

Necropolis 1311

Chapter 1311: Fusion of Dao Rules

The Hongmeng Tower couldn't detect the black wraith-like entity, just like the Bridge of Forgetfulness couldn't see it. The Scroll of Shepherding Immortals still orbited the little fox, infusing her with endless energy. However, she now had to face the terrifying entity by herself.

It'd locked onto her primary body and nine dao rules, ruling out the possibility of employing the same method twice. She wouldn't confuse the other if she did, since this was no ordinary being.

Despair crept into her heart as she gazed upon a growing shadow.

"Do I really have to destroy one of my dao rules?" She didn't want to succumb to this fate!

The little fox glanced back at Lu Yun and surprisingly, met his eyes at the same time.

"Fuse your dao rules!" Lu Yun and Qing Yu said at the same time. "Miao, try combining two dao rules as one! The method is..."

Lu Yun transmitted the method that he'd just deduced with Qing Yu.

Her eyes lighting up, the little fox rapidly formed her fingers into the hand seals required by the method, but she had a lot to digest before fully understanding this new knowledge.

The void trembled as the Hongmeng Tower blasted a beam of purple-golden radiance into the little fox's body. So overwhelming was the surge of power that even the black entity involuntarily shrank backward.

The obscure and complex fusion method abruptly unrolled with full clarity in Miao's mind. Her hands flickered with increasing speed through hand seals until finally, her nine purple-golden dao rules shuddered violently.

Hummm!

Nine dao rules combined into three!

What was curious about the three was that they were thicker than the previous nine, and the little fox demoted from a ninth step king to a third step king. However, she possessed the battle strength of a ninth step king!

This was a ninth step king draped in the armor of a third step king!

The Hongmeng Tower swayed gently when Miao completed her ascension, seemingly nodding in approval. It then vanished into thin air.

The black shadow enveloping the area paused; it hesitated.

Gurgle!

The void shook and an enormous black eyeball suddenly appeared in the air. It scanned the little fox up and down, confusion tinged what were supposed to be emotionless eyes.

After a careful round of scrutiny, the black entity slowly faded away.

“It didn’t mean you any harm, it just wanted you to destroy your dao rules!” Lu Yun frowned as he looked at where the entity had disappeared.

Strength from the Karmic Tree had infused him throughout the fight, so he could clearly sense that all of the pressure was just to force the little fox into destroying one of her dao rules.

It’d never really moved to kill her; there hadn’t been a hint of killing intent.

“Mmhm.” Qing Yu nodded. “I wouldn’t have lived if it’d wanted to kill me. It immediately retreated after I destroyed one of my dao rules. It’s not the bad luck of the ninth step kings.”

“So what am I right now?” asked a baffled little fox. “A ninth step or third step king? Is that bad luck going to come for me again?”

“It won’t, and you’re a third step king.” Lu Yun ruffled her hair. “The standard of kingship through cultivation strength is dao rules. Since you’ve fused nine of them into three, you’re a third step king!”

He chuckled ruefully. “Both of you are now titled kings through cultivation strength, I’ve fallen behind.”

He hadn’t needed to roll his sleeves up since arriving in the Hongmeng. He was in the superior realm and very close to becoming a titled king through cultivation, but he’d yet to touch the threshold of that level after all this time.

While it looked like he’d accumulated a lot, none of it amounted to much from start to finish.

“Come on, let’s go to the Origin World!” Qing Yu snickered. “We may not be able to destroy them, but we’re going to make them bleed!”

“That’s right, to Origin World!” cackled the little fox. “Didn’t they want the Scroll of Shepherding Immortals? We’ll give it to them and empty their vaults!”

She’d become a titled king through cultivation not only through the vast reserves that the scroll had given her, but also because Lu Yun had smoothed her way with various resources from Hopeless Major.

If it wasn’t for this, she wouldn’t have ascended straight into ninth step kingship. Therefore, her thoughts immediately turned to the infinite treasury of Origin World.

Hopeless Major had suffered great losses due to its last ruler and forfeited many of its treasures. The same didn’t hold true for Origin World. Its vaults were completely intact and it’d obtained many Hopeless treasures as well; they were a veritable land of milk and honey.

“There are rumors that they have a treasure called the Army Pagoda. It’s not a treasure of the fourth realm, but it’s an ultimate treasure of the Hongmeng that’s beyond king grade! Perhaps getting that will help Lu Yun ascend to kingship!” Qing Yu had been eyeing that treasure despite it having neither offensive nor defensive capabilities. It was a rare training treasure.

Useless for kings, it could be used to instruct cultivators below titled king—inferior, common, and superior realm cultivators!

Superiors could even use it to peer into the frame of mind and battle strength of kings. However, activating the Army Pagoda required enormous quantities of purple crystal veins. Origin World didn't have that many, so they didn't often use it.

Lu Yun lacked this limitation. With the Redbud King's support, he could access millions of crystal veins at a time.

The Ten Valleys of Evil and Immortal Region had naturally set their sights on Redbud Mountain several times, but the dragon of Redbud Mountain was too ferocious. Even if they could take the mountain, they'd have to suffer so many casualties and expend so many resources that it wasn't worth the price.

Thus, the Army Pagoda was set aside in a corner of their vaults.

Unfortunately, the Immortal Region had conquered the second biggest dragon in the realm. That supplied an endless stream of purple crystal veins for the faction—a primary reason why they were stronger than the valleys.

Of course, the founders of the valleys were no ordinary characters either. Each of the ten factions were equipped with ultimate treasures that the Immortal Region couldn't hope to measure up to.

The Ten Valleys of Evil lacked purple crystals and the Immortal Region lacked treasures. That'd kept the two sides on a relatively even keel until modern times.

But with the Supplemental Dao Alliance's monopoly, Hopeless Major was a microcosm of how the ten valleys were on the wane.

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On this day, the eminent ruler of Hopeless Major—the Emyrean King—brought the Yin Yang King, Profound King, and a pair of children with her to Origin World.

She traveled with the Turtledove King and Windcall King, and another ninth step king suddenly appeared when they entered Origin territory. Named the Autumn King, he unlocked the restrictions and formations along the way, allowing the group to proceed unobstructed to the heart of the domain.

When the upper echelons of Origin World realized what had happened, the Emyrean King was already at their main palace—the Nineworld Origin Palace.

Chapter 1312: Intranse King? Illusion Immortal King?

The Hopeless Major contingent proceeded with extreme skill.

Armed with a Shapeshifting Talisman refined from a karmic fruit, the Profound King now appeared to be the Soulmask King. This was to confuse Origin World and give them the impression that Hopeless Major had dissolved into disorder.

The Turtledove and Windcall Kings were fully under Qing Yu's control; they couldn't send any messages back to Origin World. The underlings who'd accompanied them to Hopeless Major were all dead.

As one of the infamous Ten Valleys of Evil, Hopeless Major would show no mercy when the bully was on their doorstep. If Origin World wanted to make use of this opportunity to attack, the Soulmask King

holding down the fort and the new commander of the Nethersoul Formation—the Daredevil King—wouldn't mind giving them a hearty surprise.

At the same time, Lu Yun's calculations deemed it more likely that Origin World would focus their attention on taking down Qing Yu instead.

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Personally crafted by the founder of Origin World, the Nineworld Origin Palace was the most magnificent palace of the ten valleys.

When the Immortal Region had breached their defenses in the distant past, the faction stormed through Origin World but couldn't break the palace defenses. That bought enough time for the Origin ruler to deploy the Nineworld Origin Canon and destroy most of the enemy's army.

Led by the Autumn King, Lu Yun and the others easily walked through the exterior formations and entered the palace proper.

Abundant qi drifted within the Nineworld Origin Palace, more than ten times thicker than the Hongmeng qi found in Hopeless Major's main palace. The World King remained in seclusion and his disciple, the Kaleidoscopic King, grasped the reins of authority in his stead.

