

Necropolis 1471

Chapter 1471: Insurmountable Evil

Just as Lu Yun lost himself in thought, the Fish King next to him suddenly shoved him away. Startled, his eyes snapped to the bridge of light formed by the Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals and directed it to the side.

Given the king's personality, she wouldn't push him for no reason. Since she had, that meant danger was close at hand.

Whoosh!

A rapid current of water grazed the bridge and hurtled in another direction like a swift arrow. An enormous shadow followed immediately behind it—a life form that resembled a shark. It moved with an unnaturally quick pace through the liquid formed by water virtue. Maw yawning open like a bottomless pit, it sought to bite down on the bridge.

Being born of the power of destruction, the shark was violent and highly aggressive. Lu Yun had evaded these creatures during their descent, but an encounter proved inevitable in the end.

“Fuck off!” He sent the Thousand Obliteration Formation forward with a bang and materialized it in the water. Affected by the tangible array, the order of opposition around them swiftly gathered in the form of a shield.

Crunch!

The shark's razor-sharp teeth sank viciously onto the shield. It emitted a strangled cry and darted away.

Though these creatures were born of destruction and uncommonly weak, they were intelligent. While arcane beasts were born with innate combat arts, the same didn't hold true for creatures of destruction. They only knew how to attack according to their instincts.

Lu Yun was unwilling to provoke them all the same. It would still be incredibly terrifying if they mobbed him in a group.

“The creatures have noticed us, we need to break the seal as fast as possible.” He expanded the formation and widened the bridge into an enormous curtain of light, bringing it down on the azure dragon's seal.

The four still goggled at his ability to freely move about and talk in this environment. All of their faces were beet red with exertion, but they couldn't utter a single word.

Lu Yun brought out Qing Di's drop of heart's blood.

“You guys give me a drop too,” he said to Qing Ting and Azureclad. “Then sit down and prepare to receive the azure dragon's power!”

Brother and sister didn't hesitate to pierce their own bodies and retrieve a drop of blood, handing it to Lu Yun. He mixed the three drops together and drew a strange-looking glyph in the air.

Hummm.

Dazzling azure splendor blossomed from the glyph. When it touched the bright crimson droplets of blood that sparkled with azure light, it transformed them into pure azure—ancestral blood of the azure dragon!

Lu Yun had employed his supplemental arts to distill ancestral blood from Qing Ting, Qing Di, and Qing Yan's heart's blood!

The Fish King backed up from sheer shock, unable to comprehend the sight for a second. Something occurred to her the next moment and she jogged back, looking unblinkingly at Lu Yun.

His methods were approaching the realm of dao! One had to know that the azure dragon—a personage on par with a ruler of the divine nations—was awake. He was one of the strongest presences in the Hongmeng and Lu Yun was essentially stealing his bloodline. If the ancestral god detected his actions, he wouldn't even need to consciously think of retribution. The undefined strength of the ancestral gods would inexplicably attack Lu Yun to protect the blood of one of their own.

No backlash was forthcoming for his audacity; everything happened very smoothly. It wasn't that the strength of the ancestral gods had proven ineffective, but that Lu Yun's methods were so sophisticated that they completely evaded the azure dragon.

"Supplemental dao isn't meant for battle," Lu Yun suddenly remarked meaningfully. "Supplemental dao is complementary to cultivation and battle. Focusing on it as the main path will lead one astray.

"I'd initially thought that the Immortal Region and Supplemental Dao Alliance had enacted a monopoly over supplemental dao out of pure selfish interest. It's not until now that I understand they were trying to slowly shift this wayward Hongmeng back to the proper path."

The Fish King still couldn't speak, so she only stared intently at Lu Yun.

"All of you think that the current method of cultivation in the realm is a deviated, incorrect path, but that's not necessarily true. The proper path of cultivation runs through nine levels before one becomes a true king.

"The path we follow gives one the chance to become a high level king upon ascending to titled kingship through the Hongmeng Tower. Those talented few are far beyond all of us here and closer to the level of true king.

"The so-called true kings are a result of dao rule fusion. Tsk tsk, the kings on the so-called incorrect path also wield dao rules and possess the strength of their level in full. After so many years of a monopoly over supplemental dao, there are very few Hongmeng kings who make use of the supplemental arts. They rely on their cultivation to excavate their potential to the fullest." Lu Yun stroked his chin.

"Aoooo!" A clear dragon howl erupted as water rippled in their part of the lake. The sound waves were so dreadful that the creatures spying on the intruders drifted away as lifeless ash before they could react.

"It's coming!" Lu Yun shouted. "Use the talents of your bloodlines to absorb the power of the azure dragon!"

Qing Ting and Qing Yan closed their eyes without question and fully released their azure dragon bloodline so it could communicate with the strength of the azure dragon floating through the void.

The power and the seal beneath their feet was the azure dragon's most primitive strength. It took root in Qing Ting and Qing Yan's body—imperceptible for now, but would sprout and grow as they took in more of the azure dragon's power.

The invincible seal beneath their feet began to show tiny ripples. The image of an azure dragon floated up from it, roaring and snarling with fury, wanting to slaughter Lu Yun and the others.

However, the azure glyph in front of Lu Yun had completely become the azure dragon's ancestral blood. It shared the same origins as the seal, so no matter how the protections within the seal raged and threw itself against the group, it couldn't harm Lu Yun's group at all.

"I know you can hear me, old dragon! Dismiss your power and let me in, or I'll destroy more than just this seal if you force me to take action!"

The azure dragon image wavered and a bit of sentience dawned in its aloof eyes.

"No, you can't go in!" the azure dragon's voice suddenly echoed around them. "There's insurmountable evil in the tomb. If you let him out, the entire Hongmeng and even the fourth realm will be affected!"

Chapter 1472: Fire Virtue Potentate

"Is it something from the fourth realm?" Lu Yun asked in response with a slight frown. Anything that would warrant a description of "insurmountable evil" from a being like the azure dragon ancestral god would certainly not hail from the Hongmeng.

"I don't know." The azure dragon's voice drifted in and out and sounded weak overall. He was evidently in poor condition. "Perhaps he's from other Hongmeng worlds or maybe he's from the fourth realm. Regardless, his appearance poses an extraordinary threat to our world!"

"The order of opposition in this tomb was created by the realm's first Opposition Supreme. We petitioned the supreme to create an order of opposition with boundless water virtue, thus making it possible to suppress the Fire Virtue Potentate."

Lu Yun finally understood the layout of the land. The azure dragon likely referenced an era impossibly far in the past. Opposition Supreme? There were no stories of this character in the chaos and not even Leize—first dragon of the second realm—had ever heard of the name. Opposition, however, was an order of the highest degree in the chaos.

If this Opposition Supreme could help the four ancestral gods form the order of opposition, then they were as strong as an ancestral god. Could it be that the chaos denizens were once as strong as modern day Hongmeng beings?

"It's fine that you've broken my seal, but if you break the order of opposition and allow the potentate to escape the tomb, the entire realm will turn into a sea of fire!" the azure dragon solemnly warned again.

"Who is the Azure Dragon King?" Lu Yun suddenly asked.

The azure dragon's replica opened his mouth to respond, then sighed with resignation. "Can't you ask about something else?"

"I don't trust you anymore after you lied about the Azure Dragon King. Fine, go on back. I know what I'm doing and what can't be done."

Before he slowly faded away, the azure dragon tried to look through Lu Yun's soul with a deeply intense gaze. He'd only just regained wakefulness and created a true spirit from a tendril of his will. He was immensely short on options to stop Lu Yun, not to mention that the Thousand Obliteration Formation had stabilized. His will was also unable to penetrate the smoothly operating formation.

