

Necropolis 1971

Chapter 1971 – Humans

The tree was a trap, a gigantic net. There was another trap inside—the hole around the fruit. If it wasn't for Lu Yun observing the death information left behind by grand supremes who'd died in the hole, he wouldn't identify anything wrong with it either.

The giants were hardly as simple as they seemed.

It was eerily quiet here. Nothing out of the ordinary had taken place apart from the hole swallowing ten grand supremes. Even so, Lu Yun didn't dare relax his guard. Shapeshifting and Size Manipulation operated at full strength and he kept a firm grip on his emotions. He wouldn't pluck that fruit, no matter how things appeared.

His eyes told him that the fruit was a vibrant green, but it was actually one of black and white. Being named as it was, the Tome of Life and Death possessed the power of life and death and was the foundation of reincarnation.

It was a similar relationship to the one between order, sequence, and the worlds. The worlds were the final form of order, something that exceeded sequence.

At the same time, the same applied to the Land of Reincarnation. It transcended life and death and was no longer constrained by it. The first formation of power in the Tome of Life and Death was that of life and death. As long as one possessed that power, one could continuously nurture reincarnation.

The fruit in front of him was very useful to him. Apart from activating the withered wood so that it could revive the peak grand supreme, it might also tap into other marvelous uses of the book.

Lu Yun was willing to hand over the withered wood because this tree was its origin point. He could facilitate a complete order of life appear in the chief worlds again. But that fruit? It had his name on it.

This was an instinctive desire from the bottom of his heart. He wanted that fruit of life and death!

Reason held firm in his mind as he knew that if he rushed over, he would end up the same as the grand supremes who'd died in the hole.

Since the Tome of Life and Death had become one with him and he controlled its instinctive functions, Lu Yun excavated its abilities like tapping into his own potential. Being able to control himself meant being able to control the treasure.

He continued to wait, waiting for a change in the situation. Based on his calculations, things would not be quiet here for much longer and there were other people hiding in the shadows, waiting for someone else to make a move.

"Come on out," boomed a resonant voice. An elder giant dressed in animal hides, grasping a bone staff in his hand, walked out of the void.

He was only two hundred and fifty kilometers tall, making him much smaller than any giant Lu Yun had seen thus far. Even some cultivators who specialized in tempering the body could reach two hundred and fifty kilometers tall.

However, Lu Yun could still identify that he was a giant. Not because of his outfit, but because of the strange power suppressing order that constantly revolved around him. The level of power on this giant was stronger than any of the giants that he'd seen thus far. It exceeded even that of the one who'd killed the Fire Qilin Grand Supreme.

What stunned Lu Yun was that the elder walked on air!

None of the cultivators inside the tomb could fly, not even grand supremes. But this elder could walk through air? Were there cultivators among the giants too?

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Lu Yun calmed himself down completely and became a true speck of dust. No life or any other presence exuded from him. In his arms, Chu Xun was likewise turned into the same state.

He knew that the elder hadn't discovered him, that those words weren't meant for him. There were others in the surroundings—whether from the chief worlds or other places.

“Despicable, abominable, reprehensible, and abhorrent. Cultivators are only fit to be food!” denounced his enemy in ringing tones as he strode through the air. “All of you schemed against humanity all those eons ago and sealed us in this burial mound that never sees the light of day. It is time that humanity emerged and ruled over the worlds again!”

Thunk!

The elder stuck his staff in the void. There wasn't too much sorrow or anger in his voice, but what he spoke of sent pinpricks of horror down Lu Yun's back.

Humanity.

Humanity?!

This elder giant called himself a human?!

Lu Yun's heart quailed. Indeed, he hadn't misheard.

If beings didn't cultivate, they couldn't ascend beyond their original form and take human form. Most of the cultivators that Lu Yun had seen in the chief worlds—whether one just starting on the path of cultivation or all the way up to grand supreme—weren't humans. They were other races that'd take human form throughout the course of their cultivation. Race, however, was a very ambiguous concept in the chief worlds in modern times, unless one was a beast that could not change its shape.

Unique creatures such as the mighty divine beasts—the dragons, phoenixes, qilins, and tortoises—also came in for special mention.

To be exact, the concept of race had gotten hazy after Lu Yun set foot in the fourth realm. Thus, the elder who specifically called himself human made his heart shake.

He'd yet to meet any humans thus far in the chief worlds. While most of them took human form, they weren't humans. Even Chu Xun was human-shaped only because she was a connate dao entity.

These giants might be the only humans that Lu Yun would meet in the chief worlds. It gave rise to a strange feeling in his heart. Humanity was sealed in the tomb of the empyrean supreme?

Was this a conspiracy? Or something else?

The four evil coffins were also buried here, suppressing an unknown terror carved into different sections. In Lu Yun's eyes, this place seemed more like a seal or a terrifying curse like the one that the primordial heavenly emperor had participated in.

Why had Yun Yi opened the tomb? What was her true goal? Just to release a Disordered Empyrean Supreme or to create another peak grand supreme for the chief worlds?

It suddenly felt that her goals weren't as simple as they appeared on the surface.

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All was quiet on the premises, no one answered.

"Not coming out, are you?" The elder yanked his staff up and jabbed it at a certain corner of the void.

Bam!

The void collapsed into a pitch black hole as a giant figure screamed with anguish. It fell out and resolved itself into a ponderous beast. The elder didn't bother looking at it. He waved his staff around, sending a dead grand supreme dropping out of the air each time he did so.

"You should come out now, no? So many have died already." He suddenly turned around and faced a certain direction.

"So I couldn't hide from your eyes," a soft sigh echoed in the air. "You haven't changed at all after all these years. You're still the same."

