

Necropolis 1771

Chapter 1771: A Family of Four

“We’re actually all dead...” Leize chuckled. “But you revived Fuxi.”

Fuxi had died in Lu Yun’s stead and was buried in the tomb in the chaos, thoroughly consigned to oblivion. The Fuxi in the hell tomb had also died as well—there would’ve been no yin ghost version of him.

Lu Yun had forced the Tome of Life and Death to resurrect him, and so Fuxi came back to life. Thankfully, there’d been a preliminary version of the world of sequence then, so it didn’t matter that his will of death was no longer present in the tomb.

“Shall I... resurrect you too?” Lu Yun shook his head, trying to digest what he’d just learned. He’d gone toe-to-toe against the will of the Tome of Life and Death when he revived Fuxi. That’d marked the moment when he completely subdued the treasure and turned it into his nascent spirit. Everything that’d happened after that—including him becoming a Nihil World Sovereign on his second visit to the fourth realm—had stemmed from Fuxi’s resurrection.

Leize grinned and declined the offer. “We will reverse death naturally when the opportunity arrives. You ignited a series of unfavorable consequences after resurrecting Fuxi. Wahuang had to take action and block certain presences in the outside realm so that no one would discover what you’d done.

“If I come back to life now, Wahuang and Huaxu combined won’t stop them.”

Lu Yun nodded silently. The four tombs responsible for nurturing the world of sequence were inordinately important. Someone would be keeping an eye on them at all times. While others might rage after he dismantled the Abyssal Tomb and claimed the hell for his own use, that was permitted within the confines of the rules.

If Leize came back to life, that would give enough clues for certain people to derive the truth of the matter. A way to resurrect a heaven-shaking personage such as Leize would certainly entice various heavyweights to barge in without thought of anything else.

In comparison, the Lifeline and Resurrection Talismans were just small scuffles and spats. Insurance for one’s life was a completely different concept from suddenly reviving someone who’d been dead and buried for countless eons.

Since Leize had taken the crystal coffin, everything here was over. The Corpse Refiners had completely and utterly failed. Never could they have imagined that the one buried in the Abyssal Tomb would be the one to dismantle their scheme. Of course, there were very few who knew who the four tomb owners were, so they couldn’t be blamed.

“Senior, can you send me to the other three tombs?” Lu Yun asked.

He wanted to break Fuxi, Wahuang, and Huaxu’s tombs as well, then claim the hells they were derived from. Since the source of Lu Yun’s strength was hell, if he could integrate all of them into the hell battleship, the vessel would give outsiders one hell of a surprise when Qing Buyi left after six hundred years.

The secondary worlds of a world of sequence could at most accommodate eighteen levels of sequence. The primary worlds could only host nine levels. Apart from Meng Wang and the Corpse Refiners, very few people could deploy their true strength.

The great powerhouses from outside that could project their wills into the land and eliminate obstacles for their people were the real enemy.

“Huaxu and Wahuang are respectively buried in the Sanguine and Nihil Hells. You can visit their hells and send them here, but you should avoid Fuxi’s Hadal Hell,” Leize frowned. “His will dispersed after he resurrected, so it’s highly likely that his body has mutated into a zombie.”

The Corpse Refiners didn’t dare do anything to the other three tombs since they were in the outside realm, but with Fuxi’s tomb having lost the will of its owner, it was very possible that his body had transformed into a zombie demon.

“In that case, I shall go to Senior Fuxi’s tomb first!” Lu Yun said hastily. “It’s only been a couple thousand years. With the senior’s strength and cultivation level, it’ll take several million or tens of millions of years for him to turn into a zombie!”

“Very well then, it doesn’t look like I can stop you.” Leize nodded after pondering for a moment. “I’ll take you there after you take care of things here.” He took another look at the crystal coffin. “She was also voluntarily buried here to manifest the Major Cycle Worlds so that the primary worlds would be supported again.”

Lu Yun blinked.

“However, the Corpse Refiners can do as they wish in this locale, so they incorporated the core essence of corpse dao into the coffin and modified the major cycle formation into one of zombie kings. If you hadn’t come, all of the arrangements here would’ve freely benefited the Corpse Refiners.”

Pity filled Leize’s eyes. He was dead and buried in the Abyssal Tomb, thus barred from taking any action or having any effect at all. He could only stand by and watch as the sect set up trap after trap around him. Now that he was in the world within the Tome of Life and Death, he could quietly make his moves and collect the crystal coffin for Lu Yun.

“Taking the coffin is only the first step. You need to redistribute the layout and restore the Major Cycle Worlds of the land.” Leize raised his head and looked to the world outside the book. Three hundred and sixty-five radiant stars still threw off brilliance, dyeing the entire palace red.

They should’ve been normal stars, but the Corpse Refiners had tainted them until they turned crimson and became the zombie king’s personal treasures.

“Alright,” Lu Yun nodded and dismissed his replica of the mind.

The zombie kings went mad when the coffin disappeared and erupted with rays of blood light that became one with the stars over their heads. Attempting to charge into the palace once more, Diexi blocked their way.

Chu Xingran milled around helplessly, he couldn’t be of any help as his poison and curse dao, or their conglomerate, was ineffective against the horde of zombie kings.

Diexi was straining to hold on; she hadn't thought that the formation would rip free from her control after Lu Yun claimed the coffin. After all, it was the Corpse Refiners' last contingency. It would completely activate if he took the coffin and destroy everything present with its strongest capabilities. Lu Yun would never make it out alive!

Hold him for a thousand years? That'd gone out the window. Since he'd dared destroy the sect's foundations, there was no end for him but doom.

Bam!

Bam!

Bam!

Enormous explosions traveled through the air as the crimson stars flared with scarlet light, then hurtled down at the black palace.

"What do we do?!" Chu Xingran screeched and subconsciously planted a Resurrection Talisman into himself.

RUMBLE!!

A gigantic star suddenly flashed into existence over Lu Yun's head, throwing off scintillating luster in all directions and exorcizing the bloody light from the three hundred and sixty-five stars.

The World Star.

Ah Zhi's lithe body floated down from it.

Chapter 1772: Manifesting the Major Cycle

"Ah Zhi?!" Lu Yun went slack jawed when he saw the newcomer. He immediately grasped the situation when he saw the World Star over Ah Zhi's head.

Light from the sun, moon, and stars was the most magnificent in any world. The sun and moon originated from the primary worlds and were projected onto all of the secondary worlds and Major Cycle Worlds. Illumination from the stars came from the Major Cycle Worlds and was, in turn, reflected back to the primary and secondary worlds.

The Major Cycle Worlds of the Land of Reincarnation had shattered and reformed into the secondary worlds. The World Star was their core essence and proof that their brilliance had once existed. It alone survived when the Major Cycle Worlds collapsed and their stars were extinguished. The original emperor eventually obtained it and sent it to the worlds of the Hongmeng to become the stars, so that the light of the sun, moon, and stars was complete once more.

There was a Mount Buzhou on the World Star because it was the Mount Buzhou of the original Hongmeng. It was the same as the Mount Buzhou in the cosmos of the ancestral planet.

The World Star survived yet again when the worlds shattered in the original Hongmeng. It fell into the fourth realm and a cultivating Ah Zhi unwittingly came across it. It helped her comprehend the dao of the stars and enter dreams through the stars, tracing destiny through dreamlike slumber.

Far from being an ordinary star, the World Star nurtured a vast expanse of other major cycle stars. As long as it remained, the core essence of the stars pertaining to the Major Cycle Worlds continued to live on, carrying out their age-old duty.

What remained of the secondary worlds after the Major Cycle Worlds crumbled away wasn't enough to support the primary worlds. The true existence that held up the primary worlds was the World Star.

And now, the zombie kings' major cycle formation was attempting to create a new major cycle that would wrest power from the World Star. Hence, Ah Zhi had come with it.

She'd been at eight levels sequence before, but set foot into nine after switching to immortal dao. Beams of snowy immortal light radiated out of the World Star and it landed right where the crystal coffin had sat moments earlier. Every living being on it, including all of the worlds associated with it, had departed. Only the star itself and the power of the major cycle stars had come.

Ah Zhi smiled brilliantly at Lu Yun. Her eyes were bright and there was no trace of her customary languidness to be found.

"The Corpse Refiners may have been scheming after the major cycle stars, but I was also plotting against them!" she cackled. "I failed in the previous three hundred and sixty-five cycles, so I'm going to succeed on the three hundred and sixty-sixth time no matter what!"

Since she cultivated destiny dao, she could naturally clearly pick out the threads of her fate. After Lu Yun told her about the thirty-three loops that he'd personally experienced, she'd gained a deeper understanding of her destiny through employing formula dao.

She was very familiar with the past because she'd observed it three hundred and sixty-five times in her dreams. She'd witnessed how she always brought the World Star to this place, attempted to manifest the Major Cycle Worlds through the formation, fail, then die after her failure.

This was the three hundred and sixty-sixth attempt and her fate had completely changed. She was always the only one on the scene, but this time, she had Lu Yun, Chu Xingran, and Diexi by her side.

"You're here!" Dixie smiled radiantly when she saw Ah Zhi. She knew Ah Zhi of Mount Buzhou because Diexi had been the Taiyin Goddess in the great wilderness. They were old acquaintances.

"You're not allowed to bite me this time!" Ah Zhi glared at her.

Diexi's smile turned sheepish. Since there were three hundred and sixty-five versions of her here... it meant that she'd bitten Ah Zhi three hundred and sixty-five times. The crimson stars over their heads were shattered World Stars!

Before Ah Zhi died on the premises, she destroyed the World Star so the Corpse Refiners couldn't have it. They collected only a tiny bit of core essence that was left behind, which was sufficient to derive three hundred and sixty-five balls of stardust.

Their core essence was the World Star, so now that a complete World Star was present, the three hundred and sixty-five showed signs of returning to their origin. All of this had been accounted for by the Corpse Refiners, including Ah Zhi's arrival with her star.

