

Necropolis 1321

Chapter 1321: The Fires of Order

As the titanic millstone churned toward Lu Yun and the little fox, the Alchemist King also released three thousand pills. They assembled within the millstone and took on humanoid form.

It possessed four limbs and a head, but there were no features on the head. It lacked openings and pores as well—it was just an entity extremely close to being alive.

This was a technique infinitely close to creation.

There was the creator realm in the chaos, one in which cultivators could create matter out of thin air. However, creating life was not possible.

God could create life not because he was a creator, but because he possessed the ability of creation.

Lu Yun's eighteen Pills of Creation had reached that level. If he'd wanted to, he could've instantly turned them into real life forms.

The humanoid figure based off of the Alchemist King's three thousand pills exceeded the dao of puppetry and was very close to the level of creation. However, while the realm was a short distance away, it was also poles apart. Despite the king's proximity, he remained meandering in the bog and always fell short.

Thus, he almost lost his dao heart and nearly went insane when he saw Lu Yun refine the Pills of Creation.

The humanoid figure clenched its fists and deployed a crude combat art, smashing it down on Lu Yun and the little fox. Though the figure couldn't become a titled king, its strength was on par with a sixth step king and not too far off from Hua Fengwen's.

Lu Yun recollected his thoughts and summoned another ten thousand formations to protect himself and the little fox, forcefully standing up to the churning of the giant millstone. He flung out three thousand more formations and restrained the figure of pills, but it was so strong that it immediately bashed Lu Yun's new formations to pieces.

"Alchemist King!" Lu Yun suddenly roared. "Let me show you why I can refine creation!"

"Creation!" Alchemist and Wild Formation brightened. The ultimate peak of supplemental dao was creation! Judging from the Immortal King's words, was there a shortcut to this level of achievement?

Whoosh!

Lu Yun began to burn up as a silver flame darted out from him. Affected by the flame, the ten thousand formations around him shimmered with change and... somehow gained the presence of life.

They shook in unison as ten thousand living beings jumped out.

"Kill!"

"Kill!"

“Kill!”

Incredible killing intent soaring to the sky, the sentiment formed a massive silver “kill” character and bore down on the humanoid of pills.

“Creation!”

“Creation of life!” Alchemist and Wild Formation shrieked at the same time. Whatever they’d expected to see, they didn’t expect that the Immortal King would employ creation right beneath their noses and turn ten thousand formations into living beings!

These were true life forms—though they lacked souls, their true spirits were fully formed and would evolve soul parts given enough time. Those would then form a soul and become a true core...

“What is that fire called? It can set the formation aflame with creation!” Alchemist gabbled. “The Immortal King was able to refine the Pills of Creation because he used that fire!”

Boom!

The silver “kill” character crushed the Alchemist King’s humanoid pills and filled the air with pill dust. He was neither angry nor depressed at this outcome. On the contrary, enthusiasm beamed from his eyes and he stared fixedly at the silver flames over Lu Yun’s body.

Obtaining that fire would enable him to pry into the secrets of creation and refine it!

Those were also Wild Formation’s thoughts, so the two joined efforts and sent the massive millstone rolling toward Lu Yun again.

Though the ten thousand beings had destroyed the humanoid of pills, the sheer difference in cultivation level meant that the ten thousand were still far outclassed. The millstone was Wild Formatin’s dao and the culmination of his life’s work. If Lu Yun wanted to break it, he needed more than half-formed creation.

His ten thousand beings were swiftly pulped and returned to ten thousand formations.

Creation was the product of order!

All living beings existed in an objective state in the multiverse, containing no will from a third party. But when impartial beings were defined by order, they became subjective.

Violetgrave had once said that the sixth hell was the foundation of all life, and that the sixth hell was one of order.

Order gave rise to all daos, of which creation was one. Not only could order create life, but its existence changed everything about creation as well. It identified the parameters under which life could exist and imposed logic and reason on everything.

Being this impartial truth, living beings could only borrow it and not cultivate it. Lu Yun’s tiny flame of order was coalesced from the five hellfires and the first step to understanding order.

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“Miao, hold off the millstone for three breaths!” Lu Yun turned to the little fox.

“Okay,” she responded calmly, but a rarely glimpsed gravity appeared on her face.

Mirage Sand hovered around her in the form of a white chain and the Scroll of Shepherding Immortals materialized as well. Dreamlike splendor blossomed from her body as if it was something tangible and strongly defied the terrifying millstone.

Lu Yun took advantage of the opportunity to open his seed storage and withdraw a million formation stands.

He’d been using formations without foundation to battle the Wild Formation King’s tangible formations, and now he was finally going to set up his own!

A million formation stands exploded forth at the same time, shooting pillars of light into the sky as they expanded into full formations and eked out space within the enormous millstone.

Fresh blood once more spewed out of the shocked Wild Formation’s orifices and it drifted in the air as bloody mist. A frantic Alchemist King quickly took out a bottle carved from purple crystal and shattered it to pieces, directing the pills within as a stream of air current into his friend’s body.

Wild Formation’s injuries instantly healed and he darted back into his two formations, forcing out its strongest power to crush the life out of his two opponents.

Three breaths had passed.

The little fox’s Mirage Sand trickled away and the Scroll of Shepherding Immortals dimmed immensely; blood drenched her body.

Whoosh!

Energy from a million formations covered Lu Yun’s body and he bathed in a wondrous radiance of endless formation light. It formed a layer of “formation robes” around him. Thus reinforced, he took a step forward and punched the center of the millstone.

“Wild Formation King!” he roared. “A millstone isn’t just two slabs of stone stuck together! Yours lacks a millrind—which happens to be its most important component! That’s your fatal weakness!

“And now, break!!”

Boom!

The two great formations exploded from a collision with Lu Yun’s one million formations.

Chapter 1322: Haotian Tower

The big millstone lacked a rind to bind the two formations together. Thus, it could be more accurately described as two slabs of stone stuck together and not a real millstone.

Despite its shortcomings, it could still crush kings through sheer momentum alone. But when faced with a premier supplemental king like Lu Yun, its tiny flaw could be infinitely magnified into a fatal weakness.

The Wild Formation King suffered heavy backlash the moment the millstone broke apart; ugly fractures crawled up his body like he was a piece of porcelain. Ignoring his own injuries, the Alchemist King turned all of the pills he carried with him into medicinal qi and furiously poured it into his friend's body.

However, the enormous millstone was a treasure that Wild Formation had used his life to operate. His core essence was gravely wounded with its destruction and his soul teetered on the edge of shattering.

"Alchemist King!" Formation robe still draped around him, Lu Yun's every gesture was accompanied by the light of a million formations. He roared at the other, "It's your turn now!"

He raised a hand and punched out at Alchemist.

Scrambling for a response, Alchemist beckoned endless medicinal qi into existence. It condensed into a mammoth pill that enclosed him with safety. Golden ripples oscillated violently over it, each undulation containing countless pills that were also extreme poison. They could both explode to deal damage or poison the enemy.

Lu Yun's blow failed to break the huge pill.

"Again!" he snarled. His formation robe flared into a gigantic sword that descended with Dragonrise as Lu Yun pointed at his opponent.

Using formations to deploy combat arts!

His techniques were infinitely more marvelous than the half-baked attempt from the Alchemist King.

Alchemist was almost out of his mind. They'd utterly lost the battle! Both of them had lost the contest of supplemental dao to the Immortal and Intransigent Kings!

Rumble.

Alchemist's immense pill splintered into irreparable pieces from the stroke. Both Alchemist and Wild Formation dumbly regarded the divine sword light with fear and dread.

Defeat.

They were about to die.

It was all over.

Hummmmm.

An earsplitting hum exploded in the void as a giant scroll snaked into the open, rebuffed Lu Yun's sword, wrapped around the two kings, and vanished with them.

"Immortal King, they lose this round, so take their seed storage. However, their lives belong to me!" came a clear voice upon the air.

"He's the Runaway King alright, he scampered real quick after that," grumbled the little fox next to Lu Yun.

Shenyu materialized in the void a hundred million kilometers away, an awkward expression on his face. No one other than his master had known of his title before. Now that the Intrace King called it out, it went without saying what their identities were.

After suffering such massive losses, Origin World had shut itself away in the depths of Origin Sea. Its cultivators would not come here.

