

## Necropolis 1241

### Chapter 1241: The Immortal King? A Servant?

“Within the current Hongmeng, including the Multitude Region, sixth step kings are the strongest powerhouses there are. Ones like the Purple King that possess strength above his step is an extreme abnormality,” added the Redbud King.

“Then why were you helpless against the Moon King and others last time?” mumbled the little fox.

The Moon and Mangcang Kings were second step kings, while the rest of their group was similar to the Meteorite King as first step kings.

“The Moon King possesses a devastating weapon that even the Purple King may not be able to withstand, much less me as a solid sixth step king,” Redbud responded dejectedly.

If it wasn't for concern about the capabilities of the Moon King's weapon, she would've slapped them all to death with a single blow given her hot temper. Of course, that the Moon King and others had dared besiege her was precisely because of their confidence in this treasure.

Sadly for them, the Meteorite King wielding Quiet was an even more potent combination, which resulted in their retreat.

It was only now that Lu Yun was slightly more familiar with the overall situation in the Hongmeng. Armed with this new knowledge, he estimated that the big dragon in Redbud Mountain was likely an eighth step king, or even ninth.

Despite that, he wasn't of the opinion that just reaching ninth step kingship conferred one the strength to break the barrier around the Hongmeng. The third realm was incredibly big, and what they saw here was too limited.

“Alright then, if that Tiger Butcher King dares come, I'll take care of it for you guys,” Redbud chuckled merrily.

“Ah yes,” Lu Yun suddenly thought of something. “What's the relationship between the Tiger Butcher King and the Butcher King?”

“The Butcher King?” Redbud looked askance at him. “You've irritated him as well?”

“Not irritate, just have a... somewhat unreliable alliance with him,” Lu Yun answered sheepishly.

“An unreliable alliance...” Redbud suppressed the urge to roll her eyes. “Try not to provoke him! The Butcher King... Jin Naluo is a very dangerous person. He's also a sixth step king.

“However, there's no relationship between him and the Butcher King, just like there's no connection between me and the Purple King despite sharing the character for purple in both of our titles.”

Lu Yun and the little fox looked at each other, their expressions unnatural. So Jin Naluo was also a sixth step king, and the type of king that even the Redbud King was unwilling to offend.

“Also, don't call him by his title when you see Jin Naluo. He doesn't seem to like it and prefers people to use his real name,” Redbud emphasized.

Lu Yun nodded. When the lizard-dragon had run into Jin Naluo, it'd used his real name, as opposed to Butcher King.

"You should head back to Redbud Mountain," Lu Yun said to the arcane beast king. "The changes in the mountain won't go unnoticed by powerhouses. If a seventh or eighth step king wants to make a move against you, the Multitude Region would be the perfect setting for a plot."

The Redbud King paused, dazed.

"I've used strength from the mountain's dragon in the layout—it's at least an eighth, maybe ninth step king. It might even be beyond the ninth step," Lu Yun continued. "If you can absorb any energy from it, you might be able to evolve further into a seventh step king."

"I see." The Redbud King took a deep breath. She'd always felt that she was a beggar who owned a mountain of gold. Unlimited wealth was at her fingertips, but she was unable to touch any of it. And now, that big dragon was finally hers to use.

The essence of the Hongmeng was concentrated in the great dragon. As an arcane beast king, the Redbud King was unable to cultivate. But she might have the chance to ascend further if she partook of the great dragon's strength.

"Then I won't come myself next time. My replica in the token is a third step king and should be enough for most situations." She vanished in a streak of purple light.

"Everything's fine as long as there's nothing between the Tiger Butcher King and Jin Naluo... but if he's a sixth step king, that makes things a bit dicey." Lu Yun's expression took a turn for the worse after the Redbud King's departure. He wasn't worried about his impending visitor, particularly as Redbud had mentioned that her replicas were third step kings.

He and the little fox both possessed a token, which meant they had two third step kings at their disposal.

"If we can't handle it, let's have our son take care of that Jin Naluo," whispered the little fox. "He claimed five keys for himself, he's so... awesome!"

"That he is." Lu Yun nodded.

However, anguish pricked at their hearts when they thought of Redbud's earlier words. Irredeemable despair! Only they knew why he felt so much hopelessness.

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In the subsequent month, mounting trepidation spread like wildfire throughout the City of Immortals and the general situation dissolved into havoc. More than eighty percent of its citizens fled from its walls.

The Tiger Butcher King's men sauntered into the city and occupied all major points of interest, recruiting the remaining cultivators within the city. It could be said that, apart from the city lord's residence, the rest of the City of Immortals belonged to the Tiger Butcher King.

Shi Yan and the others were hiding in the city lord's residence and didn't dare venture out. Once Tiger Butcher City emerged fully victorious, it would consume the City of Immortals' core essence. As defenders that'd become one with the city's core essence, Shi Yan and his comrades would be swallowed without a trace.

The entire city came under Tiger Butcher's control two months after his men's appearance. The Immortal King's authority was completely negated and those that'd fled the city returned. They swore fealty to the Tiger Butcher King and became his citizens.

Meanwhile, the Tiger Butcher King finally arrived at the City of Immortals.

Tall and bulky, he wore the golden armor of a king. A scarlet hood fluttered behind him, presenting quite the imposing sight. Two kings followed by his side—the Silver Leopard King and his new dao partner, the Purecloud King.

He was two months late because of the Purecloud King. After they became dao partners, they dual cultivated for two months straight and only just vacated the bed yesterday.

Riding high on the crest of success, not only had the Tiger Butcher King finally obtained his long coveted beauty, but he'd claimed a city without spilling a drop of blood. Most importantly, he stood a chance to gain a key to the Hongmeng Tower!

"That Immortal King or whatever, get your ass out here and end yourself! This king will permit a strand of your true spirit to survive so you may reincarnate," he announced leisurely at the front doors to the city lord's residence.

Though he'd spent the last two months dual cultivating, he'd still sent men to thoroughly investigate his target. This Immortal King was just a first step king and had almost nothing to do with the Ancient Beast King's death. It'd been a strange treasure that deserved the credit.

"What a delight to have a friend come from afar." The doors slowly swung open and a clear voice traveled through it.

"We have long heard of the Tiger Butcher King, yet never had the chance to make your acquaintance. To think that the great one himself visits today, please excuse our lapse in hospitality. This way, please." Dressed in the outfit of a servant, the Meteorite King walked out of the residence and made a welcoming gesture. "Tiger Butcher King, my master welcomes you."

"You're not the Immortal King?!" Tiger Butcher's expression took a turn for the worse. He naturally recognized the first step king dressed as a servant in front of him—the famed Immortal King!

But... he was just a servant?

The first voice had sounded vastly different from this old servant's. Plainly, the real Immortal King was someone else.

"Oh no no no, this old man is just a servant and hardly worthy of the title 'Immortal King'. Please head inside, Tiger Butcher King. Let's not keep my master waiting," the Meteorite King responded with utmost humility.

The Purecloud King also wore a dark expression, but she seemed to make up her mind and stepped into the residence with a cold sneer.

The Meteorite King ignored her and remained bowing, maintaining his welcoming stance from earlier.

“Deliberately making a mystery out of things—I’m going to see just what kind of person this Immortal King is!” Livid, the Tiger Butcher King ultimately walked inside. He wanted to see what kind of person could make a mighty king call himself a servant!

### **Chapter 1242: Bring Me My Mountain**

The Tiger Butcher King’s eyelids twitched the moment he set foot into the city lord residence of the City of Immortals.

The city lord’s residence was a world unto its own and many times bigger than the city around it. The Hongmeng qi here was tens of thousands of times denser than outside!

Indeed, tens of thousands of times!

Even the most fertile city of the region—the Multitude City—was far inferior to this residence. Not just inferior, it didn’t even have the right to be mentioned in the same breath!

The Tiger Butcher King opened his arms wide and greedily soaked in Hongmeng qi through all four hundred and eighty million of his wide-open pores.

“What’s that?!” suddenly shrieked the Silver Leopard King when he spotted a hazy purple mountain in the center of the residence.

“Is that... a mountain of purple crystal??” Tiger Butcher’s eyes widened incredulously at the sight of the mountain. It was several million kilometers tall and tens of millions wide. Jutting into the clouds, it was a crystalline purple throughout.

Premium purple crystal!

The entire mountain was carved out of premium purple crystals!!

The world projected within the city lord residence and the boundless Hongmeng qi all came from the mountain!

Tiger Butcher shuddered convulsively, having the distinct feeling that if someone could lift the mountain, they’d be able to smash him flat with it.

“My lords and lady, my master can see you now.” A respectful, melodious voice sounded as a young maid popped out of nowhere. She walked up to a stunned Tiger Butcher King, also drawing a reaction from the previously expressionless Purecloud King.

They could clearly feel the energy ripples from the maid—half step king!

Half step kings were cultivators on the cusp of becoming titled kings!

Those such as the venerated enforcer of the Enforcer Alliance, Dusksnow Morningstar, and the Purpleclad Duke were all half step kings. Geniuses such as them were greeted with a courteous

reception no matter where they went and received great attention from the kings. But here, they were maids?

Maids that were half step kings??

The mountain of purple crystal in the far distance weighed down on the Tiger Butcher King's heart, injecting lead into his limbs. Just who was this Immortal King? Was he a secluded ninth step king, or the descendent of one?

The Purecloud King's first thought upon seeing the mountain was of the Redbud King, but now that she'd seen the half step king maid... she didn't know what to think.

