

Necropolis 1271

Chapter 1271: Empyrean King

“An eighth step king!!” Fineheart and Finepure quailed when they took a close look at the newcomer. It was an eighth step king!!

And the Immortal King, a supplemental king in the common realm, was hugging her fiercely and raining kisses down on her face!!

The two sisters felt the world spin around them.

“Is he a boytoy? A concubine?” They looked at each other.

No wonder this kid was so cocky as to not respect the Colosseum and establish the Immortal Pagoda on its grounds! He was the lover of an eighth step king!

And no wonder the indescribably beautiful Intrace King was still a virgin. She was absolutely rivaled by this eighth step king!

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Qing Yu was here.

The one who'd haunted Lu Yun's dreams was finally here.

He couldn't control his emotions or cared that the Finepure and Fineheart Kings were present. Wrapping his beloved in a tight hug, he expressed his endless pining with ardent kisses.

The little fox sat off to the side and quietly watched the couple without any trace of jealousy or dissatisfaction on her face. To her, this was how things should be. After all, there'd once been no trace of her to be found in Lu Yun's heart.

It was only after she'd sent a soul force replica to keep Lu Yun's past self company and they weathered an unceasing litany of events together did her form gradually eke out a space in his heart. She felt neither disappointed nor bitter about the current situation; it was already very fortunate that she could stay by his side.

By the time the lovebirds reluctantly parted, blushing shyness had replaced the trace of derision on Qing Yu's face.

“You... there are other people here,” she pouted charmingly.

Finepure and Fineheart both trembled. The eighth step king was acting cute in the Immortal King's embrace? That didn't seem to be a sign that he was a trophy companion. With unspoken accord, the two focused on their toes and were completely oblivious to whatever was taking place around them.

“Don't worry, they're doing a good job of being the newest furniture in the room,” Lu Yun coughed.

“I'd thought you'd create another kit with the little fox, but I see you haven't taken her to bed yet?” Qing Yu questioned with an inscrutable smile.

Beet red, the little fox fidgeted like a child having done something wrong. Meanwhile, Qing Yu happily skipped up to her and began chattering away.

“Ahem!” Grinning, Lu Yun walked up to Fineheart and Finepure. “Allow me to introduce my dao partner, the ruler of Hopeless Major.”

“Also known as the Emyrean King.” Qing Yu turned around.

“The ruler of Hopeless Major?!”

“Emyrean King?!” Both sisters shuddered violently, finally understanding what kind of strength the Immortal King had at his beck and call.

Hopeless Major of the Valley of Ten Evils! That could easily raze all of Multitude City—nay, the entire region—to the ground, much less a mewling Colosseum!

As strong as the city and region were, that was because they benefited from the Endless Reaches to the north. Hopeless Major happened to be the overlord of the Endless Reaches.

Compared to the reaches, Multitude Region was so insignificant that the two could never be mentioned in the same breath. That was the true dwelling of experts within the Hongmeng and a death zone for all below sixth step kingdom.

What terrified them the most was that the young girl in front of them appeared the very picture of ethereal innocence. Yet, she was the dictator of Hopeless Major—the Emyrean King!

“We uh, we have urgent matters at home. I’m afraid we need to take our leave!” Finepure grabbed her sister and the two quickly scuttled off into the distance.

“Then about the partnership you mentioned...” Lu Yun called out after them.

“We won’t force the issue since the Immortal King is unwilling!” The two doubled their pace, like hungry ghosts from hell were after them.

“Are you annoyed that I got in the way of your womanizing?” Qing Yu smirked at Lu Yun.

“How would I ever be annoyed? If it wasn’t for you, they’d probably eat me alive today and not even leave the bones behind,” Lu Yun chuckled ruefully.

“Eat you alive? Why do I feel like you’re still the one who got the better of that?” grumbled the little fox.

Lu Yun rolled his eyes while Qing Yu stifled a laugh.

“You’re finally here, Little Yu! I’d thought you’d run into some trouble!” His expression fully relaxed when he looked at his beloved. It was the first time he’d felt so carefree since arriving in the Hongmeng, as if all of the pressure weighing down his heart had suddenly lifted.

“I have indeed run into trouble!” Qing Yu’s expression shifted to seriousness. “I need your help and you need to grow into your strength as fast as possible. Only when you become a titled king through cultivation level can you help me!”

“What trouble??”

“It has to do with the world of immortals!” Qing Yu took a deep breath and spoke with uncharacteristic solemnity, “Violetgrave didn’t send me to look after Hopeless Major on a random whim. She wants me to protect the world of immortals through the Hongmeng!”

“The various heavyweights of the third realm—the most powerful ninth step kings—are hatching a plot. They want to take advantage of the world of immortals in its infancy and refine it through the void!”

“All of the so-called Valleys of Ten Evils are trying to stop them, which is why they’ve been labeled dens of evil!”

“Refine the world through the void?” Lu Yun jumped with shock.

“That’s right!” Qing Yu inclined her head. “The valleys are battling those ninth step kings as we speak, so I can’t expose the relationship between the two of us. If they knew, the ninth step kings would come for you.”

“Then what about the Fineheart and Finepure Kings who just left...” Lu Yun’s mind raced. No wonder Qing Yu had stayed away from him all this time; she’d been afraid of bringing trouble down on his head.

But with the great disturbance that the Immortal Pagoda had caused, it was normal for someone from Hopeless Major to come take a look.

“Don’t worry, I’ve erased their memories. They won’t remember a thing after leaving.” Qing Yu smiled confidently. She was an eighth step king now, one of the highest levels there were. Dealing with two sixth level kings was as simple as turning her hand over.

“Little Yu, who would’ve thought that you’d be an eighth step king upon reaching kingship!” Lu Yun smiled proudly as he looked over his beloved.

“I was actually ninth step when I first ascended!” She shook her head, still solemn. “I destroyed one of my own dao rules to go down to eighth step!”

“What?” Lu Yun paused.

“You’ll be the same when you reach kingship, but if you ascend directly into a ninth step king, you’ll be attacked by an unknown existence. The Hongmeng won’t accept you, so you must destroy one of your dao rules and retreat to an eighth step king!”

Chapter 1272: Lu Yun and Qing Yu

Dao rules.

They formed in one’s body when one reached kingship through cultivation level. The more a king possessed, the stronger their battle strength. A first step king possessed one dao rule, a second step possessed two, so on and so forth.

Nine took shape in Qing Yu’s body when she reached kingship, but becoming a titled king at this level violated one of the Hongmeng’s taboos. To avoid being rejected by the realm, she destroyed one of her dao rules and withdrew to eighth step king.

“The Hongmeng is a jail and a being with an incredible will is its warden. It forbids many things from taking place in the realm,” Qing Yu explained. “The order of time, the Dragonquake Scripture, ascending to kingdom as a ninth step king, and many others. That will is the jailer of the realm and supervises all of the inmates, preventing them from growing overly powerful and breaking free of the jail.

“I strongly suspect that when the world of immortals expands to the Hongmeng, that mind will reach out and crush the world!”

“Is it the will of the Hongmeng?” Lu Yun frowned deeply.

“Not of the Hongmeng.” Qing Yu shook her head. “The Hongmeng is just an enormous space filled with endless profundities. It was never able to evolve into a real world, so no will can form here.

“That will most likely belongs to some frightening being, very possibly from the fourth realm.”

“If it has to do with the fourth realm...” Lu Yun set his jaw. “I’ll have She Nong come here and squash it.”

Qing Yu lowered her head without a word. Plainly, she didn’t think that She Nong and the others would be a match for the realm’s warden.

Unless... those once imprisoned in the Hadal Hell regained their strength and returned to their prime. Otherwise, a puny She Nong would be no match for the third realm’s jailer.

This part of the Hongmeng was very different from the other Hongmeng worlds as seen from the fourth realm. The others were just grains of sand, but the immortal dao had arisen in this one and provided it with a kind of foundation.

Qing Yu had once calculated that the root of the fourth realm was very likely in the world of immortals, so those of the fourth realm paid especial attention to this part of the Hongmeng.

Lu Yun’s brows snapped together.

“And!” Qing Yu suddenly puffed up her cheeks. “I want crystal veins! I hear that you’re a big shot these days and in cahoots with the Redbud King. Give me crystals!”

“Hahaha, okay okay okay. I’ll give you as much as you want!” Lu Yun broke out in easy laughter. Wasn’t everything he was doing now all for her sake?

And she wanted the crystal veins not for her own gain, but for the world of immortals!

Qing Yu spoke no further on this topic; she didn’t want to affect Lu Yun’s frame of mind. The Valley of Ten Evils was a shield for the first realm, and there was very possibly a road leading directly to the world of immortals deep within its depths. Perhaps it’d already turned into a ghastly battlefield.

