

Necropolis 1281

Chapter 1281: The Deterrence of a Seventh Step King

The third step king held his head high, completely oblivious that he'd forced the Luminous King into awkward straits that the latter couldn't back out of. If he hung in the air today for a beating, the flawless reputation that the Luminous King had spent so much time crafting would be a tattered sheet full of holes, flapping in the wind.

"Ai, forget it," the Luminous King heaved a long sigh. "Who shall enter this hell if not I? Hang me up then.

"You can go back to where you were, I will shoulder the burden of the day. Martial Sacrifice King—I recall that is your title, you must remember that when you become a sixth step king and possess immense strength one day, you should do good unto others. Do not use your power in oppression and tyranny!

"If I can save the Blood King today through my humiliation, then it will all be worth it." He walked up to Jinse with his head held high and nodded at her.

"...witch! Hang me if you want to hang anyone up! If you dare harm the Luminous King today, I swear that I will seek to end your Immortal Pagoda forevermore!!" the Martial Sacrifice King suddenly shrieked like a cuckoo crying blood.

"That's right! If you dare hang up or beat the Luminous King, we swear to be irreconcilable with the Immortal Pagoda!"

"Doesn't the Immortal Pagoda want to do business in Multitude City? We cultivators and kings of the city and region will boycott the Immortal Pagoda. You'll stop operating when you have no business!"

"Your Eminence, let me stand in your stead! If you don't agree, I'll take my life right here!"

"She-devil, hang me if you're going to hang anyone!" The main hall erupted with mayhem.

"Impressive." Jinse raised an eyebrow. She hadn't expected that the Luminous King would so easily dismantle her plot. His control over people's hearts had reached great perfection; he'd easily labeled her as a witch and she-devil, and even pushed the Immortal Pagoda to a position opposing all Multitude cultivators and kings.

"They call you the Luminous King of Virtue and Integrity, and that honorific is indeed borne out in full today." Far from panicking, Jinse nodded with cool composure. "If I follow through and make good on my words to beat you, then I will surely become the public enemy of the Hongmeng and my master would be implicated as well. We would find it difficult to take a single step in the realm."

Her words struck a different chord with the kings on the scene; the Alchemist and Wild Formation Kings frowned as well.

Cultivators beware! Do not offend the Luminous King unless you want your life to become extremely difficult!

The Immortal King had risen with such domination that the Supplemental Alliance had to hold a convention to contend with him. But even he would find progress bothersome in the Hongmeng if he offended the Luminous King.

All of the other kings had previously treated this man of the people as a joke, but now they saw how incredibly frightening he was. He didn't even need to get his hands dirty if he wished to kill someone.

"Since the Luminous King has spoken, I will release the Blood King and refrain from seeking someone in his place." Jinse waved a hand and set the Blood King down.

He glared viciously at the Immortal Pagoda's head manager and committed everything about her to memory. Once he attained more strength, the first on his kill list would be Jinse to wash away the humiliation of this day!

"However, a third step king of the Immortal Pagoda was murdered here without cause or reason. He was our envoy to this convention, so this matter must be addressed." Jinse changed tack, but not her target. "Luminous King, you are deeply conscious of right and wrong to the point of willing to suffer on the Blood King's behalf. Why were you unmoved when my envoy was undeservedly beaten to death on the premises?"

"The Tiger Butcher King sought to bewitch the people with unnatural flights of fancy and disrespected the supplemental grandmasters. The Blood King exterminated a plague for us all and the Tiger Butcher King more than deserved his death!" A supplemental grandmaster stepped forward with a shout. He was wholly unafraid, even though this woman could hang the Blood King in the air and beat him as she would. The Luminous King had already forced her to back down once, which meant he could do it again!

There were so many people here of the same mind and the Luminous King was with them as well. They didn't need to be wary of a mere head manager from the Immortal Pagoda! Most importantly, they were on Colosseum territory. Apart from the Blood King, their reinforcement included an even more mysterious and stronger Human King.

The Human King was the true leader of the Colosseum.

"According to what you say, even death was too good for my envoy. But when I hung up the Blood King and beat him, that was an insult to him?" Jinse smiled an incredibly dangerous smile. The look in her eyes glittered with frost and she turned the entire convention venue into a world of ice and snow around her.

"In that case, since all of you are gathered to oppose the Immortal Pagoda and my master, I will kill you all. All of you well deserve your deaths." She released arctic blasts of killing intent as she spoke, ripping the air around her to shreds.

"Peak sixth step king? Or... seventh step king?" Color drained from the faces of the Luminous, Alchemist, and Blood Kings. The last was sagging weakly on the ground. They would stand a chance if she was a sixth step king, but the power she currently displayed was well beyond sixth step. It'd reached seventh step!

"Seventh step king! This is absolutely the aura of a seventh step!" murmured the Blood King.

The Immortal Pagoda possessed seventh step kings!

The supplemental kings suddenly felt like they were clowns trumpeting their stupidity to the world in hosting this Supplemental Convention. That the Immortal Pagoda had been willing to send an envoy to their gathering was showing them tremendous face!

Even the Luminous King was going weak at the knees. A single word from him could make a sixth step king homeless throughout the Hongmeng, but a seventh step king? Who would pay attention to him then? No one would dare say another word if the king smashed him to death with a casual slap.

The supplemental grandmaster who'd rudely addressed Jinse earlier was already sitting in a puddle of his own pee. However, no one would jeer at his display of weakness—this was a seventh step king!

"Alright now, Jinse, enough of that," a clear voice sounded in the air. "We've come to Multitude City to do business, not start trouble."

"Understood." Jinse quickly retracted her aura and stood respectfully with her hands by her side.

The crowd shuddered once more.

The Immortal King! That voice had belonged to the Immortal King!

A supplemental king who'd just entered the superior realm had easily tamed a seventh step king and caused her to stand docilely off to the side!

Though everyone waited expectantly for his arrival, Lu Yun didn't appear.

"I didn't have a feud with the Colosseum at first, I'd just wanted to watch some sparring. But not only did the Colosseum capture and enslave my brother, it also had designs on my dao partner," Lu Yun's voice traveled forth once more. "And now you've killed the envoy that I sent to the Supplemental Convention. If I let this pass, the entire Hongmeng will think I'm an easy target to bully. In that case, Jinse."

"This servant is here," she quickly responded.

"Strip the Blood King naked and hang him in front of the Immortal Pagoda doors. There's no need to beat him, just hang him there for a hundred years."

"It shall be done." Jinse waved a hand and vanished with the Blood King, sending renewed shudders through those gathered in the hall.

Strip the Blood King naked and hang him in front of the Immortal Pagoda doors for a hundred years? A hundred years would pass by in the blink of an eye for Hongmeng beings, but it would be arduous torment for the Blood King. It was very possible that his cultivation would retreat during this time and he'd die of a cultivation deviation.

Despite that, no one dared speak up for him; even the Luminous King kept his mouth firmly closed, deathly afraid of offending the Immortal Pagoda. When a seventh step king hailed the Immortal King as her master, it was indicative enough of how terrifying the faction behind him must be.

The last sixth step king of the Colosseum—the Human King—was also quietly cowering in a corner of the venue. He didn't dare show his face, for fear of being embroiled in the proceedings.

Lu Yun's voice rose again, "As for the Supplemental Convention, I should indeed participate since I am a supplemental king, but I truly am unable to interrupt my refinement of a few treasures. Thus, I send over these minor tokens to add to the wealth that may be found at this convention. I hope the various supplemental grandmasters and kings do not mind."

Hummm.

A hazy green light flashed through the void before an enormous mountain landed from the sky and towered at the center of the hall.

"It's a mountain of Earth Light Magneticus!" countless grandmasters shrieked when they took a clear look.

"It's the mountain the Immortal Pagoda took from the Windcall King, but the Immortal King's returned it!"

"He's managed to tame and refine the light within this mountain..." Many rushed up to take a clear look when the dust cleared from the landmass.

"Indeed, I have refined this mountain once more and subdued the Earth Light Magneticus within. Whoever can pick it up will become its new owner. The Immortal Pagoda will not charge a single purple crystal," said Lu Yun.

Chapter 1282: Hypocrite

Though Lu Yun wasn't the type to seek revenge for every small grievance, neither was he the sort to turn the other cheek. The mountain of Earth Light Magneticus immediately became the focal point of the convention and the center of attention.

Thus spelled the official failure of this Supplemental Convention.

Just the mountain alone was far more valuable than anything on display from the Supplemental Dao Alliance, including the one thousand premium crystal veins that the Colosseum had sponsored earlier. In fact, that particular gesture now seemed ludicrously insignificant.

A mountain of Earth Light Magneticus in its raw form wouldn't be worth that much since the light within would be unmanageably violent. Even a supplemental king skilled in refining treasures, like the Prime Weapon King, would have to slowly whittle away at the energy.

The light was so unstable that the Windcall King could've ignited it and gone down with the Immortal Pagoda in a blaze of glory.

