

Necropolis 1531

Chapter 1531: The Dust Settles
The mistress of the Hongmeng was here, at a time when no one expected her to appear. Dashing beyond belief, she wore a man's outfit and became the center of existence the moment she manifested.

The Curse King shifted uncertainly while the Dao King looked at her quietly. Any word he could've spoken and all of his endless yearning distilled into a single gentle gaze that settled tenderly on her.

Just like how things had been in the original Hongmeng, he didn't need to prove anything to her or have her bare her heart to him. It was enough that he could look at her like this. Nothing else mattered in this moment.

The immortal dao, heaven and earth, Hongmeng, and even the great dao in this realm could drift away upon the wind. None of it needed to exist as long as she was eternal.

The Dao King's mindset thus improved in an unknowing fashion and his cultivation took a massive step forward. But no matter how far his strength reached, he possessed only the level of a peak potentate in this Hongmeng.

I will protect her even if I die and am reduced to ashes! he vowed. He didn't blame her for appearing now. All he needed to do was to continue what he'd been doing all along and protect the mistress of the realm.

The mysterious figure also looked at the Dao King. Her lips trembled as if to speak, but she elected not to say anything in the end.

"You're you're here?" the Curse King said hesitantly after a long pause.

"How else would you have the chance to eliminate me if I'm not here?" Her voice was clear and measured with a hint of a strange emotion inside.

The mistress of the Hongmeng stood unmoving in front of Lu Yun; the Disordered Hell was yet to fully take shape. Its main body was still inside the Hongmeng Pearl and Lu Yun was preoccupied with the spirit of disorder. The two of them fought in an illusory world while he appeared to be standing still in the air to everyone else outside. He was just standing there with no sign of anything having gone wrong.

The mysterious figure's appearance staved off further action from the Curse King. The dust had settled on everything after Lu Yun smoothly set foot onto the deviated path. The Curse King didn't have anything else in mind at the moment—he was already plotting his next scheme.

But to think that the mistress of the Hongmeng would appear when he was about to prevent Lu Yun from crafting a new order, and in a most unexpected way!

His hands tightened into fists and he snuck a glance at the Dao King. There was the tiniest crack in the void next to the Dao King, one that led to the fourth realm. If the Curse King made a move his opponent would stop him even at the cost of destroying this Hongmeng world.

"No need, no need. If this Hongmeng is destroyed, then all of my great curses laid down here will be erased as well," the Curse King murmured to himself. "But I know who she is now that she's shown

herself—she’s that interesting character from the world of immortals, Mo Yi! Hmm, she won’t get away anymore after her identity is known. There will be a lot more chances to take her out in the future.”

He’d never dreamed that the mistress of the Hongmeng would keep such a high profile in the world of immortals!

She’d been the first to set foot into the void realm and the first to ascend to immortality from it. She’d pioneered void realm methods and illustrated the profound mysteries of that realm to the cultivators of the world. She’d then returned to immortality and set foot on a path that didn’t yet exist.

From what he expected, the mistress should’ve kept a very low profile and strictly adhered to the orders of the world of immortals. She would never spearhead the new immortal dao!

The mistress of the Hongmeng smiled at the Curse King. He stared back at her for a very long moment before sighing. With her on the scene, he would never succeed in killing Lu Yun or preventing the establishment of a new order.

Within the Disordered Hell, Lu Yun’s nine dao rules slowly shifted from pure black and returned to their original purple.

“So you’re the mistress of the Hongmeng, I should’ve known!” Lu Yun’s expression was unspeakably complicated as he looked at Mo Yi standing next to him. “were you present at the war that marked the end of the human dao era?”

“Yes.” Mo Yi inclined her head.

“Then you sent the Bridge of Forgetfulness to the fourth realm.” He suddenly thought of the treasure first found in the fourth realm. If it wasn’t for him and Qing Yu following its traces, they would’ve never made that pivotal first visit to the fourth realm. He wouldn’t have comprehended the most marvelous use of the Tome of Life and Death or obtained his cultivation level of the fourth realm.

He’d originally thought that it’d been Lu Qing or Tianqi who sent the bridge there, but as his knowledge expanded alongside his strength, he realized that neither Lu Qing nor Tianqi had the requisite power or strength to accomplish that task.

“Mmhmm.” Mo Yi nodded again.

“Then” Lu Yun wanted to postulate further, but Mo Yi stopped him.

“Don’t speak of your treasure, I don’t have the ability to give that to you,” she interrupted. “If I had the ability to see it and obtain it, I would’ve kept it for myself. Of course, I don’t have the right to give it to anyone else either.

“As for what it is, you’ll know when you get the brush of the future.”

Lu Yun wanted to ask about the Tome of Life and Death.

Mo Yi was indeed answering his unspoken questions about the Tome of Life and Death.

Lu Yun nodded and fell silent. The silver flames had fully enveloped the spirit of disorder and was refining the confusion within. Thus, the Disordered Hell within the Hongmeng Pearl began to truly take shape.

“I didn’t know there was a place like this around! It’s more suitable for me than the Hongmeng! Suppress disorder? There needs to be disorder first if you want to suppress any! I’m the king of disorder and can rule over it all!” The spirit had turned into a little boy roughly four years old. Adorably sized, his clear eyes shone brightly. His true spirit hadn’t fully formed yet, but it’d completed the process and even progressed to an actual shape after meeting the Disordered Hell.

“But you need to get me a body,” grumbled the spirit.

“I’ve already located your body and will bring it to you after this matter concludes.” Lu Yun nodded.

“Yay yay!!” cheered the spirit. “You don’t need to worry about anything here, I’ll finish it all for you. I know how to refine and suppress disorder best.”

He waved a hand and collected the silver flames as a tiny silver outfit on his body. The spirit of disorder was acting according to its instincts and nature, nothing more, nothing less. The Disordered Hell was more ideal for him to live in compared to the third realm, so he was going to take up residence here.

If a better place came around one day, he would betray Lu Yun without hesitation and head there instead.

Newly formed, the Disordered Hell continued developing. All of the danger and crisis that Lu Yun had faced seemed to be resolved. He opened his eyes to dao rules that were completely purple, then deployed the dao rule fusion method that Qing Yu, Miao, and him had jointly derived.

True kingdom was the process of dao rule fusion, and when all nine were one, that made the cultivator a potentate.

Chapter 1532: Immortal Potentate Lu Yun’s dao rules began to fuse under the rapt gazes of the realm. Many ninth step kings had already grasped the notion that dao rule fusion was the path to true kingdom, but without actually understanding how, it remained a dead end to them.

As the name indicated, dao rules were the manifested rules of great dao and order. Not only did they contain a lifetime’s worth of the knowledge and comprehension of dao, they also contained the ultimate truths of the Hongmeng.

The nine dao rules were the pillar of support for both the true cultivation level and titled kingdom. If they were disturbed, the world would metaphorically shatter around the cultivator and all would return to nothing.

Dao rules belonging to true cultivators were different when compared to that of titled kings. Cultivators in the true realm formed their own dao rules and fully understood everything within them. They could use the dao rules as an extension of themselves. Once they reached the end of the true realm, the dao rules would automatically gather and fuse together.

But the dao rules of titled kings were bestowed by the Hongmeng Tower. If one started as a first step king and slowly formed the rest of their dao rules, then they might have a chance of setting foot into true kingdom when they became ninth step kings.

However, the level in which one ascended to titled kingdom was indicative of one's potential. It was exceedingly difficult to become a high level king upon breaking through, to say nothing of progressing to true kingdom later.

