

Necropolis 1491

Chapter 1491: Treasury

Dragonmountain Clime was incredibly large and stretched on without end, nurturing innumerable treasures. Any clime commanded great authority in the fourth realm; even one overseen by bonafide ants might possess treasures that were unfathomable to a Nihil World Sovereign.

As ludicrous as it might seem for Lu Yun to take his pick of treasures from this clime and stand guard for its master, it also made a certain degree of sense.

There were powerhouses with eccentric personalities no matter where one went.

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Longshan Yan was utterly delighted by Lu Yun's easy assent. He brought his guest to the clime's treasury without further ado.

As the master of Dragonmountain Clime, Longshan Yin was father to several tens of thousands of children. The fourth realm differed from the Hongmeng in that its orders were whole and complete. The Hongmeng's partially finished orders affected its cultivators the stronger they became, to the point of impacting their ability to perpetuate descendants.

Longshan Yan was Longshan Yin's second son and wielded immense authority in the clime. His cultivation was equally overwhelming as he'd already reached peak true nihil realm, reinforcing his command with real strength.

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"Senior, about you being here..." Longshan Yan carefully broached the subject as they traveled through the clime.

"I'm honestly too lazy to really stand guard for Longshan Yin. You can spread the word that there is a Nihil World Sovereign here protecting him," Lu Yun responded casually.

Longshan Yan stared, tongue-tied. What did that mean?

His original plans were for the great one to stay for a while, so the world sovereign could shoo away anyone who tried to cause trouble when his father broke through. But the mighty one was willing to publicly announce his presence and have it be known to all that he was in residence at the clime?!

His family's status would be immensely elevated once word of this got out! They were gaining an invincible patron! Longshan influence would solidify in Dragonmountain Clime and extend to all of the other major climes around them! Anyone who submitted to them would prosper, anyone who dared defy them would die!

Such were the ramifications of support from a Nihil World Sovereign.

"Do you mean that, senior??" Longshan Yan exclaimed with sheer joy.

"I hate hassle, so just take me to the treasury and library. I've brought in some new disciples lately and they can't use what I have. I want to see if you have anything useful," Lu Yun chuckled.

Longshan Yan finally understood that the venerated world sovereign wasn't doing this for himself, but for his disciples. As wondrous as a mere Dragonmountain Clime might be, it wouldn't even register to a Nihil World Sovereign. Lu Yun's clarification dispersed the last of Longshan Yan's concerns.

"This way please, senior!" Hesitating no longer, Longshan Yan took Lu Yun straight to the clime's treasury. He then sent the library's entire contents into the treasury so the mighty heavyweight could take his time and browse at his leisure.

Lu Yun didn't stand on ceremony; he started rifling through the treasury.

The clime's treasury and library were bigger than the entire Hongmeng. Treasures and books filled it to the rafters; even Lu Yun was a bit bedazzled by the cornucopia. But as marvelous as the treasures were, and being treasures found only in the fourth realm, there was nothing like Quiet or the Army Pagoda.

"Supplemental dao exists in the fourth realm as well, but there's no qi crystals that people use for cultivation."

There were immortal crystals in the world of immortals, pure chaos crystals in the chaos, purple crystals in the Hongmeng, but no corresponding item in the fourth realm. Most of the items in the treasury were spirit roots, rare materials, or refined treasures.

Longshan Yan held nothing back and showcased the family's entire wealth to Lu Yun. The latter was in no hurry to claim items. Instead, he tried to discern the supplemental dao of the fourth realm through these treasures. That was the truly priceless in his eyes.

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"Longshan Yan, how could you send an outsider into the treasury and deliver all of our books to him?! Are you trying to destroy the family?!" A tall and bulky middle-aged man who bore a strong resemblance to Longshan Yan shook with fury.

Dragonmountain Clime was in an uproar. The family's treasury and library were their most vital spots! They would suffer devastating consequences if others learned of what had happened here!

"Father is in closed door cultivation and due to break through to Void World King after seven days. Why are you doing this now, are you a traitor?!" Longshan Shui ground his teeth as he glared at Longshan Yan.

Longshan Yan controlled the family's treasury and the entire clime's finances. He could bring whoever he wanted into the treasury; there was no need for approval from his father. Such was the power that Longshan Yin had bestowed upon him.

It was also because of this that though Longshan Yan was just the second eldest, his authority within the clime was greater than his older brother, Longshan Shui.

Longshan Yan could use anything within the treasury to recruit powerhouses and expand his forces, but the firstborn of the family couldn't do so.

Normally speaking, Longshan Shui didn't care about this imbalance. His younger brother could do whatever he wished as long as he didn't harm the family's interests.

But with the enemy breathing down their necks and their father at his weakest because he was about to break through, this was highly unacceptable. Longshan Yin would have to endure a harrowing tribulation when he ascended to Void World King.

The family had numerous enemies and Longshan Yin had made many of them in the countless years he'd overseen Dragonmountain Clime. Many were the eyes on the clime, and if Longshan Yin died in his attempt, that would automatically rule out the family from ever administering a major clime ever again.

Longshan Shui actually wanted to discuss employing the family's wealth to recruit helpers, but had happened to see his younger brother send a stranger into the treasury instead and then combine the treasury with the library. The brat had even sealed off the treasury entirely!

Longshan Shui was about to lose his mind.

"I say, older bro, I know what I'm doing." Longshan Yan smiled faintly.

"Know what you're doing??" scoffed Longshan Shui. "Are you planning on fleeing with the family fortune and library once father dies? Don't think I don't know what you're doing, that you've taken the little devil of Blackwind Clime as a disciple and given him the name of Longshan Chi. He's gotten up to all manner of mischief using our name!"

"Most of the enemies here to kick in our door during father's ascension is because of that brat!" he sneered. "Blackwind Clime is your secret patron, isn't it?"

I actually think this older brother means well.

Chapter 1492: Ushering the Wolf Into the House

"Longshan Shui, I don't need to explain myself to the likes of you!" Longshan Yan grew irritated at his brother's accusation. He'd been in high spirits and couldn't wait to announce the arrival of a Nihil World Sovereign to everyone, but that good mood was shattered and his temper roused after this run-in with Longshan Shui.

There was no trace of a subservient attitude to be found now. He was the second strongest within Dragonmountain Clime, his cultivation strength below only his father's! It wasn't for no reason that he'd been given jurisdiction over the family vaults and library.

The Longshans were the masters of Dragonmountain Clime, just and noble, protectors of the countless life forms within a world. However, shadows loomed behind the light and whatever the Longshans couldn't conduct, Longshan Chi would finish.

The Darkwind Clime that Longshan Chi was from was filled with demons and depravity. At the same time, Longshan Yan had subdued it long ago and that clime was now under the Longshan banner.

Longshan Yan had completed this in an extremely covert manner, so none was the wiser for it.

Meanwhile, Longshan Chi was the way in which Longshan Yin controlled Darkwind Clime—he wielded the entire clime's power through the adoptee. Longshan Chi's demonic nature, however, proved too hard to tame and he often did the unexpected. He constantly schemed against Longshan Yan, wanting to break free of the latter's control.

That was why he'd summoned Longshan Yan's replica when Lu Yun chased after him, wanting to borrow someone else's hand to kill Longshan Yan.

Unfortunately for him, he'd set his sights on the wrong person. Lu Yun could sense Longshan Yan's emotions and the latter had demonstrated extreme humility, thus decreasing Lu Yun's desire to take the two to task for their trespasses.

Longshan Yan and Longshan Chi's relationship was their business, Lu Yun couldn't be bothered to become involved.