"Come! Let's go see who this Immortal King is!" Tiger Butcher took a deep breath and strode forward, following the maid into the depths of the residence.

Along the way, the three of them felt like they were country bumpkins on their first visit to a city. They didn't know where to look or extend their consciousness.

All sorts of treasures so priceless that they wouldn't even put the items on display were treated as decoration, casually scattered around every corner. A variety of exotic flowers and grasses flourished in the gardens, a selection so precious that kings would view them dearer than life.

Multiple superior realm cultivators on the cusp of kingship wore the outfits of servants and maids, keeping everything in order.

Tiger Butcher's soaring confidence had completely vanished, replaced by bottomless fear and apprehension. What kind of background did this city lord possess?!

Even residences of sixth level kings wouldn't be so lavish, not to mention using half step kings as servants!

Elegant flute music floated in on the breeze. The three focused their gazes to see a young woman dressed in purple clothes sitting comfortably in a garden, playing a tune to the tranquil lake in front of her.

"A third step king?" Tiger Butcher paused. "Is this third step king your Immortal King?"

"The Tiger Butcher King jests," smiled their guide. "This third step king is a good friend of the master. When she heard that he newly obtained the City of Immortals in the Multitude Region, she traveled here to offer her felicitations."

Gulp!

Tiger Butcher swallowed hard. A third step king was on the same level as him, and he could tell from the flute players' bearing and gestures that she was actually stronger than him. Though they were both third level kings, there were naturally differences that still existed within the same level.

Tiger Butcher, Silver Leopard, and Purecloud looked at each other. All three wanted to withdraw, but they didn't reveal their current state of mind.

Walking behind the maid, they saw a second third step king—one wearing green robes and playing a zither at the foot of a mountain.

Tiger Butcher's heart spasmed painfully and he spoke to the maid in front of him, "Miss, please convey my sentiments to the Immortal King. I've suddenly recalled urgent matters at home and shan't be disturbing him today.

"Let's go!" He turned to leave, quickly followed by Silver Leopard and Purecloud.

"Since you've come, visitors, why not leave after you see my master?" Having vanished earlier, the Meteorite King reappeared out of thin air and wielded a strangely shaped shortsword that glinted with a cold light.

The Purecloud King regarded it with shock; that was the sword that'd claimed the life of her last dao partner!

"Urgent matters at home, urgent matters! We'll visit again another day!" Tiger Butcher's ambitions were no longer. Two third step kings, hundreds of half step kings, all sorts of exotic treasures, and that mountain of purple crystal was too much psychological pressure.

By now, he wouldn't do anything to the city lord even if the latter was a pig.

"Tiger Butcher King!" roared Meteorite. "You've exerted constant pressure on the City of Immortals over the past two months and almost turned it into an empty city. You come in person today to do battle, now you say there's urgent matters at home. Do you think my master is so easily bullied and that this city is your backyard, here to come and go as you wish?!"

Color drained from Tiger Butcher's face and he took several steps back. But when he realized that the one in front of him was just a first step king, he shouted back, "And what do you want? A fight to the death or something?"

"A fight to the death? What right does a mangy rat like you have to fight to the death with me?" Meteorite sneered. Though he was an Infernum, his name was written on the Tome of Life and Death!

The Tome of Life and Death was a treasure of the fourth realm. held authority over the five hells, and kept the wheel of reincarnation within limits. It was a premier existence even within the fourth realm, so what did a little third step king amount to in front of it?

"A mangy rat?!" Tiger Butcher's temper flared at the insult. "I'll show you just what I am!"

He roared to the heavens and leapt upward, pouncing on the Meteorite King. The image of a golden tiger appeared behind him, bearing down on Meteorite with overwhelming influence.

If his target had just been an ordinary first step king, he would've been ripped apart before Tiger Butcher physically closed the distance, as the gap between a first and third step king was too big. However, this was the city lord residence in the City of Immortals—Lu Yun's backyard!

There were two supplemental grandmasters here who'd almost reached kinghood. They lacked not for resources or purple crystal veins, and could fully deploy their strength to maximum capability.

Boom!

A purple shadow shot into the sky at almost the same time, forming a snarling purple dragon that charged Tiger Butcher.

Boom!

A second explosion sent a second shadow, then a third, and more streaming out from beneath the ground.

Tiger Butcher halted briefly when the first dragon hit him, upon which the second, third, and fourth quickly slammed into him and brought him down from the air. Silver Leopard blurred into action and darted to Tiger Butcher's side, joining hands with him in combat.

He was a second step king that was almost on par with the other. Silver Leopard immediately released his influence and looked warily at the increasing numbers of dragon shadows in the sky.

Both of them regarded the scene grimly.

"Bring me my mountain." Meteorite suddenly beckoned.

Rumble.

The unwelcome visitors looked on in horror as the residence shook violently, the towering mountain of purple crystal rising from the ground and shooting into the air. The Meteorite King's hand somehow seemed to be a spatial dimension as he easily held the massively tall and wide mountain in his hand.

It then furiously expanded to fifty million kilometers tall.

"Premium crystal veins!" Tiger Butcher shrieked, his voice breaking from terror. "This mountain is refined from premium crystal veins!"

### **Chapter 1243: Besieging Cities and Claiming Territory**

"Indeed, this was created from premium crystal veins." The Meteorite King nodded. "My master used a hundred and eight thousand veins of premium purple crystals to refine this mountain. It is an honor to your names that you can die to it.

"Go!" He sent the mountain hurtling forward with a wave. Whistling through the air and armed with turbulent power of wind and thunder, it crashed down on the three.

"Run!" Tiger Butcher, Silver Leopard, and Purecloud screamed at the same time. They deployed all of their strength and split off into three directions. As mighty as the mountain was, it was easy enough for kings such as they to escape out of its range.

If only...

If only there was no one else here apart from the Meteorite King.

"Run? Where to?" The Redbud King's two replicas suddenly appeared and sealed off the area, kicking Tiger Butcher, Silver Leopard, and Purecloud back to where they were.

Aghast, color drained out of their faces as the three stared at the mountain descending upon them.

“Hahaha!!” Purecloud laughed ghastly. “Ancient Beast is dead, so what point is there for me to remain alive on my own? What a pity that I can’t drag this lord of the City of Immortals down with me!”

A green light expanded within her consciousness—the sign of self detonation. She’d come with the resolution to die and had chosen the city lord residence as the perfect location!

“Self detonation right in front of me?” snorted Redbud’s two replicas. They reached out at the same time and dispersed the green light over the Purecloud King with casual palm strikes, then pressed Purecloud down into the dirt.

Boom!

The purple crystal mountain arrived.

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The magnificently sized residence wasn’t a true world, nor was it a real residence. It was a huge formation.

Lu Yun’s grasp of formations had reached the level of Returning to Origin and refining illusion into reality. This was a massive Great Formation of Myriad Returns, and its core was the purple crystal mountain.

On the other hand, the numerous treasures that filled the residence were indeed real. Apart from what’d once lain in the Starcloud treasury, Lu Yun had collected many more items from the Redbud King.

Given that she was the number one tycoon of the Hongmeng, there was nothing that she didn’t possess. One word from Lu Yun resulted in her bringing nearly half of her vaults in support, and he accepted it all without protest.

In his words, these treasures were good for nothing but collecting dust in her vaults, while they would be utilized to their true value with him.

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Lu Yun and the little fox reclined leisurely next to an artificial mountain. The little fox held her chin with both hands and splashed bare feet in a tiny pool. Lu Yun had relied on her quite a bit to set up a Great Formation of Myriad Returns in two months. After all, it’d been the fundamental formation of the monster spirit sacred land on Levitating Island.

“Strange, why are only two dead? Where’s that Purecloud King?” He frowned slightly and stood up to approach the purple crystal mountain.

The Meteorite King lifted it with another wave of his hand. It was incredibly heavy; a hundred of him wouldn’t have been able to shift it by a single millimeter. However, since Lu Yun was its creator and he was Lu Yun’s Infernum, that relationship was the basis by which he could manipulate the mountain.

It soared into the air and returned to where it’d originally rested. Beneath it, Tiger Butcher and Silver Leopard were two flattened pancakes and deader than dead. The Tome of Life and Death had absorbed their souls, turning them into Infernum. They now crouched as shivering figures in hell.



But, there was no Infernum of the Purecloud King! Neither her corpse nor her soul was present. She'd wanted to self detonate at first, but the Redbud King had interrupted her.

That meant only one thing—she wasn't dead.

"This is my oversight... Rumors say that her primary body is a cloud. Her self detonation attempt was just a distraction so she could get away." Redbud's replicas shook their heads in unison and retreated back into their tokens.

What was next to come was Lu Yun's personal affair and she didn't want to pry into his secrets. He'd already displayed too many stunning methods in her vicinity; as inexperienced as she might be with relationships, she understood that some matters took greater precedence.

With the two replicas back in the token, that was the equivalent of the Redbud King dismissing her thoughts. They would reappear only when Lu Yun and the little fox next used their tokens.

"Not even a mountain of purple crystal could kill her?" Lu Yun regarded the development wordlessly.

"She's a little different... We'll get her next time we run into her!" The little fox waved her fists around.

Tiger Butcher and Silver Leopard walked out of hell and fell to their knees in front of Lu Yun. "This servant greets the master and mistress."

"Who's your mistress?!" The little fox glared at them.

They hung their heads without a word.