But this time, the plan had failed at every step of the way due to various factors. The final step was an utter failure as well because of the preceding defeats.

“Collect!” Ah Zhi shouted and commanded her star to emit brilliant splendor, taking the place of the other stars in administering the formation.

Humm!

Affected by their core essence, the other stars turned pure silver and slowly drew near the World Star. Seeing the change, the three hundred and sixty-five Diexi’s madly rushed Ah Zhi. Paling with horror, she subconsciously glanced at Chu Xingran and relaxed slightly when he showed no signs of movement.

“Away with you!” Diexi stepped forward and slashed outward with her shortsword, sending all of the other versions of herself flying backward.

Rumble!!

Ah Zhi summoned another flare of radiance from her star and devoured the other three hundred and sixty-five. The zombie kings immediately ceased to move. Diexi beckoned to them and gathered them all in the kingdom of hell. She was close friends with Wanfeng. Since the former maid had the authority to freely come and go from the kingdom of hell and collect new residents for the kingdom, she naturally requested the same privilege for her friend.

The real World Star was upon the scene and holding down the fort in the center of the palace. The major cycle formation continued to operate and support the local void. Bits and pieces of silver starlight drifted in all directions, showing signs of rebuilding the Major Cycle Worlds.

“That’s it?” Chu Xingran blinked. He might have missed it if he blinked a few times more. He smiled ruefully at Ah Zhi’s sudden appearance. “You did it this time!”

“Uh huh! Of course I did it without your curses in the way!” Ah Zhi snorted. “I’d thought you wouldn’t plot against me because you’re enemies with the Corpse Refiners, but you were the one to deliver the final killing blow the last three hundred and sixty-five times!”

She hadn’t ultimately died to the sect—but to the Curse King.

“Well, thirty-three times,” he refuted weakly. “I didn’t arrive until thirty-three loops ago. This is my thirty-fourth loop in this land. I chose the Curse King because I wanted to ruin the Corpse Refiners’ plans, but then realized that I couldn’t shake off his fate and had to kill you with my curses.”

“Hmph,” she snorted again and looked at Lu Yun.

“Don’t look at me,” Lu Yun protested feebly. “I saw from the thirty-three loops that I would’ve only just made it out of the Hongmeng during this time. I am a speck of dust drifting around the lowest rungs of the fourth realm.”

Other than meeting Ah Zhi in the great wilderness and her replica Yu Hengluo in the world of immortals, he didn’t run into her again in the fourth realm during the previous thirty-three loops. That was because she died here before he’d grown into his strength.

“That does it for the Corpse Refiners, right?” Chu Xingran closely observed their surroundings. Bones were piled up as miniature mountains and some were just flat out stone. “The World Jail layout is still present, though, so the world will still explode if Lu Yun leaves.”

He sighed dolefully. Since Lu Yun’s presence was on him and tightly connected to the World Jail, he would have to stay here in Lu Yun’s place. He was very familiar with the young man since they’d been enemies for thirty-three loops. He knew what Lu Yun wanted to do, so he didn’t say anything else. All he could do was quietly become Lu Yun’s substitute.

“Don’t worry, you won’t be lonely. I’ll stay here with you,” Ah Ahi chuckled. “The World Star is refining the major cycle formation and recreating the Major Cycle Worlds. I need to stay here to keep watch over it.”

Chu Xingran nodded with a rueful chuckle. It’d be good to have some company. He’d been alone for far too long since he’d been by himself over the past thirty-three cycles.

The Poison King was his replica, so was he supposed to talk to himself? Who in the heavens knew why the Curse King had wanted to maintain the facade after he refined his senior brother? He kept up the act even when they were alone!

“I’ll stay as well,” Diexi said after some thought. “I feel like I have some sort of connection to this palace... The three hundred and sixty-five copies of me... Well, they were all me. Having three hundred and sixty-six instances of my strength should be enough to explore the palace.”

Chu Xingran showed a heartfelt smile. Neither Ah Zhi nor Diexi needed to stay—it was Lu Yun who’d asked them to.

“Since that’s the case, the three of you can stay here. I’ll take you with me when I return from the other three hells.” Lu Yun lifted his eyes and looked upward. “You can use the Infernum in the hell battleship and the vessel itself as you will. If you meet anyone from the Corpse Refiners, just blast them out of existence without another word.”

Chapter 1773: Hadal Hell

Leize brought Lu Yun to the Hadal Hell where Fuxi was buried. Prior to that, Lu Yun made a trip to the World of Swords and yanked the sleeping Demonic Vine off Jian Bu’er, wrapping her around him.

All she could do with him was sleep on and on, who knew when she’d wake up?

Meanwhile, the Sword Emperor locked his son up for intensive training. Being the lackadaisical man that he was, Jian Bu’er had squandered his immense potential with his equally incredible laziness. If he’d been willing to focus on training, he would’ve set foot into fifteenth level sequence long ago, or even higher.

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Lu Yun was most familiar with the Hadal Hell. The first hell that he ever obtained—the human hell—was derived from the Hadal Hell. The latter was formed out of nine worlds that’d grown to the level of the fourth realm. Rather than being created by the god of Mount Tai, it’d simply appeared in the new era after the destruction of the original Hongmeng.

As for the Abyssal, Sanguine, and Nihil Hells, their origins remained a mystery.

On the other hand, the underworld that intersected with the world of immortals was the birthplace of the first Netherdark Hell, one that the god of Mount Tai had built himself. Wherever the flames of hell burned became a hell as well. Perhaps the other hells had inadvertently come into being after hell scattered throughout the fourth realm.

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“Are you thinking about those hells?” Leize remained by Lu Yun’s side instead of returning to the world inside the Tome of Life and Death. They were now in the Hadal Hell, the one that Fuxi occupied after killing the tomb owner. He’d taken the owner’s place to nurture the world of sequence.

After Lu Yun claimed the core essence of sequence, the layout of the four tomb owners broke apart. Fuxi had buried himself here so that he could try to claim the layout via the world of sequence, but his attempt ended in failure.

By now, his body had very likely mutated in the tomb. Leize didn’t want Lu Yun to come to harm, so he accompanied the young man inside. Since the Hadal Hell was formed from nine massive worlds, there were nine levels to it. The ninth level within the deep was the core of the hell and where Fuxi’s main tomb was located.

“Mhmm,” Lu Yun nodded. “Wherever hellfire burns will manifest a hell. But someone purposefully created the Hadal Hell—they destroyed nine worlds that’d reached the fourth realm to build it.

“It then traveled to the great wilderness and used the core essence of the nine worlds to support the growth of the first realm. Tianqi was born there as well.”

The world of immortals had become the heart of the worlds, but it’d also once been incomplete. There’d been only twenty-four facets left of the thirty-three; Lu Yun had manifested the nine remaining facets out of the Hadal Hell to make it whole again. The Hadal Hell had been able to make the worlds whole because it was nine worlds to begin with. However, since the worlds of the Land of Reincarnation were incomplete, so were the ones that formed the hell. Thus, it’d required outside intervention in the form of Lu Yun to create a complete world.

Lu Yun had once thought that the appearance of the Hadal Hell and Tianqi’s rebirth was the work of Fuxi and Hongjun. It would seem that they weren’t the actual ones responsible.

Was it Mo Yi?

Or the Diexi inside the crystal coffin?

Leize shook his head without an answer. Plainly, he didn’t know why the Hadal Hell had appeared in the world of immortals. The Sanguine and Nihil Hells were each trying to devour the other. The Abyssal Hell was the result of Hongmeng factions setting up various schemes in the world of immortals. It was a heck of a coincidence for the Hadal Hell to conveniently appear on top of that.

Lu Yun thought of the Tome of Life and Death, but the treasure told him that it’d simply subdued the Hadal Hell that’d appeared in the world of immortals. He possessed the treasure only in this

reincarnation cycle; he'd never owned it in the past thirty-three loops. The Hadal Hell, however, had been present all the same.

In the other loops, Tianqi had awoken in Mount Tai, but not become Lu Yun's disciple. He followed the trajectory of his destiny and became the master of the human hell.

Lu Yun had relied on the Imperial Seal back then, not hell.

Although Fuxi was buried in the Hadal Hell, he didn't cultivate the hadal hell dao. Only a cultivator of that dao could craft such a hell.

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Yin winds gusted in the Hadal Hell.

A layout for a tomb had been constructed here, just like in the Abyssal Hell. There were no signs of the Corpse Refiners or any other living creatures, just eerie shadows of ghosts that drifted in and out of sight. They didn't draw near due to Leize's presence and the hadal hellfire that blazed on Lu Yun's body at all times.

The Hadal Hell buried the soul parts and true spirits of all life. Combined, they made for a soul. A soul was the core body of a yin spirit. If the Abyssal Hell was denoted by tightly packed hordes of zombies, then endless masses of ghostly entities marked a Hadal Hell.

Lu Yun wasn't worried since Leize was by his side. He walked forward, absorbing the Hadal Hell while quietly calculating anything he could about the nine hells of the world of immortals. But all the conclusions he derived pointed to Tianqi.

Perhaps the five hells were a result of Tianqi's efforts.

"We're here." Leize suddenly stopped and patted Lu Yun's shoulder with a chuckle. "Everything's fine. Fuxi guessed that you would come, so he's taken care of everything."

Fuxi's corpse had indeed mutated and become a terrifying zombie demon. But up ahead, a Fuxi dressed in the same long white robe as Leize sat cross-legged on his coffin, suppressing it.

"There you guys are." Fuxi opened his eyes and smiled at Lu Yun. "This is my evil self—the three-eyed man from before."

After the revival of his primary body, Fuxi could easily split his body apart into different selves. His primary body remained on Mount Buzhou in the depths of the cosmos around the ancestral planet.

"Greetings to the senior!" Lu Yun bowed to Fuxi.

