrifying than what Jin Gushen had attained.

Cultivating alongside Lu Yun, the little fox reached eternal overlord and was one step away from sovereign realm. She possessed her son’s various experiences and understanding, so her rate of improvement would be rapid as long as she kept to her routine.

The same couldn’t be said for Lu Yun as his cultivation realm stemmed from the mythological realm. He needed to consolidate his realm and experience with modern dao methods before he could acclimate to the current era.

In other words, if he followed the ways of his past self, he would obtain a great deal of power in a short amount of time, but drawbacks would appear over a longer period. The mythological realm had fallen to the Hongmeng, so his methods would eventually end up with the same fate.

In the second realm, Lu Yun had used the great daos of the chaos and world of immortals to improve the dao of his past self. He was now doing the same in the Hongmeng—and not just for his primary cultivation, but for his grasp of the supplemental paths as well.

Over the past three years, he studied boundless material to integrate his knowledge with the supplemental paths of the third realm.

It was generally believed that whatever had been lost was the strongest, but very few considered the notion that truly great existences had long since become part of the great dao and recorded themselves into the void. They wouldn't be lost.

No matter how something became lost, it was a kind of elimination, proof that it couldn't adapt with the times. Its inability to change accordingly resulted in banishment by Hongmeng rules and orders.

At the same time, the ruin of the mythological realm was also a type of elimination and failure. Naturally, Lu Yun wouldn't treat something that'd failed as a precious treasure. Strictly adhering to what he'd known before and obstinately following old methods would only lead to even more painful failure.

He used too many resources of the Starcloud Duchy throughout the course of his experimentation, resulting in numerous complaints from all sides. Even the other guest elder had some choice words for Lu Yun.

However, Zhuo Bufan suppressed the entire matter. His standing command was that seeing Lu Yun and Tushan Miao was the same as seeing him. Being as his title was 'Duke of Starcloud', he occupied a rather high position in the Hongmeng despite not being strong himself.

Otherwise, how else would an insignificant good-for-nothing like him become a renowned fool throughout the Hongmeng?

Regardless, the duchy's cultivators burned with indignation to see Lu Yun expend precious resources without a care in the world. They didn't even have the right to lay eyes on some of these valuable treasures!

Things were fine in the first and second year, but by the third year, reports and complaints filed into the other guest elder.

Named Miao Qimiao, the other guest elder was a peak superior realm cultivator. He was slightly weaker than the lizard-dragon and venerated enforcer as the latter two were already within touching distance of being a titled king. Meanwhile, he dithered around the door to kingdom, unable to find the key to open it. In comparison, he was far below Zhuo Yu of Redbud City.

When he also grew weary of Lu Yun's spendthrift ways and could tolerate it no longer, he decided to seek out the young man for a chat.

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"Hmm? What is this?" Miao Qimiao had just set foot into Lu Yun's residence when the scene around him changed and a dense fog billowed into the surroundings.

"A formation?" He raised an eyebrow and smirked. "Break!"

Rumble!

Icy-blue lightning sizzled from his hand and scattered the heavy fog in front of him.

“That was a transportation formation?!” His expression changed once more when the fog cleared. He was in front of a majestic city!

The city was bright red in color, as if carved from scarlet crystal. With the chaos sun’s rays illuminating the city, the metropolis released tens of thousands of beams like it was a second sun.

Scorching Sun City!

The capital of the Scorch King and where he resided!

“Why, why am I at Scorching Sun City?!” Miao Qimiao turned anxious. His duties were to safeguard Starcloud City and ensure its stability, but he was somehow outside Scorching Sun City instead!

“What’s going on? What just happened?” He regarded his surroundings with stark confusion. Prismatic light danced through the air from the brilliance thrown off by the city. This was exactly as Scorching Sun City should be.

“Miao Qimiao!” A voice that shook the ears traveled out of the city.

“Your Majesty!” Miao Qimiao trembled and went down on bended knee.

“I told you to protect Starcloud City, so why have you returned to the capital?” The Scorch King’s tones weren’t loud, but his every word rang in Miao Qimiao’s ears like a clap of thunder upon his heart.

“I, I...” Miao Qimiao floundered for words. He had no idea why he was suddenly here.

“Why aren’t you on your way back yet?!” hectorated the king.

“Yes, immediately!” Miao Qimiao managed to garble out just as the white fog rose again, obscuring everything in front of him. He regarded the situation warily this time instead of leaping into action. Something was amiss.

“Kill!”

“Kill!”

“Kill!”

Heaven-shaking war cries rose from all directions and the fog suddenly unfurled to the sides, bringing a large battlefield into view. There were arcane beasts and cultivators in it, all wearing heavy black armor. Their foes were boundless vicious ghosts and malicious spirits in the air.