“Intrace King, Immortal Illusion King?” Shenyu forced out through grit teeth and then curved his lips in a wry smile. He took out two pills for the Alchemist and Wild Formation Kings.

“Our thanks to Sir Shenyu for saving our lives.” His injuries comparatively lighter, Alchemist recovered first to thank Shenyu.

Shenyu was the Dao King’s first disciple and the Alchemist King one of the founding members of the Supplemental Dao Alliance. Of course he knew who his rescuer was.

As for the Runaway King title that the Intrace King used, Alchemist ignored that entirely.

“Mm.” Shenyu nodded. “Don’t take your failures to heart. Anything is still possible as long as you are alive. I made the call to give them your seed storage—there must be a price for failure.”

“Understood.” Wild Formation stood up with a nod.

Though they’d wagered their lives, they weren’t two sticks-in-the-mud. They wouldn’t force Shenyu to return them to Lu Yun after being rescued.

“Master has ordered me to set up the Haotian Tower in Multitude City. We will be taking on the Immortal Pagoda. You two will collect the Imagination, Talisman Adept, and Prime Weapon Kings to help me.”

“What?” Alchemist and Wild Formation widened their eyes. “The alliance lord wishes to attack the Immortal Pagoda? But if we set up the Haotian Tower, our monopoly over supplemental dao...”

“That was broken the day the Immortal Pagoda was established.” Shenyu thought of his master’s words. “The Immortal Pagoda is allied with the Ten Valleys of Evil and the monopoly is no longer effective. End it, lest we become the villains in the end.”

“We will.” They didn’t dare respond with anything else.

“You must be on your toes, even my master gives full respect to the Immortal King and Intrace King. We can’t afford any mistakes with the Haotian Tower. Let us go to Multitude City. Isn’t there a mountain of Earth Light Magneticus there? We’ll go claim that first.” Shenyu turned and left.

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The previous Supplemental Convention had been hosted by the Alchemist, Wild Formation, and Imagination Kings. The Talisman Adept and Prime Weapon Kings had joined later when they received invitations. It wasn’t their original intention to oppose Lu Yun.

But when Shenyu's summons went out, they answered immediately and didn't dare consider otherwise. Shenyu was the Dao King's first disciple and his successor. If anything happened to the Dao King, Shenyu would be the new leader.

Supplemental kings of the Hongmeng lost their autonomy once they joined the alliance. They were resources to be used by the organization, which came into play now with the Talisman Adept and Prime Weapon Kings.

The Colosseum was dead in all but name. There was only the Human King left among it and he'd thrown his lot in with the Supplemental Dao Alliance to be their guard. Its last branch in Multitude City was the venue for the Supplemental Convention, but this assembly no longer belonged to the Supplemental Dao Alliance; it was the Immortal Pagoda's instead.

The mountain of Earth Light Magneticus was still the main focus.

Lu Yun's victory over the Alchemist King and refining creation had made his reputation and further put the mountain into the spotlight. Increasing numbers of experts arrived from around the realm to attempt to claim it.

However, it proved impenetrable and unfathomably heavy. No one could pick it up.

One day, a young man in white robes approached it and laughed heartily. "I am Shenyu of Haotian Tower. I will try you on for size."

He reached out with one hand and easily picked it up.

"What?! Someone's picked it up!!" An uproar broke out in the convention.

"Even a seventh step king's failed their attempt. Who is this young man? Shenyu of Haotian Tower? What's Haotian Tower?" Dumbfounded gazes shot toward Shenyu.

Inside the mountain, the treasure spirit glared weakly at its holder. It could sense how strong Shenyu was and wasn't dumb enough to make trouble for this kind of character. Shenyu could wipe it out of existence without trying.

Chapter 1323: A Shining Example For Our Generation

Shenyu didn't put away the mountain of Stone Light Magneticus after picking it up. Hoisting it over his head, he took to the air.

"Do you want to know where Haotian Tower will be? Come with me." His voice surged through the streets until half of Multitude City could hear him.

There was a strange dao note in his tones that entranced weaker cultivators, or those with irresolute wills, and made them subconsciously follow behind him. When local experts took note of the disturbance, they knew that this Shenyu meant to stir up trouble. They also fell in line, but out of curiosity.

It seemed to many that Shenyu of Haotian Tower was targeting the Immortal Pagoda. And indeed, he headed straight for the pagoda, trailed by countless cultivators.

Various heavyweights within the city stirred to life; the sixth step kings of the Elysium Atelier, Sublime Pavilion, and Ingenium Gazebo as well as the seventh step king overseeing Multitude City looked in the direction of the Immortal Pagoda.

Several seventh step kings had attempted the mountain of Earth Light Magneticus, but they'd all failed. Seeing as Shenyu had easily picked it up, that meant he was no ordinary seventh step king.

So it appeared that a true expert from the Supplemental Dao Alliance had arrived.

"It's been less than three years since my departure from Multitude City... what happened to it for it to become like this?" The one in charge of Multitude City—seventh step Rain King—looked ruefully at the young man headed for the Immortal Pagoda.

When Jin Naluo obtained the key to the Hongmeng Tower, the Rain King and another seventh step king had given chase. But when the other seventh step king died to devious tactics, the Rain King slipped away with egg on his face.

Although he didn't control the entire city and didn't dare hail himself as city lord, he possessed absolute power within certain areas of Multitude City. But upon his return, he discovered that everything had changed.

The Colosseum had been razed and replaced by the scandalous Immortal Pagoda. Those who'd previously respected him, such as the Finepure King, couldn't be bothered by him anymore.

It was inordinately humiliating.

He'd thought of paying a visit to the Immortal Pagoda, but unfortunately, they set themselves against the Supplemental Dao Alliance and sought to break the alliance's monopoly. After careful thought, the Rain King decided that it would be against his best interests to build a relationship with this new faction.

Today, a new character was in town and taking the Earth Light Magneticus back to its former owner. Speculations ran high that Shenyu actually wanted to smash it into the Immortal Pagoda.

But for now, Shenyu of Haotian Tower showed no signs of enmity.

The Immortal Pagoda was located on the most prosperous street—Black Tortoise Avenue—in the north quadrant of Multitude City. The avenue was fifteen thousand kilometers wide and one hundred fifty million kilometers long. Storefronts abounded on it and residences of various powerhouses were scattered throughout.

Black Tortoise Avenue wasn't the typical avenue found in mundane worlds; most of its buildings were erected on floating isles hovering in midair. Given the magnitude of Multitude City, only true titans could build on solid ground. Ordinary cultivators had to make do with residences in the floating isles.

Previously one of the most powerful factions on the avenue, the Colosseum had been replaced by the Immortal Pagoda. Despite the development, that didn't mean that there was a shortage of other impressive organizations nearby.

Trueriver Sect sat across the way from the Immortal Pagoda. A sect founded by sixth step Trueriver King, it accepted disciples throughout Multitude City. The sect was a third rate faction in the city.

First rate factions of Multitude City were ones that possessed seventh step kings—House Rain of the Rain King, Shangguan Clan, and now the Immortal Pagoda.

Second rate factions were the once four dens of crystal consumptions and a few others on par with them. They possessed peak sixth step kings such as the Human, Finepure, Elysium, and Ingenium Kings. As long as unnatural phenomena such as Jin Naluo and the Redbud King didn't take the field, the aforementioned kings would be the strongest among sixth step kings.

Trueriver Sect was second only to the four dens and the Trueriver King was just shy of peak sixth step kinghood; he was a well known personage in Multitude City.

Trueriver Sect's influence extended throughout Multitude Region and occupied three major cities in its core territory, looming impressively overall. However, disaster struck today.

Rumble—

An enormous mountain descended from the air and crushed the Trueriver Sect complex, destroying everything within five hundred thousand kilometers. Pale-green light exploded from the mountain to further destroy the sect's foundations.

"For what reason does this visitor destroy my Trueriver Sect!" The Trueriver King and his disciples escaped in the nick of time. They hovered in midair and glared at Shenyu with outrage.

"Get out of here within three breaths or be exterminated," Shenyu responded faintly with a look at the king.

"...we go!" Trueriver set his jaw and waved his sleeves, sweeping up all disciples outside the ruined buildings. He himself transformed into a streak of light and left Multitude City.