“Ah, you may have a lot of kings here, but they’re all lower level and not very useful.” Since she was an eighth step king, she could see through the entire pagoda with a single glance. Her scan noted Hua Fengwen as well, but he was similarly a low level king without much use in her eyes.

“I have a seventh step king here who tries to trip me up at every turn—she’s even showing signs of betraying Hopeless Major. I’ll be much more at ease if you kill her and turn her into one of your Infernum.” Qing Yu deposited an unconscious woman in black on the ground with a wave of her hand.

She'd made full preparations after hearing that Lu Yun had arrived, readying everything she could think of—including the seventh step king that'd opposed her time and time again.

The king was one of the founding members of Hopeless Major and had been part of the faction upon inception. However, she'd never fought the ninth step kings of the realm and frequently raised the idea of forming an alliance with them to refine the world of immortals.

She was exceptionally disgruntled at Qing Yu's sudden appearance and had attempted to sway the other kings numerous times to overthrow Qing Yu's rule. After her last attempt, Qing Yu unleashed her own claws and knocked her unconscious for Lu Yun to deal with.

"Alright!" Lu Yun summoned Quiet without another word and raised the sword high, chopping the woman's head off.

Whoosh!

Hellfire appeared in the next second and enveloped the black-robed seventh step king.

"This servant greets the master!" The woman's form slowly materialized out of the black flames. She fell to both knees and pressed her forehead to the ground, prostrating herself before Lu Yun.

"Greetings to the two mistresses!" She offered the same grand gesture to Qing Yu and the little fox.

"One mistress. Singular." The little fox shuffled uncomfortably.

"Two!" Qing Yu gaily took her hands. "Keep a close eye on him when I'm not around, make sure he doesn't dally with other women!"

The little fox's eyes disappeared into two crescents with the force of her smile.

"Don't worry, just leave it to me!" She thumped her chest.

Next to them, Lu Yun muttered something inaudible without pause.

"Master, this servant is guilty!" the black clad woman suddenly said. "This servant secretly contacted a ninth step king—the Broadsword King—and divulged Mistress Empyrean's movements to him. I invited him to ambush the mistress!"

The woman's name was the Jade King and she fully recounted her conspiring with the Broadsword King.

Cold sweat dotted Lu Yun's forehead. Thank goodness he'd raised hell at this juncture and ensured that Qing Yu would hear of his arrival. Thank goodness she'd decided to come to him personally. If a ninth step king had ambushed her at any point in time, she really would have died!

His hands moved subconsciously and hurriedly slapped a Resurrection Talisman onto her body. He then grabbed a double fistful of the talisman and stuffed them into her hands.

Qing Yu smiled wryly.

"There are also ninth step kings in Hopeless Major, so it's not like the Broadsword King will find it easy to kill me." However, she still carefully put the talismans away.

“Here, take this sword. Its name is Quiet and it’s the foremost sword of the fourth realm. It will shine with greater power in your hands!” Lu Yun handed the weapon over to his beloved. He’d established a relationship of equals with it, so it would automatically accept Qing Yu after being gifted to her.

“Perfect!” Qing Yu lit up. She did indeed lack a useful treasure; Quiet would fill that gap wonderfully.

“And this mountain of purple crystal...”

“No! Keep it!” This time, she hastily turned her dao partner down. “You need a useful treasure to fall back on as well. There will be many battles in which you have to take to the field!”

Lu Yun blinked.

“Here, you take this. This is all the treasure that Hopeless Major has accumulated since the day of its founding. It’s no use staying with me and it only collects dust sitting in the vaults, so you might as well make the best use of it!” Qing Yu placed an unusually heavy storage treasure in Lu Yun’s hands. With his current level of strength, the tiny treasure almost sank through the floor and took him with it.

Chapter 1273: Resources

The Jade King swallowed hard with shock; Qing Yu had completely emptied out the vaults of Hopeless Major!

Apart from some critical pills, medicines, items, and purple crystal veins, she’d brought the rest of the treasures here to Lu Yun. These endless mounds of wealth would immediately vault him to the seat of richest man in the Hongmeng.

“Uh, um... this is too much!” Lu Yun’s eyes threatened to fall out of his head when he took a look at what was inside the storage treasure. If its contents were emptied out into the world of immortals, they would overflow into the cosmos around the planet. Some specific items were bigger than the entire world!

“They’re just sitting there in Hopeless Major, no one can make use of them.” Qing Yu caressed Quiet with a smile. Just this sword alone was more valuable than all of those treasures—this was an item from the fourth realm!

Additionally, it still belonged to Lu Yun. While she could deploy the weapon to its full limits, anything it killed would become one of his Infernum.

“Here are purple crystal veins!” A ball of hazy light appeared in Lu Yun’s hands. “This is five hundred thousand premium crystal veins. The Redbud King brought it as a congratulatory gift for the Immortal Pagoda’s grand opening. It’s all yours!”

“Wonderful!” Qing Yu’s eyes gleamed brightly. Hopeless Major lacked most for purple crystals at the moment, and nothing about this was surprising since the little fox had told her about the relationship between the Redbud King and Lu Yun.

Five hundred thousand veins might sound like a lot, but it was far from enough to the major. But with the Immortal Pagoda open for business now and all of the treasures that Qing Yu had brought, it wouldn’t be a difficult task for Lu Yun to earn more.

“Little Yu, just tell me what else you need. I don’t have it all just yet, but I’ll have it soon since I’ve found my footing here!” Lu Yun knew that his beloved didn't want to give him too much pressure when he saw her refrain from continuing. He wasn’t afraid of this kind of pressure—the more there was, the greater his own motivation.

Qing Yu wasn’t doing any of this for herself or Hopeless Major, but for the world of immortals that they all protected!

As weak as he was at the moment, Lu Yun couldn’t participate in that level of battle, but he could and would supply all manner of supplemental items to his dao partner.

“I need purple crystals, pills, medicines, and all sorts of treasures.” Qing Yu gently bit her lip. “But I need far too many of them and there’s only one of you...”

She really didn’t want to give him any pressure. Lu Yun would die of exhaustion if she really listed everything she wanted; he was the only one propping up the Immortal Pagoda. Though the little fox was also a supplemental king, she was one of illusions and not skilled at refining pills or weapons.

“Hahaha!!” Lu Yun threw his head back in laughter when he heard this. “Don’t you worry about that, I’ve specialized in puppet craft since arriving in the Hongmeng. I can create grandmaster level puppets now! What do you think of this Immortal Pagoda? I built it with my puppet grandmasters.”

His Bean Soldiers were also a type of puppet art. The powerful puppets that he’d deployed in recent battles were a combination of that death art and puppets. When he inscribed the Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals into them, they were on par with half step kings.

In the same vein, it was too difficult for puppets to ascend to kingdom. They would have the strength of a first step king only if they congregated in another Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals.

Regardless, their capabilities were still frightening enough. Nowhere in the current Hongmeng, not even the Valley of Ten Evils, could a faction assemble an army of half step kings. Lu Yun could do so as long as he had sufficient time to refine his puppets!

“Give me a year. I’ll give you an army of a hundred thousand half step kings after a year!” he promised heroically. He’d been short on resources before; Qing Yu’s delivery abruptly provided him considerable latitude for future action. He even had enough ingredients to refine countless cauldrons of Eight Treasures Return and Six Paths Reincarnation Pills.

The crystal core of an arcane beast king? Hopeless Major had enough to play dominoes with.

Terra Grass? It was rare enough that Hopeless Major didn’t have many blades either, but Lu Yun possessed a pool of Terra Light Magneticus that he stored in the Purple Stellar Mountain. He had as much grass as he wanted.

“I was expecting to be berated by those old things after emptying the Hopeless Major vaults, but returning with five hundred thousand premium crystal veins ought to shut them up,” Qing Yu chuckled merrily.

“Ah, you should probably change the Jade King’s presence and appearance. Though she rarely ventures into the public eye, I can’t promise that no one will recognize her. It would be disastrous if anyone discovered you have a connection to Hopeless Major,” she quickly added.

“Don’t worry, I’ll use a hundred and eight karmic fruits to refine a Shapeshifting Talisman. It’ll completely change her aura and looks. No one will recognize her!” Lu Yun had planned to use this method to alter the Beast King, but since the latter was only a sixth step king, he wasn’t worthy of wasting karmic fruits on.

There was a Hua Fengwen holding down the fort in the Immortal Pagoda. Though his dao heart teetered on the edge of shattering, his progress on the path of dao would leap forward as soon as he came to terms with recent happenings.

He’d taken the mountain of Earth Light Magneticus away from the Windcall King earlier, stunning the crowds with his hand. The Jade King that Qing Yu brought was worthy of Lu Yun expending a hundred and eight karmic fruits to modify her.

A hundred and eight golden karmic fruits appeared in the air and came together as a sparkling talisman that melted into the Jade King’s body. Her demeanor and bearing immediately changed drastically, transforming from the frosty Jade King into a brand new person.