Those with the potential to become true kings almost always became mid or high level kings upon ascension. They would then advance through the ranks while bypassing the process to understand their dao rules; the proper method to fuse dao rules together would naturally also be out of reach.

This was an infinite loop of conflicting conditions.

To ascend as a ninth step king was the height of this dilemma, placing one squarely at the dead end as soon as one broke through. Lu Yun now stood at the end of the road since he was a ninth step king. It was time to illustrate the true king method to clear the way.

His nine dao rules began to fuse together; tribulation clouds silently formed in the air. This was the tribulation of a true king, different from what had taken place the little fox fused her dao rules. She'd done so under the protection of the Hongmeng Tower and watchful gaze of the black entity. That'd headed off a heavenly tribulation since the rules and orders of the fourth realm could not enter an area beneath the tower's purview.

This time, the heavenly tribulation arrived with prompt swiftness since Lu Yun was becoming a true king over Azure Dragon Lake. He didn't pay it any heed and absentmindedly swallowed it with Thunder Palmstrike.

He would've never exposed a trump card like this at any other time, but now that he'd defeated the potentates of the ten divine nations and forced the Curse King to retreat

Even the spirit of disorder was now the resident spirit of the Disordered Hell. There was nothing for him to be concerned about in the Hongmeng anymore.

In a similar vein, devouring a heavenly tribulation wasn't much compared to piercing through the Hongmeng barrier with three strokes, so no one paid attention to those actions.

The most direct beneficiaries of Lu Yun demonstrating the true king method were the two thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine Immortal King disciples. They hailed from a variety of places in the Hongmeng and consisted of both cultivators and arcane beasts. There were those who flew, walked on earth, and swam through water.

While his disciples weren't his actual disciples, they were still his followers that helped spread Lu Yun's teachings through the Hongmeng.

The many cultivators on the banks of Azure Dragon River also emulated Lu Yun's movements, but their knowledge of dao paled far in comparison to the nearly three thousand Immortal King disciples.

Lu Yun held nothing back as he exhibited how to fuse dao rules and ascend to true kingdom. His nine dao rules turned to six, then to three, and finally to one. One singular dao rule.

Potentate!

General shock and awe swept through the crowd when he broke through. He'd been a mere superior realm cultivator one second before. Although his title was the Immortal King and he was a supplemental true king, and even though he was the headmaster of the Dao Academy, he was still in the superior realm and as inconsequential as a gnat.

But he soared into the skies one moment later and was now a lofty potentate!

Lu Yun devoured the heavenly tribulation of a potentate the second it formed.

"The path from ninth step king to true king and potentate is clear," Lu Yun called out. "Let us call it the immortal path."

"The immortal path" The beings of the Hongmeng turned the words over in their mouths.

Since Lu Yun was now a potentate, his previous title of the Immortal King was now the Immortal Potentate. It wasn't unreasonable to call a path that the Immortal Potentate had created the "immortal path".

However, everyone knew that the true significance of this name was a nod to the immortal dao traversing the Hongmeng in the future. This immortal path would eventually become one of the cultivation levels beneath the immortal dao.

Lu Yun held his own desires and motivations since he was a living being. He, too, felt emotions and formed grudges or debts of gratitude. When Mo Yi appeared, he'd immediately understood the cause and effect of many things and that the Hongmeng Tower was a gift from Mo Yi to the little fox.

That the tower could bestow titled kingship meant that it could oversee the entire realm. If Lu Yun wanted Miao to become the sovereign of the Hongmeng, then the Hongmeng Tower needed to continue administering the immortal path.

Just like how the Dao Tree once held sway over the world of immortals.

He didn't know if a spirit would develop in the tower, if it would one day be corrupted and a cancerous tumor to the realm like the tree had become. All he knew at the moment was what he wanted to do, and so he did it.

Of course, the path via the true level still existed, but there were no shortcuts there. One had to train from true first level all the way to true ninth level before one could set foot into true kingship.

It wouldn't be long before the true cultivation realm fell out of favor due to lack of cultivators.

Lu Yun was now the Immortal Potentate, a development that bemused many. Potentates were the strongest powerhouses of the Hongmeng and superior to true kings. There were plenty of people in the crowd who'd seen him pierce through the barrier around the realm with three strokes and reach the legendary fourth realm.

The True King Pact and ten divine nations were instantly dismissed as nothing but jokes. Multitude Region became the Hongmeng's version of the world of immortals and Multitude City became the immortal palace.

This wasn't through Lu Yun's own declarations or actions, but a decision by the general public. His identity had been known to all long ago.

Qing Yu became a true king as her dao rules fused to three, but that left her a long way from breaking through to potentate. For the moment, that was enough for her since the immortal dao in the world of immortals could sense her presence in the Hongmeng. It infiltrated the third realm from the chaos, melding into her body.

On this day, Lu Yun was not in Multitude City. Under the Ignis Tower in the center of the divine nation of Ignis, the Ignis Potentate trembled to see the most famous potentate in the realm suddenly appear in front of him.

"Are you here to kill me?" he asked dully.

The remaining ten potentates had thought that Lu Yun would at most become a true king when the two dragons left him; he would still be of no threat to them. Who would've thought that he'd skip over that cultivation level entirely and become a potentate??

"Overlooking" the matters of the past seemed nothing more than a colossal joke.

Lu Yun walked up to the Ignis Potentate, who was deeply regretting believing Lu Yun and not fleeing when he could.

Chapter 1533: Spirit of Fire Virtue
Out of the ten surviving potentates, there were a few like the Ignis Potentate who hadn't left for other lands. It wasn't that they didn't want to, but that it was too humiliating to flee at this time.

They were the pillars of their nations and worshiped on a daily basis by their citizens. Their people would sense it if they weren't physically in the divine nation. Plus, hadn't Lu Yun said that he would let bygones be bygones? They just needed to refrain from causing trouble for him in the future.

Thus, the Ignis Potentate never entertained the thought that Lu Yun would come for him first after the young man became a potentate. He suspected that the Immortal Potentate would be able to pierce through the Hongmeng barrier even without the two dragons in his current situation.

The new potentate just didn't want to leave the third realm yet.

"Don't be scared," Lu Yun smiled in a friendly manner as he sat down across from the Ignis Potentate. "I'm not here to kill you."

"Who said I'm scared?!" The potentate nearly spat out a mouthful of blood. How long had it been since someone dared talk to him like this?? Don't be scared?! He was a noble and mighty potentate, the god of a divine nation!

"Right you are, you're not scared. We both agree that you're not scared," Lu Yun chuckled.

Steam puffed out of the Ignis Potentate's ears, but he remained cautious. He really was a little scared.

Lu Yun had only mentioned it because he'd seen the trace of fear in the potentate's emotions.

"Give me the Fire Virtue Orb that you received from the Starfire King."

The potentate heaved a sigh of relief when he heard Lu Yun's words. As lovely as treasures were, staying alive was the most important.

Still, this stung a bit.

There was already a budding life form in the Fire Virtue Orb. If he hatched it with his dao rules and refined it into his replica, he would be able to seize the fire virtue power within and have a chance of breaking through to the fourth realm.

As mild as Lu Yun seemed on the surface, the Ignis Potentate could clearly sense a hint of pressure hidden deep within the young man's expression. If he dared say no, Lu Yun would immediately kill him and retrieve the orb.

The Ignis Potentate brought out the Fire Virtue Orb without another word.

Thanks to the True King Pact and what Lu Yun had done afterward, the Ignis Potentate hadn't had time to do anything with the orb after receiving it.

