### **Necropolis 1911**

## Chapter 1911 – Still Mo Yi

"This is indeed not the land of darkness." Lu Yun took a deep breath after he entered and made out the laws of the world around them.

Instead of a turbid haze, the air was clear and the laws simple and straightforward. They weren't the disjointed mess that would be expected in darkness without order. What did lie within expectations was the complete lack of illumination. Lu Yun saw nothing even when looking around with the Spectral Eye.

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Regardless, he could clearly perceive that boundless endarkened were crouched in front of him, trembling and shaking from fear. They didn't dare move. Upon a slight vibration from the Master of Darkness, the deep expanse of gloom dispersed from Lu Yun's line of sight, enabling his physical eyes to see his surroundings.

"This naturally isn't the land of darkness." Nightmare was close on Lu Yun's heels. It wasn't her first time in a Dark World. The last time a world heart matured, she entered it with her sect's elders.

She'd been a dozen levels of sequence then and entered the Dark World primarily for tempering and training. This time, she was one of the strongest senior cultivators in the Ghost Sect. If not for Lu Yun on this trip, she would be the leader of the Ghost Sect contingent for this trial.

Given the appearance of the Master of Darkness, all creatures of darkness on the outskirts of the Dark World were thoroughly cowed. However, the strongest among them was but supreme. There were no high or grand supremes to be found within them.

The two grand supreme endarkened that he'd killed on the bridge hadn't bowed down to him. Instead, they'd hidden themselves among the rest of the creatures of darkness in preparation to attack Lu Yun at any time.

Grand supremes in a Dark World were unaffected by the Master of Darkness. On the contrary, they constantly sought chances to seize it from its wielder.

Lu Yun's attention wasn't on the local grand supremes. If they could act, they would've turned the world upside down long ago. Who would dare come for the world heart then? He was wholly focused on the yet maturing world heart.

It looked... like an actual, beating black heart.

Three hundred and sixty-five currents of black air connected the heart to the rest of the world, like they were blood vessels. The world heart continuously drew energy from the Dark World. Once it fully coalesced, it would become the core of the world and induce a marvelous change. The Dark World would then proceed down the path of becoming a land of darkness.

This evolution was what should theoretically happen. This world heart seemed to be cursed, turning it into a poisonous tumor plaguing its world.

A Dark World should be as chaotic and without order as a land of darkness. Rules and laws alike should be entangled with each other, as opposed to a land of clear fresh air such as this one. This aberration was purely due to the world heart.

But this world wouldn't recover even after the world heart was claimed; the power to form another world heart still existed. World hearts would form one after another and prevent the world from becoming a land of darkness.

All Lu Yun could say was that whoever had come up with this idea to prevent Dark Worlds from evolving into lands of darkness was an absolute genius.

Meanwhile, local powerhouses also wished for the world hearts to be claimed as they believed that the power generating them would one day be exhausted. Once that came to be, the true world heart would form and turn this Dark World into a second land of darkness.

Thus, grand and high supremes of the Dark Worlds never prevented chief world denizens from entering their home to harvest world hearts.

"If it wasn't for the mistress of legend taking pains to modify the world heart, this world would've become a true land of darkness long ago," Nightmare said after a long period of silence.

"...mistress?" Lu Yun blinked.

"Yes, a legendary figure of the mythological era. She created Ruina with a wave of her hand and provided a final resting place for the seas of the chief worlds. She also created the world heart of this world with ease." Nightmare spoke of this legendary mistress with a look of worship on her face. "Perhaps she exceeded grand supreme a long time ago. Maybe she's even exceeded empyrean supreme and exists outside our imagination!"

Lu Yun: .....

He knew who Nightmare spoke of.

Mo Yi.

Mo Yi was a mystery of a woman. She loved dressing as a man and carried herself with dashing grace. Though she seemed soft and delicate, she often produced miracles unfathomable by ordinary people.

In Lu Yun's eyes, she was even more mysterious than the Tome of Life and Death. However, he didn't voice her name as he was sure that the inhabitants of this world viewed her as their mortal enemy. If he spoke her name aloud, they would be able to determine her current whereabouts through various clues.

While the endarkened didn't cultivate formula dao, there were thousands of great daos in the world and more than formula dao that could analyze and theorize other people.

He tossed his head and walked forward in a certain direction.

"Where are you going?" Nightmare blinked when she saw Lu Yun walk off. She ran after him; he wasn't headed in the direction of the world heart.

"Stay here, don't move." Lu Yun paused. "I'll help you switch to immortal dao when I get back. We'll use the power of this Dark World to turn you into a true grand supreme."

Nightmare started and remained where she was. With her name written into the Tome of Life and Death, she couldn't refuse Lu Yun's suggestions.

.....

A big-headed doll lolled on the ground with a young man and woman next to him.

"You're here, you're here, you're finally here!" The doll shot to its feet when Lu Yun came near and burrowed into the young man's arms.

It was the big-headed doll, Ghost Dragon, and Ghost Phoenix.

When Mo Yi brought the overlord of Ice out of the Land of Reincarnation, the trio followed him to the chief worlds. But after they reached the outside realm, the big-headed doll took Ghost Dragon and Ghost Phoenix to this particular Dark World.

The Three Brushes of Reincarnation were with the doll, but what fascinated Lu Yun was that the doll was now a real living being. At the same time, Ghost Dragon and Ghost Phoenix wielded the strength of the past and present brush. It was their power that Lu Yun had sensed outside the Dark World.

Not only that, but he'd discovered traces of Fuxi's five senses.

"I borrowed the energy here to split the brushes out from me and gave the fortuitous opportunities of the remaining two to Ghost Dragon and Ghost Phoenix!" The big-headed doll still looked the same as before, it hadn't grown bigger. Since Lu Yun currently wore the Master of Darkness, he felt an incomparable affinity for the young man.

He handed three brushes to Lu Yun.

"What are these brushes?" Lu Yun took them with a frown.

# **Chapter 1912 - Practice Boxing**

"How would I know what these brushes are..." mumbled the big-headed doll. He studied Lu Yun's face closely and nodded with satisfaction at what he saw.

The Master of Darkness.

He'd taken shape from the Three Brushes of Reincarnation thanks to this treasure.

"Don't you know that you exist solely because of these brushes?" Lu Yun looked at the big-headed doll with surprise.

"Nope!" the doll resolutely shook his head. "But I know that they have something to do with your nascent spirit. They probably came from your nascent spirit! There are only three of them in the past, present, and future of the Land of Reincarnation. They're one treasure and they came into existence because of your nascent spirit!"

Lu Yun's frown deepened and he stored the brushes in the Tome of Life and Death.

Ghost Dragon and Ghost Phoenix remained quiet during the exchange; they silently watched Lu Yun and the big-headed doll. After the young man greeted his old acquaintances, he sent them both to hell.

While they'd inherited the strength of the past and present brushes, they were currently the equivalent of Nihil World Sovereign and yet to access sequence. It was the big-headed doll who reached unfathomable heights while cultivating in this Dark World. Not even Lu Yun could see through him.

However, he read a trace of fear in the doll's thoughts. It was deeply buried, but it was there nonetheless.

"What are you afraid of?" Lu Yun disengaged the doll from his body.

"Nothing!" The doll shook his head with a quick look around. He puffed up his chest with confidence. "I know what you want to do here. I would've helped you claim the world heart even if you didn't come."