"Longshan Yan!!" Longshan Shui flew into a rage at his brother's response.

"Oh shove it," Longshan Yan sneered. "I'm warning you, I've sealed off the entire treasury. Whoever dares come within half a step of it will die, including you, my big brother!"

He walked up to Longshan Shui and patted the other's face, then—

Humm!

Domineering ripples blasted from his body, sending an unprepared Longshan Shui flying off into the distance. Other family members and servants looked incredulously at Longshan Yan.

"World Manifest!! No, you're not a World Manifest yet, but you've broken through the true nihil realm and you're infinitely close to World Manifest!" Longshan Shui struggled to his feet and gaped at his younger brother.

"That's right, I'm a half step World Manifest." A noncommittal Longshan Yan stood with his hands behind his back. "When father breaks through to Void World King, I will officially set foot into the ranks of World Manifest and rule Dragonmountain Clime on his behalf!

"Our clime will dominate the entire plane then and become a true sovereign!"

He subconsciously thought of Lu Yun when he declared these sentiments in ringing tones, but he couldn't remember the great one's appearance no matter how he tried. Such was the strength of a Nihil World Sovereign.

Ordinary beings were unable to recall the appearance of such august personages, and Longshan Yan grew more assured when his thoughts traveled here.

He would never dare speak like this if there was only one Void World King and World Manifest within his faction. But with a Nihil World Sovereign holding down the fort, he wasn't just blowing hot air.

"Longshan Shui, you can dismiss the disorderly rabble that you've summoned," he said faintly to his elder brother.

"Disorderly rabble??" Longshan Shui jerked his head up at his kin. "Do you have any idea who I've invited?? They're all true heavyweights of the plane and bonafide World Manifest cultivators!"

"What?!" Longshan Yan blinked and denounced angrily, "You've welcomed other World Manifests into Dragonmountain Clime?! That's ushering the wolf into the hen house!"

“Ushering the wolf into the hen house?” Longshan Shui struggled up from the ground. “Three World Manifests have come to protect father, not even that Revered Rednote will find us an easy target!”

Revered Rednote was a World Manifest within their local plane. He had a deep grudge with Longshan Yin and would surely pay them an unwelcome visit in the coming days.

“Three World Manifests?!” Longshan Yan shook from fury. “You, you’ve, you’ve brought in so many World Manifests?!”

“That’s right!” Longshan Yin sneered. “You’re not the only one who’s been building his network these years, I’ve also befriended many experts! The esteemed Three Brahmas are some of the friends I’ve made in the plane!”

“Longshan Yan, I don’t care about the other things in the treasury, but the three esteemed ones have their eye on the three Radiant Moonpearls...”

“Three Brahmas?! They can fuck off right with you!” Longshan Yan almost spat a mouthful of saliva as he waved a sleeve and sent his brother flying again.

Longshan Shui howled with outrage, but he was no match for Longshan Yan and could only passively take the beating. Meanwhile, Longshan Yan was almost apoplectic with anger. If it wasn’t for the fact that Longshan Shui was his elder brother and the firstborn of his father, he would slap the idiot to death on the spot!

The Three Brahmas?!

Thank goodness he’d brought back a Nihil World Sovereign! If not, Dragonmountain Clime would soon belong to those three! According to what Longshan Yan had received from Darkwind Clime, those three were best friends with Revered Rednote!

How would they possibly help Longshan Yin against their good friend?

Longshan Yan abruptly changed his plans. The Three Brahmas were likely coming to help their friend against Longshan Yin. Surely there were also many other enemies hidden in the dark, just waiting to deliver a lethal blow to Longshan Yin.

If the world sovereign simply scared them off before they had a chance to take action, it would be very difficult to root them out in the future. Anyone who dared set themselves against Dragonmountain Clime had to pay the price!

I just wonder what that venerable world sovereign is like... Though he seems to think highly of me, but... Longshan Yan started fretting again.

“Hahaha!!” Lu Yun’s voice suddenly reverberated in his mind. “Do whatever you’d like to do! Just let me know when you do it. Your treasury and library is a good place, a fine place indeed!!”

He was delighted and had obviously noticed the happenings outside.

“Understood! Will do! Thank you, most venerable world sovereign!” Longshan Yan beamed happily.

Chapter 1493: To Blaze

Lu Yun was in great spirits, exceedingly high spirits. The Longshan library was a source of incredible surprises. Who would've thought that Longshan Yan would lay bare his family's foundations and most precious cultivation methods, combat arts, and secret techniques, all in the pursuit of currying favor with Lu Yun?

Though Lu Yun possessed the strength of a Nihil World Sovereign, he didn't have any combat arts or methods in his repertoire that matched his cultivation level. All he could do was fight with the most primitive methods.

The combat arts he wielded and the sword dao he'd created could easily subdue weaker fourth realm beings, but if he met anyone on his level, there would be no other outcome for him other than a brutal beating.

He brimmed with strength, but he didn't have the proper ways to release it.

Now with Longshan Yan offering up his family's entire wealth of knowledge, including their cultivation methods, Lu Yun could peer into the secrets of the fourth realm's core essence. He had a plethora of the most basic to sophisticated techniques, combat arts, and cultivation methods to choose from.

The Tome of Life and Death had bestowed this cultivation realm onto him rather than him training to these heights. He lacked the process, understanding, and exploring of the great dao of the fourth realm.

The books and tomes that Longshan Yan sent over perfectly filled in the gaps, and Lu Yun could further grasp the intricacies of the fourth realm's great dao through the Longshan cultivation methods.

"This Longshan Yan is not bad, what he's delivered is precisely what I need. I'll owe him a great favor if I don't do my best to help them weather this trial." Lu Yun held up a book of basic Longshan cultivation methods with both hands and carefully perused it.

In the fourth realm, books were the medium of choice to record civilization with. Contrary to the jade slips and soul slips of the Hongmeng, there was actual text and diagrams written in these books.

"No wonder they call the third realm a prison and the fourth realm a real world," Lu Yun sighed with emotion as he paged through the book in his hand.

The text spoke of most primitive civilization—every stroke and sweep of each character depicted the truth, origin, creation, eternity, and life of this void. This was something that jade slips couldn't accomplish.

"But after the Dao Academy's efforts, the world of immortals very rarely uses jade slips these days too. Most use text and books," Lu Yun murmured. "The Hongmeng... has fallen behind somewhat."

He gently placed the book down and thought back on what he'd just read. He didn't need the most sophisticated methods for the moment—he wouldn't be able to use any of them. All he needed was a door cracked open to the secrets of the realm. He'd be able to obtain everything he wanted through it.

Formula dao!

The formula dao that Qing Yu had created could be used in the world of immortals, chaos, and Hongmeng, and was applicable in the fourth realm. Lu Yun could derive his own great dao and combat arts through the Longshan methods.

“That’s strange... Why is there a trace of the Hongmeng in the Longshan cultivation methods and combat arts? No, not the Hongmeng, but a world even lower than the Hongmeng and chaos.” Lu Yun frowned slightly. “Does the Longshan family hail from a world lower than all of those?”

“Not a major world in the worlds, chaos, or Hongmeng—those three are on the same level. It should be one of the child worlds.”

He stroked his chin thoughtfully. “Though there are rumors that one will gain a cultivation level of the fourth realm and enter it proper upon piercing through the Hongmeng barrier, there’s never any stories of anyone actually doing so.

“Can this Longshan Yin or his ancestor be from another Hongmeng world? Though the ‘long’ character means dragon, they have no relationship with the dragon race.”