Many ancient existences of the Hongmeng thought that the Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals came from the mythological realm, but those such as the azure dragon knew that it was the joint effort of the first generation Six Royals in the chaos. An expert of the mythological realm had stumbled upon it by accident.

The Opposition Supreme had been one of the six. In that era, there was no hierarchical difference between the chaos and Hongmeng. Citizens of both realms were equally strong. The formation kept the chaos in check and wielded the six orders of the highest degree. Since Lu Yun had set up the formation through his own ability, there was nothing the azure dragon could do about it.

As for who the Azure Dragon King was... the azure dragon had lied more than once in his answers. Even if the azure dragon spoke the truth now, Lu Yun would likely mistrust him all the same.

The azure dragon departed, leaving behind terror-stricken expressions on both the Fish King and Feng Qi's faces.

A heavyweight with the strength of the fourth realm?!

The four ancestral gods had had to join hands to defeat him, and they'd needed the help of a supreme from the chaos as well??

Feng Qi was the son of the Aer Potentate and the Fish King someone highly treasured by the Terra Potentate. They had a spot in the inner circle of the ten divine nations and certainly knew what kind of person the Opposition Supreme was.

Meanwhile, Qing Ting and Qing Yan were wholly unconcerned with external matters and focused on absorbing the azure dragon's strength. The azure dragon hadn't taken them to task for it when he left. They were his descendants, after all, so it didn't matter that they took a bit of his strength.

The azure dragon's seal finally cracked open large enough for a few people to pass through.

"Qing Ting and Qing Yan will be staying here to absorb the ancestral god's power. Nod if you want to head inside with me. If not, you can stay here to protect them." Lu Yun looked at the Fish King and Feng Qi.

The Fish King grabbed his collar and wouldn't let go for the world, while Feng Qi clung to one of Lu Yun's arms. Both of them nodded so fast and hard that they seemed to run the risk of losing their heads.

As incredibly dangerous as the entity below might be, the two were used to running wild. They'd already come so far, could they give up now?

“Alright then, let’s go take a look inside.” Lu Yun materialized another Thousand Obliteration Formation with a wave of his hand and turned it into three “formation robes”, draping it over the three of them.

The Fish King’s eyes bulged and threatened to fall out of her head entirely.

Changing a formation into something real?! How perversely strong was this Immortal King that he could easily shift a formation into another state of being?!

The current Fish King was yet to come within sight of that level of accomplishment. Not only had the Immortal King brought his formation to life, but he’d also casually turned it into something like clothes that the trio could wear!

The Fish King had finally come face-to-face with Lu Yun’s frighteningly prodigious strength.

“So he’s always played the pig so he could eat the tiger... He didn’t use his full strength at all when we fought at Crouching Dragon City!” The Fish King silently tabulated the events of the day. When she looked at Lu Yun next, some subtle shifts had taken place in her gaze.

The crack in the seal smoothed over before one could fully register its existence, but that was enough time for Lu Yun to accomplish many things. He set up tens of thousands of defensive formations to protect Qing Ting and Qing Yan before taking the Fish King and Feng Qi with him through the crack.

The crack immediately vanished after their passage.

In contrast to the lake over them, a sea of fire reigned inside—flames from the power of fire virtue. At the same time, water virtue was present to form the order of opposition and derive the power of destruction.

A massive horde of creatures meandered through the fiery ocean, ones even more aggressive than those from water virtue. Thousands of them rushed Lu Yun and the other two the second the group materialized.

“Away with you!” shouted the Fish King. She pointed at their foes and assembled numerous formations with the power of destruction in her hand, detonating the second they came to be.

The power of destruction from her formations melded with the ambient power in their surroundings, becoming ever greater devastation that exterminated any destruction creature in their path.

“Eh? I can talk again?” The Fish King almost couldn’t believe it.

“Ooh I can too, and there’s so many yummy things here!” Feng Qi’s stomach gurgled—he was hungry again.

“In the land of water virtue, it’s the power of water virtue suppressing you guys, not the order of opposition,” Lu Yun explained. “While there is water virtue here, it’s fire virtue that’s in charge. That’s why you can talk again.

“The Fire Virtue Potentate’s coffin should be right beneath us.” He looked at the sea of fire below.

Don't you guys dare start with the pizza jokes, lol. There are only so many high-falutin' words out there and we're starting to run real short.

Chapter 1473: Fire Virtue Spirit Orb

“Fire Virtue Potentate...” The Fish King sank into contemplation when she heard the name and stared at the flames below. “Since he’s a potentate, then he’s on par with the eleven rulers of the ten divine nations. But why does the azure dragon ancestral god say that even the fourth realm will suffer if he is released?”

Though she hadn’t been able to speak earlier, she’d heard Lu Yun’s conversation with the azure dragon. She just hadn’t been able to interject.

“The azure dragon’s will is sullied by something. Though he hasn’t lost his sense of self, he voices endless lies.” Lu Yun shook his head. “He probably doesn’t even remember what he just said, so we can’t trust anything he shares.”

“But... the Opposition Supreme did indeed exist once...” the Fish King said hesitantly.

“We can trust maybe half of what he says, think of the other half as just a joke.” Lu Yun opened the Spectral Eye and scanned the field of fire virtue. It teemed with death notices and information, most likely an ancient battlefield judging from its timeworn nature.

Time held no strength in the Hongmeng, so many things were preserved in good shape when not eroded by outside force. The death information here, for one, remained untouched by the power of destruction.

“It looks like the azure dragon didn’t lie this time, an utmost powerhouse of the chaos did indeed die here.” Lu Yun furrowed his brows and shook his formation robes, drifting down toward the flames.

They were just like the lake waters above them—bottomless and unfathomable.

The creatures of destruction that the Fish King had rebuffed earlier charged them again after momentary respite. They seemed endless—the life forms within fire virtue seemed more bloodthirsty and savage than those in water virtue. More than ten thousand of them attacked Lu Yun’s group before they’d descended fifty kilometers.

While the core essence of fire virtue life forms was the same as water virtue beings, they differed when it came to external appearance. Water virtue life forms mostly resembled different kinds of fish, while fire virtue beings took on strange shapes. Some were only a head, others were an arm or a leg, and some were just an eyeball.

“Do you guys realize... that the creatures of destruction here probably grew out of someone’s corpse?” Feng Qi shifted uncomfortably.

He was of no help whatsoever in an environment like this; he’d even drag them down instead. As strong as his battle strength was, he needed to be in melee range to fight his opponents. But if he charged into the crowd of creatures, he wouldn’t be coming back.

“This is the final battlefield in the struggle to take down the Fire Virtue Potentate,” Lu Yun nodded. “He was probably unkillable and could resurrect in this boundless fire virtue, so the four ancestral gods and six great supremes built what’s present here.”

“Six great supremes?” The Fish King blinked.

“The four ancestral gods of the Hongmeng and six great supremes of the chaos were present—five of the supremes died and left only the Opposition Supreme. I wonder if he died in the end too? Probably, why else would no one know of his name?” Lu Yun murmured to himself.

“Found it, right here!” He suddenly stopped and fixed his gaze at the void ahead.

There didn’t seem anything different about this location compared to others. Fire virtue, the order of opposition, and the power of destruction filled it to capacity.

“This... this orb looks so delicious!” Feng Qi gulped hard. An orb that blazed like a fireball reflected in his eyes and the Hongmeng Treasurehunter Rat in his arms drooled incessantly.

