

Necropolis 1741

Chapter 1741: A Demon of Resentment

Nothing could forever remain a secret; word of the seed of nothing swiftly traveled throughout the fourth realm. All this time, countless fourth realm experts had entered the Hongmeng and the world of immortals in search of the seed of nothing. An uproar engulfed the realm, one that not even Meng Wang could settle down.

Unbidden, he looked at Mount Astronomia. Upon it, Qing Buyi swept a casual glance in the ancestral planet's direction and continued teaching his nephew.

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"Something big is about to happen in the fourth realm." In his two hundredth year of cultivation while sitting cross-legged in the darkness on a Dao Flower, Lu Yun opened his eyes and looked in a certain direction.

"I say, Lu Yun, can't you stay focused on cultivation? Who cares what happens in the fourth realm?" Highly bored, the Demonic Vine rolled her eyes and turned to Jian Bu'er. "I bet you this kid doesn't have anything good in mind. He brought Haidong Lin with him last time and lost him. He's got us with him now, does this mean he wants to kill us using someone else's hand?"

The Demonic Vine had been sentient for hundreds of millions of years, but her body was still that of a child's. She glanced at Jian Bu'er's slovenly figure and patted her flat chest with dejection. "When will I grow up?"

Jian Bu'er pulled her close and tousled her sleek locks into a bird's nest before saying with satisfaction, "Stay focused on cultivating. You're the source of demonic dao and there's orders of darkness in your dao. It's highly beneficial for you to cultivate here. See, don't you seem to have grown one year older?"

Jian Bu'er wiped his nose on the back of his hand and transferred the yellowish-orange liquid onto the Demonic Vine's clean robes. She fidgeted uncomfortably before settling down again.

"His cultivation level doesn't seem to have changed in two hundred years. Is he sitting here for cultivation or not?" The Demonic Vine tilted her head up at Lu Yun. The darkness was pitch black for everyone else, even to Lu Yun and Jian Bu'er's eyes. To the vine, however, it was as clear as day.

Just as Jian Bu'er had said, demonic dao was a great dao of darkness. Apart from Lu Yun's hell dao, it was the dao closest to darkness. The Demonic Vine was the source of the fourth realm's demonic dao, and all demonic dao was in turn derived from her, including the dao from the demon of immortal dao.

Lu Yun had sat in the same place for two hundred years without making any progress, but the Demonic Vine's strength had grown by leaps and bounds. She'd been at eighth level wood dao sequence, but now she exceeded Jian Bu'er at twelfth level sequence.

"Eep!" she shrieked and looked apologetically at Jian Bu'er.

"What is it?" he asked curiously when he sensed a tiny ripple from the vine.

“I’ve just accessed thirteen levels of sequence!” she responded blankly. “Should I switch to immortal dao now and transfer the thirteen levels of wood dao sequence to immortal dao sequence?”

“Not yet,” Jian Bu’er chuckled wryly. He was feeling more than ever that Lu Yun was cultivating here not because he wanted to, but because he wanted the vine to cultivate here.

The Demonic Vine had accessed five levels of sequence in two hundred years not only because they were in the land of darkness, but also thanks to the Dark Dao Flower that Lu Yun was sitting on. He’d commanded the flower to bloom with the full might of its dao, and the power of darkness within it had fully melded into the gloom around them. The three were surrounded by a formless boundary, making it impossible for the endarkened and cultivators from the outside realm to discover them.

After Qing Buyi’s rampage two hundred years ago in which he suppressed the Moran Clan and eliminated the Esteemed Nebula, none of the cultivators from the outside realm dared set foot into the Land of Reincarnation. They didn’t dare approach the land of darkness either, much less the primary worlds. They were deathly afraid of irritating the terrifying fiend and causing their own doom.

They could wait eight hundred years.

“Transfer your levels to immortal dao when you reach eighteen of them. The immortal dao is so strong that it’ll vault you through nineteen when you do so.” Jian Bu’er smoothed back the Demonic Vine’s crazy hair. “What’s that kid doing?” He frowned and observed Lu Yun with his consciousness.

The young man was indeed cultivating; immortal force surged and ebbed at every second in his body and hell dao operated at a furious speed. But his cultivation showed no signs of improvement. He seemed... to be waiting for something.

“I’m waiting for someone to make trouble for me.” Lu Yun opened his eyes with a frown. “I set up a massive trap for someone the day I accessed sequence, but he didn’t come.

“I later guessed that he’d been scared off because Qing Buyi was already in the fourth realm, but he’s still not showing himself even after I’ve come to the darkness to wait for him.”

Lu Yun had kept Moran Dongning’s words in mind, that someone would come make trouble for him when he set foot into sequence.

“What if you activate another level of sequence?” Jian Bu’er blinked. “Maybe that will bring him here.”

“I’ve already accessed six, but there’s still no sign of him,” Lu Yun responded dejectedly and released his strength. He’d been at third level sequence, but was now at six.

Jian Bu’er’s jaw dropped and he rubbed his eyes fiercely, even though that gesture was useless in the dark.

“You accessed three levels of sequence in two hundred years... how did you do it?” he asked, dumbfounded.

“If the Demonic Vine can access five in her demonic dao, it’s no big deal for me to access three with hell dao,” Lu Yun shrugged. Hell dao was part of immortal dao, so the sequence levels of hell dao were also those of immortal dao.

“Forget it, I’m not waiting any longer!” He got to his feet. “Let’s go take a look at Myriadsea World. I think Haidong Lin is there right now.”

“He’s not dead?” Jian Bu’er raised an eyebrow.

“He shouldn’t be... He's more than just a passing acquaintance with me, so the Corpse Refiners will want to use him as bait.” Lu Yun thought for a moment and sent his consciousness into the Disordered Hell.

Xie Tianxun sat morosely on the ground, unmoving and unspeaking. Meanwhile, Moran Dongning jumped with excitement.

“I got it! So that’s what the kid cultivates, no wonder he’s stronger than my brother!” Moran Dongning offered up a booklet like she was presenting a great treasure. Lu Yun paused, finding the girl to be looking a bit familiar...

“The little nun?” He thought of the little nun that’d abruptly appeared and suddenly vanished one day. She had the worshipful expression on her face!

“Eh?” Moran Dongning blinked and became uneasy. She said with embarrassment, “So you found out...”

Lu Yun smacked his forehead, already guessing what she was doing here. When his future self journeyed to the end of reincarnation and sought to enter the thirty-fourth loop, she’d blocked his way. As the Time Guard, she was immensely tired of the monotony in which she could lose her life at any second.

Hence, she joined Lu Yun. As for being worshipful, it had nothing to do with his performance in the Dusk Province arena. It was simply for his ability to travel through reincarnation. He was the first to ever do so!

“Alright, I should’ve realized it was you a long time ago,” he chuckled. Moran Dongning’s prank on Mo Yi’s senior sister was relief for both herself and Mo Yi. Who knew what the old nun might’ve done otherwise?

“This is for you!” She raised the booklet again. “I’ve looked through it, there’s nothing wrong with the methods. This kid won’t dare lie to me!” She looked at Xie Tianxun, who looked back with a rueful expression.

“The Kinship of Heaven and Earth?” Lu Yun raised a brow at the title. [1]

The written language of the outside realm was different from that of the fourth realm or world of immortals, but Moran Dongning had already translated it.

“This is a method of the outside realm?” Lu Yun asked.

She nodded. “And it’s a very powerful one on par with my clan’s. It’s said that a very strong powerhouse invented it a very, very long time ago. He didn’t have disciples or descendants, so his good friend buried it in his tomb when he died. Xie Tianxun dug up his tomb and brought the method back out into the world!”

A method created by a powerhouse without disciples or descendants naturally wouldn’t come with any restrictions. Lu Yun quietly put it away; he could tell that Moran Dongning had practiced it as well. She was stronger than before and had accessed the second level of dark dao sequence.

Unexpected results could occur when two different methods met each other.

“Right, who’s the person you said would make trouble for me when I accessed sequence?” Lu Yun asked.

