

Necropolis 1511

Chapter 1511: The Terra Crossbows
Lu Yun lifted his head again and looked out over King Qilin City, toward the grand Hongmeng Tower at the far reaches of the horizon. It stretched loftily into the sky and was firmly planted at the center of this world—this entire Hongmeng.

He shook his head slightly. The original Hongmeng had shattered and its core become the world they were in. The chaos beneath it and the worlds at the center of the second realm were the origin point of all living beings.

However, the Hongmeng that everything occupied was likewise broken.

If Lu Yun's guess was correct, each capital of the ten divine nations suppressed a fissure that didn't lead to any particular spot—it was just a crack in the world. If the capitals were razed, the realm would split apart from these fissures and ultimately disintegrate into dust. The origin of all life would also forever vanish from the fourth realm.

Although he didn't know what that would mean for the fourth realm, it would spell the doom of the world of immortals and chaos.

"Whatever those eleven potentates are doing or thinking, nothing can go wrong in the ten divine nations!" he murmured to himself. "At the very least, they can't be destroyed before I find a way to repair these cracks!"

This task had become his most pressing concern.

"Ah," he thought of something else and addressed his martial granddaughter, "Last time you mentioned there's another brush in the Terra treasury. I want it."

"That's fine, I'll get it for you when we go inside." The Fish King nodded readily. "But it won't be that easy for us to enter the capital now," she paused. "The crown prince has returned and he is no broadminded person. You exposed his innermost thoughts and then humiliated him in front of all to see. I'm afraid you're an enemy of the nation now."

"That crown prince is just a prancing clown, there's nothing to be afraid of. I'll end him if he dares hop around in front of me much longer. Come on, this city can do nothing to me." Lu Yun waved a hand.

"Has your supplemental dao reached the level of true king? Are you a supplemental true king now?" the Fish King quickly asked out of sudden curiosity.

In her understanding, there was only one person in the realm who'd reached the level of supplemental true king—the Dao King of the Immortal Region.

Known throughout the Hongmeng, he was famous even in the ten divine nations. He was the only one in the realm who dared talk back to the eleven potentates! He'd even bypassed them to enter the worlds and take on the identity of Haotian so he could search for the mistress of the Hongmeng.

The one walking through the realm these days, including the one that Lu Yun had met, was just his replica. If his true form had been present, he would've crushed Lu Yun with a single finger. However, Lu Yun was afraid of the Dao King no longer. Though his true form was a weak superior realm cultivator, the supplemental dao of the fourth realm was now at his fingertips.

“Supplemental true king? I suppose you could say that.” Lu Yun nodded.

“Fantastic!” The Fish King beamed. Her obsession with supplemental dao trumped everything else. She’d glimpsed the threshold of supplemental true king after the Fire King’s gift, but she hadn’t been able to cross it. Since Lu Yun was her martial grandfather, it only made sense that he would teach his granddaughter, no?

Lu Yun could easily guess the Fish King’s thoughts, but he didn’t mind. He led the two of them to King Qilin City. Fifteen hundred kilometers wasn’t far for those of their cultivation level. Just a few steps would cover that distance.

“They’re here!” Up on the city gates, a true king frowned at Lu Yun and the Fish King. “Kill the brat next to the Fish King, but don’t harm her!”

Almost all of the Terra true kings had gone out with the Terra Potentate. If counting the Terra ruler, there were only five true kings left in the nation.

“Understood!” roared armored soldiers with cultivation levels in the true realm.

Craaaack!

The city walls shook as ninety-nine sets of heavy crossbows rose over the ramparts. A dense compilation of earth energy rushed to them from all directions.

Hummm!

Ninety-nine crossbows twanged at the same time and shot out ninety-nine enormous bolts. As they whistled to their destination, they were followed by trails of horrific dirt spikes that popped up from the ground.

“The Terra Crossbows! Be careful!” shrieked the Fish King. She hadn’t thought that the crown prince would be crazy enough to bring out the national weapon!

The ninety-nine sets of heavy crossbows were Terra’s primary defensive weapon. Even true kings would disintegrate when facing them! They fired bolts of pure energy as opposed to physical crossbow bolts. When all ninety-nine fired at the same time, they delivered a blow that was on par with a maximum blow from the Terra Potentate!

These crossbows shouldn’t be used unless the situation was dire, but the crown prince had activated them against Lu Yun! He’d sent out the nation’s strongest attack!

The Fish King shrieked with horror, but there was nothing that could be done now. The bolts were traveling too fast and quickly reached them with overwhelming power!

They completely enveloped Lu Yun with their zone of attack, but pointedly excluded her. An image of a purple-golden tower floated over Lu Yun’s head the moment they descended. Curtains of light trailed down from it and wrapped protectively around the young man.

Baaaaam!

The bolts slammed heavily into the curtain of light and pierced through it. As soon as they did so, the image sharpened into focus and swallowed Lu Yun.

Bam!

Bam!

Bam!

The bolts fanned out and howled through the air, barraging the tower from all sides.

The Army Pagoda!

The tower shifted into pure gold and trembled uncontrollably. Inside it, blood welled up in Lu Yun's mouth and he was as pale as a sheet. Though the tower had blocked the attack for him, the recoil was still extremely devastating.

If it wasn't for his cultivation level and sheer strength, he would've already been ground into bone dust.

"To arms!" The king soldier and one hundred and eight soldiers pressed themselves against Lu Yun, bearing the brunt of the backlash for him.

The king soldier darkly regarded the situation outside the tower. He knew what the Terra Crossbows were and he'd never dreamed that the Terra divine nation would use them against this generation of the tower's master!

"To think that one of the ten divine weapons that my God and the other nine great ones forged together would be aimed at God's heir!" He almost ground his teeth to pieces.

Chapter 1512: Supplemental True King
At the establishment of the ten divine nations, the Hongmeng had been gripped by strife and ghosts roamed freely throughout the land. God and nine others had forged ten divine weapons for the nations to ensure their survival and cleanse the realm.

The Terra Crossbows were one of them.

Lu Yun tossed a few pills in his mouth and slowly calmed down his roiling blood. He swept a glance at the king soldier. "I'm not your God's heir."

"Whoever can compel the Army Pagoda and us to recognize as our master is God's heir." The king soldier's expression was still highly unpleasant. The pagoda was releasing its maximal defensive capabilities based on its current condition, but the Terra Crossbows were still twanging with attacks.

A second barrage soon came after the first flight of ninety-nine bolts; the third arrived at the same time. A dense compilation of crossbow bolts relentlessly hammered the Army Pagoda.

The treasure shook uncontrollably, but it wouldn't be so easily defeated since it'd once been God's personal treasure. Its main body was a treasure of the fourth realm.

The Fish King had vanished from the immediate vicinity. Though the experts directing the crossbows were avoiding her, increasing strength being fed to the crossbows meant that their area of attack was widening. She wasn't so foolish as to remain unmoving on the spot.

All of the color had drained from her face and she was at a loss for what to do. The Terra Potentate was absent from the divine nation and the Terra ruler didn't concern himself with the state's affairs anymore. That meant the crown prince essentially had a free rein.

Back inside the Army Pagoda, Lu Yun had recovered from the initial attack and seemed ready to rip someone apart.

"The pagoda has the ability to break the Terra Crossbows, right?" he asked.

"Yes but if we do that, the crossbows will be destroyed beyond repair. Terra will be left defenseless!" The king soldier shook his head in disapproval.

"You won't help me?" Lu Yun frowned.

"We cannot if the Terra Crossbows are broken, the divine nation will be lost. We will become sinners of the Hongmeng then." The king soldier continued shaking his head. He was something similar to a treasure spirit, but one that was unrestrained by it and could travel outside at any given time.

The king soldier could also deploy the pagoda's strength—he'd been the one to activate the treasure and protect Lu Yun earlier. Thus, Lu Yun wouldn't say anything if the king soldier refused to help him launch a counteroffensive. This was his savior, after all.

"Then I'll do it myself." Lu Yun waved the Glacial Fire Hammers into his hand, shaking the Army Pagoda with their aura as soon as they appeared.

"These are divine weapons of sequence crafted by an overlord of the fourth realm!" the king soldier cried out. "No! They'll destroy the Terra Crossbows without a doubt!"

"I'll use the Glacial Fire Hammers to protect Terra once the crossbows are a pile of kindling." Lu Yun vanished from the pagoda. It wasn't his style to passively receive a beating like this.

Rumble!!

The Terra Crossbows pivoted toward him the second he appeared, but he was ready. He called upon the method of nothing and summoned the hammers' strength as two gigantic shields of light in front of him.

The fearsome crossbow bolts couldn't shake the modestly sized shields.

