

Necropolis 1801

Chapter 1801: There Is Only Need For Excuses, Not Truth

Three days passed in the blink of an eye, but for some people, they seemed like years. Every minute and every second was as if sitting on pins and needles—someone like Jiang Kui, for instance.

Lu Yun appeared beside him at some point and chit chatted enthusiastically with him. Not only that, but he transmitted all manner of baffling nonsense that gave the impression they were close friends.

Jiang Kui hadn't understood what Lu Yun was doing at first, but then he noticed killing intent gathering in his surroundings. He immediately broke out in a cold sweat. He'd been the architect of everything in the yin tomb of the Abyssal Hell. He'd led countless outsiders into the yin tomb against Lu Yun, but they, and even their primary bodies, had all died to curses.

Thus, it was very suspicious that Lu Yun was so friendly with Jiang Kui now.

The latter's scalp ran with numbness. Oftentimes, hard evidence wasn't the most sought after. Although Jiang Kui was supposedly here representing Rising Sunriver, it was no secret that he'd joined the Corpse Refiners. Many supremes wanted to take him to task for the events of the tomb, they just lacked a proper excuse to.

With Lu Yun and Jiang Kui being such good brothers and secretly transmitting who-knew-what, it was the perfect opportunity for them to do something.

"Hahaha, there's no need for further talk, Brother Jiang," Lu Yun suddenly roared with laughter. "It's all thanks to you that I was able to take down the enemy last time. Thus, I'm not going to let you risk yourself this time, no matter what. How about this, come with me to the primary worlds of the Land of Reincarnation. I'd like to see who will dare touch you then!"

He spoke with righteous zeal and looked straight at the supremes on the other side of Mount Astronomia.

Jiang Kui gaped at Lu Yun—he had no idea what to say. Lu Yun's turn was too sudden. He was still considering how to protest and save himself, but Lu Yun had up and issued an invitation into the land?

"Lu Yun, I am not your brother," Jiang Kui immediately recovered his composure. "And I don't understand anything you were talking about just now."

"Oh, that's just fine and dandy!" Instead of elaborating, Lu Yun snapped to awareness and quickly said, "Brother Jiang—no, no, you're right, Jiang Kui. You and I are enemies unto death. We're not brothers at all! One of us will die the next time we see each other. I was being too forward just now."

He hastily scuttled away, as if to avoid suspicion.

Jiang Kui really wanted to cry now. Lu Yun's exaggerated performance had pushed him straight into the abyss. Everyone knew that he was acting and that Jiang Kui wouldn't possibly partner with him to kill chief world cultivators, but people didn't want the truth. They wanted an excuse to justify their actions. Similar to Qing Buyi and Chen Xiao, they only needed the veneer of a reasonable excuse to kill.

Indeed, the Myriad Spirit Supreme spoke as soon as Lu Yun left.

“Come here, Jiang Kui. I have questions for you.”

Myriad Spirit and Firstspirit were brother and sister. They were premier supremes on par with the self-styled “Esteemed Nebula” and kept a much lower and humble profile than the late Nebula.

They spoke up on behalf of the rest because they’d been put up for the position. Those who’d speak for others needed to possess the sufficient strength to, but also needed to receive more benefits for their troubles.

Jiang Kui had caused the Myriad Spirit Supreme to lose face earlier, so the supreme naturally seized the opportunity to do the same. He didn’t need truth or reason, just an excuse. Jiang Kui’s face darkened and he scowled in the direction of the Land of Reincarnation, then dissipated as a cloud of dust.

The representatives from Rising Sunriver had quietly left at some point; the great nation had become a Corpse Refiner vassal a long time ago. Lu Yun only needed a small ploy to hold them off outside the land. If they still wanted entry, they would have to dig a dog hole.

.....

Three days passed by in the outside world, but three thousand years passed by in the formation of time. That wouldn’t be a long period in ordinary times, but each second was extraordinarily precious to Lu Qing at the moment.

After that, he officially met the strongest genius of the chief worlds in combat.

Lu Yun didn’t sit around idly either. He was a busy man during the past three years. A boundary of Time Reincarnation quietly encircled Mount Astronomia, isolating the passage of time on the mountain from the rest of the void. It was slowed down, creating more breathing room for the rest of the Land of Reincarnation.

This turned the mountain into a buffer zone between the land and chief worlds, one that belonged to neither side. Lu Yun, Lu Feng, Chen Xiao, the Dao King, and the fourth spacetime traveler—Moran Dongning—jointly created the massive boundary with help from the ten Yama Kings. They successfully did so without catching the eye of the supremes.

Everyone’s attention was on the one thousand battles to come. It also helped that Lu Yun set up a boundary instead of a formation. Formations came with ripples that were easily detected by formation masters. Boundaries, however, were hard to discern.

“It’s finally complete.” Lu Yun wiped away the sweat on his forehead.

“It won’t remain a secret for long,” the Dao King warned. “Powerhouses abound in the chief worlds and those two ‘spirit’ supremes are absolute titans. They just put on the foolish act of a buffoon. While it seems like others are jerking them around, they’re actually very shrewd and nurse their own plans. They’ve probably already discovered the time boundary and just haven’t said anything.”

Lu Yun’s heart skipped a beat. In his view, the two supremes stepping forward to speak on behalf of the chief worlds were incredible idiots. This course of action easily attracted hate—just as his son had said, any of Myriad Spirit’s disciples would be fully hunted down if they dared enter the land.

That tiny speck of gain wasn’t worth the trouble of sticking one’s neck out for.

But while they looked like they were driving a hard bargain in the negotiations, they'd actually been giving way. A thousand battles seemed to guarantee victory for the chief worlds, but it would benefit Lu Qing the most. He'd already taken his position and left no way out for himself if the chief worlds decided to keep fighting him. But with the one thousand battles, he had a way to withdraw gracefully, no matter the outcome.

He would be known throughout the chief worlds if he won and it would be a very honorable defeat if he lost. Without the limit of one thousand battles, the supremes of the chief worlds would likely all attack him at the same time. He'd never hold them off.

The two supremes had also forced away Jiang Kui and the Corpse Refiners.

"Those two..." Lu Yun mused uncertainly. "Don't seem to be the fair weather sort and don't seem to be on our side either..."

"There are boundless interests and motives at play over the Land of Reincarnation. Perhaps they don't want the world of sequence or seed of nothing. Maybe they seek something that doesn't conflict with our plans," the Dao King nodded. "They're quietly doing us a favor so that we'll return it to them later."

The Myriad Spirit and Firstspirit Supremes were utilizing some tricks to interfere with the judgment of the other supremes, preventing exposure of the time boundary. In Lu Yun's eyes, his son's last several hundred battles were purely a delaying tactic. Once the supremes discovered the boundary, they would stop observing Lu Qing's fights and charge straight into the land.

Again, there was no rhyme or reason to it. They just needed an excuse.

In the absence of being right, Qing Buyi wouldn't be able to stop them. He'd only be able to flee with Lu Qing.

During these twenty thousand years, immortal dao flourished in the fourth realm. Fairylands fully materialized over the Central Hongmeng and the latter truly became the Hongmeng of immortal dao. Immortal dao traversed it straight into the fourth realm. Having become whole and complete a long time ago, time ticked in the second and third realms once more.

Fragments of the original Hongmeng began to grow when irradiated with the light of immortal dao, returning to the state of the original Hongmeng. Countless Formula Academies were established in this process, supporting immortal dao so that it shone throughout the fourth realm and became its only great dao.

Dongfang Mo and Meng Wang sent their own dao into Qing Yu, using her as the medium to accelerate Fairylands' expansion so that it absorbed the heavenly palace, turning everything into a world of immortal dao sequence.

The world of sequence blazed like a sun and illuminated the fourth realm, forcing those who were yet to cultivate immortal dao into becoming denizens under this great dao.

The process took ten thousand years.

Chapter 1802: So It Begins

Lu Qing experienced death three hundred and twenty-six times throughout the course of one year in the time boundary. Without pause, he averaged a battle a day. Conclusion of one battle meant the start of the next. This set the various supremes at ease and their suspicions at rest.

Most importantly was that Lu Yun's time boundary was incredibly marvelous. It only changed the flow of time between Mount Astronomia and the fourth realm; it didn't touch the void at large compared to the chief worlds.

In other worlds, the boundary made use of a reverse force and accelerated the flow of time in the Land of Reincarnation. This feat consumed all of Lu Yun's goodwill, virtue, and strength in the Tome of Life and Death. He was now nothing more than an empty bag flapping in the wind.

Chen Xiao and Moran Dongning were both spacetime travelers. They also wielded the power of time and were pivotal to setting up the time boundary. Lu Yun had never thought that Moran Dongning was also a spacetime traveler—no wonder she referred to Chen Xiao and Qing Buyi as dolts.

.....

In the second year of the time boundary—the twenty thousandth year in the fourth realm, a supreme finally discovered the anomaly.

"You're truly a bit too shameless, Qing Buyi!" remarked an elder in red robes. Though he stroked a mustache and bore white hair, his face was very youthful. "I looked the other way when that slippery kid set up a tiny time formation, but now you encompass this entire space with a time boundary? Do you really take us for fools?"