Lu Yun waved a hand and sent out a burst of sword qi from his fingertips.

“Finally. This level of strength just barely matches my cultivation level.” He shook his head at it. “But it’s still not enough. This isn’t my sword dao, it’s a sword dao combat art that I’m releasing through the Tome of Life and Death. If the treasure leaves me one day, so will this sword qi.”

Though he knew that the Tome of Life and Death would never leave him since he’d subjugated it a long time ago—that it even became his nascent spirit in the fourth realm—such was his personality.

He insisted on cultivating the hell of order even though he possessed this level of treasure, wanting to create something that was truly his.

“I can finally officially train in the hell of order now!” A smile quirked his lips.

Only with this hell did he try to set foot on his own path. Although it was a path that Violetgrave had pointed him toward, he was the one who’d comprehended the existence of order. He could materialize the six hells while he cultivated this hell and use them to activate the most terrifying existence within the Tome of Life and Death—reincarnation!

All beings resided within reincarnation. Even the most objective of orders, great dao, laws, worlds, the void... everything came under reincarnation.

To peer into the secrets of reincarnation was Lu Yun’s greatest ambition.

The Hongmeng Pearl appeared within his hand, still holding the Fire Virtue Potentate. The treasure was surrounded by three hundred and sixty-four tendrils of the hellfire of order; the potentate could see and hear everything happening outside.

Nihil World Sovereign!

He finally abandoned all hope. The one who wanted to refine him was a Nihil World Sovereign! There was no possibility of escape or survival.

“I’d thought you were the real Fire Virtue and planned on sparing your true spirit so it could be reborn. But since you’re a strand of forsaken evil that devoured the existence who brought fire to the universe, you can just fade away into nothing,” Lu Yun said calmly to the Fire Virtue Potentate.

Pff!

A mote of silver light appeared on the potentate's body. The last tendril of fire burst out of his body and consumed his true spirit.

Three hundred and sixty-five tendrils of flame were finally complete and together. They combined into a tongue of silver flame that illuminated the Hongmeng Pearl.

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"Dead. The Fire Virtue Potentate is dead." In an unknown part of the Hongmeng, a man in black robes with long black hair looked toward Azure Dragon Region. "I borrowed his strength to curse the chaos, worlds, and six orders of the highest degree. That curse is no more."

He was very fair skinned, but his lips were an uncanny black.

"But that doesn't mean things are over. The dragons, phoenixes, white tigers, black tortoises, and the creation, origin, truth, and eternity that they wield still fall under my curse.

"It's impossible for this Hongmeng to return to its origin and become a real world." The man rose with a sneer on his lips. "So what if the three tombs become one? They're just going from three small tombs to one large tomb."

That last bit of fire... was so much like a scene out of Alien. That's the one, right? Not Predator?

Chapter 1494: Disordered Hell

With the demise of the Fire Virtue Potentate, his curse instantly flew apart. Very few in the Hongmeng detected it, but the entire chaos started to tremble.

Clarity blew upon the chaos creatures, sweeping away a layer of smog that'd clung to their bodies for as long as they could remember. The energy of the worlds that they'd been so terrified by and could only coexist through the power of immortal dao suddenly turned into a gentle brook, no longer offering any harm to them.

Even...

"The chaos tribulations are finally over." Seated within the chaos sea and safeguarding the chaos sun and moon, Lu Qing tilted his head up at the two celestial bodies overhead. "From this moment forth, there will be no more chaos tribulations in the chaos!" His voice traveled through the second realm.

After a stunned silence, the entire realm erupted in jubilation!

Chaos tribulations were a horrific event of extinction to all chaos creatures!

When even sovereigns ran the risk of perishing in one; there was no hope for ordinary chaos creatures to survive.

The great calamity that constantly hung over everyone's head like a dangling sword was... gone? Never to be experienced again?

The Purple King was as if a god in the second realm. No one dared doubt his words. Endless goodwill collected in the void and streamed toward him as virtuous merit.

“Eh... ah... this must be father’s work. I’m his son, so the merit comes to me instead. He purposefully left it for me!” The Purple King quickly understood what was taking place.

While others might not know what goodwill and merit were, the Purple King had been paying close attention to Lu Yun’s growth. He knew that his father could deploy merit in the form of energy. By now, Lu Qing’s cultivation had bottlenecked at peak true king and he was only a tiny step away from becoming a potentate.

However, that tiny step was turning into a chasm impossible to cross. There was no being in this Hongmeng, chaos, and worlds that could reach the level of potentate through their own strength alone.

But when goodwill from the entire chaos collected as merit and converged onto him, he could use it for cultivation. This merit was untouched in its most pristine form, not yet refined by the Karmic Tree. It could eliminate all retribution and break all shackles!

Goodwill and merit could help living beings negate heavenly tribulations, but the effects were especially astounding when merit reached certain levels. An ordinary life form could spontaneously become an immortal, a saint, or any unparalleled existence.

And now, the Purple King was breaking through with the help of boundless merit!

Granted, it wouldn’t be the work of a singular night to ascend as a potentate. Thanks to virtuous merit, however, he could now see the path.

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“What a pity. If it wasn’t for that chaos tribulation, the amount of merit created would’ve helped Lu Qing break straight through to potentate.” Lu Yun knew what had happened in the second realm despite sitting in the Longshan treasury.

The earlier chaos tribulation that’d swept through the realm had destroyed more than ninety percent of its denizens. Though the second realm was slowly returning to prosperity with the immortal dao’s nurturing, things were still a far cry from times before.

The goodwill and merit from the chaos creatures fell just a little short of enabling the Purple King to directly break through.

But that was fine. With his talents, it was only a matter of time before he became a potentate.

The Hongmeng Pearl floated in front of Lu Yun. Previously purple, it was now pure silver and a tiny tree sapling was unfurling in the silver bead.

“This is... a Karmic Tree!” Lu Yun frowned at it.

The silver pearl was the embryonic form of the hell of order. The hellfire of order burned gently within it, and it was quite unexpected that there was a Karmic Tree seed inside it!

“It’s not just the tree, there’s another life growing by its roots!” Upon careful observation, he noted another life form next to the tree. “Great Peak of the Five Hells... the god of Mount Tai!”

His eyes widened. The god of Mount Tai was Tianqi, his third disciple.

“No, this is the actual god and not Tianqi. What... the... ah. What a marvelous plan!” Pieces of the puzzle fell into place as Lu Yun further observed the budding mountain god.

“The god of Mount Tai is hailed as the greatest peak of the five hells—he’s stolen the strength of the five hells through certain methods. If I allow him to continue growing like this, he’ll take my hell of order as well.

“The Great Peak of the Five Hells will become the Great Peak of the Six Hells!” Lu Yun’s eyes narrowed. “But the reincarnation of the mountain god is my disciple. Since his past self is here, I can utilize the power of reincarnation to combine Tianqi with the core essence of his past self and strengthen him!”

Lu Yun’s nascent spirit twitched, injecting a tiny amount of reincarnation and Tianqi’s soul force into the budding god of Mount Tai. He then sent power from the Tome of Life and Death into the hell of order and carefully isolated the Karmic Tree and fetus from the hellfire of order.

He didn’t know what this Karmic Tree was and whose plan it all belonged to, but it was better to be prepared.

Hellfire was supposed to blaze on the Karmic Tree, but since Lu Yun’s hellfire of order was built off of the other five hellfires and risen from the Hongmeng Pearl, it didn’t need the tree.

The Hongmeng Pearl had become just another developing Hongmeng world. If no one had refined it, it would’ve become another prison in the fourth realm in due course. By now, it’d become the embryonic hell of order.