1. This is a play off The Kinship of the Three, also known as The Cantong Qi, the earliest book on alchemy in China. The Cantong Qi is concerned with Cosmology, Daoism, and Alchemy, and joins them together as a single doctrine. ?

Chapter 1742: Netherdark Talisman

The matter had become a knot in Lu Yun’s heart and he wouldn’t be able to cultivate with peace of mind if he didn’t eradicate the latent threat. He had to ensure that no one would disturb him in his training.

“Your master!” Moran Dongning turned grave. “The one on Earth, the one who raised you and helped you become the strongest mortal commandant of the tomb raiders!

“His resentment brews—you have the ability to resurrect him, but you don’t. Therefore, he’s turned into a demon that will haunt you for the rest of your life! He won’t appear when you are on your guard. Only when you’re at ease and completely relaxed will he show himself. His appearance will mark your doom!”

She took a deep breath. “Don’t underestimate resentment from mortals. No matter what kind of powerhouse you are, mortals are the bedrock of the realm. The great dao is not born from cultivators, but from the will and thoughts of countless mortals. What I told you last time has caused you to be alert at all times, so your master will not reveal himself under those circumstances.”

“My master...” Shell shocked, Lu Yun mumbled to himself, “How is this possible? I thought he was resting at peace and that his greatest wish was to have nothing to do with the affairs and grudges of the mortal world. So why...”

“The living are different from the dead. When the living fulfill their wishes, they can be at peace. But when one dies and leaves behind even a hint of having once been alive, the desire to live flares anew in their heart.

“You were tainted by your master’s resentment the last time you returned to Earth. It’s a resentment that you can’t expunge by yourself.” Moran Dongning looked into Lu Yun’s eyes. “It’s also too late and won’t change a thing if you resurrect him now.”

“Is there no way to resolve this?” Lu Yun frowned ferociously. Malice formed by a hint of resentment that ultimately turned into a demon wasn’t a ghostly entity. It couldn’t be exorcised.

“There’s a way!” Xie Tianxun spoke up before the girl had a chance to answer. “I’ll tell you if you let me go!”

“Piss off,” Lu Yun glared at him.

Lu Yun was an orphan. His master had raised him and taught him the tricks of the trade and what kind of person he should be. There would be no Lu Yun without his master. He’d once thought of using the Tome of Life and Death to forcefully revive his master, but when he thought of how serene his master had looked in his final rest, Lu Yun gave up the thought.

His shared destiny with his master had come to an end and his master had died a natural death, unlike Fuxi who'd died a contrived death before his time. Resurrecting his master would result in undesirable karmic consequences and invite greater disaster to befall his master because of it.

Lu Yun had no idea how he might handle the matter. Even if he returned his master to life now, the demon of malice would still exist. It wouldn't dissipate just because the dead had come back to life.

"I really do know!" Xie Tianxun rolled his eyes. "How about this, I'll tell you how to resolve it first. You can let me go after!"

"What, I'll let you go find the Esteemed Nebula?" Lu Yun snorted. "He's probably dead already."

Xie Tianxun halted in his tracks, staring at Lu Yun with complete stupefaction.

Though Lu Yun didn't know what'd happened in the outside realm, he'd seen the satisfaction on Qing Buyi's face when that matter came to an end. Knowing the man's personality... the Esteemed Nebula was probably scattered around in unrecoverable pieces. Would those of the outside realm respect his demand of an additional three hundred years if he didn't make an example out of someone?

"You'll probably die to Chu Xingran if you leave now, or there's a small possibility that Qing Buyi will end you." Lu Yun waved open the doors of the Disordered Hell. "Be my guest."

He'd kept Xie Tianxun here for his cultivation methods. Now that Lu Yun had them in hand, it didn't matter if Xie Tianxun stayed or left.

Xie Tianxun summoned a golden pearl with a flip of his hand. It was cracked and empty—something should've been inside.

"He really is dead..." he sighed woefully and sat down without another word. The Esteemed Nebula had been his only backer in the realm and the pearl was a soul pearl that connected to the esteemed personage. There was a wisp of the Esteemed Nebula's will inside.

Xie Tianxun's original plan had been to assume an identity, settle down, and contact his backer through the soul pearl so the Esteemed Nebula could descend upon the land again. But in the Disordered Hell and suppressed by the Tome of Life and Death, the soul pearl hadn't been able to establish a connection.

It successfully initiated a message to the outside world when the doors to hell opened and received feedback of the esteemed personage's death. The hint of will inside the pearl crumbled away.

"You can etch a Netherdark Talisman and stick it to a doll made from Soul Extender Wood. If you bury the doll, you'll be able to lure the demon of malice into the tomb," Xie Tianxun said quietly after a long moment. The doors of hell remained open, but he showed no signs of leaving.

"I know what Soul Extender Wood is, but what's a Netherdark Talisman?" Lu Yun blinked.

The wood was an ultimate treasure that sometimes grew in tombs or ancient battlefields. There'd been a small forest of it in the remains of the Hadal Hell. But he'd never heard of the talisman before and formula dao wasn't forthcoming with any answers.

"Is it something from the outside realm?" Lu Yun quickly asked with dawning realization.

“Yes,” Xie Tianxun nodded. He extended an index finger and drew a talisman in the air. Lu Yun brightened—this was a doorway to the talisman dao of the outside world!

“Xie Tianxun’s definitely got some tricks up his sleeve,” Moran Dongning mumbled. “The one who invented The Kinship of Heaven and Earth rests in an uncommonly dangerous tomb. Many supremes lost their lives after venturing in...”

Lu Yun nodded, but his eyes were fixed on the Netherdark Talisman. This was a talisman completely different from the ones in the Land of Reincarnation. Not only was it a talisman, but there was another inexplicable power inside it.

“Do you understand it? Need me to teach you step by step?” Xie Tianxun regained a bit of confidence with the talisman and raised his head with a half smile.

His eyes bulged out the next second.

Lu Yun drew a Netherdark Talisman in the air based on the one in Xie Tianxun’s hand. Though it wasn’t the same, it was very close. He drew another, one that was virtually identical to the one held by the other.

“How is this possible?!” Xie Tianxun shrieked with surprise. “The talisman needs the power of earth in order to be complete, but the worlds of this Land of Reincarnation are incomplete, so you can’t possibly create this!”

He’d dismissed the desire to leave after learning of Esteemed Nebula’s death. He would wait for everything to be concluded and leave with Moran Dongning. He had no feud with the Morans and the clan would surely extend him an olive branch after they received one of their own. He was a genius, after all.

The Netherdark Talisman was a show of courtesy to Lu Yun and his guarantee for making it out alive, but the native had replicated it with just a few glances!

“The worlds in this land are indeed flawed, but I have a world that is whole and intact,” Lu Yun murmured. The Tome of Life and Death emanated pure force the moment the talisman was complete to help it fully form. It’d projected the power of earth from a world.

The power of the worlds came from heaven and earth within the Central Hongmeng, but they were incomplete. Lu Yun had never imagined that the world inside the Tome of Life and Death would be a complete one!

As the Tome of Life and Death was now his nascent spirit, that meant Lu Yun’s path of cultivation would be the same as the one in the outside realm—sound and flawless.

He wasn’t able to release the world in his nascent spirit to make the ones in this land whole, because the former was similar to the inner world that cultivators crafted in the void realm. It was applicable only to the cultivator, even if one from the Tome of Life and Death was infinite times stronger than its brethren.

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“Although the Netherdark Talisman doesn’t have much offensive power, it can dispel the resentment of the dead...” Formula dao imparted the uses of the talisman to Lu Yun. If he brought it on his tomb

raiding journeys, no ghostly entity bearing any resentment would dare approach him. Their lingering hatred would be dispelled as soon as they did so.

He'd never thought that such wondrous talismans would exist in the outside realm! For the first time, a spark of interest flared to life in his heart.

