

## Necropolis 1231

### Chapter 1231: To Cut Down Ghosts

“Quiet is damaged,” Lu Yun murmured when he opened his eyes. “I need its strength and it needs my cultivation level to make itself whole again.”

Di Ling didn’t understand and Lu Yun didn’t explain himself. With an easy backhand, he sliced the Meteorite King into two.

The king was promptly reborn in the black flames of the Hadal Hell. When the pillar of flame died down, the king fell on one knee in front of Lu Yun.

“This servant greets the master.” The air of intimidation had vanished from his eyes, replaced by a deep fear and veneration.

“That sword really can cut down ghosts!” goggled the little fox.

Since the Meteorite King was a ghost king, that made him a dead entity or a ghostly being. Lu Yun’s current grasp of reincarnation was insufficient to suppress ghost kings, and neither was his strength strong enough to pierce through even a sealed king’s defenses. Quiet, however, had neatly and effortlessly cut through the Meteorite King.

“It also depends on the type of ghost.” Lu Yun shrugged. “I can cut down ghosts that aren’t titled kings even without Quiet.”

“And if the Meteorite King hadn’t been sealed away, you wouldn’t have been able to touch him even with Quiet,” snorted the little fox.

Lu Yun shrugged again and didn’t have a response. As sharp as Quiet’s edge was, it was badly damaged and couldn’t break through a king’s forcefield in its current state.

After the Meteorite King became Lu Yun’s Infernum, the ghostly air around him intensified and his strength increased slightly. The Tome of Life and Death had supplemented the flaws that’d developed when he split himself into two.

“Put this on and get those two guys out there to leave.” Lu Yun tossed a black enforcer uniform to the Meteorite King.

“Understood!” The king hastily caught it and put on the uniform that’d belonged to Lu Yun, concealing his face and presence. No one would know that a terrifying ghost king could be found beneath the black enforcer robe.

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Trepidation reigned in Starcloud City. Battle between the two half step kings continuously shook the city’s great formation, and Starcloud possessed no one strong enough to defend it once that defense shattered.

Miao Qimiao, Luo Shanshan, and the others were equally dejected. They’d been able to oppose the Meteorite King when in Meteorite Peak and stop an almost berserk Dusksnow Morningstar. But when

they'd revealed themselves just now, a furious Netherdragon had slaughtered them before they had time to set up the formation. Though they grumbled at the outcome, Lu Yun had already forbidden them from trying again.

As Starcloud's formation trembled from repeated collisions, ugly fractures began to snake over its surface. Tyrannical strength seeped into the city through the cracks, and the formation was in danger of breaking altogether.

Boom!

A pillar of black light descended from the sky at this critical moment and forced the two combatants apart from each other. An enormous "justice" character shimmered in the air as the Meteorite King, dressed in long black robes and holding Lu Yun's Justice token, walked out of the air.

"The Justice token of the Enforcer Alliance!" Both Dusksnow Morningstar and Netherdragon regarded the newcomer with disbelief. They hadn't thought that their fight would attract attention from the alliance!

"...Starcloud City is Zhuo Bufan's territory," Morningstar swiftly understood.

Rumors swirled lately that Zhuo Bufan had accomplished some great deed for the alliance and obtained a treasure that'd helped him break through to the superior realm. Added to that his father being the Scorch King, that meant the alliance would value him even more. They would naturally send someone if anyone caused trouble in his territory.

Little did they know that the true enforcer here on business was hiding in a corner of the sky, too afraid to come out.

"Piss off, or die." Uncommonly high-handed, the "justice" character over the Meteorite King's head gleamed with the color of blood.

Various expressions shifted through Morningstar and Netherdragon's face before they set their jaws. Both of them took their leave.

Netherdragon didn't want to continue entangling with the genius; Morningstar was stronger than him right now. Meanwhile, Morningstar hailed from Starspace City and its ruler, the Starspace King, was another heavyweight of the Enforcer Alliance. He also didn't want to clash with a black robe from the alliance if he could help it.

When facing the Justice token, he would be dead without doubt unless he was a titled king.

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Di Ling took the Gates of the Abyss back to hell.

Lu Yun was currently unable to travel between the world of immortals and Hongmeng. While he could take the gates back to the world of immortals, once he set foot in hell, he wouldn't be able to return to the third realm.

He was rather stymied by this detail as well. He'd thought that once he assimilated into the Hongmeng, he'd be able to come and go as he would. Reality had proven otherwise.

“Should we go find Qing Yu now?” asked the little fox as she bounded in front of him. “With the Meteorite King as our escort, we can do whatever we want in the third realm!”

Lu Yun had given Quiet to the Meteorite King for the time being—he was the only one who could deploy it to its maximum. Lu Yun had formed a connection with the sword and the king was his Infernum, so he could naturally wield it as well.

“That’s right!” Great relief flooded into Lu Yun’s face. With the Meteorite King and how Lu Yun and the little fox were almost titled kings themselves through their supplemental daos, they could at the very least protect themselves in the Hongmeng.

“But where’s Hopeless Major?” He stared blankly at the little fox, who also looked lost.

“I.. I don’t know. Its location isn’t recorded in the memories that Lu Qing gave me. How about... we ask around?” she asked cautiously.

“Let’s ask the Redbud King.” Lu Yun nodded. “Other people probably wouldn’t dare tell us even if they know. And, we need to be careful of Mangcang Mountain. Now that we’ve scared off Netherdragon, they’ll never let this rest.”

The mountain possessed three kings. If all three came at once, that would be too much for the Meteorite King to handle.

As they conversed, he stood off to the side and gleefully inspected Quiet. The Meteorite King was very poor and didn’t possess any other treasures apart from the ruined bone pennant. He hadn’t even personally glimpsed all of the king level treasures in the realm yet.

“Oh right, who’s your co-conspirator?” Lu Yun suddenly asked.

Netherdragon’s abrupt arrival was definitely at the behest of someone else. That person was very likely in cahoots with the Meteorite King and another ghost king.

“The Moon King!” he quickly responded. “She traveled to the Hongmeng when an ancient tomb fell from the sky. She protected me the second I arrived, watching over me until I became king.

“Master...” he said carefully while observing Lu Yun’s expression.

“The Moon King is second to only the Starspace King in this region. I can’t fight her yet.” After three years in Starcloud City, Lu Yun naturally knew who this king was.

The three strongest kings in Starspace Region were the Starspace, Moon, and Scorch Kings. The Scorch King’s title should’ve been the Scorching Sun King, but he was a little too weak to obtain that title. The Hongmeng Tower had had to compromise and bestow him with the “Scorch King” title instead.

Ever since he was made king, his ultimate goal was to obtain his full title. Both the Starspace and Moon Kings were stronger than him.

## **Chapter 1232: Besieging the Redbud King**

Lu Yun naturally wouldn't go looking for the Moon King—that wasn't a level of existence he could afford to provoke. He only wanted to be alert for any possible sources of trouble, hence asking the Meteorite King about his co-conspirators. It would be for the best if the Moon King didn't irritate him again.

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With the Meteorite King by their side, Lu Yun and the little fox could now truly protect themselves in the Hongmeng and set forth for Hopeless Major to find Qing Yu.

Instead of immediately embarking on his journey, however, Lu Yun first stayed another three months in Starcloud City to rearrange everything. He practically ended up rebuilding the city that almost rivaled a major world in size.

He left only when fully satisfied after three months.

Miao Qimiao and Luo Shanshan sent him off with teary eyes. By the time the supplemental grandmaster finally departed, the Starcloud treasury was almost empty.

Aside from reforging the six puppets etched with the Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals, the rest of the items in the treasury streamed into the city itself. Not only was the city a massive formation in its current iteration, but it was also something like an enormous treasure now.

In Lu Yun's words, these items were just wasting away and gathering dust in the Starcloud treasury. It was far better to bring them out for use.