A figure walked out of the air.

"Still the same?" sneered the elder. "I was the foremost genius of humanity back in the day. Thousands of girls screamed my name when I waved my club and flocked to me. Now they are all pretty skeletons and I have aged into a wretched old man. This is thanks to all of you."

Chapter 1972 – Dao Form, Human Form

A wretched old man.

Lu Yun sighed helplessly from the bottom of his heart when he heard the elder refer to himself like that. Something shifted in him in that moment—he no longer viewed the giants as the enemy.

Because they were human.

In all of the chief worlds, humans could be found in only the World of Immortals. All of the grand supremes in the realm seemed to consider the World of Immortals and the past Land of Reincarnation as their enemy. Perhaps the root cause of this was the human race found within.

Humans were masters of the immortal dao. It was possible that there wouldn't be so much pushback and commotion if any other race oversaw that great dao.

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“What a pity that only your projection is here. You don’t even have the guts to send a replica. I’d really like to bop an Infinite Deorc empyrean supreme such as you and see how you taste,” the self-styled wretched old man cackled.

An empyrean supreme from the land of darkness!

The person wreathed in shadow was one of their empyrean supremes!

Lu Yun swiftly found himself running out of mental processing power as he listened to them speak. An empyrean supreme from the land of darkness had come in person—a real, living empyrean supreme!

Of the two that he’d ever seen in his life, one was the reborn Disordered Empyrean Supreme—who’d fallen to peak grand supreme. The other was the primordial heavenly emperor—he was a ghost. The only real empyrean supreme he’d ever come face to face with was the one in front of him.

And given how the empyrean supreme was treating the wretched old man, the latter was likely a terrifying empyrean supreme as well!

“It’s not that I don’t have the guts to come, but you humans are simply too uncanny. Even when all of your strength is sealed away and you yourselves are suppressed in this eternally dark tomb, you are still able to utilize the dao bones to repress everything related to order. I’m afraid that if my replica came, you would be able to kill my primary body through it,” sighed the dark empyrean supreme.

“Coward,” the elder giant grumbled. “Out with it, what are you here for? You’re not here just for the fruit.” He pointed at the fruit of life and death behind him.

“The fruit contains the power of life and death. One can use it to derive the legendary cycle of reincarnation. Who doesn’t want it?” the dark empyrean supreme cackled. “But compared to that, releasing the human race from the tome of the empyrean supreme seems to be a bit more important.”

“Oh?” The elder raised two white eyebrows. “Can you make the decision in that?”

“Just as you say, it is time that humanity’s tribulation reached its end. Your race should step out into the light of day again,” the dark empyrean supreme spoke matter-of-factly. “But I have a condition. When released, humanity must help the Infinite Deorc eliminate the chief worlds.”

“Piss off,” the wretched old man spat out.

“The chief worlds may look—eh? What did you just say?” Ready to launch into an eloquent speech to analyze the pros and cons of his proposal and the chief worlds, the dark grand supreme jerked to a halt.

“I told you to piss off, did you not hear me?!”

Thunk!

The elder’s white bone staff tapped the air and shattered it, turning it into unchecked spatial turbulence.

Trembling, the dark empyrean supreme’s projection turned and left. A vaunted and noble empyrean supreme didn’t dare express dissatisfaction at a so-called wretched old man!

“You’ve watched for a long time, little guy. Don’t you want to come out and say something?” The elder flashed a half smile at a certain corner of the void.

“I’m over here, elder.” Lu Yun walked docilely out of the void. He knew that the elder giant had discovered him.

“I’ll give you one more chance, where are you?” The elder remained staring in the same spot.

Lu Yun:

He appeared where the giant was staring, Chu Xun in his arms. Only then did the giant nod with satisfaction. “Human?”

“Human,” Lu Yun nodded.

“Blood descendent of the great god Pangu?” The elder trembled slightly.

Lu Yun’s expression shifted; he suddenly recalled that when he traveled to the great wilderness, he’d found Leize’s entire family protecting humanity and viewing the race as their own. It was simply because humanity was Pangu’s descendant.

It looks like...

“The great god is still alive!” Lu Yun hastily said.

The elder paused and sighed, “Do you know what those empyrean supremes used to seal us away?”

Lu Yun shook. He hadn’t given it that much thought, but a horrifying possibility appeared in his mind with the giant’s question.

“The... great god... Pangu?” his voice shook.

The primordial heavenly emperor had said that they didn’t know who they’d sectioned, which meant only two possibilities. Either the emperor had lied, or he truly didn’t know and had been used by others.

Most bizarre of all was that the great god later appeared in the chief worlds and became close friends with the god of Mount Tai. He entered the Land of Reincarnation with Hongjun and God to protect the mountain god’s descendants.

Lu Yun’s mind buzzed—the arrangements and plots of the truly great weren’t things he could hazard a guess at.

“Yes,” the elder nodded. “The great god is humanity’s guardian god and blazed the trail for us, carving out our future. Only for the great god’s burial mound would humanity be willingly suppressed and sealed here.

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“I did not actually detect your presence, but no matter what you transform into, the pure bloodline of Pangu in your bones can never be concealed. That is what I sensed as soon as you arrived in the burial mound,” the elder grew more agitated.

“So you guys are no giants, but primitive humanity? This is what we’re supposed to look like?” Lu Yun asked.

“Yes,” the elder nodded. “It has been so long that the denizens of the chief worlds have forgotten us, which is why they view us as giants.”

“Why target the humans?” Lu Yun frowned.

Targeting humanity! Whether it was the World of Immortals or the humans sealed away here, they were a common target of all races that were not humanity!