Chapter 1743: Lady of the Sword Master

The doll from Soul Extender Wood wasn't something to be casually refined either—Lu Yun's master's date of birth and the eight characters of his horoscope needed to be inscribed on it. The requirement sent Lu Yun down memory lane; it was like he'd returned to Earth!

The date of birth and eight characters of one's horoscope were related to the heavenly stems and earthly branches of the sexagenary cycle. [1] The cycle pertained to astrology and the operation of the great cycles, and all of it had to do with the three hundred and sixty-five Major Cycle Worlds that supported the primary worlds.

The heavenly stems and earthly branches were a way to keep time, and they also existed in the worlds of the outside realm. This reminded Lu Yun of certain things that he'd once derived, that no matter where one was, the development trends of life and evolution of a world was more or less the same...

So then was the outside realm similar to the fourth realm, but one that was whole and complete?

If that was so, then it was possible Lu Yun could derive certain things about the outside realm from his position in the Land of Reincarnation—including its great dao.

Date of birth, the eight characters of a horoscope, and the heavenly stems and earthly branches were an important combination for Lu Yun to theorize about the great dao of the outside realm. Additionally, he also possessed the powerful Kinship of Heaven and Earth.

The tomb to bury the doll couldn't be a hastily constructed makeshift affair, it had to be a resurrection tomb etched from a resurrection layout! Only then would that revive Lu Yun's master and dispel the demon of malice.

"You can leave right now if you'd like to go. If not, you can wait with Dongning and leave together when her clan sends someone." Lu Yun understood Xie Tianxun's current frame of mind, and the latter accepted without hesitation. He neither wanted to die nor be at the behest of another. It'd only been a transaction between him and the Esteemed Nebula, nothing else.

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Having obtained the method to exorcise the demon of resentment, Lu Yun immediately returned to his primary body.

"Do you know what it is now?" Jian Bu'er asked when his consciousness detected the young man's new expression.

"I do," Lu Yun nodded and looked at the Demonic Vine. "This is also a fortuitous opportunity for her. If the vine can seize it with both hands, she might rise up to become the true master of demonic dao."

“I don’t want to be a demonic master!” She waved her fists with a prideful look. “I’m going to be the lady of the sword master!”

The sword master was naturally Jian Bu’er; he was now the master of sword dao beneath the immortal dao. The position had once belonged to Zhao Wushuang, but when sword dao from Fairylands appeared and became part of the immortal dao, she resigned from her title. Her sword dao came from the divine race, which was a far cry compared to the dao from the world of sword dao. She’d also just barely reached the Hongmeng with her cultivation level, whereas Jian Bu’er was an immensely mighty heavyweight.

Although the Demonic Vine wielded demonic dao, the real master of the dao was the demon of immortal dao in the Tome of Life and Death. Her efforts were also focused on pure demonic dao, so she didn’t count as the demonic master under immortal dao.

“That has to wait until you grow up, but perhaps you’ll instantly grow up after you become the master of demonic dao,” Lu Yun chuckled. He rose to his feet and exhaled slowly. “Come, it’s time to leave.”

“Wait!” Jian Bu’er called out. Radiance similar to sword light sparkled in the unending darkness; a resplendent halo descended from above and landed behind his head, illuminating the premises.

Breakthrough.

Jian Bu’er set foot into twelfth level sequence after two hundred years of sitting in one place in the darkness. He accessed not the sequence of metal that he’d once cultivated, but of immortal dao!

Twelfth level immortal dao sequence!

He couldn’t help a broad grin. “We can go now!”

Lu Yun put away the Dark Dao Flower and shook his head. “I’m afraid we won’t be going anywhere.”

Hordes of endarkened had already surrounded them.

The Dao Flower could conceal Lu Yun and the Demonic Vine’s ascensions when they broke through because they cultivated hell and demonic dao. Both paths were related to the darkness, and the flower completely hid all the signs from the senses of everything else.

But when Jian Bu’er wielded the sword dao that was beneath immortal dao, his dazzling sword light could be seen from miles away. Those who lived in the darkness could naturally see it too. They hated light, so they instinctively sought to smother all unknown sources of light.

“Get ready to fight.” Lu Yun manifested Argent Snow with a wave of his hand.

The six great soul weapons had all become treasures of formula dao—they’d been the first paths of supplemental dao to be consolidated. Mo Yi had created five of them, and God created the last one. It was due to leading roles from the six soul weapons and the Soul Dominion that other supplemental daos had been peacefully incorporated into formula dao.

While Lu Yun cultivated hell dao, he was still strongest in formula dao. Silver snowflakes danced through the void, each one burning with disordered hellfire and forming a realm of snow that tore apart anything that rushed in.

There was no other order present in the surroundings apart from darkness and opposition, so creatures of the dark came in all shapes and sizes. But to Lu Yun, they were all pieced together from corpses or soul fragments.

The terrifying ghosts of the Hongmeng and unending tides of yin spirits from the world of immortals didn't appear in such large numbers in the dark. It seemed that someone had rounded them up to be henchmen.

"Don't stay and fight, we need to go!" Lu Yun jumped with shock when he saw that Jian Bu'er was about to make a move. "You'll attract even more enemies when you deploy your sword methods. Only cannon fodder's here and we won't be able to leave if you catch the eye of fifteenth level monsters!"

Spectacular glory would accompany Jian Bu'er's sword dao; they wouldn't be able to hide it even if they tried. It wouldn't matter if they were anywhere else, but it would be their doom in the land of darkness. His light was different from Lu Yun's disordered hellfire since hellfire was part of hell dao. Though it also emitted radiance, that illumination was the same as the gloom to the endarkened.

Lu Yun's Argent Snow realm churned through countless creatures before it suddenly winked out. The three of them were long gone from the scene.

"Something big has their eye on us!" the Demonic Vine quietly transmitted. "A ghost that's activated fifteen levels of sequence!"

"A ghost??" Lu Yun saw nothing when he looked back, even his consciousness swept through empty void. The vine, however, clearly saw a vicious ghost approaching them at high speed.

Chapter 1744: Staging a Comeback

A ghost at fifteen levels of sequence could be considered a ghost king. Lu Yun didn't know how creatures of darkness accessed sequence or what kind of sequence precisely that they utilized, but there were indeed the ripples of sequence shifting throughout their body.

Ghosts and yin spirits counted as dead beings in the worlds of light, but they were part of the living in the darkness. To Lu Yun's eyes, they were also pieced together by soul fragments.

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"We're no match for it, run!" Lu Yun finally saw the vicious ghost when he deployed the Spectral Eye. He flung open the Gates of the Abyss without further thought and yanked the other two inside.

He was only sixth level sequence; a ghost king at fifteenth level could smack him to death with a single slap. Even the Demonic Vine at thirteen levels couldn't put up any resistance. As for Jian Bu'er, Lu Yun automatically overlooked his battle strength.

"That's strange, didn't you choose a spot that doesn't have anything above ten levels?" Heart palpitating with fear, Jian Bu'er frowned at Lu Yun who was next to him. "Huh? Where are we?"

There was light here. Though it was very faint, it was very real. Jian Bu'er looked around and saw that they were in a gray world. The dirt beneath their feet was ash gray and completely lifeless.

“You’re asking me?” Lu Yun sneered. “I told you when we entered the darkness two hundred years ago that you need to tell me as soon as you show signs of breaking through. I needed time to get ready!”

“You motherfucker ascended in the darkness because you wanted those ghosts and monsters to see us, didn’t you?”

“It’s not his fault!” The Demonic Vine immediately stood by Jian Bu’er’s side and jabbed a finger at Lu Yun’s nose. “An opportunity to break through comes when it will. There are no signs ahead of time!”

Jian Bu’er scratched his head and said with embarrassment, “Well... I was spontaneously inspired by you two. I would’ve felt something beforehand otherwise...” He reddened and didn’t want to say anything else.

“We’re in the Abyssal Hell,” Lu Yun breathed deeply. “I didn’t want to bring you guys here, but sudden activity from the fifteenth level sequence ghost king will raise the attention of the outside cultivators lurking in the darkness. We can’t stay there anymore, so we can only come here.”