As for refining an entire mountain of it to bring it down to a milder state? That was an extreme waste of time in most supplemental kings' eyes. It'd take those who specialized in refinement at least a hundred million years before they could accomplish the deed.

The mountain in front of them, however, had been redone into a complete treasure; the Earth Light Magneticus within could be commanded at will. If a sixth step king obtained it, it would be adding wings to a tiger!

“Immortal King, do you mean that? That whoever picks up the mountain will be its new owner?!” roared a sixth step king who’d appeared out of nowhere.

His name was the Elysium King and he was the owner of the Elysium Atelier, one of the four dens of crystal consumption in Multitude City. His organization was the biggest casino in the city and averaged daily revenues of millions of crystals. He was the richest man in Multitude City and his net worth only slightly lower than the Redbud King’s.

“Every word from this king carries weight. I will gift this mountain to whoever picks it up,” Lu Yun chuckled. “It’s not necessarily strength that will manage the deed, some things are best left up to fate. The treasure is sentient as it’s given birth to a flawless treasure spirit. Whoever shares a destiny with it will be able to pick it up.”

“A treasure spirit?! There’s a treasure spirit in this mountain?!” The Prime Weapon King jumped up and rushed to the mountain of Earth Light Magneticus, closely inspecting it all over. He breathed out a long exhale. “There really is a treasure spirit inside, as pure and innocent as a newborn baby. It hasn’t been tainted by anything, and this treasure is indeed ownerless.”

He couldn’t help but reach out a hand and attempt to communicate with the spirit inside. However, the spirit was like a haughty princess and turned away from him, its nose in the air.

The snubbing didn’t bother him, the Prime Weapon King gently caressed the mountain with great enjoyment.

He and the Talisman Adept King had come late to the Supplemental Convention, and their goal wasn’t to oppose the Immortal Pagoda. Now that he’d encountered a king level treasure with a spirit in it, the Prime Weapon King completely gave up the notion of being enemies with the pagoda.

He could also refine king level treasures, but to create one with a spirit inside of it was almost impossible in a Hongmeng that was more like a prison.

One had to reach the paragon of perfection for supplemental dao in order to do so.

The orders of the Hongmeng weren’t complete as it wasn’t a true world. There were endless shackles here restricting the development of life, which was why Hongmeng beings bore an unusual fervor for the fourth realm.

Though they were immortal and undying, they still yearned to be the denizens of a real world.

There were two ways to achieve this goal: one, to break the barrier between the Hongmeng and fourth realm and ascend beyond their world, or two, the immortal dao of the world of immortals.

“A masterpiece of the gods and a treasure of the great dao... Immortal King, I bow to your capabilities!” the Prime Weapon King tutted with appreciation as he brushed the mountain’s surface.

The Alchemist, Imagination, and Wild Formation Kings wore less than pleasant expressions. That mountain of Earth Light Magneticus overshadowed anything they could bring out, and the Immortal King had gone further in for the kill—whoever could pick it up would own it!

For free!

The Supplemental Convention was still ongoing and the number of attendees would continue to grow, but they would only remember the Immortal King's name after this!

His reputation would also reach unprecedented heights thanks to this assembly. Their original mission had been to pull the Immortal Pagoda down, but now everything they'd done had been for its benefit!

The Alchemist King wanted to spit blood, but it was too late for any of them to stop things.

Almost all of the cultivators in the Hongmeng had received word of the mountain's existence. They rushed to Multitude City with the fastest speed possible, as if the mountain would be claimed by another if they were one second slower.

People inside the convention venue were already attempting to lift it. However, it remained solidly unmoving, like it'd grown out of the ground. There was an inconceivably magnificent spatial formation around it, providing ample space for as many cultivators who cared to try their luck at the same time. It never felt crowded, and the spirit inside the treasure could identify its master to prevent unnecessary conflict.

"Gross, don't touch me, you hypocrite!" The treasure spirit suddenly materialized outside of the mountain and shouted angrily at a person.

That caught everyone's ear and they subconsciously looked in the relevant direction. The Luminous King was standing there, his face flickering through a variety of expressions.

The Luminous King?! The Luminous King of Virtue and Integrity had been cursed out as a hypocrite by the treasure spirit of Earth Light Magneticus?!

No one could wrap their mind around this.

"It hasn't been long since the spirit's birth, it's as pure as a blank sheet of paper. It can determine good from evil and detect the truth of a heart. No lofty morals are required to obtain its approval. If one shares an affinity with it, then even one of the devils from the Ten Valleys of Evil can refine it," said the Prime Weapon King. He'd researched treasure spirits for hundreds of millions of years and naturally knew their nature well.

"But if someone says one thing and means another, attempting to deceive the spirit..." He frowned at the Luminous King, who was now brooding ominously. There was none of his usually refined, genteel manner to be seen; a strangely fiendish expression crossed his face.

"Hmph! Everyone knows what kind of person I am. It is not the place of a minor treasure spirit to judge me!" the Luminous King declared in chilly tones. "Immortal King, did you create this mountain to target and defame me?"

Lu Yun didn't respond; he didn't seem to be paying attention to the proceedings anymore.

"Hmph!" Jinse snorted back. "My master is a very busy person and doesn't have time to fuss with little people like you. I repeat what we've said before, that whoever can pick this mountain up will own it, no matter their method!"

Chapter 1283: Fall of the Starspace King

Jinse left with a turn; she couldn't be bothered further with the Luminous King.

At a loss of what to do, he remained where he was and shuffled with a bit of anxiety. But he quickly noticed that everyone was once more focused on the mountain of Earth Light Magneticus; no one cared about him.

It would seem that the perfect reputation of the Luminous King was rather feeble when compared to a great treasure that stoked a maddened frenzy.

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The Alchemist, Imagination, and Wild Talisman Kings stood in front of the mountain with grim expressions. They were the true hosts of this Supplemental Convention and now the real jokes at the end of the day.

"This mountain of Earth Light Magneticus didn't come into the Immortal Pagoda's hands until half a year ago. The Immortal King refined it during this time," the Alchemist King intoned. "His grasp of refining items has reached a height of wondrous perfection. It will require the Dao King to counter him!"

The Dao King was the publicly recognized foremost expert of supplemental dao in the Hongmeng.

Whether it was supplemental or cultivation dao, the Dao King had attained flawless excellence in both. No one knew what level he was currently at. They only knew that he preferred a hermit's life and hadn't appeared in the Hongmeng for over a hundred million years.

"Not necessarily!" The Wild Talisman King changed the topic. "It's said that the Immortal King controls the order of time, once releasing ten inches of time to destroy a hundred thousand Colosseum cultivators and the Beast King."

"If this is true, then it's very likely he utilized the order of time when refining the mountain. Only time can give rise to a spirit inside a treasure!" the Imagination King added.

Alchemist lowered his head to muse over their words and nodded. "Both of you are right. The Immortal King is very heaven-defying and can create all sorts of supplemental items, including treasures, pills, formations. This is certainly not the work of his hand alone. It's very likely that he's been chosen to represent a group!

"His organization counts a large coterie of supplemental grandmasters and possibly even kings among their numbers. He dares be this brazen simply because he grasps the order of time!

"The order of time... heh. Legend says that whoever holds it will be subject to misfortune and turn into a large fish. The Immortal King won't be long for the world. I'm sure the bad luck will be soon forthcoming if he dares become a titled king through cultivation level." A slight smile appeared on Alchemist's face.

"What we need to do now is discern how to dismantle the Immortal Pagoda. A day in which it exists is a day in which our Supplemental Dao Alliance will be suppressed!

"The Immortal King is nothing to worry about, the most important task at hand is to defeat the Immortal Pagoda. Otherwise, even if the Immortal King dies, the pagoda will just bring out some sort of God King or a Ghost King to be their new representative. Our sights should be set on the organization itself, not a pathetic Immortal King!

“Granted, since he is their representative, anything that happens to him is also a slight to the Immortal Pagoda!”

The three supplemental kings began discussing their plans. This was of paramount importance given the alliance’s great prestige and Lu Yun being the first to challenge it since its inception. Since he was trying to break its monopoly on supplemental dao in the Hongmeng, it would naturally see him as the number one thorn in their side.

The Immortal Pagoda possessed a seventh step king?

So what? The Supplemental Dao Alliance also had high level kings! In fact, there were several seventh step kings holding down the fort in Multitude City.

“Isn’t the Immortal Pagoda mass refining Eight Treasures Return Pills?” the Alchemist King suddenly cackled. “The most important ingredient for that pill is the crystal core of an arcane beast king! If they continuously refine the Eight Treasures Return Pill, that means they have to keep killing arcane beast kings...”

He exchanged conspiratory grins with the Wild Formation King.

“That’s not enough, we need to have that hypocrite the Luminous King speak up as well. Though not many paid attention to the treasure spirit, what it said will become a stain on his record. He will not go quietly into the night.”

“That’s right, we’ll join hands with the Luminous King and ruin the Immortal Pagoda’s name!”

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Lu Yun stretched thoroughly in a secret chamber on the ninth floor of the Immortal Pagoda.

“Jinse, how is business these days?” A yawn almost split his face.

