

Necropolis 1791

Chapter 1791: Can't Make A Move?

Lu Yun unfurled the black battle flag with a jerk of his hand when Hongjun shifted into action. Rays of silver cosmic radiance rained down and washed the void with silver light.

“The corpse demon’s mission is to kill the creator of the Hell of Order, we can’t let her kill Lu Yun!” Yin Jiuying roared and bounded in front of Hongjun, helping him hold off the corpse demon.

Hongjun and the Dao King had jointly refined the battle flag specifically to restrain the corpse demon and treasures of corpse dao. But the god of Mount Tai was well prepared. While the battle flag might be able to restrain the corpse demon in anyone else’s hand, it was ineffective in Lu Yun’s.

When disguised as Bluegrave, the mountain god advised and directed Lu Yun on his path of hell dao cultivation. He was Lu Yun’s guide, so he naturally knew the particulars of Hongjun and the Dao King’s setup. Jiang Chen of the Corpse Refiners had also always been completely exposed to him.

It was then that the god had planted the seeds for everything in Lu Yun. The corpse demon didn’t exist to threaten the Land of Reincarnation or to devour corpse dao. She was here solely to kill Lu Yun and seize the Hell of Order.

Lu Yun was unable to defy this karmic repercussion no matter what treasure he used.

In the mountain god’s original plans, he didn’t need to reveal himself—he won as long as Lu Yun came with the battle flag. However, he never fathomed that Yin Jiuying would turn out the way he did!

Yin Jiuying was here by invitation from the god of Mount Tai and was also a pawn placed by Jiang Chen’s side. Jiang Chen was here to refine and kill the corpse demon, and Yin Jiuying was to kill Jiang Chen.

However, Yin Jiuying had seen through the mountain god’s plots and needed to change only a few steps to ruin them. He’d forced the god to appear in person and reform karmic ties to the land.

The god of Mount Tai was dead—he’d abandoned even his soul. His rebirth was a result of borrowing Violetgrave’s replica and he’d irrigated his primary body with civilization. He was thus free from all karma, but his plans lay in shambles after he’d been forced to appear. Even if he ultimately won in the end, he was newly tainted with the karmic repercussions of the world.

This was what the god of Mount Tai was most furious about. Regardless, he stayed on the sidelines and coolly watched Hongjun and Yin Jiuying battle in tandem.

The two combined were able to hold off the corpse demon and force her back. Her eyes, however, never focused on them. She remained fixed on Lu Yun wielding the black battle flag the entire time.

That was her goal.

“This thing’s too strong, we need to shove her back!” Yin Jiuying roared. “Give me the battle flag!”

Head lowered in thought, Lu Yun ignored the urgent call. After a slight pause, he walked forward and stopped in front of the god of Mount Tai. When he opened his hand, the hell battleship appeared on it.

“Don’t you want hell dao? It’s right here,” he smiled at the mountain god.

The god's pupils constricted violently and he shuffled a step back. Lu Yun matched him step for step.

"...are you trying to force my hand?" the mountain god smiled superciliously.

Safe on the sidelines all this time, Jiang Chen suddenly threw his head back with laughter. Baring his teeth in a savage grin, he sauntered over to the two.

"So, god of Mount Tai, turns out you're still dead right now. There is no great dao on you. So it's not that you don't want to make a move, it's that you can't. I am the greatest victor here!"

Hongjun and Yin Jiuying were too preoccupied by the corpse demon to do anything else. Just as Jiang Chen said, the mountain god's hands were tied. All he was capable of was arriving in person to direct the corpse demon in killing Lu Yun, and intimidate Jiang Chen from action at the same time.

But what kind of person was Jiang Chen?

He would stand at the apex of the hierarchy of powerhouses even in the chief worlds! Most importantly was that when Lu Yun brought corpse dao into the immortal dao, he took advantage of the opening to learn formula dao.

Jiang Chen deployed it when the two sides fought and realized that the god of Mount Tai was a paper tiger. The god hadn't shown himself before because indeed, he didn't wish to have anything to do with the karma of this land, but also because he couldn't do anything after revealing himself. He had absolutely no strength to dictate the outcome of the situation.

"No!" rang a piercing shriek. "I am the greatest victor! Die, old freak!"

Kaboom!

Endless resentment exploded out of nowhere and sank into the corpse dao drifting through the air. The resentment crunched away at the great dao as if it were alive.

Jiang Chen went slack jawed with shock. His supple, youthful body and dashing handsome face withered at a pace visible to the naked eye.

"Impossible!!" he wailed as a skeletal image flew out of his head. It transformed into a skull wreathed with ghostly air and frantically turned to a Jiangchen Xie who'd suddenly gone on the attack.

"I merely seized your physical body, how can you possibly hate me so much?!" He knew that the grudge corpse in front of him was Jiangchen Xie; he'd never imagined that it'd come with so much malice and hatred! It was enough to counter his very existence!

His body was still Jiangchen Xie's, after all. It was destroyed the second the resentment appeared.

"Three hundred and sixty-five lifetimes... heh heh heh. You took possession of me three hundred and sixty-five times. The bitterness of all those lives is here!" Jiangchen Xie's resentment was the antithesis of the corpse dao in the cavern. He could destroy the great dao in their surroundings even if he stood still and didn't do anything else.

He didn't want to devour the corpse dao for himself; his resentment cultivated immortal dao. There was ghost dao within it, so he trained in the ghost immortal dao.

“Yin Jiuying, you did this to me!” Jiang Chen snarled with rage, having connected the dots of what was happening.

“Don’t blame me, the god of Mount Tai asked me to take care of you, heh.” Yin Jiuying moved with newfound ease. All he needed to do was ensure the corpse demon didn’t attack Lu Yun. Jiangchen Xie was no threat to the young man, of that he was sure of. Jiangchen Xie wanted to come back to life and become a true living being again, not the half corpse half ghost thing that was a grudge corpse.

Jiang Chen wailed with fury as his skeletal body began to fade away.

“It looks like you’ve truly underestimated me...” Brooding in a corner, the mountain god suddenly smiled. He transformed into a streak of blue and rushed the fading Jiang Chen, becoming one with him.

Whoosh!

A white skeletal arm probed out of the void and smashed down on Lu Yun.

Chapter 1792: Beautiful Jade

Stark white fire lit the void the second the bony hand appeared. Jiang Chen shrieked with horror when the flames roared to life—he was starting to lose his sense of self.

“Hadal Bonefire!” Lu Yun gasped when the arm slammed down on him. He vanished where he stood and reappeared several million kilometers out, evading the terrifying blow by the skin of his teeth. The Boundless Step death art had whisked him out of danger, but not before he got a clear glimpse of the white fire burning on the arm. It really was Hadal Bonefire!

This was another fearsome flame from the Hadal Hell. It’d previously been imprisoned in hell and was the creation of an ancient tyrant who’d dominated a few worlds. The Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign later obtained it, and then the blood demon. So it turned out that this was another one of the mountain god’s plans!

Although his plans took every conceivable possibility into account and it seemed impossible he would fail, the god of Mount Tai still wanted to ensure he had a way out. Despite his absolute confidence, it was important to be prepared in case the unexpected happened. His secret escape tunnel was hidden in the Hadal Hell.

He’d crafted this hell with his own hands and the Hadal Bonefire was a secret he’d hidden inside it. Now that he summoned what was his, he wrapped the fire around himself and took possession of Jiang Chen’s body!

After seizing the body, he became Jiang Chen!

Although cultivators from the outside realm needed to borrow the identity of a native, there was a loophole to this rule that the god of Mount Tai had left on purpose. While he became Jiang Chen with his actions, he was also not Jiang Chen at the same time. He modified Jiang Chen into another, more fearsome existence.

“The Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign!” was the second name on Lu Yun’s lips. He’d recruited the demon sovereign to his banner and the latter was now an important member of demonic dao in the world of immortals. He’d fought Meng Wang for the position of Immortal Emperor in the primordial

world of immortals one hundred thousand years ago. When Meng Wang emerged triumphant, he'd shattered the demon sovereign's dao heart.

That was another one of the mountain god's plans!

Busy overseeing things in the Dao Academy of the world of immortals, the Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign spontaneously lost his sense of self and transformed into a skeleton. He rushed to the cavern and combined with the god of Mount Tai and Jiang Chen; his body was the mountain god's new body. Not only was there Hadal Bonefire in his skeleton, but there was also Jiang Chen's corpse dao.

The skeletal arm that'd plunged into the ground slowly pulled itself out and an enormous skeleton loomed out of the gloom. Sinister white flames came together as a ball of ghostly flame and occupied the center of the skull.

Perhaps there was still a wisp of Jiang Chen's own will hidden somewhere in the body, but the Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign was truly no more. He was someone that the mountain god had created out of the mud, a tiny character that attracted no attention.

