

Necropolis 1781

Chapter 1781: Devouring the Netherdark

The underworld was a manifestation from the Netherdark Hell. The latter was the first Netherdark Hell refined by the god of Mount Tai and it contained netherdark hell dao. Lu Yun now possessed four hells that came from the mountain god's hands. Given their origins, they were the strongest examples of their existence.

The hell dao that Lu Yun cultivated was perfected off the foundations of the mountain god's hell dao. What made his different was that he had six hells, and that the Hell of Order was the core of the six.

Only with order was there a basis of life. Only with order could life spring forth and flourish. And only with order did life have a final destination.

That was why Violetgrave had told Lu Yun all those years ago that the hell yet to appear was the most vital one. She'd said that he would set foot on his own path and create his own future only after he comprehended the existence of that hell.

Lu Yun did indeed successfully grasp the Hell of Order and light its hellfire, turning it into the Disordered Hell and making the six hells whole. That was how he was able to truly set foot onto hell dao and surpass where the god of Mount Tai had once stood.

If the mountain god had been able to create the Disordered Hell, then he might not have died. His world of hell dao sequence wouldn't have fallen either.

Hell dao encompassed not only the six hells, but also Ruina and the Firmament Prison. Ruina commanded the seas and was the ultimate resting place for all living beings in the sea. The sea was a different ecosystem compared to the others—hence, it'd compelled Ruina to appear. Ruina itself was a hell as well and could split off into six hells. It counted as a branch of the netherworld.

As for what exactly the Firmament Prison was, that stumped Lu Yun to this day.

He possessed only a tiny fragment of it. While it contained a bit of the prison's great dao, it was so minuscule that he wasn't able to derive anything from it. It was like an unknown seed—while it might contain a towering tree, Lu Yun couldn't see what could possibly grow from it.

Even so, the six hells were the foundation of hell dao. If he could advance them to peak perfection, then he might be able to make the seed sprout. To that end, he brainstormed a myriad of possibilities that could potentially work. If he combined all six hells into one, his strength would leap forward and possibly reach unfathomable levels.

He'd yet to visit the locale he was setting out for because he'd previously been unable to claim the Netherdark Hell. But now that he'd refined the other four, the core essence of his hell was strong enough for him to corral the remaining one.

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"I waited here for two thousand years. What took you so long? You're finally here," Violetgrave looked mournfully at Lu Yun.

“Eh, hang on a second, don’t look at me that way!” Lu Yun jumped with shock when he saw Violetgrave’s expression. “I, I have dao partners...”

Long violet hair framed her violet eyes and she looked captivatingly airy in a violet robe. It didn’t seem possible that any man in existence could resist her presence.

“What are you talking about?!” Violetgrave’s piteous look snapped into a vicious glare. “The old mountain god’s lingering will refuses to disperse and the power of the Netherdark Hell is regathering. It wants to swallow me whole, so there’s no place for me to go but here!”

She was quite dejected and her Bluegrave replica was part of her again. She’d thought that freedom was hers after she left the spatial node in the darkness, but she’d ended up right back here. She hadn’t been able to go anywhere during these years!

“The lingering will of the mountain god?” Lu Yun frowned. “Then Tianqi...”

“Don’t worry about him, the kid’s got something that protects him. The fragmented spirit of the god of Mount Tai can’t do anything to him.” Violetgrave thought for a moment. “Be very careful about that mountain god, he won’t die that easily. Also, Hongjun, Pangu, and God think they’re friends with him? He used them! He’s been using them all this time. They didn’t need to stay here!”

“He’s the one who brought their family and heirs to this land.”

Violetgrave didn’t have a good impression of the mountain god since he’d appeared several times in the fourth realm. He’d borrowed Tianqi’s body to facilitate the war a hundred thousand years ago, and it was highly likely that everything Hongjun did in life after life was a compulsion from the mountain god.

Hongjun carried immense retribution on him, of that there was no doubt. But when Lu Yun tried burning off the retribution with the Judgment of Life or Death, he hadn’t been able to touch a single hair on Hongjun’s head. Plainly, the Tome of Life and Death didn’t think that Hongjun deserved death.

“Also...” Violetgrave droned on when she saw Lu Yun’s eyes glaze over.

“Can you finish saying everything all at once?” The young man rubbed his forehead.

“Alright alright, this is the last thing I have to say. The mountain god can’t sense the existence of your sixth hell due to the limits of his potential. My pet theory is that when you reach grand perfection in hell dao and create one hell, he’ll jump out and try to make everything his,” Violetgrave warned solemnly.

Lu Yun compressed his lips, he was worried about this too.

“Therefore, you need protectors. Spacetime travelers Chen Xiao, Qing Buyi, and Lu Feng... and the even more powerful Dao King and Mo Yi. Get them all to stand guard for you!” Violetgrave clenched her fists. She was truly afraid of the mountain god since she’d emerged from the Netherdark Hell and become her own person. If he came back, the hell would immediately swallow her and she’d lose her sense of self.

She was also very familiar with him and knew of the many things he’d done in the past.

“Mm, I understand,” Lu Yun nodded. The god of Mount Tai suddenly seemed like a viper in the dark, waiting to strike at any opportune moment. The young man opened his arms and commanded the hell battleship to sail majestically forth.

This was one of his contingencies—he hadn't refined the four new hells into his body. Instead, he'd incorporated them into the ship. While they were under his control, he could sever his connection with them at any time.

He could also detonate them!

Terrifying suction force erupted from the vessel. Under the Tome of Life and Death's supervision, the underworld rumbled into motion and was slowly absorbed by the hell battleship.

Three days later, the underworld that'd been slowly devouring the world of immortals since time immemorial completely vanished.

"Here are two tattered hells—a Sanguine and Nihil Hell." Violetgrave offered two hells with an open palm. They were the source of the yin spirits that plagued the world and two hells that connected directly to the land of darkness. "You have another Abyssal Hell, right? Feed these three to your Disordered Hell!"

Chapter 1782: All In Readiness

The Sanguine, Hadal, Nihil, Abyssal, and most recent Netherdark Hell that Lu Yun had obtained were all created by the god of Mount Tai. As the first examples of their kind, they were the strongest hells.

Compared to them, Lu Yun's Disordered Hell was so puny that it was as if a newborn child. If the six hells needed to become the one and only real hell, the Disordered Hell needed to grow stronger. It had to be the strongest of them all, otherwise the mountain god might claim even their combined selves when he reappeared.

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"These hells..." Lu Yun blinked at the fragmented hells that Violetgrave offered him.

"These ones weren't refined by the god of Mount Tai," she chuckled when she read his worry. "The mountain god built the Hadal Hell by destroying nine worlds that'd fully developed, but it was mysteriously conquered by a certain existence. His perfect plan was a complete waste, and I'm the one who created these particular hells."

"Eh?!" Shock flashed across Lu Yun's face.

"I'm formed of the Netherdark Hell and am well versed in the mountain god's hell dao. I can easily refine other hells as long as I pay the proper price." Violetgrave rubbed her forehead. She'd slept so much before and constantly transacted with others to devour their souls because she expended significant quantities of her own core essence to create the other three hells.

She'd been setting up her own plans, ones to find a cultivator of hell dao so she could help him perfect the dao. Once the cultivator defeated the god of Mount Tai, she would be truly freed from her hell.

Violetgrave had chosen Lu Yun the second she saw him not because he was Fuxi's heir, but because of the Tome of Life and Death. It was this treasure that'd subdued the Hadal Hell created by the mountain god; the Hadal Hell had later turned into the human hell.

When Lu Yun set out for the Hongmeng, she'd gifted the opportunity of the Hell of Order to him. That enabled him to successfully comprehend the concept of order and break away from the confines of the Hadal Hell, thereby setting foot on his own path.

Thus, he was very grateful to Violetgrave. If it wasn't for her pointers, he would still be the mountain god's chess piece—despite owning the Tome of Life and Death. While he'd yet to come face to face with the real god of Mount Tai, Lu Yun had essentially lived in his shadow all this time before.