“I thought you’d take me back to the World of Swords,” Jian Bu’er said sadly.

“There’s no point,” Lu Yun shook his head. “All of the secondary worlds have probably been conquered by outsiders. The World of Swords is likely no exception.”

“I see.” Jian Bu’er nodded, but the despondency in his mood couldn’t be concealed.

While Lu Yun understood his feelings, there truly wasn’t anything he could do at the moment. “I thought that I could locate a world of light to resurrect my master, but it turns out we’ll have to do it here in the end.”

He looked around to confirm that the layout of burial in the Abyssal Tomb was still intact. All of the zombie farms remained destroyed, including the tomb for the living. Only the original great tomb remained.

It and three others had been used to nurture the world of sequence, but since Lu Yun had claimed its core essence, the remaining empty shell of the world collapsed. This particular Abyssal Hell remained as the great tomb it’d been modified into and was the source of energy for Lu Yun’s hell battleship and hell cannons.

“Be careful, there’s something else here!” Strongest out of the three of them, the Demonic Vine suddenly pointed in a certain direction. “Something’s moving over there!”

Lu Yun’s expression shifted when his line of sight followed her finger. “That’s where the core of the Abyssal Hell is... the tomb owner is there. Let’s go take a look!”

The owner of the tomb had once done Lu Yun a great favor and strengthened his body and immortal force so that he could absorb more power from hell. The young man now traveled through the Abyssal Tomb under his own power and possessed six levels of immortal dao sequence. He was well and truly a powerhouse in his own right.

The trio quickly arrived in the heart of the hell and hid themselves; Lu Yun burned with fury when he saw what was going on. Though he’d guessed what was taking place, it was another thing entirely to see it with his own eyes.

Zombie upon zombie was shifting the stones and earthen veins in the area to build a tomb for the living!

He hadn't thought that his mirror layout wouldn't fool the Corpse Refiners. It'd taken them only two thousand years to find this place.

He'd been exceptionally confident in his arrangements and only realized how short-sighted he was after he saw Xie Tianxun's Netherdark Talisman. The prosperity of the great daos in the outside realm was so magnificent that it couldn't be imagined from his perspective. He would never hoodwink outside cultivators with something from the Land of Reincarnation!

No wonder Qing Buyi and Chen Xiao had only moved the owner's coffin here and dumped a pile of dirt over it. They'd known that setting up anything else was useless.

"Corpse Refiner battle zombies!" Jian Bu'er recognized them as soon as he saw them. The Corpse Refiners were the head of the three unholies in the secondary worlds and he'd exchanged blows with them countless times.

"What are they doing?" He hid himself with even more care and transmitted his question to Lu Yun.

"Building a tomb for the living." Lu Yun's eyes were fixed on a particular figure in the crowd. It was a very familiar person that he wasn't acquainted with.

Princess Mu of the World of Sea.

She'd been refined into a battle zombie and was shifting the earthen vein with other zombies. If she was here, that meant the Sea Emperor and Haidong Lin weren't too far away.

"Hmph!" Lu Yun snorted. "Thankfully, I left a backdoor last time I set everything up. Since you're trying to stage a comeback and rebuild a tomb for the living, you can't blame me for not showing any mercy!"

His eyes were still trained on Princess Mu—he wanted to learn of Haidong Lin's whereabouts from her.

"Let's go." Lu Yun concealed his aura and left quietly. Since there were battle zombies here, that meant Corpse Refiners had pierced through the void to come to this locale. Anyone who could rip through the barrier between the yin and yang tombs would be a formidable opponent.

He'd also seen that the sect was setting up a tight encirclement for him. He would be doomed if he didn't exercise utmost caution with every step he took.

"We must destroy whatever it is that the Corpse Refiners are doing, always!" Jian Bu'er ground his teeth. "The head of the three unholies... do they come from the outside realm too?"

"They're equally unholy out there," Lu Yun nodded.

Chapter 1745: Zombies Don't Smile

Lu Yun and his companions quickly departed from the core of the Abyssal Hell. The second they left, an expressionless Princess Mu abruptly lifted her head, an eerie light dawning in her lifeless eyes.

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Lu Yun had turned this hell into a sea of lava two thousand years ago, destroying all of the zombie farms and Great Formations of Corpse Refinement within. Ridges and hills now undulated through its terrain, forming numerous mountain ranges. He cautiously poked his head out of a moderately sized mountain valley.

“This is the backdoor you left?” Jian Bu’er asked incredulously. This was a very ordinary place!

“Yes, the layout here isn’t apparent because it’s only half complete,” Lu Yun nodded. He’d placed a tiny mark when he destroyed the zombie farms—a half finished layout that was connected with the core of this hell and the tomb that he’d set up.

Although he was highly confident in himself, the Abyssal Tomb was so immensely important that he’d created a contingency plan, just in case. It turned out to be a good thing that his arrangements were just a draft. Otherwise, the Corpse Refiners would’ve found their way here and destroyed everything as well.

“Help me connect it to the earthen vein and complete the layout!” he called out as he drew a diagram in the air. Jian Bu’er and the Demonic Vine jumped into action, following the instructions detailed on the diagram.

It was the layout of a mother and child tomb. The child tomb was in the core of the Abyssal Hell—the tomb that he’d set up for the tomb owner. The mother tomb would be set up here. This particular layout didn’t exist in common repertoire as of yet; Lu Yun had created it by imitating the mother and child formations. It was the first and only of its kind.

The child tomb was a complete tomb by itself before the mother tomb layout was complete, but would spontaneously transform into a child tomb when their efforts concluded. The two tombs would link to each other and activate as a mother and child tomb layout. No matter what Lu Yun did in the mother tomb, it would also affect the child tomb.

The mother tomb’s layout swiftly took shape with concerted effort from Jian Bu’er and the Demonic Vine. Lu Yun was in charge of manipulating the earthen vein and modifying the local feng shui to make it more favorable for the mother tomb.

“Why do I feel like there’s so many pairs of eyes on us?” the vine suddenly mumbled uncomfortably.

“This is the Abyssal Hell where the bodies of all life are buried,” Lu Yun answered. “There are countless corpses beneath our feet and even the dirt you see is corpse dust. Since there are countless wills of the dead here, you’re naturally able to sense their gaze because you’re very perceptive.”

“Oh, I see.” She blinked and continued shifting rocks around. It was Jian Bu’er who fidgeted uncomfortably before continuing with his task.

“But... it’s still weird.” The vine paused again and looked above her. “Does the will of the dead appear in the sky? Shouldn’t they all be buried beneath the ground?”

Color drained from Lu Yun’s face and he peered at the sky with the Spectral Eye. A faint figure stood in the uppermost reaches of the Abyssal Hell, a place where eyesight didn’t extend to. Its remote gaze regarded the group in unblinking fashion.

The Spectral Eye clearly denoted everything about the figure and her form—Princess Mu!

“She’s a zombie, but she’s still alive!” Lu Yun inhaled sharply and put everything away for the moment.

Princess Mu drifted down from the air. She was expressionless, just like any other zombie, but an eerie light glinted out of her aloof eyes.

Jian Bu’er and the Demonic Vine tensed with wariness.

“This won’t do, you won’t fool the Corpse Refiners this way,” the princess suddenly addressed them.

“They are one of the strongest sects in the outside realm and their grasp of feng shui and other layouts has reached nigh magical realms a long time ago. They’re far superior to you and saw through your backdoor early on. They didn’t destroy it only because they want to use it to capture you.”

Lu Yun studied the princess, unable to determine her current status.

“They’ve refined Haidong Lin and extracted all of his memories. They know everything about you.”

There were no human emotions in her voice—she spoke as if she was an electrical repeater, but her words raised the hair on Lu Yun’s neck all the same.

“The Corpse Refiners are one of the strongest sects in the outside realm? No way!” Jian Bu’er didn’t quite believe it.

Princess Mu cocked her head in thought. “Among the factions that lack the sequences of dao, they are the strongest.”