Though their headquarters were ruined, the sect still possessed three cities outside of Multitude. Being a sect, that made Trueriver Sect different from the Colosseum. Other than a few branches in Multitude City, the Colosseum had no territory elsewhere.

Shock rippled through Multitude City, no one had thought that Shenyu would be so tyrannical as to destroy Trueriver Sect and seize their land without warning or reason!

There was something else afoot.

An agonized shriek erupted from the mountain of Earth Light Magneticus as soon as the sect members retreated. Shenyu had killed the treasure spirit within the mountain.

Crack crack crack!

The mountain disassembled into a crystalline tower of ninety-nine floors. "Haotian Tower" glittered in golden characters on the signboard over its doors, heralding the rise of another great faction in Multitude City.

Seeming to sense the general anxiety from his actions, Shenyu smiled faintly. "Didn't the Immortal Pagoda across the street also rise on the backs of the Colosseum? Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery and I merely copy the Immortal King. He seized someone else's territory, and so did I just throw out the former occupants. He is the shining example of our generation, after all."

He chuckled with delight. "Today, Haotian Tower is established in Multitude City for the purposes of distributing supplemental dao."

"He's definitely targeting the Immortal Pagoda!" Heavyweights throughout the city looked at each other and didn't dare offer their opinions. They'd always thought that Immortal Pagoda was just scuffling with others in the city, that the faction wanted to focus on earning purple crystals. How wrong all of them were!

The Haotian Tower was plainly from the Supplemental Dao Alliance because the Immortal Pagoda had forced them to relinquish their monopoly!

"Hahaha!!" Hearty laughter boomed from the Immortal Pagoda. "I am a shining example for you? Spare me the bullshit. The Colosseum imprisoned my good friend, coveted my dao partner, and wanted to kill me to boot. I only took their territory and fought back because I was forced to!

"Given that, Runaway King, I'd like to ask how the Trueriver Sect offended you?" Lu Yun showed himself.

Chapter 1324: Opposition

"Runaway King?" Nearby cultivators, as well as the sixth and seventh step kings hidden in the shadows, gaped at the title.

The Runaway King?

What kind of title was that?

Lu Yun's response did make sense. Everyone was well aware of the reasons behind the Immortal King overthrowing the Colosseum. Multitude City kings had fully investigated everything regarding his run-in with the Windcall King before entering the Colosseum to his duel with the Beast King.

There was nothing of note between the Immortal King and Dusksnow Morningstar, but the former's friend had indeed been trapped by the Colosseum as a fighter slave. Though the Immortal King hadn't been a supplemental king then, the Intrace King had been one, and an exceptionally rare supplemental king of illusion at that. With her status, she could've demanded the release of that person from the Colosseum.

Instead, the group decided to follow the Colosseum's rules and show the faction all due respect. While they took advantage of a loophole, the Immortal King and his group refrained from throwing their weight around.

If the Windcall and Spacetime Kings hadn't dug in their heels to cause further trouble, the Colosseum wouldn't be in its current straits.

They were truly suffering the consequences of their own actions.

If it wasn't for this, no action from the Supplemental Dao Alliance would've been necessary to ensure that the Immortal Pagoda drew distaste from the various factions of Multitude City. Unwarranted arrogance would've resulted in the city's kings naturally ostracizing the pagoda and throwing the faction out of town.

It wasn't an easy task for one to find their footing in Multitude City.

Lu Yun had gradually won acceptance from various city factions only because he was in the right. Finepure and Fineheart's proposal on grand opening day had been a joint probing from numerous Multitude heavyweights.

The matter had dwindled away to nothing upon Qing Yu's arrival and subsequent erasure of the sisters' memories.

After the start of the Supplemental Convention, besieging the Immortal Pagoda by ten arcane beast kings, battle with the Alchemist King... too many things had happened too quickly for the Multitude powerhouses to respond.

Lu Yun understood this as well.

If one wanted to establish a foothold in a metropolis like Multitude City, one needed both a strong fist and proper reason. Shenyu had violently destroyed Trueriver Sect immediately after his arrival and directed all blame to Lu Yun because he wanted the city to dislike the troublesome Immortal King.

Lu Yun naturally wouldn't allow things to develop in this direction, so he quickly stepped forward for a counterattack.

"You're just playing with words." Shenyu swept Lu Yun with a cold sneer. "The Intrace King is a supplemental king of illusion stronger than the Imagination King. She can have others see what she wants them to see. Justice lies with the will of the people."

"Precisely, justice lies with the will of the people." Lu Yun nodded. "The fellow daoists of Trueriver Sect were affected because of me. It is my responsibility that the Runaway King ran them out of Multitude City."

"I humbly compensate Trueriver Sect with nine thousand premium crystal veins and ten king grade formations. I hope that fellow daoist will accept them." Premium crystal veins sparkling brilliantly flew out with a wave of Lu Yun's hand. They rushed outside the city to the recently departed Trueriver King, whose eyes widened at the sudden development.

Nine thousand premium crystal veins was no small sum. All of Trueriver Sect's wealth accumulated to only three thousand veins; the Immortal King was compensating them with three times their treasury!

The Trueriver King was of a mind to refuse, but he really couldn't when faced with such a massive fortune. Ten king grade formations were even more priceless than purple crystals! Very few of them existed among any faction given the blockade over supplemental dao—these were treasures that couldn't be bought by any price.

"In that case... my thanks to the Immortal King!" Shaking and face flushed with emotion, the Trueriver King nodded to Lu Yun.

"There is no need for thanks, fellow daoist. Disaster struck the Trueriver Sect because of me, so compensation is only right and proper." Lu Yun returned the gesture.

Shenyu remained standing beneath Haotian Tower without any change in expression, but he was inwardly very irritated. Nine thousand premium crystal veins were an immense sum to him too—it wasn't something that he could readily take out.

There were plenty of premium crystal mines in the Hongmeng, but the largest laid under Redbud Mountain. There was a terrifying dragon slumbering there that no one dared disturb—not even the Dao King would be able to handle the repercussions.

The Redbud King was a Redbud Butterfly from the mountain, the equivalent of a disciple of the Redbud dragon. She, and only she, could stand there and use the crystal veins how she would.

The second biggest mine belonged to the Supplemental Dao Alliance, but it was a difference of heaven and earth between the two mines.

Jealousy!

Unbounded jealousy!

Shenyu privately cursed himself to high heaven. He would've tried to heal that Redbud Butterfly chrysalis if he'd known that this would be how things would turn out. Who would've thought that the Immortal King would strike up a friendship with the Redbud King because of it?

Lu Yun smiled radiantly at Shenyu after the Trueriver King vanished into the distance and returned to his Immortal Pagoda. He didn't intend on entangling further with the newcomer; he'd already answered the Haotian Tower's establishment and opening move with nine thousand premium crystal veins.

Shenyu was so frustrated that he wanted to vomit blood. He was ready to cross proverbial swords with Lu Yun, but the Immortal King didn't want to bother with him at all!

"Wild Formation King!

"Alchemist King!

"Imagination King!

"Talisman Adept King!

"Prime Weapon King!" he suddenly shouted. "The five of you will reside in Haotian Tower from henceforth and refine supplemental items to be sold! Our retail price will be half of the Immortal Pagoda's!"

"Understood!" Five supplemental kings suddenly materialized and knelt down in front of Shenyu, immediately reestablishing the majesty that Lu Yun had swept away.

"What?! Five supplemental kings are kneeling in front of the Run—Shenyu!"

"Who is this Shenyu?!"

"These five kings are from the Supplemental Dao Alliance and reign at the peak of their craft! If they're going to refine items, does that mean the alliance is breaking its own monopoly?"

"Sir Shenyu already said that Haotian Tower will be distributing supplemental dao!" The Hongmeng reeled with shock.

Compared to such momentum, Multitude City's aversion to Shenyu was so weak that it was laughable.

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Haotian Tower?

Was the Dao King demonstrating his strength?

The little fox stood at the ninth floor of the Immortal Pagoda and silently gazed upon the Haotian Tower. To her, Haotian was an old friend.

“Ignore them, we’re rich!” Qing Yu ran up to her and pulled her away from the window. “Here’s all of the Wild Formation and Alchemist King’s belongings, as well as half of the vaults from Origin World.” She shoved a pink ball of light into Miao’s hands.