"It's those hammers!" The crown prince was also on the city walls and was delighted to see the stranger bring out the hammers again. "Gentlemen, take down those hammers together! Our Terra will have another ultimate weapon then!" He shuddered and pointed at the hammers easily defending against the Terra Crossbows.

"Understood!" A variety of expressions shifted across the true kings' faces. A treasure that could block an attack from the Terra Crossbows was definitely from the fourth realm!

Three of them had previously been caught off guard and flattened to the ground from the hammers' aura. But now, all of them were fully prepared!

The one wielding the powerful hammers was just a puny superior realm cultivator. They could blow a hundred of him to death with just an absentminded huff!

The four true kings came at Lu Yun from four different directions. Their goal was very obvious—avoid the terrifying hammers and just kill their wielder!

The hammers were locked into position by the crossbows. As long as the crossbows continued to fire, the hammers wouldn't be able to turn on the true kings. One had to say, the four kings and crown prince had very precisely planned this out.

The true kings arrived in front of Lu Yun nearly instantaneously, not permitting him any chances whatsoever.

“Four true kings trying to make trouble for me? Show some respect!” Lu Yun was operating the method of nothing to summon more power from the Glacial Fire Hammers. These four true kings were nothing but annoying gnats.

He took one large stride forward.

Hummmmm.

Formation glyphs extended from his feet like snakes, assembling into four major formations in one-thousandth of an eye blink.

Azure Dragon!

White Tiger!

Vermilion Bird!

Black Tortoise!

Formations of the four divisions!

Four formations seemed to spontaneously come alive and formed their respective divine beasts. Snarling and brandishing their claws, they pounced on the four true kings as soon as they solidified.

“What?!” The dumbfounded Fish King jerked with shock and stared incredulously at Lu Yun.

The four formations were truly alive as a real Azure Dragon, White Tiger, Vermilion Bird, and Black Tortoise. However, they didn't wield the four powers of creation, truth, origin, and eternity, but the four elements of metal, wood, water, and fire.

Lu Yun was suppressing four true kings with just four connate elements in play! A superior realm cultivator had constrained four true kings by himself! This was impossible, a far-fetched tale! Even the Fish King could at most manage one true king!

“Supplemental true king?? Is this the strength of a supplemental true king?!” The Fish King gaped with shock. She suddenly understood why the crown prince had brought out the divine weapon there was nothing else that could overcome Lu Yun, other than the Terra ruler!

Most of his attention and energy was on the method of nothing and directing the Glacial Fire Hammers. He'd needed only one step to complete four formations!

“Hmph!” he snorted coldly and took another step.

The hissing of a snake rose in the air as a fifth formation spread from his foot, becoming a giant muddy snake.

The moat snake!

Having taken the place of the fifth ancestral god, Carmine Arbiter controlled both connate earth and the power of life. She was on equal standing with creation, truth, origin, and eternity. Lu Yun was borrowing her power to summon a moat snake—not only was there connate earth energy in this manifestation, but boundless life force!

Boom!

The four true kings were shoved backward the moment the moat snake appeared.

“Break!!” Lu Yun roared, smashing his hammers together and releasing a blast of vivid blue and bright red energy. They churned toward the ninety-nine sets of crossbows on King Qilin City’s walls.

Chapter 1513: Terra Ruler
The intersection of fire and ice formed a power that overrode all strength. In comparison, the Terra Crossbows made of origin earth energy were barely worth a glance. The bolts that they released were all snapped by that overwhelming power!

“How is this possible?!” The crown prince paled with horror atop the city walls. It’d been the last thing on his mind that Feng Feifan would be so domineering as to beat back four true kings by himself!

Supplemental true king!

Someone who could employ supplemental dao to this level was absolutely a supplemental true king! Additionally, it was plain to see that the beams of light from that pair of hammers could smash through the Terra Crossbows!

Hummm.

A crisp hum reverberated through the air, summoning beams of light from all ninety-nine sets of crossbows at the same time. They swiftly gathered in the air and transformed into a crossbow of light that covered all of King Qilin City.

Boom!

It shot out a bolt that was also made of light, but one with energy that surpassed the shackles of the third realm and entered the fourth.

Lu Yun compelled a fresh surge of ice and fire energy from the hammers; it was instantly pierced through by the bolt in a fiery blaze of mutual destruction. He stood in the air with the hammers by his side, then suddenly inclined his body at the waist.

“Feng Feifan greets the Terra ruler.”

A towering figure had appeared over the skies of King Qilin City. It wielded the Terra Crossbow of light—the ruler of the divine nation!

He’d appeared in this critical moment and utilized the core essence of the crossbows to combine them as one, barely managing to stop the Glacial Fire Hammers.

“Feng Feifan are you the Purple King’s father?” Ready to rain condemnation down on the impudent stranger, the ruler’s heart skipped a beat when he heard the name.

The Purple King was an unparalleled existence! Those of the chaos thought he’d reached the third realm, while most of the Hongmeng thought he was just a sixth step king. However, the last dragon lord of Dragonhollow Mountain had said he was a true king.

Beings of a level only saw matters that were within their reach. Only when they stood high enough and looked far enough could they see how magnificent and imposing was the mountain that they faced.

In the Terra ruler’s eyes, the Purple King was absolutely on par with them and stood at peak true king realm! And now his father had appeared??

Feng Feifan of the mythological realm!

The Purple King’s lineage was a secret, but those at the level of the divine nations’ rulers knew of it. When the Immortal Region destroyed the mythological realm, Feng Feifan was already dead and the Purple King had yet to come into his fame.

After the latter became the person that the general public knew now, however, the rulers of the ten divine nations had tried to derive his past. They’d learned that he was from the mythological realm and that his father’s name was Feng Feifan.

Everything else was blank.

But today, today! On this day! A name that should’ve been lost to history had reappeared in front of Terra’s capital and wielded divine weapons of sequence from the fourth realm!

“That’s right, I am the Purple King’s father and Yu Xuanji’s martial grandfather,” Lu Yun answered faintly.

The Fish King walked over to Lu Yun’s side and bent slightly at the waist, indicating her respect to the divine nation’s ruler. It was no secret that she was the Purple King’s disciple.

A variety of expressions flitted across the ruler’s face. He couldn’t quite get a handle on Lu Yun’s level of strength and the ruler’s primary body was in closed door cultivation. This was just his replica that was borrowing the power of the Terra Crossbows to materialize.

That blow had been the limits of his abilities. If Lu Yun activated the hammers once more, he wouldn’t be able to defend against them.

“I have come with Xuanji to retrieve my belongings, but your crown prince attacked me. Ruler of Terra, you should be giving me an explanation.” Lu Yun hovered imperiously in the air. His tones were soft, but they brooked no questioning. If Terra didn’t explain themselves to him, he would use the hammers to raze the city.

As mighty as King Qilin City was, the Glacial Fire Hammers were a weapon of sequence!

They were forged by the overlord of Ice who’d comprehended a wisp of sequence. Though there was only one strand of sequence within them, that still put them beyond Nihil World Sovereign. The method that the overlord had given Lu Yun prior not only enabled him to utilize the sequence of time to exile the withered wood, but it also granted him the ability to wield the Glacial Fire Hammers.

“What kind of explanation would the gentleman like?” The Terra ruler took a deep breath. At the same time, his primary body stopped cultivating and began furiously absorbing origin energy of earth, collecting it for the Terra Crossbows.

The Army Pagoda spun in the air and landed in Lu Yun’s hand when he waved it down; the ruler’s pupils constricted violently at the sight of another great treasure.

“I wish to enter your treasury and choose a few items,” Lu Yun said.

“No!” the crown prince snapped out of his daze. “Royal father, this man has the heart and ambition of a wolf. He seeks to destroy us and—”

“Shut up!” The Terra ruler shouted and silenced his son with a palm. “Fine! But I wish for you to leave immediately after you take your pick and never approach our borders again!” he shouted. “Otherwise, I will kill you on sight even if it takes my life!”

He was one of the strongest true kings in the realm. If he really put everything on the line, Lu Yun wouldn’t be able to fend him off.

“This divine nation is the Terra Potentate’s, how would I cause any trouble here?” Lu Yun nodded.

The Terra Potentate was the divine nation’s source of confidence. Though Lu Yun wanted access to the treasury, he wouldn’t clean it out or be over the top in his selections. That would only arouse the potentate’s ire. If the potentate really wanted to kill Lu Yun, there would be no one in this realm who could save the young man.

A door of light floated in front of Lu Yun at the ruler’s gesture. He didn’t want the stranger to enter the city proper—he was inordinately wary of this mysterious figure from history.

After today, it was a given that the name of Feng Feifan would be known throughout the divine nations.