Blessed with uncommon potential, the Kaleidoscopic King had grown up in Origin World and set foot into kingship as a fourth step king. Though that didn't surpass Hua Fengwen of a hundred thousand years ago, his present day accomplishments eclipsed the Hongmeng genius. He'd become an eighth step king a long time ago and was cultivated as the World King's successor. His supporters were thick on the ground in his faction—something that an outsider like Qing Yu couldn't measure up to.

There were two other ninth step kings within the main hall apart from the Kaleidoscopic King. Most of Origin World's ninth step kings cloistered themselves in closed door cultivation during the absence of war and rarely ventured outside.

It was a similar case for Hopeless Major; so many ninth step kings had gathered last time because the Profound King was instigating an insurrection.

"Autumn King, how dare you betray us!" The Kaleidoscopic King fixed burning eyes on his former subordinate accompanying a group of outsiders through the palace doors.

The Autumn King stood with his head down and his hands by his side, neither responding nor reacting.

The other two ninth step kings also shot venomous glares at him, itching to tear him apart with their bare hands. It would seem that news of his soul light extinguishing and flickering back to life had yet to travel to them.

"The Autumn King forsook the darkness and joined the camp of justice, that doesn't count as betrayal," Qing Yu chuckled gently. "Kaleidoscopic King, didn't you say you wanted the Scroll of Shepherding Immortals? This seat is here to personally deliver it, but I wonder if you have the courage to accept it."

"Oh?" Kaleidoscopic stood up with booming laughter. "If the Empyrean King dares deliver the scroll, why wouldn't I be bold enough to accept it?"

“Very good, then catch!” Miao suddenly stepped forward from Qing Yu’s side and manifested the Scroll of Shepherding Immortals as wisps of smoke in her hand. They churned toward the Kaleidoscopic King.

“What?!” His eyes widened with surprise. They’d really brought out the treasure, and... it didn’t seem to be damaged?

It was stronger than before!

Something strange is going on here!

Kaleidoscopic swiftly retreated from the advancing scroll, not daring to touch it.

“How dare you!”

“Cease your actions!” Outraged as the two ninth step kings were, the little fox had moved so swiftly they didn’t have time to react.

“Hmph!” A man dressed in blue suddenly darted out from the Kaleidoscopic King’s side and stood in front of the king. His features were enticingly charismatic and confidence soared between his brows.

A casual sweep of his sleeve effortlessly rebuffed the little fox’s scroll with nary a concern, and—

Riiiiip.

His sleeve shredded into a swarm of butterflies fluttering through the air. The Scroll of Shepherding Immortals briefly stuttered, creating an opening for the other two ninth step kings to fling it back.

Miao smiled delightedly, very pleased with her current level of strength. She hadn’t used all of it just now. Having recovered all of the memories and experience of her soul force replica, she was immediately accustomed to her new abilities though she’d just become a titled king. She could smoothly deploy her full force.

Neither she nor Lu Yun had any idea what level king her replica had been in the mythological realm.

“We brought the scroll to you after you sent people to Hopeless Major for it. But now you don’t want it anymore? Is this a game to you?” Miao snorted upon recalling the scroll.

“The Intranse King of the Immortal Pagoda in Multitude City is worthy of your reputation alright!” The man in blue suddenly broke out in a long peal of laughter. “They say that you are a mighty supplemental king, but to think that you became a titled king of cultivation a long time ago! You hid that well!

“If my guess is correct, the one next to you is the Immortal King who refined creation.” Though his sleeve had been ruined by the scroll, the man didn’t mind at all.

“The Intranse King?” chuckled the little fox. “I’ve heard of her name. She who can entrance cities with her face alone is the greatest beauty of the Hongmeng!”

Lu Yun and Qing Yu looked oddly at her. Well, we’re certainly not going to dump cold water on her if she wants to have some fun in the spotlight.

“Intrance King, do you take all of us for fools?” the man spewed with laughter. “The Emphyrean King was an eighth step king, but suddenly ascended to ninth step. It’s all due to the Pills of Creation from the Immortal King next to you, isn’t it?”

“That’s right.” The little fox nodded matter-of-factly.

“As I thought!” The man smiled meaningfully.

“I do think all of you are fools,” she finished her sentence.

The man in blue:

“Blasphemy! How dare a minor Intrance King talk through the back of your neck in the noble Nineworld Origin Palace!” roared one of the ninth step kings.

“I am the Immortal Illusion King, foremost supplemental king of illusions in the Hongmeng. And yet, thou sayest that I am some Intrance King. What art thou if not bumbling fools?”

Whoosh!

The little fox waved her hand and sent a ray of dense purple light over her head. It collected into three characters: Immortal Illusion King!

This was indeed a title from the Hongmeng Tower!

The man in blue stopped in his tracks and the Kaleidoscopic King was likewise dazed. This ran contrary to their expectations!

“What is this, isn’t she the Intrance King?” Kaleidoscopic looked at Windcall, but the latter’s senses had been sealed away. He stood like a block of wood, unmoving and unfeeling.

Only Lu Yun, Hua Fengwen, and select others had been present when the little fox received and changed her title. No one else knew about the circumstances. However, that didn’t preclude her from displaying her title of Immortal Illusion King. That had been the title her soul force replica gained in the mythological realm, so she could naturally display it now.

In other words, she had two titles!

Immortal Illusion King, Intrance King.

“How dare a minor Origin World disrespect this seat and call me by the name of another. It would bring shame to my own if I didn’t take you to task for it today!”

Humm.

Resplendent light radiated from the Scroll of Shepherding Immortals and swept through the palace.

Chapter 1313: Shenyu

A minor Origin World?

Nearly all cultivators in the Nineworld Origin Palace vomited blood at the little fox's words. Even the master of the Immortal Region didn't dare belittle Origin World to this degree! Though the young woman in front of them wasn't the Intrace King, they were still completely enraged.

Lu Yun and Qing Yu were likewise dumbfounded, while the Profound and Yin Yang Kings stared at each other. They didn't know who Lu Yun and the little fox were. Their liege hadn't told them, and they hadn't asked.

However, the little fox was wielding power on par with a ninth step king! Equipped with the Scroll of Shepherding Immortals, neither of the two Origin ninth step kings were her match.

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"Damn it!" The man in blue quickly backed up, his expression changing rapidly as he took in the situation. No one had thought that this Immortal Illusion King would be so strong or that the scroll would be so lifelike in her hands. It exhibited far greater power than when the World King used it!

"Fellow daoist Shenyu!" Kaleidoscopic King looked at the man with alarm.

"It's alright." Shenyu waved off the other's concerns. His robe was already repaired and both sleeves danced freely in the wind to keep the scroll's power at bay.

The other two ninth step kings were already diving on the little fox, but they were still firmly suppressed by her strength.

"It seems that we underestimated Hopeless Major. Who would've thought that they'd still possess this kind of expert! However, it's the Yin Yang and Soulmask Kings in their delegation, which means that the Profound King and others have either been executed or imprisoned. The Daredevil King in charge of the Nethersoul Formation should be similarly confined as well." Shenyu viewed everything through the lens of schemes and stratagems; he chuckled when he looked at the unmoving Qing Yu. "She would've possessed the requisite boldness and resolution to consolidate Hopeless Major if she hadn't come, she would be conserving energy and building up strength.

"But since she's here now, it just proves that Hopeless Major is all talk and bluster. They are inwardly weak and she has no choice but to put on this demonstration in our domain. Only with this song and dance will she dissuade others who view her faction as prey.

"But the more she is like this, the more it confirms how fragile Hopeless Major is."

"Isn't she afraid that the Immortal Region will take advantage of her temper tantrum?" The Kaleidoscopic King's brooding expression cleared up slightly. This was within their expectations.

The Autumn King attempting to turn the Daredevil King, and the Turtledove and Windcall Kings throwing their weight around in Hopeless Major territory were all to provoke Qing Yu. The Turtledove, Windcall, and even Autumn Kings were just readily discarded pawns.