The young man had struggled free of the cycle of reincarnation and become an anomaly. Every single one of his steps was the future, but he was still operating beneath the mountain god.

Fortified with new knowledge from Violetgrave, Lu Yun cast off his hesitation and immediately set out for the land of darkness. He'd calculated early on that this was where he would establish his dao. Hell dao should rise from the dark; likewise, the darkness of the Land of Reincarnation should be terminated by hell.

Violetgrave breathed out more easily when she saw Lu Yun collect the Netherdark Hell. She was close on his heels to the land of darkness.

There were many passages between the world of immortals and the dark. Some of them were spatial nodes, and some of those existed between the Hongmeng and the darkness. They were scattered throughout the fourth realm like so many tumors, unable to be excised. If the issue of the darkness wasn't taken care of, the first to be overrun with trouble six hundred years from now wouldn't be Mount Astronomia. It'd be these spatial nodes that linked to the gloom.

Numerous people sensed the direction of Lu Yun's travels. Up on the peak of Mount Buzhou, Hongjun suddenly paused in the middle of a lecture for Goldenlight and stood up. Just as he was about to follow the young man, a brilliant star descended over his head.

The World Star.

"Ah Zhi!" Hongjun was taken aback. There was a Mount Buzhou on the star as well, one that was the other side of the one he was on. Since the World Star was here, then its master, the Star Sovereign, must be here too.

"The Major Cycle Worlds have completed their emergence and have been absorbed by the World Star." Ah Zhi, Chu Xingran, and Diexi stood side by side on the star. The Star Sovereign explained with a smile, "They don't need to be in the secondary worlds. When Lu Yun takes care of the corpse demon after five hundred years, we can place the Major Cycle Worlds in the cosmos around the ancestral planet and make the worlds whole again!"

The worlds were flawed and Earth was their foundation. Earth was a planet derived from the seed of nothing. If a star containing the Major Cycle Worlds rested in its night sky, then it was very possible the worlds could be made complete!

"Five hundred years..." Hongjun frowned deeply and looked down at the foot of the mountain with great worry.

“Senior, you and Lu Yun won’t be the only ones present then. All of us will be,” Chu Xingran smiled. “The dragon race—azure dragons in particular—and Darklake in the outside realm have decided to stand by Lu Yun’s side. Lu Yun will have powerful reinforcements in five hundred years.

“So not only will there be enemies rushing into the Land of Reincarnation after six hundred years, but there will also be friends.”

Hongjun’s frown abated somewhat—he was thinking of Chen Xiao and Qing Buyi. And unknown to the man, Lu Yun’s brother had also made quite a name for himself and was one of the richest tycoons around.

Qing Yu and the little fox were in closed door cultivation. When they received the ten thousand heaven and earth ancestral veins, they immediately decided to combine the core essence of the world of sequence and Fairylands as one.

Fairylands had once been a fake world of sequence that successfully pulled the wool over many people’s eyes. Thus, there were many similarities between it and a real world of sequence. Combining the two had been Lu Yun’s plan all along.

As opposed to completing tasks one by one, he was finishing several at the same time.

Rumble—

Golden radiance enveloped Mount Buzhou as a tree of pure gold suddenly appeared by its foot, soaring to the sky and dyeing the mountain with its splendor.

The Karmic Tree!

It wasn’t the one growing in the center of Lu Yun’s kingdom of hell, it was Tianqi’s.

Tianqi was just Tianqi after the Tome of Life and Death thoroughly severed his ties to the past. In the same vein, he’d willingly given up the Karmic Tree. Otherwise, the god of Mount Tai would certainly tamper with the tree when he came back and somehow revert Tianqi back into the mountain god.

Boundless energy of virtue flowed out of the tree and encircled the mountain. It also draped around Hongjun and slowly dissolved the terrifying retribution he carried on his shoulders. At the same time, the Mount Buzhou on the World Star turned into a shadow that melded into the landmass beneath it, solidifying the mountain.

The combination of the two mountains also pushed the power of the Major Cycle Stars within the World Star toward the mausoleum in space. Everything was done to prepare for the grand occasion in five hundred years.

Even Princess Mu on Earth forfeited her temple to visit Mount Buzhou so she could bask in the magnificence of virtue.

Lu Yun reached the land of darkness at this moment.

Chapter 1783: Six Hundred Years of Peace

A great hubbub rose from the land of darkness as countless endarkened, yin spirits, and ghosts fled in all directions. In the gloom, a black dao flower gracefully unfurled its petals. Formless ripples threaded with the silver luminescence of order radiated through the dark.

Outsiders hidden in the darkness reeled with shock and dispersed like rats. The gloom was beginning to constrict around them. They wanted to seek shelter on the secondary worlds, but those were now surrounded by a massive zombie king formation. Three hundred and sixty-five zombie kings occupied the positions of the former Major Cycle Worlds and released incredible power.

This was the formation once set up by the Corpse Refiners. Diexi had dismantled and refined it, wresting even the World Jail layout free from the sect's control.

Only when the secondary worlds were supported by the great formation did Ah Zhi take the World Star to Mount Buzhou.

Since the secondary worlds were a dead end, the endarkened and outsiders rushed for Mount Astronomia instead. Qing Buyi kicked all of the endarkened back into the gloom and arrested every single outsider. Everyone from the Corpse Refiners, outsiders in the tomb, and those who'd yet to gain an identity in the Land of Reincarnation ended up in captivity.

No reaction was forthcoming from the outside realm. No one dared raise a fuss at this junction. Qing Buyi had thrown a justified tantrum in the Esteemed Nebula matter and kept them out for another three hundred years. Who knew what he'd come up with next if he had another excuse to take advantage of?

Chen Xiao put in a showing as well. Though many knew what he'd done outside the three hell tombs, it didn't matter. Chen Xiao and Qing Buyi were the same type of person and thus a known factor. What occupied everyone's attention was that the one who'd modified the Lifeline Talismans, the wealth-obsessed stunning genius, was also a spacetime traveler!

Thankfully, Lu Feng didn't cross the line apart from thoroughly terrorizing three of Yun Yi's concubines. If this great personage was also offended, then no one in the outside realm would ever have a hope of having anything to do with the Land of Reincarnation.

Any desire for revenge or a reckoning would have to wait until the six hundred years were up!

Intimidation from Qing Buyi and Chen Xiao, exposure of Lu Feng's identity, and a variety of actions from others were all for the sake of six hundred years of peace.

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"That's my Dao Flower!" In the fourth realm, the Spacetime King looked glumly at the land of darkness. He'd brought his Dao Flower to influence the world of sequence so it'd become one of dark dao sequence.

That way, the Moran Clan would gain a new ally even if they didn't claim the world of sequence. They held the keys to cultivating the sequence of darkness, so the world's beholder would have to befriend them regardless.

Who would've thought that he and Ao Qin would both be gravely injured after their clash? Ao Qin's body remained in the yang tomb after his death, whereas the Spacetime King was forced into the reincarnation cycle and bizarrely gained the Spacetime King identity. His Dao Flower was snatched by another at the same time! It was incredibly frustrating that it would reappear in Lu Yun's hand and be used to subjugate the land of darkness.

This wasn't how the Dark Dao Flower was supposed to be used! What a waste of a priceless treasure!

"Thanks, Ole Ice. If it wasn't for you, I'd probably be one of the kid's subordinates by now." He suddenly turned around and patted the overlord of Ice next to him.

The overlord was the same as before. Nothing had changed about his cultivation level and he remained peak Nihil World Sovereign. He'd also burrowed into a new chunk of ice at some point and sealed himself away again. The Spacetime King had patted the ice around him just now.

"No worries," the overlord responded expressionlessly. "You should go back as soon as possible once this matter is finished."

"What about you?" The Spacetime King looked askance at him.

"I am a native of this land, where else can I go?" The overlord wrinkled his upper lip. "I'm staying here, of course."

He was a highly prominent native of the Land of Reincarnation and the most promising genius in the new era. He'd created the unprecedented method of nothing and accessed the sequence of time as a Nihil World Sovereign.