Lu Yun waved the orb blazing with fire virtue power into his hands. The life form inside remained safe and sound, as quiet and peaceful like a sleeping baby. However, his expression changed drastically when he took a closer look.

"What is this? Why is there a true spirit in here?" He jerked his head up at the Ignis Potentate.

"I don't know," the potentate hastily responded. "The true spirit was already present when I received the orb. I haven't had time to eliminate it yet."

Lu Yun's brows furrowed tightly. He hadn't seen the true spirit inside when he first saw the Fire Spirit Orb. Perhaps he'd been too weak then to see it. He'd wanted to gift the fetus to the spirit of disorder to be its body, helping him slowly grow into an existence like the god of Mount Tai.

But it would seem that that wasn't feasible anymore.

The Fire Virtue Orb was something nurtured by fire virtue of the fourth realm—a fairy of fire virtue. Once this life form was born, it would wield all fire virtue beneath the heavens.

Fire virtue was the starting point of civilization. Once this fire virtue spirit was born, it would be an emperor in the fourth realm. Though Lu Yun wouldn't suffer any consequences for destroying it, it would still be an act of great evil in his eyes.

"It looks like my fifth disciple has been found." He decided as he looked at the life form in the orb.

Something had always bothered him when it came to his disciples. His first disciple Liu Qingmiao was the reincarnation of one of the little fox's soul parts. The little girl had eventually formed her own corporeal and ethereal souls, becoming an independent life form. Still, there seemed to be something unconventional about the relationship between Liu Qingmiao and the little fox.

And his fourth disciple Qing Han While she didn't have anything to do with Qing Yu, she bore the name that Qing Yu had used when she appeared as a young man.

Lu Yun shook his head, putting these random thoughts out of his mind and stowing the orb. The Ignis Potentate grew nervous again when he saw that the Immortal Potentate didn't show signs of leaving.

He'd thought that his heart was as calm as still water, that the only goal of his life was to pierce through the realm's barrier and enter the fourth realm. It wasn't until now that he realized he still had the capacity to be afraid, that his mentality could fluctuate.

Though he strove mightily to conceal his emotional changes, Lu Yun could clearly sense his unease. He said nothing, just sat quietly unmoving in front of the potentate.

Tension built in the air, to the point where the citizens of Ignis picked up on something different with their nation's god.

"Now you will tell me where the eleventh key of the Hongmeng Tower is," Lu Yun finally broke the silence.

Sweat immediately beaded the Ignis Potentate's forehead. As I thought!

The eleventh key to the Hongmeng Tower! The Immortal Potentate knew that they'd hidden the eleventh key!

"The potentates of the five elements hid the key, I don't know where it is!" he quickly confessed.

"The potentates of the five elements" Lu Yun frowned.

The Metal Potentate was the one who'd taken Jin Gushen away from Multitude City. Lu Yun didn't know what their relationship was, but the potentate's concern and attention for Jin Gushen seemed sincere. He might even be the reason behind Jin Gushen arriving in the Hongmeng.

Jin Gushen's trials in the Colosseum were likely also a result of the Metal Potentate wanting to temper the young man. It was due to his relationships with Jin Gushen and Feng Qi that Lu Yun hadn't simply killed all of the potentates at Azure Dragon Lake.

He nodded at the Ignis Potentate and slowly faded away.

The Ignis Potentate sagged to the ground with a darkened expression.

"I told you he wouldn't do anything to you." A person rotated into existence behind him. It was a man dressed in long muddy-brown robes with rough hewn features, but a surprising hint of delicate exquisiteness playing between his brows.

The Terra Potentate.

"He wants to be a saint of the realm and be worshiped by all. He would never run us into the ground." He sat down where Lu Yun had just occupied.

"He's already pierced through the barrier around the Hongmeng. What point is there in being a saint of the realm and being worshiped by all?" the Ignis Potentate said expressionlessly.

The Terra Potentate paused with shock.

Chapter 1534: Past and Future

Lu Yun had pierced through the barrier around the Hongmeng and could do so even without the two great dragons. Nothing in the realm mattered to him anymore. Next on his agenda was to seek out the undefined fourth realm and its boundless reaches.

But for now, he remained in the third realm. He was still a Hongmeng potentate and showed no signs of a legendary fourth realm cultivation.

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With a karmic fruit as the base, Lu Yun forged a new body for the spirit of disorder. Karmic energy was the most marvelous power in existence. A body made from it was suitable for any spirit to reside in.

Delighted beyond belief, the spirit of disorder found that karmic energy was even more suited to the Disordered Hell.

Lu Yun then combined the two Fire Virtue Orbs as one, turning the one from the fourth realm into pure fire virtue and sending it into the life form inside the second one he found. He placed the life form under the Karmic Tree in the kingdom of hell and used the power of karma to nurture its development.

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The Disordered Hell continued to develop and expand. As the Hongmeng Pearl was a fragment of the original Hongmeng, it would eventually grow into a real Hongmeng world if it gathered sufficient strength to do so. It was currently the medium for the Disordered Hell.

Lu Yun sat face-to-face with the mistress of the Hongmeng. The Dao King was also present in the Disordered Hell to keep her company.

She'd completely severed her ties to the past and relinquished all of her previous strength. All of it had been distilled into a tiny seed and gifted to the little fox. Mo Yi was in the chaos cultivation realm under the immortal dao and an overseer of one of the thirty-three facets in the world of immortals.

However, that didn't amount to much in the Hongmeng.

Coming back to help Lu Yun complete the Disordered Hell was her final act at having anything to do with her ancient ties to the third realm. The mistress of the Hongmeng was now known as Mo Yi, one of the overseers of the nine hells in the world of immortals.

"The Hongmeng Tower is the first ultimate treasure of the original Hongmeng, and the first ultimate treasure in existence," Mo Yi explained seriously to Lu Yun. "The eleven keys to the tower is the only way to open it. However, the keys are the same as that brush of reincarnation—they exist in the past, present, and future. There are thirty-three in total.

"The keys that those eleven potentates hold are of the past. The ones appearing now are of the present. As for the future... I'm sure that people in the future will claim them."

Her clear eyes looked unblinkingly at Lu Yun while, next to her, the Dao King stared steadily at her cheeks. He didn't interrupt their conversation.

“Mhmm.” Lu Yun nodded. “The future eleven keys are suppressed beneath Mount Cloudcover. The brush of the future formed a spirit inside it when it traveled to this day and age, becoming a life form. The same thing happened to those eleven keys.

“My future self allowed Meng to suppress him because he wanted to suppress the eleven keys in turn. But in the future...” Lu Yun frowned at Mo Yi. After his future dao fruit returned, he’d received the memories of the future.

Much would happen in the future.

“How is the future?” Mo Yi asked curiously. No one could help but feel a bit of curiosity about what was to come. Though she’d created the cultivation method of three lives and used it to journey through the past, present, and future, she’d hadn’t reached the era that Lu Yun had gone to. She’d never seen the end of the future and the era of great devastation.

“The Hongmeng Tower breaks,” answered Lu Yun. “The period I went to was right before the great devastation. I witnessed it all and experienced the destruction of everything. Life withers away, divine spirits keen, powerhouses lament...”

“Are we all dead too?” Mo Yi looked at the Dao King.

Lu Yun shook his head. “That future has no relationship with the present. Prior to the great devastation, heaven and earth, the great dao, orders, and rules all undergo significant changes.

“Immortal dao will be long lost in the river of time and a brand new dao rules over existence. There will be a new cultivation system, and perhaps the beings under the immortal dao ceased to exist long ago.”