If Origin World could capture the Emphyrean and other two ninth step kings this time, then Hopeless Major was as good as theirs.

Origin World had never thought of destroying Hopeless Major. They just wanted to annex it so they could claim the major's resources and disciples. So their eminent ruler had withstood a blast from the

Nineworld Origin Cannon? Only when the cannon was in home territory would it display its greatest strength.

“The Immortal Region? We can be at ease there. They want nothing more than the ten of us to fight and whittle away at each other.” A strange smile spread across Shenyu’s face.

Magnificent, towering figures were starting to collect outside the palace. Terrible presences connected with each other and came down on the palace as a whole. The faction’s secluded experts had all emerged from closed door cultivation and coolly locked their consciousness onto Qing Yu.

If counting the World King, Origin World possessed twenty-seven ninth step kings; they numbered only twenty when Hopeless Major fell into decline. After all these years, the faction had nurtured another seven with the resources they’d looted from Hopeless Major.

Qing Yu lifted her head and looked outside the palace. Her index and middle fingers were placed together, a tiny swirl of sword light circulating over them.

Quiet was ready.

“Your Eminence, we’ve walked into a trap.” The Profound King stood next to Qing Yu in the guise of the Soulmask King, his face looking a bit pale. He was the strongest king of Hopeless Major, but having him fight twenty-six other kings was still a tall order.

They were in the Nineworld Origin Palace! If the palace’s formation came to life, it’d be able to instantly refine all of his replicas and strands of consciousness in the outside world, dashing all hope for survival.

If it wasn’t for the fact that both Qing Yu and the Yin Yang King were here, he would’ve thought that his eminent ruler was using another’s hand to kill him.

“Hmph,” snorted the Yin Yang King. “Her Eminence is brave and a great strategist, would she have overlooked this puny trick? Since she dares bring us here, that means she is confident of taking on Origin World!

“Look closer, the Immortal Illusion King has fully suppressed the other two!”

The Scroll of Shepherding Immortals snaked through the air in the form of a long chain, threading the void with a trail of milky-white flames. The two ninth step kings were so fully overpowered that they weren’t able to fight back.

Three golden-purple dao rules suddenly materialized next to the little fox. Illusions abounded, confusing the two kings so much that they couldn’t tell reality from falsehood.

“Is she really a third step king?!” The Kaleidoscopic King and Shenyu gaped.

“We need to work together to take her down!” Shenyu leapt into motion.

If this Illusion Immortal King really defeated two Origin kings by herself, then there was no point in fighting further. Morale was already low after Qing Yu ripped through the Scroll of Shepherding and severed the World King’s limbs. If then a third step king from Hopeless Major defeated two of their ninth step kings... Well, Origin World might as well surrender now.

Boom.

Boom.

Boom.

Explosions sounded from the air as another three ninth step kings took to the field, punching the little fox's scroll into the ground. The smile slid off her face and she hastily shuffled back, considering the scene with a grave expression.

Coordinating their positions, the five ninth step kings charged at her.

Whoosh!

Sharp brilliance swept through the void and sent five heads shooting up into the sky.

Qing Yu had decapitated five kings with a single stroke!

Of course, they weren't truly dead since they had strands of consciousness hidden elsewhere that would redevelop into their true selves. They were heavily injured, but not dead.

"Just look at the high and mighty Origin World bullying one third step king with five ninth steps!" Qing Yu shouted and closed the distance to the Kaleidoscopic King.

She wasn't here to talk, she wanted to kill! Since he was the next ruler of Origin World, she naturally had him in her sights.

"In that case, let me see how strong you are, Emphyrean King!" Shenyu answered her instead.

Ten thousand fires followed the beckon of his hand and turned half of the Nineworld Origin Palace into a sea of flames. Nine vermilion dao rules soared into the skies from it, becoming one with the blazing ocean. It blocked Qing Yu's fatal stroke!

"A supplemental king?" Qing Yu withdrew her sword with solemnity.

Ninth step kings didn't count for anything in her eyes—she could kill five of them at a time! However, her opponent was employing a fearsome fire formation that was strong enough to deter her by itself.

"Hahaha!!" Instead of responding, Shenyu threw his head back with laughter. His flames echoed his mirth and exploded into a fire dragon that rushed Qing Yu.

Chapter 1314: Boy Toy

Lu Yun's pupils constricted violently. Supplemental dao!

This was a pure supplemental dao art!

Though this Shenyu possessed nine dao rules, his true battle strength was less than Jinse's. His nine rules were just rootless products of endless medicines and resources. And yet, his marvelous skill in supplemental dao was perfectly blocking Qing Yu's attack!

Not only was Qing Yu an immense ninth step king, but her weapon was Quiet of the fourth realm!

Despite Qing Yu's prowess, Shenyu was going toe-to-toe with her using nine drifting dao rules melded into a fire formation. What was he?!

The rest of Origin World's ninth, eighth, and seventh step kings all showed themselves. Five hundred strong, they charged the little fox as a howling mob.

The Profound and Yin Yang Kings shouted angrily, wading into the fray.

What was already an unsettled situation in the Nineworld Origin Palace instantly dissolved into pitched battle. The Autumn King stayed by Lu Yun's side, hovering close to the young man.

"There's experts spying on us from the shadows." Lu Yun remained perfectly composed with most of his attention on Shenyu; a tiny portion of his consciousness observed the surroundings.

Shenyu's near perfect grasp of supplemental dao completely exceeded Lu Yun's expectations. He'd thought that he was essentially the first supplemental king of the realm after refining the Pills of Creation, but it seemed that he'd been too full of himself.

"The Immortal Region that the Alchemist King comes from is stronger than the Origin World. If we'd battled with supplemental arts that day instead of just refining pills..." A bead of sweat dotted Lu Yun's forehead.

Though he'd overcome the Alchemist King because his supplemental phenomenon could deploy combat arts, he was able to do so because his level was much greater than his opponent's when it came to refining pills.

That didn't necessarily hold true when it came to overall supplemental arts. In fact, Lu Yun knew almost nothing about attacking or defending with them!

As he watched Shenyu employ just one formation to hold his own against a furiously attacking Qing Yu, a brand new door seemed to open for Lu Yun.

He remained highly alert as he still sensed two enormous minds shrouding the palace, secretly observing everything taking place inside. One of them was very familiar—the World King! The king's thoughts were locked onto the little fox's Scroll of Shepherding Immortals.

"Miao, go take on Shen Yu!" he suddenly transmitted to the little fox.

She was deploying almost all of her strength and had set up an unparalleled formation of illusions with the scroll as its base. The entire palace fell into its range of effect; any king not sufficiently grounded began to attack and kill each other.

"Okay!" The little fox changed her hand seals and slammed the radiant scroll and formation toward Shenyu.

Snapping to attention in a new direction, Shenyu sent the Kaleidoscopic King elsewhere with a wave of his hand, then drew himself upright to attend to the formation.

Qing Yu took advantage of the shift in priorities to withdraw from the engagement. She took a moment to catch her breath, then flew toward the other Origin kings.

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“It’s you and me now, boy toy.” The Kaleidoscopic King landed in front of Lu Yun.

“Boy toy?” Lu Yun stroked his face and mused with self satisfaction, “I do indeed have what it takes to be a boy toy.”

The Autumn King stepped forward and looked warily at the Kaleidoscopic King. The latter was no ordinary eighth step king, he was the heir to Origin World. When their current eminent one perished or abdicated after reaching incredible heights, Kaleidoscopic would be the next eminent ruler of the faction.

He also controlled some of the palace’s power as part of his authority.

“You make a decent dog, Autumn King.” Scarlet brilliance glinted out of Kaleidoscopic’s eyes as he glared viciously at his former comrade. It would make sense if Autumn was under duress or even dead, but he’d betrayed Origin World and led the enemy straight into the main palace!