And thus, Starcloud City returned to Miao Qimiao's oversight.

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When Lu Yun, the little fox, and the Meteorite King arrived at Redbud City, they were dressed in long black enforcer robes and masks that concealed their faces and presence. They didn't raise any attention with their presence and swiftly vanished into the rolling waves of the vast Redbud Plains.

The grassy plains were so immense that they were larger than the entire chaos. If it wasn't for the Meteorite King commanding a flight treasure, Lu Yun and the little fox would've never reached Redbud Mountain through their strength alone, even if they spent the rest of their lives traveling to it.

Purple stretched to the horizon in the Redbud Plains; a type of purple redbud grass carpeted it and was the namesake of the Redbud Plains, Redbud Mountain, and Redbud King. In all of the Hongmeng, this type of grass could be found only in the Redbud Plains.

It seemed to be an ordinary type of grass without any energy or qi. Various supplemental grandmasters of the Hongmeng, and even those who were titled kings from their supplemental dao, had studied it for countless years without determining what it could be used for.

As time went on, many gave up studying the redbud grass. Regardless, that didn't prevent Hongmeng cultivators from exploring the plains themselves. Rich in resources, plentiful in treasures, and its ruler almost completely indifferent to the world—as long as cultivators didn't disturb her at Redbud Mountain, she couldn't be bothered to pay attention to them either.

Though she was the arcane beast king of the Redbud Plains, the other beasts in the plain weren't necessarily her subordinates. When she incited the tide of beasts to attack Redbud City, she'd had to use a certain treasure to command all of the beasts in the plains.

Lu Yun's goal was very clear this time—head to Redbud Mountain, find the king, and ask about Hopeless Major.

With the Meteorite King by their side, his constantly present forcefield extended to them as well. They were in no danger of being detected by Hopeless Major experts. Unfortunately, the Meteorite King was a textbook shut-in. He rarely left Starspace Region, so he had no idea where the major was.

Last time they visited Redbud Mountain, the Redbud King had shifted space to bring them in and send them out. The Meteorite King also possessed the same ability, but if he dared use the strength of a king to enter the mountain, the Redbud King would execute him on the spot.

Aside from Lu Yun, the little fox, and the Meteorite King, the Hongmeng Treasurehunter Rat rounded out their group. Lu Yun had sent it into the Tome of Life and Death so it wouldn't run around and cause trouble.

After breaking through to a Hongmeng cultivation realm, Lu Yun had written down the rat's name in the book. That'd sent the rat into some kind of metamorphosis and it was currently fast asleep.

"What?!" The Meteorite King suddenly paused. Standing at the bow of the flight treasure, his expression snapped tight with shock when he saw Redbud Mountain close at hand. "Someone's attacking the mountain!"

"What??" Lu Yun reacted with dismay as well. He'd speculated early on that others would covet the mountain that the Redbud King possessed—it was the largest mine of purple crystal in the realm. However, he hadn't expected that they would come for her so quickly.

"That's right, the kings that'd wanted to attack Redbud Mountain before couldn't find a plausible reason to. The tide of beasts that she summoned three years ago and her sudden appearance in Starspace Region is the perfect excuse!" murmured Lu Yun.

"The Moon King!" The Meteorite King was as white as a sheet beneath his mask. He could already see a bright moon twinkling with silver radiance in midair. It was incredibly similar to the little fox's Oddmoon, but different at the same. Plainly, Oddmoon had been fashioned using this moon as the blueprint.

Complex relations existed between the Moon King and the three kings of Mangcang Mountain. The Moon King also possessed another two kings beneath her banner. Since she was here, then the three kings of Mangcang Mountain were sure to be found nearby as well!

Lu Yun's expression stilled with gravity. There were at least ten kings hovering around Redbud Mountain—their intentions to kill the Redbud King as clear as day.

Present moment.

The Redbud King was dressed in purple robes and purple locks fluttered out behind her. Purple radiance shone from her body, and next to her, a golden cow raised a hand to beat a war drum to summon all of the arcane beasts in the plains.

She sent him flying with a kick.

Ten kings were besieging Redbud Mountain. Any beast below a titled king who came would just be rendezvousing with death.

“Redbud King, we will spare your life if you hand over the mountain!” shouted a man in black heavy armor. His face was indistinguishable—only his desire to lay claim to the mountain could be identified.

“You want Redbud Mountain?” Though she was grimly serious, the Redbud King didn’t panic. “You can try.”

“In that case, we won’t show you any courtesy!” The man in heavy armor was the king of Mangcang Mountain—the Mangcang King!

Hummm.

An enormous “justice” character appeared in the sky as Lu Yun, the little fox, and the Meteorite King landed on Redbud Mountain at the same time.

“The Enforcer Alliance?” sneered the ten kings at this newest addition to the scene.

The alliance maintained the Hongmeng’s orders and laws, but only for those below kingdom. Once a being became a titled king, the realm’s orders and laws became nothing but playthings to them.

The Enforcer Alliance usually couldn’t be bothered to police the kings either.

“There’s a king among them? So you guys have decided to stick your nose into our matters?”

Enforcer uniforms were blessed by the Hongmeng Tower, so not even kings could see through them. However, the Meteorite King was purposefully releasing his kingly aura.

“The alliance naturally does not intervene in someone else’s affairs,” responded Lu Yun. “We’re just here to witness this battle and see how many kings fall. How many will withstand the Redbud King if she throws caution to the wind and attacks you with her full strength?”

### **Chapter 1233: The Endless Reaches**

“What a good idea!” The Redbud King lit up when she heard Lu Yun’s words. “If I concentrate all of my power on attacking one of them at a time, I can kill four, heavily injure three, and then die to the last three.

“One for seven, that’s a fantastic deal!” Her eyes gleamed with enthusiasm.

The ten kings besieging Redbud Mountain scowled broodingly. The Redbud King was right—if she decided to attack with her full strength, she’d be able to kill four with her speed before they contained the situation.

As one of the strongest kings in the Hongmeng, she would out muscle any of them if they took her on solo.

“It’s not one for seven, but two for ten.” The Meteorite King stepped forward without looking at the Moon King. He was Lu Yun’s Infernum now, so everything that had ever been when he was alive was no

longer. Though he was still grateful to the Moon King for her protection during his weakness, he lived and breathed for Lu Yun's command now.

"If you include me, we'll be able to go down with all of you."

Whoosh!

The shortsword Quiet appeared in his grasp with a shake of his hand, freezing the air around Redbud Mountain when it materialized.

"Leave!" The Mangcang and Moon King met each other's eyes, both noting how terrifying the weapon's capabilities were. This was absolutely a great treasure of the Hongmeng!

Though the Meteorite King was weaker than any of the kings attacking the mountain, the exotic sword he wielded could absolutely ensure mutual destruction of both parties. A strong treasure was much too important in the third realm.

Lu Yun heaved a sigh of relief to see the Mangcang King and others depart. He and the little fox would be dead without a doubt if a fight broke out, regardless of who took down who.

"What a pity that they got away." The Redbud King smacked her lips, still up for some action.

"Eh?" Lu Yun blinked. "Did you have other trump cards that you could use against them?"

"No." She shook her head. "It just would've been nice to smash some of their heads."

"Uhhh..." Lu Yun chuckled ruefully. This Redbud King was a weird one.

"So what brings you two here?" she asked with confusion. Though the king couldn't see through their disguises, she still recognized them. She could even tell that the masked enforcer was the Meteorite King.

"...this isn't a good place to talk, let's go inside." The Redbud King waved a hand when Lu Yun remained silent, changing the surroundings and bringing them to the great hall they'd visited last time.

The hall was now a massive spacetime formation of illusion, and the Redbud Butterfly chrysalis rested in its center.

"So tell me, what is it?" The Redbud King seemed to have forgotten that she'd faced ten kings only moments ago and asked after Lu Yun instead.

