

Necropolis 1481

Chapter 1481: Fire Virtue

“The Immortal King is a meticulous plotter, alright,” sighed the azure dragon upon seeing Lu Yun vanish with the Fish King and Feng Qi.

“What’s so meticulous about him?” grumbled the big-headed doll.

“He took those two with him because he doesn’t want to be affected by any karma. Either Feng Qi can eat the treasures they encounter or the Fish King can take them. He won’t touch any,” explained the azure dragon. “If he loses control over his greed and claims any of the treasures, he’ll form a karmic relationship with the Fire Virtue Potentate. once that happens, he won’t be able to kill the potentate.”

“So he can’t control himself at the end of the day, that’s all there is to it,” sniffed the doll.

“Only someone like the Fire King would remain unmoved by the potentate’s treasures. There are none in this Hongmeng who can ignore them entirely. Can you do so?” the azure dragon shot back as he toyed with his formation disk.

The big-headed doll opened his mouth to retort, but didn’t say anything.

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Indeed, Lu Yun couldn’t bear to ignore the dazzling array of treasures floating around him, but he also couldn’t take any, which was why he’d brought along Feng Qi and the Fish King. They’d stumbled into an unexpected area. According to the layout of a tomb, this should be where the coffin of the Fire Virtue Potentate was located.

Except, the tomb wasn’t meant to lay the potentate to rest, so the coffin here wasn’t a coffin either. It was replaced by another kind of layout.

The four ancestral gods and six supreme gods had once sought to destroy the Fire Virtue Potentate—a fact that the potentate was well aware of, which was why he’d placed boundless treasures around him. These were all premier treasures of the Hongmeng and ultimate treasures of the fourth realm.

Anyone who took a treasure would form a karmic relationship with the potentate and thus be unable to fully kill him. The potentate could even utilize certain methods to assimilate the treasure holder into his own body.

“There... are so many treasures here.” Feng Qi swallowed hard. “So many treasures that are yummier than the big-headed doll’s coffin!”

“They’re all ownerless, so you can eat whatever you’d like to eat.” Lu Yun nodded.

“They won’t poison me?” Since he’d just eaten a plank from the doll’s coffin, Feng Qi wasn’t too hungry at the moment. Thus, he had the mental capacity to doubt Lu Yun’s words.

“Don’t worry, nothing will poison you when I’m around.” Lu Yun shook his head confidently.

“Then here I come!” Feng Qi shot out like the wind and grabbed a spear blazing with flames that was hovering in the air. He gleefully bit down on the weapon.

The Fish King's heart bled. She could tell with a single glance that the spear wasn't a treasure of the Hongmeng. It was a weapon refined from materials of the fourth realm that Feng Qi was happily chomping through! Even the eleven divine rulers would fight over it if the spear was in the third realm.

But now, it was being devoured by Feng Qi like a piece of bread.

"That spear isn't even the best of what's available here, so you go as well." Lu Yun nodded at the Fish King.

"Won't we be assimilated by the Fire Virtue Potentate if we lay hands on anything?" the Fish King paused.

"That would be the case if I wasn't here—you guys would become his replica or puppet. But with me here, he's dead if he dares make a move."

"And you aren't tempted yourself?" the Fish King continued.

"Of course I am! Many of these items are rare even in the fourth realm. Would I bring you two here if I'm not?" Lu Yun responded matter-of-factly.

"Then that's weird, it's ours if we take it and we won't give it to you afterward. Are you going to take it from us by force?" The Fish King would never give something to Lu Yun after she obtained it, including the egg that the Fire Virtue Orb had taken shape as.

"You'll know when you go," Lu Yun smiled faintly. "Hurry and snatch some treasure from Feng Qi, or you'll really cry when he eats the good stuff."

"Then I'm going, and everything I get is mine! Don't expect me to give you anything!" The Fish King leapt upward and vanished on the spot.

It was a land of purest fire virtue here without anything else present—order and destruction were unable to share the space. Countless treasures floated in the air, too many to fathom counting. They were as if the stars in the night sky, and the potentate had purposefully placed them here.

Whoever took any of them would form a karmic relationship with him, and he'd be able to take his next steps through these ties.

Even Lu Yun found it hard to restrain his greed, but he was now at peace with things.

"You're my martial granddaughter, so I'm just giving things to my own people. That's alright," he muttered and walked further into the depths. "Yo, you really created a coffin for yourself, you old fella."

An enormous scarlet coffin laid at the center of this locale. Flaming glyphs covered its surface—the fire virtue glyphs of the void.

Fire virtue was something that later came to be in nature—fire controlled by living beings. These glyphs were the traces of when fire virtue had been wielded by another. Plainly, the Fire Virtue Potentate had crafted this coffin for himself.

"Are you really going to kill me?" came a clear voice as a young man in black appeared out of nowhere, sitting on the coffin.

"I don't need to, you're already dead. I'm just here to eliminate you." Lu Yun nodded.

The young man in black possessed black hair and eyes, and a strength that was at odds with the realm emanated from his body. He existed to destroy this world; its orders viewed him as a great enemy.

"Do you know who I am?" he asked with a meaningful look at Lu Yun.

"Fire Virtue Potentate? That's the name that this Hongmeng has given you—or do you have another name?" Lu Yun blinked.

"Ai," sighed the young man. "I am Fire Virtue, the fire god venerated by countless chaoses and beings. I brought fire to humanity and scattered the seeds of fire through the worlds, sowing the murky chaos with civilization.

"But for that, I was labeled a demon and a deviation, slandered and hunted by endless others..."

"Whatever deeds of merit you might have accomplished before coming here was a thing of the past the moment you aimed your blade at the Hongmeng," Lu Yun interrupted.

"You're right," Fire Virtue paused with surprise. "Someone else once said the same thing to me, but what of it? I am viewed as a demon because I broke the taboo and gifted civilization to the third realm. When did you see me aim my blade at Hongmeng beings?"

Chapter 1482: Surrounded

"But I did see it," Lu Yun nodded. "I can see all life and death here. I see you killing them one by one, extracting the power of this Hongmeng from their bodies and refining their corpses into your own.

"More than thirty million true kings and a hundred thousand potentates died here. Some fell in battle and some you tortured to death while you stripped their dao rules from them.

"But it doesn't matter to me whether you're a saint or demon. None of that is important. What's important is that I kill you and complete my dao."

"You want to kill me?" Genteel and refined, the Fire Virtue Potentate suddenly leered and released black smoke from his body. Two white claws reached out from the smoke, swiping at Lu Yun.

"Dropping the act, huh?" Lu Yun sneered when he saw the claws reach for him. He manifested a purple bead interlaced with silver patterns and smashed it against the claws.

Bam!

The claws shattered the moment they touched the bead; the Fire Virtue Potentate's strength was suppressed before he had a chance to fully release it.

He stumbled backward and regarded Lu Yun with shock. He was dead and buried here, but after countless aeons, he'd recovered the same strength of a Hongmeng potentate that he'd wielded when he was alive.

This young man was just a superior realm cultivator, one not yet titled by the Hongmeng Tower. His cultivation wasn't true first level yet, so no matter what he called himself with, he was only a superior realm cultivator!