“This is an ultimate treasure of the realm, a fire spirit pearl... no, the Fire Virtue Orb!” exclaimed the Fish King. “It’s a treasure that became a connate item—it’s an egg!”

“An egg of the Fire Virtue Potentate?” Lu Yun blinked. “No, wait. Although a fire virtue creature is being nurtured inside, it’s not the Fire Virtue Potentate. The potentate is dead and buried in this tomb. He won’t transform himself into an egg before the layout of the tomb is dismantled...”

He grabbed at the air and retrieved the Fire Virtue Orb hidden in the void, handing it to Feng Qi.

“Go ahead and boil it,” Lu Yun said.

Feng Qi swallowed hard and smiled ruefully. “How about a few more fruit instead? What’s developing inside is possibly one of the powerhouses that died in the ancient battlefield. I won’t be able to sleep at night if I eat it.”

As gluttonous as he was, he wasn’t a complete lunatic. But when he was starving, he was crazier than a lunatic.

He held the orb with both hands and went almost cross-eyed staring at it, but he kept himself firmly in check and didn’t even lick it.

Lu Yun nodded and threw another couple of karmic fruits at Feng Qi. Those he did quickly devour.

“If it wasn’t for this thing nurturing a living being, it would be worth less than a karmic fruit. Whichever one of you wants it can have it.” Lu Yun didn’t want the Fire Virtue Orb, he only had one goal in mind here: he wanted to use the hellfire of order to eliminate the Fire Virtue Potentate. His fire of order would attain great perfection then and he’d be able to continue on the path of cultivation.

Thus, he didn’t want to be caught up in any unnecessary karma before he saw the potentate’s body, just in case it gave rise to unexpected developments later on.

“You’re giving it to us, just like that?” Feng Qi looked askance at him.

“I’ll hold onto it.” The Fish King snatched it out of his hands before he could react. “I’m worried you’ll eat it at some point if you get hungry enough. The Immortal King is right—the orb’s greatest value isn’t in the fact that it’s an ultimate treasure of the realm, but in the life that developed in it.”

“Okay.” Feng Qi took a careful look at the Fish King and didn’t fight her for it. “I wonder if there’s any other ultimate treasures here, I’ve never eaten one.” He licked his lips.

“There’s many, too many to be counted,” Lu Yun mentioned. “Most of them belonged to the ancient experts who died here, and some came into being through to the special circumstances of this environment.

“However, ultimate treasures of the realm have their own spirits. Since they know you want to eat them, they’ll never show themselves,” he snorted with laughter.

“I’m just saying, I wouldn’t really eat them.” Feng Qi pouted. “There’s a coffin over there!” His eyes suddenly lit up. “Is that what you’re looking for?”

“Coffin?!” Lu Yun went slack jawed with shock. He whirled around and grabbed Feng Qi and the Fish King, propelling himself upward with everything he had.

“The Fire Virtue Potentate is buried here, but not to rest in peace. This tomb means to seal him away forever, so there shouldn’t be a coffin here!” He was so stressed that he didn’t sound like himself anymore. “A coffin being present here means that someone else is also buried here. The tomb layout will break!”

Miao tomb flashbacks, anyone?

Chapter 1474: Big-Headed Doll

Lu Yun was beside himself with horror. A coffin was the last thing that should be here!

As opposed to being a tomb, it would be more accurate to describe this place as an enormous seal in the layout of a tomb, one that confined the Fire Virtue Potentate through the way of burial.

Burial was an act that sought to bring peace to the deceased’s soul and help them slumber for eternity. A coffin was their bed and also projected a kind of underworld waiting room, one in which the deceased could rest and quietly await reincarnation. It carried the living’s hope and goodwill.

But a burial that was actually a seal sought to keep the deceased trapped for eternity. There was no tranquility to be found, only endless opposition and destruction as was present in this tomb. A layout for rebirth would never be laid down in conjunction.

The layout they were in was more fraught with danger and ruthlessness than the Duality of Dragon and Tiger that Lu Yun had encountered in the world of immortals.

A coffin, appearing here?

Its owner was definitely not the Fire Virtue Potentate. Perhaps the potentate had already broken free!

Even sending out just a tendril of his soul would turn him into a terrifying creature of destruction. He’d be invincible here and could instantly execute even the rulers of the ten divine nations.

“The coffin’s following us!” Feng Qi stared fixedly at the coffin and his Adam’s apple bobbed slightly. “It looks very delicious... I really want a bite!”

“Snap out of it!” The Fish King gave him a solid thwack on the head. “There’s a terrible existence inside the coffin, we’re all dead if it catches up to us!”

Fear colored her face—she could clearly sense the dreadful presence that the coffin exuded at every second. It was like the ghost race, but infinitely stronger than ordinary ghosts. It was so strong that it caused someone like the Fish King to shrink back with fear.

Whoosh!

The crimson coffin, so bright that it seemed to be on fire, suddenly disappeared on the spot.

Lu Yun immediately halted in his tracks, an unpleasant expression spreading across his face. The vanished coffin was right in front of him.

Twisting his lips, Lu Yun tightly gripped the Army Pagoda. He would call upon it as soon as the coffin showed hints of anything out of the ordinary. More than its own power, there were armies of fearsome soldiers within that he could deploy.

Rumble—

The coffin shook as its lid rose with violent force. A ghostly face that seemed to be laughing and crying at the same time suddenly appeared in front of the group.

“Waugh!!” came a piercing shriek. Lu Yun jumped with shock and scuttled backward.

“An akasha ghost!” he cried out hoarsely and didn’t dare make any rash moves. The akasha ghost’s face slowly condensed in the air, coming together as a little boy roughly eight years old. He had a slightly large head—or rather, looked like a big-headed doll.

His features were delicate and there was no trace of malice or the akasha ghosts in them, but he held a brush in his hand.

This was the little boy that’d appeared in Mount Cloudcover—Ghost Dragon and Ghost Phoenix’s master.

“Well? Surprised? Shocked? Well well?” the big-headed doll leered at Lu Yun.

“It’s you!” Lu Yun’s brows smoothed out when he saw the newcomer. He’d once ambushed the doll with the Bridge of Forgetfulness, but hadn’t crushed him. The doll plainly possessed the strength of the fourth realm as well, but Lu Yun didn’t read any malevolence from him. He didn’t seem to bear any hostility toward the young man.

“You ambushed me with a bridge last time, I haven’t forgotten or taken my revenge for that yet!” The big-headed doll wore a red bib and was pale and plump, like he was carved out of jade. Surprisingly, there was no trace of an akasha ghost or hints of a violent air when he was present in this environment. He was completely different from the last time they’d met.

“What are you?” Lu Yun frowned at him. “And what do the akasha ghosts have to do with you?”

“Heh heh heh, I should ask you what I am, and you know better than me what akasha ghosts are!” The doll grinned toothily at him.

“...you’re not my son, are you?” Lu Yun suddenly thought of a crazy possibility. The Mount Cloudcover that the doll had first appeared in was also where his future self was. Can this doll be a result of his future indiscretions?

“Ya ahhh ahh!! You piss me off!” The doll jumped a meter in the air and stabbed the brush at Lu Yun.

He could clearly tell that this brush was similar to the one that Qing Han wielded. A faint ribbon of thread also interwove through its ink, as if the blood of some being.

Qing Han had once drawn an akasha ghost’s face on her face with the brush, turning herself into one of them. It proved to be capable of marvelous uses in the doll’s hands. He didn’t draw ghosts from it, but drew real life forms and other entities. It seemed to follow a certain rule that Lu Yun couldn’t make out yet.