"I want to go to Hopeless Major!" He cut straight to the chase. "The Hopeless Major of the Ten Valleys of Evil."

"Hopeless Major?!" gasped the dauntless Redbud King who'd wanted to fight even when she was hopelessly outnumbered. She almost jumped into the air. "Why do you want to go there??" she quivered.

"Um... is it that scary?" Lu Yun goggled at her reaction.

"I'd rather engage all ten of those kings in battle than provoke Hopeless Major," the Redbud King responded solemnly. "You need to tell me what you want to do there, or I'm not telling you where it is."

"I'm looking for someone!" Lu Yun took a deep breath. "My dao partner is in Hopeless Major and if my guess is correct, she rules it."

The Redbud King's jaw dropped and she froze with shock. "Your... your reason is quite valid."

She didn't ask about any other details. When she'd last seen Lu Yun and the little fox, they'd been in the inferior realm. And now, they were supplemental grandmasters.

Plainly, these two nursed great secrets and she had no reason not to believe Lu Yun when he said that the ruler of Hopeless Major was his dao partner.

"Hopeless Major is at the northernmost tip of the Hongmeng and the deepest point of the Endless Reaches," sighed the Redbud King. "The Redbud Region is in the south of the Hongmeng."

Lu Yun looked at the little fox, who looked back at him with an innocent expression.

"What's to be found beyond the northernmost tip of the realm?" Lu Yun asked curiously.

"I don't know." The king shook her head. "The north, south, east, west, northeast, northwest, southeast, and southwest peaks of the realm are where eight of the Ten Evils are located. That is the limit of Hongmeng geographic knowledge. No one knows what lies beyond."

"The fourth realm?" guessed the little fox.

The Redbud King shook her head, not wanting to say more.

"Then where are the remaining two of the ten?" the little fox probed further.

"The other two Ten Evils are located in the most mysterious locales of the Hongmeng. No one knows where they are, they have to voluntarily show themselves." The king shook her head again. "If you want to go to Hopeless Major, I can take you to the edge of the Endless Reaches in the Hongmeng's great north. It will be up to you if you can find Hopeless Major from there.

"But once you're in the reaches, you should conceal the Meteorite King's sword from the public eye. The Endless Reaches are also known as the graveyard of kings. No one knows how many kings have died there.

"Someone like the Meteorite King would also be considered an inferior there."

Lu Yun swallowed hard, and the Meteorite King's expression was stiff beneath his mask. He'd heard of the Endless Reaches before, but had never thought that one of the Ten Valleys of Evils would be in there.

"Then I would trouble the Redbud King to take us to the Endless Reaches." Lu Yun nodded.

"You've decided? You don't need to make further preparations?" She seemed to have anticipated his response, but still wanted to make sure that he was ready.

"I've been preparing for three years, what should be ready has long been readied." Lu Yun nodded again.

“Alright then, but you should take off your enforcer robes before we go. There are many fugitives on the run from the Enforcer Alliance in the Endless Reaches. If you go there in those outfits, they’ll attack you on sight.”

“Oh?” Lu Yun considered the notion, then smiled. “In that case, we won’t take them off. These clothes are perfect.”

“Wait, that’s right, you have the Justice token.” The Redbud King rubbed her forehead.

“But we should make certain arrangements for Redbud Mountain before we go,” the little fox suddenly proposed. “Today, those ten kings were scared off by the Meteorite King wielding Quiet. They’ll be back with twenty next time, and thirty the next. We should make some preparations here first!

“If all of the purple crystal veins of the mountain are combined together, they’ll form a huge dragon!”

### **Chapter 1234: The Great Hongmeng Dragon**

Redbud Mountain was the greatest mine of purple crystal in the Hongmeng and was home to the foremost dragon of the realm. The endless purple crystal veins were a byproduct from that dragon.

Heaven and earth watched over the dragons of the world of immortals. Whoever dared disturb them would be met with backlash from the world itself.

Though the concepts of heaven and earth existed in the Hongmeng, they didn’t truly exist in substance. Thus, nothing protected the dragon at Redbud Mountain. However, dragons were uncommonly ferocious in the third realm. Even kings who disturbed dragon veins of their own accord could die from the recoil.

But Lu Yun was here, and with him the forbidden text of the Hongmeng—the Dragonquake Scripture.

He didn’t dare use the method in its complete form, but his mastery of the Dragonshift Method had reached great perfection. It’d bifurcated from the Dragonquake Scripture and become its own system. Separately deploying the Dragonsearch Invocation, Dragonshift Method, and Dragonspike Litany on their own wouldn’t attract any attention in the Hongmeng.

This time, Lu Yun wanted to use the Dragonshift Method to redirect the great dragon of Redbud Mountain into a layout of his own making.

He didn’t have the strength to control it, or he would’ve been invincible throughout the realm. All he could do now was to utilize a hundred millionth of the dragon’s power. Even such a minuscule portion, however, was enough to slaughter a king.

“You can use the dragon here in a layout?” The Redbud King brightened when she heard the little fox’s words.

As she wasn’t a supplemental grandmaster, all she could manage to do with the dragon was to remove some purple crystal veins from it. However, those weren’t very useful to her given her cultivation level.

If she could utilize the dragon in a layout, not only would that enhance the mountain’s defenses, but it would also be very beneficial for future evolution. Since the Redbud King was an arcane beast king, she

could only devour Hongmeng qi in lieu of cultivation. If she wanted to evolve and break through, she had to digest the laws of the realm.

Now that she was a mature Redbud Spirit Butterfly, ordinary laws and qi were insufficient to propel her forward. If she wanted to ascend further, she had to borrow the strength of the great dragon.

“I can.” Lu Yun nodded. “But this dragon is too strong, I can direct at most one billionth of its power according to my wishes. If I try to bend it further, I won’t be able to withstand its backlash.”

Even he found his words incredulous. Upon further assessment, he confirmed that he could only safely utilize a billionth of the dragon’s energy!

If he set up a layout with this amount of power, he would easily run over people like the ten kings from earlier. Even the Redbud King would fall to such a layout—she who was one of the strongest in the realm. And yet she was only on par with a billionth of this dragon’s strength!

This dragon had yet to reach the fourth realm; it was far beneath that level. When Lu Yun viewed the Hongmeng from the fourth realm, he’d found it to be the size of a speck of dust. It was only when he visited the third realm himself that he understood how vast it was.

Those kings might only be ants in the Hongmeng. They’re entirely too far away from breaking through the barrier of the realm and evolving further. So then... how did the Bridge of Forgetfulness manage the leap?

Lu Yun shook his head with bafflement. He’d always thought that Lu Qing had sent the bridge to the fourth realm, but it would appear that even his son was far from touching the barrier dividing the two realms.

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All of the living beings within Redbud Mountain vacated the premises. Apart from Lu Yun, only the chrysalis remained. There was still only empty life force within the chrysalis—a true spirit and soul hadn’t formed yet. It would indeed be a prolonged and exhaustive process.

The Redbud and Meteorite King fully released their forcefields outside Redbud Mountain, enveloping the landmass and blocking all treasures and abilities that would attempt to spy on the proceedings.

The little fox stood next to them, keeping a nervous eye on the mountain. The great dragon of the Hongmeng was so strong that she didn’t know if it would retaliate against Lu Yun when he tried the Dragonshift Method. He’d never tried to command it with his arts before.

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“Aoooooo!” echoed a piercing dragon croon throughout the Redbud Plains and territory.

Everything within Redbud Region fell to the ground, shivering and cowering. The kings that’d come in search of conquest and loot looked darkly at each other. They knew that the Redbud King had finally started doing something with the dragon inside the mountain.

“What should we do?” The Mangcang and Moon Kings had yet to depart. They and their cohorts were waiting to try again after the Enforcer Alliance left.

Death? They weren't afraid of death.

Would they have come in search of the Redbud King's head if they weren't fully prepared? All of them could resurrect from death as long as one of the ten remained alive.