“This!!” Miao Qimiao’s hair stood on end—this was a battlefield between the living and the ghosts!”

The vicious ghosts of the Hongmeng were completely different from that of the chaos and world of immortals. The ones in the third realm possessed almost tangible bodies and could manipulate various forces in the Hongmeng.

Miao Qimiao would’ve never fathomed that he’d be sent to such a battlefield!

Pfff!

A cultivator next to him was suddenly ripped into two. Burning hot blood splashed onto his face; its metallic tang burrowed into his nose.

“It’s real blood! I’ve really come to a battlefield of vicious ghosts!” Frosty blue lightning once more arced from his hands.

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“Little fox, you’ve really gone overboard this time. Miao Qimiao is a guest elder of Starcloud City! If anything happens to him here...” Lu Yun looked ruefully at the heroic Miao Qimiao fending off enemies inside a formation.

“He’s the one who barged in.” The little fox pouted and held up her face with both hands. “I happened to be experimenting combining formations of illusions with refining illusion into reality. He ran right into it, so eh. I need an experimentation subject anyway. He’ll do.”

### **Chapter 1216: The Source of Disaster**

While Lu Yun remained chuckling wryly, waves of shock rose in his heart. The little fox’s skill in formations of illusion had reached such incredible heights!

One had to know that although Miao Qimiao had yet to attain kingship, he was absolutely at peak superior realm and one of the mightiest powerhouses in the current Hongmeng. He’d fallen into the little fox’s trap during a moment of inattention. Though he’d detected some abnormalities and tried to struggle out of the formation, he ultimately failed to do so.

He was now fully immersed in the various illusions of the formation.

“This Miao Qimiao is so much less than your past self. Can he really protect the city by himself?” The little fox wanted to roll her eyes at the completely bamboozled guest elder.

Lu Yun’s past self had been an expert in the mythological realm. Logically speaking, that realm was less than the Hongmeng.

“My past self had reached the threshold of being a titled king—it was stronger than both the lizard-dragon and venerated one. If I’d had a bit more time, I would’ve been a king as well.” Lu Yun spread out his hands. “After my past self became a dao fruit, your soul force replica became a king, didn’t it?”

“A king?” The little fox blinked and cocked her head to the side in thought. “I think... so. A beam of purple light blasted into my head one day and left me with a new title.”

“What title?” Lu Yun’s eyes widened.

“The Immortal King of Illusions,” she replied with resignation. “So that’s what the Hongmeng Tower gave me? I thought it was just a joke from the old farts in the mythological realm.”

Lu Yun was speechless. That title was indeed ambiguous enough that the little fox hadn’t given it much thought. Since the immortal dao had been the great dao of the mythological realm, there also existed a realm called immortal king.

Back then, his family and Qing Han hadn't been willing to have too many doings with the entities of the mythological realm. They'd lived like secluded hermits.

"What happened after that? Who destroyed the mythological realm? The Hongmeng?" He looked at the little fox. He'd wanted to ask these questions a long time ago, but had been concerned with bringing up bad memories for her.

Now that the little fox had raised the topic herself, it meant she was ready to speak of the events of yesteryear.

"I don't know either..." She shook her head. "But the disaster that destroyed the mythological realm... did indeed have something to do with us." Her voice turned low and muffled. "The brush in your hands always remained in Qing Han's possession, and the source of that disaster is located within it."

Lu Yun stared, dazed.

"I don't know where that brush comes from, but you handed it to Qing Han with your own two hands!" She suddenly looked at him. "After your past self turned into a dao fruit, it suddenly came back one day, handed the brush to Qing Han, then disappeared again."

All of Lu Yun's hairs stood on end. The brush could give rise to akasha ghosts, and his past self had given it to Qing Han! God had once said that the existence of akasha ghosts had something to do with him!

Lu Yun felt like his brain was about to explode.

"Do you... really not remember?" the little fox asked with a deep breath.

Lu Yun frowned with contemplation. His past self had chronicled all of his memories up to the moment he turned into a dao fruit.

"No." He shook his head. "Did someone possess my past self at one point? Or was I under someone else's control?"

He immediately called upon the Tome of Life and Death and charged into his dao fruit, inspecting it again and again, but found nothing out of the ordinary. He'd sealed the brush into the book all this time, afraid that it would suddenly take untoward action.

The little fox reached out and pointed at the center of his brows, summoning a great illusion in front of him.

It was a night of heavy wind and rain.

Lu Yun suddenly walked out of thin air in front of a tiny log cabin and pushed open the door. He was dripping wet and covered in mud, like he'd crawled out of the ground. A ghastly light shone out of his two eyes and he tightly clasped a brush in his hands.