"Alright, alright, you can go back." Lu Yun cracked the Gates of the Abyss open.

The big-headed doll lit up and bounded toward the door, but a formless hand seemed to take shape and grasp after him. It gripped one of his legs and shockingly hauled the doll out of the doorway.

"What is that?!" Lu Yun jumped with dismay and adopted a fighting stance, ready to do battle.

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In his earlier deductions, he'd determined that if Nightmare followed him here, she would die without recourse. Not even the Resurrection death art or the Tome of Life and Death would be able to revive her.

That was why he'd left her at the previous spot.

He'd also seen the air of death around Ghost Dragon and Ghost Phoenix. If they continued to remain here, they would also die horrible deaths—also the kind that he couldn't reverse.

In contrast, the big-headed doll was alive and well. Though he'd suffered some, he hadn't perished. Lu Yun hadn't imagined that there'd be something so ferocious as to drag the doll out of the Gates of the Abyss!

### Whoosh!

Black flames ignited over Argent Snow and further deepened the pitch-black void around them. An indistinct figure came into view in the darkness.

"Kill it!" shrieked the doll when he saw it.

The figure charged them as he spoke, ignoring Lu Yun and beelining for the doll. Its arms were like razor-sharp blades as it even cut through the air that it passed through.

Howling and sobbing with terror, the doll scrambled behind Lu Yun.

Shick.

Before Lu Yun could react, his newly deployed Argent Snow Domain was cut clean through. Argent Snow followed suit. The incomparably durable soul weapon was... destroyed!

The young man didn't hesitate and blasted forward with a punch the moment his weapon fell apart. The first move of the Divine Fists of Hell—Darkstar!

A massive dark star rushed out of his fist, forming a tremendous forcefield that smashed toward the thing.

Noting the arrival of a threat, the figure hastily shifted backward, but Lu Yun's move arrived too quickly for that. The second it changed direction was the second the punch arrived.

Violent shockwaves blossomed around the point of impact and waves of distortion rippled through the air. The figure flew backward in a bedraggled fashion, but an aghast Lu Yun discovered that the punch that could grievously injure the nine clawed golden dragon didn't even scratch the thing!

It just inflicted some pain and sent it flying!

The first move of the Divine Fists of Hell couldn't touch it!

"What is that?" Lu Yun frowned.

"I, I don't know!" the doll sobbed. "It set its eyes on me when I first got here. If it wasn't for the tiny bit of spacetime power from that Moran guy, we would've died a long time ago!"

"Where did you guys come—oh for fuck's sake, will you let me finish?!"

Bam!

Bam!

Bam!

The figure came back before Lu Yun had a chance to finish his question and resumed its maddened charge.

The young man met it tit-for-tat, balling up his fists. Both hands seemed to transform into dark stars and he flung himself into battle with the figure in the void. Lu Yun was marvelously adept with the first form of his new boxing method.

He incorporated the new boxing method as a body tempering method under immortal dao the moment he invented it. In theory, there should be six forms to the Divine Fists of Hell based off the Hadal, Nihil, Netherdark, Sanguine, Abyssal, and Disordered Hells. There was only Darkstar currently available, and it was yet to be adopted by the denizens of the immortal dao.

Only Lu Yun's direct disciples possessed the right to practice the Divine Fists of Hell. It wasn't that he was holding things back for his own gain, but that it was very difficult for other beings to cultivate hell.

He repeatedly deployed Darkstar with both the immortal dao and hell dao circulating around him. They formed a wave of power and continuously rebuffed the figure. However, the figure grew stronger the more it fought and gradually found weaknesses in Lu Yun's moves! The young man's gestures became erratic as pressure bore down on him.

"Since you've found openings in my move, that means there is still improvement to be made. I can practice with you!" Lu Yun roared and continued on the offensive, displaying his weaknesses to the figure.

"There is something a bit odd about that creature. If you continue to protect him, you'll one day die to him." A hint of a voice traveled into Lu Yun's ears. "The manifestations of the three brushes that you know, and the dragon and phoenix pair, are all dead."

# Chapter 1913 – Crown Prince of the Dark Hell of Ghost Souls

Lu Yun felt a headache set in. He could tell there was something off about the big-headed doll too, but he couldn't articulate precisely what.

"He pierced through spacetime in order to destroy the spirit of the Dark World. Once the spirit is destroyed, the world heart will meld with the Dark World and turn this place into a land of darkness!

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"I can be your sparring partner and help you perfect your boxing method, but you cannot permit that evil spirit to live!" Anxiety seeped through the figure's urgent tones.

Lu Yun surreptitiously cast a sidelong glance at the big-headed doll. He didn't know that Lu Yun was conversing with the figure, so still looked at it with terror.

Lu Yun quirked a brow and transmitted back, "Alright, but you need to help me first!"

"Very well!" The figure shook and flung itself at Lu Yun.

By now, Lu Yun's eyes were almost dark stars as well and every gesture and move of his wild dance through the void traced out a particular meaning.

The meaning of hell.

Although the figure devoted its efforts to sparring with Lu Yun, it also constantly sought to break through the young man's blockade so it could kill the big-headed doll. As time went on, Lu Yun's Darkstar moved neared great perfection. Thanks to the figure's attacks, some flaws that he hadn't discovered himself were slowly eliminated.

Hummm.

An intangible dark star appeared behind Lu Yun.

Boxing intent!

Swords possessed sword intent and boxing methods possessed boxing intent. When he still trained with the sword, Lu Yun had coalesced a sea of sword intent and further extrapolated it into sword dao.

But he wasn't practicing boxing dao now. His punches were just the medium for hell dao combat arts. The boxing method that he was inventing could be deployed through swords, blades, spears, and others. Hence, this boxing intent could also become sword intent, blade intent, spear intent... such was the will of hell.

When his boxing intent appeared, Lu Yun knew that the budding shape of his hell dao combat arts had finally taken form.

Darkstar!

Or rather... Dark world.

BOOM!

Lu Yun clenched his fists and punched straight at the figure.

Bam!

This time, instead of flying backward, a small hole appeared in the figure with a crisp snap. Grayish blood flowed out of a corner of its nonexistent mouth.

"Your combat art has reached initial perfection, so you can keep your promise now." A pair of gray eyes opened on the faint form, like a pair of eyes in the chaos. It stared fixedly at Lu Yun.

The young man smirked.

Whoosh!

A gout of black flame erupted from his fist and set the figure ablaze.

"You... have broken your promise," the figure declared coldly and remained staring at Lu Yun.

"I never made you a promise," Lu Yun shook his head. "There is no karmic relationship between me and you, so you can die with peace of mind."

The figure turned to dust and Lu Yun turned to the big-headed doll. "Let's go."

"Eh? Oh, okay!" The doll quickly caught up to Lu Yun and whispered, "It's not really dead. When it shows up next, it'll be even stronger!"

"Mmhmm," Lu Yun nodded. "What is the spirit of the Dark World?"

"The spirit of the Dark World?" The doll started and responded candidly, "It's the thing that enables a Dark World to have a spirit and heart. Legend has it that it's something from the one by your side.

"Dark Worlds are worlds born of the land of darkness, so laws and rules should be a mess here. Order shouldn't exist. But in this Dark World, everything is like a real world apart from the lack of light. It's because the spirit of the world exists. The spirit restrains the world heart, forcing order upon it.

"Did that monster say something to you?" The big-headed doll jerked with realization.