Qing Yu applauded with appreciation. “The karmic fruits are so magical, I can’t see her original form at all! If I can’t, those ninth step kings won’t be able to either!” she declared confidently.

“Don’t use the Jade King name anymore. From now on...” Lu Yun frowned slightly. “Jinse! Your name is Jinse!”

Qing Yu looked at him with surprise.

“There is a poem from my homeland that starts with ‘Oh beautiful zither, why do you have fifty strings instead of twenty-five? Every chord and note speak of my longing for those beautiful days’. The characters ‘jin’ and ‘se’ mean a beautiful zither,” sighed Lu Yun. His homeland was Earth—his roots and the foundation of the world of immortals.

Qing Yu gently grasped his hand.

“Thank you for bestowing me with a name, master!” Jinse prostrated herself on the ground again.

“Here’s fifty thousand karmic fruits, take them. They’re more useful than any pill, medicine, or treasure.” Lu Yun handed over another twinkling ball of light.

The amount of fruit that the Karmic Tree could bear was fixed at a maximum of a hundred and eight thousand fruits. If it wasn’t for a massive quantity needed to repel the yin spirits in the cosmos around the world of immortals, Lu Yun would’ve given all of them to Qing Yu.

“Alright!” Qing Yu accepted them without a second thought, causing Lu Yun’s heart to sink slightly. Her subconscious reactions were indicating that the situation was much more severe than she’d conveyed!

Chapter 1274: Supplemental Dao Alliance

Qing Yu left soundlessly upon the air. She couldn't stay too long as her every movement and gesture was under surveillance, given her identity as overlord of Hopeless Major.

Though ninth step kings wouldn't eavesdrop on their conversation, the longer Qing Yu remained in the Immortal Pagoda, the more attention it'd draw to Lu Yun.

A lost Lu Yun stared blankly at where she'd vanished, his forehead furrowed in a deep frown.

The little fox walked up to him and gently pulled on his hand. "We'll continue to grow stronger and one day, we'll be able to help her!"

"Mmhm." He nodded.

"I'm a supplemental king of illusions, I can create formations, arts, and items of enchantment," she suddenly said. "There's a lot of new money and layabout children of wealth and power in the city, they should like that kind of stuff. Their crystals are the easiest to earn."

"There's no rush, all in due time." Lu Yun shook his head. "We can't charge forward too hastily, or we'll definitely attract a close look into us."

The true movers and shakers of the Hongmeng were the ninth step kings. They appeared to be wholly uncaring of secular matters on the surface and completely focused on attaining the fourth realm, but in reality had long since plotted around the immortal dao. Anything that happened in the third realm came under their surveillance, and there were eleven even more terrible existences above them.

There were ten factions who opposed them; for that, the kings listed them as unholy, depraved groups—the Valley of Ten Evils. All sorts of rumors, gossip, and blame were assigned to the ten. The moniker of the Valley of Ten Evils was incontrovertibly engraved in everyone's heart now, and the fact that these ten were cruel, nefarious organizations part of Hongmeng reality.

"The Valley of Ten Evils is too strong for the ninth step kings to erase, so they redefined the ten as villains. If they learn that I'm connected to the ten, they'll kill me without bothering to define anything!" Lu Yun tugged up a corner of his lips. "No matter what, I need to raise my cultivation level so I can begin to help Little Yu!"

Five hundred thousand premium purple crystal veins, fifty thousand karmic fruits, and Quiet were enough to alleviate Qing Yu's pressure for now.

To facilitate communication, she'd given Lu Yun a tiny transportation formation before her departure. The ten factions were of one heart, so the treasure vaults of the other nine would continuously stream through the formation for Lu Yun's usage.

Naturally, he would respond in kind with items prepared for Qing Yu. Violetgrave was the hand behind this formation, so there shouldn't be anyone in the Hongmeng who could see through it.

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The Six Paths Reincarnation Pill—a heaven-defying pill nurturing the power of reincarnation unique to the Tome of Life and Death. Lu Yun had derived it through that power and the use of karmic fruits.

Though it wasn't a king level pill, the strength it nurtured within rivaled pills of that level. When Lu Yun first created it, it'd been a difficult pill for him to refine since he'd yet to become a supplemental king.

Now that he'd ascended to kingship, the pill was a piece of cake.

Each successful cauldron refinement produced six pills that contained the power of merit, reincarnation, and utmost Hongmeng qi. It could instantly supplement one's potential and propel a common realm cultivator into the superior realm without any side effects.

Of his latest attempt, Lu Yun took one, the little fox took one, and Jin Gushen took one. That resulted in three heavenly tribulations arriving at the same time and breaking through to superior realm within Multitude City.

The breakthroughs became a walk in the park when Lu Yun brought out his speciality lightning rods. He redirected the heavenly lightning in full public view, ascending to superior realm without mishap and taking out the most effective ad there was for the lightning rod.

The Immortal Pagoda became a household name after that.

All sorts of odd, newfangled, yet also bizarrely useful items opened the eyes of the Hongmeng beings. When the pagoda's shelves stocked Lu Yun's Eight Treasures Return Pill and Six Paths Reincarnation Pill, the kings of the realm flocked after them like a raft of ducks.

As strong as a king's bloodline was, it was extraordinarily difficult for them to bear children. Each precious child was the apple of their eye, more dear to their heart than could be put into words. The Hongmeng was dangerous and cultivation difficult. It was very tough for the second generation to break through their own limits.

But now, the Immortal Pagoda's three bestsellers—Eight Treasures Return Pill, Six Paths Reincarnation Pill, and lightning rod—seemed tailor-made for those unambitious ne'er-do-wells who pursued their own pleasure without heed for the consequences.

Although they were incredibly expensive, with one Six Paths Reincarnation Pill going for one premium crystal vein, demand was relentless and any king who managed to obtain one was highly grateful to Lu Yun.

Pills such as these were the exclusive handiwork of premier supplemental grandmasters, and oftentimes only supplemental kings. They rarely attempted refinement so as to create scarcity, causing the pills to be highly priced but rarely transacted.

The situation changed with the Immortal Pagoda—anyone who could pay the price could have whatever their hearts desired, even king level pills! The kings of Multitude Region had no shortage of purple crystals, but they did lack treasures.

Of course, Lu Yun's actions ruined the profits of many supplemental grandmasters and kings. All of the cultivators in the Hongmeng rushed to Multitude City instead, traveling a hundred million miles if they had to. Supplemental grandmasters no longer had supplicants calling upon them, which elicited general fury from these august personages. In the three months since the Immortal Pagoda's grand opening, more than a hundred supplemental grandmasters came to Multitude City with towering ill will.

A gathering of more than a hundred supplemental grandmasters and some kings was a momentous occasion that'd never taken place in the Hongmeng before!

However, none of them undertook brash action after their arrival. There was a sixth step king in residence at the Immortal Pagoda who was very likely to be the Immortal King's backer. As plentiful as the grandmasters' methods were, it was still a tall order to defeat a sixth step king. These supplemental grandmasters and kings had also ascended to kingship through cultivation level, but they were more first step kings. Very few of them were even second step kings since they focused on studying the supplemental paths.

Currently, they were convened at the new Colosseum in Multitude City.

After the Colosseum's headquarters were destroyed, its remaining forces didn't have the face to sweep everything under the rug by setting up a new one. The new location turned into the private residences of the Human and Blood Kings, as well as the remaining Colosseum cultivators. Their kings were gathered with the supplemental grandmasters and deep in discussion about something.

"The Alchemist King has hit upon a marvelous plan!" A fifth step king of the Colosseum, the Knifepoint King, applauded heartily when he heard a red robed elder's suggestion. As a fifth step king, he was one of the pinnacle experts of the city, but he treated the first step king in front of him with courtesy and respect.

The Alchemist King!

A supplemental king whose status and identity were far greater than the Knifepoint King's.

"Since the Colosseum has no opinion, we'll proceed according to plan. We'll borrow your location to host a supplemental convention and invite all of our brethren to attend." The Alchemist King buoyantly stroked his beard. "We naturally must invite the two from the Immortal Pagoda as well. I'd like to see by what right that Immortal King has to break the rules of the Supplemental Dao Alliance!"

Supplemental kings could also refine what the Immortal Pagoda was selling, but they would be far less valuable if they became mainstream. The pagoda's current method of operations was a blatant violation of the alliance's rules.

Since there was an Enforcer Alliance in the Hongmeng, there was naturally a Supplemental Dao Alliance as well.

Chapter 1275: A Supplemental Convention

One hundred and thirty-seven supplemental grandmasters and three supplemental kings had descended upon Multitude City in glorious flurry. Subsequent news of them hosting a Supplemental Convention swept through the Hongmeng like a tidal wave.