The other five hells had first seen their hellfires ignite on the Karmic Tree, then slowly built themselves up, but the hell of order was different.

“I’m finally on my own path,” Lu Yun heaved a long sigh of relief. “But the hell of order is used to imprison existences that violate order, so the name doesn’t really fit what’s inside it...”

“Hmm, I got it, let’s call it the Disordered Hell!”

“That’s right, anything that violates order is disorder, so that’s what this hell should be called. The hellfire of order should also be called the disordered hellfire instead!”

Hummm.

The silver Disordered Hell resonated with Lu Yun’s words, seemingly agreeing with him.

Chapter 1495: Revered Rednote

Everything that violated order was disorderly. That which suppressed disorderly existences was the Disordered Hell!

What he’d previously called the hellfire of order was now renamed the disordered hellfire—the flame that would sear clean the damnable, blasphemous violations of order!

His naming of the new hell immediately received nebulous approval from existence itself. The hell slowly melded into his body and the hadal hellfire that'd suffused his body turned into disordered hellfire.

Though he'd grasped the level of "nothing" in the fourth realm and become a Nihil World Sovereign, it was hellfire that supported his current level of strength—hellfire from the Tome of Life and Death.

But at this moment, disordered hellfire perfectly supplanted hadal hellfire and enhanced his strength. Compared to hadal hellfire, disordered hellfire was the power of his own core essence and something that he'd crafted through painstaking cultivation.

Utilizing disordered hellfire enabled the power of the fourth realm to more easily assimilate with Lu Yun, and his true body could now take the next step on the path of cultivation—becoming a titled king or entering true first level!

Granted, this was the fourth realm, so he wasn't able to become a titled king here.

"Despite being the deviated path, it's not necessarily a bad thing to become a titled king." Lu Yun sat down cross-legged and retracted the silver hellfire of disorder into his body. A faint silver flame burned in the depths of his pupils.

"The deviated path is actually a shortcut. There's not much difference between the shortcut to true kingship and true realm to true kingship. After all, my son made it back to the true king path after becoming a deviated king.

"I'll ascend to titled kingship after I return to the Hongmeng!"

"With the advent of true kings in the realm, news of the proper and deviated paths has spread throughout the realm. Everyone's uneasy and on tenterhooks, especially the kings that've taken the wrong path!"

"It's time for me to set them at ease and provide a proper example for them."

Back when he'd been in the world of immortals, the immortals that'd yet to experience the void realm had also wailed and howled with despair at the thought of their impending elimination by the times. Fortunately, Lu Yun's creation of the formation of heaven and earth had resolved that crisis.

The titled kings of the Hongmeng shared similar feelings to the old guard immortals. What they didn't know was that the deviated path wasn't necessarily a bad thing—it was a shortcut left by the mistress of the Hongmeng Tower so that Hongmeng beings could still continue to cultivate despite the incomplete and confusing mess of Hongmeng orders.

"In that case, I need to publicly announce that I'm going to become a titled king! I will do so beneath the eyes of all and let them know that the so-called deviated path is also the proper path!" He quickly made up his mind, despite the dangerous road he would embark on. He would be mired in perilous situations if anyone caused him any trouble, with even the possibility of death.

The little fox and Qing Yu couldn't keep him safe! ...not unless they located the tower's mistress in the world of immortals. But Lu Yun couldn't be certain who this person was, and neither was he willing to brashly search her out for free of bringing trouble to her doorstep.

“But if she’s maintained any sort of connection to the Hongmeng, she’ll make an appearance on that day.” Lu Yun stroked his chin and lifted his head to look at the world outside.

It was the seventh day since his arrival. Patriarch Longshan Yin of Dragonmountain Clime had made preparations to weather the heavenly tribulation and break through to the next cultivation level.

What surprised Lu Yun was that there was nothing out of the ordinary in the faction—everyone went about their usual business. Only an undercurrent of unease ran through the Longshan clan members, while Longshan Shui remained highly confident in his wisdom of befriending help. Three World Manifests with concealed cultivation followed by his side.

However, Lu Yun could sense through the Karmic Tree that these World Manifests bore the family ill will and a deep-seated hatred. At the same time, malevolence wrapped around the clime without a break in negativity.

“Hmm... Longshan Yin could easily break through elsewhere, but that means his enemies could also mob his faction and raze it.” Lu Yun quickly grasped that Longshan Yin cared deeply for his family and would rather trade his life for a chance of the clan’s survival!

In fact, he didn’t plan on focusing on his breakthrough. He would kill all of the clan’s enemies instead!

There was an aura that matched Longshan Yin’s prowling around Dragonmountain Clime—likely belonging to their greatest enemy, Revered Rednote.

“Impressive character and commendable action!” Approval flashed through Lu Yun’s eyes as he looked at Longshan Yin hovering in the air.

There weren’t many like him who were willing to sacrifice themselves for their descendants. Whether it was the world of immortals, chaos, Hongmeng, or fourth realm, it was commonly held that a new clan could be created at any time as long as the pivotal character didn’t die.

Descendants and family members were just tools.

Longshan Yin, however, had set up a self-sacrificing plot for his family. He would use his life to sweep away all of their obstacles! Meanwhile, his second son Longshan Yan was extremely close to the World Manifest level. He would become the new Longshan patriarch after Longshan Yin died.

Longshan Yin appeared to be a man in his early twenties and wore a long white robe. His silver hair and eyes sparkled with a haughty demeanor that looked down on everything.

“What a pity that he hasn’t discovered the Three Brahmas by his firstborn’s side.” Lu Yun gave a brief shake of his head. Though the three weren’t as strong as Longshan Yin, they could deliver a fatal blow at a critical moment.

What truly surprised him was that Longshan Yan hadn’t made any preparations. Everything was as usual and he didn’t even comfort the clansmen beginning to panic.

“Looks like he’s really betting everything on me.” Lu Yun rubbed his nose. “Ah, it’s starting.”

A dense layer of thunderclouds had blown in at some point in time and enveloped the entire clime.

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“It’s here!” Dressed in red, Revered Rednote murmured at the incomparably dense tribulation clouds. “The plot that Longshan Yin’s set up aims to collect all of us in one go and clear away all obstacles for his clan!”

“Then... revered one... we...” a World Manifest next to him spoke haltingly.

“I know what he wants to do and he knows that I know.” Revered Rednote was a young man dressed in shockingly red robes. His features were gentle and he was pleasing to the eye.

“Now it’s time to see who’s prepared more trump cards and who laughs the final laugh.” His lips curved in a gentle smile. “I have a blood feud with that old fart. I just want his head on a platter, the rest can go to you.”

“Do you mean that?!” The World Manifest cultivator next to him lit up.

“When have I, Revered Rednote, ever gone back on my words?” His response dispelled the other’s concerns.

Dragonmountain Clime was the most fertile clime in this plane. Taking it would increase this cultivator’s strength more than ten times over, and this World Manifest was the ruler of the Bigdragon Clime next to Dragonmountain Clime—Big Dragon Cong.

I keep having to be careful not to type Reverend Rednote, lol. That’d certainly put a different spin on things.

Chapter 1496: Thunderstruck Wood

Revered Rednote had taken the tactic of threatening the entire Longshan family to force Longshan Yin to remain in his faction’s territory for his breakthrough. On the other hand, the Longshan patriarch was perfectly willing to play into this as he wanted to kill all of his clan’s enemies in one fell swoop. He was even willing to go down in a blaze of mutual destruction with them.