However, the last thing they'd anticipated was that the Redbud King would set her sights on the great dragon of the mountain. If the dragon erupted in full glory, it would be able to destroy all of Redbud Region with a single burst of power. Everything would be vaporized—whether superior realm cultivator or king.

There'd once been a king who tried moving a great dragon and ended up detonating it instead. A vibrant region was annihilated into a lifeless desert, and everything living within it decimated to ash.

"What else can we do? We have to go!" The reluctant Moon King shot a vicious glance at the Redbud Plains.

"Why don't we wait a bit longer? Maybe she's just putting on a show." The Mangcang King was very unwilling to pull out at this point as well. He was also an arcane beast king and his primary goal in leading everyone here was the great dragon's power.

As rich as Mangcang Mountain was, it didn't harbor a dragon.

"No need. That she dares touch the great dragon means the three enforcers are involved. If we try again now, they'll just fight back with everything they have," the Moon King disagreed with a frosty expression. "Investigate! Find out who those three enforcers are. Why would kings from the alliance hide their faces and names after coming to Redbud Mountain? It's very likely that they're not from the Enforcer Alliance at all."

"But they have a Justice token from the alliance..."

"It's probable that they have something to do with what happened at Meteorite Peak. Someone go investigate what happened to the supplemental grandmasters of Starcloud City."

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As the Moon and Mangcang King launched a thorough investigation into Lu Yun and the little fox's identities, Lu Yun focused on operating the Dragonsift Method to call upon the great dragon.

Purple dragon shadows soared into the sky and coalesced together into an even bigger dragon. As more shadows appeared, the dragon grew larger until it covered the Redbud Plains, then all of Redbud Region.

"This is all I can handle!" Lu Yun suddenly gasped and directed the method in another direction, carefully manipulating the dragon shadow in midair.

It looked like a real dragon of the nine heavens! Claws and scales were fully defined and a frosty air brimmed in its large eyes. It stared down coolly at the human within Redbud Mountain.

## **Chapter 1235: A Terrifying Layout**

Lu Yun examined the dragon figure up in the air. This form was the culmination of purest Hongmeng qi, and he was certain that it wasn't alive.

However, he could also clearly read aloofness and contempt from the dragon's eyes. He somehow felt that he was facing a terrifyingly strong being that only needed to twitch a claw to crush him out of existence.

But Lu Yun wasn't afraid. Equally detached, he leveled it with a stare of thick disdain. Still operating the Dragonshift Method, he attempted to maneuver the figure in the air, but to no avail.

The dragon didn't move at all.

"It's alive and possesses its own consciousness!" he suddenly realized. "This dragon figure is a replica of the great dragon in Redbud Mountain. It carries the dragon's will, which means the mountain's dragon has developed its own sentience!

"No wonder the dragon of Redbud Mountain is hailed the mightiest dragon in the Hongmeng."

Lu Yun would've already tapped into the dragon's power and begun his set up if it didn't possess its own will. But now, though the great dragon remained asleep, the replica it split off wasn't something that he could command.

The more Lu Yun employed the Dragonshift Method, the more contempt deepened in the dragon's eyes. It slowly morphed into interest, as if an incredibly bored person had glimpsed a fascinating toy.

Lu Yun's lips curved up. The dragon in the sky overshadowed the entire Redbud Region and was larger than the chaos. Not only would it crush him by simply rolling over, but it could also end the Redbud King with a single swipe.

He was certain that once the great dragon awoke, it would be a major titan of the Hongmeng. The Enforcer Alliance and ghost kings would all be jokes to it.

And still, he remained undaunted.

As he called upon the Dragonshift Method, Lu Yun split part of his attentions for the nascent spirit observation method and observed himself—how he would appear in the fourth realm. He visualized that infinitely mighty body, bigger than all of the Hongmeng, overlooking the entire realm.

Hovering overhead, the dragon's eyes widened and its expression froze. Instead of sneering down at the human, it shifted to staring dumbly at Lu Yun.

His smile deepened.

"If you accept my commands, I'll gift you an opportunity to reach the fourth realm when the time is right," he said softly.

The giant dragon fixed its gaze on Lu Yun for a very long time before the sentience in its eyes faded away. It stilled and its movements grew wooden.

Lu Yun breathed out more easily and quickly used the Dragonshift Method to maneuver the big dragon.

“Damn shame the Moon King and others got away though. If I kill them now, I’d have ten more kings under my banner,” Lu Yun clucked his tongue.

The Moon King and others had left when they saw the Redbud King disturb the mountain’s dragon. She was completely crazy to do so! Not only did she want to die, but she wanted to drag them all down with her.

The dragon in the air dove down to become one with the mountain and rearrange its countless crystal veins in accordance to Lu Yun’s ideas and the Redbud King’s strength.

Layout upon terrifying layout came into being around the mountain until there were a hundred and eight thousand of them. There was no heaven and earth in the Hongmeng, so the hierarchy of layouts applicable in the world of immortals didn’t work here. Thus, Lu Yun had no idea what level his overall layout would be ranked at.

The one hundred and eight thousand layouts were intertwined with each other. Each of them could be a formation of illusion, slaughter, entrapment, or protection. If all of them were assembled together, they would be another comprehensive formation of death.

The Redbud King was the core of all of the layouts. When she stood within the mountain, the layouts would connect with her and be at her beck and call like a combat art. That was the most frightening aspect of their capabilities.

The layouts could reach almost the entire region. As long as the Redbud King was physically present in Redbud Region, no one of her cultivation level would be a match for her, no matter how many came.

The source of power for the layouts was the great dragon. As long as it existed, her strength would never fail.

It took a month for Lu Yun to finish everything. When he presented the finished work to the king and had her step inside, her expression froze. She couldn’t believe that this was the kind of power she commanded now!

“Um... as long as I’m in my territory, I’ll be able to fight even Hong!” she murmured.

“Hong?” Lu Yun blinked when he heard the unfamiliar name.

“Hong is... eh, you don’t need to know who he is right now. You’ll meet him when you become a titled king.” After a moment’s thought, she decided to not explain more about this mysterious character.

Lu Yun looked to the little fox, who shook her head. She’d previously become a titled king in the chaos, so she didn’t know who Hong was.

However, the Redbud King had said she’d be able to fight Hong now that she could borrow the great dragon’s strength, not beat him. It was plain to see how terrifying this person was. Additionally, he was only Hong and not King Hong. Clearly, his origins were different from the other kings in the realm.

“Forget about Hong for now. You’ll know more when you should know. Let me take you to Hopeless Major,” the king changed the topic. “Here are a thousand and eighty premium purple crystal veins. You should take them—you’ll have great use of them in the Endless Reaches.”

Lu Yun chuckled ruefully. The Redbud King was truly the number one tycoon of the Hongmeng. She gifted purple crystal veins at the drop of a hat, much like the Deaf Prince and his friends.

“I’m afraid that a thousand and eighty crystal veins may not be enough... Please give me another ten thousand!” Lu Yun shook his head and countered with an incredible number.

“Ten thousand?” The king blinked and grinned happily. “I’d rather give you a hundred thousand! I was just worried that you wouldn’t want them.”

“A hundred... then a hundred thousand it is!” Lu Yun set his jaw. “A hundred and eight thousand premium purple crystal veins! I want to refine a mountain of purple crystal!”

What an absolutely thrilling thought it was, to smash someone flat with such a mountain!

“That sounds good!” the Redbud King agreed without hesitation. Since the Meteorite King followed at Lu Yun’s side, there was nothing to be concerned about even when he carried so much wealth on him.

Redbud Mountain was the largest mine of purple crystals in the Hongmeng. A hundred and eight thousand veins were absolutely nothing to the king. Since she wanted to befriend Lu Yun, she would spare no expenses; her only concern was that Lu Yun wouldn’t want her gifts. That he’d asked for such a sum of crystal veins made her more delighted than anything.