Now that the contingency plan was active, he'd already faded into thin air and his undying true spirit scattered into nothing.

Lu Yun's expression darkened; he was plainly far too naive when compared to someone like the god of Mount Tai.

Some Hadal Bonefire fell onto the corpse demon and bolstered her demonic aura. She was able to overcome both Yin Jiuying and Hongjun, forcing them back and nearly killing them.

"Suuuurprise!" The mountain god's voice was mellow and resonant—it wasn't gloomy or unnerving just because he occupied a skeleton. In fact, Lu Yun could almost pick out a cruelly teasing expression on the white fire inside the skull.

Solemn expression on his face, Jiangchen Xie retreated close to Lu Yun. He sidled over and whispered, "Can you resurrect me? As in help recollect my soul and become a living person again?"

"I can do so in the sea of Hell Flowers so long as there is a hint of your will left," Lu Yun nodded.

Jiangchen Xie heaved a sigh of relief and plucked a tiny ball of will from his forehead. He handed it to Lu Yun. "Don't forget to revive me if I die later."

"I won't," Lu Yun promised. He could sense how single minded Jiangchen Xie's thoughts were—pure hatred and resentment of Jiang Chen and a deep desire to live.

Reinforced with Hadal Bonefire, the corpse demon easily overcome Hongjun and Yin Jiuying. Bathed in stark-white flames, she [added toward Lu Yun.

"Hadal Bonefire is created from her bones," said the mountain god. "She is my dao partner and I killed her with great reluctance. If I cannot obtain the sixth hell now, she will have died for nothing."

He used only her pronouns instead of her name. His dao partner resented him as well, and it might awaken her will if her name was mentioned. No one on the scene knew her name—not even Hongjun, his brother through life and death.

Bloody light and white fire melded into one, imparting a ghastly sheen to the corpse demon's black hair. The god of Mount Tai still did nothing after gaining his new body.

When the corpse demon flashed to Lu Yun in a streak of bloody light, Jiangchen Xie snarled and met her head-on. However, he was much weaker than Hongjun and Yin Jiuying. He flew backward as quickly as he charged the enemy, his arms and legs twisted off and tied together.

Anyone who could help Lu Yun was incapacitated. He was left to face the horrifying corpse demon alone.

"Don't come out, the mountain god will eat you as soon as you do and you'll turn into him." Lu Yun pushed back Violetgrave, who was hidden in the battleship's cargo hold. Thinking better of it, he threw her into the Tome of Life and Death instead. A keen light glinted in the mountain god's eyes—he seemed to have detected the treasure's presence.

"Your nascent spirit is very unique... I'll study it well after you die," he tutted with curiosity. He'd long since determined that the young man owned a treasure that exceeded this Land of Reincarnation and even the chief worlds. It wasn't until now that he confirmed the item was Lu Yun's nascent spirit.

The corpse demon's slender fingers wrapped around Lu Yun's throat and lifted him into the air. There was nothing he could do about it. The corpse demon seemed to have been created to kill him.

The god of Mount Tai took possession of his hell battleship, but just as his neck was about to snap, a piece of beautiful jade dropped from the sky.

Bam!

It landed on the corpse demon's head and made her stumble, causing her to throw Lu Yun away at the same time. The jade landed on the ground and turned into a young man.

"Shenyu of the Haotian Tower greets the god of Mount Tai." Shenyu inclined his body in a graceful bow.

Chapter 1793: Hidden Even Deeper

Lu Yun's knees hit the ground; he propped himself up with his hands and gasped for breath. If Shenyu hadn't suddenly arrived at the last second, the corpse demon would've snuffed the last breath out of him. Even though Lu Yun had set foot into nine levels of immortal dao sequence, there'd been nothing he could do.

Well, at least he'd known that he wouldn't die.

Mo Yi had collected a strand of his soul force the first time he set out for the secondary worlds. She would resurrect him as soon as he died. But as opposed to trusting Mo Yi, he believed in the Dao King even more.

Resurrecting Lu Yun came at the price of Mo Yi's life. The Dao King would never let her die. Thus, he tossed down a piece of beautiful jade that turned into Shenyu.

Shenyu was never his disciple, just a jade medallion that he carried around. After sparking sentience in it, the jade remained by the Dao King's side. Shenyu's casual landing flung the corpse demon back and smashed injuries on her head.

“Dao King! How dare you ruin my business!” Eyes blazing with ghostly fire, the god of Mount Tai glared at the skies over the cavern.

The Dao King sat there without a word. He wouldn't have helped if Mo Yi hadn't forced his hand in this manner. He had eyes only for her; he'd only ever cared about her. Everything else in this Land of Reincarnation had nothing to do with him.

Shenyu rolled up his sleeves and erupted with incredible battle strength. He beat back the corpse demon with punch after punch, utilizing the most simple way of combat possible.

“I can't hold her off for long, think of something quick. Don't just use the battle flag in your hand,” Shenyu called out. “You're the commandant of tomb raiders and your bread and butter is raiding tombs. Handling ghosts and zombies inside tombs is a walk in the park for you. The corpse zombie was born to kill you, so that also means you can counter her!”

Shenyu aimed his next punch at the god of Mount Tai, forcing him to enter the fray.

The mountain god was yet to reach perfection in his state. Even with the body from the Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign and corpse dao from Jiang Chen, he was still missing a piece—Violetgrave.

If Violetgrave had stepped forward earlier, that would've perfected the mountain god. Even though he was re-immersed in the karma of the Land of Reincarnation, he would eventually be able to extract himself and obtain hell dao.

Battling two people by himself, Shenyu grew stronger the longer he fought. Soon enough, he exerted control over the two terrifying existences.

Lu Yun nodded and released the twentieth level sequence zombie with a wave. He'd set up various mechanisms on it before they set out, just in case it was needed against the corpse demon. This was the first chance he'd had to bring it out.

Twenty levels of sequence was as fragile as a newborn in front of the corpse demon. It would've been destroyed if he'd taken it out any sooner.

The unexpected happened.

Sentience suddenly gleamed in the zombie's eyes and a familiar voice traveled into Lu Yun's ears. “Lu Yun, do you seek to kill the god of Mount Tai?!”

It was suffused with hatred—Jiang Chen! His surviving will wasn't fixed on the body of the Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign, it'd come to the zombie! Plainly, the zombie was one of his pawns and contingencies.

“Everything you've set up on this zombie will be successful against ordinary corpse demons, but that one cannot be considered a corpse demon anymore. It would be more accurate to call her a corpse god. Although she is a zombie, she's mutated into a corpse god. And with absorbing my corpse dao, her terrifying might goes beyond the limits of your imagination!” Jiang Chen hastily added when Lu Yun remained silent, “I am sure that the corpse god has regained her consciousness. She wouldn't have clutched your neck otherwise, giving time for the jade to save you. She would've crushed you out of existence at first light!”

Lu Yun started—he had indeed thought it was a bit strange earlier. The corpse demon had moved too slowly compared to what it was capable of.

“What should I do?” he asked.

“Have Ah Zhi and Diexi deploy the zombie kings’ major cycle formation and connect it to this zombie. I’ll be able to summon the Great Formation of Corpse Refinement from the outside realm and recover my true strength!” Jiang Chen kept his eyes fixed on the mountain god as he spoke to Lu Yun.

Jiang Chen had created the major cycle formation of zombie kings to redo the Major Cycle Worlds. The three hundred and sixty-five Diexi’s within were refined from his corpse dao. Once the formation combined with Jiang Chen, he would be able to communicate with the corpse dao of the outside realm and bring it to himself.

The god of Mount Tai relied on the corpse dao of the Land of Reincarnation to give him battle strength. So did the corpse demon—she was the basis of corpse dao in this land.

“Alright,” Lu Yun nodded and reached out to Diexi.

“You!” Jiang Chen’s eyes went wide and he stared incredulously at Lu Yun.

“What about me?” Lu Yun looked back at him, baffled.

“Can’t you question or doubt me just a little bit? How can you so easily agree to things?” Jiang Chen asked haltingly.

“Hello, this has to do with my life,” Lu Yun grumbled. “And if you solve these two problems, your karmic relationship with the Land of Reincarnation will be at an end. Hongjun and the others won’t do anything to you. The Corpse Refiners can start anew in one hundred years.”

“What the fuck, you make so much sense that I have nothing to say.” Jiang Chen took full possession of the twentieth level sequence zombie and stood up.

Boom!

Rays of grayish-yellow cosmic radiance descended from the void and blasted into his body. Jiang Chen threw his head back with a howl and opened his arms, growing a pair of black bat wings from his back.

“God of Mount Tai!” he howled and pounced on his two targets, sending the mountain god flying. Shenyu jumped with surprise. Even the expressionless corpse demon paused with momentary indecision.