Jian Bu’er and the Demonic Vine looked at each other with amazement.

“And what are you? If I’m reading you correctly, you’re one of their battle zombies, so how are you maintaining your consciousness?” Lu Yun asked. “Who are you? Are you Princess Mu of the World of Sea or something from the outside realm in her body?”

The princess nodded. “I have indeed co-opted Princess Mu’s identity and inherited her destiny. To be refined by the Corpse Refiners is her fate, but since the destiny of this land no longer exists, every step we take is the future. That is how I was able to wrest my will free from corpse dao.

“I know you can help me return to my old self and free me from being a zombie!” The light in her eyes grew brighter and the corners of her mouth twitched, as if she wanted to smile.

But zombies didn’t smile.

“Don’t trust her!” the Demonic Vine suddenly cried out. “I have a feeling that if you help her, we’ll all die in her hands!”

She grabbed Jian Bu’er’s arm and hid behind him.

Whoosh!

Lu Yun ignited with gray fire and he punched the princess.

Taken aback, Princess Mu’s reflexes were very fast. She vanished just when Lu Yun’s fist was about to touch her.

“Zombies don’t smile and you hide yourself very well, but your twitching lips formed a smile for a split second.” Lu Yun was borrowing power from the Abyssal Hell and blazed with hellfire. He also vanished to pursue the princess. Last time he was here, he was only a Nihil World Sovereign. Now, he was a sixth level sequence expert.

Chapter 1746: Oriole

Lu Yun didn’t know what possessed Princess Mu’s body or what had turned her into a zombie, but he was certain that she hadn’t been refined by the Great Formation of Corpse Refinement or a Bag of Corpse Refinement. Something had burrowed into her body and turned her into a zombie from the inside!

Another thing he was certain of was that whatever it was, it wasn’t in league with the Corpse Refiners. She’d hidden herself among their zombies to await Lu Yun’s arrival, and it wasn’t the Corpse Refiners who’d detected his mother and child layout, but the Princess Mu in front of them.

The mother and child tomb wasn’t a complete layout yet since the mother tomb was being constructed. Lu Yun couldn’t see a hint of the bigger picture to come, even though he was the builder. Neither did this Princess Mu see through to the heart of the mother and child tomb, which was why she’d jeered at a perceived incompetence.

She didn’t know everything about Lu Yun or what his true trump cards were because Haidong Lin didn’t know, much less the Corpse Refiners of the world of immortals. Lu Yun could clearly sense her horrifying emotions through the Karmic Tree—she nursed a deep seated hatred of him!

The emotions didn’t belong to the living—they came from the dead. Something that was dead had stolen Princess Mu’s body and turned her into a zombie. A yin spirit was behind this!

The silver flame blazing over Lu Yun’s body was now pure black hellfire; it dyed his Argent Snow pitch black as well. Black snowflakes flurried through the air and charged the unknown yin spirit like they were sprites wielding flaming torches.

Princess Mu shrieked with agony. She hadn’t thought that Lu Yun would attack her without forewarning! He was so much stronger than when he’d last visited the tomb; he’d reached a level that she couldn’t withstand!

He was on par with eighteen levels of sequence!

The pure black hellfire completely restrained her abilities and prevented her from deploying her strength. Anguished wails rang throughout the Abyssal Hell, alerting the Corpse Refiners waiting for Lu Yun to fall into their trap.

“I wanted to take care of this quietly and not alarm anyone, but now, to hell with it!” The void broke open behind him and a massive battleship slowly sailed out. “Get in!” he called out to Jian Bu’er and the Demonic Vine.

They leapt onto the vessel without hesitation.

Battle zombies surged from all directions, blotting out the ground with their sheer numbers. Jian Bu'er's scalp crawled with horror and rage erupted in his eyes. He saw quite a few familiar faces from the World of Swords among the horde!

After Lu Yun left with the core essence of sequence two thousand years ago, the Corpse Refiners exploded with a fury. Countless Great Formations of Corpse Refinement and Bags of Corpse Refinement activated in unison, refining innumerable minor worlds among the secondary worlds and turning all of their denizens into zombies.

They then directed the zombies into the Abyssal Hell to reconstruct their old layouts.

Cultivators of the outside realm had jointly suppressed the sect before, preventing the Corpse Refiners from committing their evil acts or refining zombies en masse in the Land of Reincarnation. And indeed, the sect had previously only been able to refine the corpses of those who died in battle.

But this time, Lu Yun claiming the core essence of sequence thoroughly infuriated everyone in the outside realm. They no longer imposed any restrictions on the Corpse Refiners and allowed them to do as they wished, refining world upon world.

Part of the karmic repercussions associated with this outcome was assigned to Lu Yun.

"Kill these zombies and release them from their suffering!" Jian Bu'er roared and flew out of the hell battleship. His rusty sword flared with a peculiar radiance and formed whirlwinds of sword light that churned toward the crowd.

Boom!

The void trembled as a terrifying aura descended from the sky and smashed Jian Bu'er's sword light apart. He fell heavily to the ground, both of his legs sinking into the mud. He raised his head with difficulty and looked at the figure in the air.

A handsome young man dressed in green robes surveyed the scene with a supercilious smile. Confidence colored his face and he seemed to be in full control of everything.

"How dare you touch my man!" The Demonic Vine shrieked and reverted to her true form as a black vine five thousand kilometers long and lined with reverse spikes. She roiled toward the young man with screaming anger.

"Get back," he said softly and forced the vine back into human shape. She landed roughly by Jian Bu'er's side. "Hmm, eating this Demonic Vine will grant my battle zombies the ability to control demonic dao in this Land of Reincarnation. Tsk tsk tsk, demon zombies sound pretty nice."

He was Jiang Kui—the current commander of everything in this Abyssal Hell. All of the zombies here were his battle zombies. Not only did they consist of denizens from the secondary worlds, but they also included some older corpses that he'd dug up from the Abyssal Hell.

He'd kept an eye on everything at all times; nothing escaped his attention, including the existence of Princess Mu. He'd known when Lu Yun arrived, but hadn't rushed to take action. Only when Princess Mu and Lu Yun fought each other was it the perfect moment for his grand arrival.

The mantis stalks the cicada, unaware of the oriole behind.

“What is that?” He looked at the ship beneath Lu Yun’s feet.

“Those two blithering idiots!” Lu Yun ground his teeth with annoyance. Jiang Kui wouldn’t be able to touch them if they hadn’t left the ship, but now that they had, they were his hostages.

Indeed, Jiang Kui closed his hand around Jian Bu’er’s neck with a wave of his hand and drowned the Demonic Vine with a tide of zombies.

“Get off that strange ship or I’ll turn him into a zombie.” Jiang Kui looked merrily at Lu Yun. “I hadn’t expected you to come back.”

Lu Yun glowered ominously as he put the ship away. He took a look at Princess Mu at the same time— she was expressionless, but a deep-seated hatred glinted out of the depths of her eyes. This hatred was directed at Jiang Kui; he’d ruined her plans!

Jiang Kui had grown stronger again. When Lu Yun first saw him, he’d been at fifteen levels sequence. But now, Lu Yun could no longer see how strong he was.

Hummm.

A pillar of black light rose from the ground before Lu Yun could speak and vaporized a large sum of zombies. Another figure appeared on the scene and slugged Jiang Kui in the head with a punch.

It then spat on Jian Bu’er’s face, seemingly in retaliation for something, before kicking him between the eyes and sending the man flying.

Unaware of the oriole behind?

An even bigger oriole had just arrived.

Chapter 1747: Utterly Reckless

While Jiang Kui’s head had been sent flying, his body remained on the spot, frozen in shock. He’d never fathomed that a sixth person could be hidden in the shadows!

“Who goes there?!” His head didn’t react until it’d flown far away. Even as he roared with anger, his body crumbled into dust. However, blood vessels grew out from the stump of his neck beneath his head and gradually traced out a complete body. Before it could fully form, the newcomer punched Jiang Kui again, this time smashing his head to pieces as well.