Both sides knew the other’s plans and neither was willing to give way. The final victory would go to whoever had made more arrangements and was stronger.

For the moment, it appeared that Revered Rednote held the upper hand since he’d had the Three Brahmans infiltrate Dragonmountain Clime. Longshan Yin was wholly unaware that the Three Brahmans stood with the Longshan’s greatest enemy.

Revered Rednote had also recruited Big Dragon Cong of Bigdragon Clime, but likewise, he didn’t know who Longshan Yan had brought to help his family.

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A surging thunder tribulation exploded outward and covered Dragonmountain Clime. It targeted only Longshan Yin, but everything within that world was blanketed by a suffocating force. Even Revered Rednote didn’t dare ambush Longshan Yin at this time.

While Longshan Yin would be a Void World King upon the conclusion of his tribulation, he would also be gravely injured. That was when the true battle would begin. If Revered Rednote devoured a Void World King's core essence, he would also stand a chance of reaching these heights!

"He's about to break through." Lu Yun suddenly arrived next to Longshan Yan.

"Greetings to—" The young man was prevented from bowing as Lu Yun's hand kept him upright.

"Don't move if you don't want your father's carefully laid plans to go to waste," Lu Yun said calmly. Though his voice spread in all directions, only Longshan Yan could hear him.

No one else could even see that there was another person next to Longshan Yan. Since Lu Yun had truly grasped the cultivation levels of the fourth realm, he could manipulate this world's power as he would.

Longshan Yan snapped his mouth shut, not daring to say anything else.

"I can help you break through to World Manifest by using your father's heavenly tribulation," Lu Yun suddenly offered.

Longshan Yan's eyes bulged with surprise. Lu Yun slapped a talisman onto him before he could respond.

The young man trembled—his long-stagnant cultivation level suddenly surged and smashed a frustrating bottleneck that'd plagued him to smithereens! He broke through to World Manifest in the next second!

It was too easy for a Nihil World Sovereign to help a true nihil cultivator ascend. The thunder tribulation that would've formed for Longshan Yan dispersed with a single disapproving thought from Lu Yun.

"Ah, so I see!" Another glimpse of comprehension dawned in his mind.

Last time Lu Yun visited the fourth realm, She Nong and the prisoners of the Hadal Hell had told him that there were no cultivation levels here. The bigger one was, the more power one contained and the stronger one was.

But upon his second visit, he discovered that there were six major cultivation levels to be found. Despite that, it wasn't a discovery that contradicted what they'd told him.

Denizens of the fourth realm cultivated "nothing", so from a certain perspective, the six cultivation levels did indeed not exist. Out of nothing came something—they were all derived from the level of "nothing".

Lu Yun hadn't experienced the intricacies of the fourth realm then, so the others hadn't bothered with details of this. For his repeat visit, he quickly mentioned "World Manifest" and "Nihil World Sovereign"—terms that prompted further explanations from She Nong.

However, the snake still didn't mention "out of nothing came something" or "nothing". Lu Yun had to experience some things for himself.

And now, he'd finally grasped everything. If he once more expanded his body to his limits, he would transform into "nothing" and his cultivation level of Nihil World Sovereign and associated strength would no longer exist.

Of course, those who thought of the fourth realm in terms of cultivation levels would still see that Lu Yun was a Nihil World Sovereign when they looked at him.

After comprehending “nothing”, Lu Yun’s mentality underwent another shift and he became more attuned to the fourth realm.

“Nihil World Sovereign... Nihil World Sovereign... is the peak of ‘nothing’. Therefore, what comes after is beyond ‘nothing’.” Lu Yun took a deep breath, having guessed that there must be more cultivation levels to come. He couldn’t see them, no matter what he tried. Perhaps the Tome of Life and Death was at that level, but he himself was still too weak to harness that power.

One thing he was certain of, and that was the Tome of Life and Death exceeded the existence of “nothing”!

Not even Lu Yun had anticipated that he would increase his understanding of the realm after helping Longshan Yan break through to World Manifest. If it wasn’t for this, he would’ve thought that She Nong and the Bridge of Forgetfulness were lying to him. He’d swing back around and take them to task for it.

But now, he was actually thankful to She Nong. Strength was easily obtained in the fourth realm, but an increase in cultivation level was exceedingly hard.

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Longshan Yan’s strength grew in leaps and bounds after he ascended, reaching unfathomable heights. He was a stunning genius to begin with; his potential was displayed to the utmost after Lu Yun helped him.

There were three subdivisions when it came to World Manifest—minor, major, and true.

Thanks to the great one, he’d skipped right past minor and stabilized in major World Manifest!

His cultivation level was flawless and perfect; even his combat arts and cultivation methods had undergone a complete reorganization. Lu Yun was using Longshan Yan as a laboratory rat to test his own cultivation level.

Should I go back and help She Nong and the Bridge of Forgetfulness too? Lu Yun gave up on the thought after brief contemplation.

The Bridge of Forgetfulness was one thing since it was a treasure that Tianqi had made in the human dao hell. It’d stumbled into the fourth realm by happenstance and become a living being. It didn’t have a foundation in the fourth realm.

As for She Nong... his potential was leagues apart compared to Longshan Yan. Even if Lu Yun used his own cultivation level to enhance She Nong’s, the latter wouldn’t reach Longshan Yan’s heaven-defying levels.

A heavenly tribulation roared through the sky, battering Longshan Yin. He seemed to want to suffer grave injuries as he thrust himself into the terrifying black lightning, allowing himself to be struck with abandon.

A strange energy blossomed from his body at the same time, slowly absorbing the heavenly thunder's power. No one else noticed it, but it didn't escape Lu Yun's senses.

"He has a segment of Thunderstruck Wood inside of him! That's the source of his confidence!" Lu Yun agitated with excitement when he detected the presence of the wood. "When he survives this tribulation, I want that wood," he murmured to himself.

A smile appeared on Longshan Yan's face. It was normal that a Nihil World Sovereign wanted something. If the heavyweight had continued to not ask for anything, Longshan Yan would start to worry that he'd become the great one's cannon fodder and would have to die in his stead.

That was seriously a lot of gobbledegook about the cultivation levels.

Chapter 1497: Battle is Joined

Too many similar happenings often occurred in the fourth realm. If it wasn't for him being at the end of his rope, Longshan Yan would have never requested help from a Nihil World Sovereign. Would someone on the level of a lofty world sovereign help an ant survive their tribulation, especially out of the goodness of their hearts? It was far more likely that the ant could offer sufficient treasures to make it worth the world sovereign's while, or have another compelling reason to elicit aid.

After Lu Yun arrived at Dragonmountain Clime, Longshan Yan tried his utmost to curry favor with the august personage. He could finally relax now that something finally caught the world sovereign's eye.

It was wonderful that the mighty one wanted his father's Thunderstruck Wood! If they gave it to him, he wouldn't treat them as useless pawns and randomly send them to die at some point in time.

Nihil World Sovereigns comprehended "nothing" when they cultivated. They needed to ensure that their hearts remained free of distractions and that they didn't have any karmic relationships plaguing them.

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"If the venerated world sovereign likes the Thunderstruck Wood, we will offer it to the esteemed one as soon as my father weathers his tribulation!" Longshan Yan quickly promised.

"Do you know what that wood is?" Lu Yun asked faintly upon sweeping a gaze over Longshan Yan.

The man paused.

"There are five hells in existence—the Hadal, Sanguine Nihil, Abyssal, and Nether Hells. There is an unparalleled spirit root called the Karmic Tree that supports each of the hells!"

Longshan Yan's breath hitched.