Lu Yun immediately got to work when he received the sum of crystal veins that he’d asked for. A mountain of purple crystal was like one of immortal crystal. Its own method of attack was its weight—weight that would crush a king!

Kings such as the Scorch and Moon Kings owned at most a hundred premium purple crystal veins. A mountain made of a hundred and eight thousand would absolutely flatten them into dust.

### **Chapter 1236: Teach Them How To Be A Proper Person**

Lu Yun spent another month refining the purple crystal mountain. When he finished and looked upon his newest treasure, he etched another one hundred and eight thousand formations into it to fully equip the mountain.

The last addition elevated the mountain beyond purely smashing enemies to death. Wind and thunder would gather when it descended and fire and water would burst forth in unison. If a king was hardy enough to survive the mountain’s physical impact, the ensuing barrage of a hundred and eight thousand formations would finish the job.

Lu Yun flattened the Meteorite King several hundred times over throughout the course of his experimentation. Now when the king saw the mountain of purple crystal, uncontrolled shuddering was his gut reaction.

Before they set out, Lu Yun and the little fox modified their appearances. They also draped themselves with all sorts of treasure from the Redbud King’s vaults, looking like typical wealthy scions with more money than brains.

The Meteorite King allowed his strength as a titled king to seep out and wore the standard outfit of a butler.

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Kaleidoscopic Region encompassed the northernmost territory of the Hongmeng. It was also the largest and most disorderly of the realm.

No one held authoritative power here, and the Enforcer Alliance didn't dare intervene in its affairs. Any kings who visited had to humbly lower their heads as well.

Kaleidoscopic Region was a motley zone of confusion and lawlessness. The law of the jungle reigned supreme and whoever was stronger ruled. Might absolutely made right here, and even someone like the Meteorite King refrained from throwing his weight around when he was in the area.

Beyond the region lay the frightful Endless Reaches—a terrifying forbidden area of the realm that'd claimed the lives of more than a hundred kings.

Everyone knew that it was off limits, but very few knew that one of the Ten Valleys of Evil was located within. The Endless Reaches were taboo because of Hopeless Major.

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“Oh, damn it.” When they reached the outskirts of Ancient Beast City in the Kaleidoscopic Region, Lu Yun suddenly smacked his forehead with regret.

“What is it?” The little fox looked sideways at him.

A large folding fan with edges gilded in gold waved gently in his hand, and a variety of precious jewels and jade hung on his body. He was a veritable descendent of a wealthy family out for a jaunt.

While the little fox wasn't as over the top as him, she was also dressed in an extremely opulent silk dress. A thin face veil obscured half of her stunning features, her unparalleled elegance and grace accentuated by the shifting covering.

She'd revealed her true face before in Redbud City, and Lu Yun knew that the Moon and Mangcang King were investigating them. Thus, there was no point in disguising their appearance. It didn't matter what those kings found out, as long as they didn't learn that the two came from the chaos and world of immortals.

“Jin Naluo is also in the Kaleidoscopic Region,” Lu Yun mumbled. “He's probably looked into all of my affairs, so we can't use our real names in this area.”

Jin Naluo had set up a sprawling scheme in the chaos to plot against the Di Clan, immortal dao, and seize the Blood Sea. He was extraordinarily familiar with the immortal dao and aware of Lu Yun's various abilities.

If the two of them met, Jin Naluo would likely expose him to the entire realm.

Although the two had reached an agreement and become allies when Lu Yun threatened him, Jin Naluo would wholeheartedly take advantage of the situation if the human was right under his nose. He was an incredibly strong king and more ferocious than the Moon and Mangcang Kings.

In fact, he was almost on equal footing with the Starspace King. If he'd been anywhere else in the Hongmeng instead of the Kaleidoscopic Region, he would control at least two regions. The Redbud King had given Lu Yun a map detailing some of the factions in the Kaleidoscopic Region before she left. That was where he'd seen Jin Naluo mentioned and discovered his title of "Butcher King".

"Why don't we change our names?" the little fox proposed when she realized the potential issues. "Or I can get in touch with our son and have him come take out Jin Naluo."

"Um..." Lu Yun scratched his head. "Let's not. Plus, I think Lu Qing has his own faction inside the Endless Reaches, or even Hopeless Major."

Though the reaches were forbidden territory, kings with sufficient power could still hew out their own cities and receive Hopeless Major's approval for setting up inside. Lu Qing was one of them.

As one of the strongest kings in the Hongmeng, Lu Qing would easily trample Jin Naluo, no contest.

"Let's settle down here first and slowly approach Hopeless Major. We'll steer clear of Jin Naluo if we can," said Lu Yun.

Too much was at stake when it came to his son. He'd be mobbed by a crowd of kings if he set foot in the Hongmeng, walking away with grievous injuries if he walked away at all.

As they chatted, Lu Yun, the little fox, and the Meteorite King approached Ancient Beast City.

Unlike some of the other cities in the realm, this city wasn't as massive as a star. It was several hundred thousand kilometers across, making it a pocket sized city of the Hongmeng.

"Yo, you three look new. Do you know the rules of Ancient Beast City?" An impoverished young man suddenly blocked their way and regarded them with a flippant look.

"Well, yes." Lu Yun nodded and threw a look at the Meteorite King.

The king stepped forward, grabbed the young man's neck and threw him upward, hanging him on the city gates.

"A king!" The young man almost wet himself with fear. He was just picking on some random strangers, how was it that he'd run into a king?!

He'd just made it into the superior realm and a king could kill him with a clench of the hand. Who would've thought that a right and proper king would be dressed like a servant and follow behind a young man and woman?

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"Teeheehee, things are getting interesting. I wonder which clan's simpleton is it this time? They think they can do whatever they want just because they have a king in their party."

"One of the Constant King's children tried doing that in Kaleidoscopic Region a while back, and someone beat them to death for their impudence." Gleeful looks of schadenfreude flitted in the crowd after seeing the Meteorite King start trouble.

"This young master has nothing but money!" Lu Yun stopped forward and—

Bam!

A hunk of purple crystal the approximate height of a man smashed into the ground.

“Whoever teaches that kid how to be a proper person can have this crystal.”

Gulp!

Hard swallows could be heard around the scene. Premium purple crystal the size of a man!

In the Hongmeng, particularly the Kaleidoscopic Region, a fist sized portion of crystal was incredibly precious. Though it wasn't worth cities, fights would absolutely break out over it.

“Teach him how to be a proper person? I'll teach you first!” A snarling man didn't think twice before throwing himself at the crystal.

Bonk!

He flew backward at twice the speed and crashed into a section of the city wall.

“Whoever can drill some proper manners and respect into those two can have the crystal.” Lu Yun nodded at the Meteorite King.

### **Chapter 1237: City Lord?**

“You think you're something, huh kid?” sounded a supercilious voice. Dragging a rusty sword, a yawning man dressed in tattered clothing sauntered up to Lu Yun.

He was very young and might be more appropriately labeled a young man instead. Perhaps he was actually a teenager. Smudged with dirt and his hair a matted mess, it was impossible to make out his face.

The second he appeared, however, saw everyone scattering away from the premises. Even the yowling boy that the Meteorite King had hung on the city walls cut off mid screech and regarded the man with fear.

“I think I'm something?” Lu Yun shook his head. “Not at all. These two here don't know what respectable behavior and manners are, so I'm looking for someone to teach them how to be a proper person.”

“How to be a proper person??” The man almost fell backward with raucous laughter. “How are you going to teach them when they're not people to begin with?”

“Not people?” A sharp glint flashed through Lu Yun's eyes and he closely regarded the being on the wall and the one cowering in a corner. “Indeed, they're not people, just idiots.

“Meteor.” He looked at the Meteorite King, who grasped his master's intentions and sent two palm strikes into the air, slapping the two into dust.