“Let’s go inside.” Lu Yun and Fish King strode through the door together.

“Royal father” The crown prince struggled for a bit before giving up.

“Your cultivation realm is only true seventh level. I’d planned on giving you the throne when you reached true kingship so I could continue training by master’s side” murmured the Terra ruler.

The crown prince shook and hope flashed through his eyes—hope that was quickly dashed.

“But you’ve disappointed me too much today. You brashly utilized our most important weapon without assessing the opponent’s true strength. If it’d been lost, you would be the sinner of the entire Hongmeng!”

“From this day forth, you are no longer the nation’s crown prince. Yu Tiankong, you are the new crown prince!” the ruler announced coldly.

Inside King Qilin City, a young man splashed with wine and lips slick with grease froze in a daze. The imprint of a pair of red lips on his cheeks bobbed up and down when his mouth opened and closed with shock.

Chapter 1514: Gone Thus was the Terra crown prince deposed of with a single word from his father. He was sealed away before he could speak and sent to an unknown location.

“This child thanks the royal father!” The young man named Yu Tiankong crawled out of a pile of soft bosoms and gentle embraces, kowtowing fearfully at his father’s replica in the sky.

“That’s enough, you can forgo that flimsy facade riddled with holes. You convince no one.” The ruler waved his hand and dispersed his replica.

The ninety-nine Terra Crossbows returned to their original positions while the four true kings struggled to their feet. Their bedraggled figures knelt outside the city and didn’t say a word for the longest time.

They wouldn’t dare get up before their liege allowed them to.

“Your troubles seem to have been resolved The crown prince was removed, just like that?” Lu Yun looked behind him with a smile.

“The Terra ruler is an extremely shrewd individual. He’s probably the one behind the previous crown prince wanting to marry me.” The Fish King shook her head. “I’m going back with you after you get your items. Yu Tiankong will certainly raise the same issue if I stay here. He’ll still want me to be his princess consort.”

“Oh?” Lu Yun blinked.

“Hmph!” The Fish King snorted and changed the topic, continuing with some irritation, “You brought up my true name in front of everyone. It’s going to be impossible for me to guard against someone plotting against me in the future!”

She was the foremost supplemental king in the divine nation of Terra. At her heights, she naturally attracted jealousy and envy, particularly from other supplemental kings. If they wanted to take action against her, there would be nothing she could do about it. A world of possibilities had opened up to them now that her true name was known by all.

“Don’t worry, no one remembers what your name is.” Lu Yun was blithely unconcerned. “And, there’s going to be no one in Terra who dares think about harming you from this day forth.”

“Oh?” The Fish King raised an eyebrow at her martial grandfather.

At the same time in the royal palace of King Qilin City.

The Terra ruler had emerged from seclusion and summoned the new crown prince—Yu Tiankong—for an audience.

Though the naming of a crown prince was an important affair, it didn’t account for much in the ruler’s eyes. He had many sons and the position of crown prince was just a title. It’s not as if they would immediately ascend to the throne.

“Dismiss all of the women by your side and make the—the, the Fish” The ruler wanted to say the Fish King’s name, but couldn’t remember what it was for the life of him. “Do you remember what that Feng Feifan said the Fish King was called?” Frowning ferociously, he turned to his son.

Yu Tiankong started. "Yes, he said that the Fish King's name was was" He also paused. "I don't remember" Yu Tiankong's voice trailed off.

"Forget it, ignore everything having to do with the Fish King. Keep your women and don't ever think of doing anything to her!" The Terra ruler took a deep breath.

"Ah? Eh, yes, understood." Yu Tiankong shrank in on himself. He would never think of doing anything to that supplemental king anyway She beat people when she lost her temper!

By now, the new crown prince had fully grasped the situation.

When someone of an incomparably terrifying cultivation level spoke, they could exercise so much control that their words didn't leave a single trace in the minds of weaker beings! Most horrific of all was that the Terra contingent clearly remembered every other word that Feng Feifan had said; it was only the Fish King's name that they'd completely forgotten!

Chills traveled down the Terra ruler's spine and horror gripped his heart. He couldn't afford to get on the bad side of someone like this. Not even the Terra Potentate would say a word if Feng Feifan butchered the Terra ruler—he'd just choose a new person to fill the seat.

Feng Feifan was so foreboding that the ruler of the divine nation didn't dare look in on the treasury to see what was being taken.

While treasures abounded in the Terra vaults, none of them caught Lu Yun's eye. He'd just come from the Dragonmountain Clime treasury, and while he hadn't emptied them, he'd collected a fair share of goodies. Any one of them would burst the Terra vaults with their richness.

The Terra treasury was enormous—like an expanse of the night sky. Treasures hung in the void like stars embedded in the air.

Some of them were even as gigantic and radiant as the stars.

In here, items on the level of Stellar Light Magneticus could be seen everywhere like trash. Items more precious were also plentiful in their abundance. Lu Yun easily glimpsed at least a hundred ultimate Hongmeng treasures with a cursory scan of the surroundings.

"You're not really going to take everything here, are you?" Enraptured by the sight, the Fish King didn't notice the slightly disdainful look in Lu Yun's eyes. Once, long ago, the Terra Potentate had allowed the Fish King to pick a few items of her choosing from the Terra treasury. Though she'd turned down the opportunity, he still allowed her to enter the treasury as she would.

"What do I want these things for? Give me the fetus and the brush," Lu Yun responded.

"Alright." The Fish King didn't pursue the conversation and flew in a certain direction. There was an inconspicuous brush hovering in the air where she headed. It looked very ancient and simple; there was a trace of red staining its bristles.

Lu Yun was certain that that was blood and not ink. He summoned it to him with a wave of his hand.

"As I thought" He shook when his hand closed around it, sensing that this brush was the one that he'd received from Qing Han. Unbidden, he took that one out.

“They’re exactly the same!” exclaimed the Fish King. “Are you certain they’re not the same brush?”

Her eyes darted quickly between the two, unable to determine which one was Lu Yun’s and which one had been in the treasury.

“Let’s get the fetus.” Lu Yun put the two brushes away. These two brushes had something to do with the akasha ghosts and himself. While it was a given that the Immortal Region would seek to destroy the mythological realm, it was an accident that the akasha ghosts had appeared.

“Okay.” The Fish King nodded and took out a medallion. It was one that the Terra Potentate had given her and allowed her to travel through the treasury.

It blossomed with dreamlike radiance, changing the surroundings around the two. Their vicinity was now a land of fire origin energy; there was a trace of fire virtue in the blazing qi.

“The fetus is here—hmm? Where is it?” The Fish King’s eyes widened as she looked at where she’d left the life form. Both the Fire Virtue Orb and the life form had vanished!

She frowned and activated the medallion again, thoroughly searching through the area. There was no sign of the life form to be found.

“Someone’s taken it.” Lu Yun took a look around. “An expert well versed in fire origin was here and took it.”

“How dare they touch my belongings?!” The Fish King’s expression darkened and she waved her medallion, sending them out of the treasury and into the royal palace.

Chapter 1515: ForsakenThe medallion that the Terra Potentate had given the Fish King contained all-encompassing authority. Not only could she enter the treasury at will, but she could also come and go from the palace as she pleased.

She hadn’t entered the treasury last time, just opened its doors in King Qilin City and sent the fetus into the part that was the land of fire origin.

There were many other Terra powerhouses with similar tokens of the potentate’s favor; they could also open the nation’s treasury doors to store their valuables. That didn’t mean the items automatically became the divine nation’s property, however, not to mention the area that her items had been placed in wasn’t where Terra kept their own treasures. That was why she was so furious and brought Lu Yun straight to the palace.

The Terra ruler was still musing over what to do about Feng Feifan. When he raised his head and saw that the Fish King had brought the threat straight to his doorstep, he jumped with horror.

“Fish King, what are you doing?!” Though dismayed, he didn’t fly into a rage. The formations within the palace shimmered with activity as he regarded the unwelcome visitors—the Terra ruler was too wary of the Purple King’s father.

“Where is the Fire Virtue Orb that I placed in the treasury three years ago?” the Fish King demanded with an unpleasant expression. “That part of the treasury is a section that the honored potentate himself created for me so I could store my items. Why did someone move what I had put there?”

There were four areas of earth, air, fire, and water origin within the vaults. The Terra Potentate had marked off an area in each zone for her use.

Being a supplemental king, the Fish King did indeed need places like these to hold her things. Treasures or ingredients sometimes withered or faded away when put into storage items or seed storage.

The Terra vaults were also an ultimate treasure, but one that'd reached the fourth realm. It was a true world inside, not something that a seed storage or spatial formation could imitate. The treasury wasn't physically located in King Qilin City—the divine nation's capital was just a door to the structure.