Race was an ambiguous concept in the chief worlds—apart from humanity.

“Because the human form is a dao entity,” sneered the elder. “We are the most perfect being under order. All beings must transform to the dao form when they cultivate or grow to a certain level. They must look like us to break their shackles and obtain the approval of heaven and earth.

“But humans do not need to undergo that step or change our form. We are born in the form of dao, so of course they target us.”

First came dao form, then came human form.

But human form was dao form and the order of heaven and earth. It was a race that all great daos loved, which naturally drew jealousy from other races. Thus, it was no surprise that they were suppressed here.

They would already be extinct if they were any weaker.

Chapter 1973 – Metamorphoses

“Humanity has never blamed anyone for our predicament... not even that empyrean supreme from the darkness,” the elder sighed. “Existence is a massive forest of darkness and countless races hunt through it. We were just defeated by others.

“The number of defeated since time immemorial outnumber the number of carp in the rivers. Humanity is just one of them.

“But we are very lucky to have those such as the great god Pangu and august personages like Hongjun who willingly gave themselves up to be our respective guardian gods and resident heavyweights, thereby extending our fortunes.”

Lu Yun said nothing. Although the beaten down elder in front of him was two hundred and fifty kilometers tall, there was nothing weird about them standing face to face. In fact, Lu Yun was floating in front of the self-styled wretched old man.

He knew this was the elder giant’s power. Humans were cultivators too! But their cultivation and great dao had receded after being sealed in the tomb for such a long period of time. Only the most basic of survival instincts remained.

Yet humans were connate dao forms, after all, the most beloved species of great daos and orders. Thus, the dao bones here gave them new power—power that could suppress all cultivators.

“I want that.” Lu Yun ignored the elder’s words and pointed to the fruit of life and death. “It’s very important to me.”

“Are you going to resurrect the woman at the heart of life?” asked the giant instead of expressing his thoughts one way or another.

“The World of Immortals! That is where the humans of the chief worlds reside now. It is coveted by many, so I need a peak grand supreme that belongs to me to safeguard the world,” Lu Yun explained.

“Mhmm,” the elder nodded. “You have ended the Land of Reincarnation and manifested the World of Immortals. Good, very good. Immortal dao has finally blossomed in the chief worlds again.” He smiled faintly.

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“The immortal dao...” Lu Yun started, thinking of the origin of immortal dao—Hongjun. The elder giant had mentioned Hongjun just now as well.

The august personage was undoubtedly another heavyweight of the human race—he’d expunged his bloodline to conceal himself. He was now more like a connate divine spirit. No one knew his origins or background, including his dear friend the god of Mount Tai.

It would seem that Hongjun, Pangu, and the others had put on an act for the mountain god while playing along with him at the same time. All of it had been to protect the last traces of human bloodline.

“Take it, this item only attracts unwanted attention from others if it stays here,” sighed the elder. “The tree god was our sacred tree and originally sealed here with humanity. When he sensed the presence of immortal dao in the realm again, he decisively gave up his primary body to break free of this ancient burial mound. He left to seek out immortal dao in the chief worlds so he could stand guard over it.”

“In the past, the cultivators of the Land of Reincarnation grew bigger the more they cultivated...” Lu Yun suddenly recalled his question. As opposed to saying that humanity was in the Land of Reincarnation, it was more accurate to say that they had always been in the Hongmeng and worlds.

“That should be the work of the tree god,” the elder blinked. “When humans raised livestock for food early on in our history, we used certain tricks to make them grow bigger and bigger. That ensured enough food for the race.”

As I thought, a meat farm.

But Lu Yun wasn’t part of the livestock. It was all other races in the Land of Reincarnation that were being fattened up for humanity. However, not everything always went according to plan. The food was ready, but humanity didn’t grow according to their original trajectory. They passively drifted along the ebbs and flows of the Land of Reincarnation.

It reminded Lu Yun of the end of the human dao era. All races beneath the heavens rebelled against human rule then—that hadn’t been a coincidence. Hands from the land of darkness and other places were certainly behind it.

Goosebumps rose on Lu Yun’s arms. He’d thought that he and the World of Immortals could gradually assimilate into the chief worlds, that he just needed to beat back the grand supremes when they

concluded their business at the tomb of the empyrean supreme. After that final hurdle was cleared, they would receive the approval of the chief worlds and become part of it.

But now, he found himself ridiculously wrong.

The chief words had never considered the World of Immortals part of itself. Even now, the dragons were the only faction involved with the World of Immortals of their own accord. Everyone else was related to the Myriad Spirit, Firstspirit Grand Supremes, and Yun Yi.

Chu Xingran's divine nation of Darklake had likely risen purely because of Yun Yi's aid. It'd joined the World of Immortals and the entire nation cultivated immortal dao.

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The fruit of life and death easily dropped into Lu Yun's hand and was shuffled into the Tome of Life and Death. He didn't immediately return to the beating heart. Handing the sleeping Chu Xun to the elder giant, he sat down cross-legged to meditate.

The Tome of Life and Death glowed with a subtle metamorphosis after it absorbed the power of life and death from the fruit. A tiny green shoot grew in the center of its internal world, emanating brilliant green splendor.

This was the first instance of life in that world.

When the demon of immortal dao had been in residence, he'd created numerous flora and fauna in the empty world. Those were created from the internal force of the treasure and weren't true life forms. This sapling was a real living entity.

The elder giant looked silently at Lu Yun, like he was watching his own grandson.

"The humans of old have died. We cling to life through the dao bones in this tomb. The reborn human race, bloodline, and inheritance falls to you," he sighed as he watched Lu Yun.