If it wasn't for Lu Yun suddenly hopping out as an anomaly, the overlord would certainly rise to the top and rival Dongfang Mo.

The Spacetime King scratched his head. "How about I take you back to my clan? Your potential can truly be excavated with the Morans."

"Let's talk about that later... what point is there in living if my home is gone?" The overlord spoke no more and his frosty-blue eyes turned pale purple—the color of time.

The Spacetime King shrugged. "You helped Dongfang Mo establish a world of spirit dao in the past loops and in this one, you helped that Lu Yun. Your destiny doesn't seem to be controlled by the cycle of reincarnation."

"That's because I met Lu Yun this time around. He changed my destiny and also changed Dongfang Mo's destiny." The overlord's lips barely moved; he didn't seem inclined to speak with the other.

An awkward quiet descended.

Affected by the dark dao, the land of darkness slowly contracted to the center of its domain—where the Dao Flower was. Lu Yun sat cross-legged in the center of the flower. Other than Violetgrave, another charming little beauty stood beside him. She looked to be seventeen years old and wore a black silk dress that perfectly accentuated her budding figure.

She was the Demonic Vine.

After devouring the connate demonic fetus, she was the foundation of demonic dao in the Land of Reincarnation. It was a true dao that could create a world of demonic dao and herald the land into the great devastation. However, she'd smoothly incorporated the brutal demonic dao into immortal dao, so she was now an Immortal Demonic Vine.

Her dao was yet to reach its end. As Lu Yun sat in the darkness refining hell, so did she take advantage of the opportunity to refine the darkness and enhance her strength.

The Demonic Vine was a thirty-sixth immortal dao sequence heavyweight. This was a level rarely seen even in the outside world since most cultivators tried to exceed sequence after reaching thirty levels.

In the chief worlds, thirty levels was the basis for surpassing sequence. The more levels one accessed after thirty meant the more potential one had, and the greater one's future achievements.

Lu Yun tossed the Sanguine, Nihil, and Abyssal Hells into the Disordered Hell. It started undergoing tremendous changes, but Moran Dongning and Xie Tianxun remained inside. The latter was terrified to the point of frothing at the mouth. He finally understood what kind of world he was in!

Focused on tempering his hell, Lu Yun ignored the nearly comatose Xie Tianxun and distracted Moran Dongning.

Devouring the three great hells was the first step, the second was to have the Disordered Hell swallow the land of darkness. Only then could the hell grow.

When Lu Yun lit the hellfire of order and created the Disordered Hell, he'd done so with ghost crystals as fuel. Those ghost crystals had been harvested from ghosts of the land of darkness, and the crystals were the concentration of disorder in the gloom. Once they were refined, they turned into disordered hellfire.

Lu Yun opened the doors to hell where he stood and easily gathered the land of darkness with help from the Dark Dao Flower. He coalesced the land's power into the core body of the Disordered Hell.

Chapter 1784: Not Willingly

"Kekeke, you're mine now!" A weird cackling sounded in Lu Yun's ears and a plethora of random thoughts bounced into existence. All sorts of negative emotions swirled and an inexplicable fire rose from his heart.

"What is it?" Busy absorbing energy from the darkness, the Demonic Vine jumped with shock. Violetgrave hastily blocked her hand when she reached out to touch Lu Yun.

"There's two ghosts hiding in the shadows, waiting to ambush Lu Yun. He purposefully relaxed his guard to lure them out." Holding firmly onto the girl's hand, Violetgrave backed both of them away.

The young man remained sitting cross-legged in the void, gray flames glowing out of his body. They enveloped the space around Lu Yun and slowly floated upward, forming a strange female face. She should've possessed beauty that could capitulate cities, but all she retained now was eeriness and unnaturalness. Her fire cast a gray radiance on the pure black of the center of the Dao Flower.

"There's only one of me, but two of you. How will you split me up?" Lu Yun opened his eyes with a hint of amusement.

“Two?” The ghostly face paused as a figure walked out of the void. The newcomer was a tall and slender man with long hair flowing past his shoulders. In a similar vein, his face that should’ve been undeniably handsome was nothing but a bloodless, stark white.

He was a ghost, whereas the woman attached to Lu Yun was a yin spirit. These two were the origin of the ghost race and yin spirits, two of the original tomb owners buried in the tombs of hell. They’d completely fallen to death, their ethereal and corporeal soul parts separating into ghosts and yin spirits. Only a tiny bit of their core essence remained to become the kings of their new creations.

Lu Yun refining the land of darkness alerted them—they’d been waiting for this moment. This was when they’d use Lu Yun’s body to come back to life.

“Are you trying to fight me for this body?!” the woman rasped with violent threat.

The man shook his head, then nodded. “You can have his body, I want his soul.”

“Deal!” the woman snickered as gray flames burned even more hotly on Lu Yun, trying to melt his flesh.

Violetgrave stopped the Demonic Vine again when she wanted to act.

“If you scare these two off, they’ll become bigger threats in the future. Lu Yun will have to be on constant guard against them. Therefore, we need to pull them up by the roots right now. Otherwise, they’ll cause issues for us again and again like the Curse King,” she admonished.

“The Curse King is a good man!” the vine grumbled softly. “He took care of a lot of problems for us.”

“That’s Chu Xingran, not the Curse King.” Violetgrave rubbed her forehead. Chu Xingran had inherited the Curse King’s destiny; while he’d been able to undertake some of his own preparations, he was unable to shake off his fate at large.

“Hush!” She suddenly clapped her hand over the vine’s mouth. Both of them vanished from the flower at the same time.

A third existence was on the scene.

A ghostly face that laughed and cried at the same time snapped jarringly into view over Lu Yun’s head. It opened its mouth and bit down on the woman’s face, sucking in fiercely to swallow even the gray flames she’d summoned.

“Your turn.” After he devoured the woman, the ghost ancestor stepped forward to sneer at the tall man. “Since my old friends are dead, you lingering pieces of obsession can disperse as well.”

He split himself into thousands of akasha ghost-like faces before the man could respond. They latched onto the limber ghost king at the same time and nibbled away at him.

Lu Yun’s eyebrows rose as he watched the mighty ghost ancestor wreak havoc on their enemies.

“So Moran Dongning subdued the ghost ancestor a long time ago. Whether it’s the akasha ghosts or ghost ancestor, it only appears on the surface that they’re formed from the resentment of my future self. In actuality, they’re all inspired by the Time Guard mask.” Lu Yun shook his head gently. The ghost ancestor had appeared in the Land of Reincarnation probably because Moran Dongning had beaten him

into the chaos long ago. He first turned into a joke for others, was then captured by Lu Yun, and finally turned into what he was now.

The basis for Moran Dongning overcoming the ghost ancestor was the capabilities of her mask. Meanwhile, the basis for Lu Yun defeating the ghost ancestor was the Tome of Life and Death. The ghost ancestor's name was now written in the treasure, so no matter who he'd been before, he was only the ghost ancestor now.

The ghostly face gnawed at the man for an indeterminate period of time. When the ghost ancestor slowly came to a halt, the terrifying leaders of the ghost race and yin spirits were no more. No one else could manage this feat other than the ghost ancestor. If Lu Yun used hellfire against them, they would simply be reborn in another patch of the unknown expanses. Such had been the conclusion that formula dao showed him.

"Master." The ghost ancestor took human form and knelt on a single knee. "They will not trouble you again."

"Were they your friends in the past?"

"They were my family." A deep trace of sorrow flashed through the young man's handsome face. "We weren't willingly buried here. Someone killed us and put us here—we were blood relations."

Lu Yun's heart spasmed painfully. As he thought, the original tomb owners weren't voluntarily buried in their modified tombs! All of the problems and disquiet had been the result of not finding peace or rest in death. Not everyone was like Leize's family, willing to sacrifice themselves so they could help the natives create a world of sequence.

"I just ate my older brother and sister," the ghost ancestor sighed. "They were both already dead and what remained was their resentment and obsession. By absorbing them into my body, at least they can find some peace."