Unbidden, he materialized another brush with a flip of his hand.

The big-headed doll shot backward when he saw the brush, his delicate features contorting with emotion.

“And you say you don’t know what I am!” he snarled.

“Uhh, what are you?” Lu Yun blinked.

“Who is he?” whispered the Fish King as she swallowed apprehensively.

The gesture was echoed by Feng Qi, who was still staring at the coffin behind the doll. He really wanted to take a bite out of it.

“I don’t know.” Lu Yun shook his head. “He’s really strong, whoever he is, probably stronger than the rulers of the ten divine nations. He’s probably stronger than the Fire Virtue Potentate.”

The Fish King’s eyes shot wide open.

The doll stuck out his chest when he heard the compliments. “Those eleven rulers are meh, but the potentate sealed here is mm mm mm! He’s one of the strongest experts of the fourth realm. He’ll turn this Hongmeng into a hell of fire virtue if you let him out, and the patch of the fourth realm closest to us will also be visited with a ton of trouble.”

“So he really does have the strength to threaten the fourth realm?” Lu Yun paused. “If he’s that strong, how did the four ancestral gods of the Hongmeng seal him away?”

“He wouldn’t think anything about those ancestral gods and six supremes in his prime, naturally, but the Fire Virtue Potentate—er, that’s not his name either—was gravely injured then. He was only as strong as a potentate.” The big-headed doll thought for a bit. “It took the four ancestral gods of the Hongmeng, six supremes of the chaos, and ten powerhouses infinitely close to the fourth realm to barely manage to take him down and bury him here.

“He’s dead now and completely turned into a ghost. No one in the realm will be able to keep him in check if you let him out. Those eleven rulers are more than just a little bit weaker than the four ancestral gods and six supremes.”

Chapter 1475: Eaten

"You can't handle him?" a startled Lu Yun asked the big-headed doll.

"This little grandpa is only so old, my body hasn't fully developed yet. Once I grow up, I'll be able to take on this Fire Virtue Potentate..." the doll sighed solemnly. "Huh? Wait, Lu Yun, we're not friends! We might even have to fight each other at some point. Don't you dare think that I'll take care of that ghost below for you!"

His casual use of Lu Yun's name indicated that he was very familiar with the young man, casting even more doubt in Lu Yun's mind on where the doll came from. But of one thing he was certain—the big-headed doll had something to do with his future self.

"Don't worry, that's my affair. I don't need your help," Lu Yun nodded.

"No, wait, I'm here to stop you. You better watch yourself!" the doll quickly added when something occurred to him.

"I'll leave right now if you return Ghost Dragon and Ghost Phoenix to me," Lu Yun responded gravely.

The doll blinked, then said meaningfully, "Are you so sure that they're yours?"

"They're not mine, they just helped me before, so I owe them a favor. I need to pay it back," Lu Yun said.

"Then fine, go do whatever you wish to do. It doesn't matter a single carrot to me in the least! I wouldn't have bothered coming here if it wasn't for that old donkey in the lost ancient city. So what if the Hongmeng is destroyed? This little grandpa will just live it up in the fourth realm!" snorted the big-headed doll before sneaking a look at Lu Yun. He deflated when he saw the young man remain completely unmoved by his performance.

"You can't have Ghost Dragon and Ghost Phoenix, someone else will take them sooner or later if they're by your side. No one knows where the real article is if they're with me, and no one knows which is their true body," harrumphed the doll. "And don't ask about their backgrounds, you'll be another Azure Dragon Divine King if you ask."

Lu Yun:

"Did you create the akasha ghosts?" Lu Yun looked at the brush in his hand and the one in the doll's hand. They looked the exact same and bore the same presences; both of them could draw akasha ghosts.

"Would I need to hide in this forsaken place if I could create akasha ghosts?! You need to ask yourself where they come from! You're the reason why I'm like this too!" The doll rolled his eyes at Lu Yun and waved his coffin into his hand. "Anyway, you need to leave this place and not touch the Fire Virtue Potentate!"

"...can I take a bite of your coffin?" A bewitched Feng Qi stared spellbound at the big-headed doll's coffin.

“A bite of my coffin? Sure, if you want to lose all of your teeth—huh? Huh? Huhhh?? What are you doing, actually biting it? Open your mouth! Get your mouth off my coffin! This is my treasure!” The doll jumped with shock.

Feng Qi really had thrown himself at the coffin and chomped down a few times. It took only a few breaths for several large bite marks to appear on the formerly pristine coffin.

Alarmed and horrified, the big-headed doll squawked with outrage. His incomparably strong coffin was as if a large bun in the strange young man’s hands—completely ineffective and inert!

“Yummy!” Feng Qi took another large bite.

Bam!

The doll snapped out of his daze and promptly gave up on the coffin, instead punting Feng Qi away with a kick.

Feng Qi flew away with a thirty-meter-long plank from the coffin in his mouth, keeping a death grip on his prize. The immeasurably durable material was as weak as tofu in his hands.

“What, what, what kind of monster are you?!” yelled the doll. “My coffin is made of the fourth realm spirit root Soulprison Wood! There’s almost nothing harder than it in the fourth realm and certainly nothing in the Hongmeng that can leave marks on it! What are your teeth made of??

Lu Yun and the Fish King also gaped at Feng Qi. While they may not know what the Soulprison Wood was, a spirit root of the fourth realm was peerless treasure. Feng Qi had eaten it, just like that?!

“Good treasure, nice treasure! Just one bite of this fills me halfway!” Black and blue from the doll’s kick, Feng Qi nevertheless wore a content smile. All was right in his world when his stomach was full.

“Your body is as durable as an ultimate Hongmeng treasure. Pfft, you don’t need the protection of the Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals.” The big-headed doll swiftly put his coffin away, deeply afraid that this weirdo would set his sights on it again.

“My body is durable, but my nascent spirit is really weak. Anyone can shatter my nascent spirit with just a little bit of strength,” Feng Qi responded glumly. “I’d be invincible in the realm if my nascent spirit was also really strong.”

“That’s true.” The doll thought about it and shuddered when he realized that Feng Qi was staring greedily at him again. “Forget about it, this little grandpa’s not sticking my nose into this. It doesn’t matter when I pay back the favor I owe to that donkey, so I’m calling it quits today!”

He grumbled some more and cast one final terrified look at Feng Qi before vanishing in a streak of light.

The brush in Lu Yun’s hand twitched, wanting to leave with the big-headed doll, but Lu Yun kept a firm grasp on it.

“There’s a brush like that in the Terra treasury as well,” the Fish King suddenly offered.

“Oh? Just like this one?” Lu Yun blinked.

“Yes. The Terra ruler once allowed me to choose any treasure from the vaults. I wanted that brush, but it wouldn’t leave with me.” The Fish King nodded.

“What did you choose in the end?” Feng Qi interjected and cast a disinterested look at the brush in Lu Yun’s hand.

“Nothing,” the Fish King responded shortly. “I’d have to become the consort of that piece-of-trash crown prince if I chose anything.”

The Terra Potentate and ruler of the Terra divine nation weren’t the same person. The potentate was the creator of the divine nation and its spiritual representative. He was more like a deity to the people, and the ruler his disciple. The ruler administered Terra on the potentate’s behalf, acting like an emperor.

All of the ten divine nations operated in such a manner—none of the eleventh potentates were the nation’s ruler. The crown prince that the Fish King had beaten before was the ruler’s son, not the potentate’s son.

Since Feng Qi was the Aer Potentate’s son, he was infinitely more noble than the Terra crown prince.