The little fox, Qing Han, and Lu Qing were shocked senseless by his return.

Lu Yun moved like a marionette and made straight for Qing Han, shoving the brush into her heart. She stared dumbly at Lu Yun, then fainted dead away.

An eerie smile curbed the corners of Lu Yun's lips, and he turned his ghastly white eyes onto the little fox and Lu Qing before vanishing with a neat turn.

The illusion also dissipated.

"This..." Lu Yun couldn't help a shudder. He wouldn't have reacted that way if it'd been anyone else, but the person that'd suddenly appeared and shoved the brush into Qing Han's heart was indeed himself!

He had no recollection whatsoever of what'd just taken place.

"Was that really me? And not something that looked like me?" he asked, anxious and doubtful.

"My soul force replica traveled to that era with your past self, I wouldn't have been mistaken." The little fox shook her head lightly. "After the fact, both Qing Han and Lu Qing forgot the events of the night.

"I was already in the superior realm then, and Lu Qing and Qing Han were in the common realm. We were beyond the chaos.

"I found nothing out of place when I closely inspected Qing Han's body, but when she broke through to the superior realm, the brush reappeared and drew a door in the void. Then, disaster was upon us."

She pointed between Lu Yun's brows again and depicted the scene that'd occurred.

"But neither Qing Han or Lu Qing remember anything about it! When the door appeared, the brush returned to Qing Han's possession."

Lu Yun stared dumbly at the door, at the mirage-like figures that rushed out one after another. He hadn't thought that the source of all disaster would be himself.

"Does Lu Qing know about all this?" he frowned.

"I gave him this memory before my replica died, asking him to give it to my true body. It looks like he's never viewed it." The little fox scratched her head. "I don't know if he knows about them either."

Lu Yun nodded and asked no more. He felt like he was caught in a massive net; all he could do now was continuously accrue strength so he could break free.

"Why isn't he moving around anymore? Is he dead?" He suddenly looked at the formation and changed the topic when he noticed that Miao Qimiao was no longer moving.

"That's all he could take? Weakling." The little fox curled her lip and waved a hand, throwing out the unconscious guest elder.

### **Chapter 1217: Eight Treasures Return Pill**

Lu Yun's past self had committed an incredible blunder in the mythological realm and indirectly led to its destruction. What made him uneasy was that he had a future self waiting for him at a future time...

What might his future self get up to? Perish the thought.

Had the little fox sent another tendril of soul force to keep him company? He also didn't want to ask or think about it.

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Seven days later, Miao Qimiao crawled up from a corner of the duke's compound and cast a shocked look at Lu Yun's little yard. He ran off with his tail between his legs, finally understanding who the two guest elders in that residence were—supplemental grandmasters!

Only the formations of supplemental grandmasters could pull the wool over the eyes of a peak superior realm cultivator like him.

Him barging into the residence without Lu Yun's approval was already a violation of good conduct. That Lu Yun and the little fox hadn't sliced and diced him was a show of face for Zhuo Bufan.

Once he learned that it was two supplemental grandmasters living in the residence, Miao Qimiao turned a blind eye to them wasting the precious treasures of the household. Supplemental path experimentation was an endeavor that consumed an incredible amount of resources to begin with.

Since an explanation had been provided for everything, Miao Qimiao no longer dared nurse any dissatisfaction. Even the Scorch King would have to treat them with utmost respect if they were in Scorching Sun City, to say nothing of a minor duke's residence in a tiny Starcloud City.

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Upon receiving Miao Qimiao's express orders forbidding anyone in the compound to question or provoke the new guest elders, the various experts in the duke's household finally realized that things were much more than they appeared on the surface and weren't so bold as to continue complaining.

Lu Yun and the little fox were left in happy quiet.

The little fox practiced illusions and her formations were made completely without foundation. Since all she needed was to call upon Hongmeng qi, she didn't need to consume any materials.

However, her mind flitted rapidly and randomly between subjects, and she loved to invent curious oddities. Therefore, the amount of resources she consumed far outstripped Lu Yun's needs.

His experimentation was far more conscientious. He read all of the books and tomes within the duke's compound over the three years, forming a more or less complete grasp of all knowledge within the third realm.

His mastery of the supplemental paths had left the mythological realm behind and fully become something of this era.

After that, his cultivation progressed by leaps and bounds, truly resonating with the great dao of the Hongmeng and successfully breaking through to peak eternal overlord. He was only half a step away from peak inferior realm.

Both Lu Yun and the little fox had reclaimed their previous cultivation levels. They would ascend smoothly if there was enough strength supporting them, enabling them to continuously reclaim their old skills and abilities.

