

Necropolis 1501

Chapter 1501: Winning People Over With Virtue
A void phoenix was a spirit of the great dao of flame, one that could innately control the great dao from birth. Strengthened with the Fire Virtue Orb, Revered Rednote instantly possessed the strength of a Void World King.

His true form bristled with rampantly splendid feathers that sparkled with the luster of fire. He hung in the void like a blazing sun, more resplendent and bedazzling than Dragonmountain Clime itself.

The Fire Virtue Orb hovered over his head, releasing boundless heat and light.

Blood continuously welled up in Longshan Yin's mouth as he bellowed and called upon the Thunderstruck Wood with his life. However, the thunder tribulation that it'd absorbed was being gradually eroded by the Fire Virtue Orb. Longshan Yin's demise would arrive the second it was completely consumed.

All he could do was utilize the tribulation stored in the wood; his cultivation level and capabilities didn't permit him to draw on the wood itself.

Color draining from his face, Longshan Yin held on with gritted teeth and tirelessly sent his strength into the Thunderstruck Wood. He wanted to call upon the wood's core essence if he could, but it seemed to be a bottomless sea and took in his energy without offering a response in return.

As fatigue crept up on him, so did hopelessness.

Revered Rednote was correct. While Longshan Yin had his plans, so did his enemy. Both of them knew each other's preparations and it would be personal strength and trump cards that determined the final victor.

By now, it was apparent that Revered Rednote was the winner.

A tireless horde once again rushed out of unknown origins and converged upon Dragonmountain Clime, charging in with Revered Rednote's fiery sea to plunder and pillage as they would.

Longshan Yan roared furiously; he'd forgotten about the Nihil World Sovereign that was his guarantee of victory. The only thing on his mind was to protect his home!

Longshan Shui, Longshan Huo, and even Longshan Chi joined the fray, preparing to lay down their lives for their homeland.

"What a good treasure, what a fine treasure! Who would've thought that there'd be a piece of the five hells here? Heh heh heh, no wonder I felt unsettled today and couldn't settle into meditation. So it's this precious that's emerged in the world!" a delighted voice traveled into everyone's ears.

The scene instantly quieted down. Whether it was Longshan Yin, Revered Rednote, or Dragonmountain Clime close at hand, a strange power wrapped around all of them.

Everything froze into an enormous void crystal; everyone was a bug inside the crystal. A man in red robes walked out of the air, regarding Revered Rednote and Longshan Yin with surprised delight.

“Good, good, good!” he applauded with laughter. “A divine beast with a Fire Virtue Orb and that treasure! This trip was well worth it, well worth it!”

“Void World King!” Revered Rednote’s throat bobbed and he forced out, “Peak Void World King half step Nihil World Sovereign!”

“You’re the Divine Fire World King!” Longshan Yin’s eyes widened. They were in the Plane of Fire and the great dao of fire ruled the plane. Thus, many beings in the domain practiced fire arts. Big Dragon Cong, Revered Rednote, and this Divine Fire World King counted among their ranks.

Longshan Yin wasn’t a native of the plane and neither was his firstborn, Longshan Shui. On the other hand, Longshan Yan and the others were born after Dragonmountain Clime was established and thus were influenced by the great dao of flame in their surroundings.

This plane was boundless without end and its ruler—or the strongest among them—was the Divine Fire World King in front of them. Dragonmountain Clime was a tiny locale in the plane, neither Longshan Yin nor Revered Rednote had thought that they’d attract this mighty one with their fight.

The Divine Fire World King was a peak World King and had taken a step into Nihil World Sovereign. Both Longshan Yin and Revered Rednote were tiny grasshoppers in front of him. He didn’t consider their feelings at all before reaching out a hand—one that bizarrely appeared in front of both people at the same time—and grasped for Revered Rednote’s body and Longshan Yin’s Thunderstruck Wood.

Despair dawned in Revered Rednote’s eyes. Becoming the pet of the Divine Fire World King was even worse than death. He would forever be a slave and never break free!

As for Longshan Yin, the world king naturally didn’t give a whit about his well being. Longshan Yin had refined the Thunderstruck Wood with his nascent spirit; the process of extracting it like this would pulp his nascent spirit!

“Though the process is different, the end result is the same.” A smile curved Longshan Yin’s lips. Revered Rednote would never be able to threaten Dragonmountain Clime again once he became a pet. Longshan Yin could die without regret. Someone like the Divine Fire World King would never bother razing the clime.

“Ahem!” A cough sounded and scattered the world king’s large hand in the air. The hand faded away into emptiness, like it’d never existed.

“Who was that?!” The world king frowned and looked to the other side of the void.

A handsome young man roughly eighteen years old walked into view. He wore a blue satin robe and carried himself with a dashing grace. All of his gestures seemed to define the great daos of the plane.

Longshan Yin’s face twitched when he saw the young man. He suddenly understood why his son hadn’t been afraid or lost hope from beginning to end. Was this young man his son’s reinforcement?

“Fellow daoist, I saw these two treasures first. Surely it’s first come, first served?” Lu Yun spread his hands out at the Divine Fire World King.

“Treasures are claimed by the virtuous.” The world king hadn’t discovered Lu Yun’s existence beforehand, so he was highly on guard to see the young man suddenly appear. At the same time, he was a half step Nihil World Sovereign. He was a premier existence in this plane and feared no one!

Nihil World Sovereigns?

Would they come to such a remote backwater?

“I’ve always won others over with virtue. Let’s have the treasure go to whoever is more virtuous!” smiled the Divine Fire World King.

“Whoever is more virtuous?” Lu Yun blinked and stared blankly at Longshan Yin and Revered Rednote. Did powerhouses of the fourth realm compete with virtue instead of an old fashioned fight when they clashed over treasure?

However, the two looked equally lost.

“And how do we compete?” Lu Yun asked haltingly.

“Whoever’s fist is harder is the more virtuous, of course!” the world king suddenly leered. “I always win through virtue, so I will beat you into the ground!”

Chapter 1502: A Primitive Trajectory To the Divine Fire World King, the slender youth in front of him was likely another peak Void World King, but one far weaker than him. It was too hard to kill someone like that, so he could only beat the other until they gave up!

“Oh, I see.” Lu Yun nodded with half understanding. “In that case, I’ll take a leaf out of your book and win with superior virtue as well!”

He balled up his fists and charged his opponent before the world king had a chance to react. Lu Yun wasn’t displaying the strength and level of a Nihil World Sovereign. He’d suppressed his realm to peak Void World King—the same as his opponent’s.

He’d formed some thoughts and come to some conclusions over the past seven days of deriving combat arts and the cultivation system of the fourth realm. It was now time to test and validate those theories.

Seven days was still a very short period of time, however. Lu Yun hadn’t utilized the order of time to extend it because he didn’t know what would result from using it in the fourth realm. Hailed as the boundless realm, this fourth realm was yet too foreign to him.

Therefore, it was perfect that a peak Void World King presented himself to be his sparring partner.

“Well met!” the Divine World King threw his head back with hearty laughter to see Lu Yun sprinting at him. Having overseen the Plane of Fire for endless eons and witnessed too many Hongmeng worlds rise and falls, he couldn’t remember the last time he met a match on his level.

His battle intent blazed to see Lu Yun release the strength of a peak Void World King. He forwent bringing out his weapon and also came for Lu Yun with his own fists as well.

And so two domineering powerhouses of the fourth realm tangled with each other in broad daylight like scrapping hooligans.