"What is that?!" His eyes went wide.

The Tome of Life and Death suddenly emerged from the young man's sea of consciousness and floated over his head. The three parts of the Brushes of Reincarnation combined as one and an unknown hand gripped it, drawing and writing various things into the treasure.

"Reincarnation... this is true reincarnation," murmured the giant.

The brushes split back into three after a dozen breaths and reentered the Tome of Life and Death. Previously resembling an ancient bronze scroll, it abruptly turned into a bamboo scroll!

The power of life and death surged into Lu Yun's body like a charging river. Buffeted by the waves of energy, his internal force spontaneously transformed into the power of reincarnation.

It surged out of his body back into the Tome of Life and Death, forming a perfect circulation cycle that continued until the final trace of life and death vanished from the treasure. Filled with the power of reincarnation once more, it slowly sank into Lu Yun's sea of consciousness.

Chapter 1974 – Jin Huo

The elder giant's expression was nondescript by the time Lu Yun reopened his eyes, as if the Tome of Life and Death had passed the giant by and remained unseen. It was the young man who sat dumbly where he was. Upon inspecting his body with the inner eye, he saw the changes in the treasure.

It'd changed from an ancient bronze book into a bamboo scroll?

What the heck is going on?

After its transformation, all of the power of life and death within the treasure transmuted to the power of reincarnation. Lu Yun could call upon it with a single thought. In his current condition, all inner force within his body—whether immortal force or the power of order that he'd later cultivated—had disappeared. They were all replaced by reincarnation.

Reincarnation was a marvelous strength that could imitate any force at any time if Lu Yun wished to. It was similar to the Shapeshifting death art—on a fundamental level, it was whatever it turned into.

The death arts evolved once more, the changes most pronounced in the Spectral Eye. He rather thought that it should be renamed to the Heavenly Eye now!

The new and improved version clearly revealed everything about the elder giant to his eyes. He who called himself a wretched old man was... dead!

All of the humans in the tomb were dead! Dense death qi had invaded them and turned them into an existence that was the complete opposite of living beings.

The death qi came from the dao bones!

Lu Yun gaped at the elder giant, not knowing what to say. The giants still looked perfectly alive to him despite the Spectral Eye telling him otherwise. Plainly, the power within the dao bones was so profound that it made the giants appear no different from being alive.

Though Lu Yun had killed one of them earlier, they didn't enter hell upon death. He'd thought that was because the giants here were the same as the creatures of darkness. But now it seemed that it was because they were dead to begin with. Being dead, they lacked souls and thus couldn't enter hell as new inhabitants when they died anew. They were completely dead when their physical body perished.

"What do you see?" The elder giant understood certain things when he read Lu Yun's expression.

"You guys... can't leave the tomb at all, can you?" the young man's voice was dry.

"Mhmm," the elder nodded. "A price must be paid if we seek to take. We obtained the power of the dao bones in exchange for our souls."

The dao bones were so powerful that they could suppress all strength beneath a great dao—including order. But the price for that power was one's soul!

None of the humans in the burial mound possessed souls. They couldn't leave the place, for if they did, they would scatter upon the wind. What the elder had said earlier of breaking free of their seal and walking the world again had been pure bluster.

Humanity in the burial mound knew that there was another branch of humans in the chief worlds. As long as the group in the burial mound existed, then the truly powerful—such as the peak grand supremes or living empyrean supremes—wouldn't dare do anything to those humans. At most, it'd be grand supremes ignorant of the truth who made trouble for the branch that lived freely.

"Who did you give them to?" Lu Yun ground his teeth. He was beginning to see a familiar look in the elder's eyes—the same look that Fuxi often looked at him with.

Shaking his head, the elder fell silent.

"What do I need to do to free you from this predicament?" Lu Yun pressed.

The elder remained shaking his head.

"There is a peak grand supreme called Jin Huo at the heart of life. She melded her order of life into the tree god's body, enabling life to bloom throughout the ancient burial mound. That is how we have survived all this time.

"You are correct to return the order of life to her and resurrect her. Humanity owes her that," the elder said instead after a period of prolonged silence.

Lu Yun blinked, recalling what the peak grand supreme had said to him, that the giants here weren't the true enemy. She hadn't told him the full truth then because she didn't know his true identity. She'd given her final order of life to Chu Xun due to an agreement she'd reached with the little girl's parents back in the day.

"Do not reveal your nascent spirit until you truly grow into your strength," the elder suddenly said.

"I understand," Lu Yun nodded, quite a bit on his mind. The Tome of Life and Death floating out of his consciousness to form a circulation cycle outside his body was a subconscious display of his trust in the giant.

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"Alright then, go now." The elder tapped the void three times with his bone staff and sent the two youngsters away. The fruit of life and death reappeared in the hole, but this one was just an image formed out of remnants of energy from the true fruit.

A profound look appearing in his eyes, the elder looked off to the distance.

"The fires of humanity burn bright and our legacy lives on. How wonderful."

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Jin Huo had her hands cupped around the withered wood, the desire to live again overflowing from her eyes.

"How was it?" she hastily asked when Lu Yun returned.

He pointed and summoned a bit of emerald-green radiance from the sapling inside the Tome of Life and Death, directing it into the withered wood. The wood transformed into a vibrant, healthy branch, which then changed into an emerald green silk dress that draped over Jin Huo's lingering will.

A dense energy of life appeared, expanding robustly like a newborn sapling. The order of life abruptly took tangible form and fashioned a new body and soul for the peak grand supreme. It took only a millionth of a breath before a charming young girl in a green dress stood in front of Lu Yun.