“Mirage Sand... Fifteen hundred kilograms of Mirage Sand!!” the little fox shrieked. Wild Formation’s millstone had depleted her stores, so Qing Yu’s sudden gift thoroughly exhilarated her.

Clutching the ball to herself, Miao skipped off to closed door cultivation.

Chapter 1325: Revisiting Redbud Mountain

One hundred and fifty kilograms of Mirage Sand had helped Miao triumph over both the Imagination King and Shenyu. Who knew what she’d be capable of after refining fifteen hundred kilograms?

“Our foundations are still a bit weak,” Lu Yun said with resignation as he walked over to Qing Yu for a look at the ninety-nine story tall Haotian Tower. “With the addition of the Wild Formation, Alchemist, Imagination, Talisman Adept, and Prime Weapon Kings to the tower, it’ll instantly outshine us.”

The furor created by five supplemental kings was too great—and they’d bent the knee to Shenyu! The latter had raised his reputation to stratospheric heights when he picked up the mountain of Earth Light Magneticus, so he already eclipsed the Immortal King.

That further added a mysterious sheen to the Haotian Tower, especially considering the fact that their goods were produced by supplemental kings. Their products would be superior to those on display at the Immortal Pagoda, both in terms of quality and quantity.

It took only three days of business at the Haotian Tower for the pagoda to lose all of its customers.

“But their prices are... half of ours?” Lu Yun mused over this with a strange expression. “I don’t lack for purple crystals and my ingredients are basically free. Does the same hold true for them as well?”

The endless flow of people in and out of the new store across the street mystified him.

“The Supplemental Dao Alliance and the Immortal Region have controlled the most fertile portions of the Hongmeng for countless eons. Their accumulated wealth far outstrips the Ten Valleys of Evil,” sighed Qing Yu. “We wouldn’t measure up to even the alliance if we combined all of the fortunes in the valleys.”

Lu Yun nodded wordlessly.

“With Hopeless Major exiting the Endless Reaches, the world of immortals...” he suddenly asked.

“It’s fine.” Qing Yu shook her head. “Though there’s a specific part of the void that connects the world of immortals to the Hongmeng, there’s also a barrier inside it. All ten valleys have representatives on guard

there and the palaces of Hopeless Major and Origin World lead straight to it. If anything happens to it, I'll immediately sense it.

"Additionally," Qing Yu paused. "Violetgrave's true body is suppressing the other side. The node that she's safeguarding in space is the one that connects the first three realms.

"Oh, right!" she continued before Lu Yun had a chance to respond. "The Army Pagoda is ready. You can enter it to cultivate and ascend to titled kingdom at any time!"

"Kingdom through cultivation?" Lu Yun sank into deep thought. Qing Yu leaned quietly against him when he didn't immediately respond.

"I don't know what the rules are for the Hongmeng Tower to make someone king, but if I become a titled king now, the path to cultivating order may be broken. I'd like to continue training with the fire of order and become a titled king only after the fire creates the hell of order." A nebulous feeling grew in his heart after he used formula dao to determine what was the best path forward. He had a hunch that once he became a titled king through cultivation, the yet unformed fire of order within his body would burn out.

"Little Yu, you and Miao hold down the fort here. I'm going to pay a visit to Redbud Region and converse with the big dragon. I want to see if I can gain any new inspiration," he said to his beloved.

"Alright." Qing Yu nodded and realized something. "Are you... going to Starspace Region after that?"

"Yes," Lu Yun answered. "Dusksnow Morningstar and Zhuo Bufan are still there, their status unknown. I'd like to look in on them, so I'll swing by as well."

"Then take the Army Pagoda with you." She brought out the treasure.

Nine hundred and ninety-nine floors filled out the Army Pagoda—it looked like it was made out of crystal and pulsed with profound energy.

"The Army Pagoda is also a fearsome treasure on par with the Nethersoul or Darkyin Formation of Hopeless Major. However, you need at least a hundred thousand premium crystal veins to activate it, and there aren't that many in Origin World," chuckled Qing Yu. "Thus, they never plumbed the depths of the pagoda. The previous ruler of Hopeless Major—the Nether King—coveted this treasure as well, but could never lay hands on it."

The previous eminent ruler had been so ambitious that he'd also studied the various treasures of the other valleys. Perhaps he knew them better than their own owners did. It wasn't an injustice at all that the other nine had come together to plot his death.

"On par with the Nethersoul Formation or Darkyin Formation?" Lu Yun blinked. "Doesn't that make it stronger than my Purple Stellar Mountain?"

"As mighty as your mountain is, it only exerts the power of Stellar Light Magneticus. And as frightening as that is, it won't hurt a peak ninth step king or even the little fox," Qing Yu smiled.

Though the little fox appeared to be a third step king on the surface, her three dao rules were the condensed form of nine. When combined with her skill in illusion, that definitively placed her on the same footing as the other eminent rulers of the ten valleys.

How else could she have easily defeated Shenyu and trapped him in a mental illusion, forcing his title out of him?

Qing Yu understood that Lu Yun wanted to temper himself and search out the path of order. Thus, she didn't raise any objections to his trip. She and the little fox were both premier powerhouses of the Hongmeng now, Lu Yun had to find his own way.

"I see," Lu Yun laughed ruefully. "I didn't know what kind of existence ninth step kings were before and thought I could kill them by detonating the mountain. It now looks like even if I can kill their body, I won't be able to wipe out all of their replicas."

"You need to be careful..." Qing Yu nodded in agreement. "The Bridge of Forgetfulness is an entity of the fourth realm and prohibited from appearing within the Hongmeng. If it appears too often, it'll be restrained by the power of the fourth realm."

Lu Yun understood. He'd heard She Nong relay stories of hell on his first visit to the fourth realm. Though there'd been a heavy dose of falsehood mixed with the tales, part of them had been true. There were indeed many prisoners in the Hadal Hell that'd once been villains of the fourth realm. They'd broken various taboos and entered the Hongmeng to kill as they would.

For their actions, they'd paid the price of withering away into skeletons and dry husks in the Hadal Hell.

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A vast field of Redbud Grass swayed with hazy motes of purple light in the Redbud Plains. This plain was bigger than the entire chaos.

Lu Yun made his way to its center and the peak of Redbud Mountain. This was also an extraordinarily large landmass, but layer upon layer of spatial folds surrounded it, shrinking down the mountain that would've otherwise occupied the entire plain.

Despite that, it was still impossible to measure it.

"Eh? You're here!" Seeming to sense his arrival, the Redbud King instantly appeared beside him. She was accompanied by a little girl roughly six years old, so charming that she seemed to be carved out of jade and decorated with faint powder.

A... king!

A sixth step king!!

"Is this... the second Redbud Butterfly?" Lu Yun's jaw dropped when he saw the girl. Born into kingship?

Chapter 1326: Dragon Butterfly

"No!" Lu Yun violently backed away and looked at the little girl in purple with alarm.

She didn't say anything, just looked at him with a meaningful expression. The Redbud King smiled with resignation and didn't say anything either.

"Ah, it's you." Lu Yun heaved a slight sigh and then frowned. "So your true spirit borrowed the Redbud Chrysalis to reincarnate into the world."

“You recognize me?” The little girl blinked, then giggled. “Of course you recognize me.”

“You’re the big dragon inside this mountain,” Lu Yun said slowly. “Of course I recognize you. You’re a dragon spirit nurtured by the Hongmeng, but I hadn’t thought that you’d be so bold as to relinquish your dragon body and enter one of a Redbud Butterfly.”

The first time he’d seen the chrysalis, it’d been a handful of pure life force. There was no true spirit or soul inside, making it a very easy target for possession. Lu Yun had set up the formation of space and time to accelerate its development precisely because he was concerned about this possibility.

He’d never fathomed that the dragon sleeping beneath them would take possession of the chrysalis and become a Redbud Butterfly. It was a king as soon as it was born!

This is crazy.

“What boldness.” The little girl curled her lip. “The Redbud Butterfly is a variant of the dragon species that I crafted with the power of creation. I made it to help me escape from the body of a dragon.”

“Huh?!” Lu Yun’s jaw dropped from the revelation and the fact that there were so many heavyweights in the Hongmeng that grasped creation. The Dao King and Redbud dragon were both entities on this level.

“Who would’ve thought that you’d blunder into a stroke of good luck by saving my body and setting up the formation? I would’ve needed to wait an eternity otherwise to escape my dragon form.” Though she spoke in high, lilting tones, her words were those of an old elder.