Longshan Yin and Revered Rednote struggled free of their bonds, but no one moved. Their jaws dropped at the two heavyweights fighting.

“The young man who suddenly appeared is he your final ace?!” Revered Rednote’s chest heaved as he asked in a trembling voice.

Longshan Yin didn’t answer. He turned to his second oldest walking up to him.

“That’s right, that senior is our family’s reinforcement,” Longshan Yan declared clearly. “We win this time.”

Revered Rednote’s expression darkened. He’d lost, completely and utterly! No matter who won, he would be plagued with misfortune after today!

Having been afforded some breathing space, Longshan Yin released his connection to the Thunderstruck Wood. Revered Rednote, however, was still a void phoenix. Though the Divine Fire World King was battling Lu Yun, he had split out a strand of consciousness to lock onto him!

A divine beast was a rare find and it’d be so magnificent to have one for a steed!

Revered Rednote turned back to human form and plopped down on the air, hanging his head as he watched the two fight.

“Yan’er, please explain.” Longshan Yin was hastily taking some pills to recover from his injuries. Unfortunately, his wounds were so severe that his pills could only delay the inevitable. There was no healing from this.

Longshan Yan quickly took out a pill and gave it to his father.

“Father, eat this. It’s from that mighty one!”

Longshan Yin nodded and swallowed the pill glowing with a faint golden hue. A golden flame blazed over his body and his eyes shot wide open.

“My core essence that was harmed by the tribulation is completely healed?!” He couldn’t believe it.

All was quiet within Dragonmountain Clime. All of the invaders and Longshan disciples fighting each other had stopped the moment the Divine Fire World King arrived.

It would be courting death to continue their previous activities.

“Don’t worry, father! With that venerable one there, the clime is as solid as Nihil Mountain—no one’s shaking us!” Longshan Yan brimmed with confidence.

“The venerable one wants my Thunderstruck Wood, doesn’t he?” sighed Longshan Yin. He knew that when treasures of this caliber appeared, it would surreptitiously call to certain unknown existences such as the ones before him.

“Yes,” Longshan Yan nodded. “It was that senior who helped your son break through to major World Manifest. He will not have other designs on the clan once he receives the wood.”

Longshan Yin had already fully severed the wood from his nascent spirit while he quietly waited for the outcome of the battle. He tilted his head up to where the two Void World Kings were in the sky. Theirs was a sight that was a little difficult to speak of in flattering terms.

If one described the battle between Longshan Yin and Revered Rednote, it would be an extravagant showcase demonstrating a dazzling array of combat arts, secret arts, thunder tribulation, and fire virtue. The one between the two august world kings? Nothing but a brawl in the streets and not worth watching.

They exchanged punches and kicks, completely eschewing combat arts and using only the most primitive styles. However, it was a mesmerizing sight for Longshan Yan.

Just because the two didn't use combat arts didn't mean their fight was harmless. On the contrary, their every move followed a certain trajectory—a most primitive one of existence.

They were similar to the ax that Lu Yun had met in the world of immortals that spoke of the simplicity of dao. Its stroke had seemed laughably crude, but followed the most basic trajectory of space. He'd comprehended the reincarnation of space and time from the spear and ax, thereby controlling those two orders.

And now, his battle with the Divine Fire World King proceeded in a similarly primeval fashion. The strength they clashed with was enough to disintegrate Dragonmountain Clime with any one of their blows.

Bam!

One of Lu Yun's fists connected with the world king's face and sent him flying.

"Yeah!!" Longshan Yan cheered despite himself and began imitating Lu Yun's punch.

"How dare you cheer?!" It was beyond humiliating that someone had punched the Divine Fire World King in the face, but an ant witnessing everything from the sideline had dared cheer for it!

"Why not?" Lu Yun could tell with a quick glance that Longshan Yan had almost reached spontaneous enlightenment for grasping dao.

"The lad is intelligent enough to glimpse a trace of pure dao through our battle. It's only a matter of time before he reaches your heights," Lu Yun said faintly with his hands behind his back.

"Hmph!" The mark on the world king's face slowly faded away and he sneered, "Kid, I might've gone easy on you in normal times on account of your age. But there's an important matter at stake today, so I'll show you no mercy!"

Whoosh!

A pair of fiery wings extended from his back as a pair of bright red hammers appeared in his hands.

"Oh there's no need, you can win me over with all the virtue you got." Lu Yun blew on his fists and grinned merrily.

Chapter 1503: Nothing“Fine, I’ll take you up on it since you have a death wish!” The Divine Fire King finally lost his temper when he saw that Lu Yun still refused to use a weapon.

This had veered into blatant contempt and dismissal!

Their exchange earlier had been one of casual mutual probing. When the world king unsheathed his weapon, that meant he was now treating their clash with utmost gravity. Since Lu Yun still wished to face the change in circumstances with empty hands, that meant he didn’t think much of the world king.

Divine Fire was the greatest powerhouse of this plane! How would he stand for this kind of humiliation?!

His hammers trembled as thirty-eight hundred trails of primitive trajectories collected together and formed an enormous volcano, smashing down on Lu Yun.

The combat arts of the fourth realm were highly different from the Hongmeng. The former was based on primitive trajectories—the more there were, the stronger the combat art. Of course, only souls at the level of Void World King could see the trajectories and utilize them. This level of skill was far out of reach for a new Void World King like Longshan Yin.

As the huge volcano descended from the air, it crushed everything in its path and returned them to a state of nothingness. Lu Yun looked up at the enormous mass coming for him and reached out with a punch.

Just a singular punch!

It contained only one trajectory, but that was all it took to form a major combat art!

In the fourth realm, twenty or more trajectories were needed for a combat art, but Lu Yun’s employed only one!

The greatest simplicity of dao—Space Reincarnation!

“Impossible! You used only one trajectory for a major combat art!!” shrieked Divine Fire.

His hammers had released nineteen hundred each, making for thirty-eight hundred combined. A major combat art of this magnitude was enough to shake the heavens and move the earth.

But somehow, it seemed as fragile as paper when facing his opponent’s art of a single trajectory!

Boooooom!

Lu Yun blasted the volcano away with his punch. It was larger than Dragonmountain Clime.

“No, no, this is impossible, impossible!” Divine Fire flew backward as he stared fixedly at his approaching opponent.

Lu Yun darted forward the moment he dismantled the volcano, reaching for Divine Fire’s vivid hammers. Those were crafted by someone as opposed to being connate treasures, and the principles of supplemental dao in them far exceeded anything in the clime.

They had to be Lu Yun's! With them in hand, he would be able to derive many things about the fourth realm, especially the inner workings of its supplemental dao. The treasures in Dragonmountain Clime were too low level for that purpose.

Divine Fire erupted with new wrath to see his opponent reach for his treasure. Giving up on stabilizing his body, he waved the hammers again and formed another thirty-eight hundred trajectories, swiftly collecting them in the void.

"Too slow." Lu Yun shook his head at the latest attempt and pointed forward.

Puff!

He shattered the forming combat art with his finger, then grabbed the hammers before Divine Fire could react. Similar to when Longshan Yin and Revered Rednote were almost captured, Lu Yun only needed one hand to grab both at the same time.

"Let go!" he snapped.

Yelping with pain, Divine Fire involuntarily let go of his weapons when a prodigal amount of force traveled down his hammers.

Pfft!

He spat out a mouthful of blood.