"I'm finally... alive again." Jin Huo smiled. She was a young girl brimming with vitality, her every gesture and movement representing the true meaning of life.

Such was the order of life.

"I've seen the one who calls himself a wretched old man," he said slowly after a long moment of silence.

"A... a wretched old man?" Jin Huo blinked, bafflement flashing through her animated eyes.

"He's probably the high elder of the human race," Lu Yun sighed. "I am human too."

Jin Huo shook from the revelation.

"He told me about you, I have come to return what humanity owes you. Our previous agreement is null and void. You don't need to go to the World of Immortals with me." Lu Yun's gaze was clear as he looked at the reborn girl. "You are a peak grand supreme, so you must have your own matters to attend to in the outside world. Of course, I welcome you to the World of Immortals at any time, if you so wish.

"However, the caveat is that you must protect me until I leave the burial mound." His expression suddenly collapsed. The Tome of Life and Death's alteration from an ancient bronze book to a bamboo scroll had blown away the layer of mist wrapped around formula dao.

Lu Yun could now calculate that he had to depend on Jin Huo to leave the burial mound alive. He must never see the elder giant again, or the latter would most certainly die.

Chapter 1975 – Watching From A Hilltop While Two Tigers Fight

Jin Huo stared dumbly at Lu Yun for a prolonged period of time before she nodded with a rueful smile.

"Don't worry, I'll protect the two of you while you are in the burial mound."

The elder giant had used an unknown method to place Chu Xun into a deep sleep; she slumbered in Lu Yun's arms. When the young man stripped out the last hint of the order of life from her body, it enabled her to break free of a certain fate.

At the same time, it inflicted essential damage to the young girl. As Lu Yun gazed upon a face that so closely resembled Jin Huo's, he strongly wondered whether Chu Xun was a manifestation of one of Jin Huo's soul parts.

"Is he still alive?" she suddenly asked.

"Who?" Lu Yun paused.

"Him." She pointed at the beating heart behind her.

"The tree god?" Lu Yun realized. "Perhaps... he'll come back to life when the Land of Reincarnation is reactivated."

The tree god had died in the Land of Reincarnation. Due to the land's unique attributes, all things within the land cycled continuously through a loop of death and rebirth. If one died in a previous cycle, one would be reborn in the next and repeat the actions they had undertaken before. One experienced a never ending continuation of the same birth, development, and death.

Even if some inhabitants saw through the nature of the Land of Reincarnation and could anticipate what was to come, no one could shake off the control that such a vast and indomitable power exerted over them. If the reincarnation cycles were to begin anew, then the tree god who'd died in this cycle would return once more.

He was currently thoroughly dead and dispersed to the four corners. Not even Lu Yun could resurrect him, but the Land of Reincarnation could. His primary goal in recreating the land was to attempt to bring the tree god back to life.

Although a new Land of Reincarnation wouldn't be the same as the previous one, Lu Yun had once journeyed through thirty-three loops. If he added formula dao to the power of reincarnation in his grasp, he could truly reproduce the past Land of Reincarnation!

Just for the tree god!

Thus, the key to all of this was painting the land anew, and the crux of that step was the god of Mount Tai.

The mountain god was in the ancient burial mound!

"The Land of Reincarnation..." Jin Huo frowned slightly. "The primordial heavenly emperor wanted to imitate the long-vanished reincarnation, to make a world that repeated without end so injured heavyweights could rest and recover within.

"Did he... succeed?" She looked at Lu Yun.

"He did," the young man nodded. "But I ended it, so I need to create a new one and you have to help me."

Jin Huo spread out her hands. The vibrant branch that was the former withered wood rested quietly on her palms. She raised it to her cheek and gently closed her eyes.

Lu Yun stared when he saw her expression. It seemed likely that... the tree god and Jin Huo had been dao partners. If not dao partners, then two souls who shared an intimate relationship. Why else would the fragments of her soul reside in the heart of life? The heart had been the tree god's heart in his past life.

"Very well, I'll help you." She carefully put the small branch away and looked up with resolution. "The god of Mount Tai, is it?"

"Correct," Lu Yun nodded. "We need to capture the mountain god and use his hell dao as the catalyst to manifest another Land of Reincarnation. But be careful, the Disordered Emphyrean Supreme has come back to life as well. Her goal is also the mountain god."

"The Disordered Emphyrean Supreme?" Jin Huo frowned faintly. "That must be the little princess' doing."

“The little princess?” Lu Yun blinked, then immediately realized that she could only be referring to Yun Yi. That rather made him curious, however. He’d met the primordial heavenly emperor before and that personage didn’t seem to be an incredibly ambitious visionary. Although he was dead and a ghost, one could glean from certain bits and pieces that he hadn’t been a mighty leader in life.

But Lu Yun thought things through in the next second.

If the primordial heavenly emperor had been a premier sovereign of his time, would his court have been destroyed before it reached its peak?

The primordial heavenly emperor was a stunning genius and an empyrean supreme—one of the few of the chief worlds—but he hadn’t been an ideal leader.

In the same vein, Lu Yun wasn’t leadership material—but he was well aware of his shortcomings. He always found the right person to leave his business to so he could return to the task of clearing the way.

But the primordial heavenly emperor... hadn’t had that kind of self awareness. He was a genius, not a general. That was why his court had toppled over before it reached its potential.

Yun Yi, on the other hand, was a very qualified leader. It was why those who knew her true gender still hailed her the crown prince, as opposed to a regular princess.

“The Disordered Empyrean Supreme has also led a hard life. She entered the Infinite Deorc for the chief worlds, returning with one of their ultimate treasures and a stolen bit of disorder. She cultivated disorder in the chief worlds, turning her into her namesake.