The Fire Virtue Potentate could kill him hundreds of millions of times over by simply breathing on him, but the young man had used a bead to force the potentate back! This was ludicrously farfetched, something that shouldn't be possible!

"You came prepared, you have something that counters me!" Realizing the truth of the situation, the potentate grabbed the scarlet coffin next to him and threw it at Lu Yun.

Lu Yun twirled the bead through the air and flung it at the coffin as well.

Craaaack!

The study coffin crashed to the ground as a pile of splintered wood.

Whoosh!

Silver fire darted out of the Hongmeng Pearl and set the coffin shards on fire, denying them the chance of reassembly.

"What is that?!" shrieked the potentate. "What is that?? Hellfire from the Hadal Hell?! No, that isn't it. What... what is that?!"

He whirled around with another shriek and ran from sheer terror. He'd barely escaped being sealed in the Hadal Hell years ago and being eternally shut out from rebirth. Thus, his wits deserted him out of pure horror when encountering a flame similar to hadal hellfire.

Throwing all other thoughts out of his mind, the Fire Virtue Potentate shot into the air as a pillar of flame and sought to flee the scene.

Once bitten, twice shy.

Most importantly was that he knew hadal hellfire could restrain kings. Even a dead supreme of the fourth realm would come under the hellfire's control! Since he was dead, he would immediately plummet to the Hadal Hell if the flames touched him, salvation to be eternally out of his grasp!

Additionally, he saw another power in the silver flames that could also restrain the current him.

"Who is this young man to control the strength of the Hadal Hell as a superior realm cultivator?!" The Fire Virtue Potentate was absolutely certain that the young man possessed the power of the Hadal Hell—he wouldn't dare come here otherwise!

"An unparalleled existence claimed the Hadal Hell after it was built and, along with the other five, set it to protect the core essence of the fourth realm's orders. Why is it with this young man??" That he called the fourth realm so indicated that he wasn't a native of the fourth realm. He was someone who'd cultivated his way to those heights.

Those of the fourth realm believed that their realm was the only one that existed in all of existence, that the so-called Hongmeng was just floating prisons through their realm. They wouldn't call their home the fourth realm.

The Fire Virtue Potentate had completely lost his mind—even a pig wielding the power of the Hadal Hell would scatter his soul and vanquish him from this world with just the merest hint of that strength.

Rumble!!

He flung himself at the void, trying to break through it and escape to another location. He'd accumulated enough strength. Though he'd be affected by the order of opposition outside, it was better than dying here and being devoured by the order!

Rumble!!

He rammed the void again.

Craaaack, crack cracccck.

A large cavity appeared in the air.

"Though it's not the right time for me to emerge in the world, there are no more powerhouses left in this Hongmeng, no? When my power of fire virtue envelops this Hongmeng and turns it into my world of fire virtue, I will no longer need to fear the Hadal Hell!

"And, it's said that this Hongmeng is the origin of the fourth realm!" He drove his fist through the hole and prepared to squeeze himself outside.

Boooooom!

Fearsome power of the Six Royals blasted down at him and forced him back.

"What?!" Caught off guard, the potentate was thrown back by Lu Yun's last Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals.

"He's making his escape alright, to arms!" The azure dragon jumped with shock and quickly activated his formation disk, overlaying it with himself as a formation robe. He was suddenly reminded of that far off era, when the six supreme gods bolstered him with the same formation and bestowed him the strength of the Six Royals.

The big-headed doll copied his movement and committed to it to an even further degree. He swallowed the formation and drew over himself with his brush.

Hummm.

Radiance of six different colors flashed by—the doll had transformed himself into a Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals!

"Buahahaha, this little grandpa finally sees the secrets of the Six Royals! Muahahaha, Fire Virtue Potentate, remember me??" Roaring with laughter, the doll charged the potentate head first.

"It's you!" gasped the Fire Virtue Potentate.

Chapter 1483: The Fire and Ignis Potentate

"You've come to this Hongmeng as well?!" The Fire Virtue Potentate's scalp went numb when he saw the big-headed doll that'd turned himself into a Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals.

While the strange young man bore the presence of the Hadal Hell, he was just a superior realm cultivator. The potentate could still make his escape if he wanted to.

But if he faced the big-headed doll? A completely different story since this was another little monster also from the fourth realm!

The Thousand Obliteration Formation enveloped their surroundings like an enormous pot lid descending from the air. The potentate was truly beginning to feel that his back was against the wall.

“What’s going on?” To his surprise, the azure dragon detected a distinct lack of battle intent from the Fire Virtue Potentate. The azure dragon’s rebuff hadn’t drawn an answering blow, and the potentate seemed to be more focused on running as far away as possible.

“This is the Fire Virtue Potentate who once rampaged through the land and wants to devour others even when dead?” the azure dragon murmured with incredulity.

“The lad has something that can restrain the potentate, no wonder he dared make this trip.” The Fire King instantly grasped the situation when she noted how the potentate was scurrying around, trying to find a way out.

Reality was shaping up to be much different compared to their expectations.

The Thousand Obliteration Formation could resonate with the seal and borrow its strength to kill the Fire Virtue Potentate. But if that came to pass, the azure dragon would also die and the big-headed doll badly crippled.

Additionally, if the execution was done poorly, that might actually release the potentate and set him free in the Hongmeng.

“Wait, there’s another kind of power hidden in the formation that he gave us, it can also restrain the potentate!” The Fire King blinked and turned to the doll, “Don’t refine the formation just yet and don’t try to grasp the secrets of the Six Royals through it. You’ll become one of his if you do so.”

Caught in the throes of excitement, the doll shook like a leaf when he heard the warning.

“Don’t use your own strength, use the formation’s strength to fight the potentate,” she continued, having finally understood Lu Yun’s intentions. He wasn’t here to kill the Fire Virtue Potentate, but to refine the latter.

There was a strange power in the formations that he’d set up, one that could refine the potentate’s strength and also completely imprison him, never to reincarnate or find release.

It was why the potentate was running around like a headless chicken—he’d discovered the same thing.

“Damn that Lu Yun, he’s so shameless and dishonorable! He was plotting against me even here!” The big-headed doll gritted his teeth and reluctantly gave up the strand of comprehension he’d just gained about the Six Royals.

This Hongmeng was very likely the origin of the fourth realm, which made the energy here fundamentally different from that of all other Hongmeng worlds. They could also spy into the core essence of the third realm through this world.

“Big sister Fire King, someone’s coming. Please hold them off for me!” Lu Yun’s voice traveled leisurely up from below. He seemed to have sensed something.

The Fire King hadn't truly taken any action yet. She was just directing Lu Yun's formation against the Fire Virtue Potentate, chasing him with a giant fly swatter.

"Alright." She was very much at ease since it would also greatly benefit her if they could eliminate a great enemy of the realm. She'd wanted to destroy the potentate previously, but had no way of doing so.

"That kid really does have the ability to kill the potentate... The potentate's power of fire virtue is mine after his death!" A man wreathed with blazing flames abruptly appeared in the air over Azure Dragon Lake. When he took a step forward, it parted the lake's waters, allowing him to sink right to the bottom.

Even true kings would have to treat the order of opposition and power of destruction in the lake with care, but the man had parted the waters with a simple step. He was plainly stronger than true king.