The immortal dao would ultimately shrivel up and disperse into the void of existence.

“That’s true, the great devastation is so far away from present time that if I were to stand in the river of time and look into the distance, I wouldn’t even see its shadow.” Mo Yi nodded. “It’s said that our era only formed after undergoing a great devastation as well. Such is what is meant by the initial stage of everything stemming from one starting point to refresh life anew.”

Lu Yun’s future self had once said a similar thing over the Azure Dragon Lake. Everything returns to the origin, everything comes again to the starting point.

That sentence had described the reason for the great devastation. If the world teeming with life was deemed “everything”, then the great devastation was the act of returning to one starting point. Everything reaches the end to return to the origin, revisiting the nothingness of the beginning.

Everything stemming from one starting point to refresh life anew was the inception of a new era, a new lease on life. The era they were in was the initial stage of a new period after the great devastation.

“To be frank...” sighed Lu Yun. “My future self is clear of mind and sees through all karma. He was the only thing still alive after the great devastation and the only life form present at the beginning.”

“What?!” Mo Yi and the Dao King gasped. Countless heavyweights of the original Hongmeng had once derived the events of the grand beginning and learned of the existence of the great devastation.

“My future self cultivates demonic dao and did so before the great devastation. The era before the final end is one of demonic dao.

“Everyone seeks to become a demon then and slaughter reigns beneath the heavens. Order will be defeated by disorder—all of that is a sign of the great devastation to come.

“What is meant by destruction isn’t that of order or life, but of all objective and subjective existence,” murmured Lu Yun. “But my future self constantly felt that the great devastation wasn’t a part of the cycle of the grand beginning. That the operation of reincarnation... was a subjective notion.”

Subjectivity meant thought and opinion. Only life would form such things. Everything in the realms was objective—including life forms. They were born out of the objectivity of existence itself.

What Lu Yun meant was clear— the great devastation was facilitated by some sort of living being.

Mo Yi and the Dao King sank into stunned silence.

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“It’s all simply too far away,” Mo Yi suddenly sighed. “What we need to do now is to help the immortal dao grow and develop so that our home flourishes once again. It needs to stand firm in the fourth realm as it once did.

“The great devastation is so removed from us that we will have long disintegrated into dust and drift away in the river of time when it arrives.” She smiled gently.

“My future self went to the past,” Lu Yun continued in the same vein. “The period of the grand beginning.”

Mo Yi’s eyes widened, as did the Dao King’s eyebrows shoot into his hairline.

Chapter 1535: Unlimited Reincarnations
The Dao King felt that Lu Yun was spewing bullshit. As someone who followed Mo Yi, the Dao King had also cultivated the method of three lives. He had a past, present, and future self. The agile and nimble future self could travel through time, but to the point of the grand beginning?

That’s one of the most outlandish claims I’ve ever heard.

The future self could indeed travel to the end of their future—a function of the marvelous uses of this cultivation method. To travel through time at will, however, depended on the depth of one’s strength.

The limits of the Dao King’s future self had been the era of the original Hongmeng. He’d been able to relive the events of that time period, but hadn’t been able to change a thing.

“How were things at the grand beginning?” Mo Yi believed Lu Yun.

When she first crossed paths with this marvelous young man, she’d been a regular august immortal constantly bullied by other immortals. After making his acquaintance, she broke through certain restrictions and gained her freedom in the world of immortals.

She’d then severed her cultivation so she could progress through the void realm, ascended to immortality from the void realm, and became the goddess cherished by the world of immortals.

All of that had to do with Lu Yun. She'd never met anyone else similar to him, not even in the original Hongmeng.

That was why she didn't find it inconceivable that he'd visited an era before the great devastation.

"I saw it with my own eyes," he chuckled weakly. "My future self stood at the beginning of our past and looked into the eyes of another me that was also from the future."

"what?! You mean you saw your past self at the beginning of history?" The Dao King frowned.

"I mean I saw my future self, one exactly the same as the one that'd just traveled back in time. It looked back at me when my future self reached the starting point of everything." Lu Yun shook his head gently. "I don't actually know if that was me because my future self didn't see another future me when it went to the future."

Mo Yi's delicate eyebrows furrowed in thought.

"Have you two ever had the sensation at some point that you seem to be repeating something you've already done?" Lu Yun had experienced *deja vu* before, but it'd no longer occurred after he arrived in the world of immortals. Actually, those moments had stopped as soon as he obtained the Tome of Life and Death.

"Yes, but I dismissed them as a fleeting misconception," the Dao King responded.

Mo Yi nodded as well.

"Then it all makes sense." Lu Yun inclined his head. "Those moments were actually fragments of memory from the time before the previous devastation. They've become very faint after being eroded away."

"You're not telling me that you managed to visit the era before the great devastation??" The Dao King's jaw dropped.

"That's precisely what I'm saying. That other future self of mine took me through their time. We traveled backward from his end of time until we reached its beginning, and then we saw another future me at the grand beginning of it all." Lu Yun's voice droned on weakly, but a bit of hope powered him to finish. "And another, and another, and another until I journeyed through thirty-three eras and met thirty-three of my future selves.

"Every era before the great devastation was the exact same, down to the last blade of grass and tree, every emotion and trace of life, and even the slightest heartbeat. You know the movies and dramas in the mortal world—Earth, right? It was like I was watching a movie, an incredibly long movie, and I watched it thirty-three times!

"I'm sure that if I continued further, I'd see the same sights go on and on without end without beginning."

Mo Yi remained silent.

"You're the thirty-fourth," she suddenly said. "Did you see the next grand beginning when your future self traveled to the future?"

Lu Yun suddenly smiled. "This era is different from all the eras before the great devastation. Perhaps this era is the end of that repeating cycle."

He'd still transmigrated to the world of immortals in previous great devastations. However, he then truly became one with the immortal dao and met Mo Yi, Qing Yu, and the little fox. He also became the headmaster of the Dao Academy and traveled to the past, befriending Fuxi, Leize, and Huaxu.

Everything proceeded according to the path that Fuxi laid out for him and he cultivated the method of the three lives to collect the dao fruits of the past and future.

Those Lu Yuns did not have the Tome of Life and Death, nor did he have the Envoys of Reincarnation who would later become the Ten Yama Kings. He couldn't enter the fourth realm and become a Nihil World Sovereign, and he never crafted the Disordered Hell.

Everything started from the world of immortals, proceeded to the chaos, then the Hongmeng. Once the immortal dao traversed the Hongmeng and the fourth realm, what followed would be Lu Yun passing away and the end of the immortal dao. A new protagonist would appear to dictate the rise and fall of existence.

"Something has changed," Mo Yi smiled. "All of the futures that you saw at the end were prearranged, a show put on for you to see and believe. But the conductor didn't anticipate that something would change in you, and that you'd become the facilitator of change yourself!"

"This endlessly repeating cycle of reincarnations might be an illusion itself, and one day, we'll break it. We've already taken the first step, have we not?"

"That's right!" Lu Yun laughed heartily. "Something has changed and altered this static loop! In previous cycles, you reveal yourself during the battle of Azure Dragon Lake and bring down the Hongmeng Tower to perish together with the Curse King. But this time, you live and haven't suffered any harm."

The Dao King fidgeted uncomfortably when he heard Lu Yun's words.

"Oh don't look at me like that, I clearly remember that you died thirty-three times for her, and you always die taking a hit for her." Lu Yun frowned at the Dao King. Here was a very weird man. He obviously liked Mo Yi, but was never willing to open his heart to her. Not now, and not in the original Hongmeng.