"Don't give me that. Go back to the ancestral planet after you take care of things here. It's turned into a battlefield." Worry appeared in Fuxi's eyes. "The ancestral planet is a world formed out of the seed of nothing and a very important existence for the entire fourth realm. It's more meaningful than even the world of immortal dao sequence.

"That old soul ghost from the Hun Clan has arrived on the ancestral planet. Her target is Qing Yu."

Lu Yun's heart pounded painfully. As he'd thought, the four bastards had gone after Qing Yu when they couldn't take him down!

"But don't worry, the Three Pure Ones and my kind self are on the ancestral planet. She won't harm Qing Yu, but you are still needed to oversee the bigger picture."

"I understand." Lu Yun nodded and waved a hand, collecting Fuxi's coffin into the Tome of Life and Death. He then sat down cross-legged and operated hadal hell dao to subdue the Hadal Hell.

Although the core of this tomb was very similar to the one in the Abyssal Hell, they weren't in the same spot. Sitting in the main burial chamber, Lu Yun communicated directly with the core of the Hadal Hell. He gathered a segment of a withered Karmic Tree and collapsed Mount Tai for refinement.

"Ah," Fuxi thought of something and looked at Lu Yun. "You have a ghost ancestor among your subordinates. Be careful—he really is the ancestor of all ghosts in the Land of Reincarnation. He's the fellow who was originally buried in the Nihil Hell.

"The ghost ancestor is more dangerous than the soul ghost. He's just lost himself in the cycle of reincarnation and completely forgotten the past, However, he's shown signs of awakening recently."

Lu Yun jumped with shock and paused his movements. "You mean that more than the soul ghost survived out of the original tomb owners?"

"Correct," Fuxi nodded. "Only the soul ghost and ghost ancestor have maintained their original wills. The other two have dissolved into the yin spirits and ghost race."

Leize waved a hand and swept the three of them into a blood-red world—the Sanguine Hell. Thus conquered, the Hadal Hell floated into the Tome of Life and Death as a world pearl.

Chapter 1774: The One Who Modified the Lifeline Talismans

The Sanguine Hell was a world the color of blood, but the Blood Sea in this one had long since dried up. Only a framework of hell was left behind and it'd been shaped into a Hell Tomb. It was similar to the other two hells that Lu Yun had just visited. Scarlet demonic shapes lurked in the shadows, formed by the blood of the living that the Sanguine Hell had absorbed.

But with Leize present, the demonic shapes again didn't dare draw near.

Lu Yun shuddered involuntarily. If he'd come here alone or with Chu Xingran, Jian Bu'er, and the Demonic Vine, they would've all died horrific deaths. The demonic shapes were outside the range of his knowledge. They were dead entities, but they weren't ghosts or zombies. They existed in another form of death.

They were stronger than the limits of what Lu Yun could currently discern. He wouldn't have the room to resist if they all rushed him at the same time. Thank goodness that Leize was here with him!

Fuxi had gone back to his business since he was alive again. He'd previously borrowed the presence of his corpse demon self to conceal his presence from outsiders, but if he visited another tomb, those in the outside realm would immediately detect his presence.

"Oof!" Lu Yun grunted and his expression shifted.

“What is it?” Leize paused with a frown. He wasn’t detecting anything out of the ordinary. A trace of pain floated onto Lu Yun’s face and large beads of sweat seeped out of his forehead.

“The yang tomb corresponding to the Hadal Hell that I just took has shown up,” Lu Yun chuckled ruefully. He’d easily claimed the Hadal Hell they were just in because it was the first hell that the Tome of Life and Death had ever refined. Their core essence was interlinked with one another, so he’d instantly reduced it to a pearl and stored it within the book.

He hadn’t banked on the Ruina forming the yang tomb to follow in its stead. Regardless, the implications were clear. After collecting the Ruina that corresponded to the Abyssal Hell, he’d incorporated it into the Central Ruina that sat in the kingdom of hell. When he opened the Tome of Life and Death earlier, he’d inadvertently released the presences of two Ruinas, thus attracting the yang tomb.

While there were five Ruinas, they were one entity.

“One moment please, senior.” Lu Yun had no choice but to sit down cross-legged and use his full strength to guide the latest Ruina into the kingdom of hell, directing it to reconvene with the Ruinas already present.

They were no longer in the Land of Reincarnation, but the outside realm. The Hadal Hell being collected by another and its associated Ruina vanishing had attracted much attention, but the powerhouses guarding the area didn’t stir. They remained quietly cross-legged in the void and completely motionless.

In a certain corner of the void, a seated figure shimmering with silver radiance struck a careless pose. He chomped on a sparkling aureate karmic fruit in his hand.

“The four hells and the Land of Reincarnation have successfully nurtured a world of sequence. Leize and his family have passed their tribulations, so we won’t stand in the way of anything anymore. Chen Xiao, you don’t need to be so on guard against us like we’re thieves.” A young girl in green robes with long trailing sleeves smiled ruefully.

Chen Xiao shoved the last bite of fruit into his mouth and drawled, “If that’s the case, what are you three still doing here? Obviously, you continue to have designs on the Land of Reincarnation.”

“We...” The girl looked at two other cross-legged heavyweights on the same level as her. They did have certain schemes in mind, such as slipping through the crack guarded by Chen Xiao and making their way into the Land of Reincarnation after six hundred years. It didn’t matter that the Hadal Hell and its Ruina had been collected by another; it wouldn’t matter if the other two hells and Ruinas were taken as well. The world of sequence remained.

It’d become a road that led to the Land of Reincarnation. The four old ghosts that’d originally occupied the tombs could stall Lu Yun and even Fuxi with their schemes, but they couldn’t do anything to the three. They only needed to make their way into the land; they didn’t need to destroy anything.

“Don’t think I don’t know what you’re plotting.” Chen Xiao cast a frosty glance at the girl and shoved another karmic fruit into his mouth.

Her throat bobbed up and down.

Chen Xiao could take as many karmic fruits as he wanted since Lu Yun had granted him permission to freely enter the kingdom of hell. After the establishment of the Formula Academy and its bequeathment to the entire fourth realm, Lu Yun never lacked for goodwill.

At the same time, it was an exceedingly rare fruit in the outside realm, something to be found only by chance and not through effort. Even these unparalleled powerhouses could only look on with envy.

“The seed of nothing is formed from the ruins of the first world of sequence in this patch of the worlds. While it cannot grow back into a world of sequence, it can evolve into a true patch of grand worlds, something much bigger than the chief worlds we stand in,” Chen Xiao cut straight to the chase.

The worlds in the outside realm were endless and innumerable, infinite times greater than the Land of Reincarnation. Collectively, they were referred to as the chief worlds. It was an exceedingly ancient name that very few still remembered. Most people now had never heard of the term before.

The girl in green exchanged baffled glances with the other two.

“Chen Xiao, we know that you’re very strong. We can give you precedence in most things, but not this! If you want to stop us, it has to be a fight!” The girl rose to her feet with a burst of exuberant vitality. The extremity of life was death, so a wisp of black smoke escaped from her body and colored her pitch black.

The other two rose as well, both girls. One was dressed in red and wreathed in blazing flames, the other wore purple with lightning crackling between her palms.

“I admit you’re quite capable, Chen Xiao, but Qing Buyi isn’t here at the moment. You won’t have the upper hand if you’re up against three!” The girl in purple spoke in an ethereal voice, but her words were tinged with violence.

“Then let’s have a fight.” Chen Xiao nodded and grasped at the void. Some dots of silver flashed by, slowly growing in radiance until they formed the shape of a sword. Purple splendor flickered out of the silver sword of light.

“With time as sword!” The girl in green paled and took three steps back. “A spacetime traveler... Is this the power that one of you wields? You can collect the power of time and condense it into a sword!”

The other two girls also looked askance at the sword in Chen Xiao’s hand. This was outside the realm of their comprehension. Pulling a section of time out of this patch of the worlds and refining it into a sword... was a living being capable of this??

They knew that Chen Xiao was a spacetime traveler, but it was their first time seeing his true strength. It’d always been Qing Buyi clashing against people of the chief worlds; Chen Xiao rarely took the field and had never shown this level of strength before.

“Are you guys fighting already?” A fifth person appeared in the void with a fistful of talismans. He bawled at the three girls, “You should buy some of my talismans first! My Lifeline Talismans can block a blow for you and save your lives!

“How ‘bout it, one heaven and earth ancestral vein for one talisman!”

The speaker was an eighteen-year-old young man who was dressed very extravagantly. His robes were the height of opulence and he walked around with a halo of light from the luster of jewels that he wore.

He waved a large fan gilded with gold, and his presence was flamboyant to the extreme. It was as if he was deathly afraid that someone wouldn't know that he was a good-for-nothing. A good-for-nothing with a capital G!

He was the legendary genius who'd modified the Lifeline Talisman for multiple uses. That meant the talisman had more than doubled or tripled in price, but there were still plenty of people who fought each other to pay the astronomical sums.

"What are you doing here, Lu Feng?" Chen Xiao snorted at the young man.

Lu Feng... Lu Yun's ready-made brother that'd sprung out of nowhere. He shared no blood relation with Lu Yun, whether in their past or present lives. They were at most foster brothers. Lu Yun would've never thought that the famed genius of the outside realm would be his oh-so-convenient older brother!

Chapter 1775: Blackmail and Extortion

"I'm here to do business, of course!" Lu Feng jiggled his leg and waved three glittering talismans around with a grandiose flourish. "These pretty little ladies are gonna be deader than a doornail after you get involved. Therefore, I need to strike while it's hot and get some money outta them while they're still alive.

"How about it, pretty little things? There's no chance of you surviving once you start fighting Chen Xiao. These three talismans can save your lives, but only your lives! I can't do anything about escaping from him." Lu Feng cocked his head with thought and grinned broadly. "One heaven and earth ancestral vein for one talisman, you can buy as many as you can afford. Chen Xiao's bored to hell keeping you under guard here, so you might as well come up with a few extra lives for him to play with!"