"Winning over others by virtue it seems that my fists are stronger and I am more virtuous." Lu Yun juggled the hammers with a smile. He hadn't needed his strength as a Nihil World Sovereign from beginning to end. Only peak Void World King had been needed.

"Return my Glacial Fire Hammers," Divine Fire forced out through grit teeth.

"What, you think you have the right to talk terms with me?" Lu Yun chuckled.

As befitting their name, the hammers contained both the power of ice and fire. If Divine Fire ever grasped the force of ice within, he'd be able to balance yin and yang and become a Nihil World Sovereign.

Divine Fire didn't respond—his cultivation level was disappearing. Peak Void World King receded from his body and he began expanding, releasing "nothing" from his form.

Lu Yun frowned faintly. This was the same condition he'd been in when he first arrived in the fourth realm. Just as She Nong and the others had said, there were no cultivation levels in the fourth realm. The bigger one was, the more "nothing" one contained and the stronger as a result.

The Divine Fire World King was putting his life on the line.

Longshan Yin went slack jawed with horror. Even a breath of "nothing" from a Void World King could raze Dragonmountain Clime down to the last pebble. All Longshan disciples would die!

On the other hand, Revered Rednote brayed with maniacal laughter. He couldn't escape becoming a slave either way, but it would be a pleasant sight to see Longshan Yin die before he was enslaved and all of Longshan's descendants die as well.

Longshan Yan had awoken from his state of comprehending dao and knew what was happening, but he remained unmoved.

“You want to set your life against mine?” Lu Yun’s joviality slid off his face. “I’d planned on sparing you, but you court death.”

“DIE!!” A furious howl answered him. Divine Fire was so incredibly large now that Dragonmountain Clime was just the tiniest speck of dust in front of him.

“Hmph!” Lu Yun snorted as a marvelous ripple flashed in front of him.

All of the void seemed to turn into nothing. Divine Fire’s terrifying blow sank into nothing and he stumbled forward, plunging head first into it.

The nothing slowly devoured him like it was a massive swamp.

“Nihil Nihil World Sovereign” Divine Fire finally understood who he was facing.

A true Nihil World Sovereign.

Longshan Yin was utterly dumfounded. How had his son found a Nihil World Sovereign?!

“No wonder that traitorous Longshan Chi didn’t do anything, he probably knew of the sovereign’s existence” The Longshan patriarch thought rapidly.

Chapter 1504: Not a Coincidence Lu Yun had no choice but to bring out the power of a Nihil World Sovereign since the Divine Fire World King was putting his life on the line. Only that level of strength could contend with Divine Fire in his current condition. Or perhaps Lu Yun could also revert his cultivation level to “nothing” and expand his body to the greatest it could go

But if he did that, Dragonmountain Clime would be no more. It would be similar to him just running over his opponent with the power of his cultivation level. That kind of physical condition was to give full expression to the strength of a Nihil World Sovereign, so that everyone would be overcome by his magnificence and domination.

All he was doing now was the merest display of strength and flaring a hint of his aura. Just that was sufficient to stop Divine Fire in his tracks.

The world king froze on the spot, looking blankly at what was happening to him. Though he was peak Void World King and glimpsed the threshold of Nihil World Sovereign, he was a far cry from the next level. Anything less was just a gnat in the eyes of an actual world sovereign.

Thump!

He dropped to his knees, trembling so hard that he couldn’t get a word out.

“Whose fist is stronger?” Lu Yun blew on his fist again.

“Of course it is your mightiness! This humble one wholly submits!” Divine Fire knew that the world sovereign wasn’t angered by his trespasses when he heard Lu Yun’s question.

“Good good, you’re dismissed.” Lu Yun retracted his strength and waved a hand.

Seized by baffled joy, Divine Fire scrambled to his feet and vanished without a trace, not even daring to bid Lu Yun farewell. What if the world sovereign changed his mind??

Titans such as them were an eccentric group, their thoughts changing from second to second. Divine Fire didn't dare allow for anything unexpected to happen.

Meanwhile, Lu Yun had only come to the fourth realm to capture the Fire Virtue Potentate. He didn't want to form any karmic repercussions. Divine Fire World King was the ruler of a plane and if Lu Yun killed him, that might attract other Nihil World Sovereigns.

With his current level of strength, he could bully Void World Kings. But when it came to others of his level, he was the lowest on the totem pole. He had a very good understanding of himself—he was definitely the weakest among all Nihil World Sovereigns. His combat arts and understanding of the fourth realm were a result of formula dao, yet formula dao had not yet reached the level of the fourth realm.

He glanced at the hammers in his hand again. This was the true doorway through which he could peer into the fourth realm.

“Greetings to the venerable world sovereign!” Longshan Yin took a deep breath and crawled on hands and knees to approach the mighty one, offering up the Thunderstruck Wood with both hands.

Lu Yun nodded and waved the wood to him, then took possession of Revered Rednote's Fire Virtue Orb with another gesture. He also planted a restriction in Rednote's nascent spirit.

Smiling wryly, Rednote aped Longshan Yin's movements and knelt in front of Lu Yun.

Lu Yun had planted a restriction in his nascent spirit as he wasn't the honest sort. Just like Lu Qing had done in Zhuo Bufan's true spirit, such a precaution was necessary to keep them under control.

“This clime bears the surname of Lu in the future, understood? I will send over a group of once powerhouses in the days to come. You will teach them well, do you hear me?” Lu Yun looked down at Longshan Yin and Rednote.

Delight flashed across the Longshan patriarch's face. Though Dragonmountain Clime was no longer the family's territory, a noble Nihil World Sovereign wouldn't interfere in mundane affairs. Longshan Yan was still the clime's ruler, and now he had a massive patron!

Once powerhouses? Teach them?

That was training a personal force for the world sovereign!

Lu Yun crooked his finger and sent a ray of fiery sparks into Longshan Yin's body. The latter began burning up—this was pure fire virtue.

Though Lu Yun had refined the Fire Virtue Potentate, he'd only refined the disorderly entity that violated the Hongmeng's orders. He'd kept the power of pure fire virtue intact. Longshan Yin was a good talent, so Lu Yun was generous with him.

“My deepest thanks to Your Mightiness' favor!” When an overjoyed Longshan Yin lifted his head, Lu Yun was already gone.

There was no need for Lu Yun to worry about Dragonmountain Clime. Longshan Yin and Longshan Yan were highly capable geniuses, and with Revered Rednote among the ranks, the clime was one of the strongest in the plane now.

Having been scared off, Divine Fire World King would never dare cause any more trouble for the faction.

Lu Yun reached out to She Nong to have him bring the Bridge of Forgetfulness and the former prisoners in the Hadal Hell to Dragonmountain Clime.

The prisoners were completely cut off from their pasts. Whatever traces they'd left in history and even their names were buried in the Hadal Hell. The page had been turned on all grudges and debts they'd held before. They were now Lu Yun's subordinates—nothing more, nothing less.

He couldn't be bothered with these minute details; his top priority was to refine the Thunderstruck Wood and revitalize it!

The Karmic Trees that once supported each of the five hells all came from it! When he obtained the wood, a frightening thought flashed into his mind.

What if the ultimate reason for the five hells' existence was to resurrect the Thunderstruck Wood??

The five hells buried all life so they could utilize that power to return the wood to life. Did the destruction of the five hells have something to do with this? Additionally, a sixth Karmic Tree had swiftly appeared after he established the Disordered Hell.

"Violetgrave's ardent desire to break free of the Nether Hell probably has something to do with this too. She pointed me toward the path of refining the sixth hell, and then the Thunderstruck Wood appeared here."