Mo Yi looked at him with surprise while the Dao King flushed bright red and didn't know what to say.

"Alright, enough of that. Everything's changed because of this factor. If the existence behind these endless reincarnation cycles notice me and the changes in this Hongmeng world, he'll likely move against me.

"But I can't really imagine what kind of existence it might be." Lu Yun pondered silently.

"My father once saw a pair of eyes survey the original Hongmeng." Mo Yi suddenly lifted her head and looked at the horizon. "Perhaps that pair of eyes belongs to that existence. ah, did you see the three brushes in the grand beginnings of the past?"

Lu Yun's eyes lit up. "Nope!"

He grinned broadly, Mo Yi chuckled, and the Dao King threw his head back with laughter.

Chapter 1536: The Brush of Three Reincarnations Lu Yun wasn't the only change in this loop—the three brushes were also new. Most importantly was that his presence had caused minute changes to the thirty-three eras before the great devastation.

There'd previously been only one of his future selves at that critical moment, but as he journeyed through historic eras with his other future selves, some slight changes filtered into those periods too. For instance, his future self of the era before learned of everything from his future self in this lifetime. They then brought that knowledge to a second future self, a third, all the way to the thirty-fourth one.

The endless looping of static cycles was thus broken.

If present cycle's Lu Yun was the only different factor, then nothing would change because he would still die in the future. He would sink beneath the vast waves of history, kicking up only a small wave in the long river of time.

But now, he'd elicited changes in thirty-three eras and there was more than just him that was different—there was also the three brushes and the big-headed doll!

"There were no akasha ghosts in the previous thirty-three eras, so I used the brush of the future to send them there." Lu Yun stroked his chin in thought.

"That was very brutal of you!" Mo Yi looked at him with surprise.

"Does the mistress of the Hongmeng really die?" the Dao King suddenly asked in a shaking voice.

"Didn't I just say that you die thirty-three times for her?" Lu Yun glared at him. "Don't ask about anything else, just think of her as dead!"

The Dao King immediately shut his mouth; he could read something from the young man's response.

"The future no longer exists anymore," Lu Yun said. "Every step we take from now on is the future."

"The future no longer exists" Mo Yi suddenly thought of what Lu Yun's future self had said after his return. She still didn't know how he'd done it.

Lu Yun cast a meaningful look at Mo Yi and the Dao King. "The two of you will stay here and educate that spirit of disorder for me. Don't go anywhere."

Mo Yi nodded, the Dao King had no opinion.

Mo Yi's existence seemed to be tied with the survival of the Hongmeng. She was the creator of this Hongmeng world and nothing could be permitted to happen to her. If something did, this realm would wither away and even the origin of the fourth realm would be affected.

Now that she'd shown herself and the Curse King knew who she was, the world of immortals was no longer safe.

In comparison, Lu Yun's Disordered Hell was the safest place.

As for who the Curse King was, Lu Yun's future self hadn't been able to see through his roots or where his true body was in all of his travels. But he did learn of the many truths, such as the Curse King being the source of all curses in the world of immortals and chaos, and the culprit of many evils.

The current mistress of the Hongmeng and Dao King couldn't fight him. Not even if Lu Yun joined them.

The Curse King hadn't moved against Mo Yi last time because the Hongmeng Tower had been present, as had been the manifestations of the Weapon, Pill, Talisman, and Formation Kings. Lu Yun's Disordered Hell had also been deploying the power of the realm, so it'd been the perfect time to attack Lu Yun, not Mo Yi.

When Lu Yun returned to Multitude City, he saw a most unexpected person.

The big-headed doll, closely protected by Ghost Dragon and Ghost Phoenix.

"You want to erase me?" Violence and fear lurked in the doll's eyes. His strength was in the fourth realm and he could take shelter in that realm, but he didn't do so. Instead, he'd come to discuss terms with Lu Yun.

He'd recognized the hammers that the master of hell wielded—the Glacial Fire Hammers from the overlord of Ice.

"It seems that there are many things you still don't understand." Lu Yun shook his head and took out two brushes, giving them to the big-headed doll.

The doll's eyes widened with surprise.

"Your future self, that big demon, told me that you'd kill me and turn me back into a brush" The doll stared dumbly at the brushes in his hand.

Lu Yun's future self was Lu Yun himself. If he really wanted to remind Lu Yun to do something, would he need to say it aloud?

Lu Yun would know everything once they became one person again.

"Eh I could continue to be your enemy if you didn't come here. Me hunting you down is a way of protecting you. But now that you're here trouble is going to come for you," Lu Yun sighed. "I'll pass on a method to you. Use it to find the plane of Ice. Only its overlord can save you now."

Color drained from the big-headed doll's face. Naturally, it was the Curse King who wanted to kill him.

In Lu Yun's eyes, the three brushes were worth less than one living big-headed doll with the ability to travel through space and time. The doll hadn't grown up yet, so it didn't yet have the ability.

The big-headed doll was the future brush of the Brush of Three Reincarnations and also the true spirit that Lu Yun's future self had created for the brush.

The Brush of Three Reincarnations was intricately linked to the Tome of Life and Death, so the big-headed doll would certainly become one of Lu Yun's helpers when it grew up.

Lu Yun's future self had wanted to pull the wool over some people's eyes by making the big-headed doll one of his greatest enemies. But now that this enemy had come to negotiate with Lu Yun for him to spare his life

He felt a migraine developing.

The doll was no idiot either. He connected the dots when he saw Lu Yun's constipated expression. He suddenly had the urge to slap himself silly.

"The method of nothing! The method of a Nihil World Sovereign! Only the strongest of sovereigns in the fourth realm—the overlord of Ice—has this method!" the big-headed doll gasped.

"Who sent you?" Lu Yun asked abruptly.

"The demon of immortal dao!" came the answer. "He's hiding in the Hongmeng Sea and one of his replicas found me, telling me to come to you"

"That guy again!" Lu Yun ground his teeth.

The last great dao in the Hongmeng prior to the great devastation was demonic dao. It would be created by the demon of immortal dao.

However, he was killed by one of his descendants after he created it and his descendant continued to expand it, ultimately making it the greatest dao in all the realms and beyond.

"You'll be killed on the way to the overlord of Ice. I'll escort you there!" Lu Yun grabbed the doll and his two bodyguards, then punched through the barrier and hopped into the fourth realm.

"As I thought!" A delighted voice sounded when he walked out of the fourth realm. "Immortal King, to think you've come too! You do indeed have the strength to pierce through the barrier!" The voice rose high in surprise.

Chapter 1537: Six Paths of Nascent Spirit Lu Yun ignored the voice and flew into the depths of the fourth realm. His dao fruit was complete upon the return of his future self and his own strength had reached the fourth realm, so his abilities in the fourth realm now far exceeded what he'd possessed last time.

Though he still wasn't as strong as the overlord of Ice, he'd see more than just that mighty figure's single eye next time Lu Yun faced him.

The Tome of Life and Death once more replaced his nascent spirit and disordered hellfire surged through his body to become his strength. Since he wasn't truly utilizing the power of a Nihil World Sovereign at the moment, the strength inside his body was different from that of fourth realm cultivators. It wasn't the force of "nothing", but of hellfire.

Lu Yun refrained from overawing the enemy behind him, instead hiding his true cultivation level. He looked like an ordinary void refinement cultivator who'd just set foot into the fourth realm and was frantically careening through unfamiliar surroundings.

"Hmm? Wait!" He suddenly found something a little different about his condition. The six hellfires had projected the six hells into his nascent spirit and they showed signs of replacing the Tome of Life and Death!

