Necropolis 1878

Chapter 1878: Destruction of Dragon City

Ao Hong didn't force Lu Yun to throw his hat into the ring since the young man didn't want the treasure. The dragon left without further question after arranging a residence for his visitor.

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"How much of that was true and how much of it was false from the old dragon?" Lu Yun asked lazily as he stretched out on a recliner. A tiny ripple undulated beside him—the departed ghost cultivator Nightmare appeared by his side.

"It's not like you'll believe him even if all of it was true. You don't trust a ghost, so why would you trust a dragon?" Nightmare curled her lip and drifted to a chair next to Lu Yun. She yawned carelessly. "Dragon City is nice and comfy. It's not like the outside where I have to worry about dying at any second."

"Aren't you afraid that I might kill you without a second thought?" Lu Yun glanced sideways at the ghost. "And aren't you supposed to be the disciple of the Dark Hell master? How are you suddenly from the Ghost Sect now?"

Instead of responding, Nightmare picked up an unknown fruit from the table and shoved it into her mouth.

"But it is false that the dragons are besieged by danger. That saying has circulated for an unknown period of time. Anyone who believes it ends up dying a very grisly death." Nightmare vanished after swallowing the fruit.

The door to Lu Yun's room opened after three breaths. Ao Hong came sauntering in.

"Senior," Lu Yun hastily rose to his feet.

"Will you not consider it some more?" the dragon said thoughtfully as he looked around the room. "The treasure is relevant to a lot of matters. If you obtain it, it will greatly benefit both the ancestral god and Leize!"

"Tell me what it is first." This time, Lu Yun sensed a strange trace of anxiety in the dragon's thoughts. It was almost like... Ao Hong would force his hand if Lu Yun continued to refuse and make the young man fight for the treasure.

Huh. Something had certainly changed in the situation.

Ao Hong stared intently at Lu Yun for a long while before saying, "I know you didn't trust me from beginning to end, but I don't need your trust. I just need you to obtain the item and give it to either the ancestral god or Leize!

"And if you don't go, Chu Xingran will die there!" The dragon still refused to say what the treasure was, but he mentioned Chu Xingran's name at this juncture.

"Fine, I'll go," Lu Yun finally nodded. "Where?"

"The center of the World of Soul Dominion, the Soul Dominion trials!" Ao Hong enunciated carefully, still looking intently at the young man.

The corners of Lu Yun's lips spasmed. Soul Dominion!

Such a realm of trials also existed in the fourth realm, but that one was traversed by immortal dao. It was melding with the mental world that the Dao King had refined and was slowly assimilating into the world of immortal dao sequence.

Did the Soul Dominion of this world have something to do with Mo Yi as well??

"Here are the spatial coordinates, I'm sure you'll arrive there quickly." Ao Hong sighed with relief after Lu Yun agreed. "The realm of trial there has been destroyed and the situation is exceedingly complex..."

"And you're still that confident I can get this treasure?" Lu Yun was finding things odder and odder. There'd been an enormous attitude change in the dragon. Ao Hong was almost on his knees to beg Lu Yun.

He had no idea what was going on.

"Yes, only you can obtain that item!" The dragon's chest heaved before he continued, "No more questions, you'll know everything when you get there. The city is no longer safe, it's been infiltrated so thoroughly there are as if one thousand holes and a hundred boils in it."

Lu Yun started, starting to understand something.

"Go on," Ao Hong waved his sleeve and sent the world spinning around Lu Yun. When his vision recovered, he was already outside the city.

KABOOM!!

A mushroom cloud rose into the air while a horrific explosion sounded. Lu Yun whirled around in shock. The enormous Dragon City, historic camp of the dragon race throughout the ages, was nothing but dust!

He saw Ao Hong's death in the myriad of death information that filled his line of sight! Ao Hong was the Golden Dragon King's father! Was he dead just like this??

Lu Yun narrowed his eyes and extended his right hand. A stick of lit incense was slowly extinguishing in it. He'd lit the incense when he entered the city, marking how long he dwelled within it.

Dragon City was no more after half an hour.

Lu Yun thought for a moment and lightly picked his way back to the city. Dragon corpses littered the ground, but closer inspection revealed that there weren't too many geniuses among them. Most of the dead were dragons who'd exhausted their potential and couldn't ascend further. They couldn't become supremes and remained here to oversee the city.