The three young girls who'd actually been alive for countless eons shuddered with horror. Chen Xiao himself hadn't issued any threats; it was Lu Feng's words that raised the hair on the back of their necks.

"Who are you?!" the girl in green demanded. A genius who could modify the Lifeline Talismans was no ordinary person, and he seemed to be very familiar with Chen Xiao.

"Can't you tell?" Lu Feng's grin turned into a smirk. "I'm a spacetime traveler too."

A spacetime traveler!

Bizarre beings who weren't subject to the confines of space and time. They could appear in any space and any time, and they were the only instance of their existence no matter where they appeared. Whether in the past, present, future, or any plane of existence—they were the one and only.

In a place like the Land of Reincarnation in which Lu Yun experienced thirty-three loops, there should've been thirty-three Chen Xiaos, Qing Buyis, and Lu Fengs. But there wasn't because they were spacetime travelers. There was only one of them, so Lu Yun hadn't seen them elsewhere and thought he'd overlooked their presence. He didn't see them in all of the loops to begin with, and if he had, it would've been the only time period that they went to.

Legends of spacetime travelers ran rife in the chief worlds and the only confirmed ones were Chen Xiao and Qing Buyi. Now there was a third.

Lu Feng.

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“Oh no no, don’t be so scared,” Lu Feng chuckled as he took in the aghast expressions on the girls’ faces. “I’m not the same as those two crazies, I’m just here to sell my talismans. Do you want them or not?” he remained merry. “One heaven and earth ancestral vein for one talisman is a great deal.”

“No!” the girl in green snapped out. “We’re leaving!”

They lost their appetite for a fight the moment Chen Xiao created a sword of time. This was beyond their capabilities and they didn’t even want to linger around anymore after seeing a second spacetime traveler appear.

As lovely as treasures were, one needed to remain alive to enjoy them.

“Wait just a second!” Lu Feng’s face darkened upon seeing that they wanted to leave. “I heard there’d be a great show here and traveled a hundred million kilometers to do business. You don’t want to buy them after all?? Do you think you can play me like that?!”

He waved numerous glittering talismans into existence; they fell down through the void and sealed off the space around the three girls.

“I have one hundred single-use Lifeline Talismans here... One heaven and earth ancestral vein for each, pay up!” He bared his teeth in a savage grin.

“Are, are you forcing us to buy from you?!” The three girls shook with rage. Compared to Lu Feng, Chen Xiao was a more reasonable sort. They couldn’t break the encirclement that Lu Feng had set up—none of the spacetime travelers were to be trifled with!

Chen Xiao stared covetously at them from the side, what if he took advantage of this to attack them?!

“Fine, we’ll buy them!” The girl in green almost ground her teeth to dust. “But I don’t want the single-use ones! I want the multi-use ones that you modified!”

“Don’t got any,” Lu Feng shook his head. “I was in a hurry and only brought these.”

“You had them just now!”

“Not anymore,” he responded with all seriousness. “And the price has gone up. Two heaven and earth ancestral veins for each talisman, so five hundred talismans means one thousand veins!”

Chen Xiao’s eyes went wide and he stared incredulously at Lu Feng. The latter’s nose was up in the air and he didn’t bother looking at Chen Xiao.

“Lu Feng! You’re absolutely forcing your wares on others! Aren’t you afraid of ruining your reputation?!” The girl in green stomped her foot with anger.

“Hmm.” Lu Feng nodded and thought carefully. “Ten heaven and earth ancestral veins for one talisman. I’ve got one thousand talismans now, so that’ll be ten thousand veins.”

“Big sis!” the girl in purple interrupted when she saw that the speaker in green was about to argue back again. “We’ll take them! Here’s ten thousand veins!”

Her heart clenched painfully from the expenditure. Heaven and earth ancestral veins weren't on the same level as the enigma stone veins that Chu Xingran had given Lu Yun, the two were incomparable!

Enigma stone veins were just mines of naturally occurring enigma stones—there was no other significance to them. Heaven and earth ancestral veins, on the other hand, were born out of real worlds and contained the complete will of heaven and earth.

One world could nurture only one vein, and not even powerhouses beyond sequence owned such treasures. Only when someone reached a cultivation level similar to these three girls did they have a chance of refining it from a world.

Ten thousand veins was a sum that even the supremes couldn't imagine!

This was blatant blackmail and extortion! An ordinary Lifeline Talisman could be had for enigma stones in the chief worlds, but these young girls beyond supreme had no choice but to capitulate to Lu Feng's demands.

Chen Xiao showed signs of going on the offensive. If the two acted in tandem, the girls really would perish here. The ten thousand heaven and earth ancestral veins weren't for the talismans, but payment for their lives.

"Alright alright, now get out of here." Lu Feng undid the spatial encirclement with a casual wave; the three girls immediately vanished without a backward look.

"I wouldn't have scared them if I didn't come off so strongly." Lu Feng caressed a minor world in his hand—there were ten thousand heaven and earth ancestral veins sealed inside. It was probably the sum of the girls' collective fortunes.

"They'd already be dead if you didn't stick your nose in things." Chen Xiao glared at him.

"Oi oi oi, do you have your head on straight?" Lu Feng widened his eyes at him. "They're Yun Yi's concubines! If you kill them, he'll personally come for your head."

"Yun Yi?" Chen Xiao curled his lip. "You keep yourself so busy making money in the chief worlds these years that you don't even know the seed of nothing's evolved into a world and is slowly growing."

"Huh??" Lu Feng treated the revelation with disbelief. "Impossible, it was still lying inert in the heart of the ancestral planet last time I saw it. How has it evolved into a world?"

"It's combined with the ancestral planet, or rather, the ancestral planet grew from it. Tsk tsk tsk, the ancestral planet is the home of your ready-made little brother and my brother-in-law. If those three went to the ancestral planet..." Chen Xiao clucked his tongue and Lu Feng couldn't help but tremble.

Rumble—

The Sanguine Hell and the Ruina associated with it suddenly vanished from the other side of the void. Another rumble later, the Nihil Hell—last of the four—and its Ruina also sank into the void without a trace.

Lu Feng shook again and he murmured, "He's collected all four hells... If his temper really flares, all of the chief worlds might tremble at his name."

“The chief worlds? Tremble because of him?” Chen Xiao chuckled. “That’s not happening. Only if someone takes the ancestral planet and turns it back into a seed of nothing will Lu Yun transform all of the chief worlds into hell, even with his dying breath.”

“W-why do I feel like I’ve just saved all of existence?” Lu Feng stammered.

“Save all of existence? You?” Chen Xiao snorted. “If it wasn’t for you, I would’ve already taken care of the future danger.”

Lu Feng had no response to that.

“And aren’t you worried about wrecking your reputation after letting them go?” Chen Xiao smiled condescendingly at him.

Lu Feng curled his lip. “How about this, I’ll announce throughout the chief worlds that I’m not selling talismans anymore because of those three. Wanna bet that someone will deliver them to me tomorrow tied up like chickens?”

Chen Xiao blinked.

“If there’s one thing I’ve learned from that brother of mine, it’s the many ways to win hearts. The difference between us is that he’s too weak and attracts only hatred and envy. I’m different, I’m strong enough that they have to curry favor with me.”

Swish!

He snapped open his gilded fan with extreme arrogance.

“Well, you’re right. No one views you as a threat given how money grubbing and completely unserious you are,” Chen Xiao grumbled.

Chapter 1776: The Layout of Earth

Chen Xiao and Qing Buyi were the same type of person. They might be rascally and irreverent characters, but they could also be serious and relied upon in times of need. Chen Xiao, for instance, safeguarded the crack that led to the Land of Reincarnation. It was a vital location as powerhouses of the outside realm could enter the land with their true selves if they passed through the opening. Meanwhile, Qing Buyi’s replica held down the fort for eight hundred years, buying time for Lu Yun.

Lu Feng, however, followed the wishes of his heart a little too much. He did whatever he liked, whenever he liked, and not even Chen Xiao and Qing Buyi could convince him otherwise when he didn’t want to do something. Of course, it was due to his personality and completely unconcealed emotions that he rose to such prominence in the chief worlds. It was also because of his whimsical nature that no one viewed him as a threat.

“Have fun guarding this place, I’ve got business to attend to.” Lu Feng waved at Chen Xiao and suddenly flicked over the minor world with ten thousand heaven and earth ancestral veins. “A gift for my little brother that came outta nowhere.”

Chen Xiao blinked, looking at the minor world in his hand. He flicked it with his thumb and turned it into a meteor that sank into the Land of Reincarnation.

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Leize's family was truly reunited. Though their replicas of the mind were together before, their primary bodies were buried in their respective tombs. They were a short distance away, yet poles apart.

Leize, Huaxu, Fuxi, and Wahuang all joined the ancestral planet.

Earth had once been a world of technology—a new order in the Land of Reincarnation. Mortals would wield power strong enough to destroy worlds when technology developed to its peak; even sequence experts would tremble at their might then.

But the era of technology had yet to fully develop when the qi of the world revitalized. Living beings pivoted to the path of cultivation, and Earth expanded to more than a hundred times its previous size.

When Lu Yun arrived at the ancestral planet, he saw something that horrified him. The Princess Mu possessed by a soul ghost was also on Earth. She oversaw the seas and had created a sea temple, winning the worship of hundreds of millions of humans.

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Cold sweat beaded Lu Yun's forehead. Though Fuxi had told him long ago that the soul ghost had gone to Earth and wanted to move against Qing Yu, he never thought that the soul ghost would put down roots on Earth!

She'd set up a temple—a temple of the sea! This was power that belonged only to Princess Mu, but she'd perished long ago. Her body had mutated into a zombie for the soul ghost to occupy. Lu Yun never imagined that not only would the soul ghost claim everything the princess once had, but it would also inherit her dao and establish temples on Earth!

This was what the princess had once done on the World of Sea, utilizing faith to galvanize its denizens after the Sea Emperor died.

The soul ghost was firmly settled in on Earth. A system of faith was impossible to destroy once it took shape. As long as one person on Earth still believed in the soul ghost, she would continue to linger around like a maggot attached to one's bones.