“Scum!” Kaleidoscopic pointed at Autumn, concentrating the palace’s energy on his fingertip and blasting the latter away.

The Autumn King’s chest caved in and the light in his eyes faded away.

Dead!

It’d taken only one blow to kill the king and destroy all of his replicas at the same time!

Such was the power of the Nineworld Origin Palace. When combined with the Nineworld Origin Diagram, both of them could unleash their mightiest force. Thus, it hadn’t been that shocking to the Kaleidoscopic King when Qing Yu withstood a blast from the Nineworld Origin Cannon—that’d only been half of the cannon’s force.

Of the two children accompanying the Empyrean King, one of them was the fearsome Illusion Immortal King. If she was evenly matched with Shenyu, then the other boy who’d yet to make a move was certainly equally extraordinary.

That was why the Kaleidoscopic King had made straight for Lu Yun and used the palace to swiftly kill the Autumn King.

“Boy toy...” snickered Kaleidoscopic. “Look at all these people fighting so seriously. If I was in the thick of things, I’d instantly dominate everyone, even that Empyrean King! Did you seriously think that just this handful of people is enough to challenge Origin World?”

The World King had dared visit Hopeless Major because he was banking on the absence of the Netherdark Formation’s core flames—the nether fire and dark fire. However, both of Origin World’s ultimate treasures of the Nineworld Origin Diagram and Nineworld Origin Palace were present!

“Don’t call me boy toy.” Lu Yun frowned. “My title is the Demon King!”

The Kaleidoscopic King grimaced, taken off guard by the ludicrous claim. There was indeed a Demon King in the Hongmeng, one who was a titan of ninth step kings. He was certainly not this little boy.

“Demon King?” he snorted with laughter. “Sure, sure. Beg on your knees, Demon King, if you want me to let them go.”

Rumble—

The palace shook in time to a slight tremor of Kaleidoscopic’s hand, revealing the Nineworld Origin Diagram hidden in its void.

The Profound and Yin Yang Kings panicked, whereas Qing Yu didn’t dwell on the matter. She soared into the air and brought Quiet down on the diagram.

“You court death!” roared Kaleidoscopic when he saw the Empyrean King throw caution to the wind and attack his faction’s ultimate treasure.

Rumble—

Nine worlds manifested from the diagram and coalesced the power of the palace, bringing everything down on her.

“You’re the one who courts death!” Lu Yun suddenly snarled.

Hummm.

A purple lotus with blue leaves bloomed beneath his feet. The Netherdark Formation!

Chapter 1315: Dao King’s First Disciple

When the Kaleidoscopic King sent out the Nineworld Origin Diagram to suppress Qing Yu, Lu Yun deployed the Netherdark Formation in return!

Blue and purple energy intersected in the air as dark and nether fire materialized at the same time, combining into fearsome netherdark power within the formation.

Rumble!!

A deafening explosion rocked the Nineworld Origin Palace. The Nineworld Origin Diagram shook and became one with the palace, marking the direct clash between the ultimate treasures of two valleys.

Crackle.

Teeth-numbing sounds crawled through the air as fragments of space peeled away from the void; the netherdark flame reached out for them and consumed them completely.

Color draining from his face, the Kaleidoscopic King quickly retreated to safety.

Pillars of nine-colored light trailed down from the dual entity of diagram and palace. Qing Yu floated to the ground, still brandishing Quiet. The little fox and Shenyu remained locked in a staring contest; they seemed to be caught in a mental realm of illusion as neither moved.

Seventeen ninth step kings remained in the palace. There’d been twenty-seven in Origin World to begin with, which meant eight had fallen in the battle if one excluded the World King and defected Autumn King.

Though the eight weren't truly dead, it would be an arduous journey for them to return to the peak. The Profound and Yin Yang Kings were also injured.

With the Netherdark Formation fighting the palace to a standstill, Qing Yu upped the ante. She brandished Quiet in the Dragonrise technique and stabbed the sword at a certain point in the air.

"World King! Come out and fight since your injuries have healed. With all this hiding and scuttling around, are you planning on ambushing me?" She transformed into a dragon with dense clusters of sword light circling around her.

In the world of immortals, Qing Yu had practiced the art of the cosmos, then formula dao, followed by the Dragonquake Scripture. Lu Yun's Dragonrise was a product of his sword dao combined with the Dragonquake Scripture, so she'd naturally learned it as well.

"What kind of sword dao is this?!" Hidden in the void, a shocked World King materialized with a broadsword in hand and fiercely smashed it down on the huge dragon.

Boom!

Traveling with the power of the Nineworld Origin Diagram, the sword clashed with Qing Yu in midair.

Scatter.

The World King's sword dispersed in motes of starlight while Qing Yu landed on the ground. Fighting around the palace petered out, apart from the little fox and Shenyu.

Their eminent ruler had arrived.

He was still legless and wielded his sword with only one hand as he floated in the air.

Qing Yu snorted when she saw his appearance. "You've already recovered from your injuries, World King. Who are you putting on this show for?"

Slightly displeased at being unmasked, the World King revealed his lost limbs after a series of gurgling noises from his body. Limbs that Quiet had severed would never regrow, and yet, he'd somehow managed to recover his.

"Come on out, new friend. You're no ordinary person since you can recreate the World King's limbs." Qing Yu looked in another direction.

A hazy figure appeared in that part of the void, but they didn't reveal themselves.

A ghastly shriek suddenly echoed in the Nineworld Origin Palace at this time—a victor had been determined in the fight between the little fox and Shenyu.

Shenyu's enormous fire formation abruptly shrank in on itself, exposing his body to public view. However, a dull look registered in his eyes; he was caught in the throes of boundless illusions.

Inspiration struck Lu Yun and he stepped forward, bolstering the little fox with the Netherdark Formation. This took the World King off guard and he withdrew his hand to wait on the sideline.

Casting frosty looks at Lu Yun and the others, the Kaleidoscopic King and remaining ninth step kings of Origin World also retreated to their liege's side.

The Profound and Yin Yang Kings looked like they were on death's doorstep—both of them had suffered varying degrees of heavy injury. They were still alive because they were peak ninth step kings. If it'd been the Daredevil or Acclaim Kings here instead, they would've died a long time ago.

"Shenyu? You're a ninth step king too. What's your title? Let's have a look at it," Miao suddenly proposed in highly seductive, throbbing tones. They traveled into Shenyu's ears from all directions, causing a small ripple in his slack expression.

There must be something he very much disliked about his title, but he had no choice since the little fox's mental illusion was in complete control of his mind. His minuscule struggle was utterly futile.

Miao had brought out the treasure she'd refined from several hundred kilograms of Mirage Sand to thoroughly beguile Shenyu. This was also the same treasure she'd used to defeat the Imagination King.

Standing strong against the pressure from the Nineworld Origin Palace, the Netherdark Formation wrapped protectively around the little fox and her formation of illusion. The World King's face was an ominous study in surprise.

He hadn't anticipated that the Empyrean King would be so bold as to bring the Netherdark Formation straight into Origin World! Wasn't she afraid of losing it or being trapped here with it?

Did she think that Origin World was in the bag for her?

"Ummm..." His expression froze before he had the chance to say anything.

Shenyu had released his title: The Runaway King.

"Runaway King? What's that supposed to mean?" Miao paused and turned around to look blankly at Lu Yun and Qing Yu.

They were equally baffled.

Runaway King?

Did this mean that Shenyu's speed was unparalleled in swiftness? Or...

Something occurred to Lu Yun.

"Why is your title the Runaway King?" the little fox asked. "Is it because you run really fast?"

"Hmph!" the figure indistinct in the void huffed coldly. Overwhelming aura pressed down from the air and swept furiously toward the little fox.

However, the Netherdark Formation's full protection enveloped her; it diffused the aura before it had a chance to reach her.

"My master taught me since young that I should never dig my heels in if I run into something I can't handle. Saving my life is of paramount importance, but I misunderstood what he meant. I ran away

whenever I encountered danger and received a nickname of Runaway God before I was a titled king. When I ascended to kingship, the tower named me the Runaway King.” Shame colored Shenyu’s tones.