Lu Yun made use of the opening to leap to Hongjun, Yin Jiuying, and Jiangchen Xie. Violetgrave reached out from the Tome of Life and Death and undid their seals so she could heal their injuries.

“What’s going on over there? Things seem... a bit messy,” Jiangchen Xie stammered as he watched four ponderous monsters battle in the distance.

Jiang Chen, the god of Mount Tai, corpse demon, and Shenyu tore at each other without differentiating between different sides. Sometimes three fought one, other times the four fought each other indiscriminately. There was no telling who was friend or foe.

“Apart from Shenyu, none of them are anything good.” Lu Yun finally understood the situation at hand.

“The mountain god’s dao partner let herself be killed so she could become the corpse demon. She has her own plans in the making. She retained her own consciousness all along and knows that Yin Jiuying has seen through everything. She’s also well aware of what the mountain god wants to do!” Lu Yun ground his teeth. “If it wasn’t for the Dao King throwing down a piece of jade, the corpse demon would be the ultimate victor!”

Yin Jiuying’s heart palpitated painfully at these words. He’d thought that he was in full control of everything, but it turned out that he’d been operating beneath someone else’s eye!

“Be careful, the corpse demon definitely has something else up her sleeve. She’s no match for the god of Mount Tai if not,” Lu Yun took a deep breath. He’d wanted to turn down Jiang Chen’s offer of help, but if the old zombie didn’t join their side, the corpse demon would continue to hide her intentions and attack Shenyu together with the mountain god.

Chapter 1794: Temporary Reprieve

Lu Yun was starting to relax his guard about Jiang Chen. The young man had refined the twentieth-level-sequence zombie anew after obtaining it, implementing multiple traps and failsafes. He wanted to use it against the corpse demon, but now he could use it to keep Jiang Chen in line.

Hongjun and Yin Jiuying quickly recovered from most of their injuries and stepped forward, putting Lu Yun behind them. They weren’t planning on helping any of the four battling parties.

“Well well well, aren’t they a wonderful family,” Lu Yun tutted with amazement as he watched the fight. “It doesn’t look like we’ll be able to take out the god of Mount Tai today, or the corpse demon for that matter.”

Hongjun nodded, he was in an extremely foul mood. No one would be happy to find that their closest friend had lied to them, thus resulting in their descendants and disciples being trapped in a foreign land for eternity.

“So you broke free of my control long ago!” the mountain god shouted and furiously beckoned Hadal Bonfire to come forth, briefly separating the combatants from the others.

“You’re not a complete idiot, hmm?” the corpse demon—corpse god giggled. “Would that fool Yin Jiuying be able to see through your plot, if not for me?”

Yin Jiuying’s expression turned ugly. It was true, he would still be in the dark if not for what he’d calculated from the corpse god. He would ultimately be set against Jiang Chen for the mountain god’s benefit.

Gently shaking his head, Shenyu retreated to Lu Yun’s side so he could protect the young man alongside Yin Jiuying and Hongjun. Mo Yi wouldn’t die if Lu Yun remained alive. Shenyu didn’t care about anything else other than that—not corpse dao nor hell dao.

Things were taking a surreal turn for Lu Yun. The scheming didn’t faze him, but rather that Shenyu—one titled as the Runaway King by the Hongmeng Tower—was protecting him! This was someone who always first thought of how to escape, not how to resolve a problem!

His title of the Runaway King was a bit of a joke to begin with. The Hongmeng Tower bestowed titles onto the kings of the third realm and it was Mo Yi's personal treasure. No matter how Lu Yun looked at it, he felt that the title was something that Mo Yi had personally chosen for Shenyu.

Shenyu's strength had exceeded sequence long ago. But in the Hongmeng and fourth realm, he, Mo Yi, and the Dao King never violated order to display strength beyond this land.

Not even when Mo Yi died for Lu Yun and the Dao King died for her.

Jiang Chen landed on the ground, his chest heaving for breath. He took a look at the corpse god and then the god of Mount Tai. "The Land of Reincarnation will be fully open in a hundred years. I'll have you answer for this then!"

A skeletal figure rushed out of the zombie and vanished without a trace. Shenyu's arrival thoroughly upset the balance of power in the cavern. Not only did he represent himself, but so did he represent the mysterious and powerful Dao King.

The mountain god and corpse god didn't feel like fighting after Jiang Chen departed. There was no point in continuing the struggle. The corpse god smiled at Lu Yun and melted into the darkness. The god of Mount Tai bestowed a withering look upon Hongjun and Yin Jiuying before he left as well.

In the blink of an eye, there was no other sound echoing in the silent cavern.

"Jiang Chen's not a complete fool, he didn't take the zombie with him." Lu Yun quietly retrieved the zombie that'd been left behind. Someone like Jiang Chen brimmed with plots to the very tips of his eyelashes. It'd take more than Lu Yun's level of scheming to take him out. He'd chosen to cooperate with Lu Yun when danger stared him in the face because it was self protection. He wouldn't be able to leave safely otherwise.

"They've all left... so this void should be destroyed as well," Yin Jiuying said haltingly. He was mulling over the corpse god's words, that he wouldn't have seen through the mountain god's plans if not for the corpse god. Yin Jiuying had been highly pleased with himself before this and thought of himself as a master strategist. The exchange was making him doubt his ability.

"You're very smart. Anyone else might not have determined the mountain god's plot even with the corpse god's body." Hongjun patted Yin Jiuying on the shoulder. "Muscle-head Pangu would probably still not understand everything even after the corpse god clearly described his plans and laid it all out in a diagram."

"Yeah... that's right!" Yin Jiuying regained some confidence.

"The void here doesn't need to be destroyed, I can have my hell battleship devour it," Lu Yun said. "If I'm seeing things correctly, this cavern world is where the god of Mount Tai coalesced his six hells and the locale where he refined the core essence of the one hell. My six hells have reached great perfection and require the final step. Once I refine this void, I'll be able to combine all six into one hell."

"Do you dare use something he's left behind?" Shenyu frowned. "He's a mammoth trap that will trick anyone he can get his hands on. It may look like that the corpse god has successfully schemed against him, but that's only because she had no other choice. What creature would prefer to be half themselves and half whatever that was, rather than being fully alive?"

“He probably left it here on purpose so you would refine it. He’ll somehow use it to seize your hell dao in the future.”

Lu Yun shook his head. “Not even I fully understand myself, so there shouldn’t be anyone in existence who does. That includes the god of Mount Tai. He doesn’t know what I am, so he can’t take my hell dao.

“The Dao King is one who can possibly kill me, but he can’t take hell dao.”

“You mean the strand of soul force you left with the mistress?” Shenyu grew irate. “She has only one life! My master won’t be able to save her if she sacrifices herself to resurrect you!”

“No,” Lu Yun shook his head again. “That strand of soul force ceased to be that a long time ago. It’s just the power of hell dao now. Mo Yi won’t be able to bring me back to life if I die. She can only use the soul force to retrieve my hell dao and nascent spirit!”

He finally connected everything together through their conversation. Mo Yi was the mountain god’s ultimate goal. He wanted to kill her and take something from her. She’d created Ruina with a wave of her hand in the chief worlds, making Lin Mo its master. There must be an even stronger hell dao on Mo Yi.

The god of Mount Tai hadn’t mentioned Mo Yi from beginning to end. He’d stayed focused on Lu Yun so he could conceal his true motives...

As for why the demon of immortal dao wanted to kill her, he said that was because she was here to end the reincarnation cycles. In actuality, not even Mo Yi knew what she was here for.

Maybe the mountain god’s original goal truly was hell dao. He sought to kill Lu Yun and take the young man’s great dao. However, Lu Yun’s hell dao contained only the six hells. He didn’t have time to refine the Ruina branch and the Firmament Prison.

Perhaps the mountain god would be able to refine both of them once he obtained something from Mo Yi. Lu Yun was his primary goal in this lifetime, but he always made sure to keep Mo Yi in his sights.

Lu Yun even suspected that if the mountain god seized only the six paths, but not Mo Yi’s ability to create Ruina, then the loops would continue. Lu Yun wanted to cut through all those possibilities. As opposed to letting Mo Yi die for him, why not help her reach her goal and cultivate hell dao? Once she mastered it, perhaps she’d be able to resurrect Lu Yun if he died.

The hell battleship erupted with activity and swallowed the void. The Major Cycle Worlds turned into a patch of unending darkness—not the land of darkness, but pure nothing. Three hundred and sixty-five Diexi’s appeared to form the major cycle formation and hold up the gloom.

etvolare's Thoughts

Did Lu Yun really just say the xianxia equivalent of 4D chess lol. "He can't possibly do that because I don't know what I'm doing myself!"

Chapter 1795: Selfish

One hundred years were neither a long nor a short period of time.

The fourth realm remained at peace. When the land of darkness disappeared, it took all of the secondary worlds with it. Of their former inhabitants, Meng Wang relocated some to the primary worlds, while others were sheltered by those from the chief worlds as new recruits under their banner.