The treasure was also releasing a marvelous strength that seemed to represent the boundless truth of this plane of existence. It began refining the six hells to combine the six separate entities into one.

“The six paths of reincarnation!” Enlightenment struck Lu Yun.

Tianqi had been an unparalleled existence in the era of human dao, overseeing the lives of all. He’d formed the six paths of reincarnation, which were what Lu Yun’s six paths of nascent spirit had been.

Those six paths were now six minor paths in his eyes, and the new six paths that the Tome of Life and Death was creating from the six hells were the six major paths!

“No, it’s not really the six major paths, but just the six paths of living beings. If the great devastation wasn’t controlled by that unknown existence, it would simply be another cycle of reincarnation. All existence and nonexistence beneath the heavens should be overseen by an objective reincarnation cycle.”

He was further discovering that his new six paths needed to absorb the power of “nothing” from the fourth realm as they came into being. Once these new six paths of his nascent spirit were complete, he would be able to see what “sequence” was and open the door to sequence. Ascending from Nihil World Sovereign and entering the next cultivation level would be possible then.

“It will take cultivation from my own efforts to complete these six paths. There should be ways to accelerate the process, I just need to figure out how.” Lu Yun mused over this development as he flew through the fourth realm.

The Tome of Life and Death was still his nascent spirit; it wouldn’t fly away when the six hells completed their transformation. Instead, it would turn into the core of his new nascent spirit. His understanding of the book had just taken another step forward.

The big-headed doll fidgeted uncomfortably in Lu Yun’s hands—his cultivation level was also in the fourth realm. When he looked behind them, however, he paled considerably.

“How are you doing it?” he asked quietly. “The Spacetime King’s true strength is at Void World King, but you’re flying faster than him.”

The doll couldn’t see through to Lu Yun’s true strength either. In the Hongmeng, it was likely that only Hong knew how strong Lu Yun really was. Not even Qing Yu or the little fox knew what heights their dao partner had reached.

“The Spacetime King?” Lu Yun blinked and refocused on the here and now. He turned back and saw a man with silver hair chasing after them. The man had been leering arrogantly, but his expression was turning a bit unnatural.

The Spacetime King.

The Spacetime King from the Hongmeng?

Qing Yu and the little fox had captured him when he ambushed the Coiling Dragon City delegation to the Dragonling Assembly, but he’d later turned into a piece of paper. The big-headed doll had probably drawn him into being.

He was here once more, in the fourth realm, and was a Void World King! That rather surprised Lu Yun.

“You didn’t draw this guy?” He stopped and looked at the doll.

“I drew the one in the Hongmeng based on this one. He’s the real Spacetime King and a Void World King in the fourth realm,” the doll responded quietly. “You need to be careful, he’s on the same side as the Curse King and once hunted me in the fourth realm.

“Ah, he’s not actually called the Spacetime King, but the Spacetime World King. He’s a very famous powerhouse in this realm!”

Since the doll possessed the strength of the fourth realm, he naturally wasn’t willing to stay in the Hongmeng. He’d visited the fourth realm long ago, but the Curse King and Spacetime World King had discovered and wanted to capture him.

As quick-witted as the doll was, he fled back to the third realm when he noticed something amiss and took up residence beneath Mount Cloudcover. Meng was present there and Lu Yun’s future self had turned it into a shelter for the doll. That he could take human form was also the work of Lu Yun’s future self.

“I see.” Lu Yun nodded and looked in the direction of the Hongmeng. It was long out of sight and they’d come to a very remote location in the Plane of Fire at some point in their flight.

“This is a good time to capture the Spacetime World King and get some more information on the Curse King.” When Lu Yun’s future self journeyed through several great devastations, he’d seen signs of the Curse King, but never plumbed his origins or base of operations.

His future self wasn’t that strong and his vision was limited by his cultivation level and strength, so there’d been many truths obscured from him. Where he stood wasn’t the peak of an era and he was far from being able to overlook all life.

“Capture me?” Unease grew in the Spacetime World King’s heart.

While Lu Yun was lost in thought, he’d subconsciously accelerated to the point where he could’ve shaken off the world king at any turn. If it hadn’t been for the world king utilizing the order of space and piercing through the void, he wouldn’t have caught up to Lu Yun.

Despite that, a cold sneer still curved his lips. Lu Yun was just a void refinement cultivator who’d recently ascended to the Hongmeng. As unique as he was, it’s not like he could be a Nihil World Sovereign!

Though the Spacetime World King was less than the Divine Fire World King, his battle strength was stronger.

Lu Yun couldn’t be bothered wasting words with the other and reached out, closing his hand around the Spacetime World King.

“A Nihil World Sovereign?!” screeched the world king before he was squeezed unconscious.

In Lu Yun’s eyes, a mere Void World King wasn’t worth using his full strength for.

Chapter 1538: Afraid of Loneliness Lu Yun deployed the Boundless Step as soon as he captured the Spacetime World King and vanished on the spot. The Curse King slowly materialized after his disappearance, his face dark.

“He’s only just pierced through the Hongmeng barrier, so how is he suddenly a Nihil World Sovereign?” Plainly, the Curse King had no idea what Lu Yun had encountered before.

“He can freely travel to and from the Hongmeng! Damn it, he’s hidden the mistress of the realm in his world.” The Curse King gnashed his teeth. “But it doesn’t seem that hard to handle an Immortal King—ah, Immortal Potentate who’s just set foot into Nihil World Sovereign.”

A dangerous sentiment curved his lips. “Those old things who destroyed the original Hongmeng don’t seem to have fully died out. If they learn that a Nihil World Sovereign has emerged from that part of the Hongmeng”

He vanished in the void.

Lu Yun hadn’t discovered traces of the Curse King before leaving—the latter seemed to have been an image that’d become one with the void.

When Lu Yun reappeared, he was where he’d previously met the overlord of Ice. An enormous iceberg hovered in the air and a massive figure sat cross-legged within it.

Lu Yun didn’t fully release his strength this time, but he could still clearly see the figure within. It was a young man with icy-blue hair, his skin as fair as jade and a noble air marking his brows.

His eyes were tightly shut, as if he’d fallen asleep.

“This junior greets the overlord of Ice.” Lu Yun raised a prim cupped fist salute after he placed the Spacetime World King, big-headed doll, Ghost Dragon, and Ghost Phoenix on the ground.

If it wasn’t for the Glacial Fire Hammers and the method of nothing, Mo Yi would’ve revealed herself ahead of time and been gravely injured. The Dao King would die in her stead and she would have to fake her death to hide from the world. Everything would then proceed according to the previous thirty-three cycles before the great devastation.

The big-headed doll, Ghost Dragon, and Ghost Phoenix were at a loss for words. There seemed to be nothing but empty space in front of them. When one placed ants beneath the Himalayas, they saw only the rocks in front of them and not the great mountains towering overhead.

“Send the Spacetime World King away. The karmic repercussions associated with him are too great. You can’t afford to be entangled with him, and neither can I,” the overlord suddenly said.

“What??” Lu Yun’s eyes widened. The overlord had grasped sequence and was one final step away from opening the door to enter the next level. Even if he couldn’t afford to be involved?

Who is the Spacetime World King?

Lu Yun nodded and obeyed the instructions, randomly tossing the world king away into the distance somewhere.

“This junior has come to ask the great overlord to protect these three for me,” Lu Yun gravely raised. “They are too important, they are—”

The overlord’s eyes opened before he finished speaking and he swept a gaze over the big-headed doll.

Crack!