"Alright, you may rise." Lu Yun waved a hand. "The two of you and the Meteorite King will immediately return to Tiger Butcher City and start a war against the weaker cities around you. Conquer the southern belt of the Multitude Region with the fastest speed possible!"

"Understood!" Startled, the three roared their understanding. Tiger Butcher was more delighted than anyone.

He was the strongest in the region's southern belt to begin with and the only third step king. He'd always wanted to conquer his surroundings, but lacked the strength to do so when there was only a Silver Leopard King under his command.

Now with Lu Yun as his backer and a Meteorite King with Quiet, he could absolutely conquer the entire southern fringe in the shortest amount of time possible!

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"Are you really thinking of starting an empire here?" asked a surprised little fox after the three kings left.

"Go and carefully search through the Multitude Region. Bring back any treasure you find!" Instead of answering, Lu Yun pulled out the Treasurehunter Rat in his robes and issued commands for the rat as well.

"Squeak squeak squeak!" The rat waved his claws with gusto and vanished in a whoosh.

With that, Lu Yun finally straightened his back and breathed out with ease.

“Why not?” He looked to the north, to the depths of the Multitude Region. “As opposed to us searching out Little Yu, why not have her come to us when she hears about us?”

“If we go to her and Jin Naluo picks up on something, that will be bad for her. It’s different if she’s the one who comes to us.”

His lips curved upward into a confident smile. “Besides, isn’t carving out our own territory in the vast Hongmeng and establishing a kingdom that belongs to the world of immortals a tremendous accomplishment?”

“Once the world of immortals expands to assimilating the chaos, the Hongmeng will certainly move against it. We’ll become part of that effort as well! They say that the master of the immortal dao will be the master of the Hongmeng, but the immortal dao was ours to begin with.

“Lu Qing is still in the chaos, he needs a home here too.”

The little fox shook when she heard her son’s name and she nodded gently.

There was another matter that Lu Yun didn’t speak of. He wanted to comprehend the sixth hell and combine the fires of the five to create the flame of the sixth. Only then could he transcend beyond everything and truly set foot upon his own path.

He didn’t know how to materialize the sixth hell, but he understood the notion that any great dao was created step by step through one’s own efforts. The same held true for his own. In his eyes, creating an indomitable faction was also a certain kind of cultivation experience and exploration of dao.

“The City of Immortals is the first flag we’re planting in the Hongmeng. In the near future, the entire Multitude Region will be renamed to the Immortal Region!” Lu Yun said confidently as he lifted his eyes to the sun high in the sky.

“Uh huh!” The little fox nodded adamantly.

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Instead of occupying the City of Immortals, the Tiger Butcher King abruptly returned to his own city and attacked Skyfall City. He used less than a month to breach it, and most incredulous of all was that his army had become populated by hundreds of half step kings at some point in time!

The half step kings were completely fearless in battle and even clashed directly against the Skyfall King in his home ground. When a mysterious first step king under Tiger Butcher’s banner killed the second step Skyfall King with a single sword stroke, Tiger Butcher City devoured Skyfall City!

#### **Chapter 1244: Jin Naluo**

Normally speaking, the Tiger Butcher King would have to expend a great deal of troops to conquer a city. Even he himself would suffer grave injuries, so although he possessed soaring ambitions, he’d never acted on them.

That had held true up until now.

The several hundred half step kings that he commanded were all puppets that Lu Yun had created with the Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals as the core. It didn't matter if they died—with his spacetime combat art, refining more was a simple task.

And more importantly, anything his puppets killed, including kings, became his Infernum. Thus, the more Tiger Butcher waged war, the stronger his troops became.

Likewise, Tiger Butcher and Silver Leopard weren't afraid of getting hurt. Not even death daunted them, since they'd revive from the Tome of Life and Death as long as Lu Yun existed. Far from being ordinary Infernum, they were second to only the Ten Yama Kings as their names were written into the book.

The more cities that Tiger Butcher and the others took down, the stronger Lu Yun's forces became, and the faster the rate of conquest. If nothing out of the ordinary happened, he would own all one hundred and eight cities in the southern belt of the Multitude Region within a year.

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Flames of war had engulfed the region's peaceful southern belt, but since it was on the fringes of the territory, that didn't matter much to the true powerhouses in the center of the Multitude Region. So what if some second and third step kings were squabbling with each other?

But when another piece of news broke in the region with the force of a thunderbolt, it sent everyone into an uproar. The tenth key to the Hongmeng Tower had appeared and had been claimed by the lord of the City of Immortals in the southern belt!

Fifth and sixth step kings flooded out of the Multitude heartland and made straight for the City of Immortals. Though they weren't sure if the news was real, a key to the Hongmeng Tower was too important. A priceless treasure invaluable to sixth level kings, any mention or clues about one was worthy of personal attention and investigation.

Naturally, if the news turned out to be false, the idle sixth level kings wouldn't mind taking a bit of time to ferret out the source of the lies and make them wish for death.

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"Heh, you came quickly." Lu Yun sat in a small pavilion at the foot of a mountain placed in the rear garden of the city lord residence. He was leisurely tasting some tea brewed from a Hongmeng spirit grass.

When he saw his first visitor, he made a welcoming gesture.

Jin Naluo stared blankly at Lu Yun. Never in a million years would he have thought that the little guy who'd run him ragged in a lower world would be strutting around like this. Just look at him! The little fellow was a city lord in the region now??

Jin Naluo began to doubt everything about himself. It'd been such a short period of time since they last saw each other!

"Why is it you?" he asked dumbly.

"Why isn't it me?" Lu Yun chuckled. "Come, sit."

“Do you really have the tenth key to the Hongmeng Tower?” Jin Naluo quickly asked when he sat down in front of Lu Yun. He was ignoring many things around him—including a mountain of purple crystal right beside them.

Lu Yun tossed him a key glittering with purple light.

“It really is a tower key!” Jin Naluo was an extremely ancient sixth level king. And yet, his heart clenched painfully when he looked at the key in his hand.

“It’s mine now!” His expression suddenly twisted and he looked at Lu Yun in savage challenge. It seemed very likely that he would decapitate Lu Yun on the spot if the human dared say no!

“We’re allies, so isn’t what’s mine yours?” Lu Yun chuckled and replied without a care in the world.

His response made Jin Naluo color with embarrassment.

“How about I give you something in compensation?” he coughed dryly.

A key to the Hongmeng Tower was so precious that not even seventh or eighth level kings might own one, to say nothing of a sixth level king like him. With ten out in the open and that blasted Purple King having claimed five of them, each one that remained was uncommonly precious.

“Do I look someone who needs wealth?” Lu Yun pointed at the mountain behind him, which finally drew his visitor’s eyes to the hazy purple landmass. Jin Naluo’s face twitched at the ludicrous sight.

“Don’t you try to ambush me with it, that thing can’t crush me!” At his level, he could naturally identify that this enormous mountain of purple crystal was also an uncommonly heavy treasure. It would be very useful in smashing people as ordinary kings wouldn’t be able to withstand a blow from it.

“Don’t worry, I’m not dumb enough to use my most precious treasure to ambush a sixth level king.” Lu Yun’s smile deepened.

“Your most precious treasure?” Jin Naluo snorted. “Do you think I’ve forgotten that you also have a terrifying bridge, and that the fragment of the Abyssal Hell is also on you?”

“That’s my ultimate trump card, I wouldn’t dare use it in the Hongmeng!” Lu Yun quickly sat upright and adopted a fearful tone.

Jin Naluo grabbed the cup of tea from Lu Yun’s hands and poured it into his mouth. If it wasn’t out of consideration for that bridge, his accustomed manner of interacting with someone like Lu Yun would be to slap him into dust the moment he saw the human. With Jin Naluo’s breadth of knowledge, he could easily tell that the Bridge of Forgetfulness possessed power from the fourth realm!

Additionally, given how the entire Multitude Region was frothing with activity, there was no way that this devious little fellow was just sitting here, defenseless, waiting for all of the kings to arrive.

“Humph,” Jin Naluo sniffed, but then thought of the key that he now owned. A smile floated onto his face again—perhaps it wasn’t so bad to have an ally like this?

“Very well then, expand your sphere of influence in the Multitude Region without any worries. No one will dare do anything to you, not with me backing you up,” he promised with gusto. “This purple crystal

mountain is refined from premium crystal veins, isn't it? Have you latched onto the Redbud King's thigh as well?"

"Jin Naluo," Lu Yun solemnly changed the subject instead of answering. "I know you have the ability to tame the Blood Sea..."

"Don't mention that!" Jin Naluo jumped with shock and quickly released his forcefield around the city lord residence. "The Blood Sea is an absolute taboo topic in the Hongmeng. It's buried eighteen ninth step kings!"

"I can't talk about it, you definitely can't talk about it! We might be able to discuss it when you reach kingdom, but if you mention it now with your cultivation level, not even that bridge can save you if Hong learns that you know!"

Lu Yun shuddered despite himself when he heard the name "Hong" and he inclined his head, refraining from asking further.

Jin Naluo's forcefield suddenly trembled and shattered into pieces. A tall and bulky man suddenly appeared in front of them.

"Hahaha, Jin Naluo! I wasn't certain whether or not the key to the Hongmeng Tower was here, but when you suddenly released your forcefield, that confirmed things. It looks like the key is indeed with this city lord." The man wore a proud smile and sized up Lu Yun.