“I see,” Feng Qi nodded. “I’d thought you’d claim the Terra Book.”

I really wonder what's the story behind the akasha ghosts...

Chapter 1476: Layout of the Six Royals

“The Terra Book is the Terra Potentate’s personal treasure, it wouldn’t be kept in the treasury.” The Fish King flicked a sideways glance at Feng Qi. “Since the big-headed doll is gone, can we continue looking for the Fire Virtue Potentate?”

“Right right right, I feel like there are a lot of delicious things there. I’ll stay full for a very long time after I eat them,” Feng Qi spoke up in quick support.

“Let’s go,” Lu Yun nodded. He wouldn’t give up on his plans just because of appearances from the azure dragon and big-headed doll.

His path was one of order—only through perfecting the flames of order and igniting the hellfire of order could he slowly extract himself from the Tome of Life and Death and Hadal Hell. Only then would he set foot on his own path.

Though he’d subdued the tome and turned it fully into his own possession, he still needed to experiment and create original methods before he could truly be his own person and reach that unparalleled realm.

Lu Yun adjusted his formation robe and sank down to the bottom once more, closely followed by the Fish King and Feng Qi.

“Do you guys know if the Fire Virtue Potentate is really down there?” Feng Qi suddenly asked.

“Where else would he be?” the Fish King asked in return.

“There are a lot of yum-yums down there and creatures of destruction...” Feng Qi stroked his chin. “But if you wanted to seal someone away, would you put them in a pile of corpses and treasures?”

Lu Yun started and saw the logic in Feng Qi's words. This was where the Fire Virtue Potentate had fallen. If his corpse and fragmented soul were to be sealed away, the ancestral gods and supremes would never choose to do so among the dead. That would cause the potentate's corpse to mutate into a terrifying ghost or corpse king, enabling him to instantly struggle free of the seal.

Where he perished would certainly be a bleak and desolate landscape of commingled death qi and resentment. Hongmencang treasures would never form in such a domain.

"Not here?" Lu Yun frowned and look around. There was nothing here other than blazing flames. The creatures of destruction had scattered in various directions after the big-headed doll appeared.

"And, where are we?" the Fish King asked, perplexed. "That doll seemed to have purposefully herded us here."

"He did," Lu Yun nodded. "Don't look at this as a sea of flame or a seal. This is a tomb! The layouts of a tomb are ever-shifting and endless. There's only one eternal constant—the main burial chamber."

Lu Yun sat down cross-legged and opened the Spectral Eye, sketching the layout of a tomb through it. He superimposed the world in his eyes with the tomb in front of them, continuously trying to derive the tomb's actual layout.

This time, he simulated all of the burial and feng shui layouts he knew and compared them to the void in front of him, seeing which would meld seamlessly into the world beneath the lake.

Though this was, frankly, a slow and dumb process, it was the only method available to him. There were no mountains coiled here or a great dragon, so even the Dragonquake Scripture wouldn't make out anything.

He could deploy the Dragonquake Scripture itself, but that might give rise to unexpected consequences if the scripture appeared within the Hongmencang. He might be crushed underfoot by certain existences the next second.

Two rays of fiery black sparks shot out from Lu Yun's eyes. They slowly turned to silver and became tendrils of the flame of order. There were more than two hundred strands within his body now, but his strength and cultivation remained unchanged. In fact, even the tendrils after the two hundredth one seemed a little intangible.

Two hundred and fourteen tendrils of flame were the highest he could go. Ghost crystals were completely ineffective by this point and even the cores of ninth step ghost kings did nothing for the flame of order.

Lu Yun had to locate greater entities that violated order in the Hongmencang, such as the Fire Virtue Potentate. The latter's existence certainly violated the order of the realm; he threatened the Hongmencang at every second. Most importantly was that he was dead. Since he was dead, Lu Yun would be able to exert control over him through the Tome of Life and Death.

In their current environment, he could bring out all of his methods without worry of anything else.

Feng Qi and the Fish King flanked Lu Yun, closely observing his deductions.

“Fish King, who do you think he is?” Feng Qi asked carefully. “There are rumors developing in the Hongmeng that the Immortal King is a supreme being from the world of immortals, the one who completed immortal dao and established a new epoch for it. But the strongest creatures under the immortal dao haven’t even reached the chaos cultivation realm!”

“Haven’t reached the chaos realm?” the Fish King shrugged. “Remember the ten women he summoned? They were wreathed with the presence of immortal dao and practice immortal dao methods. They were also all true first level, and I can guarantee that any of them would beat you silly with one hand behind their back.”

Feng Qi goggled at the Fish King.

“He is indeed that person from the world of immortals, but what of it? Many of the premier powerhouses in the Hongmeng come from the chaos or the mythological realm. My master, the Purple King, is one such person from the mythological realm. He ascended from the world of immortals in that realm to enter the Hongmeng!

“In the same vein, some of the eleven potentates come from even older realms.

“Ours is a tolerant era. No one cares who you come from or where you were born as long as you don’t commit any acts of evil. We wouldn’t even care about the ghosts if they didn’t cause all that trouble.”

“I got you, you’re so right. Those powerhouses are all so lazy. My dad’s super lazy—he doesn’t care about anything happening in Aer. He’s dumped it all on my senior brother and my senior brother complains everyday that he’ll abdicate.

“My senior brother is also lazy, but that’s not my point. The Immortal King is so perverse that he doesn’t seem like he’s from the world of immortals or Hongmeng. He’s more like from the fourth realm!”

The Fish King: That was completely not what I was talking about.

“Found it!” Lu Yun suddenly hollered and shot to his feet.

“It’s a Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals!” Incredulity filled his eyes. “No, not the formation, but the feng shui layout that corresponds to it! It’s intermixed with a layout of the four divisions... I get it!” he murmured rapidly to himself. “The first Six Royals of the chaos—the six supremes—all died here. Even the four ancestral gods of the Hongmeng died here. They all died here to seal away the Fire Virtue Potentate!”

Okay, this guy is like Thanos with how he's turning out...

Chapter 1477: Confusing Truth With Falsehood

“What?!” The Fish King and Feng Qi were shocked by Lu Yun’s declaration. Setting aside the six supremes of the chaos—since not many in the Hongmeng knew of their existence—the four ancestral gods inspired awe throughout the realm.

The manner of their death, however, was a subject of great contention.

Some said that the gods had died to the recoil of the Hongmeng barrier when they sought to break free and enter the fourth realm. Others denounced the traitors of Dragonhollow Mountain for scheming to

the gods' deaths. But with Lu Yun's latest observation of the great tomb, he discovered the truth of the matter.

"The four ancestral gods and six supremes all died to kill and seal away the Fire Virtue Potentate. They gave their lives to protect the Hongmeng!

"They paid the cost of existence itself to set up the layout and great tomb here. The Opposition Supreme activated the order of opposition and sacrificed his true spirit, completely scattering upon the air and vanishing forever.

"So did the same fate befall the supremes of Inception, Ethos, Burgeon, Creation, and Nirvana. The spirits of the four ancestral gods then entered the chaos with yi wood, kang metal, li fire, kui water, and shen earth not controlled by any god. They derived the connate five elements in the chaos and worlds so that the chaos would reform the orders in the absence of their supremes.

"It wasn't until the appearance of the six dao palaces that the six greatest orders of the chaos once again came under control..." Lu Yun murmured. "The six supremes shouldn't just be the supremes, they should be called the six supreme gods."

The Fish King and Feng Qi quietly listened to his exposition. If he spoke the truth, then their views of the four ancestral gods had to change.