It didn't seem to be a coincidence. The six great hells were all in the Hongmeng and part of the Hongmeng led to Dragonmountain Clime of the Plane of Fire. Meanwhile, the Thunderstruck Wood had just so happened to be in Longshan Yin's hands?

"There is nothing wrong with my path and my hard work will not be for the benefit of another." Lu Yun called upon the Tome of Life and Death to analyze the wood. It was dead through and through after being smote by terrifying heavenly lightning. It was more lifeless than if Quiet had struck it.

The Tome of Life and Death was plainly stronger than the wood since it could analyze it. Whether it was the Hadal Hell or Karmic Tree—all had been captured by it to help Lu Yun. Though Violetgrave had set events in motion for Lu Yun to obtain the Thunderstruck Wood, it was still mostly due to the Tome of Life and Death.

The feedback from the treasure was clear. After the wood was resurrected, it would be subdued by the book and become a tool for Lu Yun. After all, it was now Lu Yun's nascent spirit.

Chapter 1505: The Giant Sealed in Ice
What Lu Yun needed to do now was to refine the Thunderstruck Wood through the Tome of Life and Death. Only in that way would he truly become the wood's master.

If not, it would attack Lu Yun when it came back to life.

“But what does the god of Mount Tai have to do with the wood?” Lu Yun frowned faintly. There was an embryo of that god being suppressed in hell.

Each hell gave birth to a god of Mount Tai and Karmic Tree. Back in the day, the five gods had become one and was hailed the Great Peak of the Five Hells, utilizing the five hells to suppress the fourth realm.

Lu Yun wasn't sure if the latest god was absorbing the power of all beings to resurrect the Thunderstruck Wood, or if he was planning something else.

Instead of returning to the Hongmeng, Lu Yun left the Plane of Fire for the nearest plane to refine his newest possession. He needed to call upon the Tome of Life and Death to do so, and he could only do so in the fourth realm.

He didn't possess his cultivation level of the fourth realm in the Hongmeng, so he could only passively use the treasure's power there. But in the fourth realm, the Tome of Life and Death was his nascent spirit and also a part of him. He could easily utilize the tremendous power within.

It was also unknown what the refinement process would bring. Thus, he dared do so only in the spacious and empty fourth realm.

Pitch-black emptiness reigned outside the Plane of Fire; it looked like nothing was there. Such was the power and level of “nothing”.

Lu Yun sat cross-legged in the void and expanded his body to its utmost, releasing all of his strength.

“Nihil World Sovereign is both a title and a cultivation level. They can create worlds as they will in the nothingness.” He was finally coming to terms with the capabilities of his level.

When Longshan Yan and Longshan Chi first met him, they'd blurted out Nihil World Sovereign not because of his cultivation level, but because of his condition. One who mastered the void was a world king, and one who mastered “nothing” was one of the greatest in the void—a world sovereign!

“But even Void World Kings can begin to create something out of nothing. It's a cultivation level that can be seen by others, so me sitting here to refine the Thunderstruck Wood that means a lot of people can see me.” Lu Yun looked around and discovered that many beings were scattering in all directions like startled birds. He ignored them all and began to refine his treasure.

Six flames burst from the Tome of Life and Death and surrounded the Thunderstruck Wood. Though it was thoroughly dead, it still contained frightening power.

Lu Yun could easily sense that this power exceeded the existence of “nothing”, entering an entirely new field. It must be the unknown cultivation level above Nihil World Sovereign. He couldn't see it for now, only sense its existence.

The Tome of Life and Death projected its image into the air and sealed off the void. The six hellfires projected the six hells and vast power surged into the Thunderstruck Wood. It trembled violently, blossoming with black lightning. They seemed alive and swam through the void, seeking to swallow Lu Yun like venomous snakes.

His hellfires and hells had been completely subjugated by the Tome of Life and Death—they no longer needed support from the Karmic Tree. However, the Disordered Hell belonged to Lu Yun alone. Even if he somehow lost the tome one day, he would still retain that hell!

That was his path.

For the moment, he deployed the strength of the six hells to the maximum, blasting away the toxic lightning within the Thunderstruck Wood. They were the culprits for turning the wood into what it was now, and they remained within the wood, becoming its core essence.

When Longshan Yin weathered his tribulation, it'd been this black lightning that furthered the thunder tribulation and extended it beyond what was necessary.

Lu Yun wanted to refine the lightning so the Thunderstruck Wood could return to its origin and the original form of the Karmic Trees. Naturally, the roiling black lightning did everything it could to fight the young man and resist refinement from the Tome of Life and Death and six hellfires.

As a Nihil World Sovereign, Lu Yun's core essence was too weak since he was just a superior realm cultivator from the Hongmeng. When it came to the most basic fundamentals, he couldn't put up a fight against the lightning.

The merest strand lingering within the Thunderstruck Wood exceeded Nihil World Sovereign.

"Hang on." A thought suddenly occurred to Lu Yun. "This black lightning is a kind of heavenly tribulation, right? If that's the case"

He stood up and put away the six hellfires and Tome of Life and Death. Reaching out with a hand, he activated the death art Thunder Palmstrike.

Craaaaack!

After momentary struggle, the rampaging lightning gathered in Lu Yun's hand as a black thunder bead.

"That's it?" Lu Yun blinked. "Well, that was easy. The death arts are connate combat arts from the Tome of Life and Death. It seems to be a natural counter to heavenly tribulations."

He stroked his chin. "Or is it that the death arts were created precisely for these types of circumstances?"

He quickly ran through all of the ones he knew.

"Since I'm a Nihil World Sovereign now, that means my bean soldiers" He shuddered and cut off that train of thought. He could summon thirty-six Nihil World Sovereign bean soldiers at any given time! That was an absolutely horrific force in the fourth realm!

After he fully absorbed the black lightning, the charred Thunderstruck Wood reverted back to a piece of withered wood. It seemed perfectly ordinary, but Lu Yun knew that it was a seed—a seed for the real Karmic Tree!

He put the wood away in the Tome of Life and Death and used the treasure's strength to turn the wood wholly into his.

“Young man, do you know that you’ve attracted misfortune?” A deeply resonant voice echoed from all sides and traveled into Lu Yun’s ears.

He whipped around and saw one huge eye looking unblinkingly at himself. Lu Yun was currently bigger than Dragonmountain Clime, to say nothing of the Hongmeng! The Hongmeng was now truly a speck of dust in his eyes. Yet he still couldn’t see the full body of the being behind him??

He only saw a large eye a hundred times bigger than his body!

He shot away for an indeterminable distance as fast as he turned around, finally seeing the complete entity after he had no idea how far he’d traveled. It was a gigantic giant, but he was encased in a titanic piece of ice. From the distance, it looked like a huge iceberg floating in the void.

“What who are you?” Lu Yun shouted.

Chapter 1506: Fragments of the Hongmeng “I am the overlord of the Plane of Ice,” said the giant in the iceberg. Since he was encased in ice, he couldn’t speak via his mouth. Instead, he used a special art to emit a booming voice. “Young man, believe me when I say that that withered wood will bring you misfortune and ensure that you never reincarnate into a new life.” A hint of anxiety and unease colored his tones.

“Are you also a Nihil World Sovereign?” Lu Yun asked instead. He’d used the Tome of Life and Death to seal off the area during previous events, so the giant couldn’t have seen what’d taken place earlier—including the summoning of the six hells.