“You really do think you're something, to kill two before even entering the city.” The man wasn't too surprised by the action, as he'd seen many overweening dandies like Lu Yun before. Many were those who were even more arrogant, and they all died very gruesome and tormented deaths in the end.

“They weren’t people, so what of their deaths?” Lu Yun was hardly concerned and waved a hand, wanting to recall the premium purple crystal.

“Do you really think you’ll be able to enter Ancient Beast City after killing two citizens?” The raggedy man’s expression took a sudden menacing turn. “Turn over all of your purple crystal or you’ll die here today!”

The Meteorite King stepped in front of Lu Yun and the little fox with a quick shift of his body.

“And you really think the world is your playground with a king by your side!” The man threw his head back with a long peal of laughter. “Kings are just a starting point in the Hongmeng. Here, this kind of trash is less than the ants beneath my feet.”

His patience rapidly dwindling, the man brought out an oddly designed wooden club and swung it at the Meteorite King’s head.

It appeared to be a wooden club, but was likely fashioned from another kind of material since it was uncommonly heavy. The man waved it around like a stalk of straw and exuded a terrifying momentum that shrouded the Meteorite King, Lu Yun, and the little fox.

“This... is influence?” The Meteorite King’s eyebrows shot up in surprise, but he didn’t panic.

Influence was a mentality that corresponded to one’s understanding of Hongmeng orders, rather than cultivation strength. At a certain level of strength, one could borrow the power of the realm to summon the influence of the Hongmeng.

Just like the grand influence over the world that Lu Yun could deploy in the world of immortals, influence was a kind of layout fully under the control of living beings.

Ordinary kings commanded only forcefields, but when they reached a certain level, they possessed influence as well. The Moon, Scorch, and Starspace King counted among this cohort, and so did the man in tattered clothing in front of them!

The Meteorite King’s hand trembled as Quiet shot out of its sheath. An unusual light flashed across the sky.

The influence shattered and the club splintered!

Blood trickled out of the Meteorite King’s mouth.

The man stared dumbly at the king—or rather, the short sword in his hand.

“Give me that sword, or all of you will die right now.” The man’s eyes were now pale gold and his pupils turned into a horizontal slit, like the eyes of a reptile.

“Give it to him,” Lu Yun said to the Meteorite King, who handed it over without a word.

The man’s eyes widened and he snatched it out of the king’s hands with mounting greed.

“This sword can hack through a king’s influence! Heh heh heh, HA HA HA!!” he brayed with laughter. “Hey, outsiders! Come test my sword!”

Whoosh!

The man raised Quiet high into the air and slashed at the Meteorite King.

Hummmm.

A scintillating light the color of blood flared from the sword and engulfed the man's body.

"Huh? What's going on? What is this? ...no! NO!!" He shrieked with horror as a massive suction force blasted from the sword. It devoured every inch of flesh, drop of blood, and iota of vitality from his body, leaving his cultivation, cultivation level, and qi completely untouched.

Being a great weapon of the fourth realm and the foremost sword of all the realms, Quiet disdained the tiny bit of power available in the third realm. All it needed was vitality from flesh, blood, and life.

The sword returned to an inert state after an unknown period of time. When it withdrew the bloody light, the tattered man had aged from his youthful appearance to that of a wizened and haggard elder.

"What is that?" he mumbled to the Meteorite King.

"The greatest sword of the four realms," Lu Yun responded quietly to the man about to die.

"So it's a treasure of the fourth realm, no wonder, no wonder..." the elder laughed weakly. His body disintegrated inch by inch and blew away in the wind as dust.

Quiet hovered in the air, drifting docilely back into Lu Yun's hands, who handed it to the Meteorite King.

Struggle apparent on his face, the king vacillated for a while before gingerly accepting the sword. He'd never fathomed that the short sword he'd carried on his body all this time would be able to devour a king in possession of influence!

"The Ancient Beast King... is dead!" came a sudden cry.

"The king is dead!!"

The city boiled over.

"The Ancient Beast King?" Lu Yun goggled and stared incredulously at where the man had stood. He'd never fathomed that the man who looked like a beggar would be the ruler of this city—The Ancient Beast King!

"According to the rules of the Kaleidoscopic Region... is this city ours after we offed the lord?" the little fox asked dubiously as she scratched her head.

"I... think so?" Lu Yun felt a bit out of his depth. He hadn't anticipated that Quiet would be so unrelenting as to consume such a strong king in one go!

He wasn't the only one; nearby denizens of the city gaped at them. For the time being, everyone found it too difficult to accept what had just happened.

According to Kaleidoscopic custom, whoever killed a city lord would become the new owner of the city. At the same time, the newcomer would have to accept challenges from others to retain their fresh promotion.

The Ancient Beast King had killed a successive eighteen kings in possession of influence before he finally deterred others from making a move and consolidated his position as lord of Ancient Beast City.

No one would've ever imagined that he would lose it all in this most unexpected manner. A sword had eaten him, and his city delivered to Lu Yun and the others on a silver platter!

### **Chapter 1238: Treasure Here**

It all seemed incredibly ludicrous to Lu Yun. They'd taken out a city lord as soon as they arrived in the Kaleidoscopic Region and now owned a city!

At the precise moment of the Ancient Beast King's death, the ancient city surged with a burst of fearsome power and sent it into Lu Yun's body. That was the core essence of the city.

Now that it was his, he was the new city lord in both deed and name.

In the public eye, however, the Meteorite King was the new lord since he was the one who'd killed the Ancient Beast King. The truth of the matter was that since Quiet was Lu Yun's treasure, anything that Quiet killed was credited to its wielder.

It was a pity that the short sword was so heaven defying that it'd swallowed all of the Ancient Beast King's life force, ripping him out of the Tome of Life and Death's grasp. Otherwise, the late king would've become Lu Yun's newest Infernum.

The Tome of Life and Death was most likely a great treasure of the fourth realm and Quiet was the number one sword of the fourth realm.

Lu Yun didn't mind the outcome of the situation. He raised his head to assess the large city in front of him and murmured, "Ancient Beast City? What a... lousy name. Let's change it to..."

He looked at the little fox.

"The City of Immortals," she giggled. "Once we conquer the Kaleidoscopic Region, let's change its name to the Immortal Realm! If Qing Yu hears that name in the Endless Reaches, she'll know without a doubt that it's us. Maybe she'll come out and find us then!"

"City of Immortals it is." Lu Yun smiled. "If Jin Naluo learns that we're a city lord in the Kaleidoscopic Region, he might think twice before making trouble for us."

He would've been concerned about running into Jin Naluo at any other time, but now that he was a city lord in this particular region, there was nothing to fear since he had found his footing.

Numerous Hongmeng experts yearned after the immortal dao as it could bring time to the realm and turn it into a real one. Whoever controlled the immortal dao would be the future liege lord of the entire Hongmeng.

Thus, many were the places named using "immortal", each of them a token of the namer's ambitions. It wasn't anything out of the ordinary that a City of Immortals had appeared in the Kaleidoscopic Region.

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Up on the city walls, the characters for Ancient Beast City had been revised to City of Immortals. When they saw the new name of their home, city residents reacted with shock.

They knew what using the “immortal” character signified. The three people about to enter the city, the new city lord of Ancient Beast City, held the ambition to rule over the Hongmeng!

Wielding Quiet with one hand, the Meteorite King led the group and set foot into the city. Everyone in the new City of Immortals paused in their current task and knelt in the direction of the Meteorite King.

Apart from the Ancient Beast King, there had been a second king in the city as well. Here to observe the new city lord, this second king raked Lu Yun and the others with an extremely hostile glare.

“Do you really think that you can take over the city through these despicable means?!” The second king was a woman dressed in blue. Her face was frostily beautiful and she glared at the Meteorite King with a strange air of hatred.

“Purecloud King—dao partner of the Ancient Beast King?” Contempt floated flitted through the Meteorite King’s face when he looked upon the woman. “Get out of the City of Immortals within ten breaths or I’ll send you to meet your dao partner.”