He stood up and gently waved a hand, revealing a curtain of pale purple light around the premises. All of the supremes regarded the revelation with shock and ugly expressions. They swept vicious glares over the Lu Qing in front of them and Qing Buyi on Mount Astronomia.

Meanwhile in the ring, Lu Qing defeated his opponent and swallowed a healing pill. He rested to recover from his grave injuries as he awaited the arrival of his next opponent.

Lu Qing lifted his head when he sensed the terrifying killing intent permeating the surroundings and smiled. "You are all highly regarded personages in the chief worlds. I am just a humble junior, how would I dare take you for fools? You speak in jest, senior. I would also like to know what that curtain of light is." An innocent expression appeared on his face. One year within the boundary was ten thousand in the rest of the land. He would fight for every second he could and draw out anything that happened.

"Six hundred and eighty-six battles have occurred out of the one thousand. That happened to be my five hundredth victory. Has the senior lost his appetite for the competition and is creating something out of nothing?" Lu Qing released his aura in a baleful whoosh.

Five hundred battles!

The remaining battles wouldn't need to take place if he won another one. The chief worlds could just admit their defeat right now and prepare to dig holes to enter the Land of Reincarnation. It would be a walk in the park for him to win once more out of the three hundred and some remaining battles.

But the red-robed supreme had discovered the time boundary at this time. This was indeed awkward timing.

The Myriad Spirit and Firstspirit Supremes remained silent as the atmosphere took a strange turn. Everyone scanned the time boundary—two years here meant at least twenty thousand in the Land of Reincarnation. That changed everything and gave the land enough time to soar ahead by leaps and bounds! Who knew what it looked like now, and Lu Qing happened to claim his five hundredth victory at this time!

“The Firstspirit Supreme already told you that the time formation is our final act of tolerance. We said that we would show no mercy if you employed further tricks,” the red-robed supreme said with a livid expression. “Since you’ve violated the prior agreement, the matter of five hundred victories doesn’t count either. We will give no quarter if you don’t get out of the way.”

Boom!

He released a crimson ripple from his body and looked at Qing Buyi.

Qing Buyi slowly rose to his feet and nodded at Lu Qing.

“Since you think we’ve violated the agreement, we have no choice but to concede since you’re stronger,” Lu Qing responded without backing down. “I am just a puny native of the Land of Reincarnation, I wholeheartedly accept my defeat.”

Though he yielded the way, he did so with extreme sarcasm.

“Mount Astronomia is under my protection!” Qing Buyi shouted. “The Nebula Supreme’s ending is an example of what will happen if anyone dares harm a single blade of grass or tree on the mountain!”

The mountain’s disciples had long since retreated to Fairylands as Lu Qing and Qing Buyi couldn’t truly hold off the supremes. They wouldn’t have dug holes for themselves even if Lu Qing did win more than five hundred battles.

While the powerhouses of the chief worlds didn’t wish to provoke Qing Buyi, neither were Qing Buyi and Chen Xiao invincible. There were so many heavyweights in the chief worlds that if the two wished to be mantises blocking a chariot, they would eventually be crushed by their opposition. They might inflict heavy damage on the supremes and even uproot the associated factions, but that would only call forth stronger titans from the chief worlds to hunt them down.

It was a precarious balance maintained by unspoken agreement. Everyone constantly probed for an excuse to break it, but once it was broken, both sides would be gravely injured. No one wanted that outcome.

Qing Buyi hadn’t ever planned on actually taking action. He was just here to provide Lu Qing with support and play for as much time as possible.

The moment had finally come.

.....

“What a pity, I should’ve completed the time boundary before they came in, or just as they entered,” Lu Yun said helplessly.

According to their original plans, they would set up the boundary as soon as the supremes arrived. But when the situation actually developed, the supremes were abnormally alert and kept their attention on their surroundings at all times.

Even the slightest ripple didn’t evade their keen eyes.

Ready on the sidelines, Lu Yun was able to activate the boundary only when Jiang Kui and the others were dismissed from the scene. The departure of the Corpse Refiners set many people at ease and the chief world contingent could relax after eliminating a major enemy—it was this slight ease that gave Lu Yun and the others a chance to set up the boundary.

Twenty thousand years were the blink of an eye to even Nihil World Sovereigns, but to the newly born immortal dao, they were invaluable.

The time boundary dispersed with a rumble and the primary bodies of the supremes backed away. Mount Astronomia was like a fortress that cut off the Land of Reincarnation from the chief worlds. The land was accessible beyond it and while its orders had been made whole again, supremes were still forbidden from entering.

Only when supremes projected their wills in through their dao palaces could they enter the fourth realm. They would be limited by sequence if they did so, despite remaining supremes. Such was the effect of order returning to the age of the original Hongmeng.

The twentieth-level sequence zombie was a prime example. While it retained the strength of twenty levels, it didn’t possess sequence. It would be no match for sequence experts of the same level.

Supremes who projected their wills inside became those who were yet to exceed sequence. They would possess the strength of a supreme, but be limited by sequence. Accessing sequence was the result of growth in both cultivation level and strength—but also a constraint. Exceeding sequence enabled them to exercise control over their own great dao.

Though the supremes retreated, their disciples banded together and flew over Mount Astronomia in crowds of one thousand at a time.

.....

“Let’s go, we’ve made sufficient preparations over the past twenty thousand years,” the Dao King smiled at Lu Yun. “Those from the chief worlds will be in for a harsh surprise if they think they have the run of the place.”

He was in light spirits as Lu Yun’s fate was no longer tied to Mo Yi’s. In the past, Mo Yi always died in Lu Yun’s place no matter what they did. But now that Lu Yun had changed the situation, everything that he was would become Mo Yi’s if he died. Mo Yi would guard everything that he’d accomplished.

Mo Yi would never die for Lu Yun again.

Thus, the Dao King wasn't worried about anything anymore. He'd never shown a friendly face to Lu Yun before, but he was now willing to consume his core essence to set up the time boundary for the young man.

"Here, this is the world of the mind that I created from the eleven creation seeds." The Dao King handed a tiny spot of light to Lu Yun. This was the mental Dao Academy that Lu Yun had once envisioned. Though they didn't need it anymore, the Dao King hadn't given up on crafting it.

"Mo Yi created the Soul Dominion. My mental world can assimilate into the Soul Dominion, making it part of immortal dao and even Fairylands," he explained.

Soul Dominion was becoming part of the immortal dao, but the process was excruciatingly slow. If there was another mental world to act as a buffer, it would speed up the process to the point of instantaneous result.

Immortal dao would thus be strengthened and the outsiders rushing into the Land of Reincarnation wouldn't be able to withstand this great dao. They'd be forced to become beings of immortal dao!

Lu Yun would dearly love to give them such an unforgettable welcome.

Chapter 1803: Nihil Homeland

It was like a large boulder had smashed into a bottomless lake. A great disturbance rocked the fourth realm, then slowly settled down. Everyone was on tenterhooks with the thousands of outsiders surging into the fourth realm.

Although the locals had studied Lu Qing's defeat of hundreds of sequence experts over the past three years—thanks to fights that'd been broadcast to all corners of the world—their newfound confidence melted away when disaster was at hand. Their self assurance wasn't rooted in much, so it disappeared as soon as it was put to the test.

At the same time, the outsiders that rushed into the fourth realm were also apprehensive. Lu Qing had delivered a mind-blowing shock to them, seeing as only powerhouses such as Jiang Kui or similar were able to defeat him. Furthermore, his strength had reached Jiang Kui's level over the past two years. He'd won five hundred out of the seven hundred battles!

This rate of improvement was unprecedented, and another twenty thousand years had passed in the Land of Reincarnation in the last two years. How strong would the natives be now? While they couldn't measure up to Lu Qing, surely there were many who were close or second only to him.

The Lu father and son duo had shoved too many rude awakenings at the outsiders.

All of that was set aside when an even more frightening matter took place. After entering the fourth realm, an unknown great dao began steadily eroding their personal dao! Rather than a destructive type of erosion, it was one of assimilation. The great dao they cultivated was still their great dao, but it no longer answered to them. Instead, it rose to the beck and call of a dao they'd never seen before—immortal dao!

Heretofore unfelt terror gripped them, sending waves of helplessness through the outsiders as they traveled throughout the fourth realm. It wasn't the legendary Disintegrated Land, the Land of

Reincarnation that they'd come to. They'd walked into a deep, shadowy forest in which there was no return!

The supremes were yet to project their wills inside since they needed time to prepare. Nearly a hundred thousand sequence experts had entered the land—they were the vanguard for the supremes.

But now, they were losing their dao and not even knowing how! They were slowly falling under the purview of immortal dao and some of the weaker-willed completely lost their heads. Whatever mission the supremes had set for them was flung to the back of their minds.

This was when an unexpected person stepped forward—Chu Xingran.

Chu Xingran appeared out of nowhere and introduced a place called Nihil Homeland. Anyone who entered it could prevent their personal dao from being eroded and devoured by immortal dao.

Although the chief worlds were rife with accusations that Chu Xingran had partnered with Lu Yun to kill countless outsiders, that he'd even killed primary bodies through their replicas, it could be forgiven since numerous Corpse Refiners were among the dead in previous events. It was well known that he nursed a grudge against the Corpse Refiners. And now, he was the savior of many who'd ventured into the fourth realm.