The eternally frozen iceberg fractured with a tiny fissure. To the doll, Ghost Dragon, and Ghost Phoenix, it was as if the void had suddenly split open.

“I know now, you may go,” the overlord rumbled after a long period. “A scheme targeting you has unfolded, you must be careful. If you cannot overcome your enemies, you can use that withered wood.”

He fell silent and closed his eyes again.

Lu Yun nodded, having a few guesses of his own despite the lack of explanation from the overlord. The Spacetime World King was probably one of the Curse King’s. Capturing him would mean the Curse King would be aware, and while Lu Yun wasn’t afraid of any karmic repercussions from the act, he had to consider the overlord’s straits.

He raised another cupped fist salute at the iceberg and left with a turn.

Lu Yun did not return to the Hongmeng. Qing Yu, the little fox, Lu Qing, and his two thousand and nine hundred ninety-nine disciples were there. Everything proceeded on the proper path and the situation did not require his attention.

On the contrary, he would attract incredible trouble if he stayed in the realm. Prodigious issues would arise one after another, all having to do with him. Again, he wasn’t afraid of dealing with trouble, but it would affect everyone else around him.

In the thirty-three eras before the great devastation, he’d witnessed plot after plot rise against him and how he’d rammed through all of them with sheer strength. While he didn’t suffer any harm from them and even grew stronger from these trials, those around him were also caught in them. They died, one after another.

Something had changed in this era. A rock thrown into a swift river could cause an imperceptible ripple; it needed to be a massive mountain if it were to change the flow of the entire river. What he needed to do now was to turn himself into the mountain—a mountain so mighty that it was capable of destroying the entire river!

He didn’t go after the eleventh key to the Hongmeng Tower. He wouldn’t even touch the eleven keys of the past on the ten potentates.

He’d made plans for those long ago.

The eleven keys of the future beneath Mount Cloudcover had nursed treasure spirits of their own. When Lu Yun wanted to save the city lord of the lost ancient city from the attacks of the other five, the Dao King had told him not to.

The Dao King had given the key to the sequence of space to Cang Ling, thereby massively enhancing her strength. She could easily handle the city lords under the Curse King's control, and could do so easily if Lu Yun wasn't present. If he went to her, that would turn the plot against her into one of absolute death.

Everything stemmed from Lu Yun and Mo Yi. Any place they set foot in would turn into a layout of certain death. Though they could escape from it, anyone else caught in it would die.

Over the past thirty-three great devastations, Lu Yun had only been a life form of the Hongmeng. He had the power to pierce through the realm's barrier only when he called upon the two great dragons. Once the dragons left him, he was just a powerful potentate struggling in the great cage with nowhere to go.

But now, he could travel through the fourth realm and take in his fill of these Boundless Planes, thereby evading all of the plots that would come for his head.

He had to do so not only for himself, but for those he cared about.

In those thirty-three cycles, he'd seen himself sit at the end of the void, alone until the day he died. And those were only the thirty-three that he'd bothered taking a look at.

Lu Yun was afraid.

Not of death, but of loneliness.

Chapter 1539: Tomb of the Hallowed Emperor His friends and family would leave him one after another. Lu Yun nearly went spontaneously insane to recall the soul-wrenching anguish that was to come and how it would eventually be dulled by bleak, suffocating loneliness.

In those thirty-three eras, he became a walking harbinger of misfortune wherever he went after he reestablished order in the Hongmeng. He seemed to be cursed to deliver disaster no matter where or who he visited.

He hadn't known the particulars at first, thinking it was a curse from the Curse King or some other enemy. But now as he looked into the eyes of the overlord of Ice, he knew the reason behind it all.

The withered wood!

Lu Yun hadn't possessed the Tome of Life and Death in those past eras, much less hell or the Karmic Tree. Though he'd seen traces of them as he journeyed through the eras, they hadn't belonged to him.

The withered wood!

He likewise hadn't seen the wood on the him of those eras, but he could clearly sense its existence. When he'd locked eyes with the overlord, the hairs had stood up on the back of his neck.

Just as the overlord of Ice said, the withered wood would bring misfortune to Lu Yun. Perhaps the bad luck wouldn't touch him, but everyone close to him would be affected by it.

In this cycle, the wood was resting in the karmic pool in the kingdom of hell. He'd sent it into the Tome of Life and Death instead.

Lu Yun wandered aimlessly through the fourth realm. He didn't know where to go or what to do; he just knew that he couldn't return to the Hongmeng.

“The Curse King probably knows that I’ve left the Hongmeng by now? Mo Yi and the Dao King are both in the Disordered Hell. If he wants to move against Mo Yi, he’ll have to come for me first since I’m the only one who can access that hell.”

Lu Yun had left the plane of Ice and come to a place he was unfamiliar with. He sat down cross-legged in the void, thinking over things. The six hells were becoming the six paths of his nascent spirit, but that didn’t mean that the Disordered Hell was part of his nascent spirit.

It was similar to how he’d manifested the six hells, but the Hadal Hell had become the nine hells of the world of immortals and the Nihil Hell continued to devour the Sanguine Hell. It also maintained a steady stream of ghosts and yin spirits in space, and the Nether Hell had become Violetgrave.

She’d once said that wherever hellfire burned was hell.

Lu Yun looked around, the fourth realm no longer an empty void in his eyes. Countless beings went about their business, just as their counterparts would in the worlds, chaos, and Hongmeng. This was also a world where life forms abounded. If one was big enough and strong enough to find a footing here, one would see the truth of the realm.

As he wasn’t native to the fourth realm, he could only see its true form when he reached a certain cultivation level.

Where his eyes rested on was a magnificent mountain rooted in the void, emanating its aura in all directions. It was so big that he wouldn’t measure up to it even if he released all of his strength and grew to his maximum size.

“There’s tombs in the fourth realm?” Lu Yun blinked. That mountain was plainly a tombstone! “Well, it makes sense. Powerhouses of the fourth realm die as well. The civilization here is the same as that from the worlds, chaos, and Hongmeng.”

He stroked his chin thoughtfully. “All living beings share common characteristics, no matter where they live. They will walk the same path if they live under order.”

Just as on Earth, the same practices had arisen on various different continents despite their lack of exchange. There had been language, writing, numbers, culture, customs, and habits. Livestock was domesticated, horses became steeds, bone and stone were tools, and gold was precious.

There was war, there was peace. Homes and cities were built. Morals, ethics, marriage, calendars, and holidays followed.

Though there were differences, of course, what they represented, the restrictions they gave rise to, and the future they defined were startlingly alike.

Take the human form—while regional differences gave rise to different skin colors, the human form looked the same. Such was the order of civilization and life.

Under the same order, even if the four realms didn’t interact with each other, the path taken by their denizens would be the same. That applied to the worlds, chaos, Hongmeng, and even the fourth realm. If everything was erased and life started anew, civilization would still evolve along the same path.

"I wonder what the tombs of the fourth realm are like." Lu Yun dismissed his mental tangent and leapt into the air, crossing an indeterminable distance and arriving in front of the tomb.

Life forms jostled each other in front of it, all of them different, but all in human form. The master of the original Hongmeng had been humanity, thus the final form of all living beings in the third and fourth realms was human shaped.

This order had never been broken.

"I wonder whose tomb this is?" Lu Yun murmured as he joined the crowd and peered at the mountain.

"Hoi little brother, you can tell this is a tomb?" Startled, a man in silk robes cast a glance at Lu Yun.

"I am Feng Feifan and know a little bit of feng shui. I can tell this is the tombstone for a tomb," Lu Yun chuckled and introduced himself.