The Hongmeng venerated the ancestral gods because they were undeniable powerhouses—existences of the land that were closest to the fourth realm. But Lu Yun was saying that they'd died to protect the Hongmeng and that their true spirits had reincarnated into the chaos in order to protect the homes of the six supremes. It was only in recent times that they were returning to their own homes.

This could no longer be just described with the notion of "great". The four ancestral gods' roots were in the Hongmeng—they could be infinitely resurrected through creation, truth, origin, and eternity. They were undying as long as they stayed within the third realm.

They'd chosen to give up this incredible power and enter the chaos to maintain order for the denizens there!

Sadly, everything they'd encountered since then and the start of it all was almost completely forgotten by the people. This tomb was simply viewed as a cursed tomb now, nothing more. If the ancestral gods had remained within the third realm all this time and continued cultivating, they probably would've already ascended to the fourth realm.

"The continual weakening of the chaos creatures is most likely because they lost their heritage with the death of the six supreme gods. That gradually chipped away at them until they became less than the Hongmeng," Lu Yun continued to derive everything that had happened as a result of this tomb.

This was an unknown part of history. The mythological realm was the limit of knowledge for the current Hongmeng and chaos denizens. Even Leize and the others had forgotten what the world had been like before the mythological realm.

This hadn't been a conscious act, but a result of the establishment of new orders. As the masters of the new orders, their memories of time past had been eroded by their new orders.

If they'd remained cultivating in the chaos until they reached true king and then potentate, the denizens of the chaos would've slowly grown stronger because of them. But they seemed to suffer under some sort of curse or limitation, restricting them to never ascending beyond sovereign realm.

"The root of the curse is here!" Lu Yun suddenly snapped. "The six supreme gods were the main force in killing the Fire Virtue Potentate. Thus, his curse targeted them before he died and afflicted their bloodlines and heritage!"

"The chaos will return to normal if we raze this place to the ground," he muttered.

"But, but, isn't the chaos about to be swallowed by the worlds?" Feng Qi asked haltingly.

"It's the land that's about to be swallowed, not the living beings..." Lu Yun replied.

The energy of the worlds had once been poison to chaos denizens, but now with the immortal dao running through the second realm and its inhabitants practicing immortal dao, they no longer feared the energy and could coexist peacefully with it.

The world of immortals continued to expand and swallow the chaos, yet the chaos denizens weren't opposed to it. They could even travel through the polluted zone and enter the worlds proper, becoming a part of the first realm and the world of immortals.

The chaos creatures had once sought to destroy the worlds simply because the worlds were anathema to them. That situation no longer existed. Nothing would change after the chaos was devoured, just that the energy of the worlds would fill the realm and the chaos would resemble a world.

Everything that was present before would still remain; such was the general trend of events.

At the same time, the worlds would swallow the Hongmeng when they expanded to the extreme, combining the three into one realm. That would revert the third realm from a prison back into a complete realm.

During this period of time, however, the chaos denizens ran the risk of being eliminated, completely eliminated from the new world order. The reason for this? The Fire Virtue Potentate's curse.

This was also why the chaos creatures had previously been afraid of the energy of the worlds—the curse. Finding out all of this redoubled Lu Yun's conviction to find and destroy the Fire Virtue Potentate.

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"Will we really be able to handle the potentate with our current strength?" the Fish King asked uncertainly.

"Not us, you guys can't do anything no matter what. I can." Lu Yun set up a Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals and a connate formation of the five elements with a wave of his hand.

The images of an azure dragon, white tiger, vermilion bird, black tortoise, and moat snake appeared at the same time. The two formations began to meld together and a terrifying feng shui layout appeared in their midst. It was the same one as the one beneath Azure Dragon Lake!

The mark of the Tome of Life and Death collected between Lu Yun's brows. He couldn't set up this kind of layout with his own strength alone; he had to borrow the treasure's power.

The two great formations and feng shui layouts became one with the tome's help and projected a miniature Azure Dragon Lake.

"Using a formation to project a world... this isn't a formation world, it's a world of formation dao! It's at an even higher level than a formation world!" The Fish King swallowed hard.

Lu Yun ignored her and pushed out with both hands, assimilating the small world into the greater one before them.

Rumble—

Violent trembling rocked the void as the energy of fire virtue, order of opposition, strength of destruction were immediately expunged. The void resolved itself as a dark burial chamber.

"Is this the truth of this place?" Feng Qi stared dumbly.

"This is fake," Lu Yun shook his head. "I projected the way of burial into this void via my feng shui layout, creating the illusion of a tomb. If there was one here, it'd look something like this. We can reach the main burial chamber by following the fake one."

The Fish King's mind spun; it was her first time hearing of something like this. This was probably what was meant by confusing truth with falsehood.

Ah, so he's basically confusing the real, treacherous layout here with some illusions of his own.

Trippy.

Chapter 1478: Young Girl

The Fish King was completely won over by the display. This singular technique of projecting a world of formation dao was a level that she would never reach in her entire life.

She wouldn't be able to set up such a layout even if she had a treasure on par with the Tome of Life and Death to help her.

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A dusky, long, and narrow passageway stretched into the unknown darkness.

The trio kept their formation robes on. The great tomb here was fake, an illusion, and their bodies still suffered pressure from endless order of opposition and power of destruction. The creatures of destruction were likewise hoodwinked by the "tomb" and drifted around lethargically after they were drawn in.

Though Lu Yun was the architect of the fake tomb, he wasn't familiar with it. All he could do was proceed according to the burial layout and compel the formless to take shape.

"There doesn't seem to be anything here." Feng Qi's nose twitched. "There are neither yin spirits nor zombies that would be present in other tombs. There aren't any ghosts either."

Lu Yun smacked him forcefully over the head. “Of course not, this tomb is a fake! It’s an illusion I created from the burial layout here, it’s just a map to help us get through the real thing!

“Do you think you’d actually see any scenery when you look at a map? Keep your mind focused on the task at hand and search for the proper path!”

“Oh... um, okay.” Feng Qi nodded with half understanding.

The order of opposition seemed to grow fainter as they followed the long passage in. The power of destruction also dissipated and turned into another kind of power.

“There’s... there’s a big yum-yum here!” Feng Qi’s eyes lit up. “It’s yummier than the big-headed doll’s coffin! I can guarantee that I won’t be hungry for a year if I eat it!”

“Yummier than the doll’s coffin?!” Lu Yun jumped with surprise. The doll’s coffin was a treasure of the fourth realm and refined from the Soulprison Wood!

A treasure stronger than that coffin?!

“It probably belongs to the Fire Virtue Potentate,” he realized. “The order of opposition is faint here and the power of destruction almost nonexistent, but the energy of fire virtue is becoming ever stronger. We’re almost there!”

He dismissed his tomb mirage with a wave of his hand. A scarlet flame appeared in front of them, basking in the pure fire virtue energy in the surroundings. It was many times stronger than the energy outside.

“We... are probably in the main burial chamber that you mentioned,” murmured the Fish King as she looked around.

This was definitely not the Azure Dragon Lake that they knew. This was another space—most likely where the Fire Virtue Potentate was.

“Perhaps we’re inside the potentate’s body... He’s dead, after all, and we don’t know what he’s turned into after that,” Lu Yun muttered.

When someone of the potentate’s level died, his soul was scattered to the four winds and his body fully disposed of. Otherwise, he’d be reborn from even the smallest particles.

But no matter what his death looked like, there had to be something related to him in the tomb. It could be a valued treasure or part of his body devoid of life force. There had to be something representing him that was suppressed and buried here.