The Land of Reincarnation was a very simplistic place these days. Qing Buyi threw out even the outsiders who were legitimately present in the fourth realm, stripping them of their borrowed identities.

Apart from the land's native inhabitants, only a select few outsiders remained. They were Lu Yun's allies—Chu Xingran, Moran Dongning, Xie Tianxun, and some others. Moran Dongning's brother, the Spacetime King, left.

Although the corpse god and god of Mount Tai remained in the fourth realm, Qing Buyi couldn't find them no matter how he tried. The fourth realm was too big! It was truly a boundless plane of existence. Though it possessed borders, Lu Yun had only ever visited the Mount Astronomia locale. He had no idea where the others were.

While Qing Buyi could easily identify where the outsiders were, he couldn't find the mountain god or corpse god. But in his words, "What's the point of finding them? I can't beat them, and it's more likely that they'll kill me instead."

In the last one hundred years allotted to the Land of Reincarnation, however, the fourth realm was far from peace. Fires of war spontaneously raged through the land as immortal dao erupted from the Central Hongmeng and traversed the fourth realm. Formula dao burst forth as well, flaring with the light of immortal dao and becoming one with the great dao from the Central Hongmeng.

The fourth realm was a place in which thousands of daos blossomed in unison. There'd never been one single great dao to dominate it, not even in the era of the original Hongmeng. A new dao from the other realms sought to be their one true path? Naturally, there were many pockets of resistance to the new world order.

Old monsters that'd survived for endless eons awoke in the fourth realm. These were ones that not even the original emperor had managed to subdue back in the day. And so, the curtains drew back on a colossal war against immortal dao.

The war commenced with surprising abruptness—beginning the precise moment that Lu Yun took the cavern. While immortal dao had seeped into the fourth realm over the past twenty-seven hundred years, it'd met with no pushback during that period. The cultivators of the realm seemed to accept their fate. This was further reinforced when they discovered that their own daos could assimilate into immortal dao without any resistance or expulsion.

But somehow, a tremendous campaign against immortal dao raged in those hundred years, embroiling countless factions into its battles. What would happen a hundred years from now was no secret; it was common knowledge that there was an even greater collection of worlds constantly staring covetously at them. Many people were making preparations to either resist or surrender to the outsiders.

No one understood why civil war would take place now.

.....

“So we thrive in calamity and perish in soft living?” The little fox leaned her head on Lu Yun’s shoulder and gazed up at his cheek, repeating a famous saying from Earth.

“No,” Lu Yun shook his head. “There’s not enough time to thrive in calamity even if we wanted to. We’re in a time of internal revolt and external aggression.”

“We need to calm the internal unrest first!” Qing Yu said softly, leaning on Lu Yun’s other shoulder.

He nodded gently. “That’s right, resolving our own issues is a top priority. Otherwise, once cultivators with their own motives or ones compromised by outsiders rise up too, the fourth realm will fall to the enemy. The outsiders will easily claim our home and build their foundation on top of it.”

The little fox abruptly realized what was at stake.

While the war seemed to be a struggle between the old guard and the world of immortals, it was also a perfect opportunity to root out traitors and dissidents. With the Karmic Tree, Lu Yun could read other people’s emotions and easily determine who had divided or switched loyalties.

The current world of immortals absolutely possessed the capability to strike back.

With Mo Yi’s help, the heavenly palace combined with Fairylands and formed a vast world of immortal dao sequence. Immortal dao sequence radiated from the palace and reorganized the Hongmeng, chaos, worlds, world of immortals, and Earth into orderly layers of a world of immortal dao.

The Central Hongmeng had once been forged into a tomb—the Hongmeng, chaos, and worlds were three sides of the same issue and delineated by the yin yang tomb layout. The Dao King had destroyed it so that the Central Hongmeng could return to its origins as a true world.

Afterward, the law of time crossed the chaos and Hongmeng. Since both of them weren’t true worlds, there was no passage of time in either of them. Now with the Central Hongmeng reverting back to a normal state, it began to evolve, just as the original Hongmeng had. Heaven and earth were the ultimate products of order—the most sophisticated level of a world in existence.

Whether it was the second or third realm, both were part of the process of order evolving into a world. But since the worlds of the fourth realm were flawed, Lu Yun was unable to make them whole again even with the enigma stone vein planted into the world of immortal dao sequence and the The Kinship of Heaven and Earth melded into immortal dao.

They lacked one final detail. After repeated calculations, Lu Yun finally understood that it was the seed of nothing. Once it fully developed and melded into the world of immortals, that would finally complete the worlds.

Everything proceeded according to Lu Yun’s plans and under his full control.

.....

There was no longer a boundless land of darkness outside Mount Astronomia; it had been replaced by the chief worlds of the outside realm. There was a spatial node there that provided passage to both the darkness and chief worlds. It was a doorway that the god of Mount Tai left for himself.

Hundreds of powerful figures crowded the perimeter of the mountain. They were the supremes of the chief worlds, beings who'd exceeded sequence.

They couldn't enter the Land of Reincarnation yet, lest they be killed by the orders of the land. The same limitation didn't apply to the projections of their will, however. Thus, they sent in their disciples and assorted subordinates.

There'd once been a restriction in the primary worlds that limited everyone to nine levels of sequence. With the restoration of the Major Cycle Worlds in the cosmos of the ancestral planet, the orders of the fourth realm were repaired. Apart from titans that exceeded sequence, any level of sequence expert could freely enter!

One hundred years passed swiftly and the fires of war finally died down. Factions and cultivators bearing ulterior motives had all been eliminated. Everyone had their own thoughts and concerns—they'd made decisions that benefited them the most. There was no right or wrong in it, just a matter of perspective.

Their only fault was that they weren't strong enough to protect their choice, and so Lu Yun uprooted them. He'd also made his own choice. Not only was he strong enough to reinforce his decision, but he could also remove those who opposed him.

True, he was being selfish, but if he was selfless, then the ones to die would be him and his loved ones. Those who made different decisions from him would have to kill him and his people for their own sakes.

On this particular day, Qing Buyi stood up and stretched mightily. He patted Lu Qing's shoulder with a smile. "You've learned most of what I know. I don't expect you to become the fifth spacetime traveler, but I'll be satisfied if you beat the shit out of the geniuses those old fellows have sent in. Smash their faces in until their own mothers don't recognize them!"

Chapter 1796: Lu Yun's Son

"Don't worry, master, I promise to complete the mission!" Lu Qing nodded resolutely. The assorted cultivators in Mount Astronomia fell silent.

"What master? I didn't say that I'm taking you as my disciple. I'm your uncle." Qing Buyi patted Lu Qing on the head with a smile.

"Will any of them dare fight me if they know you're my uncle?" Lu Qing said slowly, then called out to the numerous towering figures outside. "I, Lu Qing, am Qing Buyi's nephew. Chen Xiao is also my uncle!"

"When I fight you in a moment, you'll stand there and let me beat you! Whoever dares win against me will face the wrath of my two uncles!"

Qing Buyi's jaw dropped and he stared at Lu Qing, unable to understand why his normally serious nephew would say such things.

"Well, the kid's Lu Yun's son, so of course he's inherited Lu Yun's shameless personality," Qing Buyi grumbled and didn't fault Lu Qing. He and Chen Xiao dearly loved this nephew who wasn't related to them. Qing Buyi had taught him everything he knew over the past eight hundred years, as had Chen Xiao, Lu Feng, and even the fourth spacetime traveler.

Sadly, eight hundred years were too short for Lu Qing to become a true expert. Despite him being the result of an indiscretion from Lu Yun's past self, the occasion had come about because Lu Yun had never forgotten Qing Yu. The little fox was an even more considerate soul and named their son with the "Qing" character. The name fully expressed the depths of Lu Yun's yearning for Qing Yu, and neither did he cast the little fox away after the fact.

This was why Chen Xiao and Qing Buyi were immensely satisfied with Lu Yun, and why they doted on Lu Qing so.

.....

"Eight hundred years is up, Qing Buyi. Do you intend on blocking the way still?" A dignified voice echoed from the skies and carried into Mount Astronomia. These supremes could project their will into any part of the Land of Reincarnation, but to do so would be an act of pettiness that degraded themselves. It wouldn't be an open and forthright action; they'd lose from the very start on momentum alone.

Lu Yun had gone on such a fierce rampage in the secondary worlds that outsiders now trembled at his name. Those still remaining in the land had been thrown out from Mount Astronomia by Qing Buyi, so if they slunk back in again, they would find it hard to look anyone in the eye.

The mountain was a door to the Land of Reincarnation. They would march in with their heads held high this time!

Such was how intimidating Lu Yun's demonstration had been. The outsiders wouldn't care how they entered this broken land otherwise. The same had occurred to Qing Buyi, which is why he had Lu Qing set up a blockade here.