Potentate!

A Hongmeng potentate had joined the fray.

"Fire Potentate, that Fire Virtue Potentate is a very important character. You cannot interfere before he's completely dead!" Another blazing figure darted into the lake and halted the first man.

"Ignis Potentate, you're also here for his power of fire virtue!" scoffed the Fire Potentate. "If that Lu Yun wipes him out of existence, neither you nor I will gain anything!"

The Ignis Potentate's flame-colored brows furrowed slightly. "So what do you want?"

"Take it from the boy!" chuckled the Fire Potentate. "We can save the Fire Virtue Potentate before he dies and split his core essence, how about it?"

The Ignis Potentate quieted down. They were heavyweights that had become potentates later in history. Though they knew of the devastating battle years ago, they hadn't experienced it for themselves.

Thus, they didn't know the evils that the Fire Virtue Potentate was capable of.

"Very well!" The Ignis Potentate nodded. "We'll do as you say and refine his core essence after we save him!"

An answering smile crossed the Fire Potentate's face before both of them leapt forward and made for the seal at the bottom of the lake.

Since the azure dragon was present, the seal was now wispy and intangible. He'd sent Qing Yan and Qing Ting away to safety. The two potentates easily passed through it and came to the land of fire virtue.

"What fine energy! If I can obtain these examples of purest fire virtue, my divine nation of Ignis will surpass Yin Yang and become the greatest divine nation among the realm!" The Ignis Potentate could barely control himself after he encountered the power.

"The Fire Virtue Potentate is barely holding on, it's the perfect time to act!" The two potentates looked at each other and shot for the area with the purest of fire virtue.

"The two of you can go back to where you came from," sounded a gentle female voice.

Fiery radiance flashed by as the Fire King appeared where the two would have to travel through.

“Fire King! You are the manifestation of a Hongmeng order and cannot interfere in the affairs of the realm!” The Fire Potentate wasn’t surprised by her appearance. They’d known she was here and were wholly unafraid.

“I have no choice when it pertains to the survival of the realm. I will call upon the Hongmeng Tower if the two of you take another step forward and withdraw your power as potentate.” The Fire King’s expression grew frosty.

“Withdraw our power?” snorted the Fire Potentate. “The tower is currently a masterless treasure and its mistress vanished all those years ago. What will it use to retract our power?”

Chapter 1484: Three Hundred and Sixty-Four

Though the Hongmeng Tower was the overseer of the Hongmeng, it was just a treasure. Whoever wielded it was the master of the realm, but it currently lacked an owner!

Its master had disappeared long ago, whereas manifestations of order—such as the Fire King—were a result of the tower. They appeared when they absorbed sufficient collective wisdom to take form.

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“The mistress is about to return and the Hongmeng will have its master soon. The two of you should retreat now, or I will truly show you no mercy.” The Fire King’s arctic tones turned chiller, matched by her expression.

“What’s the point of wasting your breath on them?” came a clear voice as the Talisman King—the one who’d appeared at Azure Dragon City and collected the poison formation—appeared next to the Fire King at some point in time.

He was the same as the Fire King this time around—a projection of order, as opposed to borrowing the Talisman Adept King’s body.

“If the Fire King can’t do anything to you two, how about me?” He glared coolly at the two potentates. “You’ve got some nerve to suppress the realm’s true kings for a hundred years. The eleventh key to the tower will certainly appear during this time period. You’re attempting to deny them the opportunity to become potentates, aren’t you?”

The Terra Potentate’s decree had truly infuriated him. Suppress the realm’s true kings for a hundred years? It would be one thing at any other point in time, but the immortal dao would traverse the Hongmeng in the next one hundred years and so would the eleventh key to the tower appear.

Eleven keys permitted eleven powerhouses to enter the tower and receive its direct blessings to become potentates. The realm’s holistic strength would double if another eleven potentates joined its ranks; the ghosts wouldn’t be able to wreak havoc unbridled.

But these eleven potentates wanted to suppress the true kings for their own selfish desires and strip from them the chance to enter the Hongmeng Tower!

All kings could enter the tower, whether true king or titled king. However, the kings of the realm weren't strong enough. It was very hard for one to become a potentate in the tower if they weren't a true king to begin with.

Though five of the keys were on the Purple King, he wouldn't really enter the tower with five keys for himself when the time came.

"Suppressing the true kings for a hundred years is only to ensure that the immortal dao smoothly traverses the Hongmeng," frowned the Fire Potentate. "The eleven of us have done what you said—we've summoned the true kings of the realm to discuss the matter, but we haven't reached a consensus yet..."

"Then go back and keep discussing, what are you doing sticking your nose into this matter?" The Talisman King looked at the potentate with unconcealed killing intent.

His blunt response induced a scowl on the Fire Potentate's face. The two potentates were certain that the Fire King wouldn't act against them, but the same couldn't be said about the Talisman King.

The Talisman King wasn't a product of the realm's core essence, he was an order from one of many great daos in the land. He could absolutely do as he wished in the Hongmeng. Even a divine nation of talisman dao wasn't out of the question if he wanted it.

He just wasn't willing to establish something like that, but he was perfectly willing and able to fight the two potentates.

While the Talisman King wasn't that much stronger than the two, he was undying. As long as the Hongmeng and her orders remained, he would be infinitely reborn. He could also self detonate and trade his current life for theirs.

"Piss off!" the Talisman King shouted at the potentates.

Though extremely irritated, they could do nothing but take a deep look at the Talisman King and vanish as two streaks of light.

"They want to kill you now," the Fire King said meaningfully.

"There's plenty of people who want to," nodded the Talisman King. "But they're all dead."

"If the Hongmeng Tower appears again and the eleven potentates call upon it together, they can completely destroy our bodies and minds and make sure that we never manifest again," said the Fire King.

"The mistress is about to return and the Hongmeng will have its master. The next time the tower descends, those eleven will not be the ones giving orders in this realm anymore." The Talisman King was wholly unconcerned. "Before the mistress left, she employed incredible methods to form us out of the Hongmeng's orders. Now that she is to return, she'll be able to resurrect us even if our minds are lost."

"The mistress is about to return?" The Fire King blinked.

“She is in the world of immortals,” smiled the Talisman King. “When the immortal dao reaches great perfection, so will she. I’ve already met her heir—she has the mistress’ strength and will be the future master of the tower.”

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The battle was reaching its final moments. With death staring at him dead in the eye, the Fire Virtue Potentate didn’t have time to be afraid. He released his strongest power and shaped endless fire virtue into fire virtue ghosts, sending them against the six formations around him.

The big-headed doll and azure dragon were shocked. They didn’t dare use their own strength since it was useless against the current potentate. He might even devour it instead and doom them forever.

The Fire Virtue Potentate’s dreadful might was far worse than could’ve been imagined. If they weren’t wielding a formation armed with the power of the Hadal Hell, the azure dragon would’ve died in an instant and the big-headed doll turned into food.

“Motherfucker, the potentate’s dead and his strength is now ghostly strength. Even if I summon the akasha ghosts, I’ll at most just match him!

“This little grandpa is no rival for him in this land of fire virtue.” The doll wrapped his formation around himself and changed tack to passively defying the fire virtue ghosts. “The heck is that kid doing? Why isn’t he making a move yet??”