All he saw was the final glimpse of the young man storing the withered wood inside a book-like treasure.

Lu Yun was gradually making out the cultivation level of the giant in front of him—Nihil World Sovereign! The giant was bigger than all of Dragonmountain Clime. Perhaps he was peak Nihil World Sovereign and could peer into the next level!

“Yes, I am a Nihil World Sovereign,” answered the giant. “You would be well served to heed my advice and give up that piece of wood.” He was still bent on persuading Lu Yun.

“You’ve seen it before? Do you know what it is?” Lu Yun retreated another one hundred million kilometers and continued to maintain his distance from the other. Although the giant was sealed in the iceberg, it would be very easy for him to take action if he wanted to.

The strength and methods of a Nihil World Sovereign were unfathomable. He’d be able to deliver indelible damage to Lu Yun with a single thought.

“Ai!” the giant sighed to see the young man be so wary. “True, who wouldn’t be tempted by such a treasure? Young man, I will pass a nihil method onto you instead. If this item causes trouble in the future, you can activate the sequence of time through this method and exile it into time.”

A mammoth will appeared in the void before Lu Yun could respond and surged into his mind. It was colossal and completely dwarfed his thoughts. Such was the giant’s will, and the difference between them was that of heaven and earth—similar to how Longshan Yin was in front of the Divine Fire World King!

No, even greater than the gap between those two.

“You have a weak core essence and weak will, but your nascent spirit is uncommonly strong. No wonder you can’t control your greed,” sighed the giant.

His exhale turned his immense will into a gentle force, trickling into the depths of Lu Yun’s thoughts like babbling brooks and delivering a method that the young man had never heard of. Not even formula dao could derive it.

“This nihil method is one that I comprehended at the peak of nothing. It can open the doors to the sequence of time. That withered wood is an inauspicious item and will doom not only you, but also bring misfortune to all things. Only the sequence of time can safely banish it,” the giant explained.

Shock filtered through Lu Yun’s eyes. This was a true method of nothing, and one formulated at its peak! He was so absorbed by it that he didn’t have thought to spare for the mysterious “sequence of time”.

When he came back to himself, the giant and iceberg had disappeared from sight.

“The overlord of the Plane of Ice?” Lu Yun frowned with deep thought. Based on his understanding, numerous worlds floated within the fourth realm—such as Dragonmountain Clime. Multiple worlds made up one stratum, and multiple stratum made up one plane.

Just as he’d been in the Plane of Fire before, he was now probably in the Plane of Ice. In the words of the fourth realm inhabitants, they called the fourth realm the Boundless Planes.

An overlord of a plane was an absolute powerhouse in the Boundless Planes. The Divine Fire World King, for example, only dared to name himself the strongest in the plane and not its overlord.

“He didn’t bear any malice toward me and there was even a trace of fear in his emotions. He’s afraid of the withered wood.” Lu Yun’s frown deepened. “And it’s because of the withered wood, not the Thunderstruck Wood that it was before. The giant didn’t appear until it became the withered wood.”

Lu Yun sighed and dropped that train of thought. Since the Tome of Life and Death was refining the wood, there wasn’t much he was worried about.

“Thankfully, I didn’t attract any scary fellas during this process, just a hugely strong Nihil World Sovereign. Mm time to go back to the Hongmeng.” He subconsciously wanted to call upon the Gates of the Abyss to return to the third realm, but a sudden idea struck him and he deployed the death art Boundless Step instead.

Lu Yun’s body vanished and he reappeared by the banks of the Hongmeng at almost the same time.

“Death arts really showcase their true power only in the fourth realm!” He could at most cross five hundred thousand kilometers with the Boundless Step in the Hongmeng, but he easily traversed an entire plane in the fourth realm!

He returned to regular size and strode into the third realm—not through the gap beneath Azure Dragon Lake, but through regular means.

“This is the place!” Lu Yun gasped when he looked at the Hongmeng. Tombs forested the void, forming a massive mausoleum. The soil inside the mausoleum was mauve colored and flowers of six colors blossomed everywhere.

He didn't know what the flowers represented, but compared to the world below, this place seemed more like a real Hongmeng. When one stood on the world below and looked up, the mausoleum appeared as if the night sky, all of the tombs glittering like crystalline stars and illuminating the earth.

"This was once a prosperous world," sounded a female voice. "Just as prosperous and thriving as the so-called fourth realm. Living beings didn't need to break through a so-called Hongmeng barrier to enter the fourth realm. They could travel through it at will and discuss dao with those of the fourth realm."

Hong appeared in front of Lu Yun, still wearing her red dress. She continued in a melancholic voice, "A devastating war descended at the end of that age and shattered the Hongmeng. Everything here died"

"Wait, what did you say?" Lu Yun started and interrupted, "The Hongmeng was shattered? This Hongmeng isn't complete?"

"Of course not," Hong nodded. "There are a hundred and eight thousand Hongmeng worlds no, more than that in the fourth realm. Endless and innumerable, they are all derived from the fragments of the original Hongmeng. They gave rise to an incomplete Hongmeng, gave rise to order, gave rise to life forms

"This patch of Hongmeng is the source of all Hongmeng worlds in the fourth realm and the origin of the fourth realm itself." Hong cast Lu Yun a glance. "Those buried in this mausoleum are the original inhabitants of the Hongmeng.

"The overlord of Ice was correct, you shouldn't have become involved with the withered wood."

Chapter 1507: Not Equal "Someone's gone to a great deal of effort to send the withered wood to me. I'd be spurning their kind intentions if I didn't accept it," chuckled an unconcerned Lu Yun.

Hong shook her head without a word.

"So this part of the Hongmeng was originally a tomb and the world beneath us is its tomb realm. That's why the ghosts keep attacking it, because it's literally a paradise for them," Lu Yun expounded as he looked at the world below.

"Mmhmm." Hong nodded. "The original inhabitants of the Hongmeng are buried here and the entire third realm's been modified into a real tomb.

"This was a scheme executed in the open. Someone wanted to bury the origin point of the fourth realm in the tomb realm, turning it into a realm without roots. But this tomb is the final resting place of the original Hongmeng denizens. How could someone actually do, or dare do anything to it?"

"And, there are no actual corpses in the tomb, they're all hero barrows," sighed Hong.

"So that's why we have the immortal dao?" Lu Yun blinked and asked subconsciously.

"That's right!" Hong nodded. "Immortal dao came to be thanks to the strategizing of numerous fourth realm powerhouses. With the immortal dao supporting this Hongmeng and returning it to its origin, it will become the root of the once-proud fourth realm again. It will become its core, the Hongmeng of the most supreme fourth realm!"

Lu Yun shook.

“Don’t you find it weird that the initial name for the Boundless Planes was the ‘fourth realm’?” Hong enunciated carefully as she looked at Lu Yun. “Within the worlds, the world of immortals presides over the mortal worlds and is the core of the first realm. In the same vein, the Hongmeng is the fourth realm’s world of immortals.

“Do you understand what I’m saying?”

Lu Yun’s eyes widened. This seemed to subvert some of his understanding of existence.

“First came the worlds, then the worlds begat the chaos, the chaos gave birth to the Hongmeng, and from the Hongmeng resulted all living beings!

“The worlds are one, the chaos splits the clear and chaotic into two, the Hongmeng beholds the three essentials, and the Boundless Planes is all life!” Her voice grew louder the more she explained.

“This this” Lu Yun shook his head fiercely. “Aren’t the three realms, including the Hongmeng, equal to each other on an objective basis?”