"I'm not the one blocking the way, it's my nephew," he chuckled. "Do whatever you wish, I'm not stopping you anymore since the eight hundred years are up. Enter legitimately if your experts can defeat my nephew. You can also mob him in a group if you can't defeat him one-on-one."

He picked his words with cunning guile. If the geniuses from the outside realm really did attack together, that would demonstrate that they were truly afraid of Lu Qing.

"By the way, Lu Qing is Lu Yun's son. You know, the one who killed so many of you that you guys almost peed your pants. Yeah, that Lu Yun. I hear that thirteen of your supremes have issued a kill order for him? That whoever can kill Lu Yun will receive a personalized dao palace from them?" Qing Buyi continued chuckling. "Like father, like son. I'm sure you won't be afraid of Lu Qing."

Lu Qing nodded in agreement. "My dad sent you wailing for your mommies. I'm not as strong as him, so I'll just beat you until you cry."

The duo's words were vicious and cut to the bone. Gallant sequence experts from the outside realm, champing at the bit to soar triumphantly through the Land of Reincarnation, abruptly deflated. It felt like they'd swallowed a mouthful of flies and there was nothing they could say in response.

Lu Yun storming the yin tomb had resulted in not only the deaths of Corpse Refiners, but also the most preeminent geniuses of numerous chief world factions. The kill order from the thirteen supremes further shook the worlds, spreading Lu Yun's name far and wide.

Many people were here on account of the kill order, but humiliatingly enough, their target's son was keeping them out entirely!

"Alright!" came a loud roar before a faint streak of silver flashed by. A man surrounded by twenty-five layers of light and shadow strode into sight, bathed by a wash of argent radiance. He was a twenty-fifth level sequence expert. "In that case, I shall meet Lu Yun's son in combat! Ninth disciple of the Myriad Spirit Supreme, Zhu Hongyu of the Myriad Spirit World, offers his greetings."

The silver hue faded away to reveal a handsome young man with long hair flowing in the wind. He wielded a broadsword as he stood in front of Lu Qing.

Lu Qing was still a Hongmeng potentate—he'd yet to set foot into sequence. Despite the obvious gap in strength, he faced the sequence expert without a hint of fear.

"Lu Qing, disciple of the Formula Academy at Mount Astronomia." He grasped at the air and came back with a twinkling ray of purple light that resolved itself into a purple shortsword. It was the blade that Hongjun had brought to bear against the corpse demon!

It was now in Lu Qing's hand and the two said no more after their introductions. They flung themselves at each other to engage in battle.

Lu Qing refrained from using any of the combat arts or dao methods that Qing Buyi and the others had taught him. He employed only the sword dao that Lu Yun had relinquished—he'd taught it to his son in the mythological realm.

First move, Dragonrise!

Second move, Dragonsoar!

Third move, nameless!

Though Lu Qing deployed only three strokes, sword light poured down from the sky like starlight from the cosmos. They wove into a real world—from dao came one, and one begat two, two gave birth to three, and from three resulted all living things. Life... was nameless!

Zhu Hongyu was yet to use any of his own combat arts. The cosmos of the three rays of sword light swept over him, injuring him to the point of vomiting blood.

"What incredible sword dao!" There was naturally an audience observing the battle outside the Land of Reincarnation, such as the supremes and their disciples. Within the Land of Reincarnation, the teachers and students of the Formula Academy were the ones watching.

"Is this the sword dao of the spacetime travelers?" murmured the Myriad Spirit Supreme.

"No... we didn't teach him this," Qing Buyi paused. He recognized Lu Yun's sword dao, but never thought that it'd be this strong. In everyone's eyes, Lu Yun shouldn't be capable of anything else since he'd created the Disordered Hell through hell dao. That dao should be the focus of his cultivation.

"These three techniques are my father's sword dao," Lu Qing lifted his head. "He relinquished sword dao in order to create hell dao. In my dad's eyes, these are probably the three most useless combat arts

in his repertoire. My ability is less than a ten-thousandth of my father's, so I am worthy of inheriting only his most useless sword dao.

"You may go in now. Next!" Lu Qing ignored Zhu Hongyu and called out to those assembled on the other side of Mount Astronomia.

Chapter 1797: Manifesting All Things

Zhu Hongyu could enter the Land of Reincarnation with just that?

As incredible as the crowd found it, they quickly realized why it was happening. Zhu Hongyu wasn't able to do anything in the Land of Reincarnation anymore—Lu Qing had destroyed all of his pride and drive. He'd been defeated by three simple sword strokes in front of all the supremes of the chief worlds, and his opponent's cultivation level was no more than an ant's. Zhu Hongyu hadn't even had a chance to show his first move before he'd been beaten so badly that he vomited blood.

After stepping forward with so much dominance and grand flair, Zhu Hongyu was essentially crippled after such a thorough loss. What could he possibly do after entering the Land of Reincarnation?

The Myriad Spirit Supreme's face darkened. Lu Qing was too treacherous! Letting Zhu Hongyu through now was the greatest possible humiliation that could be inflicted on the man! It'd be one thing if Zhu Hongyu had a thick face and agreed to enter under such circumstances, but a genius such as he possessed extremely high self respect. Letting him in like this only served to compound his humiliation.

As expected, Zhu Hongyu spat out another mouthful of blood and fainted dead away.

Lu Qing didn't spare another glance for him in all of the commotion. Or perhaps he didn't think much of Zhu Hongyu in the first place. All that talk of pride and mortification was only in the outsider's head. A piece of trash that Lu Qing could defeat with three moves was worthy only to be stepped on—and just once. Stepping on him a second time would dirty Lu Qing's shoes.

These foreign experts were here to kill his father, seize his mother's world of immortal dao sequence, and rob the seed of nothing that was the foundation of his family home. There was no need to show any mercy to these kinds of people.

The Myriad Spirit Supreme projected his will inside and brought Zhu Hongyu back to his side with a wave. He leveled a frosty glare at Lu Qing.

"So it's the old guy's turn after the little one's been beaten?" Qing Buyi chortled. "I've got my nephew's back. Just try touching him."

"Qing Buyi, we already let you have eight hundred years. Are you going to endlessly harass us with unreasonable demands?" the Myriad Spirit Supreme sneered. "Do you think you're invincible just because you killed Nebula? He was completely useless. Get out of the way if you know what's good for you!"

Rather than being here alone, he represented the interests of countless heavyweights in the chief worlds. If they were kept out by a native junior, then none of them needed to bother thinking about the treasures of the Land of Reincarnation anymore. They would be hobbled in every conceivable way even if they projected their wills into the land.

The only way to proceed was to crumple up this disgusting and malicious trick. Only then would they be able to move freely through their hunting grounds. Hence, the Myriad Spirit Supreme set aside all considerations of personal dignity and decided to take action himself. Lu Qing had to die at all costs!

“Please move out of the way, Myriad Spirit Supreme.” A clear voice traveled out from behind the supreme before either Lu Qing or Qing Buyi could respond. A figure in jade green had appeared at some point and stood behind the supreme’s projection. He spoke in gentle tones and at an even pace.

Though the supreme didn’t turn around, his cheeks burned as if he’d been slapped. He’d mentally painted a picture of himself as the hero stepping forward for the good of fellow daoists in the chief worlds. Just as soon as he sacrificed his self-respect to bully the weak, someone from his own side took him down a peg! He was suddenly persona non grata on both sides.

“The affairs of the juniors should stay that of the juniors,” the newcomer chuckled. “Jiang Kui of Rising Sunriver greets the senior.”

Jiang Kui shifted to the side and bowed to Qing Buyi before he looked at Lu Qing.

“Alright, get out of here, old man. Stop making a fool out of yourself. You may not be embarrassed, but damn if I’m not ashamed for you!” Qing Buyi roared with laughter and slapped his nephew on the shoulder. “Don’t worry, Chen Xiao and I won’t do a thing if these supremes kill you. We won’t have a chance to, because your uncle Lu Feng will slaughter them before we can get to them. Ah yes, Lu Feng is the fellow selling the talismans outside. All these people are probably here with Lifeline Talismans. He created all of them, and he’s the third spacetime traveler.”

Qing Buyi backed away, leaving pinpricks of horror traveling down everyone else’s backs, including Jiang Kui’s. He shook as he looked at Qing Buyi, his eyes already starting to drift elsewhere. He represented his home, Rising Sunriver, this time and not the Corpse Refiners. The sect was unwelcome anywhere in the chief worlds, and though it was an open secret that he’d joined them, it was one that no one was willing to blatantly point out.

As a divine nation, Rising Sunriver was unquestionably stronger than ordinary factions. However, Lu Feng’s reputation was too fearsome and prestigious. He was the one who’d bestowed additional lives upon cultivators via modifying the Lifeline Talismans. That made him the darling of countless powerhouses in the chief worlds. Who dared offend him?