Everyone knew that something big was about to occur.

The Immortal Pagoda's actions had impinged on the bottom line of too many supplemental grandmasters. Thus, the Supplemental Dao Alliance was holding a gathering aimed at the pagoda, Immortal King, and Intrace King!

Despite that, this was still a grand occasion for supplemental dao and glad tidings for numerous kings of the realm. An assembly such as this would normally see rare treasures and even king level ones made available for sale.

On this day, the Supplemental Convention showered invitations to countless kings inside and out of Multitude City. Of course, Lu Yun and the little fox received theirs as well.

Everyone waited raptly for a public confrontation between the lawless Immortal King and the Supplemental Dao Alliance. In fact, anticipation for the inevitable clash eclipsed general excitement for the convention itself.

So they would see a variety of supplemental dao treasures at the gathering? The current Immortal Pagoda was the daily equivalent of these conventions!

On the other hand, the Supplemental Convention still held a fatal attraction for other supplemental masters in the Hongmeng. All sorts of minerals, ingredients, and rare resources would be available that proved hard to find in normal times.

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“They’re coming for us, alright. Shall we go teach them a lesson and beat it into their brains?” A sharp light flashed through the little fox’s eyes when she held an invitation carved from premium purple crystal.

“Pfft.” Lu Yun took the invitation and crushed it to pieces. “What for? It would be a waste of time and energy. We should rake in more purple crystals instead.”

He wasn’t interested in the Supplemental Convention at all. With his grasp of formula dao, he was constantly calculating what was the best cultivation path for him. His mastery over supplemental dao would only increase as time went on, so in his eyes, this kind of gathering was just a bunch of kids playing house.

“Other than the Alchemist King, the rest of them are all trash and not even worth laughing at,” Lu Yun declared loftily with his nose in the air.

“Eh...” The little fox could tell that Lu Yun was wholeheartedly focused on refining pills for Qing Yu, creating treasures, and earning more purple crystals.

“I heard that Mirage Sand will be at the convention, I wanted some to refine a Mirage Smoke Formation,” she said woefully.

“Why didn’t you say so earlier?” Lu Yun rolled his eyes and took out the storage treasure Qing Yu had given him. He rummaged through it and retrieved a ball of pale pink smoke.

Mirage Sand!

A priceless treasure for illusion cultivators, it could not only be used to refine illusory formations, but also enhance one’s own arts of illusion! Most importantly was that any treasure refined from it could become one with the wielder. It could be retracted into the body as one would, or deploy illusions with the wave of a hand.

However, Mirage Sand was so rare that a tael of it was beyond priceless in the Hongmeng. One could only hope to encounter it, not search it out.

“That much?!” The little fox bounded up and cupped the sand in her hands, her eyes almost falling out.

This sand had plainly been condensed by a combat art. It was several hundreds of kilograms heavy; the little fox would be able to set up a Mirage Smoke Formation, enhance her illusory arts, and refine treasures of illusion.

“Only one tael of Mirage Sand will appear at the Supplemental Convention, but you’ve brought out hundreds of kilograms in one go...” The little fox was so happy that she felt like she was going to faint.

The sand that would be sold at the convention was news purposefully disseminated by the Alchemist King and his cohorts. They wanted to lure the little fox over with it, but hadn’t reckoned with Lu Yun possessing a veritable pile of it. How could a mere Supplemental Convention hope to rival the reserves of Hopeless Major?

“I’ve neglected you these days because I’ve been busy refining the puppets.” Lu Yun put down the puppet he was working on and looked apologetically at the little fox. He gave the storage treasure to her, “Have a look and see what you can use from this.”

“Whee!” The little fox brightened and quickly took the storage treasure, her face all smiles.

Lu Yun had refined the treasure anew and negated more than half of its weight. Added to that the little fox being in the superior realm when it came to cultivation level, the remaining weight didn’t give her any trouble either.

During this time, Lu Yun’s sole focus was on the half step kings he was preparing for Qing Yu. Not only did he want to incorporate the Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals into them, but he also wanted to add in emotion and self-destruct formations. This would prevent the puppets from falling into enemy hands.

The Six Royals formation was something from the mythological realm; the Hongmeng had ultimately destroyed it.

Lu Yun had continuously tried to derive the reason for the mythological realm’s destruction, but it hadn’t been until Qing Yu spoke of the ninth step kings’ existences that he suddenly realized the connection.

The curse on dragons in the mythological realm certainly originated from these terrifying ninth step kings, and they in turn were subordinate to a certain organization or faction.

Since Qing Yu had yet to ascertain the background of the kings, that meant the Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals could never fall into their hands, or they’d use it to derive Lu Yun’s origins.

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Another three months passed by, marking the half year point since the Immortal Pagoda’s grand opening. Crystals flew into its coffers everyday and business bustled.

Oh this day, the Supplemental Convention took place as planned. Numerous supplemental grandmasters had worked together to renovate the new Colosseum into their venue. People jostled against each other in thick crowds, filling all available space within several million kilometers. It was a sight to behold!

Those who hadn't received an invitation to the gathering could still tour the premises and make purchases. They just couldn't enter the main hall. There were more than a hundred thousand supplemental masters gathered, two hundred grandmasters, and five kings. With one such as the Alchemist King in attendance, this was one of the grandest occasions to be seen in the realm over the last hundred million years!

People who hadn't been interested in the convention before were suddenly interested, as a mere Immortal Pagoda paled in comparison to this vast hubbub. Those who'd wanted to use the convention to attack the Immortal Pagoda were also speechless at the awe-inspiring magnificence they'd created.

"It looks like I was the one who was short sighted. Compared to this spectacular extravaganza, what does a minor Immortal King matter?" The Alchemist King applauded jovially from his head seat within the main hall.

"Given our display, the Immortal King may not even dare come!" The Knifepoint King stood close by. "If he ends up being too scared to show his face, the Immortal Pagoda will begin an irreversible decline. Let's see what dignity they'll have to continue operating then!"

"We'll personally request his presence if he doesn't come," the Blood King remarked faintly. "We've already sent them the invitations, and it would be a grave insult to all of the supplemental kings if the Immortal King and Intranse King don't come!"

Chapter 1276: Moral Emperor

The variety of treasures available at the Supplemental Convention was a feast for the eyes. Pouring forth in an endless stream, it far eclipsed the wares of the Immortal Pagoda. Though there was no emotion formation, Six Paths Reincarnation Pill, or lightning rod, the convention still won through virtue of sheer quantity and countless pills of a similar level.

But the Immortal King wasn't in attendance, and neither was the Intranse King.

This disappointed the numerous kings here for a good time. The Supplemental Convention was being held at the new Colosseum branch not too far away from the Immortal Pagoda. It was plainly targeting the pagoda, and that the Immortal and Intranse Kings were absent was a sign of weakness.

The Supplemental Dao Alliance had thoroughly investigated the Immortal Pagoda's background prior to the start of the assembly. Though the alliance couldn't refine emotion formations, Six Paths Reincarnation Pills, or lightning rods, they could bring out other intricate items to overshadow the former.

Since they were bent on taking the Immortal Pagoda down, they would've made all necessary preparations.

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“The Immortal King isn’t here.”

“Is he too scared to come?” Unbidden, strains of conversation developed around the clash that should’ve been forthcoming.

“I don’t think so? The Immortal Pagoda sent invites to the Colosseum for its grand opening, which drew the Windcall King with a mountain of Earth Light Magneticus. He wanted to take them down with him.”

“And he didn’t even make it through their front doors, hah!” someone hooted with laughter.

“That’s true, the emotion formation is impossibly profound. I have many enemies and need to be on constant guard against someone barging into my home for revenge. But I can cultivate with peace of mind after putting down an emotion formation around my home. I don’t have to fear unexpected visitors anymore!” chortled a third step king.

An emotion formation costed ten premium crystal veins, but no one felt it overpriced. Every king had an extensive family, sprawling enterprise, and untold disciples at their beck and all. Defensive formations treated friend and foe alike when activated. Everyone was blocked outside and such formations consumed an unbelievable amount of crystals. They couldn’t operate at all times.

Emotion formations, however, were different. They consumed a negligible amount of crystals in return for unusually fierce defensive power. Regular fifth step kings found it difficult to pierce through them, and an active instance prevented anyone bearing ill intent from entering. The formation could pry into the emotions in the depths of one’s heart, and sixth step kings were no exception to it.

Emotion formations were refined from the branches and leaves of the Karmic Tree, thus retaining some of its characteristics. In that light, how could mere sixth step kings evade the tree’s power?

Unwittingly, many of the kings present began discussing the marvelous uses of the emotion formation and lightning rod. These were items that many supplemental kings of the Hongmeng couldn’t replicate.

There were many treasures in the realm that could imitate a lightning combat art or natural thunder, but a heavenly tribulation had to be weathered by the cultivator themselves in order to expunge their accumulated retribution.