"The Pill Compendium of the Hongmeng records a precious common realm pill—the Eight Treasures Return Pill. It will help us quickly break through the inferior realm and enter the common realm with the

fastest speed possible. We might even become superiors!” Lu Yun’s eyes gleamed as he held a book regarding pills. “But Zhuo Bufan’s compound only has seven of the eight treasures for the pill. We’re missing a crucial one.”

“Which one?” The little fox came close for a peek.

Though their cultivation speed was hardly slow and they’d already reached peak eternal overlord, they didn’t dare relax in the slightest.

After receiving eighty-one premium purple crystal veins, the world of immortals ballooned at an accelerated pace. The immortal dao expanded without limit and traversed the chaos, becoming the great dao of the second realm far ahead of schedule.

Those of the world of immortals grew even faster when it came to their cultivation. At this rate, when the world of immortals reached the Hongmeng, it was possible that these immortals would be so far ahead that they’d have left Lu Yun, the little fox, and Qing Yu behind in the dust.

Bolstered by purple qi from the Hongmeng, the immortal dao met no obstacle in its expansion. It developed so smoothly that the immortal lord, eternal overlord, and chaos sovereign realms appeared within it without requiring Lu Yun or Qing Yu to be present.

“The crystal core of a king level arcane beast.” Lu Yun frowned slightly. “Arcane beast crystal cores are hot commodities in the Hongmeng to begin with and cores of kings are even rarer. They’re priceless treasures without an actual market.”

“You need two of them!” snorted the little fox. “Don’t forget about me!”

“One’s enough.” Lu Yun rolled his eyes. “With my current skill level, I can refine at least eighteen pills with one cauldron attempt. I’ve already prepared Little Yu’s portion.”

“That’s more like it.” The little fox nodded with satisfaction.

“So we’re short a crystal core from an arcane beast king!” Lu Yun repeated.

“We’ll buy it, then, we’ve got money. As rare and expensive as it is, there’s bound to be a price for it.” The little fox shrugged.

“We can’t.” Lu Yun spread his hands out. “King level arcane beasts are those like the Redbud King. When they fall in battle, they always self detonate to ensure that their bodies aren’t desecrated. They don’t leave behind a single drop of blood, to say nothing of their crystal core.”

“So we can’t refine this pill?” The little fox was dazed.

“There are always exceptions... The Valley of Ten Evils, for instance, sometimes specifically hunts down king level arcane beasts. They kill it before the beast has a chance to self detonate, so they can harvest the beast’s flesh, blood, and crystal core.”

Lu Yun thought for a moment before adding, “Apart from the valley, sometimes crystal cores from beasts that died unexpectedly can be found in the Hongmeng.”

“Starspace Region’s biggest market is in Starspace City, which is located in the center of the region and where the Starspace King resides. That city is the most likely location within Starspace Region to possess a king level beast crystal core.

“Starspace King is also one of the kings of the Enforcer Alliance. He’s ranked in the top ten.”

“So we go to Starspace City?” The little fox lit up. She’d long wanted to travel around the Hongmeng and visit its various cities.

“Yes.” Lu Yun nodded. He hadn’t wanted to venture out of safety as the third realm was too dangerous for them. The slightest misstep could land them in a place of no return. Though the two of them were supplemental grandmasters, their current level of cultivation meant that being grandmaster was more trouble than it was worth.

“Miao Qimiao of Duke Bufan’s household requests a meeting with the two honored elders.” Miao Qimiao’s voice suddenly came from outside as a calling card sailed through the door. He didn’t just walk in this time—he stood outside and respectfully extended his wishes with the proper protocol.

Lu Yun and the little fox looked at each other, then shrugged on the elder robes that Zhuo Bufan had left for them. These long robes functioned the same as the enforcer uniforms. Not only could they conceal the wearer’s true features, but they could also hide their cultivation. In fact, they were indeed modified from enforcer uniforms.

“You may enter.” Lu Yun rasped out, his voice betraying old age.

### **Chapter 1218: Hunting a King Level Beast**

Lu Yun had to conceal himself for now and refrain from revealing any flaws to anyone he wasn’t sure of.

The little fox had already revealed her true form in Zhuo Bufan’s residence—anyone who cared to could easily find out that she was also the one who’d appeared in Redbud City. That a Hongmeng Treasurehunter Rat followed the two of them would make identification even easier.

Thus, she purposefully stayed out of the meeting.

Miao Qimiao had plainly done some homework as well and discovered their background. His attitude grew even more respectful when armed with this knowledge.

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“Miao Qimiao greets the honored elder.” Miao Qimiao bowed to Lu Yun.

“Are you here on business?” Lu Yun nodded to his visitor from a seated position and indicated for Miao Qimiao to sit as well.