Hundreds of outsiders surged into Nihil Homeland when the news broke. Indeed, as advertised, immortal dao could not enter this world and outsiders could refrain from being assimilated after they absorbed enough energy from the homeland.

The caveat was that residents had to return after a certain period of time to absorb more energy. Otherwise, immortal dao would creep in again. It was precisely this drawback, however, that dispelled many doubts. After all, it would be highly suspicious if the problem was resolved after one visit to the homeland.

Soon enough, the outsiders placed full faith in their new sanctuary.

.....

At the same time, in Fairylands.

"Why hasn't your clan come?" Xie Tianxun urgently asked Moran Dongning. He'd sensed the arrival of those from the chief worlds. While he couldn't see the outside world, he could perceive changes in the fourth realm.

"They won't be coming." Moran Dongning leaned against a small willow tree and held a book in her hands. She looked up from her reading and responded, "My brother has gone back home, so the Morans won't be coming."

"Then what about me?" Xie Tianxun asked dumbly. "And what about you? Don't they care about you?"

Moran Dongning stood up lazily and stretched with a smile. "I've never crossed their mind. There's a lot of people in the clan who don't know I'm here."

Xie Tianxun paused, dumbfounded. Moran Dongning was a peerless genius who possessed stunning beauty. She was famous in the chief worlds, so it should be a highly important matter that she was in

the Land of Reincarnation. The uproar over her presence should be on the same level as Ao Qin and the Spacetime King coming to this land.

But true enough, Xie Tianxun hadn't known that she was here.

"Have they abandoned you?" His mind jumped quickly from thought to thought.

"No, I abandoned them," Moran Dongning smirked. "What would I go back for? Aren't things good here?"

Xie Tianxun knitted his brows together without another word. He finally realized that he'd been had.

"Is your family or dao partner waiting for you in the chief worlds?" Moran Dongning's smile deepened.

"The chief worlds... I haven't heard that in a very long time. No, I don't have any family," Xie Tianxun murmured. "Nor do I have a dao partner. The only person with any relationship to me was the Nebula Supreme. We used each other, and he's dead too."

"Then what do you want to go back for? Lu Yun released you twenty thousand years ago. You can come and go as you wish, even back to the chief worlds if you want. No one cares," Moran Dongning chuckled.

Xie Tianxun plopped on the ground and spat out, "I've accessed twenty-eight levels of sequence after living under this damned immortal dao sequence for twenty thousand years! It's so much easier said than done to leave!"

He'd been nineteenth level sequence when he first arrived in the land; that'd still placed him above Ao Qin, Jiang Kui, and the Spacetime King. He was a genius not in terms of battle strength, but comprehension of dao, usage of combat arts, and mastery of sequence. Of course, he wasn't any weaker than Jiang Kui when it came to battle. He was even a bit stronger.

That he'd be twenty-eighth level sequence after twenty thousand years was something he'd never dared imagine. For Xie Tianxun, it didn't matter how many doors he opened. His ultimate goal was to break free of sequence.

His original plan was to attach himself to the Morans through his connection to Moran Dongning and cultivate dark dao. But since that avenue was cut off from him, he had nothing else in mind anymore.

"Then let's not go back. Come on, we can back up Chu Xingran at Nihil Homeland," Moran Dongning patted Xie Tianxun's shoulder with a smile and waved a door into existence. Chu Xingran's new world lay on the other side.

Chapter 1804: Dragon Dominance Ring

Nihil Homeland was a minor world roughly the size of the old Dusk Province in Nephrite Major of the world of immortals, just eighty thousand kilometers across. While that might seem a significant size, one large enough to house countless beings, those with the right to visit the Land of Reincarnation were all unrivaled geniuses. Any of their residences or complexes was measured in terms of a world.

Thus, placing them in a world eighty thousand kilometers across made for cramped quarters.

Regardless, they were immensely grateful to Chu Xingran and highly respectful toward him. Not only was he the crown prince of Darklake, but he was also the foster son of the Azure Dragon King. Noble and lofty, his strength was even more unfathomable.

The arrival of another group changed the situation entirely.

The golden dragons of the dragon race.

Their crown prince, Ao Quan, was a heavyweight with the qualifications to exceed sequence. He'd reached thirty levels of sequence—that was the lowest bar upon which one could surpass sequence. Those who did so at thirty levels wouldn't amount to much in the future, and they'd find it very difficult to forge their dao palaces.

Exceeding sequence didn't automatically make one a supreme. Only those with dao palaces were supremes.

Ao Quan was an unequivocal genius whose fame was second to only Ao Qin and the others. But since he'd accessed thirty levels of sequence, he no longer counted as part of the younger generation. Indeed, he was stronger than the other four.

When he arrived, he immediately declared that the dragon race now controlled Nihil Homeland and that whoever wished to remain needed to swear fealty to the dragons.

Otherwise, they could piss off as far away as they could.

"Chu Xingran, this Nihil Homeland is a creation from my uncle, the Azure Dragon King, isn't it? You've done well in overseeing this territory during this time. Now that I am here, I will take command." Ao Quan bore a head of sparkling golden hair and wore golden armor. It seemed to be etched into his body like fine dragon scales, fully shaping a muscular body rippling with strength.

As politely as he spoke, his tone left no room for doubt. While the Azure Dragon King had adopted Chu Xingran as his foster son and opened the race's treasury to him, the dragons didn't think much of him. They didn't view him as one of them—just a servant, at most.

Now that Ao Quan was here, his first task was to usurp command.

"Men, show Crown Prince Chu Xingran to his quarters so he can rest." Ao Quan didn't give him a chance to speak. Eighteen subordinates walked out and grabbed Chu Xingran by the shoulders, sealing his cultivation and hauling him away. "If the rest of you don't wish to join the dragons, please leave. I will start killing people after a hundred breaths."

Confusion and unrest ruffled Nihil Homeland. Join the dragons?

If they joined the Morans, they would become part of the clan. If they joined the dragons, they would only be treated as tools and discarded as soon as business was concluded in the Land of Reincarnation. More importantly, it was no secret that the golden and azure dragons did not get along. Chu Xingran represented the azure dragons, and Ao Quan was the son of the Golden Dragon King.

With Chu Xingran under house arrest and Ao Quan seizing control of Nihil Homeland, this had become a dragon race matter. The others had no desire to be involved in an internal dragon affair.

Many didn't wish to offend the dragons, so departure from Nihil Homeland was preferable. They could make other plans after retreating to Mount Astronomia.

Moran Dongning and Xie Tianxun happened to arrive just as Ao Quan finished speaking.

"I wondered who was speaking like that, so it's you!" Xie Tianxun burst out into laughter when he saw Ao Quan. "Who can you manage to kill here, hmm? Ao Quan, you really need to make your lies more believable."

"Xie Tianxun! And you are... little princess Moran Dongning of the Moran Clan?" Ao Quan immediately recognized the newcomers, but his expression didn't change much. Instead, he chuckled, "What, do you two wish to interfere with draconic affairs?"

"Interfere with draconic affairs?" Moran Dongning snorted. "Nihil Homeland doesn't belong to the dragons. I made it myself."

"It belongs to us now," Ao Quan nodded. "The dragons will transact with the Morans for it. But you two will either get out of here or swear fealty to the dragons. By swearing fealty, you will put on one of our Dragon Dominance Rings."

The ring was a treasure unique to the golden dragons; they could control whoever wore it. Wearers lost complete personal freedom and became slaves. Its method of manufacture was a golden dragon secret—not even the azure dragons knew how they refined it.

"We're going!" Cultivators of Nihil Homeland didn't dare stay longer once they heard the words "Dragon Dominance Ring". Ao Quan's blatant dismissal of Moran Dongning and Xie Tianxun could only mean one thing—a supreme from the golden dragons had arrived.

If they were any slower in leaving, they might be claimed by a ring and become a slave.

"Moran Dongning, I won't do anything to you since you're the little princess of the Moran Clan. But Xie Tianxun was very rude to me..." A glittering, golden collar the size of a palm appeared in Ao Quan's hand. His lips stretched in a bloodthirsty smile. "Xie Tianxun, are you going to put it on yourself or do I have to beat you into submission first?"

Ao Quan was a genius too. Though his reputation was a bit weaker than Xie Tianxun's, he'd never thought much of the latter. He'd accessed thirty levels of sequence and was preparing to exceed sequence and craft his own dao palace. Strictly speaking, the two were no longer on the same level.

Thirty levels were absolutely superior to Xie Tianxun and the others. Those who'd challenged Lu Qing at Mount Astronomia had been twenty-eight levels at most. There'd never been anyone higher.

Of course, Ao Quan didn't know how strong Xie Tianxun was now. The latter could defeat experts over twenty levels when he was at nineteen—that was why he was hailed a genius. Now that he'd accessed twenty-eight levels, his strength had grown by so many times that he was wholly unafraid of the dragon.

"I'd love to see how a Dragon Dominance Ring would look like on a golden dragon!" Xie Tianxun threw his head back with laughter and flew forward with a punch.