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“A pity...” Jin Huo sighed.

“A pity indeed.” Lu Yun understood. All of the great personages had their own schemes in play, their ambitions, and their burdens. The ultimate treasure that she’d seized was likely the Master of Darkness. As for how it’d found its way into Moran Dongning’s mother’s hands... Lu Yun had no way of telling.

“The god of Mount Tai should be close by. This is the heart of the ancient burial mound,” Jin Huo said. “The burial mound should have collapsed on itself and buried everything here. The tree god used his past self to ensure it still stood.”

“Why did Yun Yi open the burial mound?” Lu Yun still had no idea. She’d obviously planned it for a very long period of time and with her abilities, it was impossible for her to be unaware that the human race here could not leave the tomb.

“I don’t know either,” Jin Huo shook her head. Her expression shifted as a thought struck her. “The battle between the humans and cultivators of the outside world is about to begin. What are your plans?”

“That has nothing to do with me,” Lu Yun furrowed his brows tightly.

“Don’t you want to stop them from clashing?” Jin Huo looked strangely at him.

“What’s the point in that?” He shook his head. “The humans here cannot leave and those grand supremes want nothing more than my utter annihilation. I’d thought there was some room for coexistence between them and the World of Immortals. But now... let us watch from a hilltop while two tigers fight.”

Chapter 1976 – The Suddenly Appearing Heavenfall

Watching from a hilltop while two tigers fought.

Lu Yun had no desire, but more importantly, no ability to involve himself in the upcoming clash.

.....

Battle commenced with surprisingly abruptness. When the elder giant realized that Jin Huo had been reborn, he detonated the tree and turned it into a massive net that spread in all directions.

All beings were revealed in their true form beneath the net.

Human form was the dao form that everyone had to assume if they wished to proceed in their cultivation. The giant net derived from the tree god’s past life instantly dissolved dao forms, revealing all divine entities, wild beasts, or the endless cornucopia of races in existence in their true appearance.

Lu Yun suddenly felt that he’d returned to the great wilderness, the time in which all sorts of rare and exotic beasts abounded. Waving their giant bone clubs around, the humans engaged their enemy.

Jin Huo took Lu Yun and Chu Xun away from the scene with a casual wave of her hand. The battle had nothing to do with the young man and even Cen Sui would have to rely on his own fortunes to see whether or not he survived .

Lu Yun was employing formula dao to determine where the god of Mount Tai was, but he couldn’t calculate anything about the mountain god no matter what angle he attacked the problem from. Oh, wait, that means the Disordered Empyrean Supreme’s here too.

Only the empyrean supreme and her command of disordered power could interfere with formula dao.

“The Disordered Empyrean Supreme is here and has found the god of Mount Tai,” he said softly.

Chu Xun was still fast asleep, but in Jin Huo’s arms now. The latter slightly furrowed her brows. She didn’t want to be at odds with the Disordered Empyrean Supreme if she could help it.

“The god of Mount Tai has defected to the land of darkness. Since the Disordered Empyrean Supreme has come back to life again, the darkness most likely wants to take action against her,” Lu Yun continued when he saw Jin Huo remain silent. “I saw a projection from one of their empyrean supremes earlier. He’s not here just to ally with the humans trapped in the tomb.”

Although the Disordered Empyrean Supreme had been an empyrean supreme in the past, she was just a peak grand supreme now. She wouldn’t be able to hold out against the projection of an empyrean supreme.

Jin Huo’s frown deepened and she nodded gently. “I know where she is if she is here.”

Lu Yun brightened.

“The tomb of the shamanic ancestor,” she answered his unspoken question. “Apart from the shamans taking his skull after he died, the heavenly emperor buried the rest of his corpse here. Let’s go.”

The three of them disappeared with another wave of her hand.

The empyrean supreme from the darkness was just a projection at the end of the day. He could lay down a plot to kill the Disordered Emphyrean Supreme, but Jin Huo might be able to protect the other if she obtained the complete order of life. Since she already possessed two thirds, that made her one of the most powerful peak grand supremes around. Gaining the remaining third gave her a very high chance of ascending to emphyrean supreme.

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Lu Yun wasn’t kindly inclined toward the Disordered Emphyrean Supreme—she schemed after him at every second. He didn’t want an enemy who was a peak grand supreme and could return to emphyrean supreme at any second to live too long.

He only had one goal in mind—the god of Mount Tai.

.....

The ancient burial mound was massive. Unbounded and without end, power from the Enneaworm Coffinbearers, Nine-Phoenix Casket, Enneaqilin Coffinbiars, and Ninefooted Turtle Cist had melded together. Fully as one, they’d turned into an unknown horror.

Lu Yun had been under Miao’s protection since arriving at the burial mound. His guardian ensured that he arrived safely at the center of the burial mound, whereupon the young man set foot onto the path of dao bones. The avenue of dao bones reached the core of the burial mound, where the tree god’s past life could be found. Thus, he smoothly bypassed all sorts of terrifying demonic entities.

But he saw one now.

A massive blood turtle with nine feet beneath its stomach trundled through the vast expanse. Even Jin Huo slowed down when they saw the creature, hiding herself so that it wouldn’t see her.

“Is that... the manifestation of the Ninefooted Turtle Cist?” Lu Yun gasped.

“No,” Jin Huo shook her head. “The cist holds the great god’s legs. If they’d taken physical form, they would be an emphyrean supreme and none of us would make it out alive. This one is only a peak grand supreme.”

“Only... a peak grand supreme?” Lu Yun ground his teeth. “Wait, does this mean that Pangu’s cultivation level has exceeded emphyrean supreme?”