“Yes.” The visiting elder took a surreptitious glance around and heaved a small sigh of relief to confirm that the beautiful young lady illusionist wasn’t around.

He was quite certain that the one in front of him was the supplemental grandmaster who’d set up the Nineturns Sky Curtain Formation formation in Redbud City. Not only had this guest elder withstood the

tide of beasts, but he'd befriended the Redbud King and helped the Scorch King add a new city to his domain.

When his thoughts traveled here, and out of consideration for the other's identity, Miao Qimiao assumed an even more humble posture.

"A very important business!" He emphasized and continued slowly after a deep breath, "You are a revered supplemental grandmaster, I'm sure you'll be very interested in this."

"You're not about to tell me that you have a way to get the core of an arcane beast king, are you?" Lu Yun responded with a chuckle.

He already had access to the entire treasury of Starcloud City. If he wanted to, he could have Zhuo Bufan transfer resources from Scorching Sun City. The only thing that would interest him now would be something he needed that remained out of reach—the core of a king level arcane beast.

It was so rare and precious that it didn't even exist in Scorching Sun's treasury.

"Yes, precisely! The core of an arcane beast king!" Miao Qimiao nodded after a pause.

Lu Yun shot to his feet and fixed his eyes on his visitor. "Do you mean that? Do you really have clues to a core? Of an arcane beast king?"

"It looks like the revered supplemental grandmaster does indeed have use for it." Miao Qimiao smiled.

Lu Yun nodded slowly and sat back down.

Miao Qimiao avoided beating around the bush. "An arcane beast king of Meteorite Peak is grievously wounded..."

"You want to hunt a king?" Lu Yun blinked.

The guest elder nodded. "I didn't have the idea at first, but the thought occurred to me after I heard about the two revered grandmasters' capabilities."

"Are you certain of this?" Lu Yun rubbed his palms together. He really was very tempted.

A single drop of blood from an arcane beast king was already inordinately precious, to say nothing of an entire crystal core. If they could obtain the complete corpse of an arcane beast king, then he would be able to use his puppet art on it and create a king level puppet.

Since his cultivation level had yet to reach the Hongmeng, anything he killed in this realm wouldn't become one of his Infernum.

Though he counted among the inferior realm of the Hongmeng, he was a stowaway from the chaos. His true cultivation realm was eternal overlord, which was the equivalent of a Hongmeng inferior, but he wasn't actually in that realm.

Once he refined the Eight Treasures Return Pill and broke through to the common realm, he and the little fox would truly assimilate into the Hongmeng and become one of its denizens.

That would also enable the immortal dao to seep into the third realm through Lu Yun and leave its presence behind. Qing Yu would then be able to utilize this presence to help the immortal dao take root in the Hongmeng.

Thus, the Eight Treasures Return Pill was incredibly important to Lu Yun.

“I’m certain!” Miao Qimiao nodded firmly. “Meteorite Peak is four hundred million kilometers from Starcloud City. Though that territory isn’t part of the Scorch King’s domain, we keep a close eye on it. There was a big uproar when the Meteorite King returned, heavily injured, a while ago. It’s not only we who were alerted, but many other factions in nearby cities who are also turning over the same thoughts.”

Lu Yun lowered his head and silently operated formula dao, but could only vaguely discern anything about this Meteorite King.

“The Meteorite King is an arcane beast. He can’t cultivate and can only use his natural talents to slowly recuperate. His injuries are too grave this time—several supplemental grandmasters within the city are jointly theorizing that he will be weakened to the utmost after seven days at the very longest.

“That will be the best time to kill him.” Miao Qimiao began to shake at this point. Killing a king level arcane beast was an earth shaking event. It was a Hongmeng rule that kings couldn’t be involved in something like this, but all of their experts would certainly vie for the opportunity, as well as others in the realm.

“Alright, in seven days? Then we set out for Meteorite Peak after seven days.” Lu Yun nodded. “Does this Meteorite King have close friends or family, or anything like that?”

“None!” Miao Qimiao shook his head. “The relationships between arcane beast kings are very complex. They’re accustomed to being lone wolves, and even the strongest Redbud King operates alone.”

Lu Yun started, then nodded. Some things made more sense when he thought about the Redbud King’s emotional intelligence.

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“Going to kill a king?” Flushed with excitement, the little fox rushed out as soon as Miao Qimiao left.

“Mmhmm,” Lu Yun confirmed. “We have seven more days, so make use of the time wisely. Hunting down a king is no joke.”

He waved a hand and flung open the doors of Starcloud’s treasury, summoning most of its priceless ingredients and treasure as an endless stream into his residence. Their identities were a known factor now and everyone wished most ardently that the two would empty out the entire treasury for their use.