"Don't worry, I created you, so why would I believe a monster?" Lu Yun snorted with laughter.

Complete bullshit!

That thing earlier was certainly a ghostly spirit, but the words of ghosts no longer held sway over Lu Yun. Rather, he'd been able to turn the tables with his mock acquiescence and his new combat art. He pulled the wool over the ghost's eyes to ensure that it would willingly help Lu Yun hone his boxing method.

At the same time, the young man knew that the ghostly spirit hadn't been the unknown person's primary body. It was a bizarre replica and destroying it didn't matter whatsoever. In fact, Lu Yun could foresee that the ghostly spirit would appear again in the not too distant future. This certainly wasn't the end of things.

"We need to go!" Lu Yun's expression shifted and he sprinted for Nightmare's location.

She was gone and traces of fighting could be found in the surroundings. Plainly, someone had come by and crossed paths with her. Grand Supreme Luo Qian had forcefully raised her strength through a secret art, ensuring that she could utilize the strength of a grand supreme in the Dark World. How was something able to hold their own against her??

"It's not something from the Dark World, but something from outside!" Lu Yun's thoughts flew rapidly as he temporarily set aside the matter of the big-headed doll and ghostly spirit. He quickly chased after Nightmare.

He could contact her through the Tome of Life and Death, but she was preoccupied in the heat of battle and couldn't spare the effort to respond. The big-headed doll snapped to attention as well, swallowing what he'd been about to say. He was afraid of the ghostly spirit from earlier, not any other cultivator.

Two figures in black darted around each other not too far from them. They surrounded Nightmare, keeping her fully repressed despite her current strength as a grand supreme.

She faced two grand supremes, two enormously strong grand supremes!

Wisps of black smoke surrounded her—the ghostly force that she cultivated.

"Be careful!" she shrieked when Lu Yun appeared. "He's You Haoyue, the crown prince of the Dark Hell! Sikong Myriad Treasure of Starcatch Tower used their secret method to raise him to a grand supreme!"

"Heh, and I wondered who is here. So it's Lu Yun." You Haoyue and the other figure paused.

In the absolute darkness, You Haoyue appeared as if a pristine moon. He exuded a faint radiance that perfectly combined with their surroundings. He was a tall, limber, and handsome man without any hint of ghostly force or presence.

Beside him was a stunning young woman in clean black robes. She stood quietly in the void, another grand supreme.

# Chapter 1914 – Manifestation of Dark Dao

"So you're Lu Yun?" The young woman next to You Haoyue dimpled in an enchanting smile. "I actually need to thank you. If it wasn't for you scaring off the Corpse Refiners and Rising Sunriver, I wouldn't dare appear so openly and without reservation."

Lu Yun raised a brow at her words.

"You're who Jiang Lu is looking for?" he frowned at her.

The young woman's smile deepened, but she didn't respond. A white flame ignited on her body, looking exceedingly similar to the corpse qi of the Corpse Refiners. She and You Haoyue were just ordinary

grand supremes, but when their qi was combined, it gave rise to a palpitating strength that gave Lu Yun pause.

"So that's why I smashed Starcatch Tower so easily... you guys already emptied them out first!" Lu Yun suddenly realized certain truths about earlier matters.

They weren't true grand supremes as they were both similar to Nightmare, forcefully raised to that level through secret arts. At the same time, methodically progressing through the various daos and cultivation methods of the world wasn't necessarily better than these secret arts. Lu Yun was the same—he had come about the Master of Darkness through neither a secret art nor conventional cultivation.

"Stop wasting time with them!" The big-headed doll bounced out like a cannonball and shot toward You Haoyue. He leered threateningly, a laughing and crying expression appearing on his face—the image of the Master of Darkness.

Lu Yun followed suit. He could clearly sense the doll's towering killing intent, as if he shared a blood feud with these two. The Master of Darkness on his face lit up, illustrating threads of scarlet light in its dim and profound runes.

"Stay back." Lu Yun pushed Nightmare back when he sensed that she wanted to follow. Their opponents were too uncanny. Their combined strength made his heart quail and the change in the Master of Darkness was also because of them.

The big-headed doll smashed headfirst into You Haoyue, sending the young man hurtling backward. The doll was as if a wild beast, his chubby hands curled like ripping claws to grapple with his enemy.

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Hummm.

Lu Yun's two fists formed twin dark stars and met the young woman in battle. He landed a punch on her face, but it was his body that shuddered violently and flew backward.

"Impossible!" Lu Yun gasped with incredulity.

"Not at all. There is no one who can contain me if Jiang Lu and the Corpse Refiners are not present," the young woman smiled. Apart from her black robe, there was nothing else on her that suggested any hint of evil.

When Lu Yun punched her in the face, it felt like he was a mortal slamming his fist into a granite wall. His right hand was numb and half of his body threatened to follow suit.

Nightmare rushed to Lu Yun's side and whispered, "Don't use the Master of Darkness. It's ineffective on her! She's not a living being, but the manifestation of great dao—the dark dao!"

"What?!" Lu Yun looked at the young woman with shock.

The manifestation of dark dao?!

He'd seen the physical manifestation of daos before. In the Hongmeng, the manifestation of talisman dao—the Talisman King—had helped Lu Yun. Who would've thought that he'd meet the manifestation of dark dao here?

This manifestation was on a completely different level from the one of talisman dao. Dark dao was a supreme great dao in the chief worlds—it boasted of a world of sequence!

The Master of Darkness was unrivaled in a land of darkness, so it was naturally much stronger than the dark dao of the chief worlds. However, Lu Yun was only borrowing its strength, so he wasn't able to suppress this manifestation of dao with the paltry amount that he could call upon.

His face darkened and he took off the mask on his face.

"Heh heh heh," the young woman cackled when she saw his movement. "You are just a regular supreme on the path of good if you take off the mask, Lu Yun. I can crush uncountable numbers of supremes like you with a single finger. Do you think you can fight me?"

She turned around and glanced at You Haoyue and the big-headed doll, slightly curling her lip. "Trash."

That was patently directed at You Haoyue, not Lu Yun or the doll. She made her way to Lu Yun with measured steps.

"One can wear out iron shoes with fruitless searching, yet what one seeks might be found without even looking for it." She quirked her lips upward. "I wouldn't be able to do anything if the Master of Darkness was still with that woman. But since you have it... it's mine now!"

A myriad of thoughts ran through Lu Yun's mind when she spoke and a certain number of mysteries finally cleared up. Moran Dongning had taken the Master of Darkness to the Land of Reincarnation after her mother died. The reason for that likely stemmed from the manifestation of dark dao.

When the nine clawed golden dragon entered the Moran Clan with another identity, he wanted to obtain the clan's world of sequence. Instead, Moran Dongning's mother used the Master of Darkness to defeat him.

After that, the dark dao manifested a tangible form and became the Moran Clan's divine spirit. But was she still the manifestation of dark dao, or had another mind taken possession of her? Her will was the will of the Morans. They wanted the Master of Darkness, which made Moran Dongning and her mother traitors of the clan.

But now-

Lu Yun's lips curved upward and he tossed the treasure into the air.

"That woman's not here, but her daughter is. I finally understand why Moran Dongning gave me the Master of Darkness," Lu Yun chuckled.

"What?!" The young woman's eyes widened.

Hummmm.