Fixing her eyes on the short sword in his hand, the Purecloud King ground her teeth and left the city in a streak of blue light. Her dao partner was dead and she was weaker than him. She stood no chance of victory against the strange sword; only death was guaranteed.

She would have to make her plans slowly if she wanted revenge.

While monumental to the City of Immortals, the fall of her old city lord and enthronement of the new one didn’t raise any ripples in the Kaleidoscopic Region. It was just a border town in the area and only two kings were in residence before. Now that the Ancient Beast King was dead and the Purecloud King departed, the city had actually declined in strength. It would be further ostracized in the region.

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At this moment, all factions in the city were gathered at the city lord’s mansion. They were to swear fealty to their new city lord or take stock of the situation to determine if they should stay.

Lu Yun and the little fox remained out of sight, giving over the task to the Meteorite King. Having once ruled over Meteorite Peak, the king naturally knew how to administer the City of Immortals and hold sway over the various factions so they would remain loyal.

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“You’re awake!” Lu Yun exclaimed to see the Treasurehunter Rat in front of him.

The rat had returned to the common realm, but his talents were greater than before. The Treasurefall Coin that Lu Yun had stored in the Tome of Life and Death had somehow become one with him.

Not only could he seek out treasure now, but he had some of the coin’s abilities as well—taming treasure!

However, the Treasurehunter Rat could no longer take human form and his appearance changed as well. Previously solid purple, his fur was now a golden purple and he was the size of a palm.

As for what other interesting abilities he'd gained, of that Lu Yun couldn't yet tell.

The palm-sized golden purple rat was waving his limbs around and contorting himself into different positions, attempting to tell Lu Yun something. Though the rat's name was in the Tome of Life and Death, his master didn't speak rat.

"You say there's treasure here?" The little fox came close and cocked her head to listen. "And an important one!"

"Where?" Lu Yun brightened.

Bedlam and mayhem rampaged in the Kaleidoscopic Region—not only because of the Endless Reaches found in the north, but also because of the cornucopia of treasure in the area. Countless numbers of kings visited to treasure hunt, almost entirely divesting the region of its treasures after all this time.

What remained were highly important or significant treasures. Of course, there were even more treasures in the Endless Reaches, but no one dared try their luck there.

The rat gestured with his short front claws for a bit before vanishing in a golden-purple blur with a twitch of his body.

"So fast!" Both Lu Yun and the little fox jerked with surprise. They hadn't even been able to tell how the rat had left!

"After it!" Lu Yun grabbed the little fox's hand. They could follow the rat through their shared connection.

The little fox blushed, but didn't shake off Lu Yun's hand and allowed him to pull her along.

The two traveled swiftly, concealed by the little fox's illusions. They left the City of Immortals without attracting any attention.

### **Chapter 1239: A Key to the Hongmeng Tower**

Lu Yun tugged the little fox along in his wake and deployed the Wandering Step, stopping after several millions of kilometers in pursuit of the Treasurehunter Rat.

A barren landscape greeted the eye; there was no sign of habitation to be seen anywhere or anything that was worthy of extra scrutiny. The rat was crouched on a rock and completely still, his small, beady eyes widened extra large.

"Is the treasure below?" Lu Yun picked up the rat and was taken aback when the rat dug his claws into the rock and brought it up as well.

"...is it this rock?" Lu Yun swiftly calibrated his expectations.

The Treasurehunter Rat bobbed his head rapidly and offered up the rock with both foreclaws, somehow exuding the air that this was a momentous occasion. He squeaked loudly in incessant chatter.

“What’s he saying?” Lu Yun looked at the little fox.

The little fox took over the rock and squeezed it gently.

Crack!

The rock that was six meters wide immediately crumbled away, releasing a tiny point of purple light.

Brilliant iridescence shot for the firmament, but Lu Yun was prepared. A formation intercepted the explosion of light the moment it started to rise. However, it was so strong that it still flew dizzily upward for fifty kilometers.

Gradually, the purple brilliance gave way to a key that looked like it’d been carved out of premium purple crystal.

“What is this?” Lu Yun took the key with a slight frown.

“This is...” gasped the little fox and she goggled at the item. “This is the key to opening the Hongmeng Tower!”

She clapped her hands over her mouth when she said Hongmeng Tower and started shaking. The tower was the singular greatest treasure of the realm and the maker of kings in the Hongmeng! When one’s battle strength reached the level of a titled king, power from the Hongmeng Tower would descend from the sky to bestow a title upon the cultivator.

The tower’s origins were very mysterious and no one knew where it’d come from. It had existed for as long as the Hongmeng was old.

Premier kings in the realm sought to smash through the barrier around the Hongmeng so they could enter the fourth realm. As the stories went, the Hongmeng Tower was critical to piercing through the barrier.

“Possessing the key of the Hongmeng Tower means that we can open the tower and enter it!” The little fox trembled like a leaf. “If Lu Qing can enter the tower, his strength will undoubtedly leap forward into another level!”

“Another level?” Lu Yun looked at the little fox. She seemed to know a lot, and not all of her knowledge came from the memories that their son had returned to her.

“Do you remember the eleven creation seeds?” The little fox took a deep breath to regain her calm before continuing in an even pace, “The strongest eleven of the Hongmeng are behind those seeds. Whether it’s the rulers of the Ten Evils, the Enforcer Alliance, or someone like the Redbud King—none of them are even close to the eleven.

“If Lu Qing can enter the tower, then his strength will reach that level too!” Excitement brimmed in her eyes and now she shook from elation.

“What about Hong?” Lu Yun asked. “What level of being is he?”

“Hong?” The little fox paused, then shook her head. “I don’t know.”

Lu Yun nodded and put the key away. Suddenly, the Treasurehunter Rat's fur stood on end and he darted into Lu Yun's arms, shuddering from horror.

"That's my territory," the little fox remarked unpleasantly to the rat.

Lu Yun pulled on the little fox's sleeve—a figure had appeared before them at some point. It was a young woman in a blue silk dress and a light face veil.

The Purecloud King.

"To think that you two would leave Ancient Beast City! If I kill you, that Immortal King or whatever will be very sad, won't he?" Hatred burned in her eyes as she stared fixedly at Lu Yun and the little fox.

She'd been drawn here by the purple light that'd soared into the skies, but that wasn't important anymore. Seeking vengeance for the Ancient Beast King was her most ardent desire. Now that Ancient Beast City had been renamed to the City of Immortals, everyone regarded the Meteorite King as the Immortal King.

"That's right, the king will die if we die." Lu Yun nodded. "But are you so sure that you can kill us?"

Whoosh!

The Purecloud King blurred into motion as soon as he responded. She raised a hand to slap down at the two, her speed unnaturally fast. Lu Yun didn't even have time to complete a thought before the terrifying palm strike reached their heads.

Boom!

A mushroom cloud rose into the air and reached even the City of Immortals several millions of kilometers away. The Purecloud King grunted and quickly shuffled a few steps back, her mouth dropping with incredulous shock.

A willowy shape had appeared next to her two targets—an uncommonly beautiful woman dressed in purple chiffon.

"Oof, this is the Purecloud King of Ancient Beast City in the Kaleidoscopic Region. How did you guys get on her bad side? Thank goodness my primary body came again this time, or you two would be dead without a doubt." The Redbud King shook out her right hand and turned her head to Lu Yun and the little fox.

She was feeling a bit of the blow as the Purecloud King had struck with almost full strength.

"The Redbud King!" gasped a dismayed Purecloud. Never in her wildest dreams would she have thought that this king would suddenly appear!

Naturally, she didn't understand why Redbud had left her territory and traveled to the Kaleidoscopic Region.