#### **Chapter 1245: The Legend of the Purple King**

That the newcomer had easily ripped apart Jin Naluo's forcefield meant that he was also a very strong sixth step king. Tall and muscular, he wore a black combat outfit and his eyes glittered out of his face like the night stars. They were fixed on Lu Yun; if it wasn't for Jin Naluo's presence, the newcomer would've already torn Lu Yun to pieces and sifted through the wreckage of the city lord's body for the key to the Hongmeng Tower.

Regardless, Lu Yun could feel an overwhelming pressure bearing down on him. It slammed against his heart and mind, trying to crush his psychological defenses.

"Enough." Jin Naluo suddenly rose to his feet and stood in front of Lu Yun, shielding him from the terrifying pressure.

Large beads of sweat dotted Lu Yun's forehead. The pressure exerted by a sixth step king was so indomitable that it'd almost frozen his thoughts! Since he was only in the common realm, he didn't even count as an ant to a sixth step king.

"Do you want to know what we were just talking about?" Jin Naluo kept Lu Yun firmly behind him. He wasn't so naive that he would mention that Lu Yun had given him the key to the Hongmeng Tower.

"The Blood Sea," Lu Yun forced out through his teeth. "I was just asking the Butcher King about the Blood Sea."

Jin Naluo shifted uncomfortably when he heard Lu Yun refer to him as the Butcher King. He plainly didn't like the title very much.

“The Blood Sea?” The man’s eyes widened.

After burying numerous ninth step kings, the Blood Sea was a taboo in the Hongmeng. Most kings were unwilling to discuss it, but Jin Naluo was an exception. He’d tried to subdue it more than once, but all of his attempts had ended in failure.

He was the only king in the Hongmeng to live after provoking the Blood Sea. As a result, most of his peers avoided offending him, or avoided him entirely. Even the Redbud King kept her distance.

There were already several fifth and sixth step kings gathered in the City of Immortals, but since Jin Naluo was the first to set foot into the city lord residence, the others waited outside for now.

But when he saw Jin Naluo suddenly release his forcefield, the man in black threw caution to the wind.

“That’s right, the Blood Sea,” Jin Naluo admitted readily. “This little guy’s lord is an old acquaintance of mine, so of course we need to chat a bit when we see each other. It’s just the ole Blood Sea, heh heh heh!” He laughed gaily.

The man snorted derisively. “Old acquaintance? You have acquaintances in the Hongmeng?”

“Of course not!” chuckled Jin Naluo. “But my replica has lived for a hundred million chaos tribulations in the second realm and naturally made many acquaintances there. It so happens that this particular acquaintance is also especially interested in the Blood Sea.”

“Do you mean the Purple King?” The man’s face tightened when he heard the chaos mentioned and he narrowed his eyes at Lu Yun. “Are you a descendent of the Purple King?”

“No.” Lu Yun shook his head. “I’m his father.”

Jin Naluo cut off mid chuckle, a state of incomprehension echoed by the man in black.

“I mean that the Purple King is my son, of my bloodline,” Lu Yun added.

Rumble!

A bolt of purple lightning slashed through the sky, seemingly in reaction to his words.

The man’s face whitened and he glared viciously at Lu Yun, then immediately left without a glance backward.

“Why’d he leave?” Lu Yun turned to Jin Naluo with surprise.

“...I want to leave too,” Jin Naluo ground out through grit teeth. “You’ve got some balls, kid, to make up something about the Purple King. I just wanted to use his name to scare off the Nightglow King, but you, you just had to go and—”

“Is the Purple King that scary?” Lu Yun was taken aback by the reaction. The Karmic Tree had clearly captured the man’s terror just now, which was why Lu Yun had elaborated about his son. Who would’ve thought that would actually scare off the Nightglow King?

Even Jin Naluo spoke of the Purple King in an awkward way, a sign of his own unwillingness to offend the great personage. But in Lu Yun's eyes, all three were sixth step kings. There was no need for the other two to be so afraid of the Purple King.

"Scary?" Jin Naluo curled his lip. "Do you only use scary to describe the Purple King?"

"Do you know why the Nightglow King is so terrified of the Purple King? Before the latter came into his fame, he was a city lord of a Multitude City. The Nightglow King once attempted to make trouble for him, but ended up chopped into a hundred and eight pieces and buried beneath a hundred and eight cities. He was freed only after the Purple King escaped into the chaos because he was being hunted by all of the kings in the Hongmeng for possessing five keys.

"The Nightglow King was already a sixth step king then.

"The Enforcer Alliance sent three sixth step kings into the chaos a while back. They were to do something about the Purple King, but he almost beat them to death instead." Derision floated onto Jin Naluo's face. "Perhaps it's been too long since his legends were fresh in everyone's minds, so all of the idiots outside of the Multitude Region have forgotten about his horrors. But us kings in here, none of us have forgotten about him."

Lu Yun smacked his lips and didn't respond.

"You should be glad that the Purple King isn't in the Hongmeng. Otherwise, you'd already be dead as I wouldn't be able to protect you either," Jin Naluo said solemnly to Lu Yun.

"Mm, I understand." Lu Yun nodded.

"The tenth key to the tower has caused too much of a disturbance. How are you going to handle it?" Perhaps it was due to Lu Yun outright gifting him the key, but Jin Naluo was acting ever more like an actual ally.

"I don't know." Lu Yun shook his head. "I'd planned on giving the key to the first person who showed up and then staying out of whatever happened next. But from the looks of things, you don't look like you're going to play along."

Jin Naluo shot a sideways glance at Lu Yun.

"Then the only choice is to reveal everything about me and let you sixth step kings investigate things, so you can then spread that the news about the key was fake." Lu Yun spread out his hands.

"Reveal everything about you?" Jin Naluo snorted. "They'll slice you into thin pieces and extract your true spirit, then wring out every last bit of memory since your birth. Do you think you'd still be alive then?"

He carefully observed Lu Yun's expression as he talked, noting that there was no sign of panic on the human's face.

"...what's your actual plan?" Jin Naluo frowned, a foreboding feeling looming over his heart.

"What else could I have planned? We can all go down with the ship." Lu Yun bared his teeth in a leer. "You've seen the strength of my bridge. Since this is the Hongmeng and not the world of immortals, I

don't need to worry about filling this realm beyond capacity. It's just killing some sixth step kings, no biggie.

"This young master will smash them all with my bridge, whether it's ninth step kings or even that Hong!"

### **Chapter 1246: Mount Cloudcover**

Jin Naluo couldn't help a shudder. He'd witnessed the power of the stone bridge for himself in the Tomb of Heaven and Earth. Things would be just like Lu Yun said if it was fully released—simple beyond belief to kill a few sixth step kings.

However, Lu Yun would then have to bear the consequences of the entire Hongmeng hunting him down.

The stone bridge was a potent treasure and Lu Yun just a tiny common realm cultivator. He didn't have the right to possess such a treasure! Though the bridge was very powerful, Lu Yun was weak. The kings of the Hongmeng had more than a hundred ways to kill him and take the Bridge of Forgetfulness from him.

If the bridge ever appeared out in the open of the third realm, that would either be when Lu Yun had decided to return to the chaos or world of immortals, or when he was strong enough to dominate the Hongmeng.

For now, the bridge's power would spill over to the rest of the Multitude Region, including Jin Naluo's hideaway, if Lu Yun brought it out. Jin Naluo might even be crushed beneath the indiscriminate attack.

"Fine, fine." He gnashed his teeth. "This seat holds the key to the Hongmeng Tower. Come to me if you want it!"

His voice rolled out as rumbling echoes and swiftly traveled through the City of Immortals. The various kings present all looked at each other, particularly the Nightglow King. He hadn't thought that Jin Naluo would so readily admit to this.

"Now that's more like it," Lu Yun chuckled. "You can borrow this bridge for now. Remember to return it after you take care of everything."

He placed a miniature Bridge of Forgetfulness in Jin Naluo's hand. The two shared a smile of common understanding, not needing to say anything.

"Remember, that bridge can only be used for self defense. You can't use it to attack. Don't lose your head and challenge the entire Hongmeng or the eleven supreme heavyweights with it. You'll die in a very, very bad way if you do that," Lu Yun reminded solemnly.

"Self defense? That's enough." Jin Naluo swiftly put the bridge away before a hue of purple light appeared around him. He rose into the air and hurtled toward the inner reaches of the Multitude Region.

"A key to the Hongmeng Tower! That's the light that the keys release! After him!" The fifth and sixth step kings outside of the City of Immortals all rose into the air and chased after Jin Naluo.

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“So that unreliable ally is just taking this hit for us?” A dumbfounded little fox walked out and stared in the direction of where Jin Naluo had gone.

“He’s a cultivator at heart, not an arcane beast king.” Lu Yun sat in a nearby reclining chair and indulged in a good stretch. “The bridge is a treasure of the fourth realm and might be very beneficial to him. If he can comprehend even a little bit of the meaning within, he might be able to break through to seven step kingdom.

“That’s why he spent so much time talking with me.”

Lu Yun had understood what Jin Naluo wanted and the latter had also grasped Lu Yun’s intentions. No words needed to be said and both parties took what they needed.

Lu Yun would’ve never lent out the bridge if it’d been an ordinary treasure of the fourth realm. But since it was a living creature at the heart of things, he didn’t need to worry about what Jin Naluo might do after getting it.

“That Purecloud King is going to be trouble sooner or later. This huge deviation from the plan almost took me down in the most unexpected way possible. I’m not letting her off the hook for this.” Lu Yun’s mood darkened when he thought of the Purecloud King.