Lightning rods, however, could palm off a substitute for the real thing. Not only did they enable the cultivator to bypass the tribulation, but they even resolved one’s retribution! It had to be said that the lightning rods were even more magical than the emotion formations.

“Fellow kings, fellow supplemental masters—this king now declares the commencement of the Supplemental Convention!” Upon seeing that more and more were lauding the praises of the lightning rods and emotion formation, or waxing eloquent about the capabilities of the Immortal King, one of the organizers quickly stepped forward to interrupt the flow of conversation.

Exquisite and powerful supplemental treasures appeared on the stage shortly thereafter. They were displayed to the public and given a thorough introduction of their background, usage, and price.

The so-called Supplemental Convention was actually a large-scale auction and marketplace. Attendees could freely transact without influence from outside forces. The organizers wouldn’t take a cut of the

profits; hosting this gathering was already the greatest profit. On a rapid decline and suppressed by the Immortal Pagoda, the Colosseum would also turn the tables with this event.

Indeed, the kings and noble guests in attendance were quickly distracted by the treasures and no longer discussed the Immortal Pagoda.

“What a pity that the Immortal King of the Immortal Pagoda doesn’t dare pay a visit to such a monumental occasion of supplemental dao.” A soft sigh suddenly traveled throughout the venue; it was a sigh from a sixth step king. Dignified in appearance and exhibiting an air of righteousness, the only thing that he lacked was ‘I am a good person’ written across his face.

“It’s the Luminous King!”

“The Luminous King of Virtue and Integrity! He’s here too!” Gasps of recognition rose and fell throughout the crowd.

The Luminous King of Virtue and Integrity was a sixth step king of famed repute in the Hongmeng. It wasn’t just because of his cultivation, but because of his personal character!

He extended a helping hand wherever he went if he met someone in need. It didn’t matter how large the favor was or how humble the other was. He would personally render aid if even an inferior realm cultivator needed it!

Many people present had once received his help, and his title grew to that of the Luminous King of Virtue and Integrity after a prolonged period of good acts. Given that, he stood at the peak of ethics and moral for the Hongmeng. Hailed as the Moral Emperor, if he said that someone was guilty, then that person was surely guilty of the most heinous crimes.

Of course, he rarely proclaimed guilt on others since he was a kind soul. From his perspective, human nature was predisposed to being good. There were no irredeemably evil souls in the world and light could be found even in the evildoers of the Valley of Ten Evils.

It was because of this that he was publicly acclaimed to be a perfect and flawless individual of the Hongmeng.

“Greeting to the Luminous King! I was but a minor character three hundred million years ago and on the run from enemies. I wouldn’t have my accomplishments of today if it wasn’t for your help. Please accept my bow of gratitude!” A third step king suddenly stepped forward and bowed to the Luminous King.

“This won’t do, this won’t do at all!” Startled, the king jumped to the side and avoided the courtesy. “You are a titled king now and a great personage of the realm. You should not conduct such a grand gesture! We can call each other fellow daoist. Let us hear no more talk of being a minor character!”

The Luminous King waved a hand and helped the third step king up.

“Luminous King, does Your Eminence think that Immortal King will dare show his face?” The new speaker was another king, but his usage of this honorific was indicative of the Luminous King’s prestige in the Hongmeng.

“He will indeed refrain from attending,” sighed the focus of everyone’s attentions. “The Supplemental Convention is a plot against him. It would be a trial of tempering for him, and he would progress to new peaks from already inspiring heights if he weathered it.

“What a pity, however, that he doesn’t dare come. Thus damaged, a dao heart lacking completeness will prevent further improvement in both supplemental dao and other paths.” Saddened pity colored his tones, as if he was lamenting the fall of a genius.

The crowd started at his words, then nodded as well.

“It seems that the Immortal Pagoda won’t have any face to continue operating after the convention either.”

“Damn shame, it’s a good thing that the pagoda dares break the alliance’s monopoly on supplemental daos. Too bad they’re being strangled to death because of it.”

This was a blatant truth, something that even the Supplemental Dao Alliance and Colosseum hadn’t bothered refuting. They were indeed using this opportunity to suppress the Immortal Pagoda.

Out in the open, a scheme as clear as day.

“Announcing the envoy from the Immortal Pagoda—” came a loud cry outside the convention venue.

Chapter 1277: To Target

“The envoy from the Immortal Pagoda?” Glances were exchanged within the crowd when they heard the announcement.

The Alchemist and Knifepoint Kings, as well as others, frowned involuntarily. They were waiting for the Immortal King to come make a fool out of himself!

The Windcall King had brought a mountain of Earth Light Magneticus to the Immortal Pagoda’s grand opening, but an emotion formation had blocked him from ensuring mutual destruction. After he scrabbled outside of the pagoda’s front doors for some time, the Colosseum became a complete joke in Multitude City.

The various supplemental grandmasters and kings of the Colosseum wanted to return the favor this time and prevent the Immortal and Inrance Kings from even setting foot inside the venue. They would wipe the ground with the Immortal Pagoda’s face!

Though they didn’t possess an emotion formation, there were hundreds of grandmasters here. If they worked in tandem with the five supplemental kings, they naturally had their ways to humiliate the Immortal King.

Who would’ve thought that the Immortal Pagoda would send an envoy instead of their key personnel instead! It felt like they’d taken a swing with all their might and connected with a ball of cotton.

The Alchemist King’s expression darkened slightly and he looked at the four supplemental kings next to him. They gently nodded back without a word.

Of the five supplemental kings present, Alchemist was the strongest. The other four were slightly weaker than him, but any supplemental king was a force to be reckoned with in the Hongmeng.

The Wild Formation King, Imagination King, Talisman Adept King, and Prime Weapon King!

Each of these four kings represented the apex of a supplemental path; even seventh step kings would have to treat them with courtesy. Additionally, the Alchemist King's accomplishments were more substantial than theirs.

"Though he is too concerned to come himself, the Immortal King sent another in his stead. How interesting!" chuckled the Luminous King. "He isn't self assured enough to take part in the festivities, but he doesn't wish to indicate weakness either. This Immortal King is an interesting character!"

The Immortal Pagoda's envoy entered through the front doors and reached the center of the main hall with a few quick steps.

The Supplemental Convention's venue was exceedingly vast and covered with formations and pockets of space. Its boundless scope would be difficult for regular cultivators to cover, but the pagoda's envoy was a third step king.

"Tiger Butcher King of the Immortal Pagoda greets the various esteemed personages present." Tiger Butcher was standing in as the representative of the Immortal Pagoda. He was exceedingly polite without being obsequious or fawning. There was no trace of overweening dominance to be seen from him either. All was as if he was just an old servant.

It made the various kings at the convention very uncomfortable.

Although a third step king wasn't that powerful, he was no insignificant character either. Third step kings were still beings to be treated with respect and the unquestioned ruler of their domain in the Hongmeng.

But just look at the one in front of them! That humble expression on his face, that slightly lowered posture and bent neck... what was that?! Even a first step king, though just a first step king, should be fiercely confident and possess a regal bearing after making kingship.

The Luminous King creased his brows without a word.

"My master is in closed door cultivation to refine a treasure. He's reached a critical point in the process and cannot afford to divert his attention. Thus, head manager Jinse of the Immortal Pagoda sent this humble one with a few baubles that my master refined in his free time. Please inspect them as you will." Tiger Butcher lifted his head. Though he wore a meek expression, a keen light glittered out of his eyes at all times.

"What did you call that Immortal King? Master?" The Luminous King bounded up to Tiger Butcher and demanded, "Tiger Butcher King, I know of your background. You are the city lord of Tiger Butcher City in the southern belt of Multitude Region. You have another Silver Leopard King beneath your banner, so why do you say that Immortal King is your master?!"

He released an undeniable pressure as he spoke, bearing down on Tiger Butcher's mind. Any other third step king would've immediately capitulated from the mental attack of a sixth step king and truthfully confessed everything he knew.

Tiger Butcher, instead, remained coolly composed and smiled faintly. "My master is naturally my master, there is no reason why.

"Cut the crap, do you think my master is too afraid to come? I'll have you all know that the Immortal King doesn't think much of your Supplemental Convention. In his eyes, all of you so-called supplemental grandmaster and kings are nothing but a waste of space and not worthy of mention!"

Tiger Butcher drew himself upright and a sheen of light appeared over his face, sweeping away the servile attitude from earlier.

"Don't you think of clapping some idiotic nonsense on my master's head either, Luminous King! The entire Hongmeng benefited from my master breaking the Supplemental Dao Alliance's monopoly and spreading the fruits of collective intelligence far and wide.

"These bumbling fools with an exaggerated sense of self importance attack him for doing something for the common good! The Luminous King of Virtue and Integrity should well know who is good here and who is evil!"