Kill Lu Feng? Would he lack Lifeline Talismans when he was their maker? He was impossible to beat and an invincible enemy to make. As opposed to engaging in hostilities with him, it was far better to keep him happily appeased.

“Hoi, Jiang! Do whatever you want,” Qing Buyi smirked. He could tell what Jiang Kui was concerned about. “It’s the strong bullying the weak if a supreme kills Lu Qing, but if one of you juniors kills him, that’s on him. He deserves his death then.”

Jiang Kui studied Qing Buyi’s face and nodded carefully. “I hope the senior means what he says.”

“But first, you have to be able to kill him. He can smash you to death with pure life force given all the Lifeline and Resurrection Talismans on him,” mumbled Qing Buyi. He didn’t address that part to Jiang Kui.

A ray of jade-green sword light shot out of Jiang Kui's hands and cut straight at Lu Qing. His cultivation level was inferior to Zhu Hongyu's, but his battle strength and grasp of order and dao were far superior.

Jiang Kui was one of the four great geniuses of the younger generation. He was so strong that Lu Yun hadn't had a chance to resist when he cut through one of the golden armored warriors with one stroke.

Lu Qing kept his cool despite an attack coming for him and once more flared purple light from his shortsword. This time, however, was vastly different from his first challenger. Each of his strokes solidly connected with Jiang Kui's sword light, but all of them shattered on impact like an egg striking a rock.

Lu Yun's sword dao was less than Jiang Kui's sword dao. Lu Qing took half a step back and pushed off from the ground, twisting eighteen times in the air.

Hummm.

A massive purple dragon appeared in the skies and boundless sword light formed a hazy purple sea around it.

Vast Dragon Seaturner! The first sword technique that Lu Yun created after arriving in the world of immortals! It was a pure technique as opposed to being sword dao, a combat art with sword dao as the foundation.

"The young man is promising and worthy of being taught," Lu Yun quoted with a smile.

"Huh? Vast Dragon Seaturner is less than the three moves from before, no?" The little fox was a bit worried.

"Dragonrise, Dragonsoar, and nameless are directly tied to sword dao. Vast Dragon Seaturner is the evolution of sword dao into a combat art," Lu Yun responded. "Cultivation is directly tied to dao, but returning to its origins is the wrong path. The great dao exists to manifest all things. Life from the purest, simplest form of dao is the most complicated!

"We cultivate not to trace dao back to its roots, but to make it more complex and direct it to create all living things. That is the purpose of existence itself. My three moves are my sword dao, whereas Vast Dragon Seaturner is the demonstration of its might. My road was wrong, so I forsook sword dao. Lu Qing's sword dao has reached great perfection, so he should pursue the strength that comes from sword dao!"

Lu Yun's eyes grew brighter as he spoke; he was very satisfied with his son.

Qing Buyi had taught Lu Qing for eight hundred years, but the latter had held fast to his own dao all this time. He hadn't changed himself despite Qing Buyi's influence. Vast Dragon Seaturner encompassed boundless sword momentum and clashed ferociously with Jiang Kui's harrowing move.

Lu Qing walked his own path; he didn't completely follow the path of sword dao that once belonged to his father. Lu Yun's sword intent was one of the oceans. Vast, endless, the dragon churned through the never-ending deep. Lu Qing's sword intent, however, was a more terrifying existence—the chaos sea.

In the countless eons that he'd sat in the chaos sea, Lu Qing had fully comprehended it. Even his nascent spirit was formed from the observations of it. Vast Dragon Seaturner... turned in the chaos sea.

Boom!

A pillar of gray light shot into the sky and hacked Jiang Kui's stroke into two. Lu Qing struck again.

Peng of Kun!

The second move that Lu Yun had invented. An enormous kun fish rose into the sky and transformed into a peng roc, spreading its wings in flight.

This move knocked Jiang Kui back half a step.

"Not bad." Gravely solemn, he sent his sword light to the side. It changed from thriving, jade-green vitality to a deathly black. Strands of gray fog appeared in his eyes as well.

One of Jiang Kui's arms withered away and crushed the sword in his hand, then struck out at the roc rushing out of the chaos sea.

Chapter 1798: Autumnus Realm

Bam!!

It was only one palm strike, but it split the great bird apart into motes of sword light.

Whoosh!

A radiant river of stars rushed out of the crushed bird and blasted Jiang Kui in the chest. He stumbled backward with a rapidly shifting expression. His upper clothing was torn apart, revealing a ghastly gray chest. Eyebrows rose on the faces of the outsiders and they shifted their gaze away, unwilling to look closer.

Jiang Kui's body was as lifeless as a zombie beneath his clothing; there were no signs of a living being. This was the hallmark of a Corpse Refiner disciple. Not only did the sect refine others into zombies, but they ultimately refined themselves as well.

Lu Qing's third technique—Starstream Stroke—only ruined Jiang Kui's clothing. It hadn't done anything to the man.

"I concede." Lu Qing took a few steps back before Jiang Kui could respond. Blood trickled down his chin. "Dao brother Jiang Kui is formidable alright! I am indeed less than you, so please, go on in."

Jiang Kui felt like he'd swung full force into a ball of cotton. He was on the defensive and had shown only two moves. But just as he was about to counterattack after his opponent's flurry of motion, the other conceded the match!

He conceded!

A chief world powerhouse wouldn't yield so easily. They would duel for several rounds at minimum, refusing to back down even if they knew they couldn't match their opponent. Apart from his identity as Lu Yun's son, Lu Qing was a nameless junior. He didn't even seem to grasp sequence yet; he was responding to sequence experts with a strange power.

And yet, Jiang Kui didn't dare really back the ant into a corner. Death would be in short supply if he antagonized the spacetime travelers.

"Fine," he snapped out and stepped off to the side. Jiang Kui was certain that if he dared walk in alone, Lu Yun would swiftly hunt him down. Though he had more than one Lifeline Talisman on him, he was horrified by the treasure after learning that Lu Feng was their creator and that he was Lu Qing's uncle.

Lu Feng? Lu Yun? Feng as in wind, and yun as in cloud? Were the two brothers?

The lifesaving treasure had suddenly turned into a man-eating monster. Jiang Kui's fingers twitched with the urge to throw away the talismans that'd cost all of his personal wealth and most of Rising Sunriver's treasury.

At the same time, he knew that Lu Feng was first and foremost a businessman. He wouldn't sacrifice his reputation to plot against enemies. Although he'd scammed a small fortune from Yun Yi's concubines, that'd been under unusual circumstances. It could be counted as a forced purchase at most, the talismans worked perfectly fine.

If he dared do anything untoward with the talismans, he would be chased to the ends of the world despite being a spacetime traveler.

All the same, Jiang Kui had no intention of entering the Land of Reincarnation by himself. That would just be courting death. Therefore, he took a position off to the side, ready to observe the coming battles.

His victory was a small ray of hope for the others. Lu Yun's son didn't seem to be so unnerving—well, wait, they were drawing their conclusions too quickly. Jiang Kui was one of the strongest geniuses beneath the supremes. He ranked the same as Ao Qin of the dragon race, that one from the Moran Clan, and Xie Tianxun. It was to be expected that he could triumph over Lu Yun's son and force the latter to concede.

Lu Qing ignored Jiang Kui, instead turning his gaze to the other side of Mount Astronomia and waited to see who would be his next challenger.

Young geniuses were naturally proud and self-assured, never ones to back down. The first two challengers had ended in immense defeat and victory apiece. While most here were weaker than Jiang Kui, they would never accept that fact.

Thus, a new challenger quickly stepped up to the plate.

Lu Qing met him head-on and used only Lu Yun's combat arts and sword dao in battle. He never called upon the skills that Qing Buyi had taught him, opting instead to use the methods of the Qing Clan, Lu Clan, and the world of immortals.

His feats quickly traveled throughout the Land of Reincarnation.

It was common knowledge since eight hundred years ago that the outsiders were waiting to invade. A miasma of fear and trepidation constantly drifted through the air; everyone thought of the outside realm as superior. In those experts' eyes, the Boundless Planes were nothing but a lower world and its cultivators far beneath their consideration.

Not to mention, the powerhouses waiting to invade the Boundless Planes were all sequence experts. Some were immense heavyweights beyond ninth level sequence. Although Lu Yun made use of the war a hundred years ago to uproot the factions that'd defected to the chief worlds, what remained of the Land of Reincarnation still couldn't muster any courage to face bonafide outsiders.

But now...

Lu Yun's son, Lu Qing, was defeating these legendary titans in direct combat with the combat arts of immortal dao! He was beating them so badly that they were one step away from crying for their mothers! While the outsiders still triumphed over him, it was enough to prove that they weren't nearly as invincible or terrible as the legends made them out to be.