More trouble would follow as long as she remained alive. He had to figure out how to locate her.

.....

Newly in possession of the Bridge of Forgetfulness and a key to the Hongmeng Tower, Jin Naluo created a huge uproar in the heartland of the region. However, none of that had anything to do with Lu Yun.

The fifth and sixth step kings of Multitude Region only cared about the key. They couldn’t even be bothered to cast a second look at someone like Lu Yun.

A year passed as the Tiger Butcher King conquered all hundred and eight cities in the Multitude southern fringe. A hundred and eight cities represented a hundred and eight city lords. All of them were second step kings apart from Tiger Butcher at third step. Under his careful manipulation, they all became Lu Yun’s Infernum.

“This is finally our territory.” Lu Yun stood on the walls of the City of Immortals, looking over the entire southern belt with a content smile.

He now had a hundred and nine kings under his command—a terrifying force in any part of the Hongmeng. After all, the vaunted Enforcer Alliance was comprised of only a hundred and eight kings!

Naturally, numbers weren’t everything. There were more than a dozen sixth step kings in the alliance, while the strongest he had in the form of Tiger Butcher was but third step. Regardless, he was the undisputed ruler of the local area and could fully display his talents and ambitions in the Hongmeng!

All had not been calm in the Multitude Region over the past year. Formidable kings constantly poured into the area to vie for the tenth key to the Hongmeng Tower. Lu Yun was entirely in the dark as to Jin Naluo’s current situation.

The Redbud Region also suffered attacks from an unknown source during this time, but the Redbud King was almost invincible when she was in her territory. Utilizing the one hundred and eight thousand layouts, she killed at least ten sixth step kings!

Her name and reputation once more spread throughout the Hongmeng.

With all the action going on, Lu Yun and the little fox kept themselves in peak condition. Lu Yun set up a spacetime formation for the two to cultivate and they made great strides in knowledge and strength.

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“The Treasurehunter Rat’s found something valuable!” Lu Yun brightened from his position on the city walls. The rat had learned from his previous shortcomings and leveraged the Tome of Life and Death to convey his findings to Lu Yun.

“The eleventh key to the tower?” The little fox drew near with hope.

“No.” Lu Yun frowned and created a water curtain with a wave of his hand, showing a majestic mountain without an end in sight.

Hongmeng qi coalesced around it as clouds, creating a striking atmosphere. This mountain was what the rat was seeing. Currently, he was rolling around the foot of the mountain trying to get inside, but stymied at every turn.

“This is Mount Cloudcover!” The little fox identified with a glower. “A dangerous area to the extreme east of the Multitude Region... what’s he doing there?”

“It’s a tomb.” Lu Yun’s frown deepened. “An incredibly illustrious personage was buried in a tomb and that tomb gradually turned into Mount Cloudcover. The rat is almost a king at the moment... there must be a great treasure inside!”

Excitement mounted when he noted the rat’s current cultivation level. The rat’s strength increased when he neared a treasure, becoming stronger the greater the treasure was. Lu Yun didn’t dare imagine how wondrous the treasure inside the mountain must be, given that the rat had ballooned from common realm to half step king.

### **Chapter 1247: Earth Light Magneticus**

“Are we going to Mount Cloudcover right now??” The little fox jumped up and down with excitement.

“Why would we go there?” Lu Yun looked blankly at her.

“To search for treasure.” She didn’t understand his reaction.

“That huge mountain’s been there for such a long time and it’s readily visible to ninth step kings. Do you think they can’t tell there’s treasure inside?” Lu Yun shook his head. “It’s obvious that people have gone before, but no one’s made it out alive. The two of us will end up just like them if we make a trip—we’ll die very grisly deaths.”

“You know how to raid tombs!” the little fox pointed out.

“Tomb raiding has to do with feng shui and layouts. Those haven’t been lost in the Hongmeng.” Lu Yun pursed his lips. “Hidden experts abound in the third realm, I’m sure there are plenty of feng shui masters that are stronger than me. My only advantage is that I’m skilled in the Dragonquake Scripture.

“Nope, we’re not going. We’ll only die if we do.”

“Alright then,” the little fox gave up with resignation. “What should we do next? I’m so bored.”

“Bored?” He flung a look at the sighing fox in human form. “You’re only in the common realm and haven’t even reached the threshold to superior. You may be close to becoming a titled king with your supplemental dao, but there’s still a huge gap! How dare you be bored? Go back and cultivate!”

The little fox shrieked when Lu Yun roughly tousled her long, soft hair and fled back to the city lord manor.

The City of Immortals still lay empty, though it’d become the core city of the Multitude Region’s southern belt. It’d swallowed all of the core essences of the other one hundred and eight cities around it.

Apart from Shi Yan and a thousand cohorts, no living being walked its streets anymore. Cultivators that’d once fled from the City of Immortals were barred when they tried to return.

Lu Yun had rearranged the city so that the Hongmeng qi inside was a hundred times more concentrated than its surroundings, drawing huge interest from its former residents. They attempted to regain entry a few times, but were always run out of town by Shi Yan and the city defenders.

The former inhabitants even banded together at one point to pressure Shi Yan into acquiescing and showed signs of attacking the City of Immortals, but left aghast when the Tiger Butcher King appeared with all of the other former city lords. The kings knelt in unison at the city gates and hailed the Immortal King with loud cries.

The true ruler of the Multitude southern zone was the Immortal King, not the Tiger Butcher King!

The news shook the entire region. Though the fringes of the territory didn’t amount to much, it was still too overwhelming that one hundred and nine kings were allied together. Even the Enforcer Alliance took note and sent a few king-level enforcers to meet the Immortal King.

However, all of them left with smiles after meeting the one who commanded this tremendous force. No one knew what the topic of conversation was.

No one else in the Multitude Region showed the inclination to meet the Immortal King. The key to the Hongmeng Tower was their true focus—they were too busy for anything else.

Lu Yun refrained from penetrating further into the region after conquering the south. The fourth step Black Rainbow King ruled the adjacent territory and he was far stronger than Tiger Butcher. Ten of the latter combined would still be no match for the Black Rainbow King. While the difference from third to fourth step kingdom wasn’t a matter of heaven and earth, it remained significant.

The Immortal King uniting the southern front attracted attention from all of the kings located in the area. If he tried expanding further, they would all band together against him. Of course, very few knew who the Immortal King was, most still thought he was the Meteorite King.

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“Man... what happened to journeying the Hongmeng and adventuring through the world? I’m so so bored,” moaned the little fox as she sprawled on a table and stared at a pile of glittering purple crystals.

“Stop griping. Come on, let’s go have some fun.” Lu Yun rubbed her head jokingly.

“Really?!” The little fox bounced upright and looked at him with sparkling eyes. “Where to?”

“Multitude City,” Lu Yun smiled. “I need two more ingredients to refine the Six Paths Reincarnation Pill, so let’s go try our luck at Multitude City. Plus, I have six pills leftover from refining the Eight Treasures Return Pill. We can go trade them for something useful.”

The little fox leapt into the air and clung onto Lu Yun like a koala. He disengaged her limbs with a rueful smile.

“Oh, shouldn’t we keep some of the Eight Treasures Return Pills for those in the world of immortals?” she asked hurriedly when she thought of something.

“I’ve already gifted them to those who have the ability to take one. Anyone else who touches a pill is just looking to die. They’ll explode from even the slightest whiff of pill aroma. The world of immortals has yet to reach the chaos and is far too removed from the Hongmeng, current immortals don’t have the right to touch the things of the third realm.

“Alright, enough of that. Let’s go to Multitude City.”

Multitude City was the biggest city in the Multitude Region and it lacked a city lord. It was ranked in the top ten of cities in the region. If Lu Yun could establish his own faction in the city, that would mean he was a mogul in the Hongmeng.

However, the region was so large and this grand city at its center too far from the south. If Lu Yun traveled there under his own strength, he wouldn’t reach his destination before he died of old age.

“I need to refine the Six Paths Reincarnation Pill as soon as possible and enter the superior realm!” he sighed.

This pill was an entirely new creation that would help him and the little fox become superiors in the shortest amount of time possible. However, its ingredients were so precious that they still lacked two of them even with the Redbud King’s full efforts.

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A massive purple ship cut through the skies of the Multitude Region. Named the Immortal Region Glory, it was the fastest flight treasure that Lu Yun could refine thus far with his skills. It was faster than even ordinary first and second step kings.

Regardless, his calculations placed them at needing six months for the trip to Multitude City.

A complex network of relationships spanned the Multitude Region. All sorts of factions and kings were at odds with each other, or at the very least, not friends. Thus, there were no transportation formations between cities.

The little fox stood at the bow of the ship and yelled for joy with open arms, venting her frustrations of the past year. Apart from her and Lu Yun, there were also two kings on the Immortal Region Glory. One of them was the Meteorite King wielding Quiet, and the other was the Skyfall King—city lord of the first city that Tiger Butcher had conquered.

Since Skyfall was a peak second step king, Lu Yun had handed him the purple crystal mountain. There was nothing to worry about when it came to their safety during this trip.

“Eh? What’s that?” The little fox yelped and pointed out a hazy green light in the distance.

“Is that... someone in the light?” Lu Yun ran over and raised an eyebrow at the light.

A pillar of hazy light beamed into the skies from underground; there seemed to be a figure struggling within it, trying to escape from its confines. But the light seemed to be an indestructible prison keeping them firmly trapped within.