Ao Quan sneered and flung out the ring, meeting Xie Tianxun head-on.

Chapter 1805: The Golden Dragon King Arrives

Powerful rays of immortal light shone out of Xie Tianxun's body and circled around him. He retracted his fist and decided to headbutt the expanding Dragon Dominance Ring.

Bam!

Dragonling-like radiance streamed out of the ring when it crashed against his head and darted into Xie Tianxun's body through his crown. A massive golden net extended out of the ring, connecting to the radiance that'd burrowed into his body and enveloped him in less than three breaths. The ring's physical form appeared on Xie Tianxun's neck like a collar.

"So you're just another rotten inside underneath a pretty face. I thought I'd need to expend some effort and tactics to capture you. Who would've thought that it'd be this easy?" Contempt quirked Ao Quan's lips to see the sight.

"That's it?" Xie Tianxun snorted at the golden net wrapped around him. "I thought much more of the Dragon Dominance Ring. After all, it's a legendary treasure that makes all of the worlds tremble with fear."

Craaaack.

A sharp crack rang out; the golden net around Xie Tianxun fell apart.

"What?!" Ao Quan jumped with shock and he roared, "Men, act fast! Take him!"

How was breaking free still possible after one was caught by the Dragon Dominance Ring?? It was a tool to capture prey. While there might be misses or failures due to the prey struggling, the result was undeniable after it fastened onto the target. The ring took root in the subject and freedom was impossible after that step.

Xie Tianxun had proven different! This was something that Ao Quan had never fathomed!

His men rushed over, wanting to recapture Xie Tianxun before he completely regained his freedom.

Hummm.

A formless ripple oscillated from Moran Dongning's foot as she stepped forward. She casually sent the charging dragon experts flying.

"This is a matter between the two of them. I'll kill whoever dares interfere," she announced coldly.

"Others might be afraid of the dragons, but I, Moran Dongning, am not."

Craaaack.

The net around Xie Tianxun fully crumbled away and the Dragon Dominance Ring disengaged from his neck, falling into his hand.

"Hmmp, that's all there is to it?" He carefully studied the ring before tossing it into his storage seed.

Ao Quan's expression twisted and he stretched out his hand, clenching at empty air. Golden light blossomed as a golden spear undulating with watery ripples appeared in his hand. He wasted no effort on further discourse before he charged Xie Tianxun.

The latter solemnly regarded his opponent. He would've left without another thought if things were as they were before. But his previous self could not be compared to who he was today—someone who'd truly come into his own.

Boom!

Rays of immortal light rained down and immortal radiance danced through the air, forming a white longsword in Xie Tianxun's hand.

.....

The two duelled for three days straight in Nihil Homeland, ultimately resulting in Xie Tianxun barely winning out by one move. Just as Ao Quan was about to fall in defeat, a golden painting scroll unfurled from his body and shifted into a golden dragon that knocked Xie Tianxun back.

"The Golden Dragon King!" Moran Dongning stepped up with a solemn expression and shielded Xie Tianxun with her body.

"Moran Dongning, you have been struck from the rosters of your clan. No one wants you—you are no longer a Moran." A projection of the dragon king looked remotely at Moran Dongning. "Before I came, one of your elders wished for me to convey that if you continue to use the Moran name to stir up trouble, he will kill you with his own hands."

"Teehehehehe!!" Moran Dongning giggled delightfully when she heard this. "An elder? You mean that old thing Moran Tong, don't you?"

"Since he had you bring a warning, did he tell you that I'm the fourth spacetime traveler?" She grinned with cruel amusement.

"What?!" The projection wavered and the dragon king backed up, putting Ao Quan behind him. The latter was as white as a sheet.

The fourth spacetime traveler!

Chen Xiao and Qing Buyi were already turning the chief worlds upside down. Although Qing Buyi trespassed on Moran territory when he hunted the Nebula Supreme, only Moran Xuhua had dared say anything. Even then, the genius had quickly slunk back after two complaints. No one else from the clan had so much as wagged their finger.

The third spacetime traveler was even more incomprehensible. Lu Feng had risen to prominence with the Lifeline Talisman and no one dared offend him. Rumor had it that not even Yun Yi dared take him to task for scamming three of his concubines.

Moran Dongning is the fourth spacetime traveler??

Ao Quan felt like he'd rammed his head against a boulder. His father's projection was no match for a spacetime traveler! While these travelers might not be willing to offend the entire dragon race, they

would be perfectly happy to antagonize the golden dragons. The azure dragons would absolutely help the spacetime travelers eliminate a thorn in their side.

“Hand over Chu Xingran. You can have Nihil Homeland in return.” Certain things seemed to be weighing on Moran Dongning’s mind and she didn’t wish to be entangled with the Golden Dragon King.

The king swiftly understood—Moran Dongning had left her clan for various reasons and was concerned that the Moran Clan would ally with the golden dragons.

“That can be done,” Ao Quan hastily agreed and waved to his men.

“It’s just a replica, who cares if they have it?” Chu Xingran emerged completely unbothered by his brief captivity. “I wanted to figure out how the Golden Dragon King got here.”

Moran Dongning’s face stiffened with awkwardness. That’s true, everyone had overlooked the fact that this was Chu Xingran’s Poison King replica. No wonder he hadn’t resisted when he was manhandled.

Ao Quan’s expression was likewise frozen. His father’s will wasn’t here through a dao palace. They’d used another method that was nearly exposed to Chu Xingran.

But to the Golden Dragon King and Ao Quan, gaining Nihil Homeland meant they had a place of their own in the Land of Reincarnation. It was a place to launch the rest of their operations. Nothing else mattered.

Chapter 1806: The Spirit Paper That Changed the World

At some point in time, something called a “spirit paper” quietly rose to prominence in the fourth realm and became sought after by countless immortals.

Indeed, immortals.

Apart from the cultivators of the chief worlds, there were only immortals left in the fourth realm now. Everyone’s internal force had been transmuted to immortal force.

Spirit paper was eagerly pursued in the fourth realm, but it was nothing special to Earthlings. It was just the immortal version of a newspaper. So what?

The civilization of cultivation on Earth had evolved to an utmost. After twenty thousand years of development, it was essentially another world of immortals. Immortal dao flourished and immortals populated the planet. The three factions that’d once warred over it were no more and Immortal Stratum on Kunlun Mountain was its governing body.

But in the fourth realm, spirit paper was a novelty. It recorded everything that happened in the realm, from important events that impacted the status quo down to minutiae such as who pioneered what combat art and which Nihil World Sovereign broke through to sequence.

It was disseminated by the Formula Academies that could be found throughout the realm. A new paper was issued everyday; immortals fought to purchase the latest copy. It was a source of the realm’s trends and news.

While a civilization of cultivation had prospered in the fourth realm of the past, it was more a way of survival, not of living. Everyone was a powerhouse and quested for higher great dao. They knew nothing else.

Arrival of spirit paper overturned the fourth realm, adding a human touch to this great realm. The currency accepted for it was the cultivation resource of the times—enigma stones.

They came from the enigma stones that Chu Xingran had left with Lu Yun. After Lu Yun planted them in the world of immortal dao sequence, they flowered when immortal dao took root in the fourth realm.

Enigma stone veins were classified as rare commodities in modern times. They were immensely valuable—Nihil World Sovereigns couldn't bear to use even an inferior rank stone in cultivation. Only shavings were used to purchase spirit papers, not whole stones.

Spirit papers brought immense enjoyment to the lives of fourth realm immortals and subtly changed their lifestyle. Some sequence experts were even willing to publish their cultivation insights, thus earning fame throughout the realm since submissions were credited.

They also received a hefty sum of enigma stones from the Formula Academies for their contribution.

Most important was that the concept of a calendar was finally imprinted on people's minds. Each issue was printed with the day's date. The current issue, for example, was the publication of the second day in the seventh month of the twenty-eight thousandth, nine hundred and thirty-sixth year of the Xuanhuang calendar.

Although immortal dao had traversed the fourth realm and adopted all denizens as part of its jurisdiction, there was no single ruler for the fourth realm. The political situation was as it was before. Every sect, clan, and faction ruled and fought for themselves.

When Lu Yun used the war to uproot factions that'd defected to the chief worlds, he didn't go one step further to conquer the entire realm. Everything was to remain free and unfettered, just as immortal dao sought to be.

Anyone who dared set down a universal calendar would be rejected or attacked by the rest of the land. However, the record of time on the spirit papers was the Xuanhuang calendar used from the world of immortals to the Hongmeng. No one opposed its usage. Instead, it was unobtrusively accepted by the realm.

Everything in conjunction resulted in massive changes and swift improvements to the fourth realm.

These days, the most popular articles were reports regarding the chief world cultivators. The papers had made a detailed explanation of the relationship between the chief worlds and Land of Reincarnation before any outsider invaded.

As for those who'd experienced countless reincarnations or been present at the land's conception, or those who'd obtained a local identity—Lu Yun exposed them all. Only when the people knew the truth could they make the proper judgment calls and decisions.

.....

“The latest spirit paper is finally here! I wonder what’s happened to those outsiders who barged into Sir Chu Xingran’s Nihil Homeland. They talked about that group a couple issues ago!”