The doll looked in Lu Yun’s direction.

Feng Qi and the Fish King had claimed all of the treasures in the void and shoved them into storage, but they didn’t leave with their gains. They flanked Lu Yun and were protecting him.

Silver radiance emitted from the Hongmeng Pearl as three hundred and sixty-four lines intersected on its surface.

Three hundred and sixty-four!

The strength of the Six Royals was absorbing the Fire Virtue Potentate’s strength as the two fought and enabling Lu Yun’s hellfire of order to develop to three hundred and sixty-four strands of flame!

Once the final one took shape, the hellfire of order would truly ignite and the Hongmeng Pearl turn into the hell of order!

Though the last tendril seemed close at hand, it was separated by an insurmountable chasm. Only when Lu Yun refined the potentate would he perfect his hellfire.

But with the potentate raging through the area and sending his terrifying power churning and barreling every which way, Lu Yun didn’t dare get close to him. All he could do was set up a layout according to the Hadal Hell and replicate the hell here!

Chapter 1485: My God

Seemingly affected by the arrival of the Hadal Hell, the Fire Virtue Potentate grew ever more wild and violent. An endless stream of ghost spirits poured forth from his fire virtue and smashed the great formation around the azure dragon!

Stricken with horror, the azure dragon didn't have time to react before the ghostly spirits mobbed and vanquished his replica.

Dead!

Not the azure dragon's real body, of course, but one of his replicas that'd taken shape through the power of the seal. It didn't hurt him when it died.

The big-headed doll, however, was here in the flesh. If he died here, he was truly dead. Of course, since his true strength had reached the fourth realm and thus surpassed a Hongmeng potentate, he wouldn't die so easily.

Bam!

The doll's Thousand Obliteration Formation of the Six Royals also cracked beneath countless charges from the ghostly spirits.

Though the spirits were also restrained by the power of the Hadal Hell within the formation, they didn't care about their survival when under the Fire Virtue Potentate's control. They burned their core essence to attack the array!

The ghostly spirits were born from the fragmented souls of beings that'd died in the tomb. After countless years, they'd all come under the Fire Virtue Potentate's sway and were his soldiers to invade the fourth realm after he refined the Hongmeng.

He'd never factored in Lu Yun's arrival; the possibility of someone like the young man had never been in his realm of existence. Not only had the young man almost killed the potentate, but he'd decimated more than half of the army of ghostly spirits! As furious and anxious as the potentate was, there was nothing he could do. All he could do for the moment was gather and wrap his fire virtue around him for protection.

"I will no longer be affected by the Hadal Hell if I could undergo rebirth." The Fire Virtue Potentate slowly recovered his calm and hid himself in fire virtue, observing the situation around him.

He was dead, so he couldn't be reborn through his own strength. He could only accomplish it through reversing life and death through borrowing a living being's soul!

"One that's too weak won't do. I left behind so many treasures so I could form karmic relationships with those who enter this area, but..." The potentate looked around. Since Lu Yun hadn't taken any of the treasures, the potentate didn't share any karma with him.

"The other young man and little girl took them, but there's something protecting the little girl from karma." The potentate frowned ferociously. Something that protected the holder from karmic repercussions existed only in the fourth realm!

Treasures of the fourth realm sometimes appeared in the Hongmeng. Since the third realm was different worlds floating in the fourth realm, it wasn't uncommon for treasures born in the latter to

accidentally fall into a Hongmeng world and be picked up by a local denizen. The sword named Quiet that the Di Clan had once possessed was one such example.

Thus, the potentate wasn't too surprised that a Hongmeng being owned a fourth realm treasure—but one that evaded karma was an immense surprise!

"It's mine! I'll take it from the girl after I take possession of my new body and kill that kid!" Greed sparkled to life in the Fire Virtue Potentate's true spirit. This kind of item was an ultimate treasure in the fourth realm!

"The other kid... has a belly full of treasures?! Trying to eat my treasures? That makes for prodigious karma. Heh heh heh, your body is mine!

"It's a shame he's only true first level. If he was a true king, I'd be able to bring some of my strength to bear!" Taking possession of Feng Qi was the potentate's least preferred option. A mere true first level was really too pathetic for his taste. Though it would enable his rebirth, he'd have to spend a lot of time and effort to recover his cultivation level and strength afterward.

"It's fine, getting out of here alive is of primary importance!" The potentate transformed into a tiny flaming star and vanished into the void.

"What?! Those fire virtue ghosts are coming for us!" Feng Qi jumped with shock.

The teeming horde of ghostly spirits had eaten the azure dragon's replica and destroyed the big-headed doll's formation; the only obstacle they had issues with was the enormous formation overhead that clamped down as if a pot lid.

Lu Yun waved a hand when he saw the fire virtue spirits rush out and sent the Army Pagoda forward. Troops of soldiers walked out in orderly formation—one hundred and eight individuals.

These one hundred and eight soldiers were the inhabitants of the pagoda's first level. Having passed the first level's test, Lu Yun could command these soldiers.

They were all true first level—cultivators on the proper path. Directed by the king soldier, they immediately assembled into a huge formation when they marched out and set up a blockade against the fire virtue ghostly spirits.

"So it's the remnants of you scum." A hazy purple flying sword floated next to the king soldier. He inclined his head at the masses of ghostly spirits. "How dare rats who escaped from my God's hand come back?! Kill!"

He summoned a rain of sword light with his weapon and directed it at the spirits.

"Be careful, the fiery rat wants to possess the young man next to you," he said with a glance at Lu Yun.

Feng Qi shuddered in horror.

"What did you say? Rats who escaped from your God's hands?" Lu Yun stilled his movements with surprise.

“When these demons ripped through the land and attempted to refine the Hongmeng, my God and nine other great ones worked in conjunction to capture them and suppress them within the Hadal Hell. That scum escaped from my liege’s hands due to obtaining the opportunity of fire virtue, but to think that you’d come here to continue your evil!” murmured the king soldier. Instead of joining his men, he stood next to Lu Yun.

Though the soldiers were just true first level, their strength was far beyond it. They were plainly all peerless powerhouses themselves.

Lu Yun nodded, having guessed a long time ago that there was far more to the Ten Valleys of Evil than met the eye. All of their founders could’ve once been heavyweights in the fourth realm—and it now seemed that his speculations were right.

“He wants to possess Feng Qi? Not a chance.” A cold sneer curved his lips as the Hongmeng Pearl abruptly disassembled.

Boom!

Hazy purple radiance interspersed with pure silver flames bloomed in the void. An even more terrifying layout extended from the purple illumination—the Hadal Hell!

Utilizing the Hongmeng Pearl as the center, Lu Yun finally released the Hadal Hell layout that he’d been crafting all this time.

Yoooo! These soldiers have something to do with God! I love it!

Chapter 1486: The Five Hells

Under the king soldier, big-headed doll, Fire and Talisman Kings’ shocked gazes, a pitch-black darkness swiftly swallowed the domain of fire virtue. Tongues of hadal hellfire ravaged the territory like cyclones, disintegrating any fire virtue ghostly spirits they touched.