Lu Yun stared dumbly at the Redbud King, who shrugged helplessly back at him. She didn’t know any of this and had viewed the chrysalis as her only kin. So it was something that the Redbud dragon had purposefully grown!

At the same time, Redbud was a member of the race that the dragon had created and carefully raised until she was nearly invincible at sixth step king. The dragon had never meant to take her body for its own use; it’d raised her as a disciple.

Redbud Butterflies weren’t actual butterflies, but dragons. If the dragon of Redbud Mountain was the first generation dragon created by the Hongmeng, then the Redbud Butterfly was the second generation.

“So when I set up a hundred and eight thousand formations to lure your replica out, you weren’t actually asleep, but preparing to enter the chrysalis?” Lu Yun asked.

“No... I was indeed asleep.” The little girl shook her head. “My primary body is too strong and infinitely close to the fourth realm, but my true spirit can’t harness that level of power.

“There’s also a particular pattern within the Hongmeng that interferes with my efforts. If I’d kept on failing to find an alternative way, my true spirit would be eroded by the dragon body and I’d lose my sense of self. I would really be a Hongmeng crystal vein then.”

She cast a look of relief at the ground beneath her feet. What a fluke everything had been!

Though she was now free of the cumbersome body and a Redbud Butterfly, she didn’t intend to give up the dragon body. Instead, she wanted to refine it into a replica so that it could enhance her true spirit

through cultivation and be a source of strength as well. That would hasten her return to prime condition and even break through to the fourth realm!

“Is that so?” Lu Yun frowned gently and probed the Bridge of Forgetfulness. It was drifting through sleep, but didn’t exhibit too many signs of abnormalities since it was bolstered by the Tome of Life and Death.

It looked like this was why its true spirit wasn’t strong enough.

“I’d wanted to go find you, but here you are.” The little girl suddenly beamed. “My name is Dragon Butterfly and I need your help!”

“What help?” Lu Yun blinked.

“Take me to Dragonhollow Mountain and help me claim the dragon race’s ancestral blood!” Dragon Butterfly explained solemnly. “Dragonhollow Mountain is the nest of all dragons in the Hongmeng and our sacred land. Our ancestral blood is there and can help my true spirit develop swiftly!”

Nest of all dragons!

No matter the realm, the first home of the dragon race was always a nest and not a palace. That was the case in the first realm as well.

In the age of the great wilderness, all races ate raw flesh and drank blood in the absence of established cultivation methods. The dragon race resided in nests then. After human dao was founded and the Flame Emperor pioneered cultivation methods, the human race helped other races walk out from that age of darkness and set course for civilization.

So had the dragons emerged from their nests then and built their palace with the aid of the human emperor, becoming guardians of the human race.

There was no such history in the Hongmeng, so the dragons still lived in nests. However, they were far stronger than the dragons of the chaos and worlds, so although they still occupied nests, they’d found civilization and developed their own cultivation methods.

The Dragonquake Scripture might have something to do with the dragons.

“You want me to take you to Dragonhollow Mountain and claim the dragon race’s ancestral blood??” Lu Yun shook his head rapidly. “You’re joking. I may not know much about Dragonhollow Mountain, but I can still easily imagine how awful it is. I’d have a death wish if I went there!”

The lizard-dragon, a half step king, had dared to threaten Jin Naluo, a sixth step king, simply because of where he was from. Jin Naluo was a titan of the Hongmeng; this indicated that Dragonhollow Mountain was stronger than Multitude Region!

Though the location’s name existed within the realm, no one knew for a fact how strong it was. Not even the lizard-dragon knew; all it was aware of was that the faction possessed an unknown number of kings.

The lizard-dragon was one of the strongest half step kings of the Hongmeng, rivaling Dusknow Morningstar, the Bloodclad Duke, the Purpleclad Duke, and the venerated enforcer. Despite that, it was unworthy of attention from the mountain.

Reaching kingdom was only the beginning.

“Um...” Dragon Butterfly scratched her head. “I didn’t think this far... but I’ve heard of what you’ve done in Multitude City. Being able to refine creation means your level is very high, and if you quickly become a titled king, you’d possibly become a high level one...”

“Stop!” Lu Yun shook his head firmly. “I don’t want to be a titled king yet.”

Dragon Butterfly lowered her head and bit her lip.

“If you’re willing to take my master to Dragonhollow Mountain and help her with the ancestral blood, I’ll give you the entire mountain!” the Redbud King suddenly said.

“Right! I can give you all one hundred million crystal veins in the mountain!” Dragon Butterfly quickly agreed.

The true core of Redbud Mountain was the dragon vein that was Dragon Butterfly’s true body, not the purple crystal veins outside it. Those were just a byproduct of the energy leaking out of the dragon vein.

It was Lu Yun’s turn to lower his head and frown wordlessly.

Chapter 1327: Cloudeexit City

“I can help you,” Lu Yun sighed. “But I will immediately retreat if we run into insurmountable danger. I won’t lay down my life for you.”

“It’ll be enough for you to take me to Dragonhollow Mountain and help me get inside!” Dragon Butterfly quickly agreed.

“I was coming here to borrow some of your strength. But since you’ve broken free of your body, you won’t be able to do that anymore,” grumbled a glum Lu Yun while Dragon Butterfly smiled sheepishly.

“Ah right, Redbud King, the Moon King is causing some issues in Starspace Region. She’s already killed the Starspace King and is most likely coming for you.” He suddenly recalled why he was here.

“I know.” Gravity tinged Redbud’s expression when they spoke of the Moon King. “The Moon King possesses a terrifying weapon that makes me tremble when I’m close to her. If it wasn’t for your help last time, I might’ve truly died from her attacks.”

She was still afraid when they mentioned that particular king.

“The Moon King ran off too quickly. I would’ve smashed her flat with a claw otherwise,” Dragon Butterfly sidled up to them in a small voice.

Lu Yun shrugged and didn’t respond. What’d actually happened last time was that he’d called upon the dragon’s power to scare off the Moon King and the others.

“And, do you still mean what you said to me?” Dragon Butterfly continued in a tiny voice. “I can sense a certain... ahem on your body!”

She coughed dryly and threw him a knowing look. She’d been half asleep when Lu Yun displayed the power of the fourth realm to her, but she’d remembered it since. It was the reason for her lending her dragon strength and why she chose to have him accompany her to Dragonhollow Mountain. There was no doubt that this human was capable of doing so and help her gain the dragon ancestral blood as well.

Reaching the level of the fourth realm was no laughing matter.

Dragon Butterfly had managed to keep her cool during the conversation, but she could restrain herself no longer after Lu Yun mentioned the Moon King.

“Of course, my word is my bond.” Lu Yun nodded and looked back at her. “So how do we resolve the matter of the Moon King?”

“I’m just a puny seventh step king at the moment, what can I do?” Dragon Butterfly regarded the situation with helpless annoyance. Her primary body was very strong, but it was so strong that she couldn’t move it. With a certain Hongmeng rule constraining it, it now eluded her direct control.

She’d instantly become a seventh step king when her true spirit reincarnated into a Redbud Butterfly and subsequently received the title of Dragon King from the Hongmeng Tower. It was because of this title that her thoughts turned to the ancestral blood in Dragonhollow Mountain.

“The Moon King can crush me with a single finger if she uses her full strength against me. Well, no, she can’t do anything to me and Redbud while we remain in the Redbud Plains. That means we’ll be targeted as soon as we set foot outside the region!” Dragon Butterfly furrowed her brows, looking very much like a miniature adult.

She’d dominated the Hongmeng in the days before the Ten Valleys of Evil and Immortal Region. There was none older than her if one spoke of old freaks.

“Good thing that Redbud here was a silly one and never caused any karmic repercussions outside of Redbud Region. There’s nothing that the Moon King can use.” Dragon Butterfly stroked her tender chin. “Her only tie is to you! So actually, I think that the Moon King’s primary goal is you! If she can lure you to Starspace Region and capture you, she’ll be able to use you as bait for me and Redbud.”

“I do know a few people in Starspace Region, but I’m not great friends with any of them.” A few faces flashed through Lu Yun’s mind—Miao Qimiao, Luo Shanshan, and some others. If the Moon King really was overturning Starspace Region for him, then they should still be alive.