"I see," Lu Yun nodded. "You may go, I grant you your freedom. You can go anywhere you'd like, and I'll erase your name from the Tome of Life and Death if you wish."

"No," the ghost ancestor shook his head. "Having my name in that treasure is an opportunity I can only hope for..."

"Then go wherever you'd like. I can tell that your heart is not in this land." Lu Yun waved him off, the scene of Di Yin setting foot onto the Bridge of Forgetfulness coming to mind. The same kind of bleak heartbreak was present in both of them, emotions that could not be described with words.

The ghost ancestor and his kin hadn't died natural deaths. Perhaps the rest of their family and loved ones were all buried there as well, long since consigned to oblivion.

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Five hundred years was neither a long period of time, nor was it a short one. Seas changed into mulberry fields and mulberry fields into the seas on Earth. Fundamental changes rocked the planet numerous times. While Earthlings were firmly on the path of cultivation, they were unable to fully acclimate to being cultivators or the life of immortals.

Lu Qingtian set foot on the path of cultivation and made his way to golden immortality. Lu Yun still avoided his master, an attitude that was echoed by Lu Qingtian. He even refused contact with any of Lu Yun's people and refused to learn anything having to do with his disciple. After he ascended to golden immortality, he understood the cause and effect of everything and felt only guilt toward Lu Yun.

At the same time, he knew that the young man felt guilty toward him, so it wouldn't be a good thing if the two met. He hid his name and identity, living quietly on Earth for five hundred years.

The land of darkness disappeared after these years, replaced by a vast emptiness. It contained order, rules, and laws, but there were no planets or stars. The large emptiness separated the primary and secondary worlds.

Lu Yun's Disordered Hell reached great perfection after devouring the entire land of darkness. Its residents had slowly matured during this time and their natures fully settled down. They all recognized Lu Yun as their master and no longer harbored any ulterior motives.

Chapter 1785: Spacetime Reincarnation

By now, the six hells were completely incorporated into the hell battleship, making it a moving hell that came under the true hell dao, as opposed to a microcosm of one. Rather than attempting to meld together as one, the six hells remained separate from each other in the vessel.

Apart from the two kings that the ghost ancestor had eaten, the endarkened and countless ghosts from the land of darkness were locked up in the Disordered Hell. There was also a magnificent sea of Hell Flowers in this hell. The final ending for the endarkened, ghost ancestor, and yin spirits was one of recollecting their souls in the flowers and becoming residents of the Disordered Hell.

"It's time to take care of that corpse demon!" Lu Yun took a deep breath. The land of darkness was no more and the Dark Dao Flower was beginning to wither. It dissolved into motes of black light and dispersed into the void, sent off by a sigh of extreme pity from the Spacetime King.

The Disordered Hell had reached peak perfection and the limits of its current existence. Lu Yun's cultivation advanced rapidly; he set foot into ninth level immortal dao sequence. Although that paled in comparison to the Demonic Vine next to him, he now counted among the elite powerhouses of the primary worlds in the Land of Reincarnation.

Hence, he could face the corpse demon with a bit more confidence.

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A brilliant World Star hung in the void over Mount Buzhou, trailing curtains of cosmic radiance that were tinged golden by the Karmic Tree at the foot of the mountain. Tianqi sat beneath the tree, having arrived shortly after Lu Yun's departure and keeping his post for five hundred years.

"Master!" He quickly stood up when he saw Lu Yun arrive.

"How are things?" the young man asked.

"I can sense the god of Mount Tai watching me, but I don't know where he is." Tianqi frowned slightly. He was the reincarnated form of the mountain god, but the god's will still existed somewhere. The god

had taken Tianqi's place in the war a hundred thousand years ago, not only becoming involved in the tomb of the world of immortals, but also erasing everyone's memories of the event.

The god of Mount Tai wanted to destroy the corpse zombie beneath Mount Buzhou as well—his interests perfectly aligned with Lu Yun in this regard. It was his unknown other plans that everyone was concerned with.

This time, Lu Yun potentially faced both corpse demon and the god of Mount Tai. All six hells were on him. The mountain god had once been the master of hell, so there was no reason for him to hold back.

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"You're here," Hongjun breathed more easily to see Lu Yun come on time. Although two Mount Buzhous and a sky full of stars maintained the integrity of the seal, the corpse demon beneath it agitated at every second.

Five hundred years was the absolute limit of the mountain.

While everything gleamed with perfection on the surface, it'd decayed on the inside long ago. Mount Buzhou couldn't withstand the slightest ill wind and was fragile beyond imagination.

Lu Yun was ready and so were Hongjun, Fuxi, Leize, Huaxu, and Wahuang. Even the Dao King and reincarnation inspector Jin Gushen were hidden off to the side, ready to reveal themselves if need be.

It could be said that apart from Mo Yi, all of the powerhouses in the Land of Reincarnation were present.

"No, the battlefield cannot be here!" Chu Xingran called out from the peak of Mount Buzhou. He'd been here all along. "I've asked the dragons for support. They can't enter the primary worlds, so..."

"So we'll go to the secondary worlds," Ah Zhi smiled. "I've made some preparations during years as well and deployed Space Reincarnation, swapping the space here with the one around the major cycle formation of zombie kings in the secondary worlds."

Lu Yun had passed down the two major combat arts of Space Reincarnation and Time Reincarnation. After melding them into formula dao and immortal dao, any student of the Formula Academy could train in them.

In the same vein, the shortfalls of one could be resolved by two. Countless cultivators had practiced the two combat arts over the past two thousand years, honing them to an infinite degree compared to when Lu Yun first created them.

Ah Zhi made use of the connection between the two night skies of Mount Buzhou to deploy Space Reincarnation and switch the two voids around. This was something that not even Lu Yun could've managed. She'd done so continuously over the past five hundred years, until she fully replaced the two with each other.

Even though Lu Yun was physically situated in the cosmos over Earth, he stood in the major cycle formation of the secondary worlds. Three hundred and sixty-five zombie kings sat quietly in space, having replaced the stars that should've twinkled in the emptiness.

Their major cycle formation shared the same origin as the formation on the World Star. That was how Ah Zhi was able to steal beams and pillars and replace them with rotten timbers, surreptitiously moving Mount Buzhou into the secondary worlds with none the wiser.

Ordinary spatial arts would've never managed the feat, but Lu Yun's combat art was the reincarnation of space itself! He was stunned by Ah Zhi's accomplishment.

"So we are in... the secondary worlds?" Hongjun, Pangu, and God looked at each other. Even those such as they couldn't see through everything that Ah Zhi had done. One had to say, the development of dao methods in the Land of Reincarnation had outstripped their expectations.

Ah Zhi nodded.

Chu Xingran blinked and suddenly looked above him—a dot of pale azure light had appeared, heralding the arrival of a man with azure hair picking his way through the void.

"Foster father...? You've come yourself?" Chu Xingran fell into a daze when he got a closer look at the man.

"Mhmm." The man with azure hair was the king of the azure dragons in the chief worlds—the Azure Dragon King!

This was a powerhouse stronger than supremes, the very elite of the dragon race. He could make all of the chief worlds tremble at his name. Of course, it wasn't his primary body here, just a replica of his will. Even so, he was far, far stronger than anyone could imagine.

Shock gripped Chu Xingran. He'd thought that the azure dragons would at most send a few supreme-level elders. Who would've thought that the king would come himself?!

"The corpse zombie resulting from that person's body must be eliminated. It will be a disaster for the chief worlds otherwise. In addition, the Corpse Refiners are also poised in the shadows. They may be using each other, but whoever wins will spell doom for us all," said the Azure Dragon King. "Despite coming here, I cannot take action myself. However, I can hold off the heavyweights of the Corpse Refiners for you."

According to the rules that Qing Buyi had set, cultivators of the chief worlds were forbidden to enter the primary worlds of the Land of Reincarnation. The Azure Dragon King being in the secondary worlds wasn't a violation of them.

Some Darklake supremes wanted to offer aid as well, but with the dragon king's appearance, their presence would be superfluous. Thus, they backed away.