Lu Yun slowly rose into the air, the Tome of Life and Death manifesting over his head. He was now a potentate, the beholder of life and death for everyone on the premises!

“It’s the Hadal Hell, it’s really the Hadal Hell...” Hidden in the depths and ready to take possession of Feng Qi, a dumbfounded Fire Virtue Potentate drifted into view and looked up at Lu Yun in the void. He lost all motivation for defiance.

The Hadal Hell!

Though it was just a feng shui layout giving rise to a special pocket of space, it possessed the power of the real hell. This was essentially the Hadal Hell’s projection, and the young man wielded the real hell as well!

“Since he owns the hell, why not just call upon its power to instantly capture, suppress, and doom me for all eternity?” Some bafflement rose in the potentate’s mind.

Lu Yun slowly opened his arms and manifested certain changes in the inky darkness of the world. Since the hellfire of order was about to fully take shape, the hellfires of the Hadal, Sanguine, Nether Abyssal, and Nihil Hells could break away from their brethren and form their own system.

Power from the five hells appeared at the same time and draped around Lu Yun. A pinprick of vermilion energy suddenly appeared in the void, dying the shadows of the Hadal Hell into a sea of red.

“This is... the Sanguine Hell!” The Fire Virtue Potentate’s knees gave way and he sagged weakly to the ground. The Hadal Hell had progressed toward the Sanguine Hell, meaning that this youth controlled more than just one hell!

The Fire and Talisman Kings looked at each other, then dismissed their projections in uncoordinated unison. They were free to return to being an order of the realm now that Lu Yun was displaying his true strength. This matter no longer required their presence. In fact, the strength he was displaying was more a cause of concern for them than anything else in this fight.

His power originated from the fourth realm and was the most frightening of them all—the one of hell.

If the two kings remained present, they were very likely to be impacted by the fourth realm and find themselves overwhelmed to the point of nonexistence. Even the mistress wouldn’t be able to resurrect them then.

Meanwhile, the big-headed doll was so dumbfounded that he couldn’t move from his state of being a pile on the ground. It was one thing to control the Hadal Hell since there were many stunning geniuses in the fourth realm. They could also project the Hadal Hell since they, too, perceived the ephemeral qualities of that hell.

But Lu Yun had then turned the Hadal Hell into the Sanguine Hell! This was a little too frightening to fathom.

Was perceiving the power of one hell not enough? He had to perceive a second and change the Hadal Hell into the Sanguine Hell!

What had been a zone of complete darkness was suddenly something that resembled the Blood Sea. After coming to be, the Sanguine Hell’s fire surged from all directions, filling the space to capacity and providing enough strength for the hell to attempt refining the Fire Virtue Potentate.

Though his fire virtue originated from the fourth realm, it wasn’t sufficient to protect him. At the same time, Lu Yun was looking to refine him with sanguine hellfire instead of killing him.

“Big-headed doll, the next person to be consumed by hellfire will be you if you don’t get out now,” Lu Yun suddenly called out.

The doll had wanted to see what other methods Lu Yun had up his sleeve, but immediately changed his mind when he heard this.

“Refine me? With only what you’ve got?” the doll sneered. “If I wanted to, I could’ve instantly pierced through your Sanguine Hell layout and rescued the Fire Virtue Potentate!”

“Is that so?” The king soldier next to Lu Yun curled his lip. “You can try.”

The other soldiers had finished their mission and returned to Lu Yun’s side, standing guard for him. Hence, the king soldier couldn’t help but laugh at the doll’s bold statement. “I’ve already guessed your identity, so you better leave as soon as possible!”

“Puppets created by God?” The doll swept a dismissive glance up and down the king soldier. “You puppets were gasping for your last breath when God struggled with the immortal dao—eh, huh?!”

He abruptly shut his mouth and his eyes shot wide open.

Changes were occurring in the vermilion Sanguine Hell. It began to shift to a translucent cast as clear flames gathered from all directions, replacing the vermilion flames.

Nether Hellfire!

The Sanguine Hell was now the Nether Hell!

The doll shrieked and left without another word.

“What the fuckity fuck fuck?! The heritage of all five hells are on you! No wonder you can plot against me and make me suffer a tribulation instead of the akasha ghosts! This little grandpa is so completely innocent! Why did I ever run afoul of you?!” The big-headed doll vanished from the scene, leaving behind a king soldier with a frozen expression.

“You are dismissed.” The Army Pagoda exploded with hazy purple light when Lu Yun waved his hand. The soldiers and their king returned to the treasure, as was the Fish King and Feng Qi sent outside of the tomb.

Only Lu Yun and the Fire Virtue Potentate were left. Black hadal hellfire burned quietly in a layout that wasn’t overly strong—any regular ninth step king could shatter it. The will it contained within, however, could constrain the potentate and turn him into a fly in amber.

Hadal hellfire began to refine the potentate; the fire virtue around him had been dispersed. His true form was that of a humanoid being with three heads and six arms. All manner of curiosities abounded in the universe and such beings existed in the Hongmeng, chaos, and world of immortals, so his didn’t raise any eyebrows.

“How about I tell you the secrets of fire virtue if you let me go?” the potentate suddenly offered. “I’ll also tell you an astounding secret about the fourth realm, I can even give you its ultimate treasures! You’ll be able to pierce through the barrier of the Hongmeng and enter the fourth realm!”

Lu Yun remained focused on the layout and ignored the potentate’s words. Gradually, a bit of gray fire sparkled to life and turned the Nether Hell into the gray Abyssal Hell.

When abyssal hellfire began to consume the Fire Virtue Potentate, despair flashed through his eyes. If the Abyssal Hell was here, then the last Nihil Hell wouldn’t be far off.

“D-don’t you want to know what the ghosts in the Nihil Hell are?!” he suddenly screamed.

Chapter 1487: Fighting Over Their Person

Though white nihil hellfire had already materialized, Lu Yun paused when he heard the surprising declaration.

The Fire Virtue Potentate breathed out in relief. He would immediately fly apart upon the wind as soon as the Nihil Hell manifested, turning into ash beneath the five hells.

“I can tell you if you retract your hell at this very moment and release me!” The potentate thought rapidly and guessed that the ghosts in the Nihil Hell were a source of uncommon frustration for Lu Yun. This would be a perfect condition to negotiate with.

“Let me go, prepare a true king body for me, give me the six orders of the highest degree... and the secrets of the five hells! In return, I’ll tell you where the ghosts come from and how to restrain them.” Thinking that he had Lu Yun by the throat, the Fire Virtue Potentate reeled off a list of demands.

“What a fucking idiot, has hellfire cooked your brains?” Lu Yun curved his lips and waved the dispersed nihil hellfire back into being. The Abyssal Hell slowly continued evolving into the Nihil Hell.

“What?! Don’t you want to know where those ghosts come from?! In all of the worlds, including the fourth realm, I am the only one who knows about them!” The potentate’s wits deserted him when he saw Lu Yun continue calling the Nihil Hell into being. “You’ll never know their secrets if I die, and those ghosts are also eying the Hongmeng. They’ll conquer this world sooner or later and turn it into a ghost world!

“You won’t be able to stop them even with the five hells!” His tones were incredibly urgent. “Or are you not willing to share your secrets with me? ...then I can forgo your five hells, just give me the six orders of the highest degree...”