As an unparalleled ghost king, the Moon King had taken pains to conceal herself all this time and lay careful plans in Starspace Region. Her sudden flurry of activity, killing the Starspace King, and setting boundless vicious ghosts on the region must be the result of certain outside influences.

The tremendous treasure that the Redbud King sensed wasn’t an item, but the Moon King’s masked power.

“Alright, let me proceed to Starspace Region first and bring my people back. We’ll decide where to go from there.” After some consideration, Lu Yun felt that the Redbud King and Dragon Butterfly would be perfectly safe as long as they remained within Redbud Region.

The Redbud King commanded one hundred and eight thousand formations that called upon the big dragon in the mountain. She could easily slay ninth step kings in home territory.

“You must be careful...” Redbud looked at Lu Yun and bit back the rest of her words. Instead, she waved a hand. “Here are thirty million premium crystal veins. These are all the crystal veins that we can currently spare from the mountain.”

Her master stared at her with wide eyes, but couldn’t say anything to refute her actions. Dragon Butterfly had just promised the entire mountain in return for Lu Yun’s help. If she refused to give him even thirty million premium crystal veins now, then everything she’d said before would be a joke.

“Very well, I will accept this. We set out for Dragonhollow Mountain when I return from Starspace Region!” Lu Yun put away the crystal veins without hesitation. This was an unfathomable sum of wealth in the Hongmeng!

This wasn’t thirty million pieces or fifteen million kilograms, but thirty million crystal veins!

It wouldn’t be hyperbole to label him as the richest man in the realm now.

As wealthy as the Redbud King was, she couldn’t use any of her purple crystals and thus had never bothered to excavate the mines. Of course, she possessed far more than this, but the remainder was required to safeguard Redbud Mountain and power the formations that Lu Yun had set up.

This was all that she could do without.

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“Autumn King, remain here to protect Redbud Region. Kill any suspicious character or powerhouse who comes.” Lu Yun summoned the Autumn King when he left the territory.

“Understood!” The Autumn King vanished into the void.

Dragon Butterfly and Redbud shared very similar personalities; peace of mind was impossible for Lu Yun when those two blithe characters roamed the land. Ninth step kings couldn’t break his formations directly, but if someone like the Wild Formation King slipped inside the region, then all of Lu Yun’s formations and layouts might as well not exist.

With the vastness of the realm, there was certainly more than one personage like the Wild Formation King around. He was also the Wild Formation King and not the general Formation King.

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Clouduin Region neighbored Starspace Region and was part of the route from Starspace to Redbud Region. Since vicious ghosts had overrun Starspace, those of Clouduin spent their days in fear.

A massive wall had been built between the cities along Clouduin’s border to defend against the enemy.

The vicious ghosts hadn't fully conquered Starspace Region since there were still pockets of resistance, but the ghosts couldn't be bothered with the handful of cultivators and turned to Clouduin Region instead.

The first major city they would encounter—Cloudeix City—was ready for battle. Though its city lord was just a first step king, the Dawn King was wholly unafraid when facing the vicious ghosts; he often led skirmishes against the enemy.

Dressed in opulent robes, Lu Yun arrived at Cloudeix City with just his sword.

Chapter 1328: The Champion Duke

"My name is Lu Yun and Cloudeix City shares the same 'yun' character for cloud... It looks like we have some shared destiny." Lu Yun inspected the city as he strolled down the streets.

It was a similar size to Starcloud City and both hovered in the air like a massive star. However, Cloudeix City was an important border city for Clouduin Region. Defensive formations and restrictions bristled everywhere, far exceeding what was installed at Starcloud and Redbud City.

All Cloudeix defensive formations were fully active. Nothing bearing the presence of death would be able to come within one billion and three hundred million kilometers of the city.

Citizens rushed to and fro on the streets—there was no one in the common or inferior realms to be seen. Troop contingents comprised solely of superior realm cultivators roamed the city to prevent any unrest.

The vicious ghosts threatened the border and war was about to break out.

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"Who are you?!" suddenly demanded a black clad soldier. His squadron swiftly surrounded Lu Yun.

"Cloudeix's Demonward Formation started operating a month ago and isolated the city from the rest of the region. It's impossible for anyone new to enter."

The soldier in black armor was the leader of the squadron; keen light glittered from narrowed eyes set in a frosty expression. He was a half step king with a dense streak of blood and gore in his aura. Plainly, he often toed the line between life and death and killed others in the battlefield.

"All superior realm cultivators have been entered into the city records over the past month, but you're an unfamiliar face! Speak! Who are you and how did you get inside?!"

The soldier's aura was sharp, but not overly threatening. His words were logical as opposed to unreasonably domineering.

"Are you sure that you've recorded every superior realm cultivator?" Lu Yun raised an eyebrow with a chuckle.

"There are eighteen kings in Cloudeix City and His Eminence the Earthmartial King is a third step king. Do you think there's any possible room for error?" the soldier snorted.

"Very well then." Lu Yun nodded. "Champion Duke, Multitude Region."

“Multitude Region?!” Shocked gasps flurried through the squadron of eighteen soldiers.

Multitude Region was a top ten region in the Hongmeng. Its kings were too numerous to count and sixth step kings could be seen everywhere. Meanwhile, Clodruin King of Clodruin Region was just a fifth step king.

Cultivators from Multitude Region were much stronger than Clodruin cultivators. In the eyes of Clodruin citizens, those from Multitude Region were nobles of the realm and far more blue-blooded than any of them.

The stranger in front of them called himself the Champion Duke! Apart from some premier good-for-nothings, anyone who could call themselves a duke in the Hongmeng was someone with real strength. The Purpleclad Duke of Starspace Region and Bloodclad Duke of Multitude Region were prime examples!

No one would dare offend a duke from Multitude Region, not to mention all of the miracles that’d occurred from that area lately. The Supplemental Convention, mountain of Earth light Magneticus, Pills of Creation, Immortal Pagoda, Immortal King, and Haotian Tower were on everyone’s tongues. Though Clodruin Region was far weaker than Multitude, it wasn’t a remote backwater of the Hongmeng.

Many of those events had affected them as well, particularly the clash between the Immortal Pagoda and Haotian Tower. In the few short days since supplemental dao was freely distributed, supplemental dao showed signs of revitalizing throughout the Hongmeng.

Clodruin Region had also purchased many supplemental treasures from Multitude Region to fight the vicious ghosts.

“What proof do you have that you’re a Multitude cultivator?!” shouted another soldier in black armor.

Lu Yun displayed a medallion with a flip of his hand.

The Trueriver Sect!

“So the gentleman is a disciple of the Trueriver Sect from Multitude Region...” The squadron finally believed Lu Yun when they saw the medallion. The Trueriver Sect had been famous of late.

Haotian Tower had taken their enterprise in Multitude City, then the Immortal King of the Immortal Pagoda compensated them with nine thousand premium crystal veins, ten king grade formations, and others.

Just those resources alone were sufficient to help the Trueriver King break through to peak sixth step kingdom.

Now face-to-face with the sect’s token, the soldiers stifled their blazing auras and looked respectfully at the stranger.

“Since it is an honored visitor from the Trueriver Sect, please follow me to enter your name in the city records. The vicious ghosts of Starspace Region can imitate our aura and walk among us. Please bear with us as these are special circumstances.” Their leader nodded at Lu Yun.

“It’s no matter.” Lu Yun waved off the explanation and followed the soldier to a designated spot, leaving an imprint of his aura in a book.

The book was a special treasure that could discern the various auras of different people, thereby preventing ghostly entities from imitating them.

Lu Yun fully obtained ClouDEXIT’s trust and gained full freedom in the city after completing this step. As for how he entered ClouDEXIT in the first place—no one asked for clarification.

Ordinary cultivators couldn’t find entrance, but it wasn’t a difficult task for Multitude Region cultivators to use items from the Immortal Pagoda or Haotian Tower to slip through the city’s formations.

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There were eighteen kings in residence at ClouDEXIT City. Apart from its city lord, the Dawn King, all of the other kings came from nearby locales. The strongest of them was the Earthmartial King. At peak third step kingdom, he wasn’t far from fourth step.

The catastrophe of the vicious ghosts was a perfect tempering opportunity for many cultivators. Breakthroughs were easiest during struggles of life and death. Therefore, kings from major regions around Starspace had mobilized to fight the vicious ghosts.