Lines formed early each morning in front of the minor worlds occupied by the Formula Academies. They were filled with customers waiting to purchase the latest publication.

Spirit papers had made Chu Xingran’s name known far and wide in the fourth realm. What he’d done to the realm was laid out in front of everyone, but no one cared what he’d inflicted in the past. The only thing they paid attention to was that the enigma stones currently used for cultivation were a result of his doing.

Thus, many hailed him Sir Chu Xingran as a mark of respect.

“Sovereign King Meng Wang of the Formula Academy is also the emperor of the original Hongmeng from the last era! The last issue published his thoughts and reflections on various great daos and cultivation methods. It’s said that he’ll continue to share his combat arts and methods in the spirit paper!”

A hubbub of conversation arose when people learned that the original emperor was still alive. As Sovereign King Meng Wang, he’d accessed twenty-three levels of sequence. The news swiftly made its way through the fourth realm; he was also a key player in why the spirit paper was able to be distributed throughout the realm and accepted by all.

It was due to the spirit papers publishing his cultivation thoughts and some of his stronger methods and combat arts that made it such a draw for crowds of cultivators. Of course, the issues featuring his articles were much more expensive than regular issues.

“It’s here, it’s here!” someone called out as several youths walked out with a large chest. It was filled with newspapers printed on speciality paper. The same scene happened across all Formula Academies at nearly the same time.

“Gimme one!”

“I want one too!” The line surged as people pushed forward, deathly afraid that it would sell out before it was their turn.

“Don’t fight, don’t fight! There’s one for everyone. Each person is limited to one copy and no more!” shouted the academy disciples as they handed out papers.

.....

“Patriarch Of The Golden Dragons, The Golden Dragon King, Did This To His Nephew!”

“Chu Xingran Fails To Make The List Of The Four Great Geniuses Of The Chief Worlds! Jiang Kui Is Last, Ao Qin Of The Dragons Is Third! First Place Fought Thirty Level Sequence Experts For Three Days Straight!”

“Dragon Genius Of The Previous Gen Is A Bully! Thirty Levels of Sequence Is...”

“Chief Worlds Tremble! Dragons Terrorize Nihil Homeland And Force Cultivators Into Horrific Acts!”

Headlines full of shock value that left much to the imagination were emblazoned across the front page, stoking hot-blooded sentiment.

Chapter 1807.1: Martial Aunt and Uncle

Blood boiled in the immortals and cultivators of the fourth realm when they saw the headlines, but the immortals of Earth could scarcely hold back their eye rolls. Earthling immortals had progressed so rapidly that they could now easily travel throughout the fourth realm. Many of them hailed from certain eras in which such salacious headlines abounded.

Lu Yun's master, Lu Qingtian, for example.

Given the inherent advantages of being Lu Yun's master, Lu Qingtian had long become a sequence expert. Added to that his name being written in the Tome of Life and Death, he was a definitive powerhouse in his own right.

Likewise, Xie Tianxun didn't know what to say when he saw the latest issue of the spirit paper. Though the front page headline didn't spell out his name, this kind of writing style made it easy for readers to remember him. He left quite an impression based on the content of the articles; the name of Xie Tianxun traveled far and wide after the newest issue.

While spirit papers used the written language of the fourth realm's immortal dao, each character actively exuded its unique meaning. That made it easy for those unlearned in the immortal dao language to read the papers.

Not only could the immortals of the fourth realm purchase a copy, but so could the cultivators of the chief worlds through various channels. Enigma stones were exceedingly rare in the fourth realm and a set number was mined each year.

Cultivators from the chief worlds, however, didn't lack enigma stones.

Thus, the arrival of the Golden Dragon King and subsequent occupation of Nihil Homeland made its way back to the chief worlds, resulting in general dissatisfaction toward the dragon race. That included grumbling from the dragons themselves.

All powerhouses from the chief worlds had withdrawn from Mount Astronomia and awaited the arrival of the supremes. They trusted that the supremes could resolve the issue of immortal dao eroding their own dao.

"This spirit paper invention is not bad. There's a certain flavor to be found in reading the day's news after a stint of monotonous cultivation." Chu Xingran perused a copy with great gusto.

Spirit papers relayed current events or cultivation reflections from various heavyweights. Apart from the latest breakthroughs in formula dao, assorted new combat arts and cultivation methods, or the appearance of new treasure, the only other items of note were the gossip columns.

Right now, Chu Xingran was thoroughly engrossed in gossip.

"What should we do now that the supremes have arrived?" Xie Tianxun looked dejectedly at Chu Xingran. He could clearly see that the latter didn't practice immortal dao; his cultivation was still focused

on poison dao. In Xie Tianxun's eyes, he was now on the same side as the enemy who'd once almost killed him.

By the same side, he meant the outsiders that followed Lu Yun. Since he couldn't bank on Moran Dongning anymore, he switched targets to Chu Xingran. Who would've thought that Moran Dongning would be a spacetime traveler??

"What we? What do?" Chu Xingran lifted his head with indifference. "Do whatever you should. My primary body isn't here, so this replica can die at any time."

"I mean, what should I do?" Xie Tianxun ground his teeth. "I offended the golden dragons when I attacked Ao Quan. The rest of the chief worlds know about it too thanks to the damned spirit papers! The dragons have lost face and I'm the one who'll pay for it!"

"Oh," Chu Xingran nodded. "So you seek a connection to the azure dragons through me?"

He finally understood what Xie Tianxun wanted. Only the Moran Clan or azure dragons could protect the man after he hit the golden dragon crown prince. Dragons were a race to repay any slight tenfold, so even supremes would answer the call if the golden dragons issued a bounty for Xie Tianxun's head. Not even nine lives would be sufficient for use then.

"Don't worry, you beat Ao Quan in single combat. Do you think it's happenstance that your accomplishment appeared in the spirit paper? This is Lu Yun's way of protecting you and forcing the golden dragons to stand down. Don't you worry your silly little head about it!" Chu Xingran threw his head back with laughter. "Lu Yun's not restricting your freedom of movement anymore. You're the second greatest immortal beneath immortal dao since you've set foot into twenty-eight levels of sequence. Go be a teacher at the Dao Academy on Mount Xuanhuang or be a dean of one of the schools if you're bored. Why waste your time like this?"

"Second beneath immortal dao?" Xie Tianxun grumbled. "I'm only second when I've accessed twenty-eight levels of sequence?"

"Of course, the first is the Demonic Vine. She's accessed thirty-six levels of sequence. There's not that many in the chief worlds who've accessed thirty-six," Chu Xingran smiled.

Xie Tianxun plopped to the ground and muttered inaudibly.

"Well, I can help you if you wish to be free of immortal dao sequence and access the sea dao of the dragons, or even receive protection from the azure dragons," Chu Xingran suddenly changed tack. "But I have a condition."

"Name it!" Xie Tianxun lit up.

He felt no sense of belonging to the fourth realm and didn't wish to stay here. He was one of the greatest geniuses of this era and the Land of Reincarnation was an impoverished, remote backwater that couldn't contain his ambitions. There was no fame or glory to be found in an insignificant corner of existence!

Even though many chief world powerhouses were paying attention to this locale, he'd still rather flock to the banner of a great faction in the outside realm and not be one of Lu Yun's subordinates.

“My primary body and Ao Qin are about to travel to the Firmament Prison. If you come with us and help us attain our goal, the Azure Dragon King will immediately accept you as his disciple!”

Xie Tianxun trembled with equal parts fear and excitement. The Firmament Prison was one of the most dangerous places in the chief worlds. Countless powerhouses had died there and very few made it out alive.

On the other hand, he would fully release his potential and become a supreme in the shortest amount of time possible if he became a disciple of the Azure Dragon King.

“I’ll go!” Xie Tianxun nodded emphatically after weighing up the pros and cons. “I know what you guys want—the core essence of the prison. You’re doing it for Lu Yun, aren’t you?”

Chu Xingran wordlessly inclined his head. A keen light danced in Xie Tianxun’s eyes, but he refrained from probing further as well.

Chu Xingran was certainly more than met the eye. He’d visited the Firmament Prison before and came out with one of its finest fragments. It was due to that speck of prison that Lu Yun’s hell dao bore traces of the Firmament Prison.

“Who are you?!” Xie Tianxun suddenly demanded. “Even if you saved Ao Qin before, that’s not enough for the Azure Dragon King to take you as a foster son!”

“I am Chu Xingran... I was the Curse King for a while, but I am Chu Xingran now.” The man shook his head. “You’re overthinking it, my identity is not that complicated. Come, let us be on our way.”

He waved his hand and manifested a passageway leading straight to the chief worlds. Azure dragon territory waited on the other side. Chu Xingran’s primary body and Ao Qin were waiting for Xie Tianxun too.

Chapter 1807.2: Martial Aunt and Uncle

The Dao Academy on Mount Xuanhuang.

“It’s thanks to you two that the spirit paper is such a resounding success.” Lu Yun smiled warmly at the man and woman in front of him.

While the paper’s general acceptance and distribution in the fourth realm might not have much to do with them, the content surely did. Backgrounds and little known anecdotes of various chief world factions, detailed origin stories of geniuses and their trademark combat arts, many more pieces of chief world intel and assorted minutiae all came from these two.