"Um" The Terra ruler hemmed and hawed, realizing that Feng Feifan and the Fish King had come for the fire virtue fetus.

He'd taken note of it when she placed it in the treasury and had seen the life form nurtured inside. But it was someone else who'd taken it from the vaults.

"Please return it to me." The Fish King took a step forward and studied the ruler's face.

"How dare you!" came a loud shout through the palace doors. "Don't you raise your voice at our liege just because you prance around with the Terra Potentate's favor, Fish King!"

It wasn't one of the true kings in attendance who'd spoken; it was one who seemed to have just returned to the capital and was thus unaware of earlier events. Profound ripples oscillated over him—an indication that he was a mighty supplemental king.

"Starfire King, did you take my things?" The Fish King raised her head to see a man dressed in long crimson robes and flaming hair that cascaded down like a waterfall of fire to his waist. His features were dignified and handsomely shaped. He was so perfect that he seemed like a spirit that'd walked out of flames.

The man was a powerful supplemental king who wasn't much weaker than the Fish King, but his cultivation level wasn't high at true seventh level. Plainly, he'd focused his efforts on the study of supplemental dao.

"Starfire greets Your Majesty!" The Starfire King ignored the Fish King and raised a cupped fist salute to the Terra ruler.

"Starfire King, didn't you accompany the honored potentate to Yin Yang for the True King Pact? What brings you back so quickly?" The Terra ruler quickly rose in welcome. It was obvious to see that the Starfire King had such a high status in Terra that even her ruler had to treat him with courtesy.

"The honored potentate sent me back to take a look when the divine nation utilized the Terra Crossbows." Starfire finally graced the Fish King with a look and roared, "Fish King, kowtow and beg for forgiveness from His Majesty!"

Swoosh!

He flung out his hand to display a decree—the Terra Potentate's decree and identical to the one that the Fish King once held. Hers had been destroyed by the Talisman King, and this decree was the source of the Starfire King's confidence.

Since his previous decree had been completely suppressed and destroyed, the Terra Potentate had crafted another one many times stronger than the last.

The Fish King paled with dismay and swiftly retreated to Lu Yun's side.

The Terra ruler was overjoyed to see Starfire bring out the potentate's decree. Even his gaze upon Lu Yun and the Fish King changed. In his eyes, the potentate's decree was stronger than the Terra Crossbows.

"That's right, I took the Fire Virtue Orb with the fetus inside." Starfire smiled slightly. "But right now, you will kneel and marry the current crown prince, Fish King, or I'll cut you down where you stand!"

Hummm.

He shook some power out of the decree, just a hint was enough to severely shake the palace.

"How dare you use the potentate's decree against me?! He'll have your head for this!" The Fish King ground her teeth.

"Hahahahaha!!" Starfire threw his head back with laughter. "You betrayed Terra when you received a strand of the Fire King's true teachings. The great potentate wanted nothing more to do with you a long time ago! How else would I have gotten the orb!!"

"Ah of course." Color drained out of the Fish King's face. The Terra Potentate treated her as his daughter and she'd viewed him as her father. She'd never ever thought of leaving or betraying the divine nation.

But the Terra Potentate had so easily forsaken her!

"Kneel!"

"Kneel!"

"Kneel!" roared Starfire with decree in hand.

The Fish King sagged, wind taken out of her sails. She'd lost her mental support and she was hollow.

Her faith had been stripped from her.

"You still have Lu Qing." Lu Yun patted her shoulder. "I don't know how Lu Qing and the Terra Potentate rank in your heart, but your life is yours and not anyone else's."

The barest hint of color returned her to ghastly white cheeks.

Pressure from the potentate's decree dissipated in front of Lu Yun like a calm spring breeze, not causing any harm to him. With the Tome of Life and Death, not even the aura of a Nihil World Sovereign was worth mentioning to him.

Chapter 1516: Betrayal "Who are you?!" The Starfire King finally looked at Lu Yun, ever so slightly less confident than before. He'd fully released the Terra Potentate's aura from the decree. Even a true king on the level of a divine nation's ruler should be cowering on the ground, to say nothing of a mewling superior realm cultivator.

But the young man was completely ignoring the potentate's aura!

“Who am I?” Lu Yun smiled. “Didn’t you bring this decree back from Yin Yang because of me?”

“What?” Starfire didn’t immediately grasp the stranger’s meaning.

Humm!

Lu Yun waved two hammers into his hand and filled the void with roiling heat. A terrifying presence spread from his body and slowly, inexorably, forced back the potentate’s.

It wasn’t his own presence, of course. Lu Yun had to utilize the death art Size Manipulation in the fourth realm, expand his body to the largest it would go, have the Tome of Life and Death turn into his nascent spirit, hellfire for his strength, and fully release the capabilities of a Nihil World Sovereign before he could employ strength and presence like that.

This came from the Glacial Fire Hammers. The method of nothing that the overlord of Ice had passed on to Lu Yun was the key to activating the hammers.

While the Terra Potentate was one of the strongest existences in the Hongmeng, he couldn’t compare to the overlord of a fourth realm plane. In front of the master of Ice, he was less than an ant.

Lu Yun strode forward, forcing Starfire back with every step he took. The decree crumbled in his hand bit by bit as well.

Puff!

It suddenly trembled and turned into a cloud of gray smoke wafting up from Starfire’s grasp. A human face slowly rose from it—the Terra Potentate.

“I am”

Bam!

He exploded before he could say anything, just like when he’d faced the Talisman King. The sight scared the wits out of those present and raised sharp gasps of disbelief.

The Terra ruler was as white as a sheet and Starfire crashed to the ground in shock. Only the Fish King remained in deep thought. She’d witnessed the same process and ending last time, so this time’s didn’t shake her as much.

“Where is the Fire Virtue Orb?” Lu Yun walked over to Starfire and loftily regarded him from a highly superior position.

“I, I presented it to the Ignis Potentate as a gift.” Blood dribbled out of Starfire’s mouth as he answered weakly.

“Is the Ignis Potentate also in Yin Yang?” Lu Yun asked.

“The eleven potentates are all there, and so are all of the true kings not affiliated with a divine nation.” Starfire’s mind couldn’t withstand the aura from the Glacial Fire Hammers and he spilled the beans on everything he knew.

“For that True King Pact?” Lu Yun nodded.

“Yes.” Starfire ardently wished to faint dead away, but that was quite a luxury for him now.

“What is being discussed for this pact? That no true kings are to appear in the Hongmeng over the next hundred years?”

“Yes.” Starfire gave up struggling. “And also the immortal dao, and how to seize it from the Dao Sovereign and headmaster.”

“Enough!” The Terra ruler exploded with fury. He’d gathered the ninety-nine crossbows as one of light at some point in time and fired it with pure earth origin energy.

But he aimed it at the Starfire King instead of Lu Yun!

Starfire had said too much. This mysterious Feng Feifan could very likely cause incredible trouble for the eleven potentates’ plans. Who knew what would happen if he showed up at the True King Pact?

KABOOM!!

Terra’s royal palace was blown to pieces.

A purple-golden pagoda revolved over Lu Yun’s head. Curtains of light trailed down from it and protected him, the Fish King, and the Starfire King. While the Army Pagoda couldn’t withstand a full force blow from the Terra Crossbows, the Glacial Fire Hammers could. The two treasures working in conjunction kept everyone in Lu Yun’s party safe.

“Ruler of Terra, you can continue to use the Terra Crossbows to kill people.” A trace of blood trickled out of Lu Yun’s mouth. “But I promise you that your divine nation will be destroyed for it and the fissure that you’re suppressing will crack open!”

Fear flashed through the Terra ruler’s face when he looked at the huge hammers that were suddenly in front of him.

Divine weapons of sequence.

These really were the mythical weapons of sequence from the fourth realm! Even if Feng Feifan wasn’t that strong, these weapons were walking potentates in the Hongmeng! The Terra Crossbows would just be ordinary divine weapons in the fourth realm, a candle to the bright moon of these hammers.

“Fuck. you. piece. of. ever. lasting. SHIT OF A RULER!!” Starfire suddenly screamed with rage. “I came running back to protect the divine nation, but you idiotic son of a bitch just tried to kill me!

“Do you think I’d stay in your piss poor divine nation if it wasn’t for the Terra Potentate promising me a chance at supplemental true king?! Would I do your fucking bidding??

“...you there, I’ll tell you everything!” A full fit of fury had descended upon Starfire. Despite everything, he’d avoided revealing the most crucial parts of the True King Pact just now.

“The True King Pact is a front! What I told you about them wanting to seize the immortal dao was also a lie!” Starfire yelled.