Of course, the potentate might actually be the dead buried in the tomb. Everything was possible here. Whatever it was, it was the power of fire virtue and an existence that violated the order of the Hongmeng. Lu Yun would perfect his fire of order if he refined it and begin the next stage of his cultivation.

“It’s here, but be careful. The potentate’s become the dead in the tomb and that makes him extremely terrifying.” Lu Yun took a deep breath and reached out, materializing the Tome of Life and Death. This treasure was the only way in which he could contend with the Fire Virtue Potentate.

“That’s strange, why do I find this place kind of weird?” Feng Qi fidgeted uncomfortably.

“Weird? How?” Lu Yun looked at him.

“This doesn’t feel like the Hongmeng or any of its child planes or worlds...” Feng Qi frowned ferociously. “There’s nothing here apart from endless fire virtue, absolutely nothing. Even the order of opposition is barely here, and that’s only because it seeped in from the outside world. There’s just the tiniest hint of it present.”

“You talk a lot, little boy, but you’re right. This isn’t the Hongmeng.” An ethereal female voice echoed from an unknown spot.

The flame in front of them jumped slightly as a young girl bearing flaming red hair, scarlet eyes and lips appeared in front of them.

Lu Yun and Feng Qi’s minds blanked with a loud hum when they saw the girl. She was too beautiful!

She was so stunning that her every move and gesture, every look and smile, every inch of her skin spoke of the world’s beauty and epitomized flawless perfection.

This was a girl so beautiful that there were no shortcomings about her. Even Lu Yun found himself momentarily dazed. As a woman, the Fish King also lost herself in the young girl’s looks.

“Are you here to stop me too, little miss?” Lu Yun bit down on his tongue to recover his clarity and looked smilingly at the girl. Laced with dao notes, his words brought Feng Qi and the Fish King back to wakefulness.

“How can there be such a fairy in the world, it’s... simply... just...” Feng Qi smacked his lips. He’d always thought that his sole interest in life was treasures and how to fill his stomach. In this moment, he discovered how incredibly wrong he’d been.

He was interested in the women of the world as well!

“Oh?” The young girl blinked when she heard Lu Yun’s words, then chuckled, “Why don’t you think I’m the Fire Virtue Potentate?”

The young girl’s response made the Fish King shudder and even Feng Qi’s jaw dropped.

“Surely you jest, little miss,” Lu Yun smiled. “The potentate’s very existence violates the orders of the Hongmeng. He constantly exudes a strength that is at odds with the realm, but none of that is found in you.”

“But we’re no longer in the Hongmeng,” smiled the girl. “The great war pierced a hole through this location and formed a world that almost lies precisely between the Hongmeng and fourth realm. That is how the potentate is sealed, and the orders of the Hongmeng do not reach here.”

When she smiled, it was as if the very air bloomed with flowers.

Lu Yun nodded slightly. He’d called upon his fourth realm cultivation level to withstand the girls’ charms. If not, he would’ve lost himself in her smile. Feng Qi and the Fish King likely had forgotten who they were, and if it wasn’t for his aura extending to them, they’d already be drooling.

Feng Qi, in particular, feels like he just went through puberty lol.

Chapter 1479: Fire King

“But there’s one thing you’re right about—I am here to stop you,” the girl said meaningfully. “The Fire Virtue Potentate is close by. If you disturb him in any way or form and awaken him, the seal in the lake won’t be able to keep him under. He’ll turn into a horrific undead and charge out of Azure Dragon Lake, turning the Hongmeng into his world.

“There was once a group of brutal and vicious powerhouses in the fourth realm who continuously attacked the Hongmeng, wanting to refine it into their own world. Those people were later suppressed in the Hadal Hell, never to find redemption, and the Fire Virtue Potentate was one of them.

“Though he was grievously injured, he managed to evade capture and escaped to this Hongmeng world, attempting to refine it into his own so he could recover from his injuries.

“When we look at modern times, the four ancestral gods of the realm have just returned to their rightful positions in a half crippled state. The six supreme gods have long vanished from existence and their heritage is cursed by the potentate. Who do you think can rein him in now if he breaks free of the seal?”

Lu Yun had heard She Nong speak of the Hadal Hell when he visited the fourth realm. The hell had taken shape to keep certain evils in check as those fiends had stopped at nothing and refined or destroyed countless Hongmeng worlds.

The prisoners he’d seen in the Hadal Hell were indeed beings of the fourth realm, but there were also a few corpses that bore no traces of life. Those should be the devils that She Nong had spoken of.

The snake’s words hadn’t been a complete exaggeration as such heartless brutes had indeed once existed in the fourth realm. The Fire Virtue Potentate was one who’d slipped through the cracks. He wasn’t a potentate of the Hongmeng—he’d received this title because his cultivation level had dropped to the potentate realm when he fell to the third realm. No one knew what his real name was.

“Can you and the eleven rulers of the divine nations not do it, little miss?” Lu Yun asked, taken aback.

“Me? Have you not identified who I am yet?” The girl twirled around, eliciting a dry mouth and an involuntary hard swallow from Feng Qi.

“You are... the Fire King?” Lu Yun asked hesitantly after he took a close look at her.

“That’s right, I’m the Fire King—the manifestation of the order of fire in this realm,” she nodded. Just like the previous Talisman King, she was the physical form of an order instead of a living being. Their difference was that she was much stronger than the Talisman King. The Talisman King was just the projection of talisman dao, but she was born of the order of fire and much closer to the core essence of the Hongmeng than talisman dao.

“As I thought!” The Fish King lit up. She’d accompanied Lu Yun on this trip because she wanted to see if he could inspire appearances from the other orders of the realm. First it’d been the Talisman King, now it was the Fire King!

These kinds of existences bore a fatal attraction for a supplemental king like the Fish King; they were as if dao itself.

“You’re not bad at all, little girl.” The Fire King reached a hand out at the Fish King and tapped the center of the woman’s forehead with a finger.

Humm.

A glyph of fire flashed between the Fish King’s brows and sank into her nascent spirit.

“My deepest gratitude for the Fire King’s favor!” The Fish King beamed and curtsied to the manifestation of fire. What she’d received was a brand of the essence of fire order—it was priceless for a supplemental king like her! It would enable her to break through to another cultivation realm and explore an entirely new field.

“I am one of the core orders of the Hongmeng, so I cannot take any action,” the Fire King responded to Lu Yun. “When the Fire Virtue Potentate invaded our Hongmeng, the realm possessed many cultivators on par with the eleven divine rulers. They are now all creatures of destruction in this tomb.”

Wrapped up in joy one moment prior, the Fish King shuddered at the explanation and Feng Qi’s jaw dropped. They could all tell that the creatures here were transformed from the bodies of the powerhouses that’d died in the tomb, but no one had imagined that these bodies would be the corpses of potentates!

“Additionally, the current eleven potentates reached their heights only through the Hongmeng Tower’s bequest. They didn’t attain it through their own cultivation, so they’re far weaker than the potentates who died here all those years ago.

“Although the Fire Virtue Potentate’s cultivation has much decreased, he’s still far, far stronger than them. In that era... the current divine rulers wouldn’t even count as cannon fodder.”

“What about Hong?” Lu Yun asked. “Is she unable to as well?”

“The Fire Virtue Potentate would’ve ended her a long time ago if she could do anything,” replied the Fire King. “But she also must refrain from taking action in the Hongmeng.”

Lu Yun suddenly understood, thinking back to when he first met the Bridge of Forgetfulness. The bridge had wanted to swallow him and Qing Yu, but Hong had appeared. She’d possessed the strength to stop the bridge then—she was a bonafide heavyweight of the fourth realm.