“It’s Earth Light Magneticus!” the Skyfall King gasped. “Master, leave now! If we get near it, we’ll end up trapped like that king and be tormented to death!”

#### **Chapter 1248: The Magneticus Formation**

“Earth Light Magneticus?? That’s Earth Light Magneticus?!” Lu Yun flushed beet red when he heard the Skyfall King’s warning. “Meteorite, steer us full speed toward that light!”

Red with excitement, he frantically wrung his hands and peered eagerly ahead. Skyfall looked dumbly at his master; the little fox didn’t understand his reaction either.

“Earth Light Magneticus!!” Lu Yun cackled. “Speak of the devil!!! Of the two ingredients that my Six Paths Reincarnation Pill lacks, one of them is the Terra Grass that grows by the banks of Terra Light Magneticus!

“Earth Light is the byproduct of Terra Light, where there is Earth Light, there is Terra Light. If we dig down to where this light is coming from, we’ll find Terra Light Magneticus! And where there is Terra Light, there will be Terra Grass!!”

Lu Yun grinned broadly. He’d spent three years in Starcloud City and one in the City of Immortals after arriving in the Hongmeng. While he couldn’t be hailed as widely read, he wasn’t that far off. He’d focused specifically on studying the natural resources and treasures to be found in the third realm.

The Terra Grass was one of them.

Any other cultivator would keep their distance from the light, but Lu Yun was a supplemental grandmaster who’d almost reached kingdom. Working around Earth Light Magneticus wasn’t too difficult for him.

The Meteorite King called upon his strength and sped the Immortal Region Glory toward the pillar of light. It looked close at hand, but was as far away as the horizon—at least a hundred million kilometers away.

The pillar was so large that it looked like a sky curtain rushing upwards from the ground. It blotted out the sun and dyed everything green within ten million kilometers.

There was more than one being trapped inside it, but apart from the one that appeared to be a king, none of the rest were alive. They'd all been tormented to death by the light,

"That's close enough, stop!" Lu Yun halted their momentum when they were five thousand kilometers from the light. "If we go another couple centimeters forward, we'll be affected by the Earth Light Magneticus and be sucked in."

Shuddering, the Meteorite King firmly landed the ship onto the ground.

When they all alighted, Lu Yun sat down cross legged and sized up the enormous column of light. He called upon formula dao to deduce the specifics of what he faced and didn't open his eyes for a very long time.

"Start digging here at a three degree tilt, stop after you've reached sixty thousand kilometers below ground."

The Skyfall and Meteorite Kings rolled up their sleeves and began digging as their master had indicated. Sixty thousand kilometers might seem a large distance, but the two laborers were kings. It wasn't a difficult task at all.

"Friend... friend! Help me, save me!" A faint cry for help buzzed from the Earth Light Magneticus.

Lu Yun lifted his head and saw the trapped king plastered on a wall of light that was one side of the pillar. He looked at Lu Yun with a woebegone look.

Despite the many layers of light and distance, Lu Yun could distinctly make out that this was the face of a young man. His face was smudged with dirt and his clothes tattered—plainly, he'd been trapped inside for a long time.

Lu Yun could sense a strong desire for survival from the young man and how he'd never given up, despite being held here for so long. He still hoped that he would someday make it out.

"Alright, wait a moment." Lu Yun nodded.

The young man brightened at the stranger's nod and imitated a massive lizard, firmly adhering to the side of the light pillar and looking at Lu Yun with a face full of hope. He was like a drowning man who'd grasped a lifesaving log.

Five thousand kilometers were no different from one meter away for those of the Hongmeng, to say nothing of a king.

"I can't brute force the Earth Light Magneticus apart with my current strength. It can suck in things because of the Terra Light Magneticus. What I can do... is set up a Magneticus Formation to interfere with the magnetic properties of the light." Lu Yun stroked his chin with thought.

The young man was still glued to the wall of light and peering piteously at his potential savior.

"But a formation that can interfere with Earth Light Magneticus... will consume a premium crystal vein.

"Bah, fine. He's a king and doesn't mean me any harm. It'd be nice to make a friend."

There was no hint of negative emotion from the young man trapped in the light. He was as docile as a baby and even felt some gratitude toward the unexpected visitor. This was the major reason behind Lu Yun's decision to help him.

Rumble—

The void shook as a purple shadow appeared over Lu Yun—a sealed premium purple crystal vein.

“Miao, help me,” he called out.

The little fox scrambled forward to help Lu Yun set up a formation. Mentally bracing himself, he took a deep breath and undid the seal over the vein. Purple light and shadow shot into the sky, combining with the green radiance filling the air.

The young man's eyes widened within his confinement. He'd never thought that two strangers meeting him for the first time would bring out a premium crystal vein to save him!

Gratitude and appreciation overwhelmed him.

Lu Yun wasn't afraid of others seeing the vein since they were within range of the Earth Light Magneticus. Even if someone saw the light and shadow, they wouldn't dare make a play for it in this area.

There was a king imprisoned within the light! Anyone who tried to pick a fight would not be long for this world.

Rumble!

The air trembled again and a hazy purple formation took place; an enormous magnetic force flowed from it.

“Fellow daoist, there will be a tiny hiccup in the light after thirty breaths. It will last for a thousandth of a breath and it will be up to you if you can make use of the flaw to escape from the light,” Lu Yun transmitted when the formation snapped into place.

“Understood!” The young man adjusted his breathing and waited for the hiccup. A thousandth of a breath was more than enough for a king.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

Lu Yun's Magneticus Formation shook as blasts of magnetic force rushed out and shot into the Earth Light Magneticus. It wavered as the formation affected it, until finally, a minor flaw rippled through it.

“That's it!” The young man regarded it keenly and blurred into a streak of motion the moment the flaw appeared. He darted out of the pillar of light.

**Chapter 1249: First Genius of the Hongmeng**

"I'm out, I finally made it out!!" The young man shrieked with glee the second he was freed, then crashed to his knees and began bawling loudly, "Uwah... wahhhh WAHHHHHH!!!"

Lu Yun: .....

The little fox: .....

"Do you know that I was trapped in that hellhole for a hundred thousand years?! A hundred thousand years!!" Snot and tears flowed freely as the young man lifted a stained face to Lu Yun. "I thought I was going to die in there! Thank goodness I met you, hiccup, wahhhhhh!"

"Ah, ahem!" Lu Yun coughed dryly and attempted to comfort the young man. "Don't cry, fellow daoist, freedom is yours once again." With a snap of his fingers, he collapsed the Magneticus Formation. The vein of premium purple crystal likewise disintegrated in sections and returned to the Hongmeng.

"I swore an oath!" The young man stood up and wiped his face clean, continuing with earnest sobriety. "That my life would belong to whoever saves me! Because the two of you pulled me out of that damned Earth Light Magneticus, my life is yours!"

"I, Hua Fengwen, will not dare pee if you tell me to poop, I will only beat whoever you tell me to beat and not kill them!" declared the young man who called himself Hua Fengwen with utmost seriousness.

"Hua Fengwen?!" Both Lu Yun and the little fox shrieked at the same time. "You're Hua Fengwen?!"

"Yes, I'm Hua Fengwen!" He nodded solemnly.

"Hua Fengwen disappeared a hundred thousand years ago... to think that he was trapped in an Earth Light Magneticus! Everyone thought that you'd died." The little fox blinked curious eyes at the long vanished king.

Hua Fengwen blushed when he looked into the little fox's limpid eyes. The Hongmeng didn't lack for beauties, but ones as utterly stunning as the little fox were few and far in between.

Hua Fengwen had once been known throughout the Hongmeng as the number one genius in the realm! The foremost genius since time immemorial, his fame had eclipsed even the Purple King's back in the day.

Whether it was the Purple or Redbud King, or Jin Naluo, they'd all started at first step king after becoming a titled king. Making their way up through the ranks, they'd eventually reached sixth step kingdom.

But Hua Fengwen had been a sixth step king as soon as he received his title! This was unprecedented in the Hongmeng!

Though he didn't boast of any magnificent feats of conquest to his name, or rather, he hadn't had time to accomplish anything in the battlefield before being trapped, that didn't affect his heaven defying potential.

When Lu Yun and the little fox studied the various events of the Hongmeng, they'd come across Hua Fengwen's name more than once. Multiple books and references listed him as the leading genius of the realm.



“Are you really Hua Fengwen?” The little fox bounced up to him and assessed him curiously.

“This humble one is indeed him!” Far from being proud, the young man smiled shyly.

“Then what’s your title?” she continued asking.

His face fell. “We don’t need to talk about that, it’s just a title. My real name is Hua Fengwen, so I am Hua Fengwen wherever I go!”

“I bet you his title sucks,” the little fox whispered next to Lu Yun’s ear.

Hua Fengwen’s expression remained dull and he grumbled something inaudible.

“Ahem, fellow daoist, we saved you as a matter of convenience. We don’t require any compensation, so please return to your life as before.” Lu Yun raised a cupped fist salute.

“No!” came the firm response. “Earlier, I swore a solemn oath upon the Hongmeng Tower that my life would belong to whoever saves me from the Earth Light Magneticus. May the tower crush me if I go back on my word!

“You arrived as soon as I finished my oath! ...do you think I don’t want to leave either?” Hua Fengwen sniffled and looked ready to burst into tears again. “I don’t want to die, I really don’t want to die... I’m still young, I’m not a million years old yet! I don’t want to die in the prime of my life!”

Tears streaked down his face as he sobbed out the torment he’d suffered over the past hundred thousand years.