“So it really is that kind of runaway...” Lu Yun shuddered. This kind of title was an absolute humiliation.

The World King raised his eyebrows and looked at the figure next to him. Plainly, that was Shenyu’s master. The Nineworld Origin Palace was completely entangled with the Netherdark Formation, so it was impossible for him to save Shenyu at the moment.

“Who’s your master?” Miao asked curiously. “Running away when you can’t win is a good principle. You’ll always have a chance if you’re still alive, but you’ll have nothing if you’re dead.”

“My master?” Shenyu puffed his chest out and declared proudly, “My master is the foremost supplemental king of the Hongmeng, the Dao King! I am his first disciple!”

Chapter 1316: Haotian

“First disciple of the Dao King?!” Sharp gasps echoed through the crowd as the atmosphere turned odd.

Who was the Dao King? The leader of the Supplemental Dao Alliance!

The Supplemental Dao Alliance was firm allies with the Immortal Region and both opposed the Ten Valleys of Evil. Their monopoly over supplemental dao and resulting damage to the valleys far exceeded the physical attacks that the Immortal Region inflicted on their enemy.

A monopoly on supplemental dao would terminate the future of the ten valleys. Any supplemental king or grandmaster of the ten either died in ambushes or managed to successfully flee their homes. All of the supplemental treasures left in the valleys were inheritances from their forebears. The less they were used, the better.

The valleys used to resupply their pills and treasures from other parts of the Hongmeng, but that door was shut when the alliance extended the monopoly to the entire realm. It could be said that apart from the Immortal Region, the Supplemental Dao Alliance was the ten valleys’ true enemy, and now the first disciple of their leader was in Origin World!

Many high level Origin kings digested the information with rapidly changing expressions, but they quietly heard Shenyu out.

“You’re the first disciple of the Dao King? And you dare come to Origin World? Aren’t you afraid that this band of evildoers will boil you alive?” Still in control of the mental realm of illusion, the little fox employed a captivating voice to cautiously probe her prey.

“So what if I’m discovered? Would I be afraid of this crew of trash?” Shenyu drew himself up proudly. “My master is also here and he reconnected the World King’s severed limbs—”

“Enough!” The hidden form in the void roared and sent his voice out as a thin line to ram the Netherdark Formation.

“So it’s the Dao King! No wonder you could reconnect the World King’s broken legs and arm.” Qing Yu gave a long peal of laughter and riposted with a flare of light from Quiet, scattering the Dao King’s sound wave.

With his failure to affect the little fox's illusion, that left Miao free to guide Shenyu to spill the beans on his master's entire scheme. The Dao King meant to foment internal disorder within the Ten Valleys of Evil and dismantle their alliance! Even the arm and legs he'd crafted for the World King contained a horrifying puppet art. Once it was activated, the World King would become his puppet!

How can this be?!

Expressions turned ugly at Shenyu's words. The World King was even more decisive and immediately detonated his new legs and arm. Indeed, three furls of black smoke drifted lazily out from the remains.

No one doubted Shenyu's confession. He'd completely lost himself in the Immortal Illusion King's formation and it was as if he wandered in a dream.

Dreams happened to be the little fox's forte.

"Fellow daoists of Origin World, apart from cutting down a few ninth step kings and sending them back to rest, this seat has not killed any other cultivator of your valley," Qing Yu shouted. "Do we continue to attack each other when the greatest enemy of our ten valleys is right here?!"

"DIE!" howled the World King. He raised his remaining hand and balled it into a fist, punching out at the Dao King's hazy form.

"Hmph!" harrumphed the Dao King. He hovered between illusion and reality, putting him just out of reach of the World King's wrathful punch.

Shenyu continued to talk, revealing all of the details of conflicts since time immemorial. The Ten Valleys of Evil had ceased to be a unified front a long time ago; all of the first generation rulers since the departure of the ten great ancestors were dead. Civil discord often beset them, and the one behind all this was the Dao King!

If it wasn't for the fact that he couldn't install his own men in the upper echelons of power, the valleys would've been long corrupted from the inside.

"Die!"

"Kill!"

"Kill!" Enraged beyond belief, the kings of Origin World took to the air at the same time and charged the point in the air where the Dao King was.

RUMBLE.

The Nineworld Origin Palace and Diagram recombined into a Nineworld Origin Diagram—the palace was one of the illustrations within the diagram!

The Netherdark Formation likewise erupted with power and integrated its force with the diagram, sealing off the void and turning it into a translucent crystal.

A void crystal!

The Dao King's form finally materialized in full within it. He was a handsome young man in white robes who exuded a prodigious gallant air.

He was very different from what one might think the Dao King looked like. This was his true form as forced out by two ultimate treasures of the valleys, one stripped of all disguise and illusion.

“Haotian!” shrieked the little fox when she saw the Dao King’s real appearance.

Her concentration wavered from her moment of distraction and her formation of illusion disassembled. Shenyu abruptly came to his senses, shuddered, then swiftly retreated. Miao ignored him as her attention was focused solely on the dashing young man in the crystal.

The Dao King, or rather, Haotian!

After the fall of Taiyi’s celestial court in the great wilderness, Haotian collected its remnants and retook the world of celestials. He set himself against the human dao and tried to conquer it. When he failed, he vanished.

Haotian’s name later reappeared in the primordial world of immortals a hundred thousand years ago from present day; he was one of the four great Lords and Lady of the primordial court. They were Great Empress of East, Myrtlestar; Great Emperor of the West, Polaris; Great Emperor of the North, Zhenwu; and Great Emperor of the South, Haotian!

The little fox hadn’t connected Haotian of the last era in the great wilderness with the Great Emperor Haotian of the Primordial Era until she returned to the great wilderness with Lu Yun.

Great Emperor Haotian had gone missing when the cataclysm descended a hundred thousand years ago—everyone had thought he was dead. But it now looked very possible that he was behind that disaster!

Haotian... the Dao King!

Miao would never be mistaken—the person in front of her was Haotian. So they meet again!

Crack crack craaaack.

The void crystal created by the Nineworld Origin Diagram and the Netherdark Formation slowly split open, releasing the Dao King’s body.

“So it’s you.” His voice was genteel and refined as he looked at the little fox with a trace of surprise.

“Then it’s obvious who the Empyrean King is. Since it is you, my defeat this round makes sense.

“You will now take one of my blows. If you can, the game continues. If not, go back to where you came from.”

Hummmm.

His white robes shook as boundless Hongmeng qi pierced through the diagram and formation’s blockade to concentrate on him.

“Take one of my blows!” he roared and punched at the little fox.

Close at hand, a dismayed World King quickly redeployed the Nineworld Origin Diagram to protect all of the Origin World kings within the palace. This punch exceeded the strength of any ninth step king and was on par with the Nineworld Origin Cannon!

Chapter 1317: Avoiding Battle

“The Haotian Fist! It really is you...” A murmuring Miao tilted her head up to watch the terrifying punch descend.

It really was Haotian—Haotian, not the Dao King!

She was entirely too familiar with this punch. It was the signature combat art of Great Emperor Haotian of the primordial world of immortals! Back in the day, this move could sweep the world and vie for dominance with the immortal emperor!

And now she was seeing it again.

Boom!

A stone bridge flashed in front of her and shook as it blocked the harrowing blow. The Bridge of Forgetfulness howled with defiance and trembled all over, brushing off the force that lingered over it.

“Good, good, very good!” The Dao King swept his long sleeves around and brought up Shenyu within them.

Both of them vanished without further ado, leaving a deathly silence in their wake. The collision between the bridge and Haotian Fist was too staggering—it exceeded the one between the bridge and the Nineworld Origin Cannon.