"Alright, enough of the pleasantries. Let us begin." The Azure Dragon King was an aloof sort. After greeting Hongjun, Leize, and the others, he took to the air and sat down cross-legged in the void over Mount Buzhou.

He didn't intend on entering the worlds. Protecting Mount Buzhou and fending off the Corpse Refiners who were about to arrive was the most he could do. The king didn't want to be unduly involved with the karma relationships of the Land of Reincarnation either. Even if he cared deeply for certain people here, he would have to wait for them to leave the land first.

Lu Yun nodded, taking out the battle flag and star diagram. He threw the diagram into the flag.

Rumble—

A tremendous sound echoed from the battle flag—an expanse of unbounded cosmos seemed to cross space and time, breaking through the void from a distant world. It barreled into the pitch black flag as countless terrifying existences stirred to life in the space around Earth.

They were the connate demon gods that'd fallen during the era of the primordial dao. They'd been asleep for hundreds of millions of years, finally awakening in this moment. During these periods, they'd slumbered in the mausoleum and were irradiated by the power of the stars. They'd become celestial bodies and generals of the stars.

The Dao King had recollected the power of the broken Major Cycle Worlds to fashion into the mausoleum, battle flag, and star diagram. They were now reassembled in Lu Yun's hand.

Chapter 1786: Jiang Chen Attacks

No, it would be more accurate to say that they were a new combination of item rather than a reassembly. The three were now a new treasure, forming a battle flag that encompassed the power of the major cycle stars in the Land of Reincarnation. It was the Cosmic Battle Flag.

As the battle flag waved and snapped in the air, even the Azure Dragon King looked at it with appreciation.

"We can begin," came a faint voice from the void—the Dao King.

Booom.

Mount Buzhou crumbled into a gaping cavern with a thunderous rumble. Black lightning appeared as soon as the opening formed and a dark figure appeared out of thin air, darting into the cavern.

"I thought you'd wait until they were ready to deliver the final blow to the corpse demon. Who would've thought that you'd be so brash and hasty?" The Azure Dragon King blurred into motion the second the figure appeared. Azure radiance and the power of creation condensed into a massive barrier that blocked the dark form.

Creation!

The azure dragon ancestral god was a divine spirit born of creation. The same held true whether it was the azure dragon ancestral god of the outside realm or the Land of Reincarnation. Since the Azure Dragon King was descended from the ancestral god's bloodline, he naturally commanded creation as well.

When the power of creation appeared, the black figure immediately bounced off the entrance.

"How dare you interfere with my affairs, Azure Dragon King?!" The figure was enveloped with a layer of black smoke—it thinned when creation hit it, allowing Lu Yun to recognize their unwanted guest.

Jiang Chen!

Jiang Chen was an old zombie in the world of immortals. Having died a long time ago, he later returned to life through possessing one of his descendants and then took control of Truespirit Major. It could now be concluded that he'd planned out everything well in advance. He'd successfully slipped into the world of immortals with his death, and the only use for his bloodline was to provide future bodies for him to seize!

Everyone had thought that he'd only send a replica, but they were all wrong. He was here in his primary body!

He'd gone to the lengths of dying so he could be reborn in the world of immortals and become one of its denizens!

He set his fate in the first life he lived after arriving in the Land of Reincarnation. Countless reincarnations and endless rebirths had facilitated him to fully become part of this land and one of its natives.

Paling with horror, color rapidly drained from Lu Yun's face after he calculated all of this. Likewise, the Azure Dragon King looked grim.

"Since you dare interfere with my affairs, I'll swallow your replica and obtain your power of creation!" Jiang Chen roared laughter and waved his hand, materializing a Great Formation of Corpse Refinement. A vast horde of zombies walked out of it and dispersed in all directions. The formation then began refining the three hundred and sixty-five zombie kings—the Diexi's!

"It looks like it'll be up to the two of you, we can't help," Leize sighed.

Just a replica of will from the Azure Dragon King couldn't hold off Jiang Chen. Their combined strength was needed for the task. Leize's family, Pangu, God, and the Three Pure Ones were supposed to help Hongjun with the corpse demon, but they had to refocus on Jiang Chen. That old zombie was too horrifying.

"It's of no matter, the corpse demon won't be able to do anything as long as you keep Jiang Chen at bay." Hongjun waved a hand. "The rest of the juniors may withdraw."

Chu Xingran, the Demonic Vine, and others vanished without a trace. However, Diexi remained where she was and shook her head.

"I am no junior. Lu Yun, give me the crystal coffin."

Jiang Chen was already attacking the Azure Dragon King. Leize and the others rushed forward to stand with the king. Throughout this development, the Dao King remained on the sidelines.

"Alright," Lu Yun nodded and waved his hand, releasing the crystal coffin that he'd gathered into the Tome of Life and Death. A crystalline skeleton laid within—Diexi's body in her former life.

"You two can go in now." The incredibly heavy coffin seemed light as a feather in Diexi's hands. It minimized to the size of a palm and landed on her fingertips.

Lu Yun and Hongjun darted into the cavern without hesitation. The former paid no attention to the situation outside. He knew that he needed to act fast!

Leize and the others had no hope of triumphing over Jiang Chen; they wouldn't have all stayed outside to fight otherwise. Even now, Lu Yun didn't know what Jiang Chen was or what level his Corpse Refiners sect was at.

Everything he knew about Jiang Chen, he'd learned from others. Was Jiang Chen really just an old zombie that'd escaped from the Abyss of Divine Burial?

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It was like there was another abyss on the other side of the cavern. A noxious, pungent smell assaulted Lu Yun's nose and brain at every second.

"Senior, don't go down there yet." He halted after an indeterminate distance inside the cavern. "We don't stand a chance if we head in and go straight for the corpse demon like this. The... god of Mount Tai is possibly somewhere nearby!"

He paused slightly when he mentioned the mountain god. Though both Lu Yun and Violetgrave suspected the god, he was the dear friend and brother through life and death of Hongjun and the others. Given present circumstances, however, Lu Yun had to voice his reservations. Additionally, he held a trump card that he'd yet to play—Violetgrave had been hidden by his side all this time.

"Mm." Hongjun looked meaningfully at Lu Yun before nodding slowly. The black dot of retribution on him had been greatly weakened by the Karmic Tree, but the half that remained was still enough to destroy the Hongmeng.

He was here with a death wish. Perhaps even his old friend was long consigned to the back of his mind.

Lu Yun waved a zombie into existence—the twentieth level sequence zombie that the Corpse Refiners had sent into the Land of Reincarnation. While it possessed the strength of twenty levels of sequence, there was no presence of sequence on it. Even so, twenty levels was nothing but an ant in this cavern.

"We'll hitch a ride on this zombie and use its corpse qi to cover our presence. We can sneak into the lower levels that way!" Lu Yun refrained from using both the Shapeshifting death art and hadal hellfire. Those were parlor tricks in front of something like the corpse demon.

The best course of action was to hide behind a real zombie. Lu Yun had kept it in waiting for five hundred years for this exact moment!

Chapter 1787: One Chess Move Per Cycle

Since the corpse demon had devoured corpse dao and become the foundation of corpse dao in the Land of Reincarnation, the cavern was naturally suffused with corpse dao and crowded by zombies.

If Lu Yun and Hongjun hacked their way through, they'd be completely depleted of strength and stamina by the time they made it to the corpse demon. Even if they could seal it away, it would be a pyrrhic victory.

Sneaking in undetected was thus the best option.

Hongjun wasn't so inflexible as to insist otherwise. He and Lu Yun immediately turned into a mote of dust; hadal hellfire roared to conceal their vitality, making it seem like they were nothing more than two dust particles on the zombie's body.

The hellfire also concealed the ripples of the Size Manipulation death art. If Lu Yun used Shapeshifting after that, however, it would prove too much for the hellfire to conceal. His grasp over the death arts was yet to reach perfection. If it reached those levels, then all telltale ripples from his arts would fade away. Everything would be flawless, as if they were naturally part of the world.

But Lu Yun's cultivation was far from those levels.