“We spread our name far and wide during the Supplemental Convention and our foot traffic over the past couple of days has been thirty percent more than usual. We are sitting solidly at three hundred billion premium purple crystals a day for our top line!” Jinse materialized to report to Lu Yun.

Three hundred billion premium crystals was the equivalent of three small premium crystal veins, and everything that Lu Yun was using came from Qing Yu. He wasn’t incurring any costs for his goods sold.

“Not enough, it’s not enough.” He shook his head. “While these purple crystals are a stunning wealth for regular Hongmeng beings, they’re far from enough for Hopeless Major!”

Jinse swallowed hard. She’d been in charge of financial affairs in Hopeless Major and oversaw its resources, which was how she’d stymied Qing Yu’s plans and caused the latter to want to kill her.

Hopeless Major had established many trading guilds throughout the Hongmeng, but all of their daily revenue combined was only one hundred billion premium crystals. Three hundred billion a day was no small sum. It would shock the entire realm if it was made public knowledge.

“You have to know!” Lu Yun jerked his head up. “I’m using all of Hopeless Major’s resources to make my money! This is pure profit for me, but it’s minuscule for the major and not worth mentioning!”

“Although you no longer oppose Little Yu, she’s under great pressure after giving me all of Hopeless Major’s wealth. If I don’t send her large amounts of purple crystals, pills, medicines, and treasures in due time, they’ll come down hard on her.”

Lu Yun rose and walked over to a window overlooking all of Multitude City. He’d ferried countless treasures, pills and medicines, purple crystals, and all sorts of war resources to the Hopeless Major over the past half year. But in his eyes, all of that was just a drop in the bucket.

“Ask the Redbud King for more money? No, that’ll attract attention if I do so again and it’ll land her in dangerous circumstances.” He shook his head.

The Redbud King had gifted him with five million premium crystal veins when the Immortal Pagoda opened for business. That’d caused some change to the Redbud Mountain and elicited notice from certain parties.

Being the foremost dragon of the realm, the Redbud Mountain was under constant surveillance. Though Lu Yun had set up a layout around it and utilized the dragon’s strength, making the Redbud King feel invincible when she stood within it, that was only among sixth step kings. She would still be in danger if seventh, eighth, or ninth step kings moved against her.

“Master, all of the pressure on Mistress Empyrean will be resolved when you send her the puppet army of a hundred thousand half step kings in another six months,” Jinse said quietly as she looked at Lu Yun’s expression. “Mistress Inrance has also transported over many illusory formations. It’s completely changed the layout of the battlefield.”

Lu Yun nodded gently. He’d gotten a clear handle on the war between the Ten Valleys of Evil and the Hongmeng ninth step kings. He wouldn’t be able to make a difference even if he became a ninth step king himself, as the valleys didn’t lack for peak kings.

This was a prolonged war in which the ten valleys needed an unending stream of resources and war treasures the most. One or two additional personnel wouldn’t affect the outcome of the conflict.

Lu Yun wasn’t short on resources anymore; all he had to do was to fully deploy their power and turn them into real treasures and purple crystals.

“If I could recruit some more supplemental grandmasters...” The thought occurred to him unbidden. “But given how I’m directly impacting their profits, they’ll probably openly attack me if I blatantly recruit supplemental grandmasters.”

He stroked his chin. He didn’t want any further clashes with the Supplemental Dao Alliance for the moment, that ran counter to his goals. All he wanted to do now was to quietly make money and refine treasures.

“Hmm?” His expression suddenly changed.

“Young master, young master, help!” Zhuo Bufan’s voice echoed in his mind. He wasn’t one of Lu Yun’s Infernum, but answered to the young man because Lu Qing had planted a restriction deep within his true spirit.

Though Lu Yun hadn't communicated with Zhuo Bufan since departing from Starcloud City, the two maintained something of a connection.

"What is it? What's going on?" Lu Yun frowned.

"The Moon, Moon King suddenly turned into a ghost king and is rampaging through Starspace Region with incredible strength! She killed the Starspace King and the entire region's turned into a ghost region! She's attacking Scorching Sun right now, so please save us, young master!" Zhuo Bufan was very frantic and worried.

"Is Starspace City gone too?" Lu Yun's expression darkened.

"It's gone... Almost all of the region's cities have been destroyed. Only Scorching Sun and a few others are left..." Despair suffused Zhuo Bufan's voice.

Lu Yun sent his senses out and discovered that the formations in Starcloud City and others he'd left behind had indeed been destroyed. Miao Qimiao, Luo Shanshan, and the others were all dead.

"Have the Scorch King hold on for a moment, I'll send people there immediately." Lu Yun nodded. "Beast King, take your men to reinforce the Scorch King at Scorching Sun City!"

"Understood!" Stationed at the City of Immortals, the Beast King and others immediately set out when they received their orders. Infernum couldn't stray too far from Lu Yun, but since these kings were all written into the Tome of Life and Death, they could freely move about at will.

"Lu Yun, Lu Yun!" Dusksnow Morningstar suddenly wailed. "Lu Yun, I'm going back to Starspace Region! Vicious ghosts have overrun it and my master, my family—"

"Calm down for a moment, Morningstar." Lu Yun flashed to where the genius was. "I've already sent men to the region, don't worry. Though the Starspace King is dead, your family may not be in danger."

Dusksnow Morningstar's eyes reddened. "I'm not one of the Starspace King's men, but I owe him a great debt of gratitude. I cannot stay here when he's been killed by vicious ghosts!"

"Since you've decided, I won't stop you." Since Dusksnow Morningstar was a half step king, his every decision impacted his dao heart and future achievements. "Take Old Eight with you, I'll feel much more comfortable that way," Lu Yun mentioned.

Chapter 1284: Continuing Troubles

The sudden development took Lu Yun completely off guard.

The Moon King had suddenly killed the Starspace King and turned all of Starspace Region into a ghost region, plunging the land into misery and suffering?

Even the Starcloud City that he'd worked on before had been destroyed.

Lu Yun had known long ago that the Moon King was a ghost king, but had always thought that she was a second step king. He'd thought that she would have to keep a low profile and wouldn't immediately expose herself, so he'd thought nothing much of her.

Who would've thought that she'd suddenly rain fire and brimstone down on the land, taking all of Starspace Region? Lu Yun blamed himself for the oversight.

The Beast King has taken the Colosseum kings to Scorching Sun City, so they should be able to save the Scorch King and Zhuo Bufan.

Lu Yun would feel rather anxious if Dusksnow Morningstar returned to Starspace Region now, so he sent along Hua Fengwen as the half step king traveled back home. With how badly damaged Hua Fengwen's dao heart was, Lu Yun hoped that he could use the vicious ghosts of Starspace Region to recover and find his way back to the dashing Eighth King Hua Fengwen.

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"Why did the Moon King suddenly show herself and take down all of Starspace Region? That's Enforcer Alliance territory, does she have a death wish?" Lu Yun's thoughts ran fretfully. "Or is some other ghost king helping her and they're purposely targeting the alliance?"

The Starspace Region wasn't a big region—it paled far in comparison to Multitude Region, but it wasn't an inconsequential region either. Its ruler had been a fifth step king. Then again, it wasn't a big deal that it'd been overrun by vicious ghosts. Every second saw Hongmeng cities under attack from vicious ghosts, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of millions of beings.

It wasn't rare to see them conquer a large region, it would just be a headache for the Enforcer Alliance that the Moon King had taken Starspace Region. There were many in the third realm just waiting to see the alliance fall off their perch.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

The Immortal Pagoda trembled as he considered this newest event, as if someone was bombarding the pagoda's formation. Shock crossed his face and he extended his consciousness to see no less than ten sixth step kings surrounding the Immortal Pagoda, furiously battering the pagoda's formations.

Lu Yun's temper ignited with a fury.

"I'm just doing business here with the intention of helping others and didn't kill the Blood King even when he killed my man. I only confined him for a hundred years, but you lot make trouble for me again and again. Do you really think I'm that much of a pushover?!" His expression darkening ominously, Lu Yun walked out of the pagoda.

"You ten, what is the meaning of your unwarranted attacks?!" Lu Yun shouted at the ten ferocious kings in the air.

"What is the meaning?" sneered one of the kings. "We are arcane beast kings, do you understand my meaning?"

“That’s right! You hunt our kings and use their crystal cores for your Eight Treasures Return Pill, then have the gall to ask us what we mean by this?? And what do you mean by that, Immortal King?!” The ten arcane beasts combined their aura and sent it bearing down on Lu Yun.

A purple-black figure flashed by his side to rebuff the frightening pressure.

“Kill arcane beasts for their crystal cores?” Lu Yun curled his lip. “Who knows how many have died in the hands of the Supplemental Dao Alliance? You aren’t pounding down their doors for revenge and come kick in mine—do you think I’m a pushover?”

“I don’t know if you’re a pushover, but how many pills has your Immortal Pagoda sold in the six months it’s been operating?!” bawled an arcane beast king. “At least a couple hundred thousand! All of those arcane beast kings! You, you, y-you’re a serial killer with your hands full of arcane beast blood!”