Kaleidoscopic kings rarely paid attention to events outside of the territory. It was only because Redbud's name was well known throughout the Kaleidoscopic Region that Purecloud knew of her. There'd once

been Kaleidoscopic kings who challenged Redbud because they wanted her territory, but she'd beaten all of them to death.

With her strength, she had the right to own a city or two in the region.

"Run!" The Purecloud King vanished as a streak of light in the next second.

"Well, she's fast." The Redbud King wasn't inclined to chase after Purecloud. Instead, she turned to Lu Yun and the little fox.

"We killed the Ancient Beast King and took over the city. I'm the city lord of Ancient Beast City now." Lu Yun rubbed his nose with some embarrassment.

She stared at him for quite some time. "You... you two really are..." The proper description wasn't forthcoming.

"Wait, there's also some strange energy ripples lingering here." She frowned and looked hesitantly at the two again.

Lu Yun's heart skipped a beat. The key to the Hongmeng Tower!

She must've discovered it, and I can't guarantee she'll remain on our side when it comes to a treasure like this one!

"It's a key to the Hongmeng Tower." The Redbud King's expression took a turn for the worse. "If I'd known that you'd gotten one of those, I would've chased down Purecloud and killed her.

"You need to protect that key well. There are eleven keys to the tower and only when all eleven appear at the same time can the tower be unlocked. Ah, don't worry, I have one myself.

"There's no difference between owning one and owning two." Redbud stretched out her hand and opened it to show a key glowing with a purple haze.

#### **Chapter 1240: Using Another's Hand**

The Redbud King also owned a key to the Hongmeng Tower.

"If we include yours, then there's ten keys that've appeared. When the last one materializes, the Hongmeng Tower that hovers in the center of the realm will appear before us," the Redbud King mused.

"There was once someone in the realm who claimed five keys for himself. All of the Hongmeng kings hunted him down for that, forcing him to take shelter in the chaos and never return home.

"Of course, that person is so much stronger than me. In the final, conclusive battle, more than a hundred kings died trying to bring him down.

"He is simply too incredibly strong," sighed the Redbud King.

"One person with five keys... the Purple King?" Lu Yun blinked and asked hesitantly.

"Yes, the Purple King," she nodded. "Though there are many kings like him in the Hongmeng, there are very few with the same ravaging nature as him.

“He gives off the feeling of... utter despair. Complete and irredeemable despair. He seems to be swallowed up in it every time he fights...”

The little fox trembled and pity flashed through her eyes.

“What is it?” the Redbud King asked reflexively when she noticed the change.

“My poor child... motherless at such a young age!” The little fox looked ready to burst into tears.

The Redbud King: .....

“Ahem!” She recovered and coughed dryly. “If the tenth key has appeared, that means the eleventh is not too far off. But, the two of you must reach kingdom before then, or the key will be useless to you.

“Given your strength, you won’t become a titled king through cultivation level before the next key appears. Therefore, you can do so through the supplemental dao.”

“Supplemental dao? Kingdom through cultivation level?” Lu Yun nodded gently. “I wonder if Little Yu has a key as well.”

He was completely unable to communicate with Qing Yu and thus had no idea what her current situation was. The Kaleidoscopic Region was only on the outskirts of the Endless Reaches, and the land within the reaches even more brutal.

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Tiger Butcher City was the strongest city on the Kaleidoscopic border and its king currently looking intently at the Purecloud King. He enunciated each word carefully, “Do you mean that? That the tenth key to the Hongmeng Tower has materialized?”

“Yes, and it’s with that Immortal King.” The Purecloud King nodded.

“Hmph,” the Tiger Butcher King snorted. “Immortal King? He’s got some nerve. But he just killed the Ancient Beast King—are you actually looking to use my hand for revenge?”

The Tiger Butcher King was a rugged man rough around the edges. He wasn’t the sort to sweat the details, but a cunning light constantly twinkled in his blood-red eyes. He wasn’t the type to easily fall into a trap or be used by others.

“But if you’re willing to be my dao partner... then I’d kill the Immortal King for you even without considering the key. Revenge for the Ancient Beast King would be a given,” he added before Purecloud responded.

“...you would’ve gone to the City of Immortals even if I hadn’t come, wouldn’t you have?” Purecloud remained silent for a long moment before sighing and inclining her head.

“Hahahaha!!” The Tiger Butcher King roared with laughter and pushed Purecloud to the ground.

A cold smirk played at the edges of the Purecloud King’s lips. She hadn’t told him about the Redbud King.

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A curious atmosphere reigned within the City of Immortals, and the beings passing through its gates did so with varying degrees of panic. Though their new city lord, the Immortal King, was experienced enough to govern with skill, the city's denizens had discovered some interesting details.

For example, the Immortal King was weaker than the late Ancient Beast King—much weaker.

His way of governing was also weaker than even a young Ancient Beast King newly ascended to the position. The city wasn't just suffering a subtle decline in strength, but a large and obvious one.

Despite that, the Immortal King spent his days in an orderly fashion, carrying out whatever duties he had. Anyone who fled the city was stripped of their citizenship and their residences confiscated.

"Your Majesty, the Tiger Butcher King is coming," reported a shaking Shi Yan. He was the head butler of the City of Immortals. Though he was only in the superior realm, he'd served no less than ten city lords in his lifetime and experienced a dozen changes in government.

Apart from Shi Yan, the city also boasted of a contingent of defenders. They remained with the city no matter who its lord was and diligently fulfilled their obligations. However, none of them were confidantes of previous city lords. Their position was also a negligible one and they were more on the level of ordinary citizens. Their only difference was a fancy government title.

After the demise of the Ancient Beast King, his subordinates scattered for greener pastures or left with the Purecloud King. Taking full advantage of the opportunity, the Meteorite King filled the empty positions with Shi Yan and his cohorts.

A rather pale Shi Yan stood in front of his new city lord. It wouldn't have mattered to him if this was another routine change in ruler; they were long used to the occurrence anyway.

But their soon-to-arrive visitor was a king with a city of his own! A great battle was sure to ensue and when the two cities were combined, people like Shi Yan would be the first to be expunged.

"The Tiger Butcher King?" Meteorite raised an eyebrow.

"Yes, the strongest king of the southern belt of the Kaleidoscopic Region and a mighty third step king!" Shi Yan quickly responded.

"A third step king..." Meteorite nodded. "I know now, you are dismissed. Go back to whatever it is you were doing."

"Huh?" Shi Yan looked blankly. "But the Tiger Butcher King is coming."

"And?" snorted the Meteorite King. "So he's coming. Will he not come just because all of you are running around like headless chickens?"

"Um..." Shi Yan wanted to cry. If he and his men weren't part of the city's core essence, he would've deserted a long time ago.

"You are dismissed." The Meteorite King waved a hand.

"...understood." Shi Yan was so pale that he looked like he'd seen a ghost, but there was nothing he could do about anything.

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“Greetings to master and the Redbud King!” The Meteorite King bowed respectfully to Lu Yun, the little fox, and the Redbud King seated across from each other in the rear garden of the city lord residence in the City of Immortals.

“The Tiger Butcher King is coming,” he repeated what he’d learned earlier.

“The Tiger Butcher King?” Redbud raised an eyebrow. “No matter, he’s just a third step king. I’ll kill him before I leave.”

“A third step king?” Lu Yun rubbed his forehead and smiled ruefully. “There’s different levels to kings as well?”

“Naturally.” Redbud nodded. “To us, becoming a titled king is only the true start to being able to overlook the Hongmeng.

“There are nine steps to king classification. First step kings such as the Meteorite King can be seen everywhere in the Hongmeng. The Ancient Beast King that you guys killed and the Purecloud King that ran away are second step.”

“How about you and Lu Qing?” the little fox quickly asked.

“I’m a sixth step,” Redbud answered proudly, then paused, “Who’s Lu Qing?”

“Ahem, what level is the Purple King?” Lu Yun asked.

“The Pure King? He’s also sixth step, but the strength he displays is far beyond it.”