Everyone in the fourth realm knew of the legends of the five hells, but the stories came from such a distant era that their origins could no longer be ascertained. Their reputation was what continued to dominate the realm.

Numerous depraved and unspeakably evil villains had once been suppressed in the five hells, including Nihil World Sovereigns!

However, they'd eventually all perished and only the Hadal Hell remained, but its whereabouts were unknown. As for the five Karmic Trees, very few had ever heard of them.

"I'd always thought that the five trees were individual entities, but I realized how wrong I was when I saw the Thunderstruck Wood," Lu Yun murmured. "The five Karmic Trees are all split off of an unparalleled spirit root..."

"Your Mightiness, do you mean..." Longshan Yan's heart began to tremble.

"That's right, the Thunderstruck Wood is the main entity of the five spirit roots supporting the five hells," Lu Yun nodded.

"This lowly one will surely convince my father to offer the wood to Your Mightiness!" Longshan Yan hastened to say.

Lu Yun inclined his head.

"If I take action now, I can erase everything around the clime and defeat even the heavenly tribulation. What do you think?" He smiled at Longshan Yan.

Longshan Yan took a deep breath and bowed at Lu Yun. "This humble one will forever remember the great one's generosity. However, please take action only when the Longshans are about to fall. If you solve all of our problems now, our clan will never change and will always be content with the status quo!

"...and we would lack the right to follow by your side." He never would've dared voice such sentiments at any other time, but since the world sovereign wanted their family's Thunderstruck Wood, this was the best time for the clan to rise.

"Then do you know that the coming battle will see a lot of casualties? Your kin, your friends, your disciple, and even you might die in the battle to take place."

"Even my father, the forefather of the Longshans, has the conviction to die for our cause! If any Longshan disciples are afraid of death, then they do not have the privilege to have my father die for them!" Longshan Yan drew himself upright.

"Then alright, let's do as you say," Lu Yun nodded in conclusion. "I will not take action until the critical moment—not even if you die.

"However, heed my warning well. There are too many spies and traitors among you. A lot of your core family members have already sold you out, so you should watch yourself."

Longshan Yan shook at Lu Yun's words and finally understood why his father wanted to use his death to propel the family forward.

"Please protect my father well, venerated one. The family will not truly perish as long as my father is alive!" Longshan Yan bowed once more at Lu Yun.

Though they were holding a conversation out in the open, no one discovered anything unusual about Longshan Yan—not even that he'd broken through to major World Manifest.

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The thunder tribulation reached its climax and furiously battered Longshan Yin's body. He alternated between throwing attacks right back at it and using the Thunderstruck Wood to absorb the tribulation's power.

The thunder tribulations of the fourth realm could take physical form and possess true spirits. They could deploy any combat art or secret methods like a regular living being. This was more than just a tribulation for Longshan Yin, it was also a fight at close quarters—a skirmish!

Combat arts from tribulations were all connate ones of the fourth realm. This was actually a fortuitous encounter for the one undergoing the tribulation. If they could peek into the connate arts of the realm during their trial, the benefits to their strength would be unimaginable.

Despite that, Longshan Yin wasn't paying attention to them. He nursed a death wish; as soon as the tribulation ended, he would use his strongest abilities to go down with Revered Rednote and the others!

Revered Rednote could also read Longshan Yin's condition from his vantage point in the distance and his expression turned exceedingly ugly.

"He's determined to go down dying and wants to take me with him." He glanced at Big Dragon Cong. This was his scapegoat, his answer to his expectation that Longshan Yin would want to die with him.

"That's strange, why is the tribulation so short?" Revered Rednote frowned at the fading tribulation clouds. He wasn't Lu Yun, so he couldn't detect the presence of the Thunderstruck Wood, but he could keenly perceive that the thunder tribulation was weakening and about to conclude.

Longshan Yin was covered in blood and his nascent spirit on the verge of shattering. Though he just barely counted as a Void World King, he was weaker than before.

This was the best time to kill him.

Once he recovered, Revered Rednote would never be able to touch him. The would-be avenger's cultivation level didn't even reach the threshold of Void World King.

"Longshan Yin is injured by the tribulation! Fellow daoists, it is time for you to take revenge!" he called out in ringing tones. "We have been put under their heels for endless eons, our fortunes and treasures robbed by these bastards! Even our family was enslaved and tortured to death at their hands. This is their weakest moment, yet it is the one of our vengeance and glorious rise!"

His words seemed to be laced with a strange magic. When those around him heard his words, their eyes turned bloodshot and they charged Dragonmountain Clime with shrieks and howls.

Battle was joined in an instant. The fires of war raged over the clime the moment the tribulation disappeared.

"Revered Big Dragon, let's go kill Longshan Yin!" Revered Rednote looked at the figure next to him.

"Let's go!" Big Dragon Cong nodded, but he remained hidden in the void. He was no fool; he wasn't about to be cannon fodder for Revered Rednote.

There are a shit ton of plots and counterplots on this battlefield. I really wonder how it'll all play out.

Chapter 1498: Betrayal

“Rednote, Big Dragon Cong, you’re here!” Longshan Yin stood firmly at the highest vantage point of Dragonmountain Clime and looked down at the two coming for him.

Hidden in the void, Big Dragon jerked with surprise. He hadn’t thought that Longshan Yin would discover his existence!

“I am a Void World King. You mere World Manifests are unable to hide beneath my all-seeing eye.” Longshan Yin’s aura flared to its utmost—rich and robust in its strength. There were no signs that he was heavily injured at all, as if the wounds he’d suffered in the heavenly tribulation were all illusions meant to beguile his attackers.

“You’re complete hot air!” sneered Revered Rednote. “This is the day you die, Longshan Yin. Our blood feud formed when you killed my dao partner and exterminated my clan. Today, I return all that and more to you!”

“Your clan was a rotten and corrupt menace. It stopped at nothing to do evil and it was drowning in retribution. Even if I hadn’t taken action, the Nihil Tribulation of Demon Refinement would’ve erased your people!” Longshan Yin enunciated clearly from his position.

“Die!” Revered Rednote flew into a towering rage; the time of verbal jousting was over. A crimson cape unfurled behind him with a shake of his body, turning the void into a fiery sea. “Go!” he roared.

Big Dragon Cong didn’t dare bring anything less than his full effort to the fight. If he didn’t, Longshan Yin would easily overcome him.

Two quick moves from the attackers filled the air with enough energy to pressure a trickle of blood from Longshan Yin’s beet-red face. He was indeed heavily injured and had been playing for time earlier, trying to recover as much as possible.

Revered Rednote naturally wouldn’t allow him that breathing space.

Having just broken through to Void World King and being gravely wounded, Longshan Yin lost control over his injuries as soon as he suffered the brunt of the joint collective.

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“Please take to the field, Three Brahmas, and help my father!” Longshan Shui bowed to the three next to him.

The Three Brahmas were three elders in green robes that looked remarkably similar to each other. They floated around effortlessly, the very picture of ephemeral serenity.

Longshan Shui was enormously grateful as they were willing to receive their payment of the Radiant Moonpearls after the crisis was over. He couldn’t pay them beforehand since the treasury was still locked.

Longshan Shui swept a glance at Longshan Yan. The latter was keeping a close eye on the fight in the air with a grave expression.

Confusion was beginning to overcome Dragonmountain Clime; numerous fourth realm denizens blasted through the defensive systems and rushed inside. Longshan disciples held fast in the face of danger. They assembled into enormous defensive formations and withstood the invaders, protecting their homes.