Many other arcane beast kings were also present apart from the ten sixth step ones. They’d completely blockaded the Immortal Pagoda, preventing entrance and egress.

“That’s right, the Immortal Pagoda is stained with the blood of arcane beast kings.” A low voice traveled in as the Luminous King slowly appeared around the corner. “That egotistic Tiger Butcher King of yours pompously flapped his lips at the Supplemental Convention, insulting all of the supplemental masters in the realm. The Blood King took action for them and is now hanging over your front doors for it.

“Is it that your king can’t die for no good reason, but arcane beast kings can?!” The Luminous King grew more agitated as he spoke. “Hundreds of thousands of Eight Treasures Return Pills! How many arcane beast kings did you kill to make so many?!”

“Everyone, the pills you consume contain the blood of innocents! Can you really consume blood pills such as these?!”

To a man, the crowd trembled and didn’t dare say anything. There were more than a hundred arcane beasts present. Add to that the ten sixth step kings... that made for a faction sufficient to overthrow any in Multitude City.

Even more crucial was that they were here representing the will of the arcane beasts. If Jinse beat them back or killed any of them, countless arcane beasts would trample the Immortal Pagoda into the ground on the morrow.

It didn’t matter when supplemental masters surreptitiously killed a few arcane beasts for normal usage in refining treasures or pills. The rule of jungle reigned supreme in the Hongmeng, after all, and arcane beasts also hunted down cultivators for food.

But if one killed tens of thousands of arcane beast kings to refine into pills and then sold them on the open market... that was terrible.

If Lu Yun didn’t handle the matter properly today, then seventh, eighth, and ninth step arcane beast kings would also pay him a visit for a heart-to-heart.

“This Luminous King is seriously such an annoying piece of shit.” Lu Yun rubbed his aching temples. He was already on edge from the events of Starspace Region, and here trouble was suddenly on his doorstep.

"I should've killed those supplemental kings to instill some fear into the general public. This attempt at peaceful coexistence with everyone sucked. I thought that the fewer issues on my plate, the better," he murmured.

"Immortal King!" The Luminous King suddenly shouted. "Your hands are dripping with the blood of innocent kings! You kill the blameless for your own gains! You... are an evil demon of the Hongmeng!"

Boom!

Thunder ripped through the air with his denouncement.

"An evil demon!"

"The Luminous King of Virtue and Integrity has labeled the Immortal King as a demon!"

"Ah, he will find everything difficult in the Hongmeng from now on."

"The great characters of the realm, such as the fifth step, sixth step, and kings beyond sixth step won't think much of this. However, ordinary kings and beings will list the Immortal King as a demon!"

"The Immortal Pagoda will also become a nest of evil!"

"Damn, the Luminous King is too vicious!"

"Apparently, the treasure spirit of the Earth Light Magneticus mountain refined by the Immortal King rebuked the Luminous King for being a hypocrite. I wonder if this is his revenge?"

"Shh! Be quiet! Do you want the Luminous King to call you a demon too?"

Conversation sprang up throughout Multitude City. No matter what people said, most thought that this was the end of the road for the Immortal Pagoda. A mere treasure spirit couldn't threaten the position of the Hongmeng's Moral Emperor.

In fact, many were already feeling repulsed by the Immortal Pagoda and Immortal King. The Luminous King had helped a lot of them before, and slaughtering so many arcane beast kings was indeed over the line. The Immortal King killed arcane beasts now because he needed their crystal cores to make money with, and what if he needed the nascent spirit of kings one day...?

"Ai." Lu Yun shook his head. "Running around with a pack of trash limits what you see of the world."

The Luminous King frowned and looked wordlessly at the ten arcane beasts in the air.

They landed with wary glances at Jinse standing behind Lu Yun. If it wasn't for her, they would've already charged in and sliced Lu Yun to bits.

They weren't idiots—though they were in the full throes of fury, they weren't here to die needless deaths.

"Is it the Alchemist King who told you that the crystal cores of arcane beast kings are needed for the Eight Treasures Return Pill?" Lu Yun asked the strongest sixth step beast king in front of him.

His listener frowned; arcane beast kings understood neither cultivation nor supplemental dao, but that didn't mean they were fools. They came to their conclusions only after extended investigation.

“It is indeed the Alchemist King who told us that, but we already knew of the pill’s existence. One of the eight treasures is the crystal cores of an arcane beast king!” Named the Prehistoric King, he was peak sixth step and far stronger than the Blood King. “Are you going to tell us that yours doesn’t require one of our cores?” he sniggered.

Chapter 1285: Battling Skill

“The supplemental grandmasters of the Supplemental Dao Alliance created the Eight Treasures Return Pill. If they say it requires the crystal core of an arcane beast king, then it naturally does.” Lu Yun nodded.

“Perverse heresy!” snorted the Luminous King. “Do you seek to bestir trouble between the arcane beast kings and the Supplemental Dao Alliance now?”

Lu Yun ignored him and materialized a pill with a flip of his hand. “Everyone, what is this to you?”

The pill was pale gold in color and etched with eight deep purple veins that intersected with each other.

“The Eight Treasures Return Pill, that’s the Eight Treasures Return Pill!” someone gasped in the crowd.

The Supplemental Dao Alliance priced the pill at five million premium purple crystals, and one might not even be able to buy it even with sufficient crystals. However, the same pill went for five hundred thousand in the Immortal Pagoda.

“Indeed, this is an Eight Treasures Return Pill as sold by the Immortal Pagoda. Prehistoric King, please taste this pill to see if there’s the crystal core of an arcane bast king within.” He tossed it to the king in question.

The Prehistoric King paused when he caught it and took a gentle sniff. Sure enough, there was no presence of an arcane beast king coming from it.

“The one invented by the alliance uses a king’s crystal core as a main ingredient, so it will certainly contain the resentment of the arcane beast king in its final struggles for life. This kind of resentment will inescapably linger in the pill, and any cultivator that takes it will suffer backlash from the malice.

“Their tribulation will be one of inner demons, with a lighter tribulation resulting in a cultivation deviation and possession by resentment, and a heavier one seeing the shattering and doom of one’s soul!” Lu Yun waxed eloquent with his hands behind his back.

“But the one as invented by my Immortal Pagoda uses eighty-one spirit grasses to replace the crystal core, so there is no resentment in the pills we create. There are no side effects and it’s much milder. There will be no aftereffects from consuming one of ours.”

This was indeed one of the drawbacks of the Eight Treasures Return Pill. Lu Yun had discovered it the first time he refined it, but since he was using the core of the Meteorite King, that king wouldn’t dare feel an ounce of resentment toward Lu Yun.

Upon establishing the Immortal Pagoda, he’d initially used the crystal cores that Hopeless Major sent over. After he utilized formula dao, he was able to concoct a recipe that didn’t require an arcane beast king’s core.

Not only did that vastly reduce his expenses, but it also avoided some unnecessary trouble—like what was happening now.

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“There is no arcane beast presence to be found in this Eight Treasures Return Pill, it’s not refined from the core of a king.” The Prehistoric King shook his head after carefully examining the pill. “But I don’t know if this is the legendary Eight Treasures Return Pill.”

He was no fool; he naturally possessed a keen mind if he was here to demand an explanation from the Immortal Pagoda. He wouldn’t be used by anyone else, and he also wouldn’t be deterred with just a few words.

“You, come here, eat this pill.” With a random grab at the air, Prehistoric snatched a common realm cultivator watching the show several thousand kilometers away. He didn’t wait for an answer before shoving the pill into the cultivator’s mouth.

Gurgle!

Strange gurgling churned from the cultivator’s body in the next moment. He shook as all of his muscles, tendons, and bones began to expand at a rapid pace. A great force blossomed from his body after a few breaths while tribulation clouds gathered and thunder boomed overhead.

Prehistoric jumped with shock, he hadn’t thought that the cultivator would break through in a few short breaths and summon a heavenly tribulation!

Bolts of silver lightning smote downward before he could react. Attracted by a strange power the moment they landed on the ground, they instantly vanished without a trace.

“Prehistoric King, now can you be certain that this is the Eight Treasures Return Pill?” Lu Yun chuckled.

Instead of responding, the king brought the terrified cultivator up to his eyes for a look. After close examination, he nodded wordlessly and sent away the man who’d almost peed his pants.

“That is indeed the pill in question. Fascinating! That common realm cultivator had just ascended and his cultivation was yet to stabilize. That pill was able to instantly propel him into the superior realm and consolidate his cultivation!” Prehistoric sighed with amazement.

“Hmph!” snorted the Luminous King. “The Eight Treasures Return Pill? The Immortal Pagoda boasts of another Six Paths Reincarnation Pill with the same effect! Who knows if the Immortal King pulled the wool over your eyes with that pill instead?”

“Luminous King!” snarled Prehistoric. “Do you think that I’m not able to tell the difference between these two pills?!”