Numerous powerhouses in residence at Mount Astronomia raised water curtains to broadcast the battles to the rest of the fourth realm. Other professional experts made detailed introductions of each challenger. For example, the Zhu Hongyu that Lu Qing had defeated with three moves was a twenty-fifth level sequence expert and the personal disciple of a powerhouse who'd exceeded sequence!

These days, the fourth realm bustled with activity. Immortal dao's reputation reached its peak due to concerted efforts from the Formula Academy, Dao Academy, and other immortal dao factions. Some powerhouses who'd been stalwartly against immortal dao decided to set foot into immortal dao sequence after seeing the battles taking place at Mount Astronomia.

Public opinion.

Such was a common tactic on Earth—controlling public discourse meant controlling and directing the people's hearts. Unfortunately for those of the fourth realm, while their culture of cultivation had reached incredibly prosperous levels, they'd never encountered the plethora of stratagems that'd been present during Earth's technological era.

Lu Yun only needed to somewhat exert himself to reap unforeseen gains.

The battles of Mount Astronomia lasted for three full years. Hundreds of outsiders descended upon the mountain, but none of them dared pass it. They'd all been warned before arriving that there was an abundance of horrifying existences in the Land of Reincarnation. They could very well be captured in one fell swoop if they struck out on their own.

Since so many of them rose to the occasion, there was naturally more than Jiang Kui who found victory in the field. The chief worlds were more than a hundred million times greater than the Land of Reincarnation—geniuses were thick on the ground and heavyweights grew on trees. Even if they weren't all as capable as Jiang Kui, they weren't that far behind.

Jiang Kui had built his reputation through each punch and kick he delivered, but there were also many who'd never fought him. Jiang Kui, Ao Qin, Xie Tianxun, and the Moran genius who yet remained nameless were similar to the titled dukes of old in the Hongmeng—the representative figures of the younger generation.

Lu Qing's grand gesture meant to probe the depths of whatever hidden geniuses were out there; he also benefited greatly from his exertions. Eight hundred years of tutelage from Qing Buyi had fully combined

Lu Qing's previous cultivation and battle philosophy. The subsequent three years of fights honed and tempered all that he had.

His next challenger was an ethereal young girl—a fairy dressed in a pastel purple dress. Her features were exquisitely shaped and her form slender and delicate. She appeared on the scene like a ray of morning radiance, enigmatic in dainty refinement.

“Qiu Feishan of the Autumnus Realm greets dao brother Lu Qing.” She swept a graceful curtsy at Lu Qing. “Senior brother, are you playing for time by blocking your own front door?”

“Autumnus Realm?! What's someone from the Autumnus Realm doing here?!” The crowd shifted with surprise when they heard the self introduction.

Autumnus incorporated “realm” in their name—not the realm of a territory, but the realm of cultivation. They were mysterious beyond compare and a faction that even the dragons and Morans were wary of. There were rumors of them in the chief worlds, but no one had ever glimpsed one of their cultivators.

If the young girl called Qiu Feishan really was from the Autumnus Realm, then things had abruptly taken a complicated turn in the Land of Reincarnation.

“The fuck?? The Autumnus Realm! What are those monsters doing out and about?” Qing Buyi sat down on a boulder and fished out a large bun to snack on.

“Surely you jest, miss.” Lu Qing responded evenly. While a flash of stunned appreciation glowed in his eyes, he wasn't lost in the person in front of him. “We've been preparing for eight hundred years, so a few more days makes no difference. I stand here simply to take all of you oh-so-superior outsiders down a few pegs.”

His shortsword grew three inches, a sign of his increase in strength.

Chapter 1799: Shameless To The Extreme

The outsiders had started building a reputation for the chief worlds several hundred years ago, before Lu Yun devoured the land of darkness and Qing Buyi expelled all of them. They hailed the chief worlds as paradise, whereas the Land of Reincarnation was a forgotten corner of a barren backwater. None of the outsiders would degrade themselves to visit this location if it wasn't for the seed of nothing and world of sequence.

While these notions didn't firmly take root in public consciousness after several hundred years, it still planted the seeds of fear in many people's hearts.

“I'll let you in on a secret, miss. The battles of these three years have been simultaneously broadcasted to the rest of the fourth realm. Hundreds of millions of souls have seen me beat these pieces of trash into the dirt. Though I haven't beaten them to the point where their own mothers won't recognize them, I've just about done so.”

Zhu Hongyu and others that Lu Qing had fought glowered. However, there was nothing they could do since they were no match for him. Lu Qing would be second to only premier geniuses like Jiang Kui if he was in the chief worlds. He did indeed have the right to speak this way.

Lu Qing blazed with arrogance and dripped thick contempt for those he spoke of. They were here to rob and destroy his home, so why would he show them a friendly face? He might appear genteel on the surface, but a blade was always hidden in his smile and he could leap into action at any time.

“You’re absolutely right,” Qiu Feishan nodded. “Shall we, dao brother?”

She said nothing more and deployed a ray of kaleidoscopic sword light with a wave of her hand. It beelined for Lu Qing and halted half an inch from his forehead—he hadn’t even had time to react!

“You win, senior sister.” He smiled and raised a cupped fist salute.

Qiu Feishan inclined her head and jumped up, vanishing from Mount Astronomia. She was the first to pass through the mountain and enter the fourth realm.

“Don’t do anything to her, let her pass!” Qing Buyi hastily transmitted, afraid that someone would attack her in short order.

Though Qiu Feishan had won with one move, no one cheered from the chief worlds side. The supremes in attendance were in foul moods. It was not good that the Autumnus Realm was involved.

.....

According to Lu Yun’s plans, he would send his men after anyone who dared cross the mountain and kill them at first light. While anyone below supreme, even thirtieth level sequence experts, was a child in the eyes of the chief worlds, they were agents of incredible death and destruction in the Land of Reincarnation’s eyes.

Lu Yun would ambush anyone who dared enter.

Act with integrity? That was a luxury only for the strong. Lu Yun had a very clear understanding of where he stood—he was a weakling. Fish on the cutting board, to be exact.

He needed to be shameless and ruthless if he wanted to live. But with Qing Buyi’s warning, Lu Yun immediately understood that Qiu Feishan of the Autumnus Realm was no ordinary person. Defeating Lu Qing with one move meant that she was so strong her name should be known throughout the worlds. However, no one seemed to know of her. More important was the general atmosphere of gravity from the supremes on the other side of the mountain. It was an emotion they couldn’t hide.

Lu Yun hastily ordered the Hell Legion lying in wait around Mount Astronomia to stand down. He kept a close eye on her flight path and breathed a sigh of relief to see her head off in a different direction than the Central Hongmeng.

Qing Buyi didn’t say anything else about the Autumnus Realm or Qiu Feishan. He simply repeated, “Can’t antagonize her, can’t antagonize her.”

Since they couldn’t, then Lu Yun wouldn’t. There were plenty of people he couldn’t afford to offend, anyhow.

.....

“Lu Qing, how dare you stand in our way after you’ve been unequivocally beaten in one move?” The Myriad Spirit Supreme seemed to have become the supremes’ spokesperson.

“I beat your disciple with three, but you’re still thick-skinned enough to remain here. And please, call me the son of Lu Yun!” Lu Qing definitely rivaled Lu Yun when it came to shamelessness. If it came down to whose skin was thicker, he feared no one in this department.

“How about this, Myriad Spirit Supreme, get another one of your disciples in here and see if he can take a hit from me.” Lu Qing merrily brandished the newly expanded shortsword.

He didn’t know the particulars of Qiu Feishan or the Autumnus Realm, and neither did he know what the supremes were thinking. What he did know was that he couldn’t back down at this juncture or show weakness. He couldn’t come off as weaker even in terms of tone. He needed to be shameless to the extreme!

Formula dao was immensely popular in the fourth realm and almost everyone practiced it. Even if they didn’t, they became involved when formula dao turned into the medium for supplemental dao. Lu Qing’s battles with the outsiders enabled them to analyze the combat arts and great dao of his opponents, as well as the sequence they wielded! All of the formula dao in the fourth realm combined could quickly derive the various methods of the chief worlds and incorporate them into the cultivation system of the fourth realm.

Cultivators of the fourth realm were less than those of the chief worlds because the chief worlds possessed complete worlds. The fourth realm lacked that. Even though Lu Yun had taken Xie Tianxun’s Kinship of Heaven and Earth apart and integrated it into immortal dao, it still wasn’t enough. Thus, the only thing that could be done now was to determine their shortcomings through the combat arts of outsiders and use those arts to shore up their own weaknesses.

“Hmph!” The Myriad Spirit Supreme left with a flourish of his sleeve. Some of the other supremes had picked up a hint of what was happening. Three years wasn’t a long time—just the blink of an eye. Although Lu Qing spoke in righteous tones, they were no fools.