He looked at the now glowering Luminous King and didn't receive a response. After careful inspection, the latter had found Tiger Butcher's soul to be pure and steady. He wasn't enthralled or possessed by another. Tiger Butcher was who he'd always been.

"How dare the Tiger Butcher King speak like this to the luminous King!" Other people were keen to jump in when the highly respected king didn't say a word. The Luminous King of Virtue and Integrity was fond of benevolence and giving. He'd helped countless individuals and most of them had later become kings, such as the third step king from earlier.

Thus, with his renown, even those who he hadn't helped before were willing to speak up on his behalf. Such was the effect of a good reputation.

"Please, everyone, be at peace." The Luminous King spread out his hands with a smile. "The Tiger Butcher King is correct. It is indeed a good thing that the Immortal King has broken the Supplemental Dao Alliance's monopoly and sells various king level treasures at the Immortal Pagoda."

His tone took an abrupt turn for the worse. "But he also goes against the natural order of the world and mass produces items such as the Six Paths Reincarnation Pill, Eight Treasures Return Pill, and lightning rods! This will devastate the foundations of the Hongmeng!

"Those pills and the lightning rod that can avoid heavenly tribulations can immediately facilitate breakthroughs from the inferior realm to the superior realm! With these items in existence, who will put the requisite hard work into cultivating?!"

"The Hongmeng is not a land of peace. There are terrifying unknown monsters, endless vicious ghosts, all sorts of zombies and dead spirits... Dangers that abound at every second and moment. Will those who take the pills and use the lightning rod to break through to the superior realm really be able to

withstand those threats?” Sneering coldly, the Luminous King still spoke to the Tiger Butcher King in noble tones.

Subtle changes flickered across the faces of the kings present. Many of their descendants had taken Lu Yun’s pills and utilized the lightning rods to enter the superior realm. Danger pricked at their hearts after hearing this questioning.

Indeed, will those who used these methods to ascend to the superior realm really have the ability to battle the unknown horrors?

“The Luminous King is correct.” The Alchemist King stepped forward with a sigh. “Our Supplemental Convention is indeed targeting the Immortal Pagoda. We wish for the Immortal King to cease refining and distributing those harmful substances!

“If the Immortal Pagoda announces right at this moment that they will restrict the movement of those damaging goods, then the Supplemental Dao Alliance will no longer oppose them.”

Chapter 1278: Though I May Die, I Would Hold No Regrets

The Alchemist King chose his words very cleverly in only mentioning restrictions and not an outright ban on the sale of these three items. This was a display of the Supplemental Dao Alliance’s supreme generosity, their unbounded magnanimity in not wanting to run their competition into the ground.

There were countless treasures within the Immortal Pagoda, but the most lucrative were the Six Paths Reincarnation Pill, Eight Treasures Return Pill, and lightning rods. As useful as emotion formations were, they were so prohibitively expensive that not everyone could buy them.

Only the Eight Treasures Return Pill existed in the Hongmeng before—it provided an immediate ascension to someone in the inferior or common realm. There was a great restriction on these kinds of pills in that they could only be taken once in a cultivator’s life.

Taking another would prove completely ineffective.

But along came the Six Paths Reincarnation Pill, a pill with the same effects as the Eight Treasures one. That instantly propelled these two pills to the top of the realm’s bestsellers. Combined with the lightning rods, that meant cultivators no longer needed to fear heavenly tribulations and could break through successively to their heart’s desire.

More importantly, the Eight Treasures Return Pills that the Immortal Pagoda sold were less than a tenth of the same pill that the Supplemental Dao Alliance sold. It was excellent quality at a cheap price!

The alliance had originally wanted to engage in a price war with the Immortal Pagoda, but their strategy fell apart when it came to the Eight Treasures Return Pill. One of its core ingredients was the crystal core of an arcane beast king—something that could only be wished for and not sought out. There weren’t that many in the alliance’s vault, so they couldn’t use all of it to refine the pill.

Besides, the pill was an uncommonly complicated and complex one to make. Even the Alchemist King wasn’t guaranteed to succeed every time.

There were no longer any options available to them other than fully beating the Immortal Pagoda into the ground. Absorb Lu Yun into the alliance? That was possible only after they took him down a peg or two. If they recruited him as is, that'd be welcoming a new dictator to rule over them all.

If they could force him to give way on the manner of these three items, then they could force him back a second, a third time... all the way until the Immortal Pagoda closed up shop.

Thus, the Alchemist King spoke with resounding conviction and connected with the Luminous King's momentum, forming a sense of fervent righteousness that bore down on the Tiger Butcher King.

"Ahem!" Tiger Butcher turned a blind eye to the pressure that was crashing down on him. He chuckled ruefully, "My master has naturally considered what the two lords speak of."

"Oh?" Both the Alchemist King and the Luminous King paused when they heard this response.

"My master once said that the Hongmeng is infinitely vast and cultivation methods are manifold in their number and variety. Any level below kingship is not cultivation, becoming a titled king is the true start of it all!" Tiger Butcher placed his hands behind his back and launched into a speech. "The so-called inferior, common, and superior realms beneath kingship are all a waste of time and energy! Reaching the superior realm with the fastest speed possible is naturally the best choice!

"The Eight Treasures Return and Six Paths Reincarnation Pills are two pills without any side effects. They also consolidate one's foundations and strengthen the core essence! Without a doubt, they are the best path for Hongmeng cultivators to take.

"To start like an ant from the inferior realm? Even the strongest genius runs the risk of dying in boundless Hongmeng. It is far better for one to soar to the heights of superior realm and deploy one's full potential starting there. We ensure self protection in this way, and isn't it much more gratifying to then step forward into kingship?!"

The main hall was so silent that a pin drop could be heard. The Tiger Butcher King's words and their implications were too stupefying. Cultivation methods abounded within the Hongmeng, but the true start of one's path was at kingship!

No one below a titled king counted as a cultivator, and starting from the superior realm ensured that one would make greater progress on their journey!

"Absurd!" The Alchemist King's eyes widened in rebuke as he retorted hotly, "Using pills to forcefully increase one's cultivation level is sacrilegious to the great dao. It is hardly the true path of cultivation!"

"Then I ask the Alchemist King, from where does your cultivation to be a titled king come from?" Tiger Butcher responded evenly.

"I specialize in the supplemental dao, so I am a supplemental king. I care not for any other cultivation." Alchemist recovered his composure as he looked at Tiger Butcher. "If I was not a supplemental cultivator, then I would make my way up from the inferior realm, step by step in an honest fashion, until I reached titled king!

"Though I may die, I would hold no regrets!"

Though I may die, I would hold no regrets!

The last declaration was so substantial that it inspired similar sentiment in many of the other kings present. Each of them had made their painstaking way through cultivation, ascending through the ranks from inferior realm, cleaving true to their path, and bravely soldiering forward even when facing death.

“What lofty words.” Tiger Butcher shook his head with a slight chuckle.

“And why do you laugh, Tiger Butcher King?” The Luminous King was quite uncomfortable with this display of merriment.

“I laugh at the Alchemist King for being willing to die without regrets, but at the same time unable to see through to the true nature of dao.” A smirk appeared on Tiger Butcher’s face. “He uses pills to raise his cultivation level all the way to kingdom, but tells others that they should make their way up step by step. Don’t you find it hilarious that he says they should die without regret?”

“For what is supplemental dao? It is a supplement to dao!”

“Supplemental daos exist to complement cultivation and is the path of concentrating outside forces on one’s own dao! This Alchemist King is a supplemental king, yet loses sight of what is most important. He doesn’t know which should take first priority, but is perfectly fine with cultivation grandstanding. He would die without regret for pursuit of dao? Now that’s a statement of utmost ludicrousness!”

He that keeps company with wolves will learn to howl was an apt saying for the Tiger Butcher King. After following Lu Yun for a period of time and baptism from the Tome of Life and Death, his worldview now ranked at the top of the realm in the Hongmeng. He was far from the Tiger Butcher King of old.

He continued with another laugh without waiting for a response. “If you don’t believe me, you can go ask the Hongmeng Tower why it doesn’t appear for a supplemental king or even give them a title. When my master and mistress became supplemental kings, the tower appeared in full and named them the Immortal King and Intranse King!”

“It’s because my master knows that supplemental dao exists to assist cultivation. It’s to help cultivators from taking too many wrong turns along their path, but somehow turns into the foundation of the Hongmeng when you speak of it?” Here, Tiger Butcher sighed with emotion.

Brooding looks appeared on many a supplemental grandmaster on the scene. They’d always thought highly of themselves and conducted their actions accordingly, but now that they listened to Tiger Butcher, it did make sense that this was what they were meant for.