Luminous’ heart skipped a beat, he’d said a word too many. While arcane beasts didn’t wield supplemental dao, that didn’t mean they lacked knowledge. His last words had been obliquely jeering at the arcane beast king for being ignorant.

He’d put his foot in his mouth and made it so that even if Lu Yun had brought out the Six Paths Reincarnation Pill, Prehistoric would still say it was the other pill no matter what. He would never waver

out of consideration for his dignity, and Luminous suddenly had the feeling that he'd picked up a rock to smash his own foot.

These arcane beasts thought nothing of him. "The Luminous King of Virtue and Integrity" and the Moral Emperor of the Hongmeng were unfunny jokes in their eyes. Arcane beasts respected pure strength, not empty titles or honors.

Luminous flushed beet red, but didn't dare say anything else.

"The Prehistoric King's words may be in error!" The Alchemist King suddenly walked through the air and landed gently in front of Immortal Pagoda. He leveled a cold smirk at Lu Yun. "The Immortal King is a supplemental king acknowledged by the Hongmeng Tower and his grasp of the supplemental arts have reached insurmountable heights of perfection! He can turn the falsehood into reality and deceive even strong supplemental grandmasters, to say nothing of the Prehistoric King!"

"Oh?" Prehistoric blinked, much appeased by the Alchemist King's comparison of him to strong supplemental grandmasters. "Verily, is that so?" he responded in similar flowery language.

"That Immortal King knows full well what kind of business he's running and that arcane beast kings would beat down his door one day. That's why he used a Six Paths Reincarnation Pill wrapped in an Eight Treasures Return Pill to fool the Prehistoric King.

"What a pity that despite all his scheming, he overlooked one thing. The cultivator who just broke through is a disciple of the Elysium Atelier. He entered the common realm because he ate an Eight Treasures Return Pill!

"You, come here!" With a wave of Alchemist's hand, the cultivator from earlier reappeared in front of everyone. "Speak! How did you become a common realm cultivator!"

"In response to Your Eminence Alchemist!" The cultivator who'd just broken through and fully stabilized his cultivation level took a deep breath and forced down his apprehension. He answered with unease, "My name is Chen Zhong, but I'm not a disciple of the Elysium Atelier, my father is. He used his life savings of five hundred thousand premium crystals to buy an Eight Treasures Return Pill for me, which is how I broke through to the common realm!

"And many thanks to this eminence for bestowing me another pill to help me to superior realm!" He kowtowed respectfully to the Prehistoric King.

Blinking, Prehistoric inclined his head and thought nothing more of the gesture. Viciousness flashed through his eyes when he looked at Lu Yun again.

Lu Yun frowned faintly. If he didn't handle this well today, the Immortal Pagoda wouldn't recover from this misfortune. If the arcane beast kings issued a joint proclamation that whoever dared take an Eight Treasures Return Pill from the Immortal Pagoda would be making enemies out of them all, that would be a devastating outcome for the pagoda.

All he wanted to do now was to make money. He didn't want any of this unnecessary trouble, but neither did that mean that he wouldn't return blow for blow. The enemy was at the gates, so he would absolutely stand his ground.

“This Chen Zhong’s being controlled by an illusory art. His current actions aren’t representative of his true thoughts or the Elysium Atelier.” The little fox’s voice suddenly sounded in his ears.

The Elysium Atelier was one of the heavyweights of Multitude City. These developments were plainly pushing Lu Yun and the atelier to oppose each other, which was why she’d spoken up in warning.

Lu Yun nodded gently.

“That’s not it!” Chen Zhong shuddered and shrieked, “My dad’s a half step king of the atelier, alright, but he bought a Six Paths Reincarnation Pill for me, not an Eight Treasures Return Pill! Someone was controlling my mind just now!”

The little fox had made her move.

Chapter 1286: A Complete Rout

The crowd erupted with consternation after Chen Zhong’s correction. Half of Multitude City was in an uproar, and anyone from the Elysium Atelier considered the disturbance ominously.

As a casino of Multitude City, Elysium Atelier had no conflicts of interest with the Immortal Pagoda. On the contrary, there were many areas for the two to work together! But the atelier was being pushed to the forefront to falsely incriminate the pagoda and set themselves on opposing sides... It was enough to make the Elysium King jump out and curse the son of a bitch behind this.

But no one from the atelier stepped forward. It was the Supplemental Dao Alliance pulling the strings from the shadows, and a tiny Elysium Atelier couldn’t hold its own compared to such a massive organization.

If the alliance used the same force against the atelier, they’d be able to take down ten Elysium Ateliers.

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Intense anxiety and fear flooded Chen Zhong’s expression. “I’m just a minor character and ascended from inferior realm strictly out of good luck. Why do you great personages have me in your sights? Do you want my death?”

His voice dripped with intense resentment. He was a nobody, but all of these eminent characters were blatantly using him as a pawn. No matter what the outcome of the day was, his only fate would be death.

“Don’t be afraid, Chen Zhong, I won’t let anything happen to you no matter how things turn out today,” Lu Yun said. “You said you were lucky to ascend to superior realm. Did you eat anything else apart from the pill you just ate?”

His voice was gentle and contained a melody that soothed the mind, swiftly calming Chen Zhong’s nerves.

“I also ate a Snowfog Lotus... No, I ate an Eight Treasures Return Pill! An Eight Treasures Return Pill that my father spent his life savings to purchase from the Immortal Pagoda! It’s the Eight Treasures Return Pill that helped me into the common realm!”

His expression twisted and he snarled savagely, "It's the Eight Treasures Return Pill, hahaha!! An Eight Treasures Return Pill with the presence of an arcane beast king brought my cultivation to the common realm! The Prehistoric King then gave me another pill that's very similar, but completely different to push me into the superior realm!

"This is my good luck!!" His voice rose until he was screaming like a banshee and he appeared to be a madman.

"The Imagination King has thrown caution to the wind! If I continue to use illusory arts on Chen Zhong, his mind will collapse and he'll turn into the walking dead!"

The little fox and Imagination King were using Chen Zhong as a battlefield, with the former holding the upper hand. However, the Imagination King was now utilizing forbidden arts to forcefully take over the man's mind.

If the little fox continued to strike back, Chen Zhong would become a walking dead—his soul scattered beyond redemption.

"Hahaha!" the Alchemist King threw his head back with laughter. "Immortal King, I know there's an Intrace King inside the Immortal Pagoda who is a supplemental king of illusions. She used her arts to control Chen Zhong just now and had him change his response, didn't she?"

"You forget that my alliance has an even more skilled Imagination King who instantly defused the art being used to control him!" He took the first mover advantage by striking first.

"The Imagination King is indeed skilled." Lu Yun nodded noncommittally. "But if she continues to control Chen Zhong, his soul will scatter in another hundred breaths and he'll be the walking dead. Why don't we wait a hundred breaths and draw our conclusions then?"

This was from the little fox. Though Lu Yun knew illusions, he wasn't as well-versed in them as her.

Hidden in the shadows, the Imagination King's eyes widened. She was indeed using her illusory arts to control Chen Zhong, and the man couldn't withstand two illusory kings battling through him. His mind was infinitely close to collapse.

"Imagination King, Chen Zhong will live if you let go of him now. If not, he'll die very shortly!" Lu Yun stepped forward.

"Hahaha!!" Imagination's laughter rang throughout the premises. She didn't show herself, but her voice seemed to be everywhere and echoing from all corners.

"Immortal King, it is you who should have the Intrace King release Chen Zhong," she sneered. "She keeps attacking his mind, I'm just protecting him. He will naturally live if she ceases her offensive."

"You're so shameless." The little fox walked out with a thin veil over her face and another layer of illusion over her features. "I'm not using any illusory arts right now, you're the only one."

She turned in place. "There are so many kings and supplemental kings here. I'm sure you can tell who's speaking the truth."

Ten arcane beast kings had surrounded the Immortal Pagoda and the Alchemist, Luminous, and Intranse Kings were all present. Such exciting proceedings would naturally draw a lot of kings in the crowd.

Multitude City was a place of crouching tigers and hidden dragons, and a key to the Hongmeng Tower had appeared not too long ago. The later mountain of Earth Light Magneticus had also drawn countless experts.

All of them could tell that there were no ripples of illusory arts coming from the little fox.

"Imagination King, why don't you come out as well for everyone to take a look?" Her voice rang like a babbling brook in the mountains, broadening the heart and delighting the mind.

Many were reminded of the unknown song that'd been sung when the pink ball burst at the Supplemental Convention.

"Too chicken to, huh?" Derision colored her tones. "The Prehistoric King claims that the Immortal Pagoda killed hundreds of thousands of arcane beast kings in order to refine our pills. So many beast kings dying at the same time is a matter that will shake the Hongmeng. There would be no possibility of concealing it.

"So where has the Prehistoric King heard of so many arcane beast kings dying? Or have we killed your friends and family for our pills?" She ignored her opponent and turned to the Prehistoric King instead.

Prehistoric's heart raced. True enough, he hadn't heard of so many kings dying anywhere. Even several hundred at the same time would be an incredulous event. Arcane beasts couldn't advance through cultivation, so every king was exceptionally gifted. All arcane beasts highly valued their kings.