“They are indeed equal in the eyes of life, but an order of existence can be determined even for realms on equal footing. There is a difference between the primary and secondary!

“First came the worlds, then the chaos, and then the Hongmeng. That in itself is unequal!

“The laws and rules of the worlds appeared first, so they are the strongest! The chaos and Hongmeng come second!

“Laws and rules give rise to order, therefore the orders of the worlds are also the strongest! Because they are the strongest, they are much less likely to be controlled or wielded by their cultivators. This is why the beings of the worlds are the weakest and those of the chaos and Hongmeng are relatively stronger. The beings of the worlds have a very difficult time using their home’s orders to improve their lives or cultivation.

“But in that ancient age, the beings of the worlds were the strongest. They were unchallenged at the apex of existence. Rules that are strong and mighty to begin with only become stronger when wielded by the equally strong.” Hong’s voice shook; she seemed to be reliving that far off past.

“Is the section of withered wood something that belonged to the worlds of old?” Lu Yun asked with a frown.

“No,” Hong shook her head. “It’s something of the fourth realm, but possesses the power of the strongest of the worlds”

She didn’t elaborate further, plainly wary of something. There were too many taboos in this part of the Hongmeng, so one wrong word or accidental exposure of certain truths could result in inexplicable backlash.

“It is an inauspicious thing,” she concluded weakly. “It was once a supreme existence of the worlds, but it is a terrifying corpse in death. The withered wood is the corpse.”

"I see." Lu Yun nodded. Dead things were the last thing he was afraid of. The Tome of Life and Death was already refining the wood, so he didn't care if the withered wood was the most terrifying zombie king in the fourth realm or what.

"And," Hong continued, "Go save the overlord of Ice when you have the ability to. He is a kind and benevolent powerhouse. He accepted being sealed into the iceberg to save the countless souls of his plane."

"Mhmm," Lu Yun inclined his head. He would've made the attempt even without Hong's mention; the master of the Plane of Ice had given him such a strong nihil method without demanding anything in return. Lu Yun could now see through more of the fourth realm even when he wasn't using it to activate the sequence of time. He could even borrow the strength of the immortal dao to familiarize himself with the method.

A monumental debt of gratitude had been incurred.

"Ah, do you know what this is?" Lu Yun materialized the Tome of Life and Death and held it up with one hand.

Hong looked blankly at him. "I don't know. Perhaps there really is something in your hand and it doesn't want me to see it. If my guess is right, your Nihil World Sovereign level in the fourth realm comes from what I can't see."

Naturally speaking, she'd observed everything he'd done in the Boundless Planes. When he subdued the Bridge of Forgetfulness, he'd only been a Void World King. But now? He was one of the greatest in the realm!

"Can you see it now?"

Hong's expression turned stiff. She could see the treasure this time; it was a bronze scroll that glowed with six different colors—the colors of the six hells.

"Don't worry, it wouldn't let me see it, but it did when you wanted it to. That means it completely belongs to you. It will never leave you unless you die," Hong raised an eyebrow. "I still don't know what it is, I've never seen it before—not even in the time of the Great Ancien."

What she referenced as the Great Ancien was the era in which the Hongmeng was complete and the center of the fourth realm.

"Alright, you can go back now. You should make a trip to Mount Cloudcover if you want to ascend as a ninth step king. Retrieve your future self first."

It wasn't a surprise that she knew of his future self too. Hong's cultivation level was in the fourth realm as well, so she could see what'd previously happened in the third realm when she stood at its peak.

"What is the sequence of time?" Lu Yun suddenly asked.

"The sequence you will know when you reach that level." Hong plucked a flower from the ground and placed it in his hands. "Since the six hells are on you, this flower of six colors will be of help to you."

The last time she gifted him a flower, Lu Yun had just treated it as a marvelous treasure. This time, however, he could see his future path in it.

So people have been saying all along that being more sophisticated/stronger/advanced than the rest, the third realm contains the second and first. Hence it's superior (Sun rotates around the Earth). Then the big truth is that the three realms are equal (Earth rotates around the Sun). Hong suddenly turns that secret view of the truth upside down and says that the worlds/world of immortals is the most superior (I don't know what the analogy is here, we are all subjects in an alien lab?).

However, cultivators in the world of immortals are weaker because the world of immortals has stronger rules and orders than the other realms. It's a bit counter intuitive. Since the rules and orders are stronger, that means humans are less able to use them. Imagine if the elements of our Earth was so potent that they exploded anytime someone tried to mine them (yeah that ain't how science works, but roll with it). Our society would be less developed despite the higher quality elements simply because we can't use them.

Chapter 1508: Feng Feifan
The vast Azure Dragon Lake once again appeared in front of Lu Yun after the world spun around him.

He was finally back in the Hongmeng.

Lu Yun raised his head and looked up at the radiant stars in the sky—each of them a hero's barrow. He didn't know what'd happened in that age, but he did know that it was highly possible everything now had to do with that bygone era.

Hong had brought him to the mausoleum in the skies and spoke of the past because she'd confirmed that he could control the strength of a Nihil World Sovereign in the fourth realm. Though he was only a superior realm cultivator in the Hongmeng, he was a powerhouse in the fourth realm and possessed the ability to protect this part of the Hongmeng.

The third realm was just a speck of dust in the fourth realm—even a Void World King had the ability to destroy it.

"Wow, it's been three years," Lu Yun realized after some calculations.

He hadn't wasted much time in Dragonmountain Clime; most of his sojourn to the fourth realm had been spent refining the Thunderstruck Wood and returning it to its origins. He'd spent three years transforming it back to withered wood.

Of course, three years was but the blink of an eye for some powerhouses.

"I wonder how everything is in the Hongmeng the eleven potentates of the ten divine nations should be busy suppressing the true kings of the realm." He briefly sent out his consciousness and refrained from disturbing his women when he noticed that Qing Yu was in closed door cultivation and the little fox was standing guard for her.

"Immortal King!" A surprised voice traveled from behind Lu Yun. "You're not dead!"

"Of course I'm not dead, why the heck would I be dead?" Lu Yun suppressed an eye roll. He didn't even need to turn around to know that it was the Fish King.

“Where’s the life form in the Fire Virtue Orb?” He changed his mind and turned around, cutting straight to the chase. “I obtained another fortuitous opportunity beneath the Azure Dragon Lake that will greatly benefit the being. Give it to me.”

“The life form?” She wanted to ask about the Fire Virtue Potentate, but went with the flow when she saw that Lu Yun wasn’t going to say anything.

It was more than likely that the Fire Virtue Potentate was dead.

“I sent it to the Terra treasury. It can’t survive in this Hongmeng since the orders are scrambled here. It would’ve died after a short while, so I sent it to the vaults to be sealed away,” the Fish King replied after brief thought. “I’ll give it back to you since you want it, but you’ll have to make a trip to Terra with me. The Terra Potentate isn’t in residence because he’s preoccupied with the true kings, so the Terra ruler and that crown prince are up to their old tricks. I’ve absolutely had enough of them!”

The Fish King had returned to her divine nation after the events of Azure Dragon Lake, but the nation’s crown prince kept proposing to her and even the ruler had issued a decree for their marriage! Completely fed up with everything, she traveled back to Azure Dragon Region.

Her master had instructed her to watch over the region, after all, so this was just fulfilling her duties.