"Ao Hong sent you out when he realized things were off," Nightmare said softly as she reappeared by his side.

"Who did this?" Lu Yun asked blankly. He couldn't understand why the dragon hadn't evacuated his kind when he noticed the danger, and instead sent Lu Yun out?

"Dragon City is one of the strongest factions in the World of Soul Dominion, there is no one who can level it. At least, no sequence cultivator." Nightmare looked around, noting that the city had been cleanly destroyed with one blow, leaving no traces behind. With her current level of skill, she couldn't glean any clues from the scene.

"Also..." she raised. "I asked the sect just now whether there are any new treasures manifesting in the world. There are none. Ao Hong said all that to you just to ensure you would leave the city."

Nightmare was a very unique existence, but for some reason, she seemed to have reached some sort of agreement with Lu Yun.

Lu Yun fished out a talisman and stuck it to a dragon horn beneath his feet. It was Ao Hong's horn—the only part of him that he'd left behind. Whatever he'd been trying to hide or plot, he was well and truly dead.

Most were convinced that Resurrection Talismans were useless in this world. True enough, they were ineffective, but Lu Yun's death art still worked. All he needed was half an hour. Thus, he lit another stick of incense and sat down cross legged next to the dragon horn.

"What are your thoughts now?" he suddenly said to Nightmare. "I have suppressed your core essence. If you are willing to write your name in the book, I will restore your freedom."

Nightmare sighed. "Why are you still here? Aren't you worried that whatever destroyed the city might come back?" She ignored what Lu Yun said.

Chapter 1879: Nine Clawed Golden Dragon

Only a peak supreme could destroy Dragon City with one blow. In fact, it might require a high supreme to manage the task.

There were no supremes among the outsiders training in the World of Soul Dominion, but they certainly existed among the locals. There might even be grand supremes lurking around.

Perhaps the one that'd leveled the city was a high supreme, but Lu Yun was openly sitting by the remains of the city? Did he have a death wish? Even if the culprit didn't return, others would come sniffing around after the commotion.

"Write your name in the book, I'm out of patience." Ghost fire suddenly flared in Lu Yun's eyes.

Nightmare trembled like a leaf. It hadn't been her that compelled Lu Yun along his journey, it was the young man who'd seized the ghost and commanded her actions. They'd put on an act earlier when in reality, Lu Yun had the ghost firmly under his thumb and suppressed her core essence.

She'd been brainstorming and searching for opportunities to escape, but kept coming up empty handed.

"Fine!" She knew that the bearer of hellfire was running low on patience.

Names weren't written into the Tome of Life and Death just because Lu Yun wanted them to be—their owner had to agree. If not, the name would dissipate after a while and the action be completely ineffective.

Since he'd only suppressed Nightmare's core essence before this and not completely subdued her, it left her free to sprout all manner of nonsense. She plotted her escape at every second, which was why Lu Yun's patience eventually ran out. He would erase her from existence if she didn't consent to being written into the book.

Moments later, the ghost's eyes widened with shock at the young man. She retained her sense of self and independence, but she finally understood what it meant to have her name written in the Tome of Life and Death. *f* re**e**we**bno**vel. *c*om

The master of hell?

Nightmare suddenly felt that if it wasn't for Lu Yun combining the six hells as one and wielding control over the origin hell, then her current level of strength would absolutely be stronger than this master of hell.

An expressionless Lu Yun remained seated next to Ao Hong and traced out the dragon's name into the book.

"Who... who are you?" Nightmare murmured with a deep breath. She could naturally tell that the ancient bronze scroll was Lu Yun's nascent spirit!

"I don't know either," he shook his head. "I'd also love to know who I am and what kind of existence I am. Perhaps I'll know when my cultivation reaches the apex of existence and I am the greatest throughout all realms. Maybe I'll know then what my nascent spirit is."

He fixed his eyes on the dragon horn again. Ao Hong was dead and Lu Yun was using his death art to revive the dragon. Even if the dragon was unwilling, he had no choice but to accept his fate. The dead could not resist.

"That guy's lucky," Nightmare grumbled and sat down next to Lu Yun with peace of mind.

One stick of incense swiftly burned out and Ao Hong reappeared next to Lu Yun.

"Out with it, what's going on?" The young man frowned at the resurrected dragon.