Drawing a gentle curve in midair, the Master of Darkness trembled as a young woman walked in from a distant world. She picked up the mask and placed it on her face.

"If the Master of Darkness remained on me, you would've never dared leave clan territory." Dressed in long black robes, Moran Dongning floated to the ground. She bestowed a half smile on the manifestation of dark dao.

She'd slipped the Master of Darkness to Lu Yun partially because she wanted to strengthen him in light of the maturing world heart, and also to scheme against the dao's manifestation. The treasure could fully restrain the manifestation, but only when Moran Dongning or her mother wielded it. The physical form of dark dao could sense when the treasure left them, which was why she'd subsequently showed herself and dared come to the Dark World to vie for the world heart.

She never fathomed that Lu Yun would possess the Gates of the Abyss to facilitate Moran Dongning's easy movement!

### Chapter 1915 - A Scheme

Nightmare heaved a long sigh of relief to see Moran Dongning. Plainly, she knew the girl as well. When she targeted the Moran sisters on the World of Soul Dominion, her ultimate goal had been to become acquainted with Lu Yun. A scheme against the manifestation of dark dao had unfolded the second that the Myriad Spirit Grand Supreme sent Lu Yun to the World of Soul Dominion.

Lu Yun had been in the dark about this and also didn't need to know about any of it. He was just one of many threads in the grand scheme of things, albeit one that ran from beginning to end. The true mastermind behind this plot was Moran Dongning and the Myriad Spirit Grand Supreme.

The tomb of the empyrean supreme opening at this time, however, was outside of everyone's expectations. That left only Moran Dongning free to enter the Dark World, but she was enough for their purposes. Since the Myriad Spirit Grand Supreme had entered the empyrean supreme's tomb, that meant the same for the manifestation's guardians.

Another minor incident had developed along the way—the manifestation of dark dao accidentally offended Princess Jiang Lu of Rising Sunriver on her way to the Dark World. Jiang Lu was a Corpse Refiner, and the sect happened to possess a treasure that could restrain the manifestation.

Thus, the Corpse Refiners used Jiang Lu as an excuse to attack the manifestation from all sides. It was also why Starcatch Tower didn't take Rising Sunriver to task for their hijacking of a merchant vessel—they sensed the Corpse Refiners' true intentions.

If it wasn't for Lu Yun razing Starcatch Tower to the ground and scaring off the sect and Rising Sunriver, the manifestation of dark dao would've had to fall back to the Moran Clan for protection. Thankfully for her, Lu Yun's actions scared off her enemies.

The manifestation of dark dao was similar to Lu Yun wearing the Master of Darkness—they could deploy their strength only in the Dark World.

Lu Yun couldn't help but pout as he looked at Nightmare and Moran Dongning. Both of them had known what was going on—he was the only one blissfully unaware. It wasn't until Nightmare revealed at the

last possible second that the young woman was the tangible form of dark dao and that the treasure was ineffective against her, did Lu Yun realize what the situation at hand was.

Moran Dongning strode through the air and slammed her palm down on the manifestation without the slightest hesitation.

The girl of dark dao shrieked and furiously barrelled toward You Haoyue. There was none of her previous aplomb to be found anymore. However, the big-headed doll had torn You Haoyue into pieces. Though he wasn't dead, he'd lost the ability to fight back.

"It's the Morans behind Starcatch Tower," Nightmare quietly muttered. While her name was written into the Tome of Life and Death, that didn't make her Lu Yun's slave. There were certain things she wouldn't speak of unless Lu Yun asked her about them himself.

As for why she'd kept this a secret from him... With his temper, he would've found a way to fish out the manifestation once he found out and destroyed her.

"Sikong Myriad Treasure wanted me to ally with the dark dao manifestation. I could claim the world heart while she claimed the world spirit. But when I raised the condition of thirty percent of Starcatch Tower's profits in the future, he turned me down without hesitation.

"It's not that they can't afford the split or were scheming against me, but that the Dark World will gradually turn into a land of darkness after the world spirit is gone. There won't be anything to be gained from this place then!"

Nightmare's resolute attitude had been why Sikong Myriad Treasure gave up the notion of cooperating with her. His method to raise her strength to a grand supreme's was to borrow the dark dao manifestation's power. Hence, Starcatch Tower could do so without repercussions, whereas the Wind and Cloud Pagoda could only use the method that required an astronomical number of ancestral veins of heaven and earth.

It was then that Nightmare began suspecting that Starcatch Tower was in communication with the dark dao manifestation. Lu Yun destroying their Darkstar branch was just a coincidence.

Although some unexpected twists and turns occurred along the way, things eventually proceeded as originally planned. The manifestation of dark dao entered the Dark World while Moran Dongning did the same through the Gates of the Abyss.

The two released their strongest power as they battled each other, shaking the world from the force of their blows.

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The endarkened of the Dark World wailed and howled; even the grand supremes hidden in its depths frantically fled for their lives. The power these two deployed raged at unfathomable heights. It rivaled what Yun Yi could bring to bear!

The tangible form of dark dao hadn't dared fight Moran Dongning at first, but she had no choice after the big-headed doll tore You Haoyue apart. The Master of Darkness could restrain darkness from taking shape, but so could she call upon incredible strength in the Dark World!

The two matched each other blow for blow. Although Moran Dongning occupied the upper hand, she was unable to claim a decisive victory.

•••••

The big-headed doll came skipping back with You Haoyue's head dangling from his grip.

"As I thought, that woman's power is inside this guy," the doll giggled. "I took shape out of the Master of Darkness, so there's nothing he can do when faced with me."

"Mmhmm." Lu Yun nodded, his attention focused on the two girls locked in combat.

Many bolder sequence cultivators had followed the bridge in from the outside world. But when they sensed the ripples of battle from grand supremes, they quickly fled with their tails between their legs.

The world heart had matured and hung silently in the void. Hints of intangible ripples swept through the world, cleansing it of imperceptive traces of disorder.

"C'mon, let's get that world heart!" Lu Yun waved to the doll and Nightmare before setting out. He was just a supreme at the moment—granted, a very domineering supreme. The world heart would be out of reach if he couldn't call upon the strength of a high supreme.

The big-headed doll and Nightmare, however, were bonafide grand supremes.

The manifestation of dark dao seemed to sense Lu Yun's goal and slowly pulled her fight toward the world heart. But when she sensed a new development, she halted her directional drift and focused on fighting Moran Dongning. A trace of relief appeared on her face—her reinforcement was here.

.....

"We meet again, Lu Yun." An ethereal female voice sounded from the front. A girl with blue hair and wearing a blue dress walked up to the world heart and plucked it out of the air. "I told you that you would pay for violating our agreement."

She fixed frosty eyes on Lu Yun in a glare of death. Color drained from the doll's face and he hastily backed away, frantically searching for places to hide. The one who'd wanted to kill him before was here in the flesh!

### Chapter 1916 – On Your Knees

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"As I thought, a ghost." A cold sneer played on Lu Yun's lips when he looked at the newcomer. "You're the manifestation of sea dao and someone killed you, didn't they?"

The blue-haired girl's expression shifted when she heard these words. She hadn't expected Lu Yun to see through her with a single glance! She was indeed the tangible form of sea dao, the same nature as the girl of dark dao. However, someone had killed her and this was her lingering resentment. She was now a ghost.

"Since you're a ghost..." Lu Yun spread out his hands as flames ignited over his body. His nascent spirit flared with power and the image of hell superimposed over his body. "On your knees!" he roared.