Lu Yun couldn't kill her and neither could the Three Pure Ones, Fuxi, or Hongjun do anything to her. Fuxi's kind self hadn't been able to stop her when she tried killing Qing Yu; it'd taken the two guardians of immortal dao to stop her.

If it hadn't been for Pangu and God, Qing Yu would've been in real danger. Fuxi felt immensely guilty about his lapse in attention and brought his primary body to the ancestral planet so he could personally oversee things.

The Three Pure Ones disseminated dao on Earth when qi began to revitalize, thereby creating legends of the three on the planet. Their traditions shone with great glory and became the faith of the Asian regions.

Though the Three Pure Ones didn't want people to worship them, there was nothing they could do about heartfelt respect and belief. In their view, immortals vied with heaven and earth and should trust only themselves.

Thus, the sea temple couldn't extend into the Asiatic territories; they were confined to the shores of the sea. Once the soul ghost gained a thorough understanding of the religions in the western countries, she transformed herself into their gods and usurped their beliefs to quickly raise her temples.

And so began a series of violent clashes between the sea temples and eastern immortal dao culture.

Of course, the sea temples were just a front. What the westerners cultivated was the soul dao that the soul ghost specialized in. She'd been a heavyweight of the Hun Clan in life and if she could establish her clan's soul dao on the ancestral planet, there was a chance she could come back to life! Now that she knew the ancestral planet was the seed of nothing, she paused action against Qing Yu and concentrated on growing her foundations.

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"We need to find a way to eliminate her. She'll be trouble sooner or later if she stays here—no, she's already enormous trouble!"

The heavenly palace had put down roots on Kunlun Mountain. Born from the Tome of Life and Death, it corresponded to Lu Yun's kingdom of hell. The world of immortal dao sequence had melded into the heavenly palace and Qing Yu employed it to keep everything in order on Earth. If it wasn't for the heavenly palace, the situation would've descended into a maddened frenzy long ago and the humans gone extinct.

There were three major factions on Earth at the moment. The first of immortal dao with Qing Yu and the Three Pure Ones as its head. They occupied the previous Asiatic regions. The second of soul dao, a great dao that didn't belong to immortal dao. Soul dao differed from the soul weapons and soul force that formula dao cultivators practiced. It was a dao of yin souls, one that involved relinquishing the body to train the soul. That made the soul nearly indestructible and the cultivator's ghost in death stronger than any other ghostly entity.

The third was established by the outsiders that'd entered the Land of Reincarnation. The land was nearly at an end and they'd all broken free of their destinies to set foot on a new path.

Apart from these three factions, no one else on the ancestral planet was allowed a voice. Natives of the Land of Reincarnation, in particular, were forbidden from setting foot on Earth. Many were those who wanted to start a war and fish in muddied waters, but they were all executed to the last no matter who they were.

Current-stage Earth was too fragile compared to the heaven-defying powerhouses. The slightest misstep would shake it to dust. Thus, although frenetic multi-year wars engulfed the planet, most of them were fought between humans. They campaigned, pillaged, and plundered each other in a bid to claim the planet's will and control it.

Immortal dao held the upper hand, but it occupied only one third of the planet. Outsiders controlled the remaining two thirds. Parts of the soul ghost's identity had leaked, leading to many outsiders flocking to her banner. Hence, the other two factions showed signs of combining as one.

If one wished to control Earth, one needed the seed of nothing. To gain the seed, one needed to claim the will of the planet and use it to refine the seed. What was deemed the will of the planet was legitimacy and the will of heaven.

In other words, whatever dao ruled Earth.

The emperors and conquerors of Earth's history had gained their status because they'd been favored by the planet's will. They were superior above all and died ignobly when the planet's will abandoned them.

When Lu Yun returned, he traveled straight to Kunlun Mountain as opposed to revealing himself to the public. The mountain was the core of immortal dao on the planet and the heart of immortal dao in the Land of Reincarnation. Qing Yu and the others had always been here, never showing themselves.

While the Three Pure Ones were responsible for immortal dao on Earth, they rarely appeared in front of anyone. Lu Yun's second disciple Zou Longxiu was responsible for teaching dao, and he was now a principal realm immortal.

Compared to the immortal dao of old, principal realm immortals were now on par with Hongmeng potentates. The realm of supreme pure came after and immortals of that level could pierce through the Hongmeng barrier. While Zou Longxiu was yet to reach that level, his current strength was more than sufficient to administer Earth.

"These people go too far!" He nearly cracked all of his teeth in anger.

"You're too gentle, junior brother. If I were you, I'd kick down their doors and slaughter that Forefather Primordius. There, all of our problems solved," Liu Qingmiao remarked casually. "Except for that Princess Mu, all of them are trash. We can have Senior Meng Wang take action if we have to. Just kill them all and save ourselves the trouble."

"If you kill them, they'll kill you." Zou Longxiu rolled his eyes at his senior sister. Liu Qingmiao had shaken off her connection to the little fox and formed her own ethereal and corporeal soul parts, becoming her own person.

"If everything on Earth is dead, the planet will slowly wither away. Most importantly is that this is master's home!" he ground his teeth again. "That's why they're threatening us!"

Chapter 1777: Disciple of the Reincarnation Inspector

Apart from the immortal dao faction on Earth, the other two factions found fault with everything at every opportunity, trying to start a war. If Zou Longxiu did as Liu Qingmiao said, the war to end all wars would immediately break out and cause the destruction of good and bad alike. All of Earth would perish, to say nothing of its inhabitants.

Not only was Earth Lu Yun's home, but it was once the great wilderness and the foundation of the first realm.

If Earth was destroyed, the world of immortals would crumble away, thereby impacting the chaos and Hongmeng. Everything would revert back to the previous cycles, but the outsiders had already locked onto the seed of nothing. Once Earth and the world of immortals blew apart, they would draw out the seed and claim it.

They hadn't done anything yet because they didn't want to commit a mistake that others could take advantage of. They held themselves to constant provocation, attempting to goad Zou Longxiu into action.

Qing Buyi still sat at Mount Astronomia, keeping anything particularly out of line in check. As for the soul ghost—she'd exchanged blows with Qing Buyi as soon as she arrived. There was nothing they could do about each other, so they came to some sort of agreement.

Apart from the one attempt on Qing Yu, the soul ghost resided quietly on Earth. But if Zou Longxiu or the others cast the first stone, the consequences would be unthinkable.

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"Right, so what's written on it that's gotten you so mad?" Liu Qingmiao looked curiously at her junior brother.

Zou Longxiu was reading a letter from the sea temple. Although they were built by the soul ghost, the main overseer was an outsider who went by Forefather Primordius. No one knew what his relationship to the Hun Clan was.

He'd written the letter.

"Take a look yourself." Zou Longxiu tossed it to Liu Qingmiao.

When she scanned it, her face turned blotchy red out of anger.

"How dare they!! They go absolutely too far!!" She jumped to her feet. "That old fart Primordius is an old cow trying to munch on tender grass!"

"Huh?" Zou Longxiu blinked.

"No! I mean he's a toad trying to eat swan meat, he's completely unworthy!!" Liu Qingmiao hastily corrected.

"What's the yelling about?" Wanfeng walked in. She was the governor of Dusk Province in Lu Yun's stead, which was now also known as the Sacred Province.

While Dusk Province remained part of Nephrite Major, it was independent from the rest of the major. It was independent from all of the majors and Wanfeng was on equal footing with the rest of the rulers of the thirty-three facets. She'd reached first level immortal dao sequence and was an undisputed powerhouse of the dao.

Naturally, she'd be present when unrest bubbled up on Earth.

"That Forefather Primordius says he's coming with a marriage proposal for senior sister Qingmiao," Zou Longxiu frowned. "It won't be easy to handle this..."

"Why not?" Frosty killing intent curved Wanfeng's lips. She tugged the letter out of Liu Qingmiao's hands for a look. "Well well, don't they have a nice little scheme brewing. There's nothing to worry about. Your master's back, so he can handle this. We'll kill that Forefather Primordius if he dares come."

Her blithe disregard for the situation caused Zou Longxiu and Liu Qingmiao to look at each other. They didn't know what to say.

Forefather Primordius was such a shameless character that he'd had someone disguise themselves as Liu Qingmiao to openly express her love for him. Although his title was "forefather", he appeared as an incredibly handsome young man. He was a ladies' man in the western countries and the prince of a hundred million girls' hearts.

The incident had been dismissed as pure nonsense at first, especially as there were many cultivators among the general population that were skilled in disguise. But for some reason, current public discourse was afire with this happening and many were choosing to believe that it was true. Even many citizens of Asiatic regions believed it too.

While Earth had switched to a civilization focused on cultivation, many of their living habits and societal structures remained the same as before. Humans craved freedom and as a people, no singular person was able to rule over the rest—particularly after qi revitalized throughout the land.

When outsiders tried to propagate their beliefs, they had to gain ground through the angle of religion and faith. They couldn't force their way into general acceptance via enslaving or controlling the human race on Earth.

Earth was the race's ancestral planet and to a certain extent, the humans here were the true bloodline of the race. Public opinion remained very important on the planet and it could determine the hearts of the people. Even immortals floundered around for what to do if faced with a flood of general sentiment.

Thus, Zou Longxiu and Liu Qingmiao regarded each other with resignation.

"Alright then!" They breathed out more easily knowing that their master was on Earth.

Rumble—

A massive reverberation sounded in the air as a rainbow descended from above, slowly stretching to the peak of Kunlun Mountain. A young man in blue robes walked down the rainbow, a faint smile on his face.

Though the heavenly palace hovered over the mountain's peak, he didn't bother gracing it with a single glance. He stared fixedly at Liu Qingmiao atop Kunlun Mountain. This was Forefather Primordius of the sea temple.

"Qingmiao, my apologies for coming late." He stood on the rainbow and looked tenderly at Liu Qingmiao. "I've come to request your hand in marriage like I promised."