Lu Yun once again made use of accelerating time and increased its flow around him tenfold, giving him ample time to prepare. The current iteration of him was far beyond what he’d displayed in Redbud City, whether in terms of mastery over supplemental paths or cultivation. He’d also refined quite a few curiosities and oddities over the past three years in Starcloud City, so he was much more prepared this time.

Seven days flew by.

In the dead of the night, instead of during the day, a group of seven dressed in black outfits soundlessly left Starcloud City. Though the Meteorite King was an arcane beast, he was still a king. Setting out with great fanfare to hunt a king was strictly taboo.

Starcloud wasn't the only city to see action on this night. Other cities in Starspace Region and experts in other parts of the Hongmeng also leapt into action and headed to Meteorite Peak.

To kill a king!

This was an incredible challenge and opportunity for those who were yet to be titled kings. There were stories of superior realm cultivators attaining the next realm through fighting an arcane beast king on the verge of death.

This was a veritable feast.

### **Chapter 1219: With the Stars as Tombs**

Meteorite Peak was four hundred million kilometers away from Starcloud City. This was an excessive distance to immortals, but a normal travel distance for beings of the Hongmeng. It appeared as an enormous ringlike mountain from the distance, as if a huge star had descended from the skies and smashed into the earth.

The Hongmeng possessed its own cosmos with stars formed from a concentration of Hongmeng energy. Each star was an ultimate treasure. However, it was also extremely dangerous.

Though it appeared over the realm, it was actually another world—another plane. It intersected with the Hongmeng, but lay in a completely different plane.

Even titled kings struggled through numerous close shaves when they ventured inside; death was constantly a very real possibility. If any of the realm's denizens wished to obtain a star, the safest way was to wait for it to fall down of its own accord.

That the Meteorite King was able to occupy the entire mountain and fallen star by himself was a testament to his strength. However, he was now on the verge of death and thus a dragon out of his element.

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Lu Yun and his group arrived at Meteorite Peak when white hinted on the eastern horizon. The mountain was encircled by a unique forcefield that brought down weight on their bodies and sent them crashing out of the air.

"A spatial restriction forcefield! The Meteorite King's also sensed danger and he's released his domain as a spatial restriction forcefield!" Miao Qimiao realized with a wry grin.

Forcefields were a special combat art that only titled kings could employ. They could interfere with the various orders and rules of the Hongmeng—such as the one the Redbud King sent out three years ago to deactivate Redbud Region's transportation formation. That forcefield had also disabled light from other transportation formations passing through the area.

This time, the Meteorite King's forcefield was one that restricted space. Any cultivators who were weaker than him wouldn't be able to fly through it.

"The Redbud King has low emotional intelligence, but this Meteorite King has low intelligence, period." The little fox scrambled up from the ground and checked her aching limbs for injury. "Does he think we'll just fly up to him and ask for his life even if he doesn't restrict space like this?"

"Agreed, this is a waste of energy." Lu Yun nodded. "The Meteorite King is very strong. He may not be as strong as the Scorch King, but he is undoubtedly a peak king. Though he's been seriously injured, a single exhale from him can blow a hundred of us to death.

"Superior realm cultivators can only ambush a king if they want his head. Is there anyone who would approach the Meteorite King out in the open and just seek a fight to the death?"

"Perhaps... there really is someone like that!" Zhuo Bufan said quietly. "There is a stunning genius in Starspace City who's rather young, but already peak superior realm. His battle strength hovers at the edge of a titled king. It's said that he once fought the venerated enforcer of the Enforcer Alliance and tied after three moves."

"He tied after three moves with the venerated one?" Lu Yun blinked, startled.

"That's right!" Miao Qimiao sighed with emotion. "That battle shook the Hongmeng, but when everyone hoped they would continue, they stopped and fought no more. What an absolute pity."

A fight between two powerhouses infinitely close to being titled kings would only be massively beneficial to those in the superior realm. The dao of the kings was too profound for them to peer into. Only when opponents of this level sparred could someone like Miao Qimiao pry into this level.

"Three moves..." Lu Yun stroked his chin. "For heavyweights of that level, life and death is determined by the fourth move. The Starspace King of Starspace City is a king of the alliance himself, so there's no need for anyone from the two sides to fight to the death.

"Three moves was enough for them to learn from each other and test their respective understanding of the dao."

Miao Qimiao chuckled ruefully and responded no further. The other four wore strange looks on their faces, but didn't say much. They were all domineering superiors who were almost on the same level as the guest elder.

"Milords, this operation—" Miao Qimiao was about to speak when Lu Yun cut him off.