The blue-haired girl didn't have time to consider anything before she thumped to the ground. Uncontrollable fear engulfed her and she shook with dread.

She'd faced Lu Yun with something similar to a puppet last time, so she hadn't been able to sense the terrifying power of hell on the young man. Bolstered by the Tome of Life and Death, hell could restrain all ghostly entities.

This was even more so the case after Lu Yun razed Starcatch Tower. Enhanced by the great daos of the supremes and high supreme he'd killed, hell dao and immortal dao developed to unimaginable heights.

While the Starcatch supremes might be inferior to the ten billion supremes that Tailong had given Lu Yun, there were high and grand supremes among the faction. Just Sikong Myriad Treasure and his great dao alone far outstripped the army of ten billion supremes.

Not only that, but Lu Yun also smacked two grand supremes to death on the bridge to the Dark World. They'd both switched to immortal dao now, creating the presence of grand supremes within the great dao. It was only in its current state that immortal dao possessed the right to sit at the table with the great daos of the chief worlds.

Once the Tome of Life and Death and hell dao materialized, there weren't many ghostly entities that could withstand Lu Yun. All ghostly and yin entities had to bow down before him, including those from the Ghost Hell and sect master of Ghost Sect!

"What... what is that?!" The blue-haired girl had discovered the presence of hell long ago and was immensely confident in her ability to defy it. It could exert no authority over her even if there were numerous grand supremes inside it.

But... she never considered the possibility of the Tome of Life and Death. When it appeared, there was nothing she could do but kneel!

Lu Yun walked up to her and extended his hand. "Give it here."

Shaking, the blue-haired girl placed the beating world heart onto the young man's palm. He casually tossed it into hell, whereupon the Gates of the Abyss suddenly opened and gave way to a charming figure.

"What are... you doing here?" Lu Yun asked with a stiff expression after taking a good look. Why was Mo Yi entering the Dark World at this time?

"I remember coming here before and leaving something behind." Mo Yi cocked her head and considered the world heart that Lu Yun had just sent into hell.

"The... world spirit?" she murmured. "Right, I left the world spirit here—not to prevent this world from becoming a land of darkness, but to subdue it!" She turned around and smiled at the young man. "Hell can give rise to hell dao order if a world heart is combined with it, but that's not enough. You need to have hell devour this entire Dark World if you want to create the hell of your dreams.

"The god of Mount Tai once created a hell, but that was his and not yours."

"You... saw the present from the past?" Lu Yun asked incredulously. Based off of her words, she'd prepared this Dark World for him. But the loops hadn't even started in the Land of Reincarnation when this world appeared and there'd been no Lu Yun!

"Time holds no meaning for me," Mo Yi shook her head. Time as a function of the past, present, and future was just a form of existence to her. If she wished, she could travel through time whenever she wanted and visit the past or future.

Perhaps the past her had seen their current circumstances all those years ago.

"What is the world spirit?" Lu Yun asked.

"It is the heart and spirit of the world." Mo Yi gave the matter some thought and crushed the world heart in her hand. "Use your heart to sense it."

Lu Yun nodded silently and sat down cross-legged, releasing his thoughts so he could discern the rhythm of the Dark World. With the current heights of his cultivation, he easily understood Mo Yi's words.

She nodded and padded back to hell.

"Stand guard over him." Her voice traveled back on the wind.

The big-headed doll scurried back, still carrying You Haoyue's head. He snuck a careful glance at the blue-haired girl kneeling in front of Lu Yun. She wouldn't dare rise without the young man's permission.

In the depths of the Dark World, despair suffused the manifestation of dark dao. She was losing the fight and energy from the Master of Darkness invaded her body. Dispirited and with hope fading fast, she desperately clung on and wished for a miracle.

The grand supremes of darkness stirred to action as well. Lu Yun reaching out to the spirit of the world was an attempt to capture the entire Dark World. They would not idly sit by to allow him to succeed!

The big-headed doll and Nightmare were extremely powerful. Add to that the kneeling blue-haired girl in front of Lu Yun... the combination was sufficient to overpower the entire Dark World. But when faced with a matter of their survival, the endarkened grand supremes had to throw all caution to the wind.

They were from the true land of darkness and their ultimate goal was to invade the chief worlds. Upon slaughtering all life in the chief worlds, they would be able to assimilate that realm into the land of darkness. A puny world spirit standing in their way of success so soon after their arrival was the last possibility on their minds!

Lu Yun devouring the world spirit wasn't to set the Dark World free, but to completely refine it. Thus, ten grand supremes showed themselves and charged the young man.

As the Master of Darkness wasn't on him at the moment, countless supremes, high supremes, and some endarkened sequence cultivators also flung themselves out of the gloom. Twin rays of cerulean ghost fire flashed through the blue-haired girl's eyes. However, Nightmare stopped her when she rose.

"Don't do anything!" Nightmare stood in front of her.

"Just you—eurp!" Ready to break into loud cursing, the girl gulped when she registered the mark of the Tome of Life and Death on Nightmare's forehead. She swallowed her words with a convulsive shudder.

"You stay put as well," Nightmare said to the big-headed doll. A black flower of hellfire appeared in her hand. She was currently an extension of Lu Yun. Whoever she killed would also enter hell as a new inhabitant.

## Chapter 1917 – Demolishing the Roots of the God of Mount Tai

The power of hell draped over Nightmare when hellfire blazed into existence. In this moment, she was an envoy of hell. Clenching her fists tight, she sent out two dark stars with a punch. They streaked into meteors and dispersed in all directions.

Countless endarkened were struck and killed in their path, including high supremes!

Lu Yun bent his mind to perceiving the world spirit. With Nightmare acting as his extension, his will and the Tome of Life and Death's will were also amplifying her strength. She was his eleventh Yama King for the moment and everyone she killed entered hell as a new denizen.

The ten grand supremes in the darkness could no longer sit still. They took the field, targeting not Nightmare, but Lu Yun concentrating on sensing the world spirit.

#### Bam!

A muffled collision rang out when the ten supremes drew near Lu Yun. A black figure landed in front of the young man like a cannonball.

"Suppress her," Moran Dongning calmly said to the blue-haired girl as she descended from the air.

The girl's expression shifted with dismay—that black figure was the manifestation of darkness. Moran Dongning had shattered all of the bones in her body and she couldn't move. The blue-haired girl wanted to defy the order, but she saw the mark of the Tome of Life and Death between Moran Dongning's brows.

Shaking, the blue-haired girl suppressed the dark dao girl, but also treated her injuries at the same time.

Moran Dongning ignored her extraneous gestures and set foot into the air with her hand splayed open. She absorbed a formidable amount of darkness, turning the laughing and crying mask on her face bright red. Two lines of tears streaked down the treasure like trails of blood.

She flitted through the void as if she were dancing, turning into ten copies of herself that spread out toward the ten grand supremes of darkness.

Nightmare had also wanted to stop Moran Dongning from joining the battle, but she gave up the impulse after seeing the mark of the Tome of Life and Death sparkle between Moran Dongning's forehead. She refocused on killing everything in the Dark World. She would end all of their lives herself and transform them into true beings of order so they could live in hell!

.....

"God of Death!" rasped out a disbelieving voice as a grand supreme stared incredulously at Moran Dongning.

The laughing and crying face still trailed tears of blood. It was no longer the Master of Darkness, but something more terrifying—the God of Death.