Incandescent rage lingered in the air long after the last vestiges of Jiang Kui drifted away. It wasn’t his primary body in the tomb, but a replica made out of a zombie king.

Princess Mu had fled the scene long ago, leaving the three staring at each other.

“Um, um, um, hello handsome!” The Demonic Vine bashfully sidled up to the man and looked at him with a flushed face. “Who might you be, where are you from, and are you married?”

The newcomer froze when he saw the blushing beauty.

“Demonic Vine!” Jian Bu’er roared. “You’re the future lady of the sword master!”

“Um, oh, um, I guess.” The vine blinked and came back to her senses. “Hey handsome, do you want to be the sword master?”

Lu Yun:

Jian Bu’er nearly spat blood.

“Oh? Are you sure?” The newcomer chuckled mysteriously as black smoke wafted from his body, turning him into a suspiciously familiar figure.

“AHHHHH!” shrieked the vine and her diminutive being vanished. She clung to Jian Bu’er’s neck when she next appeared. “The Curse King!” she sobbed out.

The Curse King had once hunted her throughout Myriadsea World. Though Jian Bu’er had saved her, she was traumatized after the experience. Who would’ve thought that the handsome fellow to save them today would be the Curse King!

Jian Bu’er’s expression also darkened. He suddenly understood why the newcomer had spat at him first. The Curse King’s replica had eaten a mouthful of his spit in Myriadsea World!

“Heh heh heh, aren’t I lucky to find something by chance after traveling far and wide in search of it!” the Curse King cackled with glee and filled their surroundings with haze. Jian Bu’er and the Demonic Vine shuddered in unison and the vine buried herself in Jian Bu’er’s chest, not daring to look around.

“Alright, enough of that.” Lu Yun waved a hand. “What are you doing back here?”

It wasn’t the Curse King in front of them. If his guess was right, this was the Poison King—one of Chu Xingran’s replicas.

“Boring,” huffed Chu Xingran. “I thought you’d come here, so I waited for you.”

“You killed Xie Tianxun?” Lu Yun asked.

“Xie Tianxun? You’ve seen him? He’s not dead?” Chu Xingran’s eyes went wide. “He’s alive after being hit with one of my poison curses?”

“I don’t know, he’s hiding with me now and doesn’t dare come out.” Lu Yun spread his hands in bafflement.

“Well, that makes sense. Qing Buyi killed the Esteemed Nebula, so Xie Tianxun has to stick with you if he doesn’t want to die too. Eh? Does this mean you’ve obtained his cultivation methods since you’re willing to take him in?” With Chu Xingran’s sharp wits, he quickly seized upon the crux of the matter.

Lu Yun nodded.

Chu Xingran then told him everything that’d happened in the outside realm, including how Qing Buyi had trespassed on Moran territory, killed Esteemed Nebula in full public view, and threatened all of the powerhouses in the realm.

Lu Yun’s jaw dropped the more he heard. He had no idea Qing Buyi was so ferocious!

Jian Bu'er and the Demonic Vine didn't know what to make of their conversation. The Curse King was plainly an enemy and had almost killed Lu Yun in Myriadsea World, so why were the two acting like old friends now?

Additionally, the Curse King's strength was indiscernible. Though Jiang Kui had been in a zombie king's body, he'd died to two simple punches!

"Let's go, this is no place for conversing. I've moved the tomb owner's coffin." Chu Xingran beckoned to Lu Yun and vanished on the spot. The young man followed him without hesitation.

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They stood in front of a moderately sized pile of dirt. While it looked like a burial mound, it was truly just a pile of dirt. Chu Xingran had shoved the tomb owner's coffin inside it.

Lu Yun rubbed his forehead and found himself pitying the tomb owner. Here was a heaven-defying personage who'd volunteered to be buried in this locale so he could trigger the layouts to nurture a world of sequence. The Corpse Refiners had relocated him into a tomb for the living, Chen Xiao and Qing Buyi had dug him up to dump him under a burial mound, then the Corpse Refiners placed him in a tomb for the living again, and now Chu Xingran dug him up, again.

What was most surprising of all was that there was no hint of resentment from the tomb owner after all of that. There was no anger at all. If it'd been anyone else, bitterness would've brewed long ago and turned the layout of the great tomb into a den of ghosts.

"Don't bury him in a tomb, if you do that, the Corpse Refiners will find him no matter what you do. Just bury him anywhere or in a burial mound," Chu Xingran looked at Lu Yun.

"Did Qing Buyi tell you that?" Lu Yun blinked, finally understanding where his flaw in thinking was. If even he could pinpoint direction and determine location within the tomb, so could the Corpse Refiners.

They worked primarily with corpses; apart from refining the living into battle zombies, the most direct source of bodies was to excavate bodies of ancient heavyweights from their tombs. A simple burial would never fool them.

While his knowledge of feng shui and the way of burial was the greatest in the Land of Reincarnation, it didn't amount to much in the outside realm.

"I see now, but the senior has no reason to stay here and suffer after the world of sequence has matured. Hmm, I'll take him with me." Lu Yun waved his hand before Chu Xingran could respond and opened the world inside the Tome of Life and Death, retrieving the coffin beneath the dirt.

Other worlds in other treasures might not manage the act, but the world inside the book could do so very easily. Neither was Lu Yun doing this purely out of altruistic motivation. If he could resurrect this heavyweight, it would be an immense boon to the land. Plus, the senior had gifted him a great opportunity before.

"You... are utterly reckless!" Chu Xingran chuckled.

Having caught up to them, Jian Bu'er and the Demonic Vine looked at each other, not understanding what was going on.

Favorite

Chapter 1748: Soul Ghost

“Who wants to remain buried in hell after the world of sequence has matured? Me taking the senior with me is a release for him,” Lu Yun declared self-righteously. For some reason, his words seemed to be punctuated by a faint figure nodding at him with a smile from the Tome of Life and Death.

“Have you ever considered that a second world of sequence can form here?” Chu Xingran asked solemnly.

“Just one world of sequence caused flaws in the worlds of our land. If another one comes about, the entire Land of Reincarnation will collapse!” Killing intent shone in Lu Yun’s eyes when he heard Chu Xingran’s suggestion. “That one world raised such a crazy disturbance that even chickens and dogs have no peace. If another world of sequence comes about, not only will our land shatter, but so will the four seniors buried here completely perish. Every trace of their existence will be erased!”

For certain cultivators, death didn’t mean ceasing to exist. It was a simple transformation from one state to another and the purpose behind hell.

Traces of one’s existence lingered even if the soul disintegrated and the true spirit was extinguished. That meant there was always hope of returning to the world one day. But if those traces disappeared as well, that meant the person in question had never existed or appeared in this world.

Lu Yun didn’t think that the four great personages here were present under duress. They’d volunteered to be buried in order to nurture the world of sequence. Rather than an unwanted development, the appearance of the world was a grand opportunity—one meant for everyone instead of one specific person. He’d won out from the crowd of hopefuls, so he was immensely grateful to the four.

Forming one world of sequence, however, was their limit. It was also the limit for the Land of Reincarnation and these four hells. If another appeared, that would mean destruction of everything and anything.

“You think so, but those in the outside realm don’t think so,” Chu Xingran sighed. “They’ll still restrain themselves somewhat after you obtained the first world of sequence, but if you destroy its foundations, you’ll form death feuds with those outside.

“The Esteemed Nebula from before is just small fry. He doesn’t mean anything.”

“I know,” Lu Yun nodded. “What would you do, if it was you?”

Chu Xingran blinked, then grinned. “I’d blow the roof off this thing.”

Lu Yun grinned as well.

Jian Bu’er and the Demonic Vine finally understood the conversation and where the world of immortal dao sequence had come from. It looked like Lu Yun had seized it from the heavyweights of the outside realm!

He’d snatched food from the mouth of a tiger and wanted to go one step further and destroy everything here, making it impossible for another world of sequence to appear.

Just as Chu Xingran said, Lu Yun was being completely reckless and not considering the caliber of opponent he was up against.