Liu Qingmiao almost vomited out her dinner from last night.

"Do you get to marry Qingmiao just because you want to?" Distaste flashed across Wanfeng's face when she saw the forefather's pretentious manners.

"It's not because I want to, but because we both want to. ...or have you done something to Qingmiao?!" The forefather's expression shifted and he called out urgently, "Don't be afraid, Qingmiao! I'll save you!"

The bizarre happened.

Given Liu Qingmiao's temper, her next move should be to rush the young man and beat every last thought out of him. If she wasn't stronger than him, her sharp tongue would verbally flay him alive. But for some reason, apart from a deep-seated disgust, she remained where she was, completely immobile. Something seemed to have her in its spell.

Zou Longxiu realized that something was amiss and strode forward, calling upon Kunlun Mountain's earthen veins with the Dragonshift Method to protect Liu Qingmiao.

"Release Qingmiao or I'll raze your mountain!" Forefather Primordious screamed, the sound of a cuckoo crying blood that brought tears and anguish to the listener. The rainbow dove from the sky, seeking to break apart Zou Longxiu's protection and seize Liu Qingmiao.

Distressed heartbreak appeared on her face and she looked tearily at the young man, as if begging him to save her.

The eerie scene stunned everyone on Kunlun Mountain, including Lu Yun in the heavenly palace.

Boom!

The void shook as a golden furry hand reached out of the sky, closing around the diving Forefather Primordius and crushing him out of existence. A golden monkey three hundred meters tall bounded out of the void. His hand loosely gripped a black metal rod and he leered at a certain point in the sky.

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"Oh, God above! Um, venerated Sea Goddess, what is that?!" Gasps of shock rose and fell through a crowd of western cultivators in the air when they saw the monkey. There was an enormous image formation there that recorded everything that'd just happened, including sound.

The appearance of the enormous monkey made their blood turn cold. Forefather Primordius was the overseer of the sea temple and one who exceeded the existence of a god! A monkey had crushed him to death??

"That's the legendary monkey of the eastern myths! Sun Wukong!" a western cultivator versed in eastern culture identified. "That's cheating! That's not fair! How can they bring out something from a myth?!"

Hummm.

The black metal rod appeared over their heads and smashed this part of the void to pieces.

"Kekekeke—" Loud cackling traveled into their ears. "Listen up, vermin! Step forward and fight if you want, skip these stupid little tricks. Go back and tell your sea goddess that I'll smash her head in if she touches the destiny dao of this Land of Reincarnation again!

"Now fuck off!"

Boom!

A golden furry foot appeared out of nowhere and punted all of the western cultivators away.

Chapter 1778: Battle Flag and Star Diagram

"It's..." Lu Yun gaped at the abrupt appearance of a scarlet ape—Goldenlight.

Goldenlight and Silverlight had sworn fealty to him after Wuzhiqi's arrival and become the protectors of the Dao Academy at Mount Xuanhuang. The scarlet ape's actions moments ago overturned Lu Yun's impression of him.

"I'm now the disciple of the reincarnation inspector and he's taught me all of my new knowledge." Goldenlight bared his teeth in a toothy grin. "You're my master's brother, so I should call you martial uncle."

"Your master is Jin Gushen, isn't he?" Lu Yun rolled his eyes.

"Hehehe..." Goldenlight cackled and didn't respond.

"So where's your master?" Lu Yun asked involuntarily. Jin Gushen had been training under the Metal Potentate and thus had a proper identity and place in the Land of Reincarnation. But when Lu Yun swept the Hongmeng with his consciousness, he found that Jin Gushen was no longer in the third realm.

The reincarnation inspector possessed tens of thousands of replicas to monitor the events of this land. It was an easy task for some of them to take a few disciples.

"My master's gone to the secondary worlds to protect someone," Goldenlight responded.

Lu Yun immediately understood—he'd gone to protect Chu Xingran. The latter had once saved Jin Gushen; now that the Land of Reincarnation neared its end, the inspector was also freed from his duties and could freely walk the realms.

Lu Yun had wanted to bring back Chu Xingran and the others when he returned to Earth, but he'd still been unable to break the World Jail layout. It looked like the same problem stumped the inspector as well.

Thunk!

A tattered cloth bag the size of a palm fell from the sky, crashing heavily onto Lu Yun's head. He pitched toward the ground from the impact and a muffled grunt. Standing next to him, Qing Yu jumped with surprise and quickly helped her beloved stay on his feet.

"What is this?" She caught the bag and looked at it skeptically. It was a tattered bag as light as a feather, but it'd raised a bump on Lu Yun's head.

"Nothing much. Your cousin hates that I married you, so he threw this thing at my head." Lu Yun grimaced with pain and quietly put the bag away. Word of this could never get out—if it did, another enormous disturbance would develop in the land.

He knew what was in the bag and suddenly felt extremely grateful toward his mysterious brother. Ten thousand heaven and earth ancestral veins were incredibly crucial and vital for him. Not only could they construct a complete world, they could construct a world of sequence and strengthen it!

The outsiders stared covetously at the world of immortal dao sequence because it was too weak, so weak that it would belong to whoever owned it.

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The grand priest of the sea temple had traveled to Kunlun Mountain with cap in hand and a marriage proposal. Someone had crushed him to death with their grip—this was the perfect excuse for the temple and the third faction on Earth, World Hall, to declare war! They were perfectly ready to do so, but both fell silent when they realized that it was the inspector's disciple who'd killed Forefather Primordius.

The reincarnation inspector represented the will of the Land of Reincarnation; his authority in this land was great. If the reincarnation guardian was a watchdog that the master of the land had set, then the inspector represented the master's will.

Not even the soul ghost dared offend the inspector.

Those from the outside realm had tried to eliminate the inspector during the last thirty-three loops, but they'd failed. His emergence now was likely a reckoning for their actions, and he was so strong that even the soul ghost trembled with dread.

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Although the sea temple and World Hall didn't start their war, Lu Yun wasn't about to let them get away with their impertinence.

The day after Forefather Primordius' death, Lu Yun came knocking on the World Hall with Goldenlight in tow. They wordlessly captured all of the hall's non-Earthling cultivators and imprisoned the outsiders in the Disordered Hell.

Most of the captives were from the chief worlds in the outside realm. They were similar to the previous Kun Sovereign King and Peng Sovereign King—outsiders who'd obtained a fourth realm identity and inherited their destiny.

They'd been hidden in the dark all this time; the world of immortals and Hongmeng were littered with their hidden agents. But when Chu Xingran dismantled his setups, he'd also removed their schemes. Once the seed of nothing appeared, the outsiders couldn't bear to remain hidden and traveled to Earth to fight over the seed.

Of course, not all of them fell under the World Hall banner. Some of them had also joined the Hun Clan. There was more than just Hun You present in the Land of Reincarnation, he'd just been the unlucky one to fall to a plot.

"You need to think carefully on this, Lu Yun. If you destroy the World Hall today, then in the future—"

"If you dare touch Earth in the future or harm a single hair on the head of an Earthling, I promise that I'll make you wish for death," Lu Yun sneered at the master of the World Hall—a ninth level sequence expert.

"You bastard!" the expert snapped. "It was the sea temple who made trouble for you yesterday, why are you seeking revenge from us?!"

He was far stronger than nine levels, but this was the greatest amount of strength he could bring to bear in the fourth realm. With both Lu Yun and Goldenlight beating down his door, he had to keep a firm grip on his temper. He didn't want to die yet.

"Wu Qun... I remember that's your name, right? You're the overlord of the Wu Cluster in the outside realm," Goldenlight suddenly chuckled. "You brought your Wu Clan to the Land of Reincarnation when it first started and set up roots here. Instead of inheriting someone's destiny, you created your own."

Wu Qun quieted down when he heard the scarlet ape's words. The Wu Clan had once been a powerful clan in the chief worlds with multiple major worlds in their possession. They were stronger than even the current Darklake, but all of that was in the past. The clan's survivors had come to the Land of Reincarnation in search of any hope to revitalize their glory.

If he died, so did the clan's last hope. He was the one who'd built the World Hall and there were very few who knew his true identity. Now that Goldenlight exposed him, there was nothing for him to do but grit his teeth and nod.

"Swear fealty to me," Lu Yun suddenly said. "Swear fealty to me and become my subordinate. When I make it out of this land, I promise to return your clan to its glory days."

"You?" Wu Qun sneered. "You're on the chopping block yourself. You've accompanied the final withering of immortal dao countless times and always die alone in the void. You're just taking a few extra spins around your destiny at the moment, you won't escape it in the end."

"Forget my offer, then." Wu Qun had likely arrived in the first loop and experienced all of the cycles for himself. He'd personally witnessed Lu Yun's ending numerous times.

"Will you enter yourself, or do I have to personally extend an invitation?" Lu Yun waved open the doors to the Disordered Hell.

"Hmph!" Wu Qun snorted and walked in with a brandish of his sleeves.

"Since you're here, Princess Mu, why not come out for a chat?" Lu Yun smiled after Wu Qun was fully in the hell.

"How do you know that I'm the princess and not the soul ghost?" Gentle giggles sounded as Princess Mu appeared in front of him. There were no traces of a zombie on her and she seemed the same as a normal person.

"Is there a difference?" Lu Yun shook his head slightly. "Princess Mu is the reincarnation of the soul ghost and returned to her origins after the Corpse Refiners turned her into a zombie."

"Did... the ghost ancestor tell you that?" Princess Mu blinked.

"Yes," Lu Yun nodded. He'd fully won over the ghost ancestor and the latter had recovered everything about himself. In return, Lu Yun had used unparalleled virtue to dispel the endless resentment wreathed around him. "It's just you left and it must suck to be in a state that's half alive and half dead. If I can revive Fuxi, I'll be able to revive you. So how about..."

"Sure," the princess smiled. "I'm not a stick-in-the-mud like old geezer Wu Qun."