They had nothing to say when it came to the Hongmeng Tower. It was true that none of the supplemental kings present, including the Alchemist King, had summoned the Hongmeng Tower when they ascended to kingdom. Yet the tower had come when the Immortal King took his place. This was proof enough that he was stronger than them!

“But it’s not good to overly rely on supplemental dao,” a third step king suddenly offered. His tones were far removed from the threatening attitude that everyone had adopted earlier.

“It depends on that person’s dao heart. Those with dao hearts strong enough will see through everything. External items are just that, objects. If they happen across one’s path, why not accept it? If one is in possession of it, then why not use it? If one uses it, then why not seek further heights with it?”

“Those with weaker dao hearts will obsess over dying and not regretting it.”

Quite a few people wanted to laugh at the obvious snub, but they didn't dare to when the Alchemist King was present.

“What is the purpose of currying favor with these supplemental grandmasters and kings?” Tiger Butcher suddenly asked. “Will they refine pills and treasures for you just because you fawn over them?”

“You might as well go to the Immortal Pagoda—“

Boom!

A large hand suddenly appeared in the air midway through his remarks and slapped him to death, crushing his true spirit out of existence.

“You deserve death for corrupting the public with an evil doctrine!” sounded a dignified voice as the Blood King walked out of an inner chamber.

All of the cultivators in the main hall shook and fell silent.

Chapter 1279: Jinse

The Blood King's sudden appearance and killing of the Tiger Butcher King took everyone aback. Frowning, the Alchemist and Luminous Kings were also dissatisfied with the Blood King's actions.

“This Supplemental Convention has long since pivoted from its original intention of targeting the Immortal Pagoda and become a true distinguished gathering of supplemental dao. Yet, that Tiger Butcher King seeks to proselytize the good people with his perversion. He wanted to overthrow this wondrous assembly that will bring good to the lives of Hongmeng beings! Thus, I was just eradicating a pestilence.

“On that note, I hereby announce that the Colosseum will sponsor this assembly with a thousand premium crystal veins. Whatever supplemental grandmasters wish to buy, the Colosseum will shoulder part of the burden.”

The unexpected generosity started an uproar in the venue, instantly sweeping away the disgruntlement that'd formed at the Blood King murdering Tiger Butcher.

A regular king's wealth could be summed at a hundred premium crystal veins at most. He who has wealth speaks louder than others, and the Colosseum was speaking the loudest to the tune of a thousand crystal veins.

This was a perfect opportunity to win over public feeling, a gesture that Multitude City heavyweights could find no fault with. After all, the addition of these thousand crystal veins would decrease the price of the treasures displayed at the Supplemental Convention to a more affordable range.

That was very good.

“Hmm? What's that?” Someone noticed a tiny ball of pink light hovering where the Tiger Butcher King had stood.

Another person wanted to bring it closer for a look, but found it impossible to touch the fist-sized ball of luminescence.

“The Tiger Butcher King mentioned that he’d brought a random bauble from the supplemental king of the Immortal Pagoda...” A third person recalled what the king had said when he’d first arrived. Since this was the Supplemental Convention, he naturally couldn’t show up empty-handed since he was the envoy of the Immortal Pagoda.

“I want to see how skilled that Immortal King is to belittle supplemental dao!” A supplemental grandmaster jumped out and grabbed at the ball of pink light.

The Tiger Butcher King’s words had indeed been degrading supplemental dao. Listing it as auxiliary and all of it being in service to cultivation would impact the status of supplemental masters everywhere. What he said about the Hongmeng Tower, in particular, stabbed like a knife into the hearts of all supplemental cultivators present.

Indeed, the tower did not send a projection when one became a supplemental king.

If it wasn’t for the Blood King killing the Tiger Butcher King before the latter finished his words, the status of supplemental masters in the Hongmeng would be immensely lowered right on the spot. Even so, the attitudes of many cultivators present had shifted slightly when they now thought about supplemental masters.

It wasn’t like those supplemental masters, particularly the haughty grandmasters and kings, would ever deign to sell large quantities of treasure to them. So what was the point of seeking their favor?

“Eh?” The supplemental master who’d grabbed at the light blinked. He’d closed his hand on nothing. “There’s nothing there?”

He frowned slightly and closely observed the ball of light. It seemed to be embedded in the void, but according to his touch, the air was empty. Despite that, it plainly existed as it registered to the eyes and consciousness.

“This is an illusory formation, most likely from the Intranse King.” The Imagination King padded over. She was a woman who appeared to be sixteen years old, but her entire body was shrouded in a layer of dreamlike radiance that obscured her true features.

Within the Hongmeng, every supplemental king possessed their own unique methods. Though their cultivation level was far below those who’d reached kinghood through battle strength, that didn’t make them weaklings. Killing someone above their level was as easy as taking a sip of water for them.

While supplemental dao may be an auxiliary path in the eyes of others, to serve and support cultivation, it was the one and only to supplemental kings, their truth in life.

A fragrant wind brushed by and the Imagination King walked up to the ball of light before the other supplemental master had a chance to take a good look. Frowning slightly, she closely assessed the fist-sized ball of light with her own eyes.

At the same time, the Alchemist King, Wild Formation King, Talisman Adept King, and Prime Weapon Kings also approached the curiosity. Apart from the Wild Formation King, no one else could tell that the ball of pink light was a formation.

“What a strange formation this is, to incorporate illusions with space!” he suddenly sighed.

He appeared to be a clean-cut young man with incalculable layers of formation covering the space around him. It was an effect very similar to the Formation Orb that Lu Yun had obtained in the world of immortals.

However, those around the Wild Formation King were a hundred million times stronger than the Formation Orb’s. A connate treasure of that level would just be a useless marble to him that he wouldn’t even bother to pick up from the ground.

“Can you break it?” The Alchemist King glowered.

The Tiger Butcher King had already clearly pointed out that this was just a toy the Intrace King had refined on a whim. If they couldn’t even break a toy, then this Supplemental Convention would truly become nothing but a joke.

“The Intrace King is very strong and can’t possibly have created this only when the urge struck her. Not only does this contain her dao of illusions, but it includes a bit of Mirage Sand! The Immortal Pagoda is aiming to humiliate us with this!” Hidden behind her own formations, the Imagination King considered the ball of light with a grim look. She’d brought out three taels of Mirage Sand to lure the Intrace King here, but who would’ve thought that her quarry would seek to test her with a bit of the sand in a bizarre formation?

“The Intrace King isn’t skilled in spatial formations, so I can undo the one in this formation,” the Wild Formation King suddenly offered. “This formation would be inconsequential if the Spacetime King was here.”

He looked at the Imagination King.

“I’m not skilled in spatial formations either, but I can break the illusory formation within this if you can handle the spatial one,” she nodded.

Their discussion left the Alchemist King rather displeased, the wordless Luminous King heaved a long sigh as well.

“It looks like we’ve underestimated the Immortal Pagoda in the end... A formation that the Intrace King set up requires two supplemental kings to break.” All attendees were focused on the happenings around the ball of light; murmurings spread through the crowd when they heard the conversation between the two kings.

“Perhaps the Intrace King really did casually create that pink ball.”

However, the Imagination and Wild Formation Kings didn’t care about what others thought. To them, it didn’t matter how many it took to break the formation. Everyone specialized in different areas, and it was common to see multiple supplemental kings work together on a problem that couldn’t be handled

by one person alone. They also often explored the forbidden zones of the Hongmeng in groups and sought out treasure together.

“Break!”

“Open!” The Imagination and Wild Formation Kings pointed at the ball of light at the same time.

Pfft!

The ball of light deflated and dispersed as a strand of smoke.

Standing nearby on high alert and wary of ambush, the Alchemist King, Talisman Adept King, Prime Weapon, and Luminous Kings blinked with incomprehension.

“Ahhhh, I’m so bored!” A lazy voice traveled out of the smoke. “One, two, three...”

“Mistress, what are these pink balls that you’re refining?” came another female voice.

“Nothing, I’m just bored,” yawned the Inrance King. “These things can record sound, listen. Tralala, lalala~”

She hummed an unknown ditty, her voice pleasant and sweet. Many people lost themselves in the beauty of her voice.

“Take it, have fun with it,” she said.

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The snippet of conversation caused the attendees to look at each other. That had plainly been recorded when the Inrance King created what she called the pink balls, and crushing the ball released the recording.

“Did she really refine that for fun?” Many were stupefied by the exchange between the king and an unknown female voice.

“It doesn’t seem to have any other uses than to record voices...” Someone scratched their head.

“Her voice is so nice, I wonder how she looks?”

“That’s right, the Windcall King once threw everything he had into trying to get her, resulting in the Immortal King flying into a rage and destroying the Colosseum’s headquarters with a huge mountain. That’s where the current Immortal Pagoda sits now.”

“When the Windcall King brought a mountain of Earth Light Magneticus to the Immortal Pagoda, he couldn’t even make it through the front doors...”