Jin Huo cast a sharp glance at him. “There is no end to the path of cultivation. No one knows what its limits are. The higher you stand, the further you see!

“We think that peak grand supremes and emphyrean supremes are the peak of existence. But when you first started cultivating, did you know about them?”

Lu Yun shook his head wordlessly.

“As a peak grand supreme, I see that empyrean supreme is the end of cultivation. But what will I see from the heights of empyrean supreme? I do not know,” Jin Huo murmured. “Empyrean supremes search for higher heights as well.”

BOOM.

A bronze spear descended from the heavens as she concluded her words and pierced through the nine-footed blood turtle’s thick armor, nailing it to the ground. The turtle keened with agony before its head trailed down.

An existence that was incomparably terrifying to Lu Yun’s eyes was... dead.

Lu Yun and Jin Huo shuddered in unison.

“That’s...” Lu Yun’s eyes went wide and he stared fixedly at the bronze spear. Heavenfall!

God’s Heavenfall!

The three great divine weapons of the chaos were Worldcarver, Heavenfall, and Quietus!

Worldcarver was Pangu’s divine ax and Heavenfall was God’s greatest treasure. After Lu Yun obtained Quietus, he gave the sword to Tianqi to be his personal treasure.

Lu Yun had wielded each of the three divine treasures at one point in time. He’d thought that they were chaos-level treasures, but it seemed he’d gravely underestimated them! The Heavenfall in front of them was the one that belonged to God!

God had thrown out his spear from the World of Immortals to deliver it to Lu Yun!

“This...” Jin Huo gaped and couldn’t say a word. The appearance of the spear seemed to verify what she was saying.

Lu Yun took a deep breath and set a foot outside of Jin Huo’s circle of protection. She stared intently at him as he approached the spear. The young man was no fool, so he must have his reasons for stepping forward.

The spear was rooted to the ground in front of Lu Yun, like a pillar soaring to the heavens. In comparison, the blood turtle was much too minuscule.

“The burial mound is very dangerous, so I send you the spear for self protection.” God’s thoughts echoed in Lu Yun’s mind.

Chapter 1977 – Tomb of the Shaman Ancestor

A myriad of thoughts ran through Lu Yun’s mind. Heavenfall clearly possessed the strength of a peak grand supreme to kill the nine-footed blood turtle with one strike. It might even be on par with an empyrean supreme!

He hadn't told anyone that he was going to explore the tomb of the empyrean supreme, but God had thrown his divine weapon into the tomb from his position in the World of Immortals. He'd known that the young man was here and was aware of Lu Yun's current straits.

And yet, he sent Heavenfall only after Jin Huo came back to life. If he'd done so from the beginning, Lu Yun wouldn't have needed to utilize formula dao to search for a way out and he wouldn't have saved Jin Huo.

It was obvious that God wished for Lu Yun to resurrect Jin Huo.

"We cannot give you Worldcarver since it is needed to protect the World of Immortals. Take the spear for now," God added before falling silent.

The ancient spear jutted out proudly, a pillar soaring to the heavens. It slowly shrank with a haze of bronze light and landed in Lu Yun's hand.

Craaaack.

The blood turtle's body split open the second the spear landed in his hand and dissipated as motes of bloody light. An incredulous Jin Huo approached him, holding Chu Xun in her arms.

"Is this... that great one's divine weapon?" she asked in a shaking voice.

"Mhmm," Lu Yun inclined his head. "He thinks you can't protect me, so he sent me the spear."

"What use does the World of Immortals have for me when it has him?" Jin Huo chuckled wryly. She was a firefly and God the moon. It was impossible to compare the two.

"He must have his own concerns to be unable to do as he wishes."

Even though they were the guardians of immortal dao, Pangu and God never took action themselves. They at most kept the demon of immortal dao in check.

The demon's origins were mysterious. Lu Yun had thought he was one of Yun Yi's pawns, but now it looked like she'd simply kept him in check with the Imperial Seal.

"When you spoke of three empyrean supremes in the chief worlds, he's the third, isn't he?" Lu Yun asked as he considered the spear in his hand.

"...no." Jin Huo shook her head.

"No?" Lu Yun's eyes widened.

"That one and the great god Pangu are not empyreal supremes. They are another kind of existence entirely," she continued shaking her head. "You wouldn't understand it even if I told you. You will when you reach that level."

"Are they like the four ancestral gods?" Lu Yun asked after some thought.

"It is simply a different path of cultivation." Jin Huo refused to say anything further.

Lu Yun dropped the line of questioning, but he felt more confident after receiving Heavenfall. It connected with the Tome of Life and Death the moment he grasped it and projected itself into the treasure's inner world.

The power of reincarnation inside the bamboo scroll wrapped around the massive projection, absorbing its strength and directing it into Lu Yun's body.

His strength rose and he instantly reached the level of a grand supreme. He'd peeked into the life form of a grand supreme to begin with and changed his life form accordingly. Now that he was infused with the strength of the ancient spear, he was almost a grand supreme in truth.

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Peak grand supreme, however, remained out of reach. He would have to observe their life form as well before ascending to that level.

The world inside the Tome of Life and Death also underwent changes, shifting from the barren world it was before. It became a true land of life and a majestic spirit root grew within it—the spitting image of the tree god's primary body.

With the spirit root as the core, the entire inner world turned lush and vibrant. While there were no life forms that possessed intelligence, this was a bonafide world that truly existed. At the same time, Lu Yun had a hunch that the Tome of Life and Death could transform again. It wouldn't stop at the form of a bamboo scroll.

.....