"I'm now sharing this joint battle formation with the five of you to ensure that you don't die to the Meteorite King." He handed a jade slip to Miao Qimiao.

The five lit up and quickly clustered around the jade slip, taking in the formation inside it. Ignoring them, Lu Yun and the little fox started setting up another formation together.

"Is this location alright?" asked the little fox.

"It's a bit too far away," Lu Yun mused with a frown. "We should head another twenty-five million kilometers in."

The two vanished on the spot with a twitch of their bodies.

Though Miao Qimiao and the other five were busy learning the formation, they quickly caught up to Lu Yun and the little fox when they saw the two disappear. In their understanding, as ferocious as supplemental grandmasters were, they weren't skilled with combat. It would be very dangerous for the two to leave their protection.

"The five of you can stay there, don't follow us," Lu Yun's voice echoed in their minds. "This mission to hunt a king is no secret, and there are certainly other people here apart from us. Follow the plan, the two of us will look for opportunities from the shadows."

His tones brooked no disagreement.

"Understood." Miao Qimiao gave up the chase when he heard this and found a safe spot for the five of them to fully grasp the formation.

When Lu Yun and the little fox reached their predesignated point, they started etching a formation without another word.

"Lu Yun, have you noticed something?" she suddenly raised. "It's so eerie and sinister here, like a graveyard. But I see no tombs or burial mounds around."

Lu Yun lifted his head and operated formula dao, thoroughly scrutinizing the area. "There was indeed a tomb here once, but it exploded for some reason and the yin qi within spread out over all of Meteorite Peak..."

His expression suddenly shifted with shock. "No, wait, Meteorite Peak wasn't formed by the impact from a falling star, but from a falling tomb!"

He bounced up from the ground.

"A dragon sleeps in mountains coiled, those deathly cliffs with mysteries roiled.

"A mountain obscured if doors do hide, danger lurks in waters wide!"

Humm.

The Dragonquake Scripture rumbled with power inside of him as he called upon the Dragonsearch Invocation. Lu Yun turned a radiant golden and a feng shui luopan appeared in his hand.

"What is this?" He jerked his head upward.

It was not yet morning, so stars still twinkled in the sky. But his expression turned very strange as he regarded the firmament sparkling with a plethora of Hongmeng stars. In his eyes, those shimmering celestial bodies weren't real stars, but... tombs.

With the stars as tombs!

etvolare's Thoughts

Oh the four realms definitely share the same origin point. Tombs, tombs, everywhere.

**Chapter 1220: Half a Meteorite King**

“Found it, I’ve finally found it,” murmured Lu Yun. Utilizing the power of the Dragonsearch Invocation, he peered intently at the stars shifting in and out of sight above. “The great tombs that we saw in the fourth realm are located in the Hongmeng cosmos.”

“I want to go to the fourth realm too,” huffed the little fox.

“I’ll take you when there’s a chance to.” He took a deep look at her. There seemed to be secrets with her as well.

Hongjun certainly hadn’t grabbed a random fox from the mountain to gift a creation seed to. Additionally, the secret art that she’d taught his past and future selves to become a dao fruit was no ordinary piece of knowledge. Even now, he had yet to wrap his mind around all of its profound mysteries.

When the little fox had opened the passage to the past and future, she’d done so with casual ease. Though she’d said that she accomplished that with the last dregs of spacetime power lingering in the seed, creation seeds didn’t actually possess the power to travel through time.

Lu Yun even suspected that the passage that Fuxi and the others had taken from the historical great wilderness to the future world of immortals was the little fox’s handiwork.

Though he had his clear suspicions, he didn’t want to lay them out in the open. She would tell him when she was willing to, and perhaps she’d even be the source of some surprises when they entered the fourth realm.

From all the signs available to him, it would seem that the little fox herself didn’t know who she was either.

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“Then... of that cosmos and this world that we’re on, which is the real third realm?” the little fox asked again.

“I don’t know.” Lu Yun shook his head. There were some matters he shouldn’t speak of, nor did he dare to. There were too many heavyweights in the Hongmeng and they were too strong. Every one of his words could potentially elicit changes in the realm’s orders and raise attention from these experts.

Lu Yun had emphasized study of Hongmeng taboos during the past three years. There were some that even titled kings didn’t dare run afoul of. Aside from the Enforcer Alliance, there were also many unknown existences who helped keep the Hongmeng’s laws and orders intact.

The Hongmeng was too great, and he was just the tiniest ant within it. It was forbidden that ants peek at the heavens.

“But what I do know is that we’re in big trouble,” Lu Yun took a deep breath. “This Meteorite King is most probably no kind soul. Perhaps... he’s a mutated result of something from the destroyed tomb.”

The little fox couldn’t help a horrified shudder.