“Master, we’ve reached sixty thousand kilometers below ground—eh?” When the Meteorite and Skyfall Kings popped back out from underneath, the first thing they saw was a bawling Hua Fengwen pouring his heart out to their master.

“You’re Hua Fengwen, the first genius of the Hongmeng!” The Skyfall King recognized him with a quick glance.

“Skyfall King! It’s been a hundred thousand years, why are you still a second step king?” Hua Fengwen quickly wiped his tears dry and addressed his peer with surprise.

The Skyfall King scowled. He’d met Hua Fengwen before the young man became a titled king and he himself had been a second step king then. Plainly, he hadn’t advanced since.

For beings of the third realm, a hundred thousand years wasn’t a long period of time. A quick nap sometimes consisted of several million years.

But for Hua Fengwen, the past hundred thousand years had been far from ordinary. Suffering all this time in the Earth Light Magneticus, he’d constantly threaded a thin line between life and death. If it wasn’t for the fact that he was a sixth step king, there wouldn’t even be bone dust left of him now.

“So these two are your servants... No wonder you could save me from that forsaken place! You’re no ordinary person, fellow daoist!” he mumbled to himself before the Skyfall King could respond.

“Fellow daoist, do you want to head below ground for the Terra Grass? That was what I wanted to do before, which was how I ended up trapped. I’d thought that I could find the grass by following the light,

but it was just a dead end.” Neither did Hua Fengwen care that Lu Yun hadn’t responded to him yet. He happily carried on in his own vein and babbled incessantly.

“We need to be patient, he hasn’t talked to anyone in a hundred thousand years,” Lu Yun whispered and tugged on the little fox’s sleeve.

Repressing giggles, she nodded gently.

“Alright, fellow daoist. Since you want to stay with me, then come with me beneath the earth,” Lu Yun interrupted. “We are indeed here for the grass. The light is just that—light with magnetic properties. It’s not a passageway.”

“Uh huh uh huh.” Hua Fengwen bobbed his head.

“But there’s something we need to get out of the way first, and that is you must follow all of my commands when we’re below. We might be trapped in the Terra Light Magneticus otherwise, and it’s a hundred times more dreadful than the Earth Light!” Lu Yun warned gravely.

“All will be as you command!” Hua Fengwen nodded again. “Ah, yes, what’s your name, fellow daoist?”

“Lu Yun, and this is my dao partner Tushan Miao.” Lu Yun introduced himself and pointed at the little fox as well.

The tips of her ears flushed bright red when she heard the title. Lu Yun’s past self had indeed been dao partners with her replica in the far off Era of Myth, and he hadn’t planned on abandoning her after she’d recovered her past self. As for Qing Yu, she’d tacitly agreed to the relationship.

“Greetings to my fellow daoists!” Hua Fengwen finally brought himself to order and shook off the dirt on his figure to reveal his true appearance. He bowed respectfully to Lu Yun and the little fox.

“Alright, let’s head inside.” Lu Yun and the little fox led the group into the tunnel sixty thousand kilometers long.

### **Chapter 1250.1: The Lost Ancient City**

With the Meteorite and Skyfall Kings working in tandem, they’d naturally made the passageway large and spacious. In fact, the tunnel glittered with gold and could only be described as sumptuous and grand. Those not in the know would think this was an underground palace!

Lu Yun and the little fox looked wordlessly at the two kings, who beamed back at them with fawning smiles.

“Who is this Lu Yun? Is he the descendant of a ninth step king? He’s got the Skyfall King as well trained as a dog,” mumbled Hua Fengwen off to the side.

He knew the Skyfall King as the latter was very famous. This was an eminent second step king who was most likely to breakthrough to third step. Skyfall was also known for a nasty and stubborn temper. More than one sixth step king had wanted to recruit him in the past, but he’d unceremoniously turned them all down.

As he noted the obsequious smile on Skyfall's face, Hua Fengwen felt that something huge must've happened in the hundred thousand years in which he'd been indisposed.

Sixty thousand kilometers were neither a short nor long distance; they quickly reached the end of the tunnel.

"Alright, all of you back up!" Lu Yun said with extreme caution. "Another five hundred kilometers down is where the Terra Light Magneticus is. It's inherently lethal and ordinary kings can't withstand it."

Meteorite and Skyfall nodded at the same time and protected the little fox as they retreated.

Hua Fengwen didn't move, staying behind Lu Yun because he wanted to see what his savior would do to avoid the Terra Light Magneticus. He'd already watched Lu Yun use a formation to disrupt the Earth Light Magneticus.

Neither did Lu Yun mind the genius observing his process. He was deploying regular supplemental methods that wouldn't touch upon his secrets. Eighteen premium crystal veins appeared around him and transformed into eighteen dragons that coiled and hovered in the roomy tunnel.

"This, this kind of wealth!! Is he the son of the Redbud King? No, wait, the Redbud King is an arcane beast king. He... he..." Hua Fengwen stared blankly at Lu Yun and couldn't form any other words.

Meanwhile, Lu Yun coalesced the initial form of his formation and turned it into a terrifying layout.

Hummmm.

Scintillating purple light shimmered into a strange world that filled the void.

"The poles are to the north and south and fill the earth and sky. Stellar above us and terra beneath us..." Lu Yun murmured. "Since it's Terra Light Magneticus here, I'll use a formation to project Stellar Light Magneticus!"

"Project Stellar Light Magneticus?!" Hua Fengwen was utterly flabbergasted.

Stellar Light Magneticus?

Could someone even do that? Stellar Light was a terrifying force that proved fatal for even ninth step kings if they ran into it, but a little fellow not yet in the superior realm wanted to attempt projecting it?

Before Hua Fengwen had a chance to consider this further, an incredible suction force flared from Lu Yun's body and the eighteen purple dragon shadows gathered together into a very bizarre layout.

"This isn't Stellar Light Magneticus, but a layout that possesses its attributes!" Hua Fengwen gasped. "How did he create this layout? How does he know the characteristics of Stellar Light? ...has he seen it before?"

Unbidden, he'd started backing away from the scene. Though he was a sixth step king, he didn't understand what was going on in front of him, nor did he wish to comprehend it.

Hua Fengwen wasn't a supplemental grandmaster and while he possessed some knowledge of formations and layouts, he wasn't skilled in them. If he had to divert attention to studying them, that would impact his own dao.

In the hundred thousand years that he'd been trapped, it had been both torment and trial—an alternate kind of cultivation. If he could consolidate his experience during that time and move forward with it, his progress would shoot ahead.

Seeing that Hua Fengwen was retreating out of sight, Lu Yun held nothing back. The layout of Stellar Light exploded into forty-nine iterations, strengthening its magnetic force with each change.

Forty-nine shifts later saw the formation transform into a purple shaft that stretched five hundred kilometers ahead.

“Let's go!” Lu Yun shouted and jumped into the passage. The little fox, Hua Fengwen, and others were close behind him.

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A vast space of unbounded azure blue appeared before them. A rippling pool in its center exuded shimmering blue, and tufts of blue grass grew less than a few kilometers from its banks.

Terra Grass!

“The Terra Light Magneticus here has become a Terra Pool Magneticus!” Hua Fengwen's eyes widened when he saw the modestly sized pond. He was so overcome that he ignored his goal from a hundred thousand years ago—the Terra Grass.

Quickly stepping forward, his expression changed again when he fully took in the pool of light that'd turned into a liquid state.

“Your formation sent us here in one go, what kind of perverse existence are you?!” He whipped around and looked at Lu Yun.

Lu Yun ignored the genius, instead bending down to carefully harvest the Terra Grass. This was one of the main ingredients for the Six Paths Reincarnation Pill!

Hua Fengwen sheepishly shut his mouth when no answer was forthcoming.

“Master, there's a tiny island in the middle of the pool with a piece of Stellar Stone Magneticus on it,” the Skyfall King suddenly whispered to Lu Yun.

“Stellar Stone Magneticus?!” Lu Yun jerked his head up to peer at the center of the pool.

There was an azure blue island there with a fist-sized crystalline item at its center. Translucent throughout, it emitted layers of fantastical radiance.

Stellar Stone Magneticus!

One of the most premier materials in the Hongmeng!

The Stellar Light Magneticus that could be found within the stone was the sharpest material in the realm. Additionally, the stone itself was prime material for refining flying swords. But in order to make use of it, the refiner had to reach kingship through supplemental dao. Only then would they have the right to touch the stone.

“This stone will be the greatest benefit that we reap on this trip,” Lu Yun took a deep breath. “I have Quiet, so I don’t need another sword. But if I incorporate the Stellar Stone Magneticus into the mountain of purple crystal...”

The idea lit a fire in his heart that couldn’t be doused.

“A fist-sized piece of Stellar Stone Magneticus!” Hua Fengwen sucked in a sharp breath as well. “The piece that appeared in Multitude City a hundred thousand years ago was just the size of a speck of dust. It went for an incredible hundred thousand veins of premium purple crystal... How much would this one sell for?!”

A hundred thousand crystal veins were the equivalent of Lu Yun’s big mountain. Second step kings such as the Scorch and Moon Kings possessed at most a hundred veins in their personal wealth.

“Sell? Why would I sell this? I’m a supplemental grandmaster who’s almost made it to titled king! I’ll be able to refine this stone if I ascend.”

Reaching kingdom through the supplemental paths!