Surely Lu Yun was continuing to project the Nihil Hell as intimidation and a negotiation tactic!

However, the young man remained wholly unmoved by the potentate’s words. Pure white nihil hellfire had spared through the void and the Nihil Hell was truly upon them.

Blazing flames instantly swallowed the potentate.

“You, you, you really want to kill me! I can leave this Hongmeng forever if you let me go! The ghosts in the Nihil Hell are the true threats to this Hongmeng! Hey! You!! YOU!! STOP!!” The potentate shrieked with fear and extreme confusion.

Hadn’t the Nihil Hell been occupied by the ghosts? Why could this young man utilize its strength and project it here?

“The ghosts in the Nihil Hell aren’t important to me,” Lu Yun responded casually. “I’m just a superior realm cultivator and not yet a titled king or in the true first level. I need to continue cultivating before I can consider anything else.

“Unfortunately for you, you are the opportunity in which I can continue cultivating. I can keep moving forward if I refine you, and only then will I have the ability to consider who is my true enemy.” He looked coolly at the potentate, who was truly feeling utter despair now. So Lu Yun hadn’t planned on showing him mercy from beginning to end!

Hell once more underwent changes as the Nihil Hell slowly faded away, creating room for pinpricks of faint purple to wink into existence as far as the eye could see and completely surround the area.

Pale silver radiance gently floated into the void as the fires of the Hadal, Sanguine, Nether, Abyssal, and Nihil Hells appeared at the same time. In their center was a tiny, pale-silver tongue of flame that burned quietly.

Three hundred and sixty-four tendrils of flame had gathered together. When their last brethren came into being, that would ignite the true flame of order, and Lu Yun would officially set foot onto his own path.

The fire of three hundred and sixty-four tendrils jumped slowly, as if a sprite, and stretched toward the Fire Virtue Potentate.

What else could the potentate feel other than all-encompassing desperation and wretchedness? He finally understood that the young man had projected the five hells and summoned the five hellfires all for the sake of this bizarre silver flame!

It'd never been the Hadal Hell that constrained him, but this strange silver fire!

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Boom!

The void trembled as an enormous spatial fracture appeared. A large fiery hand reached out from it and grabbed a Fire Virtue Potentate on the verge of being surrounded, dragging him out of the area.

Instead of being part of the Hongmeng, this void was a world within a world that Hongmeng energy had created within the fourth realm. It was more like an intersection point between the third and fourth realms.

"Trying to take my belongings from me?!" Lu Yun was wholeheartedly focused on directing the Hongmeng Pearl to form the hell of order. Who would've thought that someone would appear halfway and take his quarry!

"You court death!" He flew into a towering rage and charged into the healing fracture. He beckoned at the same time and summoned the true Hongmeng Pearl, sending it into his body.

The spatial fracture disappeared; it was the fourth realm on the other side!

A tall and muscular man with fiery hair grabbed the Fire Virtue Potentate with one hand and blinked at the human hot on his trail.

"An ant dares chase out of the Hongmeng?" The man was a denizen of the fourth realm and bigger than both the Bridge of Forgetfulness and She Nong. He was utilizing an illusion that made him appear the same as any Hongmeng creature.

He was slightly surprised by Lu Yun's presence in the fourth realm. How could an ant of the third realm dare chase down a superior being?

"Return the Fire Virtue Potentate to me," Lu Yun asserted frostily.

"The Fire Virtue Potentate?" the man snorted with laughter. "He's scum born of fire—it's more accurate to call him Fire Scum Potentate. He's already devoured the real Fire Virtue Potentate. I'll be able to command a section of fire virtue if I eat him in return and make my way to that peerless level!"

He seemed more to be talking to himself than responding to Lu Yun. After all, a Hongmeng being didn't register with him at all. Only those who pierced through the Hongmeng barrier and received a

cultivation level of the fourth realm could survive in this realm. This was an empty realm for Hongmeng beings—empty and devoid of everything. There wasn't the energy or strength here that was crucial for their survival.

"It looks like you really are courting death." Twin black flames flickered to life in Lu Yun's eyes and he began to grow in size.

Chapter 1488: Nihil World Sovereign

A mix of indescribable emotions assailed the Fire Virtue Potentate. He'd escaped the tiger's maw to land straight into the wolf's mouth! Still, present circumstances were better than the one before. He still had a chance for survival if this fellow ate him and stripped him of fire virtue. If Lu Yun refined him, he would completely cease to exist.

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"What... the?!" The muddleheaded potentate suddenly heard a shocked exclamation from the fourth realm powerhouse that'd captured him. He looked over and saw that the young man who'd been after him all this time—just a Hongmeng superior realm cultivator—was expanding. The bigger he grew, the more his strength increased.

Hummm.

Before either the potentate or his captor had a chance to form a second thought, they were dumbfounded to find that the puny youth had become a fourth realm being! He somehow possessed a fourth realm cultivation level!

And his cultivation realm was continuing to rise as his body expanded!

"Damn it, he's not an ant! He's a dragon playing the pig to eat the tiger!" Though shocked and dismayed, the man with the fiery hair couldn't bear to relinquish his hard won opportunity. He'd kept an eye on this place for countless eons, waiting to seize the potentate as soon as someone moved against him.

Who would've fathomed that the person to manage the deed would be so terrifying?!

Getting his teeth, the man swallowed the Fire Virtue Potentate and leapt into the air, running into the depths of the fourth realm.

"Do you think you'll get away?!" Lu Yun was now bigger than the entire Hongmeng and the Tome of Life and Death his nascent spirit. Hadal hellfire poured into his body to become his strength.

He caught up to the man with a quick leap forward.

"Heavens above! Nihil World Sovereign!" The man was almost reduced to a gibbering mess. He'd never imagined that he'd offend a Nihil World Sovereign! Heavyweights of this level were the apex of the fourth realm and essentially the founders of their existence! He wouldn't be able to reach these heights even if he refined fire virtue and borrowed its strength!

"Help, master!" He shook out an enormous decree that coalesced into a huge figure.

"What is it, my disciple?" The enormous figure instantly enveloped the man with a cocoon of safety.

Lu Yun immediately came to a cautious halt, regarding the figure with a wary look. This middle-aged man looked human and was situated in a golden fiery sea, but this was just his replica.

Despite that, it was stronger than any of Lu Yun's subordinates in the fourth realm.

"Nihil World Sovereign!" The man standing in the golden sea shuddered when he took a clear look at Lu Yun and promptly slapped his disciple across the face. "This junior offers his most respectful greetings to the venerated world sovereign!"

The man retracted the golden sea around him and fell to his knees in the void. Ears ringing from his master's slap, the first man with flaming hair quickly realized what he'd done. This was a Nihil World Sovereign! Their entire faction was nothing but an ant's nest in front of such a great being! If the great one wanted to, he could reach through the replica and crush his—Longshan Yan's—true body!

The disciple with flaming hair finally realized what kind of existence he'd provoked and sagged weakly to the ground, almost fainting dead away.

"Fire Virtue," Lu Yun said coldly.

"Yes, yes, of course yes! You ruffraff, what did you take from the venerated world sovereign?! Hand it over!!" Longshan Yan roared.