The Master of Darkness was just a treasure, granting its wielder authority over darkness in the land of darkness. The God of Death, however, was the combination of the former and a being of order. Together, they unleashed the mask's full power and exercised full domination over the darkness.

For the moment, Moran Dongning was the God of Death.

#### Crunch!

Moran Dongning's slender hand reached into the chest of the grand supreme that'd spoken and crushed its beating heart.

A grand supreme perished, swiftly followed by its nine brethren in the same manner.

With that, ten grand supremes entered hell and switched to immortal dao, melding their own dark dao into immortal dao. Immortal dao immediately grew stronger and truly came into its own with the addition of ten grand supremes, countless high supremes, and innumerable supremes. It was now a peak great dao in the chief worlds.

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A rising tide lifts all boats, and so immortals were strengthened as well. Many of them, such as the Demonic Vine, had reached the level of exceeding sequence. All of them chose to do so without forging a dao palace, smashing their shards of sequence into dust.

Radiance flared over immortal dao as countless supremes without dao palaces bolstered its ranks. All of the World of Immortals turned pure white, illuminating the chief worlds like a brilliant white sun.

.....

Within the tomb of the empyrean supreme.

Traveling with the corpse god, a horrified god of Mount Tai suddenly spat out blood.

"What is it?" the corpse god frowned at the mountain god. She was hardly willing to travel with her former dao partner, but this was the only person who would ally with her in the current chief worlds.

She'd schemed against him and he'd plotted against her. There was no love left between them, just simple mutual exploitation. Thus, the corpse god immediately thought of deserting the mountain god when he seemed to be gravely injured. The tomb of the empyrean supreme was an extraordinarily dangerous location that'd already claimed the lives of more than ten premier grand supremes since opening.

The number of genius supremes and high supremes that'd died were too many to be counted.

"Damn that Lu Yun, he's destroyed my foundations and completely turned the Land of Reincarnation into a world of immortal dao!" The god of Mount Tai grit his teeth with rage.

As important as hell dao was, the opportunity to become an empyrean supreme was equally fatally attractive. The mountain god had left the Land of Reincarnation for the tomb only because he was confident that Lu Yun wouldn't be able to grow or change things too much in a short period of time.

But how long had it been?! The foundations of the Land of Reincarnation were completely destroyed and immortal dao had erased his mark on the land. If he entered the World of Immortals now, he would be attacked by immortal dao!

Indeed, the great dao now possessed the ability to kill the mountain god!

The corpse god sneered as she studied the mountain god's expression. So much ado for nothing. Her former dao partner had drawn water with a sieve and benefited someone else with his toil and trouble in the end.

"What is that book?" The god of Mount Tai mused in a dazed haze. He thought of the Tome of Life and Death in Lu Yun's hand—the treasure that'd replaced Yun Yi's Imperial Seal in the last loop. He hadn't paid it much attention at first and continued to execute his plans against Hongjun, Pang, God, and the others. But it was this tiny detail that ended everything he'd striven for all these eons.

.....

Moran Dongning and Nightmare worked together to slaughter everything in the Dark World in the shortest period of time, turning them all into denizens of hell.

The netherworld was now a picture of prosperity—no longer the vacant expanses it'd once been. Forced to stay in hell, Diexi and Xie Tianxun grew much more cheerful given the changes and began collecting disciples to build their legacies.

Lu Yun wasn't opposed to their actions. There were already the ten Yama Kings in hell, but they were more managers than rulers. Hell needed more legacies to maintain its presence; he'd sent the grand supremes to the World of Immortals to protect it.

.....

"Found it!" Lu Yun opened his eyes with delight. A dot of glimmering light landed in his palm like a drop of water from the void. Ripples shifted over the Dark World and converged on the tiny drop of water.

# **Chapter 1918 – Subduing the Dark World**

The Dark World rapidly minimized and landed in Lu Yun's hand, stunning cultivators outside the world. They were still dithering over whether to utilize certain forbidden methods to rush into the Dark World and fight Lu Yun for the world heart. But he'd cut them off at the knees and claimed the entire world!

They rubbed their eyes fiercely, confirming that, indeed, the Dark World was gone. It was replaced by Lu Yun sitting cross-legged in the void.

Darkstar major world collectively reeled with surprise. Countless beings rushed out of it and stood in the void, gaping at Lu Yun and not knowing what to say. With the disappearance of the Dark World, a tendril of light shot in from the chief worlds and illuminated dusky Darkstar.

"Lu Yun!" sounded a furious roar. "Where is the divine spirit of my clan?!"

It was a high supreme that exuded dense ripples of dark dao. He was a Moran high supreme.

Some in the Moran Clan knew that the manifestation of dark dao had slipped into the Dark World. Even if Lu Yun hadn't scared off Jiang Lu and the others, the clan would've surreptitiously cleared away all obstacles for her.

But there was no sight of the girl to be found after Lu Yun collected the Dark World! They couldn't sit still after this horrifying discovery and jumped out at first light.

Only a high supreme dare take Lu Yun to task, however. The others shook like cicadas in the winter and stared mutely at the young man.

Claim the Dark World?

He'd collected the entire world? What kind of strategy was this and how much personal strength did it take to manage such a feat?

The Dark Worlds had become a poisonous tumor in the side of the chief worlds after they appeared, constantly releasing creatures of darkness to pester and erode the chief worlds. It wasn't until the legendary mistress of the myths appeared with a certain method to constrain them that the Dark Worlds quieted down somewhat.

Only somewhat, as they still exploded with activity at regular intervals.

Although there were resources unique to the Dark Worlds to be found on their soil and it was an apt enough trial ground for cultivators, unaccountable danger still lurked around every corner. Hence, vast sums of grand supremes attended the opening of every Dark World, preventing accidents from taking place.

The unexpected had indeed occurred a few times, but the supremes received large amounts of resources at the same time. Thus fortified, they rose with unstoppable momentum and became apex personages in the realm.

The grand supremes never gave up on excising these tumors. Several hundred of them once joined hands in a collective effort, but the Dark Worlds yet remained. How had one of them been removed after all of the grand supremes entered the tomb of the empyrean supreme??

This Lu Yun who'd appeared out of nowhere took on a mysterious and impenetrable cast in their eyes, inspiring deep veneration from all chief world cultivators. At the same time, he felt wisps of goodwill converge on him—particularly from Darkstar.

The major world bore the brunt of any disturbance from the Dark World. Most of its cultivators were dead, out of commission, or had emigrated elsewhere. No one liked to dwell in a world without light.

Those who lived on Darkstar now were either stationed here to prevent the Dark World's unrest from spilling over elsewhere, or geniuses on a trip to temper themselves. Neither party liked where they were, but they had no choice but to be here.

Now that everything had been resolved, they were free. Hence, only the Moran high supreme screamed with shock and dismay.

"Your divine spirit?" A tiny dot of black light sparkled in the void as a blue-haired girl padded out, the manifestation of dark dao dangling from her hand. "This one?"

The Moran high supreme shuddered a few times as he looked at the barely breathing manifestation. Eyes wide open with horror, he lost every last bit of his courage.

The manifestation of dark dao was a divine spirit that the Moran Clan had hidden away. It was the reason why they were able to remain unyielding at the peak of the chief worlds even after their grave setbacks. But now she hung like a dead dog from the blue-haired girl's grasp.