“How dare you betray the potentate!!” the Terra ruler hollered.

“You fucking monkey betrayed me first!” Starfire screamed back. “The pact’s true goal is to collect all of the true kings in the realm and charge into the chaos to kill the Purple King. Then they’ll destroy the worlds and world of immortals like the mythological realm was once razed!”

“Don’t ask me why! The orders of this Hongmeng might recover when the immortal dao reaches us, so everyone has a chance to be a potentate then. Heh, those eleven old bats won’t be the ones in charge at that point!”

“Hehe, I’m just guessing, of course. But one thing I’m very certain of is that the eleventh key appeared a long time ago. Those old farts sealed it away!”

“They’ll bring out a fake key during these one hundred years and have the geniuses of the Hongmeng kill each other for it!” Starfire threw his head back with a long peal of laughter.

The Terra Potentate highly valued the Starfire King, especially after the Fish King received a strand of core essence from the Fire King. Sadly for the potentate, Starfire’s innermost thoughts were still of himself since he’d just begun his brainwashing. He didn’t possess the Fish King’s level of faith in the potentate yet.

Since the Terra ruler wanted to kill Starfire for the potentate, Starfire was very willing to change sides in a heartbeat. though there might be a smidgeon of mental compulsion from Lu Yun playing a part in all of this. It might have something to do with how Starfire’s mentality had snapped and he’d simply turned traitor without another word.

“I see.” Lu Yun inclined his head. “Starfire King, are you willing to follow my banner? Now that you’ve betrayed the Terra Potentate, there is none other than me in all of the Hongmeng who can protect you.”

Coming down from his high of exposition, regret started to set in for the Starfire King. He followed the path of flame, as did his personality. His temper often flared quickly and extinguished just as quickly, leaving regret in its wake. But when he heard this, he quickly said, “I can follow you, but you see how I just betrayed the Terra Potentate. I might do the same to you in the future!”

Fuck it. I have nothing to lose.

“Other than being afraid of death, the Starfire King doesn’t have many other flaws. He followed the Terra Potentate and joined the divine nation because he sought the chance to become a supplemental true king. He won’t betray you if you don’t threaten his life,” the Fish King commented as she walked up to Lu Yun.

Always at odds with the king, Starfire actually felt a bit of gratitude toward her in this moment.

Naturally, it swiftly faded away.

“The chance to become a supplemental true king that’s not a problem.” Lu Yun nodded. He glanced at the Terra ruler. Having utilized the Terra Crossbows twice in a short period of time, the man was completely out of strength. He sprawled on the ruins of his palace and looked weakly at the group.

Chapter 1517.1: Setting an Example By Taking the Deviated Path

The Terra ruler knew he’d made a mistake the second he used the Terra Crossbows against the Starfire King.

All of Terra's powerhouses had gathered by the ruins of the palace; an army of four true kings and squadrons of true realm cultivators surrounded the rubble. However, no one dared make a move.

They could clearly see that the young man with his hands by his side was the mysterious heavyweight who'd withstood their divine nation's greatest weapon. The palace had been destroyed because the weapon had been used a second time against him.

"The Terra Potentate's replica is almost here, we should go." Lu Yun grabbed Starfire and the Fish King before all three faded out of view.

"Your Majesty..." A true king walked up to his liege and tried to help him up. The man waved him off.

"From this day forth, Yu Tiankong is the ruler of Terra. The four of you shall assist him with everything at your disposal. As for me..." The former ruler shook his head.

General incomprehension reigned at the scene. The previous crown prince had just been removed and now their ruler abdicated from the throne. Crown Prince Yu Tiankong had risen from a good-for-nothing backup prince to the highest position within the land, all within the span of a day. This kind of trajectory was too unbelievable to put into words.

"And, remind the potentate when he returns that it was the Purple King's father who was here. Feng Feifan is absolutely as strong as the potentates!"

.....

When Lu Yun reappeared with the Fish King and Starfire, they were at the banks of the Azure Dragon Lake. He dismissed his Shapeshifting disguise and returned to the form of the Immortal King.

"W-what, it's you?!" Starfire's lips trembled and he spewed gibberish at the unexpected sight.

"Is a name and appearance that important?" Lu Yun shrugged noncommittally. "Those potentates really think highly of themselves. They want to move against my son, huh? Hah! Have they asked me for permission yet?!"

His face darkened and a threatening sneer played on his lips, blatant killing intent so intense that it almost seemed tangible.

The nearby Starfire couldn't help a convulsive shudder. The Purple King's father? Him??

He knew who Lu Yun was, of course. Everyone in the ten divine nations knew who he was. Not only was he the Immortal King, he was the headmaster of the Dao Academy in the world of immortals. Anyone who captured the Dao Sovereign and headmaster would be able to control the immortal dao—thereby occupying first mover's advantage when the immortal dao entered the Hongmeng.

But now, the Immortal King and headmaster of the immortal dao had suddenly become... the Purple King's father?

The Purple King was a vicious character of fearsome violence. He'd ascended straight into sixth step kingship and fought his way to the chaos from the Hongmeng, turning out rivers of blood from all the action he experienced. Even high level kings and true realm powerhouses had perished in his hands.

Once he landed in the chaos, no one dared make further trouble for him.

And now, he'd reached true kingship through his cultivation in the second realm. Rumor had it that he was the one behind the Enforcer Alliance—that that was his faction in the Hongmeng. If the ten divine nations wanted to move against him, they had to uproot the Enforcer Alliance first. That was the true topic of discussion at the True King Pact.

Lu Yun corralled his blazing killing intent and looked at the Starfire King.

"Tell me everything you know about this so-called True King Pact," he intoned.

"Alright." Starfire was the type to go all out. Since he'd changed sides to Lu Yun, he put all thought of the Terra Potentate out of his mind. He knew for a fact that if he suddenly appeared in front of the Terra Potentate right at this very second, the potentate would kill him without another word rather than give him a chance to explain.

"The real instigator of the True King Pact is the Immortal Region, not the eleven potentates!" Starfire took a deep breath before continuing, "There are two camps in the Immortal Region—one side is the Supplemental Dao Alliance under the Dao King, and the other is the main body of the Immortal Region. The latter is many, many times stronger than the Supplemental Dao Alliance and the master of the Immortal Region is an incomparably mysterious existence. If it wasn't for him appearing at the meeting this time, I really would've never heard of him or seen him otherwise."

"Who is it?" Lu Yun's heart skipped a beat. The Dao King was Haotian of the world of immortals, a powerful individual who'd crossed the primordial world, era of human dao, and age of immortal dao.

He'd entered the worlds with his true body and taken on the identity of Haotian to search for the impenetrable mistress of the Hongmeng. His traces could be found even in the world of immortals after the great war. Haotian was the investor of the weapons of war!

Someone even more inexplicable than him suddenly appearing in the Immortal Region gave Lu Yun a very bad feeling. There was already a supplemental true king within the third realm—the Dao King. He was very possibly a supplemental potentate, yet he wasn't the strongest in the Immortal Region??

"I couldn't see his face clearly, but I remember his title—the Curse King!" Starfire revealed with a dramatic flourish.

Lu Yun's cheek spasmed.

"The Curse King!!" Of course he knew the name, the azure dragon ancestral god had once mentioned it.

The Curse King had cursed the entire Hongmeng, chaos, and worlds through the four ancestral gods of the third realm. He'd included all of the azure dragons, white tigers, vermilion birds, black tortoises, and their descendants in it. He was the source of all the curses that Lu Yun currently knew of. The ones in the Skandha Extinction Tomb and mythological realm were his work as well!

He'd also traveled to the worlds and chaos to lay down innumerable smaller curses and was now finally appearing in public.

Lu Yun's expression flickered uncertainly.

“The eleven potentates have their own plans as well, they’re working with the Curse King only because their interests happen to align. If he hadn’t shown himself, the Immortal Region wouldn’t have taken action.” Starfire could tell that Lu Yun knew of the Curse King by the look on his face.

“So a mere eleven potentates dares cooperate with the Curse King? Are they not afraid of him eating them alive?” Lu Yun sneered. “The four ancestral gods were struck with his dao when they entered the chaos all those years ago and barely made it back. What is eleven potentates compared to them?”

Starfire opened his mouth, but quickly closed it again.

“However, the Immortal Region combined with the ten divine nations does indeed make them the strongest faction in the Hongmeng. The Enforcer Alliance and the Purple King together will lose to them. It will be a death trap once the plot finalizes,” Lu Yun took a deep breath.

“I know you can break it.” Silent up to this point, the Fish King spoke up.

“Yes, I can,” nodded Lu Yun. “I will use myself as bait to wreck their plans.