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“That pink ball is indeed no offensive or defensive formation, but she combined an illusory formation with a spatial one to retain sound within...” The Wild Formation King looked so ominous that it seemed a thundercloud sat on his face. That toy had required the joint efforts of himself and the Imagination King!

Boom!

The Supplemental Convention venue shook violently as an ugly crack extended through the air. A delicate young girl in purple robes walked out of the crack and destroyed a formation with each step she took.

Her footfalls were too heavy.

“Who goes there?!” The Blood, Luminous, and Knifepoint Kings sprang to their feet and roared at the girl.

“Why do you destroy the formations of my convention?!” The Alchemist, Imagination, Wild Formation, Talisman Adept, and Prime Weapon Kings rose at the same time, but no one made a move. The aura around her was too frightening.

Of the Multitude heavyweights who were present, such as the Fineheart and Finepure Kings, they also looked darkly at the girl in purple robes. Fineheart and Finepure had long since forgotten what had taken place in the Immortal Pagoda.

Though this Supplemental Convention was a scheme against the pagoda, it would also benefit the sixth step kings of the city. They’d be able to purchase some goods that they wouldn’t normally be able to lay their eyes on, but the girl was plainly bent on destroying the assembly.

“Head manager Jinse of the Immortal Pagoda greets my fellow daoists,” the young girl said coolly as she scanned the kings present.

Chapter 1280: Hang Him Up and Beat Him

“Head manager Jinse of the Immortal Pagoda!” The crowd remembered what the Tiger Butcher King had said when he arrived. He was here under orders from Head Manager Jinse, who was now here in person!

“She’s... the other voice in the pink ball!” someone called out.

“That’s right, it’s her!”

The Jinse in front of them was exhibiting the aura of at least a fifth step king, potentially even a sixth step king! Yet she’d hailed the Inrance King as her mistress in the pink ball! What kind of people were the Immortal and Inrance Kings to subdue a king such as Jinse?!

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“The head manager of the Immortal Pagoda? Jinse? What do you mean by destroying the formations of the Supplemental Convention?! Do you want to make enemies out of all of your peers?!” The Alchemist King stepped out with angry questions.

“Alchemist King? I’ve heard of you.” Jinse inclined her head. “Apart from some minor accomplishments in refining pills, nothing else you do is worthy of consideration.”

“You...” He flushed beet red. One at his cultivation level possessed very few desires or needs. It was very difficult for words to disturb the equanimity of his heart, but for some reason, this head manager was able to do it just with a line or two.

“Jinse? Do your words and actions represent the current attitude of the Immortal Pagoda?” demanded the Blood King.

“My master has given me oversight of the Immortal Pagoda, so I naturally represent it.” Jinse nodded. “As for why I destroy your formations...” A vicious sneer appeared on her lips. “One of our third step kings just died here, so why do you think I’m here?!”

“He was only a third step king, so what would my pagoda care about his death? But he was here as the envoy of the Immortal Pagoda and beaten to death despite it. If I didn’t come after that, all of you would think of the pagoda as an easy target!”

The Tiger Butcher King hadn’t really died since his name was written into the Tome of Life and Death. He’d already resurrected from the treasure, but the Blood King slapping him to death in front of everyone was a slap at the Immortal Pagoda.

And so Jinse had come.

The Immortal Pagoda and Colosseum shared a death feud and the Blood King had killed the Tiger Butcher King. She was here for revenge.

“So it looks like you were the one who took Windcall’s mountain of Earth Light Magneticus and humiliated him in public.” The Blood King released his aura.

He’d been a genteel and refined man dressed in clean blue robes without a hint of blood. Upon flaring his aura, it was as if a Blood Sea had risen over him and he was a blood demon climbed out of hell. Bloody shadows flew out of his body.

Hummm.

An enormous formation appeared out of thin air and isolated everything happening in the main hall.

“Blood King, please do as you will!” called out the Wild Formation King. “I’ve sealed off this part of the venue, so nothing here will raise ripples elsewhere.”

He had egg on his face after the little fox’s pink ball; now was the perfect opportunity for him to show off his abilities to all of the kings present. Supplemental kings lacked not for purple crystals or treasure, they wanted only face and status.

Another supplemental grandmaster stepped forward and added his formation to the Wild Formation King’s. He wasn’t displeased by this as it was a prime chance for them to showcase their own capabilities as well. He would also choose a few disciples from the supplemental grandmasters after the fact.

Jinse ignored the formation and focused only on the Blood King pouncing on her.

The other sixth level kings on the scene were absorbed in their clash, eagerly welcoming a chance to observe a fight between dragons and tigers. A keen light sparkled in the Luminous King’s eyes; he was equally unwilling to miss out on any detail.

Sixth level kings had long since polished their dao rules to flawless perfection, but it was almost impossible for them to coalesce a seventh rule and vault into the ranks of seventh step kings.

In the Hongmeng, first to third step kings were lower level kings, fourth to sixth step were common level, and seventh and above were high level. There was only a step of difference between sixth and seventh, but that delineated the difference between a common and high level king. The gap between them was so great that the two couldn't be compared.

However, seventh step kings rarely showed themselves in the Hongmeng. Their goals were very different from the common and lower level kings; another vaster world within the realm was open to them.

Jinse was naturally the seventh step king that Qing Yu had brought, and her mindset had long since surpassed these people. She ordinarily wouldn't be bothered with such tiny ants, but since they were enemies of Lu Yun's and wanted to harm him, she had to begrudgingly pay them some attention.

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A blood sea churned and leapt to the skies. Howling demon upon demon frothed in its waters, a terrifying strength unfurling in all directions and collecting as six bloody dao rules.

Such was the dao of the Blood King.

A battle between two sixth step kings, particularly one out in the one like this, very rarely came with opener moves. There was no mutual probing or testing, everything was fatally decided within the first couple of exchanges.

The Blood King was a perfect example as he opened with displaying his six dao rules and seeking to kill Jinse with one move.

She leaped into action at the same time, not a trace of smoke or leaked presence to be found with her movements. It seemed like a black shadow flashed across the crowd's eyes before the towering blood sea and bloody demons vanished.

The Blood King returned to his previous appearance of an elegant young man wearing a clean blue robe.

However, he was now tied up by a rope of unknown material and hung in the air. Jinse held a small leather whip and carelessly took a few thwacks at the Blood King whenever she wanted to.

Hanging him up and beating him?

Hanging the Blood King up for a beating?!

Jinse didn't employ her whip with much force and didn't even break the Blood King's defenses, but each crack of the whip proved more arduous to endure than actual physical injury.

"Fuck you! You bitch, kill me if you have what it takes!" cursed the Blood Sea, thick despair suffused with mortification in his voice. He had no idea what'd occurred in their exchange before he was suddenly tied up by a rope!

"You need to wash out your mouth." Jinse raised her whip without emotion and viciously cracked it across the Blood King's mouth. Swelling instantly, his lips resembled two sausages hanging off of his face.

“Fellow daoist! You should exercise leniency when possible!” Unable to bear the sight any longer, the Luminous King stepped forward to defuse the situation. “The Blood King is a sixth step king and a personage of great reputation in Multitude City. Humiliating him like this is humiliating yourself!”

“What, do you also want to be hung up there for a beating?” Jinse paused and looked at the other king with a smile. “I’ll let him go if you’re willing to take his place. How about it?”

“I—” Luminous paused and remained where he was standing.

In ordinary times, even peak sixth step kings would show him some respect and cease their actions. He’d never fathomed that Jinse would raise this kind of condition!

The Luminous King cared very much for himself and would never permit others to embarrass him for a beating. Though it would be a glorious story if he did something so self-sacrificing for the Blood King, the shame of being hung up and whipped by another would be something that remained on his mind forever.

Unless... he could personally kill this woman in front of him.

But for all intents and purposes, Jinse was at least peak sixth step king to defeat the Blood King in one move. She’d already seen the threshold of high level kings. As great as the Luminous King’s reputation was, his strength was far below the Blood King’s.

“Impertinent witch, how dare you blasphemy against the Luminous King!” a third step king shouted. “Let me take his place and you let go of the Blood King!”

He spoke with noble self-righteousness; a heroic air of going to his death danced between his brows. He was plainly the king that’d once greeted the Luminous King before.

Luminous’ expression grew uglier. He wouldn’t be able to escape this situation no matter what today, and the third step king’s words had driven him into a corner. Have someone else suffer the beating for him? Though the third step king meant well, permitting that to happen would make the Luminous King the one to commit an injustice.

A third step king had the courage to take the Luminous King’s place, but it was the Luminous King who didn’t agree to the arrangement to save someone? That would make others pause and think him to be a hypocrite, that he wasn’t the perfection he appeared to be on the surface.

“That works.” Jinse smiled with a nod. “You take the Luminous King’s place and I’ll release the Blood King.”