Apart from select high level kings, the rest of Origin World’s kings were heavily injured after the clash. Even seventh and eighth step kings outside of the palace were riddled within wounds. The World King hovered in the air with his singular arm, darkly taking in the scene. His faction had been dealt a grievous blow this time.

Lu Yun and Qing Yu approached a still dazed little fox.

“That was Haotian?” asked Lu Yun.

“Mmhmm.” Miao nodded.

“Celestial Emperor Haotian?”

“Mmhmm.”

“Great Emperor of the South, Haotian?”

“Mmhmm.”

“Then he’s probably the huge shadow who veiled the river of time a hundred thousand years ago.” Lu Yun took a deep breath and sighed, “No wonder it was obscured, no wonder Lu Qing couldn’t pick up on anything. Someone like the Dao King had set plans in motion for the world of immortals a long time ago.”

If Lu Yun still couldn’t guess what the shadow in the long river of time was, then he’d be a bonafide idiot.

The Dao King's strength beggared belief, his last blow had rivaled the Nineworld Origin Cannon! Though the bridge had stymied the punch, its force was inconceivable. Origin World was gravely injured from the fallout alone and countless numbers of cultivators injured or dead.

"Empyrean King, do you seek the end of my Origin World?" the World King growled lowly, his eyes fixed on Qing Yu as he carefully enunciated each word. He didn't explain what the Dao King was doing in Origin World—there was no need to.

"You will give me the Army Pagoda and half of the wealth in your vaults." If Qing Yu's tones were any frostier, ice would form in the air from them.

She wasn't one of the ten valleys and what happened to them had nothing to do with her. However, they were a protective barrier for the world of immortals and more important than previously understood since the Dao King had already set up plans in the world. Destroying any one of the ten valleys wouldn't benefit Qing Yu or her people.

"Fine, they're yours!" The World King set his jaw. "But you must repair my severed limbs."

"Very well." Qing Yu inclined her head.

He waved his remaining arm and summoned a crystalline pagoda in his hand, sending it to Qing Yu. Origin World's vault doors opened and its contents streamed to her as sparkling rivers when she beckoned.

Outraged and heartbroken, Origin World cultivators wanted nothing more than to beat Qing Yu into the ground, but the deterrence from the Dao King's earlier blow was too great. If the Empyrean King could withstand even the Dao King, then the World King was no match for her.

The Empyrean King was too strong.

"What, are you feeling humiliated?" the Yin Yang King sneered. "Her Eminence is magnificently benevolent and leaves you with half of your wealth. When you breached Hopeless Major that year, you took much more than what we leave you."

The Origin kings ceased their grumbling.

Though Hopeless Major had lost more than what they were losing now, that had been due to the combined efforts of the nine other valleys. It hadn't been Origin World alone who attacked them. Since they hadn't destroyed Hopeless Major then, Qing Yu naturally wouldn't destroy them now.

"Let's go." Qing Yu took a look at the World King and left. Lu Yun, the little fox, and others hastened to catch up to her.

The World King's lost arm and legs slowly began to regrow.

"Your Eminence!" Origin World's remaining ninth step kings walked up.

"The fault is mine for ushering the wolf into the house." The World King took a deep breath. "From now on, I am no longer the eminent ruler of Origin World. Heartgorge King, the position falls to you from this moment forth. Kaleidoscopic King lacks the right to rule as well."

Kaleidoscopic's face dimmed; he'd been so sure of his schemes and victory that all he needed was for the Empyrean King to walk into his trap. Who would've thought that she'd be so strong that she'd defeat the Dao King and his disciple? They had no other choice but to retreat.

What the World King meant by ushering in the wolf wasn't Qing Yu, but the Dao King.

Though Origin World and Hopeless Major were at odds with each other, they were still allies on the surface. The Empyrean King may have arrived with great fanfare, but she wouldn't have destroyed Origin World even if she'd won. However, if the Dao King had won, he would've crushed Hopeless Major and Origin World wouldn't be too far behind.

If the World King continued to rule Origin World, its people would be at cross purposes with their eminent ruler.

.....

In the depths of Qi Sea, a forbidden zone deep within Origin World.

The group had utilized the Autumn King's formation to transport directly into the zone when they arrived. Now that he was dead and returned to the Tome of Life and Death, Lu Yun and the others immediately traveled to the Qi Sea when they left Origin World.

A variety of jumbled qi churned within the sea, forming terrible qi currents. Ordinary beings could survive here, but if cultivators absorbed the energy within the surroundings, they'd instantly explode.

This was a haven for arcane beasts.

Countless arcane beasts thrived within the Qi Sea and there were high level beasts, even arcane beast kings to be found further inside. Due to the peculiarities of this area, none of them were intelligent.

This was a forbidden zone for others, but it wasn't much of anything to Qing Yu's group. The Yin Yang and Profound Kings raised a streak of white light that pierced through the sea and rushed out of it.

"Your Eminence, Kun Paradise is attacking Hopeless Major," Profound King suddenly reported to Qing Yu.

Kun Paradise was another one of the Ten Valleys of Evil eyeing up Hopeless Major just like Origin World had. They nibbled away at Hopeless Major given any opportunity to do so, wanting to scavenge anything they could from it.

"It's a trap," Lu Yun said before Qing Yu could. "We've seen through the Dao King's stratagem in the valleys, so all he can do now is provoke the other eight into attacking us.

"With his capabilities, he can refine the voids of the other eight into one with Hopeless Major. If we return now or head to Kun Paradise, we'll be ambushed."

He rubbed his forehead—a headache brewed.

"What should we do now?" asked the Yin Yang King, also considering all of the implications.

Exposure of the Dao King, especially his disciple's words in how they'd created conflict between the valleys, raised the hair on one's back. Most importantly was that they didn't know how the Dao King had obtained the World King's trust and what kind of role he played in all this.

"Let's go to Multitude City." Lu Yun grinned. "We'll just ignore his latest move. What happened at Origin World will travel throughout the valleys sooner or later."

"Then Hopeless Major..."

"Give him an empty shell if he wants it," Lu Yun's grin deepened. "I made arrangements for our retreat a long time ago."

Chapter 1318: Defeat

"Alright, so we head to the Immortal Pagoda!" Qing Yu laughed gaily.

Compared to the aloof and remote Hopeless Major, the Immortal Pagoda was the home that Lu Yun had forged in the Hongmeng. She'd wanted to move there a long time ago.

The Dao King's machinations were her perfect chance to extricate herself.

The Yin Yang and Profound Kings looked at each other. The Immortal Pagoda? Then the page boy really was the Immortal King. Then... it was apparent who the Immortal Illusion King was—the Intranse King?

"Immortal King!" Profound took a deep breath and called out Lu Yun's name. "If we shy away from battle, doesn't that fail to live up to our power and prestige?"

"Do you want prestige or do you want to live?" Lu Yun swept a gaze over the Profound King.

"We kings of Hopeless Major would rather die than bend the knee!" Profound shouted righteously.

Lu Yun raised an eyebrow at Qing Yu, who looked back with resignation.

"You do know that the Dao King doesn't want to just destroy Hopeless Major, but all Ten Valleys of Evil," she sighed. "If we return now to meet them in battle or go to Kun Paradise, we'll step right into his trap.

"His schemes have been exposed and word of them has spread throughout the valleys. What he needs to do now is quickly get things over and done with, or his painstaking efforts will all be wasted."

The same explanation from Qing Yu was much more persuasive to the Yin Yang and Profound Kings.

"Do you know why I brought you with me and not the Soulmask King?" she asked the Profound King.

He didn't respond because subconsciously, he felt that his eminent ruler didn't trust him. That was why she didn't want him to remain in Hopeless Major.

"Because Soulmask has a better grasp of the big picture than you. If you were the one holding down the fort in Hopeless Major today, our home and the other valleys would be fated for destruction." Qing Yu said no more after this elaboration.

Her meaning was clear. Profound was suitable to be a henchman and not a ruler. If Hopeless Major fell into his hands, doom would soon follow.