“Hahahaha!!” The foremost Brahma laughed heartily. “Fret not, fellow daoist Longshan! This Brahma is here to help you!”

“Kill!” came an unknown shout before the neat and tidy defensive response collapsed. Longshan disciples that’d been fending off outsiders suddenly turned on those next to them!

“What is this?!” Highly self assured in his wisdom, Longshan Shui panicked and gaped at the sight of his kinsmen killing each other. He rubbed his eyes fiercely, unable to believe what was happening.

“Father! A wise man submits to fate! Grandfather acted against what is right and ended the paths of countless experts! The Longshan fortunes have run their course!” A young man stepped forward and roared, “Only by throwing ourselves on Revered Rednote’s mercy will we be able to salvage a tiny bit of survival for our family!”

“You!!” Longshan Shui looked at the young man—his most favored son, Longshan Yue. The scene went black before his eyes and he almost fainted on the spot.

Longshan Shui was Longshan Yin’s firstborn; he wouldn’t betray the family even on pain of death. But his son had?? And was leading a band of Longshan disciples to Revered Rednote’s side?!

“Hahahaha!! Indeed, a wise man submits to fate. You’ve done well, Longshan Yue.” The foremost and second Brahma were already in the air to “help” Longshan Yin. The weakest third Brahma looked at Longshan Yue with merry approval.

“Three Brahmas?!” Longshan Shui finally realized that things were drastically wrong. The two Brahmas who were supposed to help his father were working with Revered Rednote and Big Dragon Cong instead!

Ready to erupt with outrage, Longshan Shui’s reaction was prematurely cut short by a casual backhand from the third Brahma.

“How dare... how dare you plot against me?!” It was only now that he realized that the Three Brahmas were in Revered Rednote’s camp!

“I leave your father to you. Hoi, Longshan Yan, you’re a decent talent. If you surrender to Revered Rednote, I can make the decision to spare your life. How about it?” The third Brahma ignored Longshan Shui. That was just a piece of trash who liked to aim too high and possessed puny capability to back up his grandiose aims.

How else would the three of them so easily enter Dragonmountain Clime?

Longshan Yan swept a dismissive gaze over the interloper. “How dare a puny minor World Manifest speak to me like this?”

“Huh?!” The third Brahma, Longshan Yue, and the suppressed Longshan Shui blinked with consternation.

Longshan Yan looked around and murmured to himself, “All of the traitors and enemies have revealed themselves, haven’t they? How about you, Longshan Huo? Are you also going to betray the family and scabble in the dirt for the rest of your life?”

He suddenly looked to the side and frostily regarded a young man in crimson brocade robes—his only son.

Longshan Huo trembled before his flaming long spear turned around and ran through an enemy charging up to them. “I will live and die under the Longshan name!”

“I will live and die under the Longshan name!” His call rose and fell as it was picked up by increasing numbers of Longshan disciples.

“Idiot as stubborn as a mule!” sneered the third Brahma. “Since you refuse to see the light, Longshan Yan, I will kill your son before you and see what you do then. A puny minor World Manifest? That’s still not a level that your pathetic true nihil realm can hope to reach!”

He erupted with a piercing streak of fiery sparks and slammed his palm toward Longshan Huo busily killing enemies.

Longshan Huo was also in the true nihil realm, but he’d just broken through and thus stood no chance before even a minor World Manifest.

“I said that you’re a puny minor World Manifest, and you are indeed nothing but a puny weakling!”

Boom!

Longshan Yan made his move at the same time.

“A major World Manifest?!” gasped the third Brahma.

Yeahh that gets the heart pumping!

Chapter 1499: Killing With One Stroke

A major World Manifest!

The foremost and second of the Three Brahmas were of this level, so they’d gone to help Revered Rednote and Big Dragon Cong take down Longshan Yin. The other two were true World Manifests.

The third Brahma was just a minor World Manifest, so he couldn’t participate in that level of battle. But to think that the great Longshan genius, Longshan Yan, had quietly broken through to that mighty level as well!

Boom!

A tremendous explosion shook the sky. The palm strike that the third Brahma pushed out met with a certain rule that rebounded its terrifying strength back onto himself. Caught in the throes of shock, he flew backward from his own blow.

“Get back here!” roared Longshan Yan. His shout directed the power in the void around him to somehow yank the third Brahma back. With a casual grasp, he wrapped his hand around his enemy’s throat.

The suppressed Longshan Shui and posturing Longshan Yue gaped at the unexpected development. Never had they imagined that the true nihil realm Longshan Yan would’ve suddenly ascended to such lofty heights!

The traitors and enemies that’d charged into Dragonmountain Clime were likewise dumbfounded. There was another World Manifest that they had to contend with, and it was a major World Manifest!

“Brahmas!” Longshan Yan ignored the crowd and shouted at the few in the distance. “Get out of Longshan territory if you want the third Brahma to live!”

Preoccupied by coordinating attacks with Revered Rednote and Big Dragon Cong, the expressions of the other two Brahmas darkened when they saw what’d happened.

“Ignore him!” Big Dragon Cong gnashed his teeth. “Longshan Yan won’t get away after we kill Longshan Yin!”

Longshan Yan was already too strong at Void World King. Though he was gravely injured, he was still able to fend off all these World Manifests. The four of them had to act together to firmly suppress him.

If the two Brahmas left, Longshan Yin would be able to take the remaining two with him even if he died!

That also happened to be his original plan.

However, the other two Brahmas had been thrown into complete disarray. They were three brothers and had endured an incredible amount of hardship to obtain their current level of strength. Their bond of brotherhood was extremely tight and they would never stand for someone hurting their third brother.

“Longshan Yan, if you dare touch even a hair on my third brother’s head—” snarled the foremost Brahma, but Longshan Yan raised his hand and chopped off the third Brahma’s head before he could finish.

Longshan’s greatest genius held the third Brahma’s nascent spirit in his hand.

“Get out of here within ten breaths, or I’ll crush his nascent spirit and send him back to the void.” Longshan Yan’s power was on full display. Though he was newly ascended to major World Manifest, Lu Yun had personally overseen the process and stabilized his level. It was as if Longshan Yan had spent countless years at this level and he wielded its power with deft aplomb.

“Good, good, good!” Longshan Yin roared with laughter. “As expected of a son of mine! Ignore those bastards and crush his nascent spirit! The other two won’t be leaving today, they’ll all die here!”

“Understood!!” Longshan Yan was suddenly reminded of his backer after his father spoke. He had a Nihil World Sovereign with him! Anything that dared attack them today and all traitors would soon die!

Bam!

He tightened his hand before the other two Brahmas could respond.

“AHHHHHHH!!!” they screamed with horror and anguish.

“Longshan Yan, I want your head!!” shouted the foremost Brahma and he streaked toward the genius as a ray of light. He was peak major World Manifest and not far off from true World Manifest, making him much stronger than Longshan Yan.

“Hahaha!! Just the likes of you want to hurt my son? DIE!!”

Craaaaack.

A bolt of black radiance erupted from Longshan Yin’s body—the thunder tribulation that the Thunderstruck Wood had just absorbed! What he released wasn’t just lightning, but the actual tribulation!

There was a trace of true spirit within the tribulation, one that could deploy all sorts of combat arts and secret methods!

It hammered right into an unprepared Brahma, disintegrating him to ash and then blowing him away on the wind.

“Big brother!” The second Brahma wailed. The terrifying tribulation turned toward him before he could respond, and he swiftly followed in his brother’s footsteps.

“My son, swiftly suppress the insurrection and expel the invaders!” Longshan Yin roared.