“Old geezer?” Lu Yun raised his eyebrows.

“He’s older than me and the Wu Clan was once the most preeminent clan in the chief worlds. He was their patriarch. What a pity that this land has worn away his fire and courage, leaving behind pointless pride.” The princess crooked her finger at Lu Yun. “I’ll let you know that there’s another group of people attempting to refine the seed of nothing. They’ve set up a new world next to the seed and will devour the planet called Earth after a while...”

“What?!” Lu Yun jumped with shock and let loose with his consciousness. He didn’t find anything out of the ordinary, whether on Earth or around it.

Chapter 1779: Master of the Land of Reincarnation

“You’re just a tiny fellow at the moment, so you can’t see any of this. The Dao King foresaw all of it long ago and made certain arrangements in the cosmos around Earth. He laid his plans starting in the era of the great wilderness,” Princess Mu thought for a moment before continuing, “Mount Buzhou sits at the spot of that world, suppressing and keeping it under control. You should go seek out the Dao King and retrieve his star diagram and battle flag.

“Ah, yes.” Two beams of faint crimson light radiated from her eyes as an aura of violence emanated from her body. She immediately tamped it down. “I am indeed Princess Mu—a new personality born after the soul ghost reincarnated. I am able to keep the soul ghost under control with help from the Three Pure Ones after coming to Earth, but my control seems to slip by the day.”

She looked at Lu Yun.

“Take these.” He suddenly understood why the incredibly savage soul ghost had turned into the delicate and airy Princess Mu, why she’d built a sea temple instead of a nest of ghosts. Qing Buyi had likely let her in for the same reason.

He took out several karmic fruits and gave them to the princess. He didn’t dare use something like the Netherdark Talisman since that would likely dispel both her will and lingering resentment.

She left after accepting the fruit; Lu Yun watched her go with worry in his eyes. He turned in a certain direction—his master could be found there. For some reason, he didn’t have the courage to face the man. Not even Lu Yun knew why.

“Never mind, let’s go retrieve the battle flag and star diagram first,” he murmured to himself.

“You want the battle flag and star diagram?” Goldenlight smacked his forehead. “Haotian gave them to me before I came.”

He brought out a star diagram and a black flag that was one meter across. Haotian was the disguise that the Dao King had assumed when journeying the great wilderness, era of primordial dao, human dao, and immortal dao. Goldenlight knew Haotian, but not the Dao King.

“Weird, why couldn’t I remember that I had those two things before that woman showed up?” Goldenlight swung his head around. “Haotian must’ve done something.”

“These two treasures are very important. It’d be a disaster for you, me, and the Dao King if they’re exposed to any degree.” Lu Yun carefully put the star diagram and battle flag away.

“It looks like Qing Buyi also allowed the sea temple to be built. Although it appears that three factions are fighting bitterly over Earth, this is how we’re able to stabilize the situation on the planet and prevent more factions from intervening.” Lu Yun frowned. “At the same time, war draws the most potential out of geniuses and is the best shortcut to raising a crop of true powerhouses.”

At some point in time, he’d started considering everything from the perspective of the bigger picture. Perhaps the battles between the three were too brutal for the denizens of Earth, but from the consideration of the entire race, war was necessary.

Lu Yun didn’t have much time and neither did Earth. When outsiders charged in after six hundred years, the planet would be one of their primary targets. The greatest heavyweights among the invaders would naturally meet their match, but Earthlings themselves had to be strong if they wished to protect their home.

One thrived in calamity and died in soft living.

Goldenlight looked at him. “Are we heading to the stars now?”

“No,” Lu Yun shook his head. “Time to kick down the sea temple.”

“Huh??” Goldenlight’s jaw dropped. Wasn’t Princess Mu on the same side as them?

“It only looks like there are three factions on Earth. Who knows what kind of unsavory characters are hidden among us? We need to see the full act through!” Lu Yun turned into a streak of golden light and flew toward the sea temple.

Experts abounded at the temple and it also possessed an incredibly strong sea goddess. Lu Yun wasn’t able to gain the upper hand and slunk away with his tail between his legs. Finally, they headed to the stars.

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Princess Mu rubbed her forehead with some resignation.

“Strange, the soul ghost reincarnated into the World of Sea, so why wasn’t I born alive? My soul is still dead after rebirth.” She shoved a karmic fruit into her mouth and pondered the issue through bites of the sparkling fruit.

She was different from Fuxi’s family since the latter’s primary bodies had been buried in tombs. Only their replicas of the mind roamed the land. Even if they reincarnated and completely lived out their lives, they were still dead.

Princess Mu was the complete reincarnation of the soul ghost and should’ve been alive. The past should’ve remained in the past and everything started anew. But somehow, she remained dead and the soul ghost returned after she entered the yang tomb. In fact, it was slowly replacing her!

If it wasn’t for her meeting Fuxi’s kind self after coming to Earth, the personality that belonged to Princess Mu would likely have already vanished.

Sighing gently, she lifted her head and looked up at Lu Yun in the stars. Lu Yun could help her come back to life as a real, living person. He’d resurrected Fuxi in the hell tomb, after all.

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Lu Yun and Goldenlight's entrance into the cosmos raised quite a bit of attention. But due to the Dao King's measures, all news was sealed off and no one knew what the two were doing among the stars.

It was a boundless sea of celestial bodies and cosmic phenomena, but the stars were derived from the corpses of connate demon gods. They were buried in this vast expanse upon death and later transformed into stars due to influence from the laws of the stars. Space around Earth was a massive mausoleum; the stars here were both the bodies of connate demon gods and real stars. Lu Yun's star diagram and battle flag were meant to collect the expansive mausoleum.

He'd seen both flag and diagram before. Hong had wielded the battle flag while Meng kept the star diagram. It was also proof that other than the Dao King, the original emperor was also involved.

However, Meng Wang never raised the issue to Lu Yun—evidence that he'd deleted the relevant memory from his mind. When Princess Mu spoke of the matter, she'd also done so with an expression of deep thought. She'd told Lu Yun that another world was going to refine Earth, but he knew that this wasn't the case the moment he entered the void with the two items.

There were layers upon layers to the schemes at hand and lies abounded at every turn. Even he didn't know what he was doing in the cosmos and why he wanted to collect the mausoleum.

The seed of nothing played a crucial role in all of this, but it wasn't the final goal. That it'd returned to its origins and suddenly appeared at this point in time was only meant to set other events into motion.

Lu Yun and Goldenlight both landed on Mount Buzhou. Hongjun had anticipated their arrival, so was already waiting for them.

"You should've come here first two hundred years ago, not gone to the rest of the worlds." Standing at the peak of Mount Buzhou, Hongjun gazed into the vast expanse of stars ahead of him. He'd sealed Goldenlight into a piece of crystal the moment the scarlet ape appeared—he couldn't see, hear, or say anything.

"Everything was for this place?" Lu Yun frowned.

"Do you know what the mountain suppresses?" Hongjun asked.

Lu Yun opened the Spectral Eye and looked down to the foot of the mountain. He didn't see anything.

The mountain hadn't been here during the great wilderness. It'd appeared to seal off the fissure leading from the chaos to the worlds. The fissure was long gone, but the mountain remained; it suppressed another terrible existence.

Lu Yun shook his head.

"It's the corpse of the master of this land. He's become a corpse demon and is furiously raging against the seal," Hongjun responded lightly. "The entire mausoleum in the cosmos was prepared for him so he could be laid to rest and buried here. Sadly, it failed."

Lu Yun shook. The body of the master of this land?

"I thought you wanted to use the battle flag and star diagram to recreate the Major Cycle Worlds," he inhaled sharply. "If the Corpse Refiners find out about such a terrible corpse demon here..."

"They're here precisely for it," Hongjun nodded. "The master's body has mutated primarily due to influence from their corpse dao. If you'd sealed it into the battle flag two hundred years ago and then gone to eliminate the foundations of corpse dao... we might stand a chance now. But now, it's obtained corpse dao and will become the new foundation for corpse dao in the Land of Reincarnation."

Chapter 1780.1: None of Them Are Anything Good

"The Corpse Refiners? Again?" Lu Yun's head ached when he heard the name.

He hadn't thought of them as real opponents when he first met them, and even fantasized about working together one day to excavate all of the tombs in the world of immortals. Who would've thought that they'd be his greatest enemy now?

Hongjun nodded with some resignation. "This sect is very uncanny. It's extremely old and a constant presence in existence. They were there when the Moran Clan and dragons rose to prominence, and while the latter two have become the main voices of the chief worlds, the Corpse Refiners remain the same as they always were."

"So... I have a question." Lu Yun took a careful look at Hongjun before asking, "Who might you be, senior? And are you alive or dead?"

"I'm alive," Hongjun burst out laughing. "I'm alive and so are Pangu and God. My three disciples also walk among the living and we're all from the grand worlds in the outside realm. At least, you can think about us in this way for now."

Lu Yun silently committed the "chief worlds" term to memory. Hongjun had mentioned it more than once—this was likely the name of the worlds in the outside realm. His last sentence was also indicative that Hongjun's background and that of those associated with him were grander than even the chief worlds.

Except, they seemed to have fallen on tough times. They were akin to tigers that'd left their hills and faced insults by dogs in the plains.

"I always thought that you were the manifestation of the owner of this land," Lu Yun grumbled.

The owner of the Land of Reincarnation was undoubtedly a peerless powerhouse. Those who visited from the outside were limited by the rules and orders he'd set when he was alive; none of the outsiders dared put a toe out of line.

No one knew why he'd created this land—it was once the territory of the god of Mount Tai. The owner didn't set the endless loops into motion until after the god's death.

He'd later died himself, killed by another unparalleled existence.

"Him?" Hongjun shook his head. "Completely dead a long time ago. He left behind only a body that's mutated into a corpse demon—thanks to the bitterness that he nursed in life. It wants to break out and run through the land. The Corpse Refiners seem to be in contact with it."