“I, the Immortal King, have reached peak superior realm,” he suddenly whistled into the sky. “I will break through to titled kingship by the banks of the Azure Dragon Lake next to Azure Dragon City in Azure Dragon Region after seven days. I humbly welcome all fellow daoists in the Hongmeng to attend and witness the ceremony.”

His words formed a sound wave that spread in all directions. The ten Yama Kings sitting cross-legged on Multitude’s city walls opened their eyes at the same time. Their bodies reverberated with a similar sound wave that disseminated Lu Yun’s voice beyond Multitude Region.

The call was then picked up by all of the branches of the Immortal Pagoda throughout the third realm, until his announcement reached every corner of the land!

The Immortal King was about to break through to... titled kingship?!

Now that true kings walked among the Hongmeng and the ten divine nations had made themselves known, everyone knew of the proper and deviated paths of cultivation. To become a titled king was to set foot down the wrong path. One should seek the true realm!

The Immortal King was at peak superior realm, but he spoke of becoming a titled king and not a true realm cultivator?!

“What is this? The Immortal King... Champion Duke is talented without parallel and the only name on the Dragonling Ranking of Dragonhollow Mountain. It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that he is the greatest superior realm cultivator in the Hongmeng, but he wants to become a titled king?!”

“His strength and potential absolutely places him on the proper path. Why does he want to be a titled king when he can walk the true realm?”

All of the kings in the third realm were baffled. Some superior realm cultivators resisting the call to become a titled king also didn’t know what to do.

Favorite

Chapter 1517.2: Setting an Example By Taking the Deviated Path

Their path was wrong, but they didn't know how to proceed. What had been a clear path of cultivation was blocked. Turning back was impossible, and there was no road for them to walk ahead on.

In their moments of helplessness, they heard the only person on the Dragonling Ranking declare that he was about to set foot on the wrong path and become a titled king. It was absolutely incredible!

"Why is he doing this? The true kings of Dragonhollow Mountain said that the Immortal King is a cultivator on the proper path, that he can enter the true cultivation realm. Or did we hear incorrectly?" someone asked blankly.

"We didn't hear incorrectly. The Immortal King is going to become a titled king and use the Hongmeng Tower to coalesce his dao rules and become a king!" another voice answered.

The Immortal King's disciples! All two thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine of them!

Qing Ting, Qing Yan, Qing Di, and a Li Zhen who'd barely managed to escape his clan were all gathered together. They traveled throughout the realm, sharing the news that the Immortal King was going to ascend after seven days.

All of the Immortal King's disciples had yet to set foot into titled kingdom. They'd held themselves to titled duke half step kings. Having been taught by the Immortal King himself, they knew what Lu Yun wanted to do. He was going to use himself as an example and show the way out for cultivators on the wrong path!

Inside Multitude City, the numerous kings of Hopeless Major roared at the sky. Their voices echoed like claps of thunder, overpowering the announcements from the Yama Kings and spreading word even further.

The Hongmeng truly broke into an uproar when the Ten Valleys of Evil, Immortal Region, and ten divine nations were all aware of Lu Yun's plans.

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Inside the divine nation of Yin Yang.

"What is that Immortal King trying to do? Ascending to titled kingdom?" Eleven magnificent figures stood in the void as they conversed. They collectively paused when they heard Lu Yun's declaration.

"I know what he wants to do," said a man dressed in black who stood in an unobtrusive corner. Though his skin was so pale as to be translucent, his lips were an uncanny black.

"Oh?" The eleven towering figures looked at the man in black—the Curse King.

"There was a group of immortals slated to be eliminated by the times when the immortal dao was repaired in the world of immortals, but he pitied those souls and salvaged their future by creating the formation of heaven and earth.

"He wants to do the same thing again, but this time, he will enter the deviated path himself to guide those cultivators back to the proper path.

“It would be a deed of incomparable virtue,” murmured the Curse King. “He will be the saint of the Hongmeng if he succeeds. A living saint will mean that anyone who moves against him is an enemy of all.”

The eleven potentates and many true kings present sucked in sharp breaths.

“If I’d known that things would develop to this point, I would’ve taken care of him when I visited Multitude City.” Among the eleven imposing forms, a man in golden robes frowned slightly. He was the Metal Potentate who’d taken Jin Gushen with him.

“It’s not too late to kill him now.” The Curse King stretched out his pale, slender hands. His nails were neatly cleaned and filed, accentuating black veins beneath his clear skin.

“Then let’s kill him now.” The Metal Potentate shot to his feet.

“No.” The Curse King shook his head. “You won’t find him now. He’ll show himself when he becomes a titled king. That will be the final chance to kill him.”

Eyes widening, the eleven potentates swiftly sent out their consciousness to search for the Immortal King’s presence. As expected, he was nowhere to be found.

“Then our plan to eliminate the Purple King and Enforcer Alliance...” raised the Aer Potentate.

“That can wait until after we take care of the Immortal King,” replied the Terra Potentate. “What I’m worried about is the appearance of the Purple King’s father—Feng Feifan. He wields divine weapons of sequence from the fourth realm. The Starfire King has also betrayed me and revealed our plans to him.

“I’m afraid Feng Feifan will become an unaccounted factor in our plans.”

“Feng Feifan...” The Curse King remained composed and made some minor calculations. “So he has indeed appeared. How strange, how can a dead person reappear again?”

“Is it really him, or is it someone else pretending to be him?” The other ten potentates were startled by the Curse King’s words.

“It really is him, the one from the mythological realm.” A lost look appeared in the Curse King’s eyes.

There were those in the Hongmeng who knew that Feng Feifan and Lu Yun were one and the same—such as the azure dragon ancestral god and the demon of immortal dao. But they would never choose to tell these people at this point in time.

The demon of immortal dao was recuperating beneath the Hongmeng Sea and hadn’t participated in the True King Pact. If the true kings here knew of his existence, they’d strip out his true spirit and refine it into a treasure so they could command the immortal dao through him.

“I’ll take care of Feng Feifan if he appears.” The Curse King set the matter aside. “The Immortal King must die no matter what, or at least be captured and kept under watch. If he really does enter the deviated path and lead the cultivators out of it, all of our plans must be halted.”

He didn’t explain himself further and his tone brooked no disagreement.

.....

“I didn’t misjudge that Lu Yun.” Within a land of cloud in the third realm that seemed more like a paradise, a young man in pristine blue robes stood with his hands behind his back, looking toward Azure Dragon Region.

His features were pleasing to the eye and he cut a nimble figure. It was as if he was the favored child of the void, held up by everything around him. He was the head of the Supplemental Dao Alliance, the heavyweight of the Immortal Region—the Dao King.

“Entering the deviated path himself to guide those lost on it... I don’t have that kind of courage,” he sighed emotionlessly.

“He does indeed possess a lot of charisma and daring. It’s a pity that you are enemies with him, master,” Shenyu said regretfully next to the young man.

“Who says I’m enemies with him?” The Dao King smiled. “He never really viewed me as an enemy and neither did I treat him as a great rival. I wish to break free from this cage and he wants to turn it into a real world.

“We are not in conflict.

“The ten valleys have long fallen to corruption and lost sight of their original intentions. They are valleys of evil in deed and in name now. That’s why I stirred up so much trouble as one of them and turned them upside down.”

Shenyu blinked, startled by the new perspective.

“I established Haotian Tower across from the Immortal Pagoda. How much of an impact do you think we had on the pagoda?” the Dao King chuckled.

“Eh... ah...” Shenyu blushed. “From a certain viewpoint, the Immortal Pagoda wouldn’t have expanded so quickly across the Hongmeng if it wasn’t for us.”

“There you have it.” The Dao King grinned dashingly, then shook his head. “But setting foot on the wrong path himself... the Curse King won’t let him off the hook so easily, and neither will the eleven potentates. He must have some protection.

“Go to Dragonhollow Mountain and meet those four old fellows who’ve just awoken. I’m going to visit the lost ancient city.” He disappeared as he spoke, and Shenyu hastened to carry out his master’s orders.

.....

The Hongmeng didn’t stop agitating over the next seven days. Many kings rushed to Azure Dragon Lake, wanting to see how this unparalleled, stunning genius who’d taken the realm by storm would enter the deviated path.

There were rumors flying that he was doing so in order to show others on the wrong path how to continue forward.

Some snorted at this saying, while others greeted it with hope.

Contrary to what the Curse King had claimed, Lu Yun didn't hide himself. He merely sat down cross-legged over Azure Dragon Lake.

The great tomb beneath had dissipated with the Fire Virtue Potentate's death, and the order of opposition and power of destruction had all vanished. Only a crystal-clear lake was left and the young man over it.