The Myriad Spirit Supreme and Firstspirit Supreme.

Apart from Meng Wang being pivotal in the initial welcome of the spirit papers and Xuanhuang calendar, it was also these comprehensive introductions and records of the chief worlds that caught the public’s eye.

Only when Lu Yun commanded the people’s attention could the rest of his plans take place.

Myriad Spirit and Firstspirit's projections were now part of immortal dao. They'd directed their wills to assimilate into immortal dao!

"You're too gracious, fellow daoist. Master Leize enlightened the two of us back in the day. We stand here today only because he took us in and passed on his knowledge. This is nothing," Firstspirit chuckled. "When it comes down to it, it's due to our oversight at Mount Astronomia that the Greatred Supreme discovered the time boundary."

As the Land of Reincarnation, the flow of time in the fourth realm was vastly different from that of the chief worlds'. Theoretically speaking, Lu Yun's time boundary had been flawless and imperceptible. However, it lasted only two years before it was discovered. For that, Myriad Spirit and Firstspirit heavily found fault with themselves.

"Ah yes," Myriad Spirit spoke again before Lu Yun could. "My sister and I have a request to make. It's why we've come to this land."

"Please, go ahead," Lu Yun nodded. He'd suspected the two at first, but there was no need to put themselves in danger even if they wanted something from the Land of Reincarnation. They'd gone above and beyond when they surreptitiously helped Lu Qing stall for time.

The supremes of the chief worlds were no fools. Immense danger would descend upon the brother and sister duo if their actions were revealed.

All the same, it wasn't until Leize on Earth transmitted a message to Lu Yun, explaining his relationship with the two, that the young man relaxed with relief. Leize was a master of sorts to them and they'd gotten involved with the Land of Reincarnation when Leize's family tombs disappeared.

"There are six dao palaces in this land that were coalesced by six supremes of the highest order in the past." Myriad Spirit thought for a moment before continuing, "Inception, Ethos, Burgeon, Creation, Opposition, and Nirvana... We would like those six."

"Sure." Lu Yun handed over the remaining core essence of the six palaces without skipping a beat.

"That's it? Just like that?" Firstspirit couldn't believe her eyes. Everyone knew the legends of the six dao palaces of the highest order in the Land of Reincarnation. Many were here for them as well.

She and her brother never imagined that Lu Yun would so easily hand them over. Even with Leize being the common denominator, the young man shouldn't have been so quick to do so. The two supremes would've never done so, if the roles were reversed. These were treasures that could help them ascend beyond supreme!

"What else?" Lu Yun shook his head. "I've held onto these things for more than twenty thousand years, but all they've done is slowly fade away. I've tried a variety of methods to preserve them, but to no avail. The process doesn't seem reversible, so they're just a complete waste in my hands. It's much better to gift them to my martial aunt and uncle as a greeting gift."

Since Lu Yun viewed Fuxi as his master and these two were Leize's disciples, they were on the same hierarchical level as Fuxi. It was very reasonable that he called them martial aunt and uncle.

“In that case, we happily accept.” The two were delighted at hearing Lu Yun’s honorific for them. To officially become one of Leize’s disciples was their lifelong wish. Although Leize had enlightened and taught them, guiding them in cultivation, he’d never given them an official position.

Brother and sister were wise to the times and didn’t follow up with questions about their master. There was a certain existence keeping watch over everything. If Leize was exposed, he would be placed in great danger.

It was a similar situation to why Lu Yun never reached out to Lu Qingtian after the latter’s resurrection.

“Here are four hundred and eighty million enigma stone veins. It seems to me that the Land of Reincarnation lacks this resource, so I prepared a token of our respect.” The Myriad Spirit Supreme handed a minor world to Lu Yun before leaving with his sister.

Lu Yun regarded the minor world with glee. He’d calculated that, apart from melding the seed of nothing with the worlds to make them whole again, enigma stones were needed to fill in the gaps. In other words, enigma stones contained the source power of the worlds.

The vein gifted to Lu Yun from Chu Xingran had fully taken root and developed into the fourth realm’s ancestral vein. He didn’t need to plant these new ones in the world of immortal dao sequence.

Four hundred and eighty million was a staggering sum to even supremes. If it wasn’t for Myriad Spirit and Firstspirit possessing solid foundations, along with gradually making their preparations through the years—they wouldn’t have been able to collect so many either. On the other hand, these enigma stone veins didn’t amount to much compared to what they’d just received.

The scene shifted around Lu Yun as he moved to the Hongmeng—Redbud Region.

Up on Redbud Mountain, Dragon Butterfly and Long Batian were perennial children who seemed like they would never grow up. In actuality, they’d both accessed immortal dao sequence and were one of the strongest existences in the Hongmeng.

Long Batian was the manifestation of the great dragon of Myriad Dragon Valley and it was very difficult for the two dragons to find any more of their kind in the third realm. Thus, the two moved Myriad Dragon Valley to Redbud Region after some discussion. Everything was accomplished with help from the little fox.

“Huh? Lu Yun? How does a busy guy like you have time for us?” Dragon Butterfly grumbled when she saw the young man.

“I come bearing gifts!” He took out the minor world with the enigma stone veins. “The two of you should cultivate in this minor world and let the enigma stones assimilate you! Purple crystals are meaningless to the current third realm. I want all of them to turn into enigma stones!”

Thanks to the little fox’s supervision, Dragon Butterfly and Long Batian now dominated the azure dragon ancestral vein on Dragonhollow Mountain. Once the Redbud King and Long Batian’s primary bodies metamorphosed, they would affect all of the great dragons in the Hongmeng, chaos, and worlds.

“Alright!” Dragon Butterfly immediately agreed. “I’ve been wanting to turn my primary body into an enigma stone dragon, but the current amount of stones in the fourth realm isn’t enough for me to snack on!”

“Oh yeah,” Long Batian suddenly said, “Your Treasurehunter Rat’s been jumping up and down lately. There might be a treasure appearing in the Hongmeng soon, you should keep an eye out or it.”

Lu Yun raised an eyebrow. He’d found his future self because he followed the Treasurehunter Rat to Mount Cloudcover. The rat was stationed in the third realm after that, had it found something again? That was very likely since it’d refined a Treasurefall Coin—another one of Chu Xingran’s treasures.

Dragon Butterfly and Long Batian had no more words for Lu Yun; they’re already darted into the minor world. He sent it and its occupants to the Hongmeng Tower.

Chapter 1808: Who Is Chu Xingran

There were eighteen thousand Hongmeng worlds out there and all of them produced purple crystals in high quantities. The crystals were premium cultivation resources in the third realm, but just colorful glass in the fourth realm. Completely useless, no one wanted anything to do with them.

Now that Lu Yun had turned Dragon Butterfly and Long Batian into the ancestral veins of the Hongmeng, they would further affect the other Hongmeng worlds if they transformed into enigma stone veins.

They were situated in the Central Hongmeng—a locale derived from the core essence shard of the original Hongmeng. While the rest of the Hongmeng remained split apart, the pieces had reformed connections to the Central Hongmeng thanks to direction from the Hongmeng Tower. Thus, any changes that occurred to the great dragons of the Central Hongmeng would affect all of the other great dragons in the third realm.

No longer the ancestral dragon vein of only the Central Hongmeng, Dragon Butterfly and Long Batian were now the ancestral dragon vein of all eighteen thousand Hongmeng worlds.

.....

Up on the ninth level of Dragonhollow Mountain, Lu Yun looked merrily at the azure dragon ancestral god in front of him. “Who is the Azure Dragon King?”

“Don’t you already know?” the ancestral god rolled his eyes at the young man.

The Dragonhollow dragon derived from the azure dragon ancestral god was the true ancestral dragon of the Hongmeng. Not only did he control creation, but he also ruled over the hundreds of millions of dragons in the Central Hongmeng.

But now, even he was restricted by Dragon Butterfly and Long Batian! He strongly suspected that Lu Yun had facilitated this because he hadn’t informed the young man of the Azure Dragon King’s identity back in the day.

“You should go, you don’t belong here,” Lu Yun suddenly said with a meaningful lilt. “I’d always thought you were the first dragon god to be born in this Land of Reincarnation, that you were the ancestor of all dragons. It wasn’t until I met Leize that I learned that no matter where, there is only one azure dragon ancestral god.”

His conversation partner suddenly had nothing to say.

“You never lost yourself in the reincarnation cycles—you willingly became part of this land. You let Chu Xingran’s replica, the Poison King, control you and offered yourself up as one of the sacrifices for his curses,” Lu Yun murmured.

The azure dragon ancestral god inclined his head. Leize shared a similar characteristic to him in that no matter whether they were in the Land of Reincarnation or the outside realm, in any level of world there was, they were the first specimens of their kind. As long as there were dragons, the first dragon god to appear would be the azure dragon ancestral god and the first dragon to appear would be Leize.

Leize was present in the chaos, worlds, and Hongmeng. He came from the chief worlds and all Leize in the Land of Reincarnation was the same one.

As was the azure dragon ancestral god.