The man sized up Lu Yun and answered with a smile. "Brother Feng has a keen eye. I am well versed in feng shui and the art of burial, but wouldn't have been able to tell this is a tomb if I didn't already know."

"Already know?" Lu Yun blinked.

"This is the Tomb of the Hallowed Emperor. Legend has it that it's the final resting place of the last Nihil World Sovereign of the Di Clan, also known as the Hallowed Emperor. 'Di' as in 'emperor', you see?" explained the man instead of introducing himself. "It's rumored that this tomb is located in this Broken Primeval Plane, but it suddenly appeared a few days ago."

"So this is the Broken Primeval Plane." Lu Yun thought back to the books he'd read in Dragonmountain Clime. This was a plane very far from the planes of Ice or fire. It was an abandoned plane, supposedly the site of an ancient battlefield so incredible that it'd destroyed the locale.

Since the battle had occurred so far in the past, it was termed "Primeval". Since the plane was wasted, it was affixed with "Broken".

The Broken Primeval Plane.

"Tomb of the Hallowed Emperor the last Nihil World Sovereign of the Di Clan" The clan's name touched a chord within Lu Yun's heart.

The man laughed heartily when he saw Lu Yun deep in thought and left. He had no intention of befriending this stranger.

Chapter 1540: Lord of Dragonmountain ClimeDid this Hallowed Emperor of the Di Clan have something to do with the Di Clan of the Hongmeng?

When Lu Yun lifted his head again, he discovered that the man in silk robes had left. He could easily pick out where the man was with his current strength and abilities, but Lu Yun could also read from the other's emotions that he had no intention of befriending Lu Yun. I'm not going to force the issue then.

He surreptitiously called upon the Spectral Eye, only to realize that the death art couldn't see through the tomb behind the mountain.

Ah, this tomb isn't like the ones in the world of immortals. Those are buried in dirt, but here, it's the void that's the dirt. It's buried in the void.

In other words, he had to pierce through the void if he wanted to enter the tomb. This was an area that mortals couldn't touch.

Meanwhile, he sent out his consciousness to eavesdrop on the conversations around him. All of these people were here to raid the tomb! They wanted to loot the last heavyweight of a once glorious clan in the ancient past.

They wouldn't dare entertain these thoughts if the Di Clan still existed and its bloodline was still present in the fourth realm. But plainly, the clan had collapsed and its bloodline died out.

Thus, it was only natural that others raid the Hallowed Emperor's tomb. They would excavate the tomb and one more display the magnificence of a Nihil World Sovereign to the world. His majesty and legacy would live on again, and even a new Di Clan would arise to continue the grandeur of the last.

This was what most had on their minds.

Of course, the overall cultivation level present was very uneven. There were void refiners and World Manifests, and even two Void World Kings secretly conversing about something. They'd concealed their strength, but when Lu Yun paid closer attention, he discovered that they were just chatting about life. It was immensely disappointing to discover nothing noteworthy about the tomb.

No one had determined how to open it yet; a tomb buried in the void wasn't easily cracked.

"The Divine Fire World King is here!" A rustle stirred the crowd when someone shouted out their observation. Lu Yun could immediately feel a change in the atmosphere.

"The Divine Fire World King? That Santa Claus?" Lu Yun blinked and subconsciously turned back, feeling a searing presence approach in the void.

That was the strength of a peak Void World King. The Divine Fire World King's cultivation had fallen half a step after he lost the Glacial Fire Hammers and he'd retreated from the edge of Nihil World Sovereign to peak Void World King.

Though they were very far from the plane of Fire, an event of this magnitude was still sufficient to command the presence of Void World Kings. The cultivators in the vicinity hastily backed away from the Divine Fire World King. When they saw the world king present, the other two Void World Kings also showed themselves, releasing their auras.

Divine Fire paused and stared at the two.

"So it's the Hoarfrost World King and Roastwave World King!" Divine Fire retracted his aura and inclined his body at his two peers.

"Greetings to the Divine Fire World King!" The Hoarfrost World King appeared to be a young man dressed in long golden robes. Delicately sculpted features adorned his beardless face and his skin was overall very fair. He didn't actually look like a man, but he was very much so one—one whose features closely resembled a woman's.

“Hahahaha! Divine Fire World King, I hear that your Longshan Yin of Dragonmountain Clime has just broken through to Void World King. Your Plane of Fire has just gotten that much stronger!” the Roastwave King laughed heartily.

Roastwave wore long crimson robes and a dense power of flames shifted with all of his movements. He was plainly a Void World King who also cultivated the great dao of flame.

These two world kings were weaker than Divine Fire, but together, they were unafraid of him. Now that Divine Fire had lost the Glacial Fire Hammers, he didn't dare take them lightly either.

Divine Fire brooded when he heard Roastwave mention Longshan Yin.

“Hmm?” Roastwave and Hoarfrost looked at each other. This reaction was unexpected.

“Heh heh heh, that Longshan Yin is someone that none of us can provoke. You better not have any designs on him, and don't blame me for not warning you! Heh heh heh, hahahaha!!” Divine Fire cackled slowly, a threatening laugh that sent chills down the spines of the other two world kings.

“Alright now, the two of you won't be able to crack this tomb. I can't do it myself either. Why don't we work together and enter it with all the other beings here? To each their own when it comes to the treasures and legacies inside.” Divine Fire seemed unwilling to continue the conversation as he swiftly changed the topic.

“Divine Fire you may be thinking a little too much of us.” Hoarfrost shook his head. “The legendary Hallowed Emperor is an absolute powerhouse who opened the doors to sequence. He rivals the overlord of Ice in our time and the emergence of his tomb shakes the entire realm. There will be more Void World Kings rushing here than just the three of us.”

“There may even be some Nihil World Sovereigns that come. If the three of us open this tomb together, it might end up being for the benefit of others,” sighed Roastwave. “You are strong, Divine Fire, but there's at least twenty Void World Kings already keeping an eye on this place!”

Since Divine Fire didn't mention Longshan Yin again, the other two naturally glossed over the man. Divine Fire fell silent at their response.

He itched to rip open the tomb right this very second and find the Hallowed Emperor's inheritance. Once he ascended to Nihil World Sovereign, he'd go back and raze Dragonmountain Clime, then hunt down Lu Yun for revenge.

Lu Yun showing him mercy hadn't resulted in the Divine Fire World King's gratitude. It'd only inspired hatred. He'd been one tiny step away from Nihil World Sovereign! He would've soared to the heavens if he'd been able to take that step, becoming an unparalleled heavyweight in the Boundless Planes.

Lu Yun had ruined all of that!

The foot that'd been on the threshold to the next level had shrunk back. Losing the Glacial Fire Hammers meant that Divine Fire had lost the right to stabilize his cultivation in the next level.

“Then we wait for all of them to come and then open the tomb together.” Divine Fire ground his teeth.

“Longshan Yin greets the world kings!” came a long shout before Longshan Yin walked down from the void.

“The Dragonmountain World King!” Hoarfrost and Roastwave blinked and subconsciously looked at Divine Fire.

He was already wearing a merry expression. “Oho, old brother Longshan. I was just about to send word to you, but here you are already!”

From the speed of Divine Fire’s change in mood, the other two world kings quickly sensed that this new world king wasn’t all that he appeared.

“Longshan Yin, what’s with this tomb?” Lu Yun transmitted to him when the man appeared. There had been no mention of the Di Clan or the Tomb of the Hallowed Emperor in the Dragonmountain library.

Longshan Yin’s expression froze very briefly when he heard Lu Yun’s voice, then swiftly smoothed out naturally.