Chapter 1518: The Key to the Sequence of Time
Seven days later, every blade of grass around Azure Dragon Lake was covered by teeming cultivators.

The city lords of Azure Dragon and Coiling Dragon City had spent three years conquering Azure Dragon Region. They stood on the city walls and quietly looked out at Lu Yun over the lake.

"My path has reached its end," the Azure Dragon city lord said quietly. "There is no road beyond ninth step king. If I wish to become a true king, I must sever my cultivation and start anew from the beginning.

"The orders of this Hongmeng are scrambled," sighed the Coiling Dragon city lord. "Apart from those in the ten divine nations, no one in the realm can walk the proper path."

There were no true kings among them.

There were some hidden in the realm, of course, but they either came from the ten divine nations or were disciples or personages surviving from incredibly ancient eras—such as Dragonhollow Mountain.

In present times, including the Ten Valleys of Evil, there wasn't anyone who received a title from the Hongmeng Tower who later on became a true king. Purple King Lu Qing was an anomaly.

Ever since knowledge of the proper and deviated path was revealed to the public, despair had wrapped around the realm. Everyone's path was a dead end. While many would never reach ninth step kingship in the first place, they also mourned a lack of hope.

Yet on this day, the Immortal King was going to set foot on the deviated path! He who was on the proper way of cultivation wanted to guide them back to the right course! Hope suddenly sparked back to life for much of the realm.

Naturally, a great majority didn't believe this wild claim. Despite that, nearly all of the high level kings in the Hongmeng had come. They wanted to see how Lu Yun was going to become a titled king and throw away his proper path for one that didn't have a future.

Time marched on and increasing numbers of cultivators gathered by the lake. The supplemental kings of the Immortal Pagoda and Haotian Tower—the two greatest supplemental dao factions in the land—were also present to set up spatial formation upon formation. That allowed the location to hold even more people.

"Yuying," Lu Yun suddenly called out. "Go protect the two mistresses. It won't be that easy for the ten divine nations to move against me, so they'll try other methods to disturb my concentration.

"Set up the Formation of the Ten Yama Kings around Multitude City."

"Understood!" Up on the city walls, Yuying inclined her body and exchanged glances with her brethren. A Formation of the Ten Yama Kings immediately draped around the city.

Their cultivation levels had taken another step forward following Lu Yun's visit to the fourth realm. They'd all reached true third level—the equivalent of third step kings—and thus their joint formation was also strengthened.

Hummmm.

An imperceptible hum shook the void as flowers with petals of six different colors drifted down, melding into the great formation. They instantly fortified the formation to the true king level and sent innumerable dao rules crisscrossing over it. Even the rulers of the ten divine nations would find it difficult to handle now.

"My thanks." Lu Yun opened his eyes and raised cupped hands at the starry sky above.

Hong nodded gently. "Are you not going to retrieve your future self from Mount Cloudcover?"

"No." Lu Yun shook his head. "My future self is the same as the mistress of the Hongmeng. If they are truly connected to events in the realm, they will appear of their own volition. I don't need to seek them out."

Hong blinked, then nodded more firmly.

"Your future self has become a demon and is here from the future to kill the present you," she mentioned meaningfully. "Hong sealed him under the mountain for safekeeping. He will surely come for you if you become a titled king, so be careful."

She'd sent Lu Yun to retrieve his future self before he became a titled king not because she thought his future self would be of any help, but because he'd traveled through time to kill the present Lu Yun.

The young man in question took a deep breath. He'd thought something was off about Mount Cloudcover, and now he finally knew.

"I understand, I'll be careful." He settled back down and said no more.

"The mistress will show herself to help you, but you better not let her do anything. There are a lot of people in and outside the Hongmeng who are scheming against her." Hong disappeared after this final remark. She would not help Lu Yun within the third realm.

In the lost ancient city.

"And why should I help him?" Thanks to Lu Yun's Hell Flower and karmic fruit, the city lord of the lost ancient city had come back to life.

She took the form of a young girl with delicate features, teal-blue hair cascading down over a blue silk dress that was as wispy as cicada wings. She lazily reclined on a bed of clouds and regarded the man in front of her with interest—the Dao King.

"He borrowed water from the river of time and returned it with my life. My karmic relationship with him has ended. What will he repay me with this time if I help him again?" she giggled.

"The karmic debt of life and death is not so easily repaid," frowned the Dao King.

"I was saving his life when I lent him the water. My life and his life are all lives, there is no rank or hierarchy when it comes to a life." She shook her head.

"He will die without a doubt this time if you do not help," the Dao King sighed. "You might not know that yours is the only ancient city left out of the six in the Hongmeng"

The city lord flicked a glance at the Dao King.

"I'd thought I could keep the Curse King in check and prevent him from rash action, but only now do I realize that he's become too strong. His dao of curse can doom all living things, and you will also become his curse."

"Can a mere Curse King destroy the five other cities?" The city lord frowned and extended a slender hand, counting off her fingers with her thumb in her calculations. "Ah"

"You should know how important this Hongmeng world is. Once the Curse King kills Lu Yun, destroys the world of immortals and the worlds, his next step will be to continue cursing the Hongmeng.

"You will be his prime medium through which to do so." The Dao King looked at the young girl. "He will need to focus on Lu Yun as long as Lu Yun is alive. That gives you some breathing space to recover your strength."

"And that is meaningless to me." The city lord looked at the clock at the end of the river of time. With the advent of the immortal dao, the disorderly clock was starting to show signs of a certain rhythm.

The order of time was beginning to form.

"Only if the immortal dao arrives now and restores the realm's order of time will that make a difference. Otherwise, not within a hundred million years would I be able to recover." The city lord shook her head.

"Then give Lu Yun your help so he emerges victorious and facilitates the arrival of the immortal dao!" the Dao King proposed solemnly. "He may not have anything to offer, but I do."

A brilliant blue key appeared in his extended hand.

"The key to the sequence of time!" The city lord's interest was finally roused.

Chapter 1519: Beginning "Who are you?" The city lord frowned instead of accepting the key.

"Cang Ling," he responded.

The city lord's expression shifted drastically and she sat bolt upright from the bed of clouds. Her pretty eyes fixed in a deadly stare at the Dao King. That wasn't his name, but her name!

It was the name she'd used before becoming lord of this ancient city after her death. Anyone who'd known of it was long dead, and even those lucky enough to survive to present day would completely fail to recognize her. They would never connect the city lord with Cang Ling of the original Hongmeng!

Hong didn't know her name either, but this Dao King had easily given voice to her identity.

"Who are you?!" the city lord shrieked, on the verge of losing control.

"I am me, the Dao King and Haotian of the world of immortals," he answered calmly.

“You’ve disturbed my peace of mind.” The city lord rearranged herself back on the bed of clouds. She seemed to regain her calm, but that was only on the surface. After a pause, she continued, “I see. If my heart remained as calm as still water, I would forever linger here and silently watch over the changes in the Hongmeng, forever an outsider.”

“That is correct.” The Dao King nodded, dropping the brilliantly blue key in her hand with a gentle push of his own. “No one can stay on the sidelines forever. If you do not become involved, your final fate will be destruction at the hands of someone else.

“I am still chasing that person. I know of her existence, but I cannot see her. Neither is she willing to see me.” A bleak note colored the Dao King’s tones. “From the original Hongmeng til now I just want one glimpse of her.”

“I know who you are. I can’t believe you’re still alive!” the city lord realized. “You are Che.”

The seventh day finally arrived. Anticipation and some agitation ran hot through the crowd; all eyes looked eagerly at Lu Yun over Azure Dragon Lake.

The Fish and Starfire Kings were also a bit nervous. They knew that Lu Yun was using himself as bait so those of the True King Pact would attack him, thereby buying time for the Purple King.

Killing intent built as a tangible force in the atmosphere.

It drifted in on the breeze, slowly shifting toward the lake. Though people shivered in the warm temperature, they didn’t see anything out of the ordinary. The source of the killing intent wouldn’t reveal itself before Lu Yun became a titled king.

“Immortal King, you are a cultivator on the right and proper path. Why would you detour into a wrong turn instead?” a soft sigh sounded in the crowd’s ears. It was gentle and forgiving like a ceaselessly loving father.

“A path is a path, what talk is there of right or wrong?” Lu Yun opened his eyes and murmured, “A king’s title is bestowed by the Hongmeng Tower and it is the guide for the path. The Hongmeng Tower is the ultimate sovereign of the realm and its greatest weapon, as well as the personal treasure of the mistress of the realm

“How can a path imparted by the tower be an erroneous one?” He spoke in a loud voice that carried far, clearly traveling into the ears of everyone present.

The kings on the deviated path shook violently, spontaneous enlightenment dawning on them.