The corpse demon in front of them was just another obstacle. Granted, it was an obstacle that Hongjun, the Dao King, and others had spent endless reincarnation cycles planning for. No anomalies had appeared in the previous loops, so everything proceeded in orderly fashion. The one fated to assemble the Cosmic Battle Flag and kill the corpse demon was Dongfang Mo, but Lu Yun strongly suspected that he always failed the task.

Spirit dao would perish as a result. The corpse demon wouldn't appear in successive loops if he succeeded, and changes would sweep through the Land of Reincarnation as well. Since the corpse demon had been the owner of the land, the Land of Reincarnation would be affected if it was destroyed.

After Lu Yun changed the appearance of the twentieth level sequence zombie into a completely different zombie, they continued diving into the depths of the cavern. As expected, zombies loomed out of the gloom after another ten thousand kilometers. They drifted about aimlessly, all of their eyes burning with green fire that set them apart from regular zombies.

"So this is where those zombies come from!" Lu Yun suddenly saw a very familiar zombie—the kind that assimilated anything it touched, killed, or touched it. He'd committed their unique presence to memory and had come across them in the Hongmeng as well. Their origins were mystifying and unfathomable, and now, he'd finally found where they originated from.

The specimen he saw was a massive being five thousand kilometers tall. It emanated a terrifying aura that far outstripped the one exuded by the zombie that Lu Yun and Hongjun rode on. In fact, the twentieth level sequence zombie was trembling with fear.

Zombies possessed a certain nebulous sentience; they could also project something akin to fear. Strictly speaking, they weren't dead. They were neither dead nor alive, exiled by heaven and earth and cast out by order.

Zombies were considered alive in the fourth realm since there was no power of heaven and earth there. However, heaven and earth were the ultimate peak of existence for order, so all normal worlds possessed such energy.

Thus, zombies were doomed to eternally wander between the boundary of life and death, neither dead nor alive and constantly tormented by abandonment.

"Quiet." Hongjun shook his head and transmitted, "The source of all zombies in the Land of Reincarnation is in this cavern. Jiang Chen started making his arrangements when he first arrived in this

land. Compared to the crystal coffin in the Major Cycle Worlds, this place is the Corpse Refines' true target.

"No matter where they succeed, it's a victory for the sect and Jiang Chen as long as they do. But in the same vein, we started making our plans when the loops first started. That was when destiny was decided."

Lu Yun nodded, thinking of the three hundred and sixty-five Diexi's who'd made her way through life and ultimately became part of the zombie king formation. On the other hand, those such as Hongjun and Jiang Chen were perhaps on the same level as the owner of the Land of Reincarnation. The cycle of reincarnation could affect them, but it couldn't toy with them. Thus, these great personages viewed the reincarnation cycles as their game board and made one move per cycle, ultimately giving rise to the situation facing them today.

The end of the Land of Reincarnation.

In the previous loops, including the thirty-three that Lu Yun had seen for himself, Lu Yun was just one of the failures of the era. Hongjun and Fuxi had jointly helped him, expending a heroic amount of effort to bring him to the great wilderness so the young man could observe the cosmos over it.

But Lu Yun had still failed, due to the Imperial Seal and the withered wood that nursed boundless curses.

Not only did he fail, but so were Hongjun, Fuxi, and the others affected. They ultimately perished for their involvement, vanishing into the void until the current cycle ended and the next one began. A new game of chess commenced and another move could be made.

"We have to succeed this time," Lu Yun set his jaw.

"The land has come to an end with this cycle. If we fail again, we will not be reborn through reincarnation," Hongjun sighed.

The zombie continued diving down. No one could tell how big or deep the cavern was. Lu Yun fully deployed the Tome of Life and Death as his eyes, probing their surroundings so they wouldn't get lost in the endless darkness.

They finally set foot on solid ground after seven days.

"Don't move!" Hongjun sharply transmitted. "We might be standing on the corpse demon right now!"

"We're not," Lu Yun shook his head. "A ginormous zombie lies here, the corpse demon is further down. It's the foundation for corpse dao for the Land of Reincarnation, but I don't sense any corpse dao from the zombie beneath us. The corpse demon has discovered us and sent the zombie to intercept the intruders."

Boom!

A gale of pungent wind descended from above as a mountain seemed to come down over them. It was the zombie's palm.

"Then let us fight."

Hummm.

Purple energy shot into the air from Hongjun's body and condensed into a sharp blade. One single slice was all it took to cleave the mammoth zombie in two.

"Let's keep going!" Hongjun grabbed Lu Yun and prepared to keep diving, but the young man made sure to put away the twentieth level sequence zombie.

"This zombie is the key to bringing down the corpse demon, we can't throw it away!"

Another caterwauling zombie rushed out from below before he finished talking. Hongjun released Lu Yun and slashed downward with another flash of purple light, but this time, the zombie smashed right through it.

"Jiangchen Xie of the Corpse Refiners greets Senior Hongjun. Long time no see, Lu Yun."

Chapter 1788: Scam

"Jiangchen Xie!" Lu Yun's eyes widened when he saw who was blocking Hongjun.

Jiangchen Xie was Jiang Chen's descendent and the greatest genius of the Corpse Refiners in the world of immortals. However, Jiang Chen had taken possession of his own bloodline and erased the latter in the process. Jiangchen Xie's soul should now be nothing more than empty motes on the wind.

What was he doing here and how was he rebuffing Hongjun??

Lu Yun stared fixedly at Jiangchen Xie, trying to glean some clues from him. However, formula dao came back with only pure blankness for the newcomer. He was a zombie, an incredibly mammoth zombie, but his face was the Jiangchen Xie that they all knew. He seemed extremely sinister and wafted black smoke with all of his gestures, like he'd previously been burned with something.

Lu Yun didn't dare treat their opponent with anything but solemn gravity. Gray abyssal hellfire rose from his body. The fires of the Abyssal Hell were the bane of zombies. They could consume all bodies, including the undead.

"Heh heh heh, no need to be so worried, Lu Yun. I'm here to save you." Jiangchen Xie's leer only served to deepen his sense of eeriness. However, there was no malice in his emotions, so Lu Yun believed him.

Hongjun's brows furrowed slightly and his purple sword light slowly condensed into a tangible, glowing shortsword. This was his personal weapon, one that he'd never displayed before others.

"I am Jiang Chen's descendant, but he seized my body and scattered my soul just because he wanted to be reborn in the world of immortals. I can never find release or be reincarnated, so I want revenge! I will destroy everything that is Jiang Chen!" The smoke emitting from him grew denser. "Three hundred and sixty-five lives! He killed me three hundred and sixty-five times!! The resentment from each time collected here and formed what you see now. I am neither a living being nor a zombie. I am resentment manifest!!"

Bloody tears trickled out of his eyes. He burned with fury, hatred, and bitterness that his own ancestor had lured him in to kill him! Thus, he'd materialized in this form with the aid of a certain existence.

“Three hundred and sixty-five lives? I’ve been here three hundred and sixty-five times before, but I’ve never seen you,” Hongjun remarked.

“It’s because you have Lu Yun with you this time. That’s why you’re meeting now.” Another figure walked up from the depths of the cavern. It was a red-haired youth wearing long robes that looked like they were made of black smoke.

“Yin Jiuying,” Lu Yun immediately identified. When his Xing Chen replica sought to kill Jiang Chen in the world of immortals, it’d been Yin Jiuying who stopped him. The latter’s true form was the connate divine beast jiuying and he’d been worshiped as a divine spirit in the Primordial Era. To think that he’d be here as well!

He was a guardian of the Corpse Refiners and had established the sect with Jiang Chen in the world of immortals.

“I didn’t think you’d remember me,” Yin Jiuying smiled faintly. He was a normal being, neither ghost nor zombie. What was most surprising was the presence of immortal dao on him.

Yin Jiuying was a cultivator of the immortal dao, and not the one of the Corpse Refiners, but pure immortal dao!

“Are you the one who saved Jiangchen Xie and concentrated his resentment here?” Hongjun connected some dots. He’d taken note of Yin Jiuying in the great wilderness, but hadn’t paid much attention to the man. Yin Jiuying had been a very ordinary person in countless reincarnation cycles and there was nothing noteworthy about him.