"I won't try to convince you otherwise since you've made up your mind. But if you want to completely destroy the foundations for the world of sequence, you'll need to raze all four tombs and the four hells," Chu Xingran explained solemnly. "The outside realm is so much bigger than what you can imagine. They'll quickly find a replacement if you destroy only this tomb or just take one of the hells!"

"I know," Lu Yun nodded. Xie Tianxun's Netherdark Talisman had completely changed his perspective. Not only was he curious about the outside realm now, but he was also respectful toward it.

"The fifteenth level sequence ghost that herded us here seems to be that Princess Mu!" The Demonic Vine tilted her head to the sky.

Lu Yun opened the Spectral Eye to view the same location. A couple of black thunderclouds were gathered there in the shape of a ghostly face. Plainly, something had been observing them from that spot and had just left.

"What is that Princess Mu?" he asked reflexively. He'd only seen her zombie form being controlled by something like a yin spirit, but he couldn't tell what the thing was.

Chu Xingran shook his head; this was his first time meeting Princess Mu. However, Lu Yun was certain that the vine was correct. The ghost that'd forced them into the Abyssal Hell was whatever was inside the princess, and it wasn't an ordinary ghost.

"Someone from the Hun Clan," Chu Xingran suddenly frowned. "Hun as in the character for soul!"

"The Hun Clan?" Lu Yun blinked.

"Mhmm," Chu Xingran nodded. "The person who once assumed the Poison King's identity was Hun You, first genius of the Hun Clan. However, the Poison King is destined to be refined by the Curse King in this Land of Reincarnation, thereby facilitating the Curse King's command of poison curses. Therefore, I've already refined Hun You."

Hun You should've been able to read the Poison King's fate before deciding whether or not he wanted the identity. But someone had blinded his eyes and prevented him from seeing many truths, which was why he'd opted to become the Poison King and Chu Xingran's replica later on.

"So was that Hun You?" Lu Yun's frown deepened.

"I don't know," Chu Xingran quickly answered. "But it's very similar to when someone from their clan dies. They can transform into a soul ghost as long as their soul persists and can possess zombies. They then come and go without leaving a trace."

"More trouble, in other words," Lu Yun grumbled. "Ah, yes, you're here in replica form, aren't you? If my guess is right, this Poison King replica is the last trace of your karma with this land. Everything ends if you dismiss it and you'll no longer share any grudges or hatred with us. So what are you still doing here?"

Chu Xingran had essentially gifted the world of sequence to Lu Yun. He had had countless opportunities to take it for himself, but he'd stood by and watched as Lu Yun claimed the core essence.

Lu Yun had no idea what he was planning.

“I wanted to leave, I’d already dissolved this replica,” Chu Xingran chuckled wryly. “I was interrupted by the Esteemed Nebula arriving with Xie Tianxun. I killed Xie Tianxun and scared off the Esteemed Nebula, then ran into Qing Buyi.”

Chu Xingran was thoroughly done with this land and about to completely destroy his replica when Qing Buyi appeared. The newcomer plied him with presents and promises, then raised Chu Xingran’s strength to unfathomable levels. He wouldn’t have been able to kill Jiang Kui’s replica with two punches otherwise, especially as that’d been a zombie king.

Therefore, Chu Xingran stayed.

Chapter 1749: Savior

“Pfft, so Qing Buyi also thinks that the two I brought are unreliable. He sent me a super bodyguard.” Lu Yun flicked a glance at Jian Bu’er and the Demonic Vine. He’d only wanted to bring the vine since she could deploy incredible battle strength in the darkness and raise her cultivation at the same time. However, she wouldn’t come if Jian Bu’er didn’t, so he’d had to bring both of them.

But they turned out to be more burdens than anything. It was vexing and he couldn’t send them away. Thank goodness Chu Xingran was here now!

Qing Buyi had likely raised him to eighteenth level sequence or even higher; the road ahead would be easier with the man by his side. Lu Yun didn’t suspect Chu Xingran as he’d gained some insight into Qing Buyi’s strength. If anything dared pretend to be one of his men or go against his wishes, he’d probably immediately fly over in a fit of rage and swat the thing to death.

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Lu Yun’s primary goal was to destroy the tomb in the Abyssal Hell. He’d sent the tomb owner into the Tome of Life and Death—the demon of immortal dao gibbered with fear and cowered inside the Imperial Seal when he saw the owner’s coffin.

As for the demon that was Lu Yun’s master—he’d forgotten about it for now. The demon wouldn’t come if he didn’t break through. What was more pressing was that Jiang Kui knew about things here. More cultivators from the outside realm would arrive before long, so he needed to act fast.

“It won’t be an easy task to destroy the tomb.” Deep furrows scored Lu Yun’s forehead as he repeatedly employed formula dao. He wanted to find a way to destroy the layout of burial without harming the Abyssal Hell.

This particular hell was the source of his strength, the power for his hell battleship and hell cannons. While it looked boundless without end, the tomb had become one with the hell and destroying the tomb meant weakening the hell.

“Do you remember how the original Hongmeng shattered?” Chu Xingran offered a reminder when he saw Lu Yun unable to find the solution.

“Do you mean the Dragonquake Scripture?” Lu Yun paused to consider the possibility. Indeed, the Dragonquake Scripture could mobilize the earthen veins within the hell to destroy the layout, but his

strength was limited and he couldn't call upon all of them like that great figure had done in the original Hongmeng.

The Abyssal Hell was bigger than the original Hongmeng and the layout of burial had become one with it. He needed to destroy all of the layouts at the same time in order to destroy the tomb. Otherwise, it would repeat the same situation from when he destroyed the zombie farms and tomb for the living. He'd turned the entire hell into purgatory, but still didn't touch the great tomb.

"No, the Dragonquake Scripture won't work because you're too weak. You might be able to do it if you were eighteen levels of sequence like that great one," Chu Xingran rejected his own proposal before Lu Yun could speak. "Oh, right, Xie Tianxun is with you, right? The kid's known for his grave robbing skills in the outside realm, so why don't you bring him out and see what he has to say? He robbed the tomb of the Heaven and Earth Supreme, after all."

The Heaven and Earth Supreme was the one who'd invented The Kinship of Heaven and Earth. However, his title of "heaven and earth" was indicative of how arrogant he'd been.

"Aren't you worried that he'll bite you?" Lu Yun paused.

"What for? He should thank me instead!" Chu Xingran waved a confident hand.

Lu Yun shrugged and opened the doors to the Disordered Hell, inviting Xie Tianxun to come out.

"Chu Xingran!!" Xie Tianxun snarled and leapt on the man as soon as he saw him. Chu Xingran curled his lip and rebuffed Xie Tianxun with a casual backhand. The latter was almost spitting fire from his eyes.

"You want revenge, don't you?" Chu Xingran said merrily.

Xie Tianxun's chest heaved as he glared at his enemy for a long time. He turned to Lu Yun, "Help me kill this sissy and I'll do whatever you want!"

"No can do," Lu Yun shook his head. "Qing Buyi sent him to protect me, so Qing Buyi will have my head if I kill him."

"Qing Buyi?!" The name cut through Xie Tianxun's anger. "What's he doing with Chu Xingran?"

"Pfft," Chu Xingran scoffed. "I can't believe you got away with a Lifeline Talisman. But if it wasn't for me killing you earlier, you'd die a miserable death by that idiot Nebula Supreme's side. Not even the talisman would save you.

"So that makes me your savior."

"Fuck you piece of shit, what fucking savior?!" Xie Tianxun erupted with rage. "Do you think I'm a moron?! I entered the Land of Reincarnation with my primary body because I wanted to hide in the shadows and take action when the time was right! The Esteemed Nebula had to rely on me to extend his will in this land so he could collect followers. Why would he be dead if not for you?! And how would I be in these miserable fucking straits if not for you?!"