While the supremes might not have personally come into contact with formula dao, anyone who’d visited the Land of Reincarnation had come back with stories of it, making it out to be an absolutely magical creation.

“So you don’t have the balls to?” Lu Qing sneered to see the supreme leave. “Then piss off as far away as you can. I don’t care about the others, but if anyone under the Myriad Spirit Supreme’s banner dares set foot into the fourth realm, I promise I’ll find them and kill them all!”

He scattered several hundred Lifeline Talismans through the air. Lu Qing had created all of them; they would block a fatal blow for him at a crucial moment. He also possessed many Resurrection Talismans, but the outsiders were unaware of this talisman and its impressive capabilities.

“If I self detonate and trade a life for a life, that should be enough to kill all of your disciples, no?” Lu Qing roared with laughter.

Sharps gasps rose and fell through the crowd, no wonder the kid dared block the way! It wasn’t something he planned to do for long. If he was still here after three years, the supremes would likely join

hands and run him down themselves. It wouldn't matter whose disciples he'd beaten then. The intimidation he'd exerted over them at the beginning had also slowly faded away with each successive battle.

When the situation dissolved to that point, Lu Qing would bear the brunt of their fury. Not even Qing Buyi would be able to save him.

But he'd taken out several hundred Lifeline Talismans in one go! He really was blocking the door with his life, and in a most shameless way! He wasn't afraid of death at all!

"How about this, let's go for another three years. Anyone who fights Lu Qing during this time may enter after that," Qing Buyi spoke up. "The arrangements that are in place won't target them either. How about it?"

"And those who haven't fought him?" The Myriad Spirit Supreme's face darkened.

"Do you shameless old farts want to enter through here too?" Qing Buyi snorted. "Only those who've fought Lu Qing can walk in through the front door. As for you guys... you guys can dig a random dog hole for your disciples."

The Myriad Spirit Supreme and his peers nearly vomited blood. This was forcing them to send out their strongest disciples! They could indeed create a passage in other parts of the fourth realm and send in their will and disciples through their dao palaces, just like the Nebula Supreme had brought in Xie Tianxun. But Qing Buyi had just declared this part of the fourth realm the front door, labeling everything else as dog holes. He was a character of note in the chief worlds. His words carried weight and would be disseminated far and wide.

Avoid the front door for a dog hole? That would be the height of humiliation for these supremes! Lu Qing and Qing Buyi might not care about their dignity, but that wasn't the case for the supremes.

"Let's do it this way—one thousand battles," came a woman's voice. "If our disciples can't win more than half of them, we'll dig the holes ourselves. If we win more than half, then all of us can go in through the front door."

"Uncle, she seems more shameless than us," Lu Qing mumbled. "That's one thousand battles in a row against me, and she pitches it like some kind of fair and equitable solution."

Chapter 1800: Formation of Time

"Shh," Qing Buyi whispered and made a shushing motion. "Don't say the quiet part out loud. We're just thick-skinned—they're totally shameless."

The woman flushed bright red and said no more.

Lu Qing had already fought more than one thousand battles prior to this, attaining a victory rate higher than eighty percent. That meant he'd won more than eight hundred of his previous battles. Though his strength had improved as a result, he was also tired beyond belief. That conclusive blow from Qiu Feishan had been particularly damning. While it didn't seem like much, the exchange had left a scar in the depths of Lu Qing's spirit.

The supremes present could also clearly read his mentality. Just as he'd defeated Zhu Hongyu with three moves, he couldn't possibly be unaffected by his defeat in a similar fashion.

The one thousand battles to come would be a tough and arduous slog.

Both Qing Buyi and Lu Qing knew that what he needed right now was a period of quiet contemplation, to harmoniously blend all of his reflections from the past three years of trials. He also needed to adjust his mindset to erase the shadow that Qiu Feishan had left on his heart.

Lu Qing could easily accomplish the deed given his level of mental accomplishment. What Qing Buyi had just announced was meant to sow some confusion into the ranks of the outsiders. He wanted to win some time for his nephew to recover and adjust.

But the supremes among the outsiders wouldn't allow him this breathing space. They wanted to force him right back into the grind and immediately commence a thousand battles.

A genius of the chief worlds showed himself after the woman retreated. Lu Qing had lost two hundred fights in his previous one thousand; the aura emanating from this genius was similar to the ones from the challengers who'd defeated him.

He charged Lu Qing before the latter had a chance to decline or accept the challenge. It would seem that the supremes had lost their patience, particularly after those from the Autumnus Realm entered the Land of Reincarnation.

Kaboom!

A mushroom cloud rose from the ground. Lu Qing exploded when the man rushed him! This twenty-eighth level sequence genius was second to only Jiang Kui, and he blew apart as soon as he drew near to Lu Qing!

Sparkling rays of golden talisman light gathered in the air to reform Lu Qing. The genius, however, was a pile of dust and no more.

"Ahem," Lu Qing chuckled. "I win this one, I presume? What a coincidence, I happen to have nine hundred and ninety-nine Lifeline Talismans on me. That'll be enough for the remaining battles."

Low snarls and grinding teeth sounded throughout the gathered supremes. Though there'd been heavy injuries inflicted throughout the past three years, with Lu Qing suffering his fair share of them, there'd never been a fatality. This was a first.

All of the sequence experts from the chief worlds traded glances, horror prickling their scalps. Nine hundred and ninety-nine more talismans?? Their maker was Lu Qing's uncle! There was no way he only had nine hundred and ninety-nine Lifeline Talismans on him!

Why, Lu Qing had earlier declared that he was going to take out the Myriad Spirit Supreme's disciples through sheer number of lives alone!

"Three days," Qing Buyi said before anyone else could. "My nephew is tired after fighting three years in a row. Let him have three days of rest and we can resume the remaining battles after that. It will count as his loss if he uses a talisman in the fights to come. None of the remaining fights need to take place then, it will be your victory."

The supremes lit up when they heard this and a wild thought flashed through their minds. They could send in their disciples with a Lifeline Talisman and blow Lu Qing to bits!

The thought left as swiftly as it came. Qing Buyi would undoubtedly use that as an excuse to lose his mind. Even if the outsiders could make their way in after that, Qing Buyi and Chen Xiao would have plenty of reasons to make things very difficult for them.

Spacetime travelers were too terrifying. The supremes were here as a joint collective to prevent Chen Xiao, Qing Buyi, and Lu Feng from blatantly interfering in the Land of Reincarnation. If the trio had any excuse to do so, the situation would become too tricky to handle.

“Alright, then,” the woman from earlier interjected. “At the same time, it will count as our loss if our disciples use a Lifeline Talisman.”

“Oh?” Qing Buyi grinned lopsidedly. “Is that just that one person’s loss, or everyone’s to come?”

“...just theirs.” Though the woman felt extremely awkward, there was no other option available but to continue negotiating. The Myriad Spirit Supreme had lost so much face thanks to his own disciples, Qing Buyi, and Lu Qing that he’d gone into hiding and refused to emerge.

“Fine then,” Qing Buyi nodded and gestured at Lu Qing.

Lu Qing quickly sat down cross-legged and set up a hazy purple formation before he closed his eyes in meditation.

Startled, Qing Buyi awkwardly considered the formation and mumbled to himself, “You’re just as shameless as your father when you put your mind to it!”

A great formation of time.

Lu Qing had deployed the formation of time reincarnation that his father had surreptitiously given him. Three days in the outside world meant three thousand years inside it. That was more than enough for Lu Qing to cultivate and digest his conclusions from the past three years, which would immensely enhance his strength.

While he might still be defeated in one move if he faced Qiu Feishan after this period of time, it wouldn’t be as incomprehensible a situation as before. The supremes of the chief worlds also recognized the formation, but couldn’t do anything about it.

“This is the last time we give way!” the woman shouted. “We’ll raze Mount Astronomia in a combined offensive if you people keep causing trouble like this!”

“Ahem, don’t worry, Firstspirit Supreme, this is the last time. Yep, truly the last time...” Qing Buyi was finally feeling a bit embarrassed. They were cheating with what they were doing.

He and Lu Qing had been the ones to suggest blockading the outsiders and they’d set the rules. It wasn’t over the line that their opponents asked for one thousand battles, but to stretch three days into three thousand years was... a little too outside the box.

The Firstspirit Supreme nodded and turned around. The titans of the chief worlds wouldn’t waste the reprieve either. They carefully sifted through their disciples and summoned forth the strongest genius

hidden in their sects. This was to be the first battle for claiming the Land of Reincarnation. Openly walking in through the front door was a certain kind of victory in itself.

At least they were superior to the native in terms of confidence and momentum. At the same time, no one dared take this barren land lightly anymore. Whether it was Lu Yun or Lu Qing, both had exerted a great deal of pressure. Most important was that the spacetime travelers also came from the Land of Reincarnation!