It was now that Hongjun realized how very wrong he was.

The appearance of anomalies and the termination of the reincarnation cycles was when these hidden characters would reveal themselves. They’d indifferently watched Hongjun and Jiang Chen battle in the past, staying on the sidelines even when powerhouses of the chief worlds were involved. They busily made their arrangements and readied their plans for the arrival of this pivotal moment.

“Correct,” Yin Jiuying nodded. “The heavens do not tolerate Jiang Chen for possessing his own descendant and it was not yet time for Jiangchen Xie to die. Thus, I used corpse dao as a medium to send him here, all for this moment!”

“You knew I would come? Lu Yun raised a brow.

“It didn’t matter who came.” Yin Jiuying first nodded, then shook his head. “You’ll have to destroy the corpse demon beneath us if you want to end the cycles. It’s the source of the endless loops, the power and energy of the reincarnation system.”

“Huh?” Lu Yun blinked and looked at Hongjun with a startled look. The other was likewise nonplussed. “You mean... the corpse demon isn’t the one who killed the god of Mount Tai and created the Land of Reincarnation?”

Yin Jiuying snorted and looked at Hongjun with amusement. “There are certain truths out there that you probably wouldn’t believe if you heard them. The corpse demon is the person you speak of, but he

didn't kill the mountain god. The mountain god killed him and buried him here, thus beginning the Land of Reincarnation.

"The creator of this land and the infinite loops is the god of Mount Tai!"

The color drained from Hongjun's face.

"The mountain god has been using you and your friends all this time. He stops at nothing in his quest for hell dao. You can hardly imagine the lengths he went to and effort he expended to locate the sixth hell. The whole purpose of this land is for the Hell of Order to appear!" Yin Jiuying sighed. "Now that it has, there is no point for the land to exist any further.

"If you go down there right now, Lu Yun, the corpse demon will kill you and the god of Mount Tai will strip you of everything that you are."

Hongjun fell silent; Lu Yun remained quiet as well.

A strange light glittered in Jiangchen Xie's eyes. While the group talked, he kept his eyes fixed upward to where Jiang Chen fought Leize and the others.

"Is the truth too much to bear? The land that you have safeguarded through countless cycles of reincarnation is a scam. It is a scam that the god of Mount Tai crafted to satisfy his selfish desires." There was no pity in Yin Jiuying's eyes, his expression was the same as Hongjun's. He'd been close friends with the mountain god as well and had come here on account of his old friend's dying wish.

Yin Jiuying had collaborated with Jiang Chen and fortified the foundations of corpse dao in order to destroy everything that Jiang Chen owned. After he discovered the cavern, Yin Jiuying switched his dao to immortal dao so he could practice Lu Yun's formula dao. The wondrous dao revealed a vast web of cause and effect to him.

He'd come to these conclusions only in this cycle. In the previous ones, he'd simply thought well of Jiangchen Xie and didn't want him to die in such a manner. Who would've thought that a stray moment of kindness would allow him to see the truth of everything?

"But the god of Mount Tai did die!" Hongjun forced out a protest.

"How would you believe him if he didn't die? He even forfeited his true spirit, soul, and seal to become Tianqi, but his will never truly perished. He's been keeping his plans going all along!

"Who do you think brought the darkness that suddenly appeared in the land? Not even the Moran powerhouse, the one who cultivates dark dao, can manage that feat! Only hell dao can summon the darkness!

"That land of darkness has now become the Hell of Order."

Chapter 1789: Scheme Within A Scheme

Hongjun rejected Yin Jiuying's words with every fiber of his being, but he also seemed to have no choice. He had to believe the revelation. Everything was laid out right in front of him!

He and his friends had battled Jiang Chen for countless loops and painstakingly set up their game boards, making each move with deliberate care. But it'd all been for naught! The god of Mount Tai had held them in the palm of his hands all this time!

What truly infuriated him wasn't the betrayal, but that Jiang Chen was here only because of the mountain god. Corpse dao was the source of the zombies in this land and the reason why there was a corpse demon beneath them.

The god of Mount Tai had turned on the one who'd ambushed him and become the owner of the Land of Reincarnation in their stead. As soon as he finished his setup, he crafted another plan to "kill" the owner of the land.

Thus, the mountain god and so-called master of the Land of Reincarnation vanished from public view, leaving behind only a reincarnation guardian and inspector to ensure that operations continued smoothly.

The Corpse Refiners then bared their fangs to corrupt the corpse in the cavern, the original would-be owner, and refined it into a corpse demon. They fetched Diexi's crystal coffin to anchor corpse dao so that it would reach the primary worlds from the secondary, thereby forming a connection with the corpse demon.

After the situation developed to this point, Hongjun, Pangu, and God would step forward to fight back against the Corpse Refiners and search for ways to resolve the corpse demon under Mount Buzhou.

And so it repeated, again and again, without fail and without pause. Having had it all revealed to him, Hongjun himself was able to use formula dao to verify what he'd been told.

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"And what do you want?" A frowning Lu Yun kept his attention on Yin Jiuying instead of looking at Hongjun. "Why should I believe you?"

"It's true, you shouldn't. But you're the one who created the Hell of Order, so all of this has to do with you," Yin Jiuying responded matter-of-factly. "I don't want you getting near the corpse demon because I don't want you to die. The mountain god will get everything he wants that way!"

Deep-seated hatred flashed through his eyes. Yin Jiuying couldn't accept having his closest friend lie to him and almost losing his life for a scam. The hatred never abated throughout the endless loops, slowly settling and etching itself into his heart instead.

He was like Jiangchen Xie now. While their resentment may not have been that overwhelming at first, a collection of three hundred and sixty-five lifetimes of it had been enough to turn him into a horrifying grudge corpse.

"Let Jiang Chen in so he can refine the corpse demon!" Yin Jiuying ground his teeth. "The people outside can't hold him off, he'll enter the cavern after he kills them. It'll be too late then. The best course of action is to let him in now. Once he refines the corpse demon, it won't be able to kill you!"

"But if he does, the entire land will be doomed and this will become a land of corpse dao!" Hongjun finally spoke up.

“Hahahaha!!” Jiangchen Xie laughed with a hint of derangement. “Senior, why do you think I exist?!”

He’d condensed three hundred and sixty-five cycles of resentment so he could kill Jiang Chen! Yin Jiuying had made full use of Jiang Chen when he pretended to partner with the other. He’d surreptitiously collected Jiangchen Xie’s bitterness partially because he couldn’t bear to let the man die like that, but also to create an insurance policy against Jiang Chen.

Jiangchen Xie was no longer Jiang Chen’s descendant, he was pure malice against his once ancestor.

Hongjun fell silent again.

Lu Yun looked up and contacted Diexi through the Tome of Life and Death, conveying everything Yin Jiuying had just said. She could be the arbiter of truth and falsehood and decide what she wanted to do.

Diexi swiftly came to a decision. A gaping weakness suddenly appeared in her stance and she slipped, kicking Jiang Chen into the cavern. Before Leize and the others could question her, she made a quick shushing motion.

The other powerhouses immediately understood that new developments had occurred.

“Lu Yun told me to let him in. All of us are to stay out,” Diexi said calmly to an Azure Dragon King on the verge of exploding with fury. She didn’t reveal Yin Jiuying’s words because she suspected that the god of Mount Tai was among them. He must’ve been by Lu Yun’s side all this time in order to keep an eye on the young man’s development, witnessing firsthand how Lu Yun walked the path of order and refined the Hell of Order.

Diexi was different because her name was in the Tome of Life and Death. She had an extremely close connection to Lu Yun and there were many things he could tell her, secure in the knowledge that she would keep his confidence.

And she would keep it. From everyone.

Including Fuxi.

“Since it’s Lu Yun, something must’ve happened below.” Fuxi nodded gently. “Our thanks to Your Majesty for your aid.”

The Azure Dragon King inclined his head in response.