His disciple trembled and quickly brought out the newly swallowed Fire Virtue Potentate. Lacking sufficient time to refine him, the potentate remained intact.

"Oh my heavens, a Nihil World Sovereign..." Still retaining his thoughts and consciousness, the potentate's knees drooped to the ground when he saw Lu Yun in his current state. How could a tiny Hongmeng prison, even one that was the origin of the fourth realm, contain something like a Nihil World Sovereign?!

No wonder he can summon the power of the five hells!

"Nihil World Sovereign?" Lu Yun committed the title to memory. He was indeed stronger than the last time he'd visited the fourth realm—stronger by many times over. Only hadal hellfire had taken root in his body then, but now flames from all four hells were entrenched in his body.

Though the other hells didn't become his own strength and circulate in his body like the hadal hellfire did, they still subtly increased his strength and helped him enter a completely new realm.

Nihil World Sovereign!

While Lu Yun didn't know what the cultivation realms of the fourth realm were, he subconsciously understood that he could now easily step on Longshan Yan's true form. He heaved a surreptitious sigh of relief when the Fire Virtue Potentate was turned over to him and tossed the potentate into the Hongmeng Pearl.

"Please wait, venerated world sovereign!" Longshan Yan spoke up when he saw that Lu Yun was about to leave. "Might this lowly one be so honored as to invite the great one to my abode...?"

"Maybe next time," Lu Yun responded curtly. His most pressing task at hand was to refine the potentate and embark on his next stage of cultivation.

...however, his faction in the fourth realm would run into others sooner or later. It wouldn't be a bad thing to befriend some other powerhouses in the realm. At least it'd prevent him from being completely clueless when he shifted his attentions here.

That was why he didn't completely shut the door.

Longshan Yan read the same intentions from Lu Yun's response, so he continued, "Venerated World Sovereign, this humble one is the second son of the master of Dragonmountain Clime. My father is Longshan Yin and he is about to break through from World Manifest to Void World King. Thus, this humble one would be so bold as to invite the mighty world sovereign to safeguard my father during this time..."

"Oh?" Lu Yun sized up Longshan Yan. This man had some balls to ask him for a favor the first time they met!

World Manifest?

Void World King?

Are these the cultivation realms of the fourth realm?

Some excitement sparked in his heart despite himself.

"What will I gain if I protect your father?" Lu Yun asked faintly with an unconcerned glance. Plainly, Longshan Yin had more than his fair share of enemies. He would likely be attacked when he broke through. Since Lu Yun didn't know what his cultivation level commanded in the fourth realm in terms of strength and status, there was a bit of risk to helping someone so hated.

"Have you agreed, venerated world sovereign?!" Longshan Yan snapped to delighted attention while his disciple next to him looked on incredulously.

Now that took a very swift turn for the different!

Chapter 1489: Breadth of Vision and Cultivation Realm

A mighty Nihil World Sovereign, someone as legendary as the divine dragons, had easily agreed to protect an ant in a swamp?

This was too incredulous to believe... It was the stuff of tales!

Even Longshan Yan found the turnaround a bit surreal. He was somehow getting a feeling that the world sovereign in front of him could rebuff the enemies on his family's doorstep with just a single glare.

"Gain?" Longshan Yan came out of his reverie. "My Longshan family has safeguarded Dragonmountain Clime for endless eons—our very surname means dragon mountain! We've collected a vast sea of treasures, so the venerated world sovereign will have whatever you wish!"

Lu Yun thought for a bit and nodded, saying nothing else. He had agreed to this matter.

When it came to treasures of the fourth realm, even scrapings or shavings would raise fire and thunder in the Hongmeng. Additionally, there was nothing he needed to be concerned about in the third realm

for the moment. His ten Yama Kings were present and the little fox had stabilized her true king cultivation realm. It didn't matter if he was present or not.

Since he'd made it back to the fourth realm, he might as well pick up some pretty baubles before going back.

He contacted his Yama Kings to relay his plans to Qing Yu and the little fox. But since Qing Yu was in closed door cultivation to break through to the true king realm and the little fox was focused on standing guard for her, they would remain unaware for a bit longer.

There was nothing to worry about even if they continued to be preoccupied, since Lu Yun was far stronger in the fourth realm than in the third. However, given that he didn't know anything about the fourth realm, he wasn't sure what level "Nihil World Sovereign" was supposed to be.

"When is your father breaking through?" he asked Longshan Yan.

"Within seven days?" the man answered hastily.

"...seven days?" Lu Yun quirked his lips. How did the fourth realm measure days? Was there a large sun rising and falling in this realm too? He still hadn't seen anything tangible in the fourth realm; it seemed to be an empty void.

Vast, endless, and completely unoccupied.

"Please follow me, senior!" Longshan Yan and his disciple couldn't believe their luck. They'd recruited a Nihil World Sovereign just like this??

A golden avenue suddenly appeared in front of them with a wave of Longshan Yan's hand. He bowed deeply and invited Lu Yun to set foot on it.

Still wordless, Lu Yun said and asked nothing. He followed the golden avenue according to the thoughts that Longshan Yan exuded.

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"This is something similar to a transportation formation, but it's much more sophisticated," Lu Yun derived quietly while he stood on the avenue. "She Nong." Since he was in the fourth realm, he could contact his subordinates.

"Master!" She Nong was in closed door cultivation and fell on bended knee when he heard Lu Yun's transmission.

"How is the Bridge of Forgetfulness?"

"All is well, its true spirit has already recovered and its cultivation has greatly advanced. It's infinitely close to the true void realm." Envy seeped into She Nong's tones. He'd cultivated for countless years to reach the true void realm, but the bridge had somehow broken through after spending a little while by their master's side.

"True void realm?" Lu Yun hesitated, something that She Nong wasn't surprised by. His master wasn't a being of the fourth realm, so it was natural that he didn't understand everything about the realm.

“Master, the true void realm is the second level of this realm’s cultivation system. This humble one and my fellow daoists are all within this realm.”

Though Lu Yun possessed a peerless cultivation level within the fourth realm, his knowledge remained within the Hongmeng. Whether it was his system of strength or the way he utilized his power—none reached the fourth realm.

Thus, he saw only empty space and nothing else when he visited the fourth realm.

It was akin to a normal person suddenly possessing the greatest wealth in the world, but only having the fortune and none of the requisite network, vision, and proper knowledge to utilize these resources.

This made Lu Yun upstart new money in the fourth realm.

However, he was well aware of it and hence tried to maintain a low profile. He’d already retracted his domineering aura to the best of his abilities.

“So what is a World Manifest? How does it compare in the fourth realm?” Lu Yun thought of how the master of Dragonmountain Clime was to break through World Manifest and become a Void World King.

“Ah...” She Nong blinked. “World Manifest is someone who reigns supreme in this part of the realm. They hold sway over the lives of countless beings in a world and there is nothing they cannot do. They are a true heavyweight!

“Have you met a World Manifest, master? But you are even stronger at Void World King realm, so you have nothing to be afraid of!” She Nong was highly confident in Lu Yun.

Lu Yun hadn’t concealed his cultivation ripples when he resided in the fourth realm, so everyone in the realm could clearly identify his level of strength. Again, it was similar to new money flaunting their fortune at every turn. But since he’d recognized that, he’d concealed the traces of his cultivation.