If they’d known that the enemy’s leader was a horrifying ninth step ghost king, that might’ve changed some minds.

“Champion Duke?” The eighteen kings were gathered in the skies over ClouDEXIT City, looking out at Starspace Region. Some looked back into the city when they noted Lu Yun’s presence.

“Anyone with the right to be a duke is a half step king. Why have we never heard of his name before?” The Dawn King frowned at the young man.

“This Champion Duke is indeed a disciple of the Trueriver Sect, he practices their ‘Skyriver Nirvana’ method.” The Earthmartial King swept a noncommittal glance over Lu Yun. “He’s probably someone that the Trueriver King hid away. Now that their foundations have been claimed by another, he’s sending out this hidden genius to revitalize the sect’s name so that others won’t laugh at them.”

“That’s probably the case. The Trueriver King received a massive fortune and treasures from the Immortal King in compensation for losing their territory. If this Champion Duke is here with some of them...” The Dawn King’s gaze turned ardent.

“Starspace Region is territory that belongs to the Enforcer Alliance. The vicious ghosts have slapped their face this time, I’m sure they’ll respond.” Earthmartial ignored his counterpart and frowned at the vast ClouDRUIN Region. “Their venerated enforcer is yet to be a titled king. Maybe he’ll come.”

Chapter 1329: Stellar Sword

Starspace Region was different from other regions as it was a fertile hinterland rich with resources. More than a thousand large crystal veins ran through it, so the Enforcer Alliance would never relinquish the territory.

Not only were they sending out their kings, but they were also sending out their geniuses to fight the ghost race and gain further experience. This meant that the venerated enforcer would certainly come to Cloudrain Region.

If the Enforcer Alliance was on the scene, then there was nothing for Cloudrain Region to worry about.

Additionally, since the alliance safeguarded the Hongmeng, they were deeply beloved and would be answered by many factions if they issued a call to arms. Even a significant region like Multitude would send out kings and geniuses to reinforce Starspace and other surrounding regions.

At the very least, the Bloodclad Duke of Multitude Region had already arrived.

“Apart from the Champion and Bloodclad Dukes, many other geniuses of the realm are already in the city. None of them have a duke title, so things are about to get interesting.” The Earthmartial King looked at Lu Yun’s position with some amusement.

As for the Dawn King—city lord of Cloudexit City—he was just a first step king and one of the weaker ones among his peers. The Earthmartial King didn’t think much of him at all.

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Lu Yun called himself the Champion Duke—a champion of an entire army. Far from being a random title, it’d been a rank of nobility in the Han Dynasty. He’d set foot on the immortal dao due to a layout of absolute death in a Han Dynasty tomb on Earth. After it killed him, the Tome of Life and Death brought him to the world of immortals.

That Han Dynasty tomb was his beginning; he’d been a minor tomb raider before that, an ant on Earth.

“So you’re the Champion Duke?” An athletic young man dressed in a combat outfit barred Lu Yun’s way. He looked suspiciously at the stranger. “I’ve never seen you before or heard of your name. You call yourself the Champion Duke as soon as you show your face—you’re not another Extraordinary Duke, are you?”

The Extraordinary Duke referred to Zhuo Bufan—he whose name meant extraordinary and remarkable.

That good-for-nothing second generation became the laughingstock of the Hongmeng after the Starspace King bestowed him the title of the Extraordinary Duke, on account of his father. Rather than feeling shame at the undeserved honor, Zhuo Bufan delighted in smug pride.

The title “Extraordinary Duke” was an insult in the Hongmeng, the equivalent of calling one a blockhead.

“Oh? What knowledge might you have to impart?” Lu Yun raised an eyebrow. He knew that he’d attract dissatisfaction from other geniuses if he used this name in Cloudexit City.

Dukes were second only to kings, a sign of acknowledgement from the entire realm for the half step king in question. All of them won their title and general acceptance only after countless battles—dukes like Zhuo Bufan being the exception.

“I wouldn’t dare say I have knowledge to impart, I just want to weigh up your abilities and see by what right do you have to call yourself a duke!”

Humm!

The young man grasped at empty air with his right hand and came back with sharp blade light that condensed into a gleaming broadsword. He pointed it at Lu Yun.

“Li Zhen of the Li Clan in Azure Dragon Region,” the young man gave his name and background.

Azure Dragon Region!

Lu Yun’s eyebrows rose further—this was a major region in the Hongmeng and the rumored birthplace of the first azure dragon in the realm. It’d created Dragonhollow Mountain and the ancestral blood that Dragon Butterfly wanted was blood that the azure dragon had left behind before its death.

Such was the law of the four divisions and a layout present in all three realms. The four sacred beasts existed everywhere, and Lu Yun had yet to determine the nature of the relationship between them.

In the Hongmeng, the azure dragon was the ancestor of all dragons. All dragon bloodlines originated from it, a different development compared to the chaos and worlds.

The dragon ancestor in the chaos was the chaos dragon and wielder of the Dragonquake Scripture. Chaos dragons were once the foremost clan in the second realm.

In the worlds, the azure dragon had become a god due to certain influences. The Azure Dragon King was of its bloodline and the patriarch of the clan. Another kind of dragon occupied the role of the dragon ancestor.

The Li Clan was a major clan in Azure Dragon Region and they possessed a very diluted dragon bloodline. They’d broken off from Dragonhollow Mountain at some point to form their own faction.

Li Zhen was a strong half step king genius among his clan and only a hair's breadth away from becoming king. However, he wasn't a duke since he'd once failed his challenge of the Purpleclad Duke.

Thus, he naturally objected to a random superior realm cultivator calling himself a duke. He knew full well how strong they really were.

“Champion Duke of Trueriver Sect in Multitude Region!” Lu Yun collected pale blue light into sword light with a wave of his hand. It turned into a flying sword one meter long, cerulean blue in color and lacking a hilt or guard. It shifted over his palm like a wraith.

“A flying sword refined from Stellar Light Magneticus!” Li Zhen gasped when he saw the pale blue sword.

“No, not Stellar Light Magneticus. It’s actually made from Stellar Stone Magneticus.” Lu Yun smiled faintly.

“It looks like the Trueriver Sect does have a deep relationship with the Immortal King!” Li Zhen digested the unpleasant revelation.

Stellar Light Magneticus was already frightening enough, but Stellar Stone Magneticus was its root and could release infinite light. The Champion Duke’s sword could most likely slay kings!

“Naturally,” Lu Yun responded without skipping a beat. “My sect was neighbors with the Immortal Pagoda and we often helped each other. We were forced out of Multitude City because of the pagoda’s affairs, so the Immortal King gifted us many treasures as reparation. This Stellar Sword is one of them.”

His words weren’t false as the two had once stood across the street from each other. They had no conflict of interest and it was natural for neighbors to lend a helping hand. Trueriver Sect had taken care of many troubles for Lu Yun; the two were secret allies.

Why else would he have given them nine thousand premium crystal veins in one go? If it’d been anyone else, gifting them a dozen veins would be extraordinarily generous.

Lu Yun pretending to be a Trueriver disciple was also something he’d discussed beforehand with the Trueriver King. Meanwhile, the Stellar Sword was a weapon he’d refined for himself. He’d given Quiet to Qing Yu as the sword was too flashy. He didn’t dare bring it out for use.

All of his Stellar Stone Magneticus had been melded into the Purple Stellar Mountain, the material for this flying sword had been looted from Origin World. There’d been half a kilogram of it, enough for his purposes.

Li Zhen took a deep breath and let it out slowly. “Alright then, show me how strong a sword made of Stellar Stone Magneticus is!”

Whoosh!

He stepped forward with a burst of keen light from his broadsword and brought it down on Lu Yun’s head. It was a straightforward stroke with no embellishment, closing their gap with the shortest distance possible.

Nearby superior realm cultivators and patrolling guards quickly backed away, not wanting to be caught in the area of effect. This was the move of a half step king!

“Well met!” Lu Yun shouted and answered with a similarly direct slash. The Stellar Sword was a ray of blue light that crashed into snowy brilliance.

Clang!

A crisp collision sounded in the air as Li Zhen’s domineering sword clattered to the ground in two pieces.