The high supreme had seen the blue-haired girl before—she and the manifestation were inseparable. They were best friends, but they seemed to have turned on each other now.

Scanning the premises, the blue-haired girl turned around and strode through a door, entering hell.

A final droplet of water vanished into Lu Yun's hand, accompanied by his long exhale. He'd finally completely subdued the Dark World. It was a vessel that bridged the world of reality and the one of the mind. It could contain a true, tangible world.

Such were Mo Yi's abilities. Instead of vanishing, the chaotic power created by the Dark World was held by the world spirit and sent elsewhere. Soul Dominion was also a world of the mind similar to the World of Soul Dominion. She'd packed it up with something similar to a world heart and taken it away.

.....

Lu Yun slowly rose to his feet. He swayed and almost toppled over. Oddly enough, the innumerable pairs of eyes on him also felt a bit dizzy and their owners echoed his motion in spite of themselves.

"Where... where have you put the Dark World?" the Moran high supreme rasped.

"What, do I need to report to you what I've done to the Dark World?" Lu Yun retorted weakly, his face drained of color. "How about I send the Dark World to Moran Clan territory? Or shall I bring you to it for a look around?"

"There's no need!" The high supreme quickly shook his head when he thought of the blue-haired girl who'd briefly appeared. When even his clan's divine spirit had been taken away, he'd be courting death to continue down the same path!

He spun on his heel and left without second thought. Matters here had to be communicated to those in the tomb no matter what, so that the Moran powerhouses in the empyrean supreme's tomb could prepare accordingly.

Lu Yun couldn't be bothered with him. He'd exhausted too much mental power when comprehending the world spirit earlier and his mind would be severely weakened for a while.

Moran Dongning had returned to hell, leaving Nightmare and the big-headed doll protecting Lu Yun from the shadows.

They could not afford to step into the spotlight at this moment, and there was no need for them to. Despite showing obvious weakness, no one dared approach Lu Yun. Luo Qian and Luo Ming also stood off to the side, their hands at their sides and passively watching the proceedings.

After a long while, Lu Yun finally found his bearings and looked at a corner of the void. "Nightmare, let's go to the Ghost Sect."

"Alright!" Her eyes lit up. She'd thought that Lu Yun would return to hell first after recovering to refine the orders of hell. She hadn't thought that he'd want to go to the Ghost Sect!

Although her mother was also a grand supreme, she was at most on par with Luo Ming. She wasn't a powerhouse among supremes and had to face pressure from both chief world factions and the Dark Hell.

The current Ghost Sect swayed and teetered in the wind. Lu Yun visiting them would certainly bring them hope.

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# Chapter 1919 – Recreating the Dark World

Since Lu Yun was now a grand supreme, he could cross the void without needing a flight treasure or merchant vessel. Furthermore, the big-headed doll was a grand supreme as well. Although not as heaven-defying as he'd been in the Dark World, he certainly had the right to enter the tomb of the empyrean supreme.

Even now, he kept looking in the tomb's direction. There seemed to be something there calling out to him.

"Safeguard your heart and ignore that thing." Lu Yun landed on a passing star when he noticed the doll's abnormal condition. He reached out and smacked the back of the doll's head.

"Eh? Ah, okay." The big-headed doll quietly sat down, centering and grounding himself.

Lu Yun looked at Nightmare.

"What is it?" She fidgeted nervously when he stared intently at her.

"Switch to immortal dao now and break through to supreme." Lu Yun also sensed the summons from the empyrean supreme's tomb. It looked like the numerous powerhouses of the chief worlds had entered the tomb due to this calling.

"Eh?" Nightmare blinked. She cultivated ghost dao at the moment and planned to switch to immortal dao at some point. She was just waiting for the right moment. It'd have to wait until the Ghost Sect came under Lu Yun's banner and took up residence in hell, at the very least!

But Nightmare also knew that these days, hell wasn't as it was before. They would be adding grace to what was already beautiful, not rendering timely assistance in a moment of need. They would have no special status in hell anymore.

The only thing that the Ghost Sect could rely on was Nightmare.

That Lu Yun wanted her to switch to immortal dao now was to separate her from the Ghost Sect. It made her rather uncomfortable. The Ghost Sect would all switch to immortal dao after they entered

hell, of course, but having her give up ghost dao now was to sever her karmic ties with the sect ahead of time.

"You will cultivate immortal dao because I tell you to." Lu Yun frowned when he saw Nightmare hesitate.

The woman trembled. She couldn't defy Lu Yun's wishes because her name was written into the Tome of Life and Death, but he'd never forced her to do anything before.

She took a deep breath. As a denizen of hell, switching to immortal dao was but the work of a thought. It didn't require any effort to change her ghostly force into ghostly force under the immortal dao.

And then Nightmare broke through, exceeded sequence, and became a supreme.

When she subconsciously gathered her shards of sequence to craft a dao palace of black and gold, Lu Yun destroyed it with a casual backhand. In his eyes, dao palaces affected cultivators too much, despite enabling them to continue cultivating. One had no need for a dao palace if one's nascent spirit was strong enough.

After she became a supreme of the immortal dao, Nightmare could sense how strong this great dao was. She stared at her hands and took a deep breath.

"Grand Supreme Luo Qian utilized a secret art to make the strength of a grand supreme available to me in the Dark World. Many long-term effects will plague me after that strength fades away, but now..." She discovered that the long-term effects she thought would weaken her were gone. Her potential and foundation had reached heights that she couldn't have imagined before.

She wasn't as perverse as Lu Yun in the sense of slapping a high supreme to death with one palm strike, but she was absolutely a peak supreme.

A peak supreme right after breaking through?

More importantly was that she ascended within fanfare or disturbance. This was the most shocking of all.

Lu Yun heaved a slight sigh of relief to see Nightmare thus. Through formula dao, he'd just discovered untoward changes with the Ghost Sect. Nightmare would die if she returned now, but if they didn't go, the entire sect would be lost.

He didn't care about the Ghost Sect, but since Nightmare was now one of his, he had to look out for his people.

"What is that to be so terrifying?!" the big-headed doll suddenly squawked. "I won't be able to withstand temptation after a while and will run off to the tomb of the empyrean supreme!"

"I have no idea either." Lu Yun looked in the tomb's direction. A terrifyingly insistent summons had risen from his heart after he broke through to supreme. It constantly urged him, like hypnosis, to make his way to the tomb.

"Do you know?" He abruptly turned around and looked behind him.

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"You discovered my presence?" Nine Claw gradually materialized with displeasure.

"Nope, that was just a shot in the dark." Lu Yun shook his head.

Nine Claw: .....

"Are you not affected by that thing?" Lu Yun asked.

"I'm a god, and an evil one at that. The thing in the tomb doesn't think much of me." Nine Claw curled his lip and looked at Nightmare with surprise. "Strange, you have become a supreme without a dao palace and should be one of the preeminent beings of this realm. Why aren't you affected?"

Nightmare shrugged. She belonged to the Tome of Life and Death; no matter how strong the thing in the tomb was, it didn't dare try to snatch someone from the book. Lu Yun however, was different. He was one with the treasure. Although he was its master, that identity was hidden, so the thing in the tomb couldn't sense it.

"Because I'm trash." Nightmare retreated behind Lu Yun.

"Are you going to the Ghost Sect with me?" Lu Yun asked.