By now, the Fish King completely acknowledged Lu Yun’s greatness. The Talisman King, Fire King, weird big-headed doll, and newly awoken azure dragon ancestral god had all appeared within the lake because of Lu Yun!

Her supplemental dao had taken a large step forward thanks to the Fire King, so she was now infinitely close to supplemental true king. There was nothing for her to be afraid of if she returned with Lu Yun in tow—well, she hadn’t been afraid in the first place. They’d just been annoying her to death.

“Alright, I’ll go to Terra with you.” Lu Yun nodded. He’d long wanted to see the famed divine nations for himself. It was said that they were the strongest factions in the Hongmeng and apparently, the creation seeds came from them.

The ten divine nations were located in the central zone of the Hongmeng.

The Fish King used a method unbeknownst to Lu Yun, instantaneously whisking him to Terra. He saw an enormous purple tower that held up the skies and earth before even setting foot in the divine nation—the Hongmeng Tower!

So it was located in the divine nations!

“This particular area is a world created by the Hongmeng Tower. It’s generally understood that this world preserves the orders of the original Hongmeng, and is the only place in the realm where the orders aren’t jumbled,” the Fish King explained.

“The original Hongmeng?” Lu Yun raised an eyebrow. He wouldn’t know what that was prior to his visit to the mausoleum. Since he had, it was easy to connect what was known as the original Hongmeng to the once core of the fourth realm—the realm’s world of immortals. How did the Fish King know about it, though?

“That’s right, the original Hongmeng!” the Fish King nodded. “The Hongmeng Tower is a treasure from that era and as the legends have it, the unparalleled mistress is its owner and someone from that age. She created the Hongmeng we know and crafted its orders, turning what should’ve been a landscape of tombs into a place that can support life.”

She glanced at Lu Yun, surprised by his lack of unfamiliarity regarding these topics.

“When it comes down to it, both the opening of the tower and the rise of the ten divine nations should be a summons from the tower to protect it. It’s also said that the mistress has discarded the tower.

“Ah, Terra’s borders are ahead of us.” The Fish King suddenly paused her halting explanation and stopped in her tracks. “You can’t enter the divine nation as you are, there’s a lot of people inside who view you as an enemy. You’re Headmaster Lu Yun from the world of immortals, aren’t you?”

Though she wasn’t willing to believe that this was Lu Yun’s true identity, she didn’t have a choice anymore. It was the hottest gossip in the ten divine nations; everyone viewed Lu Yun and Qing Yu as the enemy.

“Mmhm,” Lu Yun nodded. “You’re right, I can’t go in with my true form.”

Swoosh!

He flicked his sleeves and changed his appearance, looking to be a young man so otherworldly that it seemed he’d naturally float on air. It was completely different from the way he appeared before.

“Call me Feng Feifan from now on,” he chuckled.

The Fish King’s expression darkened. “Immortal King, what is your relationship to my master?!”

Feng Feifan!

That was the name of one of Lu Yun’s replicas in the mythological realm. He hadn’t been able to do anything that would result in karmic repercussions, but he couldn’t resist exploring the era. Thus, he created the Feng Feifan identity to journey throughout the mythological realm.

Feng was the surname of Fuxi’s replica and Fuxi was one of the people who’d had the greatest impact on Lu Yun. Thus, he’d used the surname as well.

Since the Fish King was Lu Qing’s disciple and received his true teachings, she naturally knew about this character.

“Has the venerated enforcer still not told you?” Lu Yun grinned. “Lu Qing is my son.”

Chapter 1509: Crown Prince things had been the same as they were before, Lu Yun wouldn’t have bothered to explain his relationship with Lu Qing to the Fish King.

It didn’t matter anymore since Lu Qing had gotten a firm grasp on the potentate realm—thanks to massive gratitude from the people for ending the chaos tribulations. He would break through given sufficient time or a fortuitous encounter and become the twelfth potentate in the Hongmeng.

Lu Yun himself was a Nihil World Sovereign in the fourth realm; even Hong had revealed the truth of the realm to him. What else did he have to be wary of?

He chuckled to see the Fish King completely flabbergasted. “Surely you know that the Purple King’s name is Lu Qing? Lu for Lu Yun, Qing for Qing Yu.

“Of course, Qing Yu isn’t his birth mother. His birth mother is the Intrace King and she was the one who named him.”

The Fish King believed Lu Yun only with that detail. No wonder the long removed Purple King had started bothering with Hongmeng affairs again. No wonder he’d paid so much attention to inconsequential characters like Lu Yun and the Intrace King.

“But what why is this?” Her thoughts were still jumbled. If the Immortal King was Lu Yun—and he’d admitted as much—that made him how old? Just a few hundred years, not even a thousand. He was less than a baby in the Hongmeng!

Purple King Lu Qing was a figure from the mythological realm. That was an impossibly old existence compared to the Hongmeng, one that’d long been relegated to myth and legend. Was the Immortal King the reincarnation of some old fogey?

The Fish King looked at Lu Yun in a new light.

“No, no, your body and soul are perfectly matched to each other. You are completely you, neither possessed nor a reborn heavyweight. What’s going on??” She was still immensely befuddled.

The Fish King was a supplemental king infinitely close to supplemental true kingship. She could easily see the connection between Lu Yun’s soul and body and determine that it wasn’t the result of reincarnation or possession from another.

Lu Yun shook his head when he sensed her disoriented state. It looked like she wasn’t as important a disciple as the venerated enforcer was to Lu Qing. The enforcer knew of Lu Yun and Lu Qing’s relationship and why it was so, but the Fish King didn’t.

“Well, it’s probably also because she’s part of the ten divine nations and might have her soul and memories searched by the potentates at any second. That’s why he didn’t tell her.” Then again, based on Lu Yun’s understanding of his son, Lu Qing would treat all of his disciples equally if he added anyone to their ranks.

“Your Highness the Crown Princess Consort has returned home!” A group of warriors in black armor abruptly appeared the moment the duo set foot onto Terra territory. There were twenty of them—all in the superior realm and their leader true first level.

Outside of the divine nations, true first level cultivators were first step kings. They were highly respected individuals, but in the divine nations, they were just captains of a patrol squad.

“I will exterminate your entire clan if you call me the crown princess consort again,” snarled the Fish King.

“Under understood!” The leader went slack jawed with shock.

Everyone knew of the matter between the Fish King and the Terra crown prince. She’d once beaten the crown prince black and blue right in front of the nation’s ruler, not showing face to anyone. Now that

the Terra Potentate was away, the issue of their marriage was raised once again. Irritated beyond recourse, the Fish King had left for some peace and quiet.

No one thought that she'd left from fear of the Terra ruler and crown prince.

"Get out of here." She gently waved her hand, annoyed by the very sight of these men. They were the crown prince's eyes and ears, stationed here to report her movements the moment she returned.

Indeed, their leader took out a communication treasure the second the Fish King and Lu Yun left, relaying the events to their master.

"Terra is one of the largest divine nations among the ten—the equivalent of ninety-nine Azure Dragon Regions." The Fish King put the encounter out of her mind, as well as everything that'd happened previously. She could ask her master about Lu Yun the next time she saw him.

The last key to the Hongmeng Tower would surely appear within the next hundred years. Since he had five of them, the Purple King would have to return to the Hongmeng then.

Sudden inspiration struck Lu Yun when he heard the explanation. The largest demarcation of territory in the fourth realm was the same character as "region" in the Hongmeng—this was likely influenced by the third realm.

Though it'd been shattered to pieces and was no longer the center of the fourth realm, many things still retained traces of the original Hongmeng.