“The Dao King didn’t send me here to kill the corpse demon, did he?” Lu Yun couldn’t help a shudder. He looked at the star diagram and battle flag in his hands, suddenly feeling like they were hot potatoes.

He was just sixth level immortal dao sequence. While he was a mighty titan in the primary worlds, he didn’t even qualify to be an ant when it came to a powerhouse of the chief worlds. Kill or seal away the corpse demon?

Lu Yun didn’t want to die an early heroic death!

He finally saw the complete picture in this moment. With Mount Buzhou as the center, there was a formation around it that connected to the Mount Buzhou on the World Star. The entire strength of the Land of Reincarnation was required to suppress the zombie.

That meant it could kill Lu Yun with a twitch of its fingers!

He’d calculated the future with formula dao—the Tome of Life and Death wouldn’t be able to save him if he dared visit the demon. His death was certain with no hope of survival! Just as Hongjun said, if he’d sealed away the corpse zombie before it obtained corpse dao, they would have a glimmer of hope. Just a glimmer, but hope nonetheless.

It was gone now.

Hongjun first shook his head, then nodded. “You need to go with me to its tomb and help me break the layout so I can seal it.”

Lu Yun stared fixedly at Hongjun. “No, you can’t go! You’ll die too!”

“If I don’t, then when the true experts of the Corpse Refiners arrive in six hundred years, the corpse demon will return to full wakefulness and we still all die then.” Hongjun smiled brilliantly.

Lu Yun suddenly thought of Mo Yi once telling him to leave with everything he owned and starting anew in the outside realm. Perhaps... she’d already seen the existence of the corpse demon then.

“Six hundred years?” Lu Yun dipped his head in thought.

“Yes, just six hundred years,” Hongjun nodded smilingly. “Qing Buyi, Chen Xiao, and even Lu Feng have all been by. They’re unable to do anything about the corpse demon too. Now with the appearance of the seed of nothing and revitalization of the ancestral planet, this mausoleum is stirring to life. In his Haotian disguise back in the day, the Dao King imprinted the star diagram into this section of the desolate void and rearranged the bodies of the connate demon gods into this layout.

“We need to shift the tomb into the battle flag to utilize its power of slaughter so we can bury the corpse demon anew.” Hongjun’s eyes shone brightly. “I need to personally ensure that it stays under control during the process, while you call upon the battle flag with your treasure. Perhaps, some day in the far off future, the corpse demon will become one of your subordinates.”

Lu Yun shook as he suddenly thought of an extremely terrifying idea.

“When the great one of the original Hongmeng deployed the Dragonquake Scripture, he wanted to shatter the original Hongmeng so the worlds could prosper. But he failed, and when the Hongmeng

broke, so did the worlds. After everything died in the original Hongmeng, they were buried in the stars beyond the Central Hongmeng..." he recounted as he shook like a leaf.

"I did that," Hongjun nodded. "He should've succeeded, but I broke the worlds so they would form the mausoleum outside the Central Hongmeng and eventually nurture the battle flag in your hand."

He reached out a hand and displayed a tiny dot of black light. This was the ultimate concentration of retribution. If it landed on anyone else, even Meng Wang, they would instantly fly apart as dust.

"The tree god volunteered to die when he discovered our plan, so that he could bear part of the retribution and resentment from my actions. It was outside our expectations that you would later use the remains of his body to cultivate hell dao."

"And the tombs in the world of immortals? And the fact that the entire world is a tomb itself?" Lu Yun asked.

"The great war of immortals a hundred thousand years ago was also to create tombs. With the world of immortals as a tomb, it connected to the mausoleum in the space around the ancestral planet to jointly seal away the corpse demon," Hongjun sighed. "The corpse demon unexpectedly stirred to life a hundred thousand years ago. The mausoleum and Mount Buzhou could no longer keep it confined. We were out of options and had to ignite that great war.

"The ancient tombs in the world are all from the Dao King, whereas the Dao King and Fuxi jointly turned the world of immortals into a tomb. Tianqi and I wove together a narrative that concealed the truth of that time, making everyone believe that the war that ripped through the world came about because of the chaos, Hongmeng, akasha ghosts, realm monsters, and races that'd once been ruled by the humans."

Goosebumps of horror rippled over Lu Yun's body.

Chapter 1780.2: None of Them Are Anything Good

He'd just been poignant with emotion that, out of consideration for the future of humans on Earth and everyone else, he'd tacitly agreed to wars taking place on the planet. He was considering things from the vantage point of an entire race's benefit!

Only now did he realize that his vision was far limited compared to those of people like Hongjun and the others. He wouldn't be able to commit to their course of action, even if he knew that the corpse demon would appear in the future with the power to destroy everything. The death of all of the connate demon gods was likely due to Hongjun's group as well. Suppressing the corpse demon and crafting a great tomb most likely lay behind Fuxi's desire to eliminate every one of this powerful and illustrious group.

Despite the newfound knowledge, Lu Yun could find no fault with them. In the past thirty-three loops, they'd all died by his side. One by one they'd fallen, all for him. Hongjun was about to do the same thing again—corralling the corpse demon with his life meant that he would fly apart into the ether as soon as Lu Yun sealed the demon into the battle flag. All traces of his existence would be erased, making it impossible for even the Resurrection death art to revive him.

The dot of retribution he held in his hand was sufficient to destroy everything about him. If they could sacrifice even themselves, then they could naturally sacrifice other living beings around them.

“If we didn’t go about it that way, the Corpse Refiners would become involved, as would the reincarnation guardian and inspector. Even the powerhouses of the chief worlds would make their moves to release the corpse demon, allowing it to ravage this land as it would,” Hongjun continued. “The world of sequence, seed of nothing, and other hidden treasures of this land—including yours—are all objects of their desire.”

He referred to the Tome of Life and Death. While Hongjun didn’t know what the book was, he was certain that many coveted it. Those powerhouses were the reason behind the death of the owner of the Land of Reincarnation.

“And you guys??” Lu Yun set his jaw and resolutely asked his question. “What is your goal? You’re not natives of this land, you’re just as august and lofty as the rest! Why do you sacrifice yourself here?!”

His chest heaved from emotion—it wasn’t that Lu Yun didn’t trust them, but that he felt all of this was hardly worth their sacrifice.

“Do you have friends?” Hongjun asked in return.

Lu Yun blinked; a certain possibility came to mind.

“These were once the worlds of the god of Mount Tai. He cultivated the five paths of hell dao and created the five hells, but didn’t turn the worlds into hell itself.” Hongjun could tell from the confusion in Lu Yun’s eyes that the young man had an inkling of the answer. “The first world of sequence in the chief worlds was one of hell dao sequence—the world of sequence that your seed of nothing was before. The tree god was the first spirit root in the world of hell dao sequence.

“All of us received great favor from the god of Mount Tai and every living thing in the Land of Reincarnation is his bloodline. After his death, the three of us remained here to safeguard his legacy and descendants. We brought our legacies and descendants here too, putting down roots and supporting one another.

“And so we safeguarded each other until his arrival. He broke the world of hell dao sequence and used it as the basis to construct the Land of Reincarnation.” Hongjun murmured to himself, “The laughable thing is that none of us were a match for him. We could only watch as he did what he wanted and couldn’t offer any resistance in response.”

Lu Yun listened silently. He thought of Tianqi—Tianqi wasn’t the god of Mount Tai, but a new, independent being. In the war of immortals a hundred thousand years ago, the mountain god had returned. A part of his lingering obsession had yet to fade away and reformed into the god of Mount Tai.

There were traces of the god to be found in the fourth realm after the new era began. The hells that came later all appeared during that time, proof that the mountain god wasn’t fully dead in the first place.

When the Hadal Hell connected to the great wilderness, the mountain god was nearly reborn at their intersection. However, it seemed highly likely that the reincarnation guardian and inspector had been waiting, ambushing and almost killing him inside Mount Tai. Thus, he became the Tianqi that they now knew.

“So do you understand now?” Hongjun asked meaningfully. “Although we are not native to this land, we are here because the mountain god’s legacies, our legacies, children, and descendants are all here.”

“Yes,” Lu Yun nodded and thought for a moment. “Give me five hundred years. There is no other end for you but death if you go, so give me five hundred years. I can figure out a way to take care of the corpse demon.”

“What, are you unwilling to let me die?” Hongjun shook his head. “I am a vile creature who has committed the most heinous crimes. I have caused countless wars and made innumerable lives suffer and perish. The will of heaven will not suffer my existence if I don’t die.”

Lu Yun shook.

“The will of heaven? Is there truly a will of heaven?” His laugh was a ghastly sound. “If there was, would there be this Land of Reincarnation? If there really is an existence that it does not tolerate, it would be the corpse demon beneath our feet!”

Hongjun had no response to that.

“Five hundred years! I’ll be back with an answer for you after five hundred years!” Lu Yun tossed the star diagram and battle flag into the Tome of Life and Death. Leize had long since left, there was only the Imperial Seal and the demon of immortal dao that lived inside.

Hongjun sighed and waved his hand. “That’s one heck of a plan. Five hundred years from now is also a crucial point for the corpse demon. Once it passes, it will fully be one with corpse dao. Not only will it take my life to seal him away then, but it will also take Pangu and God’s life.”

“I’ll leave this big monkey here to keep you company. He has a hot temper and is easily distracted. If he can settle down, he’ll grow much stronger.” Lu Yun changed the subject and left Mount Buzhou.

Hongjun took a look at Goldenlight before undoing his seal.

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“Do you need the god of Mount Tai to return?” the demon of immortal dao suddenly asked.

“Nope, he’s nothing good himself,” Lu Yun snorted. “Tianqi is Tianqi. He won’t exist anymore if the mountain god comes back. I’m not about to trade my precious disciple for an unknown mountain god.”

“True, he’s nothing good either,” the demon nodded. “I think master killed him back in the day because he was about to do something that completely violated his conscience.”

“Neither is your master anything good.” Lu Yun ignored the demon as he’d arrived at the intersection of the world of immortals and underworld.