"No, I'm here to stop you from going to the Ghost Sect," Nine Claw shook his head. "If you go now, you'll die without a doubt even with my protection! Not even Yun Yi or Tailong would make a difference."

Golden light shimmered over his body as he spoke.

"Wow, there are people you can't handle in the chief worlds?" Lu Yun raised an eyebrow.

"I am the second strongest in the chief worlds," Tailong nodded. "But what if that person is not from the chief worlds?"

"Huh?" Lu Yun blinked. "Forget the chief worlds. If you're number two, who's number one?"

"The woman from the Autumnus Realm currently in the World of Immortals," Nine Claw snapped. "If it wasn't for her, I would've gone to the World of Immortals a long time ago and eaten the azure dragon ancestral god! Would I be wasting my time here?"

"Not from the chief worlds...? Then who? A place outside the chief worlds? A place even more vast and grand?" Lu Yun rubbed his temples.

"The land of darkness." Nine Claw flicked a sidelong glance at him. "A place even more vast and grand? Only empyrean supremes have the right to see it.

"The land of darkness must create another Dark World after you destroyed this one. They've chosen the Ghost Sect as the new site and sent a supreme powerful dark grand supreme. I am no match for it, and you will be dead without a doubt if you go!"

## Chapter 1920 - To Go Against the Grain

Lu Yun's expression shifted when he heard the nine clawed golden dragon speak. A dark grand supreme from the land of darkness had come to create another Dark World?

No wonder he'd calculated that something drastic had occurred in the Ghost Sect and that it was about to collapse. But no matter how he tried, he couldn't discern who was acting against the sect.

Nightmare tensed with worry. If the Ghost Sect became a new Dark World, wouldn't her mother turn into a dark grand supreme?

Although dark grand supremes possessed their own thoughts, their minds were occupied by mayhem. They couldn't be considered normal entities. Unbidden, she looked at Lu Yun with a hint of pleading in her eyes.

"Fuck that piece of horseshit! It's just a creature of darkness! Have Miss Moran come, we'll rush in and beat them so badly that they scream for their mothers!" the big-headed doll suddenly erupted with outrage. The features of his face morphed into a laughing and crying face similar to the Master of Darkness. Absent for an extended period of time, the akasha ghost sprang out of his body again.

The nine clawed golden dragon looked at the doll and raised a faintly aureate eyebrow.

"You're derived from the Master of Darkness. If the dark grand supreme eats you, its strength will climb to incredible heights. Not even the combination of the mistress in her prime, the return of Yun Yi, and that woman from the Autumnus Realm will be able to take it down if that happens.

"It's discovered your presence and the ghost ancestor in the World of Immortals. It chose the Ghost Sect because it saw the karmic relationship between you and the sect. That's why it used the sect as bait to lure you over."

The thread of karmic relationship came from Nightmare. Lu Yun had calculated a few hints of this earlier, which was why he'd dropped everything he was doing and commanded Nightmare to switch to immortal dao. He'd deduced that Nightmare would die because of ghost dao. It now looked like that not only was that the case, but that the dark grand supreme would turn her into a puppet and use her against Lu Yun.

The current chief worlds were a far cry from the chief worlds of yesteryear.

Back then, Mo Yi had been in her prime and powerhouses abounded in the realm. The heavyweights of the land of darkness hadn't dared leave their home—they knew that would lead to a swift death if they set a toe out of line.

But now with the passage of time and opening of the empyrean supreme's tomb, ninety-nine percent of the realm's modern day experts had entered it to search for their fortunes. Therefore, it was a perfect time for dark grand supremes to descend upon the Ghost Sect through the power of darkness—the sect also cultivated dark dao. The dark grand supreme could both fashion the sect into a new Dark World and also use it as bait against the wielder of the Master of Darkness.

The latter was the ruler of darkness. At the same time, an adult lion was the king of beasts, but a juvenile lion could only be hunted down and devoured. The current Master of Darkness was a cub.

For the moment, there were three beings in the chief worlds that possessed the treasure's strength: Moran Dongning, the big-headed doll, and the ghost ancestor.

Nine Claw smacked his claw down on the doll and pressed him into the mud. "You shouldn't add to the mess."

Nightmare clenched her jaw and quieted down, but the air of sorrow around her couldn't be waved off.

Lu Yun's temples throbbed and he intoned, "We're not retreating, to the Ghost Sect!"

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"What?!" Nine Claw jerked with shock. "In, in that case, I'm going with you."

"Out with it, what do you want?" Lu Yun cocked his head. "I have nothing to offer. You see those around me advance with incredible speed and want the same opportunity, but I can't give you the same treatment."

He decided to lay everything out in the open as the dragon was being too pointed in his goal. Everything Lu Yun possessed came from the Tome of Life and Death. If the nine clawed golden dragon saw through that, he would take action and try to claim the book. Lu Yun could read that from the dragon's emotions—the latter had been observing everything about the young man all this time.

The only thing he couldn't see through was the Tome of Life and Death, because it'd become Lu Yun's nascent spirit and part of him. Hence, the dragon thought that Lu Yun's nascent spirit had been affected by a certain power. Perhaps he was even searching for the source of the power.

Nine Claw stared fixedly at Lu Yun before nodding and leaving.

Lu Yun's expression remained solemn. The nine clawed golden dragon was a grand supreme, and a supreme of supremes. If he wanted to observe Lu Yun, he would be able to count every single hair on the young man's body with the entire chief worlds between them if he wanted to.

.....

"Come, we go to the Ghost Sect!" Lu Yun glanced in the direction that Nine Claw had left in before turning to his two companions.

The big-headed doll crawled out of the mud and coughed a few times with worry. "Aren't you afraid of the dark grand supreme?"

"If it successfully forms another Dark World and eats away at other worlds, this opening will prove to be a launching point for it and it'll come for us when all is said and done. As opposed to that and letting it grow stronger, we might as well bring the fight to it first." Two black flames ignited in Lu Yun's eyes.

"Shall we bring the ghost ancestor with us?" asked the doll. The ghost ancestor was a powerful grand supreme originally buried in the Hell Tombs. The strength that he commanded in his past life likely rivaled Leize and his family.

"Yes!" Lu Yun set his jaw. "Get Moran Dongning too. It's better for us to make the first move than to sit here and wait for death! If Nine Claw can guess what we want to do, so can that dark grand supreme. He's probably just using the dragon to scare me off!"

Lu Yun realized the truth of his words as soon as he spoke them. He'd determined the changes at the Ghost Sect and was rushing his way there, but Nine Claw arrived halfway through. The dragon had likely become the dark grand supreme's pawn and was attempting to drive Lu Yun away.

"Yes, that must be the case. The more one tries to hide, the more one is exposed. The orders of the chief worlds still hold great sway over the creatures of darkness. It's probably heavily injured right now.

"So we have to go right now!" Lu Yun tossed the doll and Nightmare into hell, then utilized Boundless Step to head in the direction of the Ghost Sect.

The Ghost Sect occupied a major world that they'd named Ghost Sect. Instead of a globe, it currently resembled a massive gourd, as if another world was slowly swallowing it.

"That's..." Lu Yun frowned. Moran Dongning, the ghost ancestor, Nightmare, and the big-headed doll appeared behind him.

"The Dark Hell!" Nightmare shrieked. "What's that doing here?!"

The doll yanked You Haoyue's head out of a bag.

"I, I don't know either. I don't know anything." You Haoyue's jaw dropped.