The one in front of Lu Yun was the exact ancestral god in the chief worlds. The Azure Dragon King had taken Chu Xingran to be his foster son and given him the position of crown prince not because he’d saved Ao Qin, but because there was the power of the azure dragon ancestral god on him.

When Chu Xingran set up his curses using the azure dragon, white tiger, vermilion bird, and black tortoise ancestral gods as his sacrifice, there very likely involved a transaction between him and the azure dragon ancestral god. After all, he’d cursed their lineages and almost wiped out their bloodlines from the Land of Reincarnation!

Chu Xingran had always been a very mysterious person. The first time that Lu Yun met Moran Dongning, he’d sensed a trace of respect for him in her emotions. It was one thing if she was only the little princess of the Moran Clan. After all, Chu Xingran was an extremely handsome man in the outside realm. Perhaps she was just bowled over at actually meeting him.

But after her identity as the fourth spacetime traveler was revealed, that made things complicated. A spacetime traveler respecting Chu Xingran? And according to Lu Yun’s calculations, the four ancestral gods willingly being his sacrifices?

At least, that was how everything had taken place in this reincarnation cycle.

“I know what you want to ask,” the azure dragon ancestral god chuckled ruefully when he read Lu Yun’s expression. The young man had worn the same one when he demanded to know who the Azure Dragon King was. “Why don’t you ask him yourself? I’m sure he’ll tell you.”

“It would seem like I don’t trust him if I asked him. And if it turns out that he’s not actually willing to tell me, that will start a rift between us. He’s already taken people to the ruins of the Firmament Prison to search out its core essence for me. Chu Xingran is undertaking that grave risk so that hell dao can be made whole,” Lu Yun responded matter-of-factly.

“So you came to ask me instead?” the azure dragon ancestral god set his jaw. “Aren’t you not trusting him if you ask me?”

“He doesn’t know that I’ve asked you.” Lu Yun spread out his hands.

The ancestral god glared at the young man for the longest time without knowing what to say.

“Actually, it’s not that important who he is. It would be nice to find out, but it doesn’t change much if I don’t,” Lu Yun continued. “Yet there’s real danger to the four of you if you continue to stay here. The corpse demon that’s turned into a corpse god and the god of Mount Tai have an eye on you at all times. They might devour you at any second.

“It doesn’t matter if the four of you die, but if those two monsters eat you and your core essence, they’ll control the four supreme orders of creation, truth, eternity, and origin. That’ll spell trouble for me too!” the young man harrumphed.

He hadn’t forgotten about the two formidable threats lurking in the land. There was also another Jiang Chen staring covetously at them all. Things would be over for Lu Yun if they obtained the strength of the four ancestral gods.

The four ancestral gods were incredibly weak. If he’d read the situation correctly, they all bore inordinately severe wounds on them. They hadn’t been injured in the Land of Reincarnation—they’d arrived with their injuries.

Had they wanted to borrow the endless loops to rest and recover?

“We’ll die all the same if we leave,” the azure dragon ancestral god murmured. “Many of the supremes in the land are also here for us. They want to kill us and claim our core essence. They’re restricted to the limits of their projections, but it will be their primary bodies the second we leave, or even stronger.

“Don’t worry, the god of Mount Tai and corpse god won’t do anything to us. They want hell dao, not our core essence.” The ancestral god paused before continuing, “A terrifying existence once personally entered the Land of Reincarnation in search of us. That was when Chu Xingran turned us into sacrifices for his curses so we could evade their search.

“That person hasn’t left, they’ve sunk into a deep slumber,” the ancestral god concluded weakly as he looked at the Treasurehunter Rat that’d begun to spin in circles and squeak loudly from Lu Yun’s feet.

Chapter 1809: Strongest of the Natives

“I only have one treasure left for self protection. If I give it to you, I won’t be able to protect myself if those supremes’ projections come for me,” the azure dragon ancestral god explained in highly resigned tones.

Lu Yun hadn’t suddenly paid a visit to Dragonhollow Mountain because he wanted to. The Treasurehunter Rat had dragged him here. Too many outsiders had their eyes set on the azure dragon ancestral god, so he’d taken out his personal treasure to self defense.

It was so incredibly mighty that it was a premier treasure even in the chief worlds. The Treasurehunter Rat hauled Lu Yun to the mountain as soon as it sniffed out the treasure’s aura, resulting in their earlier conversation.

Who is Chu Xingran?

Lu Yun very much wanted to know who the man was. Perhaps he wouldn’t be able to comprehend it after the azure dragon ancestral god told him, but it would at least give Lu Yun some reassurance and peace of mind.

He nodded at the ancestral god, indicating that he didn't plan on taking the treasure.

"Also, you don't need to worry about the mysterious powerhouse here in their true form. Those from the Autumnus Realm are here to take them out," said the ancestral god.

Lu Yun shrugged nonchalantly.

"I really can't tell you about Chu Xingran's identity... You'll know if he wants to tell you," the ancestral god smiled ruefully.

"Do you know that your descendant, the Azure Dragon King, patriarch of the azure dragons, has taken Chu Xingran as his foster son?" Lu Yun raised.

The ancestral god gaped before he said haltingly, "That... is not good. That twerp Ao Chong has mistaken Chu Xingran to be my heir."

Ao Chong was the Azure Dragon King's name.

"So who is he?" Lu Yun grinned. "Is his background much more impressive than the Azure Dragon King's?"

"No!" the ancestral god responded resolutely. "Nothing good will come from revealing who Chu Xingran is. Ask him if you really want to know. I destroyed that section of my memories a long time ago."

He shut his mouth and said no more. Lu Yun nodded as well, cutting off his line of questioning.

"Very well then, stay here if you think this place is safe enough. You need to be careful as the supremes have started projecting themselves inside."

"I know," the ancestral god waved a copy of the day's spirit paper around.

Lu Yun:

Sources for the spirit paper were so thoroughly scattered around the fourth realm that anytime the outsiders made a move, it was thoroughly covered in the next day's issue. The paper was neither a Formula Academy creation nor a publication by Lu Yun alone. Payment for article and tip submission applied across the fourth realm—the same policy as newspapers previously on Earth.

Currently, the paper tracked the whereabouts of at least ten supremes. Whenever a supreme arrived, they immediately opened their dao palace to create a world of order to repulse immortal dao. The cultivators that the Golden Dragon King had thrown out also returned to the fourth realm, but with a solid grudge against the golden dragons.

Their swift reappearance was outside of the dragon king's expectations. He hadn't thought that the supremes would project themselves inside so quickly.

The Nebula Supreme had easily accomplished the deed before because the land's orders were weak and the openings enormous. Hence, he was able to force his way past order and escort his projection in with his dao palace.

But now, the fragmented Land of Reincarnation was whole and the Major Cycle Worlds were among them again. The orders of the fourth realm were flawless and it was much more difficult for the supremes to enter.

Nihil Homeland had been one of Lu Yun's traps for the supremes. After they projected themselves inside, he would restrict their movement through certain methods. However, the sudden appearance of the Golden Dragon King ruined that plan.

Whether it was the dragon king or Lu Yun, no one anticipated that these supremes would so quickly find another way to project their wills. Myriad Spirit and Firstspirit had managed to do so only because Lu Yun opened a door of direct access for them to the world of immortal dao sequence.

The arrival of the supremes caused another immense disturbance in the fourth realm. Supremes were existences beyond sequence that had coalesced dao palaces. Even if it was only a projection they sent, they were still far superior to the collective strength of the fourth realm.

Their presence was sure to cause enormous battles once they sought to occupy the worlds of the fourth realm. Personal factions would then rise on their new territory so they could be ready to attack the world of immortals at any time.

The world of immortals possessed the world of sequence and seed of nothing—their primary goals in this land.

A total of twenty-eight supremes were present in the land, but they limited themselves to setting up their dao palaces and occupying a modest portion of space. They didn't stretch out their hands to the nearby worlds.

First to arrive was the Greatred Supreme who'd discovered the time boundary. A young girl wearing black found him the second he landed triumphantly and beat the living daylights out of him. She wasn't from the chief worlds, but was a native of the fourth realm—the Demonic Vine!

Having refined the connate demon fetus and showing signs of accessing thirty-seven levels of sequence, she was the strongest among the natives of the Land of Reincarnation.

Not one of the strongest. The strongest.

Possessing thirty-six levels of sequence, reinforced by the aura of the demon fetus, wielding the Worldcarver ax that Pangu had gifted her and the Heavenfall spear that God had given her, she kicked in Greatred's front door and left only after he was reduced to a bruised mess on the ground.

The Greatred Supreme was a notable heavyweight who'd exceeded sequence after reaching thirty-two levels. But he couldn't return any of the vine's blows and had to beg for mercy after the third time his projection was smashed apart.

Seeing as this had to do with a supreme's dignity, Lu Yun wasn't brazen enough to have the spirit paper run a front page report on it.

Each of the subsequent twenty-seven supremes received a prompt visit from the Demonic Vine. Bearing Worldcarver and Heavenfall, she laid into them as soon as they arrived. This beat the superiority and arrogance out of them. Who would've thought that such a person would exist in the Land of

Reincarnation?? They had no choice but to set their plans aside for now and keep themselves tightly in check.