They might fight and kill each other, but they would never permit cultivators to hunt them en masse.

"Um... you're right, I haven't." Prehistoric rubbed his nose. "It seems that only a few thousand kings have died in the past million years..."

The highly strung atmosphere was instantly defused. Lu Yun stuck his thumb up at the little fox, who looked proudly back at him.

"Imagination King, you should really release his mind or Chen Zhong's soul will fly apart." She pressured her opponent once more.

"Hmph!" came a snort in the air before the Imagination King disappeared.

Chen Zhong's eyes rolled up into the back of his head and he fainted. She naturally wouldn't leave him awake to spew more nonsense.

"I'm sure everyone now knows the truth of the Eight Treasures Return Pill. I will speak no more on it then," Lu Yun smiled at the Prehistoric King.

Chapter 1287: A Bet and a Battle

There was no need to explain anything or say anything else. No one in attendance was a fool, they knew full well what was going on here.

An utter rout.

The Luminous King felt like he was a prancing jester on display for everyone's amusement. He had no idea what to do as he'd never run into something like this since making a name for himself.

Unbidden, he looked toward the Alchemist King again.

The Alchemist King wore a dark expression and didn't reveal any overt emotional fluctuations. He silently stared at Lu Yun in front of him, a strange flame slowly kindling in his eyes.

"Immortal King, dare you match skills with me?" He suddenly took a step forward.

"Match skills?" Lu Yun blinked, then looked at him up and down before responding with interest, "What kind of skills?"

"You and I are both supplemental kings, so naturally, we will battle with supplemental skills," replied the Alchemist King. "You excel in the field as you've perfected the recipe for the Eight Treasures Return Pill, expunging all drawbacks from it. You can be hailed as the greatest there is in refining medicine.

"But my title as the Alchemist King is bestowed by the Hongmeng Tower itself, so I do not accept this outcome! You and I shall see how our skills in refining pills measure up to each other!"

This was his last defense—he would openly defeat Lu Yun in a fair battle before the eyes of the public, letting them all know that the Immortal King was inferior to the Alchemist King. The Immortal Pagoda would naturally close up shop after that, or be assimilated by the Supplemental Dao Alliance.

The little fox walked up to feed a pill to Chen Zhong, then used an illusory art of the heart to soothe his mind. The crowd took in all of this as well.

"Sure." Lu Yun nodded. "Since the Alchemist King wishes to offer some personal instruction, this junior will naturally not decline."

"Good!" The Alchemist King's eyes gleamed. He was fully confident of being able to beat Lu Yun as long as the boy dared accept his challenge.

Lu Yun was less than a year into his supplemental kingship, so how strong could he possibly be? In the Alchemist King's eyes, all that made the Immortal King powerful was his grasp of the order of time. The boy's own skills were commonplace and mediocre.

The Alchemist King had conducted an extensive investigation into the Immortal Pagoda and discovered that the various pills and medicines it sold likely originated from one person. Though their level wasn't low, with some king level pills to be found, their quality wasn't high.

They paled far in comparison to something refined by the Alchemist King and could at most be compared to the work of a pill master about to ascend to supplemental kingship.

This was in line with the Immortal King's status as a supplemental king not a year into his position!

In addition, the other treasures for sale at the Immortal Pagoda weren't of high quality either and looked to be the product of a supplemental grandmaster. Their refinement methods were so similar that they were indicative of originating from one person as well.

Therefore, the Alchemist King was certain that there were no other supplemental kings within the Immortal Pagoda other than the Immortal King and Inrance King. Everything they sold came from the hands of the Immortal King!

Though the Immortal King was experienced in all trades, he was a master of none. Neither this nor that in anything, all he could do was rely on his command of time for his accomplishments!

The Alchemist King didn't fear someone like this at all.

"You're the senior, so how do you say we should match our skills?" Lu Yun asked with a chuckle.

"A battle between supplemental kings is not one mired in so many rules and taboos. Refine what you're most adept in—regardless of level. The one with the higher quality product is the victor. What say you to that?" The Alchemist King smiled back. "The various kings present will be the judges of this match."

"That will do." Lu Yun nodded. "Then I chose to refine an improved Eight Treasures Return Pill for everyone's perusal."

He looked at the Prehistoric King, who inclined his head along with his cohorts. Nothing was more convincing than Lu Yun refining that pill again on the spot.

"Which of us shall go first?" Lu Yun asked.

"Let us commence together, lest others say I bullied you."

Clunk!

The Alchemist King brought out a vermilion pill cauldron and placed it in front of the Immortal Pagoda. Three hundred meters tall, heat waves roiled off of it and dyed everything within fifty kilometers a bright red.

Starting with surprise, many kings swiftly retreated and jointly raised a large boundary to seal off the area. When supplemental kings refined pills, they did so with great fanfare. The truths of Hongmeng great daos defined each of their gestures and it was easy for others to be caught up in it.

The various heavyweights of Multitude City showed themselves at this time—the Fineheart and Finepure Kings of Sublime Pavilion, the Elysium King of Elysium Atelier, and the master of the fourth den of crystal consumption, the Ingenium King of the Ingenium Gazebo. They were here to witness the battle.

The Human King of the Colosseum was in attendance as well, but he remained hidden off to the side rather than appear out in the open. Of the other two sixth step kings in his faction, one was dead and the other captured. He didn't have the face to be seen in public.

Apart from those on the scene, there were other powerhouses within Multitude City, but they were mostly chasing after Jin Naluo and weren't home.

"That's just as well." Lu Yun nodded, agreeing to the Alchemist King's proposal.

No matter who went first or second, the winning side would be under suspicion of enjoying an unfair advantage. If the first contestant refined a successful cauldron of pills, that would levy psychological

pressure on the second. The one to go second could learn from the process of the first or refine a pill specifically designed to counter their opponent.

Having the two start at the same time was a fairer arrangement.

Lu Yun waved a hand and rapidly gathered Hongmeng qi, forming it into a cauldron three hundred meters tall. It emanated an indistinct purple glow and nurtured a purple flame within.

“A forge of earth and sky?” sneered the Alchemist King. “This forge is the peak accomplishment of treasure refinement. You use another supplemental dao in refining pills?”

Within the Hongmeng, the ultimate peak of the equipment, pill, formation, and talisman daos were nothing much to be proud of. Anyone who set foot into the ranks of supplemental grandmasters would be at those heights.

“This junior has just arrived and so lacks a useful cauldron. I have to use the achievements of equipment dao to refine pills,” Lu Yun chuckled.

“What a pity that I am a pure pill master and know not of equipment dao. I can’t match you in this regard.” The Alchemist King shook his head.

“Let’s begin.” Lu Yun was tired of the posturing.

“Hold!” interrupted the Luminous King. “Isn’t it boring for two supplemental kings to compete without a forfeit?”

“I almost forgot without the Luminous King’s reminder.” The Alchemist King smiled. “How about this, if you win, I’ll give you this cauldron that is named Truefire World. But if you lose, I don’t want anything other than for you and the Intranse King to join the Supplemental Dao Alliance.”

Lu Yun raised his eyebrows. The Alchemist King was making it seem like the young king would make out like a bandit no matter what. Win or lose, he stood to reap great benefits.

Join the Supplemental Dao Alliance? Countless supplemental masters of the Hongmeng vied for a position in the alliance, but the threshold of entry was set too high.

And if Lu Yun really did join them, he’d be so thoroughly devoured that not even bones would remain of him.

Chapter 1288: Phenomenon of Supplemental Dao

The kings in attendance could also see through the Alchemist King’s intentions. This was a customary method that the Supplemental Dao Alliance used to suppress supplemental kings outside of its purview.

The alliance was no benevolent faction of kindness—it’d built a monopoly and forbade any treasures over king level to circulate within the realm. When ordinary kings wished to obtain a king level treasure or pill, they had to pay at least ten thousand or a hundred thousand times the cost.

When Mangcang Mountain crafted Oddmoon, it’d exhausted almost all of the three kings’ personal wealth and they didn’t dare use it in the open. They could only surreptitiously send it to a lower realm for use in their plans.

Such was the result of the stranglehold that the alliance exerted over supplemental dao in the Hongmeng.

Wealth abounded in the realm and its current denizens hadn't excavated even a ten thousandth of it. But of what was accessible and developed, the Supplemental Dao Alliance owned at least thirty percent.

Whenever a supplemental king that wasn't part of them appeared in the Hongmeng, the alliance would soon come knocking. Thus, even if Lu Yun hadn't established an Immortal Pagoda, the alliance would've paid him a visit sooner or later.

The only options were to join them and become them, or be so thoroughly devoured that not even one's bones would remain. Unfortunately, the alliance was so domineering that not even seventh step kings dared defy them.

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"In that case, it looks like this junior is profiting immensely." Lu Yun grinned from ear to ear. He had no reason to refuse; he didn't think he would lose.

"Then our word is our bond, and may the kings present bear witness," chuckled the Alchemist King.