“Understood!” Longshan Yan whirled around and split his form into multiple copies, seeming to appear in every corner of Dragonmountain Clime at the same time. He swiftly executed any traitor or invader, showing no mercy or quarter.

“Second brother! Spare Longshan Yue!” Longshan Shui jerked out of his stupor and shouted urgently.

Bam!

Longshan Yue’s body flew heavily through the air and thudded to the ground before his father. The power of the three Brahmas restraining Longshan Shui had dissipated, restoring his freedom.

“It’s up to you how you want to handle your son. I’m going to help father now.” Longshan Yan cast a glance at his elder brother and soared into the sky, joining Longshan Yin to stand side-by-side with him.

Longshan Shui looked enviously at his younger brother. What an honor and how majestic he looked to be standing by his father! This was also the dream of countless family members, but it was the patriarch’s second son who stood by his side, not his firstborn!

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The Thunderstruck Wood sparkled with black luminescence and flashed through Longshan Yin’s consciousness. More than half of the thunder tribulation it’d collected had been consumed.

“You have a treasure that can absorb tribulations!” Revered Rednote regarded his enemy with gravity. “But that’s also your final trump card, isn’t it? Showing it now means that your doom is upon you.”

Big Dragon Cong had retreated several hundreds of kilometers out. He wasn't able to withstand this level of tribulation. However, Revered Rednote didn't seem to be wary of this kind of power. He still remained confidently assured.

Longshan Yin took a deep look at Big Dragon Cong and summoned the rest of the thunder tribulation from the Thunderstruck Wood, sending it circulating around himself.

"Yan'er, go to safety. We need you to lead the Longshans in the future," he said gently.

Chapter 1500: Void Phoenix

"No!" Longshan Yan remained firmly planted next to Longshan Yin. "I will fight by father's side!"

His gaze was resolute and even a bit excited. It'd been a childhood dream of his to fight next to his father, and it was coming true today!

As the founder of the Longshan family and its only pillar of support, Longshan Yin had been the only one to step forward whenever the clan met with danger over all these years and the only person to protect everyone.

Longshan Yan had finally grown into his own and become a major World Manifest. Although he knew full well that there was a Nihil World Sovereign among them and so the family's crisis was long resolved, he still wished to fight side by side with his father.

"Very well then." Longshan Yin looked deeply at his son, approval shining out of his eyes.

"What a touching display of love between father and son, but both of you will die today!" Revered Rednote sneered and extended his right hand, showing that there was a crimson bead in his palm.

It dyed the void a startling red and he melted into the air as if he was light. In this moment, he somehow seemed to have the strength of a Void World King.

"Big Dragon Cong!" he suddenly roared.

"What?" Having retreated far off into the distance, Big Dragon Cong reflexively responded when he heard his name. He wanted no part of this!

A horrific suction force bloomed out of the unknown. He only had time for a final shriek of horror before he was devoured by the force.

Kreeeee!

A long croon sounded after Revered Rednote swallowed Big Dragon Cong and he began to change.

"What?!" Longshan Yin's jaw dropped. "A void phoenix?! Revered Rednote's true form is the divine beast void phoenix!"

Craaaaack.

Highly on edge, Longshan Yin released the Thunderstruck Wood from his nascent spirit and filled the void with black thunder and lightning. This was something to stand at full combat readiness for!

Those who could be hailed divine beasts in the fourth realm wielded a great dao of their own and possessed innate talents that were more dreadful than connate combat arts. Revered Rednote immediately gained the strength of a Void World King after swallowing Big Dragon Cong—and the full strength of that level.

Longshan Yin wouldn't have feared him if the former hadn't been injured in the heavenly tribulation. Now, however, he regarded the situation with grave solemnity and fully released all of the tribulation that he'd absorbed.

A tremendous bird cry echoed after Revered Rednote revealed his true form. Fearsome dao of flame erupted from his body and formed blazing fires that surrounded Longshan Yin, Longshan Yan, and all of Dragonmountain Clime.

Pff!!

Longshan Yin spat out a mouthful of blood—his enemy completely suppressed the thunder tribulation from the Thunderstruck Wood!

In addition, the flaming bead floating in front of Revered Rednote was another frightening treasure that could withstand the Thunderstruck Wood!

The Thunderstruck Wood was the original body of the five Karmic Trees, but it'd been destroyed by heavenly tribulations and became a piece of wood without life. With Longshan Yin's injuries flaring up, he was unable to deploy the wood's true power.

Longshan Yin reeled backward from the heat wave and Longshan Yan went flying, smashing heavily into the highest peak of the tallest mountain in the clime.

There was no hope.

No hope whatsoever.

Who could've fathomed that Revered Rednote would suddenly burst forth with the strength of a Void World King?!

"HAHAHAHA!!" Longshan Yue howled with maniacal laughter. "Do you see that, father?? That is Revered Rednote's true power! If you surrender to him now on behalf of the family, we'll have a chance of survival! We'll have a chance!"

"Swear fealty to Revered Rednote and you'll be the master of the family. The Longshans can still conquer the plane under the revered one's protection—"

Smack!

Longshan Shui sent his son flying with a slap before the latter could finish. He left Longshan Yue alive, though, as he couldn't bear to kill his most promising son.

"I am a Longshan through and through. While we have endured countless setbacks throughout history, we have continued to develop in this plane. We would rather snap than bend!" Longshan Shui declared frostily. "We will never bow our heads to our greatest enemy, even if the entire clan is exterminated today!"

An unending fiery sea surged toward them from all directions. Roiling magma and fire consumed Dragonmountain Clime, slowly refining it so that it would vanish from the plane.

Longshan Chi stood piteously next to Lu Yun, not daring to move a muscle. Apart from his master Longshan Yan, he was the only one who knew Lu Yun was here.

“Did you want to refine the Fire Virtue Potentate and gain his power of fire virtue for this moment?” Lu Yun smiled at Longshan Chi.

Longshan Chi first nodded, then shook his head. “I knew that Revered Rednote was a divine beast, but I didn’t know that he’d be able to use the strength of a Void World King...

“The power of fire virtue isn’t enough to contain him and... I wouldn’t be helping the Longshans either way...” Longshan Chi didn’t dare lie to the mighty world sovereign. The treacherous bones in his body were enough to form a spear with and stab a hole in Dragonmountain Clime. If the Nihil World Sovereign hadn’t been here, he likely would’ve turned traitor along with Longshan disciples.

“At least you see clearly,” Lu Yun nodded. “That Revered Rednote can ascend to Void World King in such a short amount of time because one, he’s eaten Big Dragon Cong, and two, that pearl is also a Fire Virtue Orb!”

A Fire Virtue Orb!

The Fish King had obtained one after they entered the Azure Dragon Lake, but there’d been a life form inside that’d become a fire virtue fetus. The Fire Virtue Orb in front of them was just a treasure from inside out. It contained the great dao of fire virtue and the equivalent of a Void World King’s strength.

“If I feed this one to the life form inside the other one... then he’ll have the potential to become a Void World King...” Lu Yun thought rapidly when he saw the latest Fire Virtue Orb. Though the Fish King owned the other one, she was his martial granddaughter. What’s hers was his, wasn’t it?

And the fire virtue fetus wasn’t a thing, it was a living being!

Lu Yun couldn’t sit still after his thoughts traveled here.

“I need a steed to travel throughout the fourth realm with. A void phoenix will... just do, I suppose.” He suddenly vanished into the void.

You know, we've come a far cry from when Lu Yun used to gift all of his treasures to other people. Now it's "what's yours is mine, and what's mine is still mine".