“Maybe he really is gravely injured and hovering on the brink of death. But he’ll never die in this uncanny Meteorite Peak.” Lu Yun carefully ceased operating the Dragonsearch Invocation. He didn’t dare use it too much in the Hongmeng.

The heavenly, earthly, and human tribulations targeted at the Dragonquake Scripture had come from the third realm. Though Lu Yun had only found bits and pieces of the method mentioned in his research over the past three years, he could clearly feel that the entire realm was set against the Dragonquake Scripture.

Thus, deploying the three methods of Dragonsearch, Dragonshift, and Dragonspike were already the limits of his capabilities.

“This is a destroyed tomb, so the Meteorite King could very well be one of its ghosts...” The little fox ran over to Lu Yun’s side and thought for a moment. “If we’re not even afraid of whole and complete tombs, why would we be afraid of a broken one?”

“Don’t forget, that’s a king we’re facing!” Lu Yun huffed back.

“So what? Kings have to die too!” the little fox rebutted strongly.

“Dusksnow Morningstar of Starspace City greets the Meteorite King!” rang out a clear shout from the center of the mountain. It reverberated in the air, traveling around the range as echo upon echo.

“Dusksnow Morningstar of Starspace City greets the Meteorite King!”

“Dusksnow Morningstar of Starspace City greets the Meteorite King!”

.....

The greeting sent waves of commotion through the mountain.

Dusksnow Morningstar was the stunning genius of Starspace City, the one who’d fought the venerated enforcer of the Enforcer Alliance to a standstill after three moves. When the assembled powerhouses in Meteorite Peak heard his shout, they jerked in collective shock.

No one had thought that Dusksnow Morningstar would truly come. He wanted to challenge the Meteorite King and use him as a whetstone, becoming a king himself that way!

“Come on, let’s go take a look!” Lu Yun hastily took down the formation preparations he was fussing over. If Morningstar was here to challenge the king, then none of this setup mattered. Once there was a victor between the two, a bloodbath would soon follow. They joined the crowd of people streaming to the center of Meteorite Peak.

Being a ring-shaped mountain, Meteorite Peak was covered by lush forests both inside and out. It was a haven for arcane beasts. Of all locales in Starspace Region, they could be found here in their greatest numbers.

But currently, the countless beasts rushed madly to the center of the mountain, wanting to protect their king.

A young man dressed in long black robes and a longbow on his back stood in the middle of a vast clearing. He waited quietly, two rays of piercing light shooting out of his eyes set in a face of handsome features.

"Dusksnow Morningstar of Starspace City greets the Meteorite King." He bowed to an elder in front of him.

The man looked extremely old and all of his skin and flesh seemed glued to his bones—he was almost devoid of blood. However, he still released an incredibly frightening presence and regarded all living beings loftily. All life was ants beneath his feet!

The Meteorite King!

All of the experts in the Hongmeng only knew that he was an arcane beast king, but no one knew what his true form was.

A film of death qi clouded his eyes; he was not long for this world.

"Dusksnow Morningstar, I've heard of your name." The Meteorite King coughed and rasped out, "Have you made up your mind to use me as your whetstone?"

"This junior would never dare entertain the thought if the Meteorite King was in your prime." Morningstar nodded. "If this junior becomes a king today through your strength, I will ensure that you receive the proper burial rites afterward and prevent others from desecrating your body."

The heavyweights nearby shifted uneasily when they heard the boy's promise.

"...very well then, I hope you keep your word." The Meteorite King inclined his head when he heard this. As a high and mighty king, he would rather self detonate than allow his body or crystal core be abused after his death.

"Hold!" Wreathed in a layer of shadows, a cultivator dressed in a black robe interrupted the tentative agreement from being set in stone. He walked forward, hooded eyes stared fixedly at the king.

The little fox jumped in shock. She and Lu Yun had been hidden in her formation of illusions, but Lu Yun had suddenly charged out of it!

"If the Meteorite King may, please tell us how you were injured!" Lu Yun intoned gravely.

The Meteorite King and Dusksnow Morningstar both snapped their gazes to Lu Yun, while Miao Qimiao and the others hidden elsewhere groaned with dread.

As beneficial as a fight may be, they didn't want the genius and king to clash against each other just yet. After Morningstar's promise, the king would certainly acquiesce to the youth's wishes with all of his strength. If the two spontaneously engaged in pitched battle, everyone here would be vaporized in the aftershock.

"Have you seen something?" the Meteorite King asked Lu Yun.

"I have." Lu Yun nodded. "You're not injured. You are so weak and not long for the land of the living because you are only half here! Where has the other half of you gone?"

etvolare's Thoughts

Eaten by the thing in the tomb...?