The previous ruler had nurtured a successor like the Kaleidoscopic King in case something happened to him, but the successor had gone missing in the end. Plainly, the Dao King was behind this as well.

The Profound King fell into a sullen silence.

If Hopeless Major was surrounded and Qing Yu gave the order to retreat, he would never obey it. He would swear to live and die with the faction, and the rest of the faction disciples would stay by his side given his popularity.

“Come, let us return to Multitude Region.” Lu Yun smiled. “The Dao King’s scheme will be defused if there is no battle to be found. It’s not like he can force the other valleys into attacking each other.”

The Ten Valleys of Evil had been allied with each other for countless eons. It was only due to the Supplemental Dao Alliance’s monopoly and the drastic plans of the former Hopeless Major ruler that’d forced the other nine to join hands and whittle away at Hopeless Major.

None of them were fools since they were able to tower over the rest of the Hongmeng and withstand the Immortal Region for so long. If Hopeless Major didn’t answer the call for battle, the Dao King’s plans would end in complete failure.

.....

In a patch of unknown space that connected nine valleys apart from Origin World, the Dao King and Shenyu stood in the air, looking quietly down at the scene below.

“This disciple has ruined master’s great plan. Please punish me, master.” After a long silence, Shenyu knelt in front of the Dao King.

“It’s fine.” The Dao King waved his hand and raised his disciple upright. “It was my oversight this time, I didn’t think they’d come in person. The Immortal Illusion King is very strong and even I might not be her match if I took to the field. It’s no surprise that you lost to her.”

Shenyu blinked, at a loss for words.

“I lost this round too, much less you,” murmured the Dao King as he looked at the Endless Reaches in front of him.

He was so immensely frustrated! It felt like he’d punched with all his might into a ball of cotton—no, not just punched, but self detonated and hit nothing at all.

There was nothing in Hopeless Major!

Not a single feather was left behind, to say nothing of formations, restrictions, treasures, cultivators, or anything of value.

Hopeless Major of the Ten Valleys of Evil had fled, en masse!

It was a cowardly and shameful act in the eyes of others, but precisely the kind of action that drove him crazy. However, he remained coolly composed without a hint of how flustered he was.

“Shenyu, go to Multitude City and set up a Haotian Tower next to the Immortal Pagoda. Sell supplemental treasures within it,” he suddenly said to his disciple.

“What?” Shenyu paused. “But... if we do that... then the monopoly over supplemental dao that we’ve spent so long setting up... won’t it...”

“It was broken the moment the Alchemist King lost.” The Dao King nodded. “Go on, don’t lose this round.”

“Understood.” Shenyu quickly asked, “Is the Immortal Illusion King really the Intranse King?”

His master inclined his head.

“So she has two titles?” Shenyu was flabbergasted.

“I once entered the world of immortals in search of someone so I could build a good relationship with her, but I failed. To think it was that little fox who stole the march on me,” the Dao King murmured. “The cause is in the present and the result in the past. Ai, I lost to God after all. I misjudged his judgment and daring.”

When God entered the great wilderness, the Dao King immediately took on the identity of Haotian and followed him. When God traveled through space and time to the future world of immortals, he also gave chase and became Great Emperor Haotian.

He’d failed despite it all because he’d never imagined that he would find no trace of that person in those two points of time. God had traveled there only to set up things for that person.

The one who built a relationship with that person was an ordinary fox. In all of the Dao King’s conjectures, he’d never fathomed that God would give his opportunity to someone else.

.....

“Don’t go directly back to Multitude City!” Qing Yu suddenly said when they set foot outside of the Qi Sea. “We should enter through the southern gate. Some things will happen there.”

“Oh?” Lu Yun blinked. “Good things?”

Her command of formula dao was superior to his and she’d deployed it constantly along their way back, dodging a lot of dangers and gaining fortuitous opportunities.

“You could say that,” Qing Yu gave it some thought. “Someone is plotting against you and has been waiting for you for a while. Once you take them, the Immortal Pagoda will commence on its true path.”

“I understand.” A smile floated onto Lu Yun’s face.

.....

Three hundred million miles outside the southern gate of Multitude City.

Three hundred million miles was an insurmountable distance to ordinary beings, but it was nothing for a Hongmeng King.

“They’re coming!” Hidden in the void, the Wild Formation King opened his eyes.

Next to him, the Alchemist leered. "He can't help it in the end. Things are getting worse in Starspace Region and Dusksnow Morningstar is besieged on all sides. Of course the Immortal King will set out to rescue him."

Lu Yun and the little fox were swiftly departing Multitude City together.

Chapter 1319: Ten Thousand Formations With One Step

"Formation, rise!" The Wild Formation King's eyes lit up when he saw the Immortal and Intranse Kings enter the ambush. He quickly activated the formation that he'd set up beforehand and split the void a hundred million miles around, creating another spatial zone.

Lu Yun and the little fox looked around wildly with surprise. Though they were prepared and had purposefully walked into the trap, the development still took them off guard.

To think that the Wild Formation King would be so strong as to split the void in two!

"Immortal King, Intranse King!" The Alchemist King appeared with a twisted smile in the middle of the formation. "I know that you two saw through our setup before leaving the city, but you still set foot into it without hesitation. Are we supplemental kings really so worthless to you?"

Humiliation colored the look in his eyes.

They'd set up their formation with full confidence, but when their quarry casually hopped into the arrangement, the two realized that their targets had long known about the formation. They weren't planning on going to Starspace Region's rescue, but were here for the Wild Formation and Alchemist Kings!

The Wild Formation King also materialized with an ugly glare at Lu Yun and the little fox.

"Indeed," Lu Yun sighed. "I didn't think much of you before I came, but now I realize that I have indeed underestimated you."

"I'm of the mindset that I'm superior to everyone when it comes to the dao of formations, but the Wild Formation King's can carve out a portion from the Hongmeng void. I can't do that."

"You admit that you're less than me?" the Wild Formation King blinked.

"No!" Lu Yun lifted his head and shot a keen look at Wild Formation. "I wouldn't admit that even if the Dao King was here, so I'd like a contest with you!"

"Very well!" Wild Formation inclined his head. "You win if you can dismantle my Primordial Execution Formation. If you can't, then the two of you will die within it today."

"What do we win if we break your formation?" Miao frowned.

"If you break it, then my life is yours," Wild Formation gave a long peal of laughter. "We bet our lives!"

"Of course," Alchemist interjected. "Since I lost to you last time, I should not be making trouble for you. But I do not accept my defeat! This time, we will compete on the basis of battling with supplemental dao. If you win again, I will completely accept it and you can take my life as well!"

“I will agree to this,” Lu Yun nodded. “But if you two lose, you cannot detonate your seed storage.”

All Hongmeng beings created a seed storage within themselves and placed all of their wealth inside. Their minds were tied to it and if they died, so would the storage be destroyed—ruining all of the treasures it held.

That was what had happened with the Autumn King and Jinse, preventing him from claiming any of their treasures. He’d been glum for a very long time that their seed storage had burst at the second of their death.

Thus, this was a non-negotiable condition for him to wager lives with the Alchemist and Wild Formation Kings.

They looked at each other and indicated their agreement. “That is just as well, so if you and the Intrace King lose, you cannot lay waste to your seed storage either.”

Lu Yun nodded, but all things considered, theirs was just a verbal agreement. If death was staring at them in the face, who would care about any of that?

None of the four was a ninth step king. Therefore, they couldn’t split out their consciousness for backup replicas in the event of their death. If they died, they died. However, if they sought to fulfill the terms of their bet, there were ways around that limitation—such as severing the connection between the mind and seed storage.

“Then let us begin.” Wild Formation nodded at Lu Yun and vanished into the formation along with Alchemist. The great formation rumbled to life.

“Be careful, he’s very strong,” Lu Yun cautioned.

They’d planned on using the Bridge of Forgetfulness to smash the formation to pieces, but Lu Yun’s interest had suddenly been piqued. It would be nice to battle the Wild Formation King face-to-face.