As strong as she was, she seemed to be limited by something and couldn’t deploy her full strength. In Lu Yun’s eyes, she was more of a tomb keeper who watched over the mausoleum in the Hongmeng’s skies.

“Do you still dare disturb the Fire Virtue Potentate?” The Fire King’s scarlet eyes reflected an upside down image of Lu Yun.

“Of course! I’m here to destroy this potentate and take care of this trouble, once and for all!” Lu Yun declared resolutely. “His curse will continuously afflict the chaos creatures if he exists. If that holds true, then they will be irrevocably discarded by the new world order when the immortal dao runs through the Hongmeng and the three realms become one!”

“On what basis do you presume to destroy the Fire Virtue Potentate?” the Fire King frowned. There was nothing wrong with what Lu Yun was saying—anyone who knew the truth of this tomb wanted to permanently resolve the latent threat.

But no one had the ability to.

Those with sufficient strength were limited by the rules of the Hongmeng, and Lu Yun was one of those lacking sufficient power. In some people's eyes, he was just acting like a child.

The eleven divine rulers didn't dare come, but he, a mere superior realm cultivator, was here and whining about destroying the Fire Virtue Potentate. What was this if not being a child?

That was why the azure dragon, big-headed doll, and the Fire King had all materialized to stop him.

"But you can come with me, Fire King. If I can't hold out, you have your ways of sealing him away again, right?" Lu Yun etched a formation disk with the layout of the six royals and handed it to the Fire King.

She stiltedly accepted the item and wasn't sure how to react. I... manifested to stop him, so how am I suddenly in cahoots with him?

"If only that big-headed doll was here too... His Soulprison Wood coffin can definitely restrain the potentate," Lu Yun murmured.

"Who are you calling big headed?? You're big headed, your whole family's big headed!!" rang out an irritated voice.

Lu Yun's "making" more allies again.

Chapter 1480: The Whole Gang's Here

Instead of leaving, the big-headed doll had followed Lu Yun and erupted with outrage when he heard Lu Yun call him a big-headed doll. However, he swiftly jumped behind the Fire King when he sensed an ardent gaze on his body.

Feng Qi's throat bobbed.

"Mm, yummy food and pretty lady..." he said as he stared at the two.

Since the Fire King wasn't a real life form, she didn't think one way or another about Feng Qi's words. That was hardly the same for the big-headed doll.

"Big sis Fire King, what don't we work together and take out these impudent brats. Let's resolve our troubles permanently!" the doll leered at Lu Yun.

"I can't take any action, so you do it." The Fire King seemed to agree with the doll's proposition. Plainly, she wasn't surprised by his sudden appearance.

"Hmph hmph hmph, the Fire Virtue Potentate's in there and we'll wake him if we do anything..." the doll pondered dejectedly. "I should've offed him when I had a chance to outside..."

Lu Yun shrugged wordlessly. He was slightly surprised that the big-headed doll hadn't left, and since there was no killing intent coming from the other—he was all talk.

"Seeing as you're here too, stand guard with big sis Fire King and make sure the Fire Virtue Potentate doesn't run off." Lu Yun tossed another layout of the Six Royals to the doll.

"I, I, when did I agree to stand guard for you?" the doll stammered with formation disk in hand.

“And Azure Dragon, you’re here too aren’t you? The formation that you four ancestral gods set up contains creation, origin, truth, and eternity. I’ve only snuck a look at creation and can’t recreate the formation, so I’ll have to ask that you do it.” Lu Yun raised a cupped fist salute to the air.

“Ai, I couldn’t keep it from you.” The azure dragon’s replica slowly appeared in the void. He hadn’t left after his failure to dissuade Lu Yun, just as the big-headed doll hadn’t. He’d remained hidden on the sidelines, waiting for another opportunity to stop the young man.

Unfortunately, Lu Yun had seen right through him.

“Vermilion Bird, White Tiger, and Black Tortoise can’t make it. My bit of creation is also less than yours,” the azure dragon said dejectedly. “I was born because of creation and protected by creation, but I cannot wield it however I want.

“I can’t even set up a formation of creation, much less the four orders. Back in the day, we set up a great formation of the connate four directions.”

“Uh... fine then, you can have a formation of the Six Royals as well. Stay here and stand guard.” Lu Yun etched another formation disk and tossed it to the ancestral god.

He caught it with a rueful smile and looked at the others. “Are we going to just play along with his antics like this?”

“What else can we do?” The big-headed doll closely inspected his formation disk, nodding to find that it was indeed derived from the purest six supreme orders. “Or should we team up and take him out instead?” he suddenly leered.

“With Her Majesty Fire here and the addition of our support, we should be able to prevent the Fire Virtue Potentate from emerging in the world.” The azure dragon took a look at his formation disk. “It was the six supremes who were the main force in killing him, so the power of the Six Royals can still seal him away!

“Lu Yun,” the ancestral dragon turned to the young man. “If you can set up an even bigger layout of the Six Royals here, you’ll be able to seal away the potentate!

“The Six Royals is a power formed by the six supreme orders, which are the strongest orders in our realm. Our Hongmeng, chaos, and the continuously growing and dying worlds all exist because of them,” the azure dragon explained.

Though creation, truth, origin, and eternity were also hailed as supreme orders, they were “dao” instead of “order”. This kind of dao was something inexplicable and undefinable, but it was born of order and complemented it.

Only with these daos could order become the truth, be eternal, and give rise to life. This was what Lu Yun had gained through the creation he’d found in the flame of order.

The six supreme orders were the highest level of existence when it came to orders. They possessed an incredible killing force that could eliminate even an entity like the Fire Virtue Potentate.

“Alright,” Lu Yun nodded. He waved a hand and released the six great orders—the power of the six dao palaces.

He'd installed the six dao palaces into his kingdom of hell, and that was where his six supreme orders originated from. The six dao palaces were older than the six sacred palaces. Though they weren't as domineering as the sacred palaces, they could deploy stronger power when bolstered by the Tome of Life and Death.

Rumble—

The images of the six dao palaces appeared in the void and set up the Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals.

"This is..." The azure dragon trembled. "The palaces of the six supremes! So he has them, no wonder he can control all six supreme orders by himself!"

His lingering confusion was thus resolved. It was almost impossible for one person to command all six supreme orders. But if he also controlled the six dao palaces, that made it possible.

The dao palaces were different from the sacred palaces, the former were left behind by the six supreme gods. Though they'd been destroyed, their heritage hadn't. They would reappear in the chaos through various ways when the time was right—such as when the mythological realm almost devoured the entire chaos. Leize and the others had stumbled onto a way to return the dao palaces to the chaos and protect the last living beings within it.

The six sacred palaces were based on the dao palaces; they were the product of the chaos' new orders and exercised new authority over the six supreme orders. Afflicted by the Fire Virtue Potentate's curse, the six dao palaces lost their previous power.

However, the curse didn't mean much to Lu Yun. The Tome of Life and Death negated any curse's effect on him.

The appearance of the dao palaces from the chaos nearly attracted the six highest orders in the Hongmeng as well. They imbued the area with their power and manifested the Thousand Obliteration Formation, setting up a layout of the Six Royals.

The tiny world was instantly overwhelmed by the titanic power of the royals.

"I've found him. Fish King, Feng Qi, come with me!" Lu Yun beckoned at them.

"Alright!" Feng Qi brightened and rushed after the young man. The Fish King wanted to chat more with the Fire King, but she suddenly grasped why Lu Yun had summoned her and quickly brought up the rear.