That was true. The Hongmeng Tower had bequeathed their titles and it was the foremost weapon of the realm. It represented the Hongmeng’s rules and orders, so how could something it pointed out be false? There had to be true kinthood waiting at the end of ninth step king, they just hadn’t found the way to break through.

Or, the other possibility was that someone had erased the way to ascend to true kinthood.

Unbidden, everyone thought of the ten divine nations when their thoughts traveled here.

“Ai,” sighed the voice. “Then this means you are determined to make a mistake with your next step. You will not be able to turn back.”

“Why would I?” Lu Yun chuckled. “My dao partner the Inrance King became a true king from the deviated path. My other dao partner the Empyrean King broke through to true kingship at the end of this so-called wrong path!”

Faces brightened at his response.

The Inrance King!

The Empyrean King!

So they’d found the way to pierce through the end of the road and become true kings!

“The Empyrean King is the Dao Sovereign and the Inrance King is favored by a great personage. That they can make the step doesn’t mean that those of the Hongmeng can do the same, and it hardly means that you can follow in their wake, Immortal King!”

“Then let us try.”

Hummm.

A layer of purple qi exuded from Lu Yun’s body, collecting as a pillar of light that soared into the sky.

The image of a tower appeared, slowly becoming a tangible entity that hovered over Lu Yun’s head. Those assembled could sense marvelous ripples emanating from it.

This was the true form of the Hongmeng Tower.

The purple light around Lu Yun condensed further to become dao rules. Superior realm cultivators normally didn’t reveal their dao rules when ascending to titled kingship, but Lu Yun was undergoing this process to point the way for the titled kings of the realm. He had to manifest his dao rules in front of everyone in order to indicate what the future path of cultivation should look like.

The kings within the crowd opened their eyes wide and looked closely at Lu Yun’s dao rules.

The first one appeared.

Then the second.

“Metal Potentate, you will go and raze Multitude City.” The voice that’d spoken earlier sounded again, this time sounding like a command.

Hidden in the void, the Metal Potentate frowned, but didn’t say anything given the circumstances. He vanished in a streak of golden light.

Raze Multitude City!

Everything of Lu Yun’s was in the city. His two dao partners and subordinates all resided here. He would lose everything if it was destroyed.

Despite the horrific command, Lu Yun remained unmoved in the air, silently gazing upon the tower over his head.

The seventh rule.

The eighth rule began to coalesce.

“It’s said that ascending as a ninth step king is forbidden. If someone does so when they become a titled king, they will immediately attract misfortune,” murmured the Azure Dragon city lord on the walls of his city.

“If he doesn’t ascend as a ninth step king, there will be no point to him taking the deviated path,” replied the Coiling Dragon city lord.

They fell silent, keeping their eyes fixed on Lu Yun.

The killing intent in the surroundings grew denser, but the potentates and true kings didn’t take action. They were waiting, waiting for Lu Yun to become a ninth step titled king and summon misfortune to him.

Hummmm.

The ninth dao rule appeared amidst a loud reverberation. Nine dao rules stood by Lu Yun’s side like pillars holding up the sky.

The firmament had been dyed a deep purple, but it suddenly darkened at this time. Winds swept through the assembly as the black shadowy life form appeared.

Chapter 1520: Taking Action
The sky and earth of the Hongmeng gradually darkened until gray became the overwhelming color of the world. An enormous shadow fixed its gaze on Lu Yun like it was the eye of an unknown creature.

Everyone quieted down, including the ten potentates and Curse King hidden in the void.

The legend was known to all—any superior realm cultivator who immediately became a ninth step king upon ascension would attract misfortune. However, that was only a story. No one had ever seen it proven or not with their own eyes.

Today, everyone witnessed this misfortune for themselves.

An enormous mass of shadow hovered in the air like a collection of thunderclouds. It gave off a tiny ripple of life force, making it an enormous living thing that loomed over the realm.

“Everyone thinks you’re bad luck, the villain that prevents us from ascending to ninth step kingdom,” Lu Yun lifted his head and murmured to the mammoth mass.

It encompassed all of Azure Dragon Region like a gargantuan mountain, crushing everyone’s mind as well.

“But I know that once they become ninth step kings, they reach the end of the deviated path. They are unable to locate the next stage as the road has never been trodden before,” he continued.

The colossal mass began to shrink until it was one kilometer across and enveloped only Lu Yun. The Hongmeng Tower couldn't sense its presence, so it remained focused on forging his dao rules and stabilizing them.

"But I've found the way and my two dao partners have already taken it, so please be at ease. This so-called deviated path will be cleared today and become a legitimate great dao in the Hongmeng!" His voice rang out clearly, more a statement to everyone present and the rest of the realm at large than the shadowy life form.

The path was clear.

Lu Yun could now glimpse a black clad woman standing in the shadows. She nodded gently at him and slowly dispersed with the forbidding mass.

"The misfortune has left?!" someone shrieked.

"That wasn't a misfortune!" another immediately refuted. "The Immortal King said so as well, its purpose was to prevent us from reaching the final end of the deviated path and be unable to turn back!"

Though conversations flew thick and fast among the crowd, everyone's eyes remained fixed on Lu Yun.

He was now tempering his dao rules—nine golden purple dao rules that ran through heaven and earth. Every living being in Azure Dragon Region and some of the neighboring regions could see his massive dao rules.

"Break!" A soft command sounded in the sky as a pale and slender hand appeared, descending upon one of Lu Yun's dao rules with a finger.

The Hongmeng Tower could sense this hand and trembled, ready to rebuff it. But eleven keys suddenly soared into the sky and released brilliant splendor that froze it in place.

About to unleash its magnificent fury, the tower stopped moving.

These eleven keys were ones that'd once enabled the eleven potentates to enter the tower and become potentates. The keys shared the same origins as the tower and thus could restrain it. When the Metal Potentate failed his mission to Multitude City, he came back and brought forth his key to restrain the tower.

The pale and slender finger was thus free to continue tapping on Lu Yun's dao rules. However, another hand appeared in the void and blocked it with a light wave.

"Curse King, this Hongmeng is not yet a place where you can do as you will." The Dao King appeared after denying the Curse King's hand.

"Dao King I hadn't thought that you'd go so far as to protect him." The Curse King's delicate eyebrows crinkled in a frown and he shook his head. "I will respect your wishes to die. Everyone, you will now destroy the Immortal King's dao rules and execute him where he stands."

"Understood!" Angry roars rose and fell in the air as several thousand true kings emerged out of nowhere to charge Lu Yun.

The many titled kings present who'd wanted to protect Lu Yun collectively shuddered. These were all true kings! Mighty, lofty, and noble true kings!

Even ninth step kings were just slightly larger ants to them. Just as the Dao King obstructed the Curse King, so did the Curse King preoccupy the Dao King. The latter didn't have the freedom of movement to block the true kings.

"Netherdark Formation, rise!"

Hopeless Major's Netherdark Formation suddenly appeared next to Lu Yun and transparent netherdark fire began to blaze, stopping the oncoming true kings in their tracks. The Profound, Yin Yang, and Soulmask Kings appeared, jointly overseeing the formation and raising its strength to the limit of their abilities.

"That's just a minor Netherdark Formation, watch me break it!" came a dismissive scoff.

A crossbow bolt whistled through the air from an unknown origin and pierced through the formation.

The Terra Crossbows!

The previous Terra ruler had made his move from the distant divine nation. A full power blow from the crossbows immediately shattered the Netherdark Formation!

Color drained from the faces of the Profound King and others. If it'd been Qing Yu in charge of the formation, it would be easy for her to block a simple crossbow bolt. Sadly, none of them were able to fully call upon all of the formation's power.

They weren't the eminent one.

"You can all return to your posts." Lu Yun waved a hand and sent the three kings away when he noted the situation. He then took a step forward and instantly repaired the Netherdark Formation, turning it into a ninth rank lotus flower of purple petals and blue leaves. It drifted down to his foot.

"Immortal King, it will take at least ten days for you to temper your nine dao rules. You don't have that much time. We kill!"

"Kill!"

The three thousand true kings were all domineering heavyweights in their own right. With the True King Pact, they'd all become subordinates of the Curse King and eleven potentates. They ripped through the Netherdark Formation the moment it formed.

It was true, Lu Yun needed ten days if he wished to become a true ninth step king. He had the power to defend himself over the ten days, but it would be a time fraught with danger. He wouldn't be able to use his dao rules since they would shatter if they suffered any damage.

The notion of three thousand true kings acting together was too terrifying! Even a potentate would scramble for a response at the sight.

The destruction of the formation recoiled onto Lu Yun and a thick streak of blood trickled down from the corner of his lips.