When Lu Yun first arrived in the world of immortals, he’d used feng shui layouts to dismantle formations and slowly rise to power. The art of feng shui wasn’t lost in the Hongmeng, and someone like the Wild Formation King would naturally be trained in both disciplines. Lu Yun had to battle him.

“Mm.” Miao cocked her head. “I’ll go take care of that Alchemist King. You be careful.”

She vanished in a cloud of bubbles, seeking out the hidden Alchemist King. The little fox understood what Lu Yun intended and naturally wouldn’t disturb his battle with the Wild Formation King.

In comparison, Alchemist had already lost once to him, so Lu Yun wasn’t inclined to step on him again.

Lu Yun took a step forward after her departure, formation glyphs rippling out from beneath his foot and interweaving in the air to become ten thousand formations. This step carried with it the power of countless Yin Yang Formation Orbs.

The Primordial Execution Formation was as its name indicated, of primordial origins and its purpose to execute all life. Fearsome spatial power brewed within it, one tinged with an exceedingly uncanny power of slaughter.

The second Lu Yun's ten thousand formations rose, energy from the great formation around him billowed over from all sides.

Craaaaack.

All of his formations instantly crumbled.

"The Wild Formation King is continuing to strengthen his formation." Lu Yun remained coolly composed and took another step forward, oscillating more glyphs beneath his foot into another ten thousand formations. He wasn't using any other method at the moment, just pure formation dao.

"The Immortal King is using formations as a combat art!" Wild Formation gasped with shock.

Though the Primordial Execution Formation had trapped Lu Yun to the point where he could only passively react to changes in his environment, what he was displaying still made Wild Formation's heart quail.

The Immortal King had already deployed combat arts through his supplemental phenomenon when refining pills, thereby shocking the Alchemist King, but this time he used formations as combat arts!

The ten thousand formations he created with each step were extremely weak, like paper in front of the Primordial Execution Formation, yet the combat art created by ten thousand formations kept their master in undeniable safety.

And that wasn't all...

Lu Yun's first step saw all ten thousand formations destroyed.

Lu Yun's second step saw nine thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine formations destroyed. One remained intact.

His third step saw two remain intact.

His footsteps increased in speed and an increasing number of formations circulated around him.

Chapter 1320: Huge Millstone

The Wild Formation King's face grew ever paler. He'd adjusted the Primordial Execution Formation so that it exerted more power, but Lu Yun was becoming continuously more comfortable inside.

"How is that possible?! You swallowed my poison pill!" The Alchemist King's voice suddenly rang out.

"What?! Poison??" Startled, Wild Formation felt sudden weakness assault him and a terrifying poison seep into his body. He quickly turned inky black.

"Dammit, the Intranse King's illusions have bewitched him!" Wild Formation instantly realized what had happened and kept a cool head, taking out an antidote and ingesting it immediately.

The poison percolating through his body faded away.

Given his friendship with the Alchemist King, he naturally possessed all sorts of antidotes and medicines from his friend.

“How is that possible?!” He was greeted by a stupefying sight when he came back to his senses. Ten thousand formations circulated around Lu Yun’s body and that number was still increasing!!

“This can’t be allowed to continue, the Primordial Execution Formation will shatter before long,” Wild Formation started to panic.

This was one of his strongest formations, ranking less than Hopeless Major’s Netherdark Formation and on par with the Nethersoul and Darkyin Formations. He’d found some flaws in it after countless simulations of how to break it, but he’d never thought that someone would break it by filling it beyond capacity!

Though Lu Yun’s current number of formations wasn’t enough to burst open the Primordial Execution Formation, he was perfectly on track to do so. When he collected a million formations around him, that would be the moment of eruption.

“Primordial Massacre Formation, rise!” Wild Formation suddenly appeared in the midst of his arrangement and an enormous formation disk descended from the sky, landing in the middle of his formation.

Hummm.

A drastic change occurred with a mighty tremble in the surroundings.

The Primordial Execution Formation and Primordial Massacre Formation activated at the same time, combining into one entity with a clear distinction between them, resembling an enormous millstone.

The little fox shook and fell out of the two formations, returning to Lu Yun’s side.

“Grind!” Wild Formation brought his hands together and rotated them counter clockwise.

The two formations began to rotate, behaving exactly like a millstone and bearing down on the targets with ferocious crushing momentum. They pulverized the void in front of them, shredding space into tiny and even tinier particles.

“I can’t hold on.” Miao had fully released her stores of Mirage Sand, but they were insufficient to withstand the grinding force of the two formations.

“My foundations in the Hongmeng are too shallow—I don’t have anything to suppress fortune, other than refining a cauldron of creation and the Purple Stellar Mountain,” murmured Lu Yun as the ten thousand formations around him crumbled away.

He’d drifted around without a home since arriving in the Hongmeng. When he finally established his enterprise in Multitude City, the Supplemental Dao Alliance came to kick in his doors every other day.

There hadn’t been enough time for him to fully develop his strength.

The Purple Stellar Mountain was strong, but he couldn’t command it. Other than detonating it against a ninth step king, it was far more likely that they would take it from him instead.

Something like the Bridge of Forgetfulness was also subject to a nebulous limitation in the third realm. Jin Naluo hadn’t dared to use it after borrowing it, for fear of being targeted by others.

A foundation to suppress fortune was a treasure that could intimidate all comers, but not to the point of arousing too much fear and jealousy. The Nineworld Origin Diagram of Origin World and Netherdark Formation of Hopeless Major registered in that category, but Lu Yun's Purple Stellar Mountain paled far in comparison.

If he was wielding either of the other two treasures at the moment, he could instantly smash the giant millstone to smithereens.

"The combined power of the two formations is infinitely close to a Netherdark Formation without its flame. The Wild Formation King is a veritable genius!" Lu Yun took a deep breath and formed a seal with both hands, sending ten thousand formations around him soaring into the sky. They shifted into a giant with its feet on the Primordial Execution Formation and hands clutching the Primordial Massacre Formation, trying to wrench the two apart.

"A combat art manifestation!" Color drained from Wild Formation's face; fresh blood spewed out of his orifices. Combining the two formations into a millstone was the limits of his capabilities, and it wasn't complete.

There was a gaping weakness in it that Lu Yun had plainly discovered. As long as the giant of ten thousand formations could withstand the crushing momentum of the millstone, Lu Yun would be able to destroy the formations through the flaw!

However, Lu Yun and Wild Formation weren't facing off in single person combat; the Alchemist King was also present.

"Immortal King, catch these pills!" He suddenly howled and materialized a string of pills. Assembling them in a peculiar form, he threw them at Lu Yun.

"Be careful!" Miao shouted with alarm, having just experienced how strong these pills were. She took a deep breath and stepped forward, surrounding the pills with a dreamlike formation of illusion.

Craaack!

The millstone crushed her formation to pieces the moment it appeared. Since she stood at the fore, the combined formations churned right into her.

Lu Yun and the little fox were battling supplemental dao with the Alchemist and Wild Formation Kings, not cultivation strength. Otherwise, Miao would've exploded with the battle strength of a ninth step king and mangled those pills as an afterthought.

Trouncing all comers, the Alchemist King's pills arrived in front of Lu Yun.

Boom.

Boom.

Boom.

They exploded as soon as they drew near him; Lu Yun spat out a mouthful of blood and flew backward.

“Don’t do anything!” He called out when he saw the little fox extract herself from the millstone and three golden-purple dao rules start to shimmer into existence. This contest was one of supplemental dao. Once she used her strength as a titled king, it would damage their dao hearts and make future progress difficult.

Quickly realizing what was at stake, Miao dismissed her dao rules and summoned her scattered Mirage Sand with a beckon of her hands.

Rumble!

Lu Yun’s giant of formation combat arts lost the battle against the two formations. They regrouped into a tightly joined together millstone and bore down menacingly on the two.