The Elysium, Ingenium, Finepure, and Fineheart Kings looked at each other. They heaved a sigh in unison, lamenting over the Immortal King's youth. Nothing would come from them objecting, in either case.

"Let the competition begin." The Luminous King wore a smile tinged with schadenfreude. Once Lu Yun set foot into the Supplemental Dao Alliance, there would be no other future for him other than death.

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Rumble—

Both supplemental kings shifted into action at the same time. Hongmeng qi surged between earth and sky, gushing toward them from all sides and forming two enormous energy vortexes.

When supplemental kings refined pills, they elicited Hongmeng phenomenon. It came from the combination of one's great dao with the realm, and the stronger one's dao was, the stronger the phenomenon.

Lu Yun and the Alchemist King's phenomenon each took up half of the sky, nearly shadowing all of Multitude City. Beings outside of the city lifted their heads with shock, staring at the two tremendous vortexes in the air.

"Both of their supplemental dao are at the peak of perfection, they're not ordinary supplemental kings!"

"But how is this possible? The Immortal King is less than a year into his kingship, how can he be so strong?" The sight awed the heavyweights in the audience. They'd never dreamed that Lu Yun's comprehension of supplemental dao could compete on equal terms with the Alchemist King!

Who was the Alchemist King?

The titan of the Supplemental Dao Alliance and a supplemental king with a tenure of a hundred million years! He'd once refined a heaven-defying pill and was one among very few premier kings in the realm. He'd always hailed himself as the greatest master of pill dao, and to think that he would meet his match today!

The Alchemist King naturally took notice of this development and wouldn't idly sit back to allow Lu Yun free rein.

Boom!

His phenomenon shook itself into a gigantic fiery bird. It spewed vermilion flames as it swooped down on Lu Yun.

Crowds gasped with consternation as it descended, but Lu Yun remained unflappable. He continued making pill refinement seals with his left hand and shifted the fingers of his right hand into a dao seal.

Rumble!!

The vortex over his head trembled while a fiery giant walked out of it. It raised both fists and punched out at the fiery bird.

"That's a... combat art!" shrieked a sixth step king. "The Immortal King's phenomenon can use combat arts!"

"What?!" Many other supplemental masters echoed his astonishment.

Supplemental kings could gather Hongmeng qi and coalesce it into a phenomenon, but that was just an image, a projection. The phenomenon could move and attack, but they were unable to deploy any methods or combat arts.

What the Immortal King's giant was waving around wasn't just its fists, but an actual combat art!

Blazing flames and fiery sparks spewed everywhere when the first connected. The bird was sent flying and the Alchemist King was also affected. Shaking, he almost made a mistake with his hand seals.

"Hmph!" he snorted. As strong as that attack had been, he'd identified something from it—the Immortal King's supplemental dao was far, far beneath his.

His phenomenon abruptly shuddered and let loose with its strongest strength, swooping down on Lu Yun once more.

"Crook!" Standing off to the side, the little fox shouted in rebuke. "Since you're joining the fight, Imagination King, why don't we go for another round?"

She rushed forward and blossomed with beams of dream-like radiance, exposing an Imagination King hidden in the void.

"Then we go for another round! You're the one who ambushed the Alchemist King and I'm the one who exposed you!" Imagination's expression twisted with discomfort. She'd ambushed Lu Yun, been caught in the act by the little fox, and was then forced to reveal her true form. Instead of floundering for any more excuses, she immediately called upon her illusory arts and pounced on the little fox.

They vanished into thin air.

No one had expected that the Imagination King would attempt a sneak attack while the Immortal and Alchemist Kings held their contest. Though she'd offered an explanation in self defense, no one believed her anymore.

"Hmph! That Intrace King is so shameless as to ambush the Alchemist King. That caliber of conduct is all that the Immortal Pagoda is good for," the Luminous King sniffed.

"So I see that those who are shameless reign invincible," sounded a frosty female voice. "What bullshit of a Luminous King of Virtue and Integrity? I say the treasure spirit of the Earth Light Magneticus was right, you're a hypocrite."

"What?" His face snapping with shock, the Luminous King looked over to see that the speaker was the Finepure King of the Sublime Pavilion.

"What, is the fine king of virtue and integrity going to make things difficult for two little girls?" tittered Fineheart when she saw the look. "Are you going to say that we're unnatural deviants too? Tsk tsk tsk, though the girls of the Sublime Pavilion are no pure and chaste ladies, we sell only art and not our bodies. Whoever wants a girl of the Sublime Pavilion needs to win her heart first."

"What do you mean by this, Fineheart King?!" Luminous hectored.

"What do I mean? Don't tell me that the masked man who snuck into my pavilion three years ago to abscond with Miss Bingruo wasn't you, Luminous King!" Fineheart stuck her hands on her waist and started cursing like a harlot in the streets.

Chapter 1289: Mobbed

The Sublime Pavilion was the largest brothel in Multitude City. But just like the Fineheart King said, the girls within sold only their arts and not their bodies. The Finepure and Fineheart Kings wouldn't obstruct anyone from claiming one of their girls if both parties found each other agreeable.

The Miss Bingruo they spoke of was their leading act, possessing both beauty and talent. She was also a third step king and the object of many an affection in Multitude City.

Someone had slipped into the Sublime Pavilion three years ago and tried to make off with Miss Bingruo. When the two kings discovered the interloper, he flew into a rage and killed his would-be captive. Thus, a wondrous lady of Multitude City was no longer.

The matter stirred up enormous tumult in the city. Countless cultivators roared to take revenge for Miss Bingruo, but the Finepure and Fineheart Kings elected to quickly settle the matter peacefully.

Now that the Fineheart King brought up the matter again and was plainly targeting the Luminous King... it gave rise to a bad implication.

It'd be one thing if these were normal times, but the Luminous King had first been denounced by the spirit of the Earth Light Magneticus as a hypocrite, then undertook one shady dealing after another against the Immortal Pagoda...

“An absolute litany of nonsense!” Luminous pointed a berating finger at Finepure and Fineheart. “The Sublime Pavilion is built from greed and diabolical ambitions! You capture law-abiding women and force them into servitude for you. You are the demons of evil and lust in the Hongmeng!”

“My fellow peers!” He rose and expounded with high spirits, “I am but one person and cannot vie with this nest of wanton perverseness. They slander me instead, but I trust there is still justice to be found in the realm!”

If it'd be any other time, his speech would immediately cast the Sublime Pavilion in a disadvantageous light and inspire others to despise them. But now, cool heads prevailed in all of the cultivators on the scene.

“Please be calm, Luminous King.” A fifth step king stepped out. “Right now, we'd like to know the reason behind Miss Bingruo's death. The Fineheart and Finepure Kings decided not to pursue the matter three years ago, but that they raise it now means they know the truth!”

Three years wasn't a long time for Hongmeng beings; it was just the blink of an eye. Miss Bingruo's smiles and the twinkle of her eyes were still engraved in many of their hearts.

“You would rather listen to those two whores than believe me?” The Luminous King looked at the speaker with an unpleasant expression, whose mood also shifted when he heard the response.

“It's not that we don't believe the Luminous King, but that Miss Bingruo was of good repute in Multitude City. Though she came from Sublime Pavilion, she was a benevolent person who was fond of giving. She loved to help others and her death three years ago remains unexplained.

“You don't ask about the reason behind her death and berate the two pavilion kings instead. I wonder what's your motivation behind that?” A young man smoothly addressed the Luminous King as he walked out on thin air. Long robes of white jade were the perfect backdrop to his deeply alluring features.

“It's the Elysium King!”

“The Elysium King is taking a stand for the Sublime Pavilion!”

“That makes sense, the Luminous and Alchemist Kings used illusion to control someone from the Elysium Atelier earlier and tried to drag them into this mess. They wanted to pit the atelier against the Immortal Pagoda, so it's only natural that the Elysium King is prejudiced against the Luminous King now!”

The Elysium King was extremely strong and his words carried a lot of weight. He could firmly support the sprawling Elysium Atelier through himself alone, being so steadfast that it remained unmoved through all these challenges.

“Elysium King, you need to think carefully about the consequences of setting yourself against me!” the Luminous King gabbled with a bit of panic. One great personage after another was coming out against him—it was the first time this had ever happened to him and he was feeling overwhelmed.

He was the Moral Emperor of the Hongmeng and stood at the highest peak of moral and ethics in the realm. A hundred voices answered his every call—when had he ever been in such straits?!

Though there were many cultivators and lower level kings speaking out on his behalf, none of the fifth and sixth step kings would pay attention to the agitation of lower level kings.

“The consequences of setting myself against you?” chuckled the Elysium King. “I don’t think you were even born yet when I ascended to sixth step king. Very well, let me see today just what these nebulous consequences may be!”

He let loose with a blast of terrifying aura that bore down on the Luminous King.

“And, I’ve always been curious what title the Hongmeng Tower gave you. You’re the one who says it hailed you as the Luminous King, but you’ve never shown it to anyone!”