Thanks to Lu Qing and the Demonic Vine's actions, the valiant outsiders baying for blood and glory thoroughly quieted down after forcing their way inside.

However, war was inevitable. As more supremes projected their wills inside, the vine began to meet her match. There were so many of them and she was no supreme.

Thus, the earliest batch of supremes began to stir with agitation again.

.....

It'd been more than five hundred years since the first supreme entered the fourth realm. Today marked the twenty-nine thousandth, nine hundred and ninety-ninth year of the Xuanhuang calendar.

On this day, the azure dragon ancestral god brought out his treasure—the Jade Record of Creation—and refined it into himself. He leapt into immortal dao and became an immortal as well. The record was his treasure to begin with—he'd gifted it to Hongjun when he entered the Land of Reincarnation.

When the Three Pure Ones established immortal dao on the basis of human dao, Hongjun bequeathed the Jade Record of Creation to the immortal dao so that it would blossom through the worlds.

The current immortal dao thrived in a state of great perfection and no longer needed a treasure to anchor it. Thus, the ancestral god retrieved it and borrowed the presence of immortal dao on it to enter the great dao himself.

Now thirty-six levels of immortal dao sequence, the azure dragon ancestral god was on par with the Demonic Vine. However, he was much stronger given his experience. Even then, he was unable to break free of sequence because the worlds were flawed. With the state of the worlds, no one could exceed sequence no matter how strong they were.

That was why Lu Yun had wanted him to leave the Land of Reincarnation.

Chapter 1810: Pervert

Given the severity of the azure dragon ancestral god's injuries, he would be attacked as soon as he left the Land of Reincarnation. The dragon race would be dragged into the situation as well.

The three strongest draconic powerhouses in order of hierarchy were the ancestral god, Leize, and the ancestor of the golden dragons—the nine clawed golden dragon. With both the ancestral god and Leize occupied in the Land of Reincarnation, the nine clawed golden dragon glimpsed an opportunity for his ambitions. Hence, the golden dragons began mounting challenges of azure dragon authority with his support.

In the twenty-nine thousandth, nine hundred and ninety-ninth year of the Xuanhuang calendar, the five hundredth supreme projected their will into the land. With that, the Cloud Atlas Supreme—son of powerhouse Yun Yi—called for the outsiders to band together and form a loose alliance. After some planning, three hundred and twenty-four supremes set out for the heartland of the fourth realm—the Central Cluster.

The Central Cluster was where the Star Sect called home and it was on par with a sacred land in these times. It housed the largest Formula Academy outside of the one on Mount Astronomia.

Ah Zhi had stepped down from her position long ago and passed it onto the first Nihil World Sovereign of the sect—Xing Chen. The latter overawed the realm when she accessed nine levels of immortal dao sequence.

However, this level of strength was inconsequential when faced with supremes from the chief worlds. Three hundred and twenty-five supremes, as well as thousands of their sequence experts, cut straight for the Central Cluster and the Formula Academy at the Star Sect. No resistance they encountered lasted for long. Various altars and statues to the supremes forested the major worlds, constantly summoning projections of their will.

Once the headquarters of the sect, the World Star had been moved to manifest the Major Cycle Worlds in Earth's space. Even though it wasn't on par with the World Star of old, the current Star Sect was rooted in a massive major world that was also incredibly strong.

Despite nearly three hundred supremes charging for them, Xing Chen remained calm. She coolly deployed multiple layers of formation outside the sect to surround the premises with protection.

The remaining supremes attacked elsewhere at the same time. This was a typical use of diversion in the art of war. Everyone's attention was focused on the Star Sect, and the spirit papers devoted more effort to reporting the events that took place there.

The battles of Mount Astronomia had immensely affected morale and forced the outsiders to lower their heads. The Demonic Vine then slapped their supremes across the face, putting these lofty outsiders on uneven footing in front of the supposed barbaric natives. It was time to take something back.

.....

"How have you been, Greatred Supreme?" The Demonic Vine floated down like a sprite of darkness and landed in front of the Star Formula Academy. She bestowed a sweet smile upon the supreme.

She now appeared eighteen years old and her face could launch a thousand ships. Moving and alluring, her bearing was the most eye-catching of all. She was weak to the point of inviting protection, but also strongly domineering. The conflicting attributes heightened her charm to irresistible levels.

The vine and Jian Bu'er had become dao partners during the past twenty thousand years. Hence, there were a few hints of his lackadaisical, uncaring attitude in her—but another edge also shone through at every moment.

Her presence and greeting to the Greatred Supreme caught everyone's eye. Sources for the spirit paper and a few freelance writers furiously depicted her image on paper.

"Demonic Vine!" The supreme's expression turned awkward. He was the first supreme to project his will into the land and also the first one to be mercilessly beaten by the vine. He clenched his teeth and bared them with a smile. "I thought you'd gone to save the Lower Cluster. What are you doing here?"

“What does the Lower Cluster have to do with me?” She tilted her head to the side in thought. “I don’t know anyone there, but I share quite a deep relationship with the Star Formula Academy. My dao partner, Jian Bu’er, is an instructor of sword dao there.”

“You have a dao partner?” Greatred’s voice shook. The sound of heartbreak echoed through the air—not just that of his heart, but that of everyone else’s around him.

Inside the Star Formula Academy, Jian Bu’er shuddered with dread. An ill wind swept across the back of his neck and a foreboding premonition rose from his heart.

A smile spread across the Demonic Vine’s face and she gestured with pride, “When I was this small... no, this high. Jian Bu’er protected me and told me to be his dao partner when I grew up!”

She gestured at her waist, indicating how tall she’d been.

“Pervert!” Many cursed quietly and committed Jian Bu’er’s name to memory.

Although Jian Bu’er was physically located in the academy buildings, his skin crawled with trepidation. He’d gotten closer to Xing Chen’s disciple, Xing Lan, lately because he’d reached a key point in his study of formula dao. The Demonic Vine was immensely jealous of their closeness and so gleefully created this stumbling block for him.

“I can tell that you’re an unparalleled genius, Demonic Vine. Your potential rivals the likes of Xie Tianxun and Jiang Kui. How about this, I can promise you an ascension to supreme within three years if you join my Redsky World.” the Greatred Supreme suddenly proposed. “And on top of that, I’ll give you a wondrous opportunity if you join my faction. It’ll grant you the potential to break through supreme and enter an entirely new arena!”

“Pfft,” the vine curled her lip contemptuously. “Is this how you trick little girls? If an opportunity like that exists, you’d keep it for yourself! Cut the bullshit, you have to get through me first if you want to take the Formula Academy!”

Thunk!

Amid a sea of shocked gazes, she brought out a pair of hammers that were bigger than her. Black throughout, they brimmed with the strength of the past Heavenfall and Worldcarver. Lu Yun had combined the two weapons to personalize a tool for the Demonic Vine.

It was a wonderful weapon, but it didn’t go with her all that well.

She wanted a sword at first, so she could match Jian Bu’er, but this was when his constant accompaniment of Xing Lan infuriated her. After jumping up and down with annoyance everyday and cursing him for being a jerk, she had Lu Yun fashion a pair of hammers instead.

Lu Yun once possessed a sword called Quietus that hailed from the same origins as Heavenfall and Quietus, but it’d become Tianqi’s personal treasure after he gifted it to his disciple. Tianqi wouldn’t take it back out no matter what his master said.

The sword held extraordinary meaning in Tianqi’s eyes. He would never give it up since it was Lu Yun’s first official present to him. It was also this sword that severed his karmic ties to the god of Mount Tai, enabling him to be an independent Tianqi, as opposed to a reincarnated mountain god.

The Demonic Vine slammed the hammers into the ground and narrowed her eyes dangerously, ready to swing them into the Greatred Supreme's head if he so much as twitched in the wrong direction.

The supreme awkwardly turned back to those standing behind him. He had many more of his peers with him this time, but apart from a select few, the only chance of victory they stood was if they mobbed her at the same time. The Demonic Vine could call upon her strength as she wished, but the supremes were restricted by their projections. They couldn't exercise even one ten-thousandth of their full strength!

"Heh heh heh, little girl, you still have a chance of survival if you step aside now." A weird cackling echoed as a wraith-like elder stepped forward. He swept the vine up and down with a strange look, making her very ill at ease. "We're here today to raze and occupy this territory, not to challenge anyone! Everyone, there is no need to pay attention to her. Demolish the Formula Academy if she does not leave within three breaths!"

This shadowy elder was the domineering Thundercloud Supreme—Yun Yi's valued subordinate. He'd come to the Land of Reincarnation with the Cloud Atlas Supreme. A treacherous and ruthless individual, it was his idea that put the supremes at the Star Formula Academy.

"Three breaths are up, kill!" Thundercloud roared before the Demonic Vine could respond. His men blinked with surprise, then charged forward.

"Bring it on! Do I look like I'm afraid of you guys?! Unbounded demonic dao!" The vine shouted as the hammers blurred into motion. Waves of black qi formed an ocean that gave rise to a tidal wave, crashing down on the invaders.

The great formation around the Star Formula Academy rumbled with activity as Xing Chen gave her command. Hell cannons manifested inside the arrays and fired a barrage at the outsiders.