Lu Yun shuddered and looked at Jian Bu'er. The latter also looked a bit pale. If everything had proceeded according to Xie Tianxun's revelations, they would've been in real trouble. It wouldn't have taken long

for the will of a powerhouse beyond sequence and a wondrous genius like Xie Tianxun to infiltrate the entire fourth realm. They would've also reached the Hongmeng and world of immortals!

Not even Lu Yun could've stopped them even if he'd been able to discover their plans. With this kind of surreptitious expansion through the dark and lack of raising a fuss, Qing Buyi wouldn't be able to take action either.

It was only because Chu Xingran had ruined their plans that the Esteemed Nebula had panicked and sent a surge of darkness into the fourth realm. That'd given Qing Buyi the perfect excuse to interfere.

Lu Yun looked at Chu Xingran with newfound gratitude and Jian Bu'er's lingering enmity toward him also vanished. Chu Xingran colored with slight embarrassment; he'd taken action without thought and hadn't planned on things turning out this way.

"You guys..." Xie Tianxun abruptly realized that what he'd just said made Chu Xingran a savior to the natives. He slapped his forehead and sank into a sullen silence.

"It's alright, it's all over now." Chu Xingran walked over to Xie Tianxun and patted his shoulder.

"Don't touch me, you damned sissy!" Xie Tianxun glared at him and huffed at Lu Yun, "I've given you the Netherdark Talisman and my cultivation methods, what else do you want?"

"Nothing much, just ideas on how to destroy this tomb." Lu Yun winked and gestured at the space around them.

"This is... the Abyssal Hell! Where the world of sequence was nurtured??" Xie Tianxun immediately recognized their surroundings.

Chapter 1750: To Force Into Prostitution and To Persuade Reformation

"You want to destroy this place?" Xie Tianxun gaped at Lu Yun.

"I already have the world of sequence, so what reason is there for this place to exist?" the young man responded indifferently.

"That's true... the Land of Reincarnation will collapse if a second world of sequence germinates." Xie Tianxun easily saw through the heart of things. "But why should I help you?"

"Because I don't keep around worthless layabouts." Lu Yun raked him with an assessing glance. "I'll kill you if you don't help me. Everyone who knows you thinks you're dead, so no one will know if you really die now. Worst comes to worst, I'll use my own methods to destroy the tomb and give up on this Abyssal Hell."

Xie Tianxun nearly choked on his own spit when he heard Lu Yun's words. He was hailed the foremost genius of the worlds in the outside realm, heads and shoulders above Ao Qin, Jiang Kui, and the Moran genius. But he was an insignificant shrimp in this land; no one would even know that he'd died!

Extreme self-consciousness grew in his heart.

"See how proud Chu Xingran is now." Lu Yun walked up to Xie Tianxun and patted his shoulder. "He killed Jiang Kui's zombie king replica in two moves. Can you do that?"

“Jiang Kui’s zombie king replica?” Xie Tianxun stiltedly raised his head. “I can kill one in ten moves, but two...? I can’t.”

Jian Bu’er shuddered. He and the Demonic Vine combined had been a toy to the zombie king replica. If it hadn’t been for Chu Xingran on the scene, the horde of zombies would’ve eaten the vine and he would become a chip for Jiang Kui to threaten Lu Yun with.

“I feel like we’re completely useless to him in here,” the Demonic Vine sprawled on Jian Bu’er’s shoulder and murmured into his ear.

He glared hotly at her, still recalling how lovestruck she’d been in front of Chu Xingran. Lu Yun also glanced at the vine—she was far from useless. Once she grew into her strength, she would be the most terrifying demonic entity in the land of darkness.

“Needing only ten moves to destroy a zombie king isn’t bad at all,” Lu Yun nodded. “Chu Xingran was only known for his looks before, now he’ll also be renowned for battle strength. How about it? Your strength will grow explosively if you submit to me. It’s a much safer choice than throwing your lot in with that Nebula Supreme.”

“Why does Lu Yun’s choice of words sound like he’s forcing Xie Tianxun into prostitution?” the Demonic Vine mumbled.

Everyone rolled their eyes and ignored her.

“Following you around is the most dangerous choice,” Chu Xingran preened at Lu Yun’s compliments. “I’m now endowed with both beauty and talent.”

“Let him have his way with you, you’ve already done so twice. There’s no point resisting at this stage of the game,” Moran Dongning called out from the Disordered Hell—the doors were still open. She nodded at Chu Xingran, who didn’t ignore her this time around. He raised cupped fists in response.

“You’re forcing a decent person into prostitution alright!” the vine declared with relish.

Jian Bu’er took a firm pinch of her cheek. “What kind of language is this?! Where did you learn all of these nonsensical sayings??”

“I visited the ancestral planet, it’s such an interesting place. People like to force decent folk into various kinds of prostitution and then persuade others in the trade to reform themselves. They have so much fun and never get bored of it!”

Jian Bu’er clapped his hand over his eyes and refused to dignify the reply with a response. There was nothing for Xie Tianxun to do but nod with a rueful smile, “Alright then, I’ll help you. But I don’t want to do the deed myself, so I’ll tell you inside.”

He glared at the Demonic Vine and took another look at Chu Xingran before darting back into the Disordered Hell. Plainly, he didn’t care for the talk of prostitution and reformation.

“Alrighty, you guys wait here for me.” Lu Yun entered the Disordered Hell as well and closed the doors.

“Hihi cutie~” The Demonic Vine approached Chu Xingran. Jian Bu’er yanked her back.

“He’s not a cutie, he’s the Curse King!” He glared so hard that his eyeballs threatened to pop out of their sockets.

“Nuh uh, the cutie is our savior!”

Jian Bu’er wanted to hack Chu Xingran into two.

The subject of their contention stroked his long hair with satisfaction. “You are not my match in either charisma or beauty. You’re just disgustingly dirty.”

Jian Bu’er nearly self-combusted with rage. He’d done whatever he wanted before when faced with the taunts and jeers from the Curse King, but when the Curse King turned into Chu Xingran, their roles somehow swapped.

He subconsciously summoned a large basin of water and began washing the filth off himself.

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“So how can I destroy this tomb?” Lu Yun asked.

“Build another tomb that rivals it in every possible way,” Xie Tianxun assumed a serious attitude. “Set another one up using the Abyssal Hell’s earthen veins. Once it’s formed, the two tombs will clash with each other and both will disintegrate without harming the hell.

“But you must remember to set up a resurrection layout in the second one so that it resonates with the one in the original tomb.”

There was a resurrection layout inside the Abyssal Tomb so it could nurture the world of sequence. While the layout had ultimately become part of the world, its setup still remained.

Enlightenment dawned on Lu Yun when he heard Xie Tianxun’s words.

He’d been attacking the problem from the angle of how to destroy the tomb’s layout. He’d never thought of setting up another tomb and having their innate natures do the work for him. Granted, Lu Yun might’ve eventually thought of this way, but Xie Tianxun had come up with it after a single glance. This was an area in which Lu Yun was less than the other.

Some excitement danced in Xie Tianxun’s eyes—he was no meek character either. Something as monumental as destroying a tomb of hell would shake heaven and earth. He wanted to witness the event take place even if he couldn’t be directly involved!

“The tomb must be big, one made from at least a layout of heaven and earth! We can also use it to bury your master’s fake body and destroy the demon of malice!” Xie Tianxun’s smile turned cruel. “And if my guess is right, we haven’t seen the last of that brat Jiang Kui. He’ll be back. When he comes back, we’ll destroy him and the Corpse Refiners at the same time!”

He rubbed his hands together and paced with anticipation.

“He bears a grudge against the Corpse Refiners,” Moran Dongning explained. “He was willing to ally with the Nebula Supreme and come here mostly because of them.”

That explained some things.

“A layout of heaven and earth? Easy!” Lu Yun put Xie Tianxun aside and began his calculations. He could set up such a layout by himself with his current level of strength. In Azure Province, he’d jointly set up an interment of heaven and earth with Wayfarer to craft a bronze palace. It’d been a burial layout to seal the crack in the world of immortals and a grand influence over the world.

He no longer needed Wayfarer’s help, and he would set up the same layout today.