"Terra's capital is King Qilin City. Rumor has it that a blackqilin well versed in the order of earth created it. It's a remnant of the original Hongmeng and, in fact, almost all of the capitals of the divine nations were once cities of the original Hongmeng."

"A blackqilin?" Lu Yun blinked, reminded of the blackqilin in the lost ancient city that loved carrots.

"Aiyaya, you're back, my Fishie! This prince has missed you so!" A delighted voice floated through the air before a ludicrously opulent carriage procession thundered toward them from the distance. An enormous divine beast with the bloodline of a qilin led the pack. Several thousand meters tall, on its head stood a majestic young man dressed in long golden robes.

His hair was slightly yellow and he exuded an extremely domineering presence. He seemed to want to suppress all of the laws and orders around him so they would bend to his authority.

The crown prince of Terra!

If there came a day in which Terra's ruler didn't wish to be king and administer the nation, then this crown prince would become the most noble of them all.

Unfortunately for him, his father was a true powerhouse with inexhaustible life force. He would never die, so the crown prince would never ascend to the throne in this lifetime.

"What are you doing here?" The Fish King frowned at the extravagant parade.

"To welcome this prince's consort back to the palace, of course! Servants, help the princess consort into the carriage!" the crown prince roared with laughter. He waved two rows of a hundred young girls into

place. Dressed in white robes and as delicate as the clouds, they formed an ethereal walkway that led to the crown prince's vehicle at the height of extravagance.

"Please enter the carriage, Your Highness," the hundred young girls whistled and hummed melodiously. This was the pomp and circumstance afforded to the Terra princess consort and had been precisely what the prince's last consort enjoyed.

The Fish King scowled ominously.

Chapter 1510: King Qilin City
The Fish King's expression was so foreboding that she seemed ready to give the crown prince another beating of his life.

However, there were three true kings next to him. Since she was yet to reach that level, it would be almost impossible to bypass them to get at the prince.

"This divine nation's crown prince is looking to rebel," Lu Yun sighed with a glance at the man.

"Eh?" It was the crown prince's turn to glower when he heard Lu Yun's words. He'd noticed the stranger a long time ago—it made him very uncomfortable that a handsome young man followed by his Fishie's side.

He'd refrained from erupting with outrage only out of consideration for the dignity of a crown prince. But when the stranger revealed his innermost thoughts with an offhand comment, it was incredibly hard for him to sit still.

"Terra is my Yu Clan's to begin with and I am her crown prince. What talk is there of rebellion?" He paused and plastered on a genial smile.

"That would be a question for the crown prince." Lu Yun shook his head. "You should be asking me first before taking Xuanji for your princess consort."

The Fish King's eyes widened when she heard Lu Yun's response. Xuanji was her name, the one that her master had given her when he adopted her. Her surname was Yu for "fish", her given name was Xuanji for "profound mystery". Apparently, her name had something to do with the Purple King's father.

No one else knew of this name other than her master and senior brother and sister, but Lu Yun had very easily used it!

That dispersed the last of her doubts. Lu Yun really was the Purple King's father and her martial forefather!

"Xuanji?" The crown prince blinked before quickly realizing who the stranger was referring to.

"How dare you talk like this to the crown prince!" hectoring one of the true kings by the prince's side.

He hastily backed away when the crown prince waved him off.

"Might I know who this gentleman is?" the prince asked.

"I am Xuanji's family, of course." Lu Yun smiled. "Since the crown prince wishes to take Xuanji for his princess consort, her family naturally needs to make an appearance."

He jerked his hand and sent out a pair of hammers—the Glacial Fire Hammers that he'd taken from the Divine Fire World King. Lu Yun had also taken care of the hammers when he refined the Thunderstruck Wood. After spying into the secrets of the fourth realm's supplemental dao, even he had no idea what level his craftsmanship was at now.

The supplemental dao of the fourth realm could also be employed in the third realm!

Granted, he wouldn't be able to deploy that level of strength when the Tome of Life and Death wasn't his nascent spirit.

The void shook when the hammers appeared and the three true kings standing in front were shoved to the ground by an overwhelming aura. The qilinbeast that the crown prince was standing on keened and sank into the ground, foaming at the mouth.

"You're just the Terra crown prince. You better send out the Terra Potentate to talk to me." Lu Yun retracted the hammers with a beckon. He'd guessed who'd created the hammers—the overlord of Ice. The method that the ruler had gifted him was actually one to activate the hammers!

"Se—senior" The crown prince sprawled on the beast's head, nearly incoherent with terror. Who would've thought that the Fish King's family would be so fierce and incapacitate him with just a treasure??

"Come on, let's head to King Qilin City." Lu Yun took the arm of a dazed Fish King and headed for the capital.

"Your Highness!" The three true kings were the first to react after Lu Yun left. They hastened to the divine beast's head and helped their master up.

The crown prince was true seventh level—the equivalent of a seventh step king. Lu Yun would be able to easily defeat the prince even without the hammers; he'd only been concerned about the true kings.

"We go back to King Qilin City!" the crown prince declared ominously and glanced at his steed.

It was dead from fright.

"Those hammers were certainly treasures of the fourth realm! How dare a mere superior realm cultivator think he can throw his weight around in my Terra with just something from the fourth realm! Little does he know that we have treasures of the fourth realm as well!"

He'd never suffered such humiliation—he'd been knocked to the ground in public view! If he didn't slice and dice that bastard for this offense, he wouldn't be able to rule with conviction even if there came a day when he ruled the land. To think of replacing the Terra Potentate would be also wholly out of reach.

"We go!" The crown prince ground his teeth with cold fury.

King Qilin City was only ten thousand kilometers across, a tiny speck of a city in the Hongmeng. Even the lowliest city was several tens of thousands of kilometers across.

Lu Yun could also see that there wasn't a single spatial formation or special pocket dimension within it. It was really only ten thousand kilometers—no, not even. It was nine thousand nine hundred ninety-nine kilometers across, short one kilometer to make it the full ten thousand.

Instead of rushing into the city, he paused roughly fifteen hundred kilometers outside the city and stared at it.

“The Terra Potentate pulled this city out of some ancient tomb, didn’t he?” Lu Yun suddenly asked.

“Um” The enormously confused Fish King wasn’t sure how to process the question. She didn’t know what’d happened for Lu Yun to suddenly become so strong that he suppressed even true kings.

“I’m your martial grandfather, so don’t fall in love with me,” Lu Yun chuckled. “It won’t be good if your two grandmothers found out.”

“Who, who’s falling in love with you?!” That snapped the Fish King out of it and she glared furiously at him. “No one knows where the city came from, it was here when Terra was established!”

“Okay.” Lu Yun nodded. “There should be a huge spatial fissure beneath King Qilin City. It and all of Terra exist to keep it under control. But where does it lead to?”

He furrowed his brows, thinking how there was a similar fissure in the world of immortals. The great tombs of the Dusk, Azure, Crimson, and Argent Provinces had once buried four spatial fissures that led to the void outside the world.

Those had been the work of Fuxi after he traveled to what was the future for him. He’d separated his senses and buried them there to fill in the fissure.

If Lu Yun guessed correctly, a similar layout for King Qilin City was at play here; there was a crack that led to the unknown beneath the ancient tomb below them.

You know, it feels like the big bad hit upon a winning plot with the third/fourth realms and just replicated it in the world of immortals? And wait, the crown prince is talking about replacing his father’s master... okay, he really is up to something.