Chapter 1330: Unparalleled Genius

Though Li Zhen’s blade wasn’t king grade, it was a fine weapon that was hard to come by. He’d wielded it for a hundred thousand years and killed countless powerful foes—half of that credit went to the blade. However, it’d been sliced into two when he simply probed the Champion Duke!

This was outright bullying!

Their fight drew a crowd and directed many ardent gazes at Lu Yun’s Stellar Sword. Even some of the eighteen kings over Cloudexit City wanted to make a move on the weapon, much less the half step kings.

It wouldn't be difficult to kill enemies higher level than oneself if equipped with this sword, especially given present circumstances. The sword would raise one's chances of self preservation or victory over a ghost king when the ghostly army mobilized.

"No one makes a move!" shouted the Earthmartial King when he noted the expressions of his peers. "The Trueriver King isn't a passive soul—he's just broken through to peak sixth step king and has yet to establish his new reputation. If you dare seize his disciple's treasure, he'll make mincemeat out of all of you!"

The kings next to him shuddered; peak sixth step kings were invincible in their eyes. Offending a sixth step king meant that they wouldn't even have the chance to flee for their lives.

"But, he won't have anything to say if his disciple loses it to a half step king or superior realm cultivator in a fit of arrogance," smiled Earthmartial.

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"It looks like your strength isn't much to write home about," Lu Yun remarked nonchalantly as he retracted his sword and looked at Li Zhen grasping an empty hilt.

Li Zhen almost vomited blood.

"You're just relying on the strength of the Stellar Stone Magneticus." His expression sank ominously.

"The Stellar Sword is my treasure and thus part of my strength. Your blade being less than my sword makes your strength less than mine." Lu Yun could easily sense malice lurking in his surroundings, but he didn't care about that. With the deterrence of the Trueriver King's name, none of these lower level kings would dare do anything to him.

"Do you bow to the superiority of the Champion Duke?" Lu Yun gave his sword a twirl and chuckled merrily at his opponent.

"Hmph!" Li Zhen picked up his broken blade and stomped off in a huff. He'd never seen a person so shameless that they'd be pleased with themselves over the sharpness of their weapon. This was basically the rise of another Extraordinary Duke! No, wait, one even more base than that laughingstock.

"The Stellar Sword can easily break my blade, but it won't find true king grade treasures to be that easy. Now that the rules over supplemental dao have been relaxed, if I can obtain a king grade treasure..." he plotted to himself.

"The Immortal Pagoda sells king grade treasures," Lu Yun suddenly called out. "I hear that the Immortal King plans on opening a branch of the Immortal Pagoda in Cloudexit City and will be selling all sorts of king grade treasures and formations!"

Half of the city quieted down at the unexpected news. Since they were facing a vast army of vicious ghosts, many trading companies had pulled out and were avoiding the area like the plague.

The Immortal Pagoda wanted to establish a branch here? They didn't even know if the city would still be standing after the first battle.

"Fine!" Li Zhen suddenly turned around. "If I get a king grade treasure, we'll go again!"

“King grade treasure? How much of its power do you think you’ll be able to use?” Lu Yun snorted with laughter. “It’s more important to obtain a treasure that’s a good match for you than a high level one. Take my Stellar Sword as an example—it was created for me, which is why I’m stronger than you.”

Li Zhen vomited blood and refused to speak more to this upstart.

Humm!

Sword ringing softly, Lu Yun called out, “I am the Champion Duke and a titled half step king. Is there anyone else who has an opinion about who I am?”

Cerulean radiance circled around him, scintillating in its brilliance. This was Stellar Light Magneticus in sword light form and one of the sharpest existences in the Hongmeng.

“I have an objection,” sounded a faint voice. “Li Zhen is a piece of trash and lost to the Purpleclad Duke within three moves. It doesn’t mean anything that you were able to break his sword.”

A figure in azure robes padded out of the void. It was a young man roughly seventeen years old dressed in azure robes. Azure hair framed his handsome features and he wielded an azure halberd that resembled a dragon in concealed form.

Lu Yun’s brows knit together.

“Azureclad Duke of Coiling Dragon City in Azure Dragon Region,” the young man remarked coolly.

Lu Yun’s pupils contracted violently—he’d heard of this duke! This was someone who truly rivaled the Purpleclad and Bloodclad Dukes, as well as the venerated enforcer. He was stronger than the lizard-dragon and a prominent existence in the Hongmeng beneath titled kings.

To think that he was in Cloudexit City, and that a few cocky words from Lu Yun had drawn his attention!

Instead of being daunted, however, Lu Yun champed at the bit. He’d yet to experience true battle since arriving in the third realm and also needed to force himself to greater heights if he wanted to cultivate the fire of order. He had to reach the peak of his potential.

The current version of him was no match for the Azureclad Duke, whether in terms of experience or strength. Lu Yun’s battle experience came from the mythological realm; his past self had been a superior realm cultivator and didn’t reach titled kingship. He was far below Hongmeng geniuses since he hadn’t even been a half step king!

As vast as the meaning behind his Dragonrise was—to the point of helping Dusksnow Morningstar defeat the Bloodclad Duke when he deployed it—that didn’t mean Lu Yun was on par with Morningstar. In fact, he greatly fell short in terms of battle experience.

All he could do was rely on himself and improve at a slow but constant pace. The best way to do so was to fight the unparalleled geniuses of the Hongmeng and the endless vicious ghosts outside Cloudexit city!

Thus, Lu Yun trembled with excitement when he saw the newcomer.

“Azureclad Duke, your opponent is me,” rang another chilly voice. A burst of bloody light enveloped the area as the Bloodclad Duke, dressed in coarse white robes, walked out of the air.

“You’ve already lost, Bloodclad Duke.” Azureclad shook his head at the latest person to join them.

“I lost to an exceptional king, not to that Dusksnow Morningstar.” Bloodclad refuted the claim, no sign of dejection to be found in his eyes. He’d lost to Dragonrise, a technique created by neither the venerated enforcer or Dusksnow Morningstar. Another terrifying heavyweight had created that move.

He’d met the venerated enforcer before and while they hadn’t sparred with each other, they’d exchanged many insights into cultivation.

“Hmph, glib-tongued.” Disdain colored Azureclad’s tones. “A loss is a loss no matter who you lose to.”

Purple light blossomed in the sky as soon as he finished speaking—a man in purple robes strode out of the void.

The Purpleclad Duke!

So the Purpleclad Duke of Starspace Region wasn’t dead and was in Cloudexit City instead! Azureclad immediately fell silent at seeing the newest addition and warily considered his peer.

The current Purpleclad Duke was steadier than when Lu Yun first met him and his presence much stronger. It would seem that the destruction of Starspace Region had dealt such a blow to him that his mentality had undergone a complete metamorphosis.

“Let’s not indulge in these meaningless arguments, the three of us reached the realm of titled kingdom a long time ago. We hold off our ascension simply because we wish to accumulate more experience and test the limits, so that we might break through to a higher level.” While his words were calm and measured, they crashed into the crowd around them with shock and awe.

It was generally believed that these dukes weren’t titled kings because they weren’t at those lofty heights yet; Purpleclad’s words revealed the truth of the matter and the depths of these stunning geniuses’ ambitions!

They wanted to test the limits when they broke through and ascend as high level kings!

Hua Fengwen had been a sixth step king upon his ascension a hundred thousand years ago, did they want to break his record?

The Bloodclad Duke of Multitude Region, Purpleclad Duke of Starspace Region, Azureclad Duke of Azure Dragon Region, Crimsonclad Duke of Blazing Phoenix Region, and the venerated enforcer of Retribution Region were all characters with such ambitions.

Compared to them, Dusksnow Morningstar was nothing to speak of. His goal was just to be a titled duke.

There were a few other titled dukes in the Hongmeng, but their reputations were weaker than the five. Of course, their relative strength wasn’t determined through fighting each other since they rarely crossed paths, but were an educated deduction based on past accomplishments.

“That’s fair enough,” chuckled Azureclad. “But my current goal is to challenge this Champion Duke and take his Stellar Sword. Do any of you object to that?”

He candidly stated his plan as even the Trueriver King couldn’t bring him to task if he won the weapon in a fair fight.

“Vicious ghosts surround the city and we should keep the bigger picture in mind.” Purpleclad considered Lu Yun and then shook his head. “If you kill him now for his sword, that might impact morale.”

Azureclad frowned faintly.