"Ah, eh, this..." Ao Hong stared at Lu Yun with shock and shook his head. "Greetings to the master. Everything I said before was true, there wasn't a single word of lie!" he chuckled ruefully. "The dragons and Morans have sent their best and brightest to the World of Soul Dominion as our factions outside have been completely infiltrated. Our worlds of sequence aren't even ours anymore!"

Lu Yun also laughed ruefully. If Ao Hong had told him this earlier, he would've have gotten involved no matter what.

"Does the Myriad Spirit Grand Supreme know?" Lu Yun felt it was a dumb question as soon as he asked it. This was likely the two factions' innermost secret, so how would outsiders know of it?

"We don't know ourselves who has seized the dragon race. My child, the Golden Dragon King... he..."

"That's alright, I understand," Lu Yun waved him off. "And the nine clawed golden dragon? Does he really exist?"

"He didn't before, but he does now," Ao Hong huffed wryly. "The entire race resolutely believe in his existence..."

"So you worshiped his divine spirit into existence?" Lu Yun immediately grasped what had happened.

Ao Hong nodded with resignation. He hadn't been able to tell Lu Yun any of this before because it was too horrifying. Who would dare intervene in draconic affairs or help them after learning the truth? He wanted Lu Yun to help the dragons, but the race was infinitely close to destruction. Some awful existence had taken over, one that not even the dragons could defy. Why would Lu Yun willingly go to his death?

The Myriad Spirit Grand Supreme had likely caught wind of something, which was why he didn't tell the dragons where the azure dragon ancestral god and Leize were.

"Who destroyed Dragon City?" Nightmare asked curiously.

Ao Hong swept a glance at the ghost, comprehending that he'd been taken in by their act. None of it mattered anymore as the city was no more.

"The nine clawed golden dragon," Ao Hong spat out. "He's..."

"That's good enough, I know what you want to say," Lu Yun quickly interrupted when he saw that the dragon wished to speak on. This wasn't the time nor place for such a conversation. "Come, let us go to the trial ground."

He stood up and Ao Hong flourished his sleeve, whisking the three of them out of sight. When they were gone, a smear of gold slowly materialized over the remains of the city.

"He sensed my presence?" The figure frowned in the direction that the trio had left in. "He possesses the Master of Darkness... How odd, why would that little girl give him the treasure? Does she not know what it means?

"But this Lu Yun likely doesn't know the Master of Darkness is on him, so all is not lost. I still stand a chance. That woman summoned endless dark spirits back in the day to safeguard the Moran Clan, forcing me to focus on the dragons instead," the figure murmured. "What a pity that Ao Hong sent out the last hope of the dragons in various waves. No one who mattered died in the city's destruction.

"The trial grounds?" The figure took to the sky as a golden dragon, streaking toward a certain part of the world. It was the nine clawed golden dragon that should not exist.

Chapter 1880: Firmament Prison?

No one would possibly fathom that the Golden Dragon King's father, Ao Hong, would turn into one of Lu Yun's. In the same vein, the destruction of the Dragon City was no trifling matter. Ao Hong was surely dead as a result in the comprehension of the general public. No one would imagine either that the one behind the devastation would be the dragons' own nine clawed golden dragon.

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The World of Soul Dominion was incredibly vast. All that Lu Yun had seen thus far was just the tip of the iceberg. At forty-four levels of sea dao sequence, Ao Hong immediately set foot into forty-five levels once his name was written into the Tome of Life and Death.

This cultivation level would have been impossible in the past as forty-four levels was the limit of the dragon's potential. But once the power of reincarnation from the treasure surged into his body, it instantly elevated him further.

For someone like Ao Hong, however, forty-five levels was still insufficient to forge a dao palace.

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The land enveloped by darkness in front of them was the land of trial in this world. Boundless darkness blinded the eye and surprise shot through Lu Yun's gaze when he stood by its perimeter.

"This is the land of trial?" He turned around to look at Ao Hong and Nightmare.

"It was before, but no longer," Ao Hong nodded. "It can only be described as the ruins for the land of trial now."

"This is... the Firmament Prison," Lu Yun clarified through grit teeth. "What's it doing here?!"

"What??" Ao Hong and Nightmare gaped.

"The darkness in front of us is the true form of the Firmament Prison—the Firmament Army Pagoda." Lu Yun wouldn't be mistaken about this as he'd visited the pagoda before and was very familiar with its strength.