“In that case, there is nothing further for me to do here. I take my leave.” He raised cupped fist salutes and left with a turn of his heel.

The boundless zombies that’d raged through the void vanished when Jiang Chen entered the cavern. Diexi frowned ferociously and looked up at the Dao King. He hadn’t done anything from beginning to end.

He sat cross-legged in the void, fully revealed to the rest. His attention was on the cavern. In Fairylands, Mo Yi paused from helping Qing Yu and the little fox meld two worlds together. She, too, looked in the direction of the secondary worlds.

“Should we not take a look?” Pangu looked worriedly at the opening. He was concerned for Lu Yun and Hongjun.

“No need,” Diexi shook her head. Three hundred and sixty-five versions of her marched out of the major cycle formation and sealed off the area.

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Once inside the cavern, Jiang Chen released all of the corpse qi on him. It billowed through the air and subjugated all of the zombies inside. He met no resistance whatsoever and descended right to the bottom of the opening.

There was a zombie there, wrapped by a scarlet chain. It wasn't as big as one might imagine—just the size of a regular human being. It was a female corpse and her delicate features were still beautiful in death. Long black hair trailed down to her ankles and a purple silk dress flowed smoothly over her curves.

However, her eyes were blood-red and four sharp fangs jutted out from her mouth. No one had imagined that the corpse demon Hongjun had been so wary of for so many eons would look like this! Not even Jiang Chen had anticipated it.

“They let me in so easily?” Hesitation dogged his footsteps. Everything had been too smooth.

But despite his reservations, there was nothing else that could be done. His corpse dao had already become one with the corpse demon. It was the foundation of corpse dao and had reached great perfection.

“I didn't think they'd do this to ruin my plans either. For all of my calculations, I overlooked Yin Jiuying,” rang out an ethereal female voice. “I'd planned on using the corpse demon to eliminate Lu Yun, then use you to kill the corpse demon, then have Yin Jiuying end you. Who would've thought that they'd let you in just like this?”

A figure of pale blue appeared jarringly in front of Jiang Chen.

Chapter 1790: The God of Mount Tai Appears

Jiang Chen whipped his head around and narrowed his eyes at the blue-clad girl.

“Who are you?” he asked warily. The girl seemed harmless. There were no ripples of energy from her and she appeared to be an ordinary person.

Yet here she stood, a normal person appearing where they shouldn't be.

The corpse demon remained motionless, frozen on the spot like she was a sculpture. Instead, it was the abruptly appearing girl that made one's heart quail with fear.

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Hidden in a pocket of special space, Lu Yun and the others looked at each other.

“Who is she?” Hongjun turned around and leveled his gaze at Yin Jiuying and Jiangchen Xie.

Yin Jiuying was equally baffled. He'd guessed that the god of Mount Tai would appear to prevent Jiang Chen from refining the corpse demon, but who would've thought that a benign young girl would come instead?

She spoke the words that should've come from the mountain god, but the god of Mount Tai was male!

"She's... me!" Violetgrave suddenly spoke from her place of hiding. A trace of fear edged her words.

"She's me, she's Bluegrave. She's supposed to be my replica, what is she..."

She dissolved into stammering incoherently, unable to understand the sight before her. Lu Yun's hairs also rose on the back of his neck. Violetgrave and Bluegrave should've looked exactly the same, but the Bluegrave in front of them appeared completely different!

Well, not entirely different. There were tiny similarities between the two that weren't readily apparent.

"Look..." Jiangchen Xie raised a shaking finger. His entire body was trembling—he was holding himself back with extreme effort to refrain from charging Jiang Chen and ripping at the latter's throat with bare teeth. "Combine that woman's appearance with the corpse demon... don't they become Bluegrave?"

His words jogged Hongjun's memory and he said slowly, "That... corpse demon... seems to look like... the mountain god's... dao partner."

It'd been so many eons and so many reincarnation cycles that he wasn't entirely sure of many things anymore. Plus, he'd never seen the god's dao partner for himself.

"That... is her," Yin Jiuying confirmed. "The so-called owner of the Land of Reincarnation, the one who killed the god of Mount Tai... is his dao partner."

Lu Yun squinted in thought. Dao partners were one's partner in the pursuit of dao and thus closer to each other than the married couples of the mortal world. Rather than finding joy with each other for a scant few hundred years, it was the accompaniment of eternity.

Lu Yun and Qing Yu's feelings and thoughts for each other ran deep, ultimately leading them to become dao partners. The little fox sent a soul replica to journey with Lu Yun's past self for endless eons, slowly making her way into his heart through innumerable troubles and trials.

He would protect his two dao partners with his life, but the god of Mount Tai had killed his for his own gain!

"That explains everything." Though fury blazed in Hongjun's eyes, he managed to calm himself down and refrain from brash action.

So the mountain god has been by my side all this time. Violetgrave and Bluegrave are of the same body—Bluegrave's thoughts are Violetgrave's. The person who met me in the dao palace was Bluegrave, and the one who met me before I set out for the Hongmeng, telling me to bring the five hells with me and to coalesce the sixth... was also Bluegrave!

Lu Yun suddenly understood everything in this moment. Bluegrave had convinced him with the excuse that all of that was for Tianqi. That once Tianqi grew into his own, he would become the god of Mount Tai once more and the five hells would return to his hand.

But in reality, Tianqi had always been Tianqi and never changed. He'd even voluntarily severed his karmic connections with his past life as the mountain god, leaving behind only his current life and identity!

Bluegrave had used someone else's form to meet Lu Yun—not Violetgrave. Perhaps Violetgrave had still been in control of Bluegrave then, but she was already being affected by her replica.

Violetgrave was Bluegrave, but Bluegrave was not Violetgrave.

Violetgrave clutched her head and crouched painfully on the ground. It'd been Bluegrave who told Lu Yun to devour the underworld, the other three hells, and the land of darkness to make the Disordered Hell whole! It wasn't Violetgrave who'd refined the Sanguine, Nihil, and Abyssal Hells that she'd given to Lu Yun, but Bluegrave!

Bluegrave was the god of Mount Tai—a tiny wisp of lingering will that'd attached itself to Violetgrave. She'd gradually recovered her former strength and emerged from Violetgrave's body, fully returning to being the mountain god.

Bluegrave turned around and bestowed a small smile at the corner of space the others were in. She walked up to the corpse demon and gently caressed her face.

Pinpricks of horror traveled down Jiang Chen's spine and he cautiously backed away.

"I'd thought that I could sit back and stay out of sight, effortlessly reaping the spoils when all of you had handled everything. Why did you have to be so smart? Why did you have to find the only flaw and walk out of my setup? Now I have to take action myself," sighed Blue—the god of Mount Tai.

"There didn't need to be so much death and my dear friends—Hongjun, Pangu, and God—could've survived all of this. But you just had to fancy yourself to be so clever and break out of my arrangements. Well, now all of you have to die." Bluegrave was still Violetgrave's replica and thus, they shared the same mind and thoughts. Anything Violetgrave saw, she could see.

Thus... everything that'd happened before had all taken place under Bluegrave's watchful eyes.

"I thought that I could revive you when my hell dao reached great perfection." The mountain god continued to caress the corpse demon's face. Though the latter remained expressionless, the scarlet light in her eyes glinted more keenly, as if expressing rage.

"God of Mount Tai!" Jiang Chen also confirmed the girl's identity in this moment. "To think that the vaunted god of the great mountain, the Great Peak of the Five Hells, has turned into a woman!"

"So what of a man and what of a woman? Those are but the delineations of yin and yang. Is there a difference between them?" Black light flashed over the mountain god's body before a towering, muscular man who looked the same as Tianqi stood in front of Jiang Chen.

Jiang Chen hastily backed up some more. It really was the god of Mount Tai!

The mountain god casually waved his head and shattered the crimson chain confining the corpse demon.

ROAR!!

An ear-piercing shriek reverberated in the air as the corpse demon pounced where Lu Yun and the others were, as if under a compulsion.

“The battle flag!” Hongjun whistled, summoning blazing sword light from his purple short sword and bringing it down on the enemy.