This was the first time that the thought entered Lu Yun’s mind after arriving in the Hongmeng. He’d never been in a hurry to reach kingdom before because he wanted his cultivation and grasp of supplemental paths to progress at the same rate. He aimed to reach that level for both of them at the same time, but the appearance of the stone changed his mind.

“If I want to become a king through a supplemental path, I need to refine a king-level treasure or pill. The Six Paths Reincarnation Pill can help me and the little fox reach superior realm, but it’s not on par with a king level pill.” The more Lu Yun thought about this, the crazier his thoughts became.

Hua Fengwen stood quietly off to the side and didn’t express any sentiments. Like he’d said, he’d sworn a solemn oath to the Hongmeng Tower that he would work for whoever saved him from the Earth Light Magneticus. Thus, he had no designs on the stone.

“The isle that’s half a kilometer long beneath the Stellar Stone Magneticus should be a product of a Terra Stone Magneticus,” he suddenly said. “Though it’s not as precious as Stellar Stone, it’s still a rare treasure. It also nurtures Terra Light Magneticus!”

“We’ll take it, we’ll take it all!” the little fox suddenly crowed. “We’re taking that pool of Terra Water Magneticus with us as well!”

“Yes, we’ll take it all.” Lu Yun forced his leaping emotions to calm down and turned to the genius. “There’s still time enough for you to change your mind.”

“I won’t.” Hua Fengwen shook his head. “I said that I’d serve whoever saved me, and while I won’t be your servant, I will never betray you.”

“Alright then.” Lu Yun nodded. “There’s no need for the tower if you do betray me, I’ll execute you with my own hands.”

Hua Fengwen nodded wordlessly.

With a wave of his hand, Lu Yun deployed the abyss in the void over the pool. It swallowed the entire body of water, as well as the Terra and Stellar Stone Magneticus, like a cavernous mouth.

“That’s... a hell of the fourth realm!” Hua Fengwen shuddered. It was too late now if he wanted to change his mind.

### **Chapter 1250.2: The Lost Ancient City**

The void darkened the moment the pool of Terra Light Magneticus was procured; only the Terra Grass in the ground glowed with a dim blue hue. The group swiftly picked all of the grass before reassembling to leave with contentment.

“We can’t take our original path back!” Hua Fengwen suddenly said. “The disappearance of the Terra Light Magneticus will disperse the Earth Light Magneticus outside. That will draw curious eyes to come investigate.

“Many sixth step kings visited in the hundred thousand years I was trapped, but they all failed. The sudden vanishing of the pillar of light will definitely attract their attention.”

“Don’t worry, they’re all focused on the key in Jin Naluo’s hands—” the little fox stopped talking as soon as she started.

An imperceptible shaking traveled to them from all directions—someone was attacking this part of the land.

“So fast!” Lu Yun’s eyebrows shot into his hairline. “Come on, we’ll leave from the bottom of the pool!”

He retrieved the abyss and took point, jumping into the big pit left behind by the pool.

“What a damn shame, even the sand at the bottom of the pool was a treasure,” the little fox grumbled.

Lu Yun smiled ruefully, busily setting up another layout. It opened a new passage at the bottom of the pool and whisked them away.

Boom!

The void shook as a crack opened up and a figure darted through it.

“I was a step too late!” The frosty tones belonged to a woman. “Dammit, they didn’t even leave behind a blade of Terra Grass. Who did this?!”

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“What a haul, what a crazy haul!” The little fox jumped up and down on the Immortal Region Glory and would’ve flashed back into her true form if Lu Yun hadn’t stopped her.

“We’re richer than the Redbud King now, aren’t we??” She swung Lu Yun’s arm around with utter glee.

“The Redbud King can spend her purple crystals however she’d like. Can we say the same for what we have?” Lu Yun answered impatiently and flicked a sideways glance at her. However, he couldn’t hide the joy in his eyes either.

A pool of Terra Light Magneticus, Terra Stone Magneticus, and Stellar Stone Magneticus... their combined value was more than likely on par with the Redbud King's mountain. There were plenty of purple crystals in the Hongmeng, but treasures such as the stones were something that could only be chanced upon and not actively sought out.

"Come, let us head to Multitude City and occupy part of it. Let's become a mover and shaker in this Multitude Region!" Hua Fengwen declared with heroic spirits.

He wasn't a Multitude king—he'd traveled to this territory to carve out a kingdom of his own. He suddenly pressed his hand to the helm of the Immortal Region Glory and infused it with a heady rush of power.

The ship immediately sped up by more than a hundred times and streaked into a thin line of light that melded with the void.

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Three days later.

"This is Multitude City?" Lu Yun swallowed hard when he saw the loftily majestic metropolis in front of him.

"I.., think so? I've never actually been, so I don't know the way." Hua Fengwen awkwardly scratched his head. "But the words over the city gates do proclaim it to be Multitude City, so... why isn't there anyone here?"

He was rather baffled by the empty streets of the city in front of them.

Multitude City was the most prosperous city in the Multitude Region and sat in its center. Commotion should've been hustling and bustling through its gates, crowds jostling and shuffling past each other while sweat and voices filled the air. It shouldn't be the dead quiet of what they saw in front of them.

True enough, the city was vast, and vaster than any that Lu Yun had ever seen before. He couldn't see to its end even with his current abilities. It gave him the feeling that he was situated in the Redbud Plains.

It was so incomprehensibly limitless and every black brick in the simple and broad city walls seemed to speak of the many vicissitudes of life—markers of time itself!

Lu Yun could read the power of time in the city walls.

"I get it!" The Meteorite King's eyes suddenly widened with dismay and he spoke fearfully, "The lost ancient city... Legends speak of an ancient city lost somewhere in the Multitude Region that belongs to the dead. The living should not come near it or lay eyes upon it. What are we doing here??"

"Yes, that's, that's right! This is the place!" concurred a Skyfall King with chattering teeth. "Our destination is Multitude City, which is why its name appears over the doors of this lost city. I corralled my thoughts just now and changed my destination to Skyfall City. Sure enough, I then saw the placard for Skyfall City over its doors!"

"Then will it turn into the fourth realm if I want to go to the fourth realm?" the little fox blinked and asked hesitantly.

“No, you’ll only see a mental illusion.” Lu Yun shook his head. “Why don’t we go inside for a look?”

“Are we not going to Multitude City anymore?” The little fox didn’t seem to care much for this city.

“We can’t.” Hua Fengwen took a deep breath. “We can’t go anywhere else other than here. I’d heard of this ancient city before arriving in the Multitude Region, but never thought that I’d really run into it a hundred thousand years later.”

He turned around and saw another city behind them, the exact same as the one before them.

“There’s a city in the sky as well.” The Meteorite King looked up. The same city and city gates were facing them.

They were surrounded by a city.

“Since we’ve stumbled across it, let’s go inside for a look.” Lu Yun didn’t mind their current circumstances. “If legends of it exist, that means there are people who’ve safely departed its premises after running into it. If someone else can leave safely, I’m sure we can do the same.”

Of that, he was confident of.

In his eyes, this city was just an extremely complicated layout. It wouldn’t be difficult to dismantle as long as he located its center point.

Creak—

The heavy city gates rasped out hoarse groans, like they hadn’t swung open for hundreds of millions of years. A heavy stench of decline and decay rushed into the group’s noses as they fully opened.

“Have there really been people here before?” the little fox asked with difficulty, covering her nose and mouth with her sleeve.

“I don’t know... Its legends exist within the Multitude Region, but there doesn’t seem to be a concrete example of who’s seen it before,” the Skyfall King mused.

“This city really is a bit big for us.” Lu Yun tilted his head up and up and up. Just the city gates alone were almost a hundred thousand kilometers tall. Any casual mark in the gates was a path to the heavens in their eyes.

It wasn’t that the gates had been purposefully made this large to showcase the stature of the city, but that it was proportional to its residents. The citizens were most likely some sort of giant or titan since the city gates were several thousand kilometers thick. Lu Yun couldn’t tell what material they were made out of.

“As we thought!” The group’s expressions changed after entering the city proper.

All of its buildings were at least several thousand kilometers tall, with some so elevated that their rooftops couldn’t be seen—those were at least five hundred thousand kilometers tall. Of one thing Lu Yun could be certain, and that this city was completely empty. There was nothing alive inside.

A skull several hundreds of kilometers across appeared abruptly in front of them, staring straight at them with empty eye sockets.



It was the skull of a dog.

“The city gates have vanished.” The Meteorite King brought out Quiet and took a deep breath. “Master, what should we do now?”

“Stay here and don’t move.” Frowning faintly, Lu Yun felt there was something a bit off about where they were.

He suddenly called upon Size Manipulation and grew explosively—one meter, two meters, ten, a hundred, five kilometers, five hundred... five thousand!

Lu Yun stopped when he was five thousand kilometers tall and finally found himself to be in harmony with the city. Everything appeared very natural, showing that the buildings by the side of the road weren’t meant for people. They were the dens of some sort of animal.

“What kind of a place is this?” The strange feeling grew stronger in his heart.

His body expanded once again until it was five hundred thousand kilometers tall, but he still couldn’t see the limits of the city. He remained fully synchronized with it, as if a body at this height was the true master of this city. Buildings that were tens of thousands of kilometers tall by his feet were still the homes of animals.

“Bigger!” Setting his jaw, he grew another ten times until he was five million kilometers tall.

The city still dwarfed him, but he also continued to be one with it.

“What the heck?” Lu Yun was certain that the city hadn’t changed along with him, that the buildings had been like this all along.