“How are the cultivation levels in the fourth realm defined?” He was still floundering in the dark.

“In response to master, there are six great levels in this realm,” She Nong quickly answered. “Void refinement, true void, true nihil, World Manifest, Void World King, and Nihil World Sovereign!”

“Nihil World Sovereign...” His current level was the peak of the fourth realm??

At the same time, Lu Yun didn’t put much stock in She Nong’s explanation. The latter was just in the true void realm, so what he saw wasn’t necessarily the truth. Similarly, he’d thought that the kings of the Hongmeng were so high and mighty when he first arrived in the third realm. They were inviolable and absolute!

But the more his cultivation progression and horizons broadened, he learned that there was a hierarchy to the kings as well. There were true kings, potentates, and the rightful true realm. The titled kings he’d first seen were cultivators on the wrong path!

Hence, he would never believe that there were no additional realms after Nihil World Sovereign. At least, the god of Mount Tai in charge of the five hells was at a higher level. It was almost impossible to imagine someone capable of killing him and destroying the five hells.

Breadth of vision... only someone at that level would see another worthy of being their peer.

Chapter 1490: Dragonmountain Clime

Lu Yun felt that he was on more even footing after gaining an understanding of the cultivation system of the fourth realm. He was essentially infallible here as long as those on par with the god of Mount Tai didn't take an interest in the scene.

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The golden avenue shaped itself into a bridge that traveled many times faster than a transportation formation of the Hongmeng. It possessed spatial power and threaded through space at every moment, spanning hundreds of millions of kilometers within the span of a breath.

Upon the golden bridge, Longshan Yan and his disciple, Longshan Chi, relaxed when Lu Yun retracted the power of his realm. Their backs were drenched with sweat. They were still afraid that the Nihil World Sovereign might disintegrate their entire faction on a whim if his temper flared up.

Lu Yun ignored what Longshan Yan and Longshan Chi were thinking; he focused on breathing in the power of the fourth realm according to the overview of a cultivation method that She Nong had just given him.

The power of the fourth realm was significantly different from that of the world of immortals, chaos, and Hongmeng.

The Hongmeng centered on qi—the development of living beings and cultivation was intimately tied to it. Whether it was energy of immortal qi, qi of the land, energy of the chaos, or qi of the Hongmeng—all were strength of the same quality. They were tangible sources that could be seen and touched.

The strength of the fourth realm was markedly different. It was formless and invisible, something more similar to the strength of cultivation level. The beings of the fourth realm called this strength “nothing”—and it was precisely what the word meant.

Only when one reached a corresponding cultivation level would one sense the existence of this “nothing”. If denizens of the third realm entered the fourth realm without reaching the appropriate level, they would simply starve to death.

Though Lu Yun had reached the requisite level, his scope of vision remained within the Hongmeng. In his worldview, qi should be tangible and visible. It should become one with living beings through simple osmosis, even when one didn't take the initiative to absorb it.

That wasn't the case in the fourth realm. Only when one had the necessary cultivation level did one have the right to receive the power of “nothing”.

Thus, Lu Yun was slowly modifying his commonly held notions to become part of the fourth realm.

She Nong's cultivation method wasn't a very advanced one—it was more akin to one found by the side of the road. Since Lu Yun's cultivation level was so high, however, he could obtain an enormous amount of strength from even a basic, run-of-the-mill method.

Most importantly was that he could employ formula dao on that basic method to derive the great dao of the fourth realm. If he could determine the core essence of the fourth realm, he would glean more advanced methods from it.

It was only now that he understood that those he'd released from the Hadal Hell were a motley crew. They were more on the level of a group of beggars in the fourth realm. Though they'd once been magnificently glorious, with some even being a World Manifest, their core essence and cultivation realms had been completely eroded by the Hadal Hell. The strongest among them was just in the true void realm now.

Most of them were only void refiners, having barely maintained a proper cultivation level of the fourth realm. It wasn't a smart course of action to rely on them for anything Lu Yun needed in this realm.

The Hadal Hell was so strong that it'd worn away at the once-heavyweights that'd been imprisoned within it. Some of them had wanted to regain their past selves when they won their freedom, but discovered with dismay that they were no longer who they once were.

Lu Yun wanted to use his level of Nihil World Sovereign to create new methods for his subordinates, helping them regain their peaks through a new starting point.

As he breathed in and out, he noticed the hadal hellfire circulating through his body began to dwindle until there was nothing left inside of him.

"Is this 'nothing'?" He carefully observed his current state.

While "nothing" meant the absence of everything, it also meant the possibility of anything. It was a type of cultivation realm that could evolve into everything. The "dao" in "from dao came one, and one begat two, two gave birth to three, and from three resulted all living things" was a similar notion to this "nothing".

"I see." Spontaneous comprehension descended upon Lu Yun.

His current cultivation level was a result of the Tome of Life and Death. If there came a day in which it left him, he would instantly revert back to his true form of a superior realm cultivator of the Hongmeng.

Thus, he needed to continue cultivating and follow the treasure's guidance, improving himself step by step until he fully controlled this kind of strength.

The empty fourth realm began to sharpen into focus in Lu Yun's eyes. Though there was still nothing here, possibilities seem to abound in his gaze.

The golden bridge of light stopped in front of a towering mountain. Since Lu Yun had retracted his cultivation, he was now the size of a regular person as opposed to a giant greater than the Hongmeng. The third realm was but a speck of dust in front of this mountain's grandeur.

This was Dragonmountain Clime—familial lands of the Longshan Clan of the fourth realm. Shaped as a mountain, it was actually a world with a complete set of rules. Those of space, time, the six greatest orders, and five supreme principles could all be found within.

He saw regular people inside, as well as what would count as inferior, common, and superior realm cultivators in the Hongmeng. The beings here, however, were much stronger than Hongmeng denizens. This was a true land of paradise, and the third realm was indeed a prison in comparison.

The bridge of light didn't stop when it entered the world, instead sinking into a tall building without alerting anyone.

"Junior Longshan Yan and disciple Longshan Chi greet the senior!" Longshan Yan and Longshan Chi suddenly fell to their knees and kowtowed to Lu Yun.

A Nihil World Sovereign was on par with the celestial lords of the thirty-three facets in the world of immortals. Longshan Yan was only in the true nihil realm, so it wasn't over the top for the two to kowtow at Lu Yun.

"Your father breaks though in seven days?" Lu Yun noticed a large sun and bright moon in the sky. A day was marked by one complete revolution from each. They were very similar to the sun and moon in the Hongmeng, and the degrees of time between the two realms were startlingly alike. This was likely a result of influence from the order of time in the fourth realm.

There was no order of time in the Hongmeng, but everything about time in the third realm was a function of the fourth realm's definition.

"Alright, I need to enter closed door cultivation during these seven days. I will stand guard for your father afterward." Lu Yun nodded.

"My deepest thanks to the venerated sovereign!" Longshan Yan was overjoyed. "Shall this humble one show you the vaults now?"

Highly concerned with what was at stake, he dearly wished for this powerhouse to accept something from his family straight away.

"That will do just as well." Lu Yun nodded.