The title of “luminous” hearkened to a piece of beautiful jade hidden among the masses, illuminating all with great virtue and integrity. If this wasn’t the Luminous King’s title, then all of his actions were worthy of deeper examination.

The Elysium King displayed his title as he spoke.

Elysium King!

Two enormous purple characters appeared over his head, exuding a different sort of pressure.

“In this life, I seek not to place myself above others or dominate all beings. I only want to live out carefree days that are unfettered by worries. The release of the soul is my dao, and so the tower bestowed me the title of ‘Elysium’—a state of perfect happiness and the validation of my dao.” The Elysium King’s voice reverberated like a bell and spread in all directions. This was his dao, a path that the tower endorsed.

“I’d like to see if the tower really gave you the title of the Luminous King! Are you truly the concealed jade that lights up the night?!”

Whoosh!

A terrifying aura unfurled from his body and intensified the light of his title before sweeping down on the Luminous King.

“Elysium King!” A man in long black robes, full of strength and energy, materialized and stood in front of the Luminous King.

The Human King!

The final king of the Colosseum, the one who single-handedly built the organization, had finally shown himself.

“The Luminous King is known throughout the Hongmeng for his virtue, you cannot bully him like this!” The Human King formed a seal with his hands and projected it into the air, grimly defending against the pressure from the Elysium King.

“Go on,” he transmitted to the Luminous King.

“Alright!” Luminous was far weaker than Elysium. If his title was forced out into the open, then that would spell the end of him.

He immediately turned to retreat, but two more terrifying auras came down on him from the sides. The Fineheart and Finepure Kings released their titles, sealing off space in their direction.

“You want to go? Not that easy.” Fineheart giggled. “Our peers are also curious about your title.”

“You can just display your title if the Hongmeng Tower hailed you as the Luminous King. You will still be the Moral Emperor of the realm and a single word from you will list us as depraved demons. We’ll die without even having a final resting place.” Finepure was as detached as always, but a teasing hint colored her words. She knew that Luminous didn’t dare show his title!

“Actually, I’m also very curious about what your real title is.” Another female voice echoed in the air and a fragrant wind swept by. A charming woman who looked like a typical girl-next-door walked out of the void. She released her title and sent it down on the Luminous and Human Kings.

The Ingenium King.

Chapter 1290: A Colossal Joke

The Ingenium King was a woman and had established one of Multitude City’s four major dens of crystal consumption—the Ingenium Gazebo—without assistance from any other. She rivaled the Human, Elysium, Finepure, and Fineheart Kings.

The Colosseum, Sublime Pavilion, Elysium Atelier, and Ingenium Gazebo were the four great factions that reaped money in Multitude City and four of its notable heavyweights.

The Colosseum needed no further introduction, and the Sublime Pavilion was the largest brothel of Multitude City. However, the girls of the pavilion trained their hearts in the mundane world and only transacted their skills in the performing arts. Their wares didn’t include their bodies, and it was solely up to their preference when it came to searching for dao partners.

The Elysium Atelier was the largest casino in the city and wagered bets on everything. Smaller tables gambled purple crystals and larger tables hosted bets on contests between the experts of the Hongmeng. Anything that one wished to place a bet on could be found here, and sometimes, patrons even wagered on when a certain powerhouse would break through.

As for the Ingenium Gazebo, it was all things to all people and had eyes everywhere. All sorts of news, intelligence, gossip, and back alley rumors swirled in its records. It was similar to the paparazzi of Earth, and for the right price, they could even find out what color underwear the Finepure King preferred to wear.

The ingenium King had joined the fray; the characters of her title bore down ferociously on the Human and Luminous Kings.

Two characters had appeared over the Human King’s head—Human King. This was the title that the Hongmeng Tower had bestowed upon him.

“Human” was both a specific race and a generic designation for countless living beings. That he’d received this title was testament to his strength and potential.

The Colosseum ranked first among the four not because of the Blood and Beast Kings, but because the Human King alone was enough to keep everything under control.

But the joint efforts of the Elysium, Ingenium, Fineheart, and Finepure Kings formed an immense forcefield that firmly suppressed the Human King and forced his title out of him. Despite that, the Luminous King behind him showed no signs of displaying his own.

"I defeated the four of you back in the day and forced you to give up most of the profits in Multitude City. I could do it then and I can do it again now!" His face twisting with effort, the Human King's presence showed no signs of weakening as he solidly shouldered the pressure from the four sixth step kings.

The Luminous King had finally realized how serious things were and released his own forcefield, transmuting it to the even more sophisticated influence and bolstering the Human King with it.

The Elysium, Ingenium, Fineheart, and Finepure Kings looked at each other with darkening expressions. This wasn't an actual fight, just exerting oblique pressure to force the Luminous King into displaying his title. No one had fathomed that the Human King alone would be able to withstand them all!

He was stronger than when he'd first come to Multitude City.

"Heh heh heh, Luminous King!" A sinister voice traveled in on the wind. "I'm also a little curious about what the title of a hypocrite may be. You caused me to be driven out of my home, so I'm unmasking you for the fraudster you are today!"

Boom!

A pillar of blood-red light soared into the skies and resolved itself into two characters, combining with the force of the other four kings.

Butcher King!

Jin Naluo appeared at this critical moment!

When the Butcher King title appeared, the skies turned red like a corner of the Blood Sea was about to appear.

Pff!

The Human King spat out a mouthful of blood and his title instantly dissipated.

"Ahhhhh!!" The Luminous King shrieked as he flew backward. A ball of light burst from his body and formed two characters in the air.

Luminous King!

He really is the Luminous King?

The Elysium and Ingenium Kings looked askance at each other.

"Hmph! How dare you try these petty tricks at this juncture? Break!" A bloody fist appeared in the air and punched the two characters.

Boom!!

The two characters broke apart with a tremble of the void!

A title bestowed by the Hongmeng Tower had been dispersed!

Everyone's mind spun. Had Butcher King Jin Naluo become so strong after obtaining one of the keys to the tower?

"Look, the title didn't break apart!"

"Is that... the Luminous King's real title?"

"Lu... Lu... Lewd King?! The fuck?"

Jaws dropped throughout the crowd. The Luminous King of Virtue and Integrity was... the... Lewd King?

Even the Elysium King and others were slack jawed. They'd only guessed that there was some variation to the Luminous King's title, that instead of the characters for "hidden jade", maybe the "jade" character would be the homophone character "hell" or something like that. But his real title was the Lewd King??

No wonder he'd snuck into the Sublime Pavilion three years ago to take one of their girls!

"There was once a sex-crazed fiend in the Hongmeng who committed all crimes of rape, plunder, assault, and abduction. Countless numbers of female cultivators fell to his hands and he later disappeared. I'd always thought that he had something to do with the Windcall King's replica of lust, but to think that it was the Luminous King!"

"That's right! The lecherous swine was titled the Lewd King!" The Elysium and Ingenium Kings babbled one after another from sheer shock.

The Luminous King's face was ashen—even his eyes were the same color.

"Hahaha!!" Jin Naluo's howling laughter ripped through the air. "I, Jin Naluo, was condemned and denounced my entire life because of this animal. I became the devil of the Hongmeng because of this thing! Haha... HAHAHAHHAH!!"

When Jin Naluo received his title of Butcher King, it had indeed been the character for slaughter and massacre. That had caused the Luminous King to assert that the Butcher King would certainly become a plague upon the realm in the future, an utter demon.

Thus forewarned, Jin Naluo's master threw him out.

Jin Naluo discarded his title after that and journeyed the land with his real name. He rose to fame after endless gory battles and became a titan of Multitude City, instilling fear in others at the sound of his name.

"All these years... I was deserted by everyone close to me and left alone because of a single word from this waste of space. I practiced the demonic dao and refined the Blood Sea, becoming a great devil of the Hongmeng all because of this thing!"

"What a joke. What an utter, colossal joke!!"

Rumble.

Blood-red lightning crashed through the hair as the red-haired, red-robed Jin Naluo walked down from the void.

White as a sheet, the Luminous King cowered in a corner. Even the Human King was pale. He hadn't been a match for Jin Naluo in the past and he certainly wasn't one now. This was a true peak sixth step king who had the right to own a key to the Hongmeng Tower!

"Human King, are you going to protect him?" Jin Naluo's eyes were a bright scarlet and his merciless voice like one of the prisoners from the depths of the Hadal Hell.

The Human King trembled, still reeling from the fact that the Luminous King's real title was this travesty.

The Lewd King? How was this person in any way fit to be the Moral Emperor of the Hongmeng? Jin Naluo was right, this was a colossal joke.

He quickly threw himself to the side.

"Heh heh heh, if the Human King doesn't dare protect him, how about I protect him?" Another voice came from the air before a towering body suddenly appeared in front of the Luminous King.

Lu Yun had seen him before—the sixth step king that'd appeared when Jin Naluo visited the city lord residence of the City of Immortals. His strength was on par with Jin Naluo's and he'd been vying for the key to the Hongmeng Tower.

He showed himself when Jin Naluo was about to kill the Luminous King not to protect the latter, but to oppose Jin Naluo.