He even saw a person in front of him—the Firmament King Soldier.

The king soldier stood in front of the pagoda and looked silently at Lu Yun. After the young man fell for Yun Yi's plot and brought the man back to hell in lieu of the king soldier, the latter had waited here ever since.

"The... the Firmament Prison is also in the World of Soul Dominion?" Nightmare looked blankly at Ao Hong, who looked equally baffled back at the ghost.

"So Chu Xingran is here?" Lu Yun asked Ao Hong.

"Yes... Chu Xingran said that there's a valuable treasure in the land of trial and took all of the elites with him. ...eh?" Ao Hong blinked. "Wait, there is no treasure. He moved all of the elites because we discovered that someone schemed against the city."

Ao Hong had overseen Dragon City for countless months and didn't know how long he'd dwelled for in this world. Perhaps he wasn't the strongest in the city, but he was its absolute lord. If necessary, he could die for the dragons at the drop of a hat.

That was why he'd remained as bait after their core strength departed. If he also left, then their attacker would chase after Chu Xingran. Only when he stayed could they fool those moving against them.

A treasure emerging in the land of trial was a front; Lu Yun arriving at this time was outside of Ao Hong's expectations. It was even more surprising that their enemy would close in as soon as the young man arrived.

That was why he'd spared no effort to ensure the young man made it out before the city fell. It was the furthest thing from Ao Hong's mind that Lu Yun would be able to revive him.

"There is indeed a treasure here, you just don't know about it," Lu Yun said with a look of great concentration. "If that wasn't the case, you'd never hoodwink that person."

That person... the nine clawed golden dragon!

Ao Hong knew who it was that had Dragon City in their sights, and it was precisely because the nine clawed golden dragon sought their doom that there was nothing that could be done. Their only option was to palm off a substitute for the real thing and shift all of their elites to relative safety.

Those who'd died were dragon warriors willing to die for their faction.

"That person would guess at the truth if you sent people to a place where there was no treasure," Lu Yun murmured.

Chu Xingran had brought the dragon race here knowing that the land of trial was the Firmament Prison. With his familiarity of the place, he could easily hide and conceal the remaining core of the faction.

"Chu Xingran told me that the treasure that's appeared is immensely useful to the azure dragon ancestral god and Leize. If we can obtain it..." Ao Hong mumbled.

"Chu Xingran spoke the truth. That person is a divine spirit, so he can identify truth from falsehood," Lu Yun responded. "C'mon, let's go inside!"

He set foot into the land of darkness. Everything that had happened to him in this world was too surreal to comprehend. Whether it was Nightmare's appearance or the fall of Dragon City, Lu Yun felt like he was swimming through the clouds. He had no idea how he'd done everything or why Nightmare had been so easy to suppress.

Perhaps the ghost had been putting on an act and allowing herself to be suppressed, but all of it was meaningless the second he wrote her name into the Tome of Life and Death.

"Something that's useful to both the azure dragon ancestral god and Leize... I see." Lu Yun immediately understood what was at hand when he set foot into the Firmament Prison. Whatever was useful to those two august figures was also useful to the nine clawed golden dragon!

The azure dragon ancestral god was a divine spirit, as was the nine clawed golden dragon!

Formula dao resumed normal operations when they entered the prison and the veil that'd obscured Lu Yun's eyes lifted. Keen light danced through his eyes as he swiftly deduced everything at stake.

"The nine clawed golden dragon let Chu Xingran come here because he wants to borrow the man's hand to find the treasure," Lu Yun took a deep breath. "But how did the dragon manage to come to this world in the first place? Or is his core essence not a draconic divine spirit, but something else entirely?"

He was beginning to understand that the Myriad Spirit Grand Supreme hadn't sent him here simply to temper himself or protect others. This place was the heart of the grand supreme's motivation.

"You're finally here!" A rather urgent voice traveled into Lu Yun's ears. The king soldier that should've left with him before appeared in front of the young man.

"Okay, follow me. I'll take you out of here as soon as we conclude matters here. I'll also help you become a true living being." Although Yun Yi had taken the king soldier's place, what'd occurred after that hadn't been a secret from the real king soldier.

"How is this place connected to the World of Soul Dominion?" Lu Yun asked.

"The Firmament Prison has always been here," came the surprising response. "It is one of the passages for cultivators beyond sequence to enter this world."