There was no need for Jin Huo to protect him now that he wielded Heavenfall. Although he was a far cry from a peak grand supreme, he could more than protect himself.

The tomb of the shaman ancestor was before them.

It was black and any color that entered it turned into black. It wasn't the black created by the deprivation of light, but the color of black. It was black that appeared beneath the light.

A massive tomb towered in front of Lu Yun.

"Be careful!" He stopped Jin Huo when she moved to enter it.

"What is it?" she asked.

"Remember that nine-footed blood turtle from earlier?" he whispered. "Those things are sentient. They're hiding now because they saw what Heavenfall did to the turtle."

Jin Huo trembled.

"I'm weaker than you, but in places like an ancient tomb or burial mound, not even ten of you would measure up to one of me." Lu Yun had become a grand supreme with the aid of Heavenfall. If he wished, he could utilize all of the layouts in the burial mound for his own purposes. With the spear and burial mound's power, it wouldn't be too difficult to kill a peak grand supreme.

"I didn't know where the blood demons originate from, but now I see. The tomb of the shaman ancestor is their nest!" he murmured. "Blood demons manifest from the evil coffins because of this tomb!"

He was reminded of Xingzi. She'd killed a blood qilin by herself back in the day, stripping its bloodline from its body and connecting it to Cangyin. That turned Cangyin from a water qilin into one of the four blood demons—a blood qilin.

Xingzi was the princess of the shamans in the World of Immortals, and they were a branch of the shamans in the chief worlds. The ones in the chief worlds were so unpredictable that no one could fathom their next moves.

Even now, Lu Yun could only determine from a few clues that while the four evil coffins were leaking energy, they could only create images of blood demons. They could not create real ones.

All of this likely stemmed from the empyrean supreme of the darkness. Perhaps he'd seen through the blood demons' eyes that Lu Yun and Jin Huo were here. As much as the tomb of the shaman ancestor was a plot against the Disordered Empyrean Supreme, it was also one against Lu Yun and Jin Huo.

The tomb was crafted out of black bones and appeared simple and bleak. It was a massive hall of black bones, one that matched the architecture style of the shaman sacred land of Xingzi's memories.

Its front door was an enormous black skull instead of a tombstone. A golden arrow had drilled cleanly through the center of its forehead. It was the only thing not dyed black in the area.

"It's his arrow..." Jin Huo shook. "His arrow that pierced his own head."

"Who?" Lu Yun asked reflexively.

"The third empyrean supreme of the chief worlds."

Chapter 1978 – Divine Feather Race

A black skull rose majestically into the air like it was a mountain. If it wasn't for Jin Huo telling Lu Yun that it was from a living being, he might think that this landmass was a minor mountain carved to look like a skull.

The Spectral Eye didn't retrieve any death information from it. There were only two times when this might happen.

One, when it'd been so long since the subject's era that all of its information had dispersed and returned to heaven and earth. What countered this possibility was that the death of an empyrean supreme was so monumental that traces of it would still remain after countless eons. The death itself would be deemed an innate part of the world.

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The second was that someone had refined the skull and turned it into a fearsome treasure. Take the skull of the shamanic ancestor, for example. Lu Yun hadn't been able to read any death information about the shaman ancestor from it.

"Don't move!" He grabbed Jin Huo's arm and took a few steps back. "It's a trap."

He couldn't determine the particulars of the skull in front of them, but he could tell thanks to formula dao and his instincts that the tomb of the shaman ancestor was certainly a trap.

"A dragon sleeps in mountains coiled,
Those deathly cliffs with mysteries roiled."

Hummm.

An enormous projection appeared in front of Lu Yun—a world that replicated the entire tomb inside.

"The Dragonquake Scripture!" Jin Huo gasped. She knew about the scripture's existence, and judging from the horrified look on her face, it was far more terrible than Lu Yun knew it to be.

He was almost deploying the complete version of the Dragonquake Scripture. Although it lacked some final details, it was essentially on par with a true version.

Jin Huo rapidly backed up before she regained control of herself.

"This is... the Dragonsearch Invocation of the Dragonquake Scripture! Thank goodness he isn't using the full scripture, or else..." she shuddered. Although Jin Huo wasn't aware of what the Dragonquake Scripture entailed, its appearance was always marked by a period of violence and bloodshed. Sometimes, empyrean supremes died.

Having vanished for all this time, it'd reappeared at this moment in Lu Yun's hands.

While she observed only the Dragonsearch Invocation in action, she could tell from her perspective as a peak grand supreme that it contained the complete meaning of the Dragonquake Scripture.

"This isn't the tomb of the shaman ancestor?" Lu Yun frowned.

"What?" Jin Huo started, jerked out of her reverie.

"There is someone buried inside, but it's not the ancestor of the shamans." Black light sparkled from the young man's eyes. There laid a massive corpse inside the world formed by the Dragonsearch Invocation. It was black throughout, but otherwise fully intact.

It was humanoid, but also a bit different from the human race. There was a pair of black wings behind it, for one, and a long tail. Other than that, it looked like a perfectly normal human.

Lu Yun could read its full death information. It was a chief world race that he'd never seen before and it belonged to a minuscule figure who didn't matter.

But how could an unimportant person be buried in the tomb for the shaman ancestor? They were buried here when the ancient tomb was first built. It was quite puzzling.

The Spectral Eye couldn't be wrong and his formula dao wouldn't return an incorrect answer. There was also no doubt who this tomb was meant for as the third empyrean supreme's skull was erected in front of the tomb.

So how was an ordinary youth buried here, one that wasn't even a supreme?

"What is it?" Jin Huo's expression returned to normal when Lu Yun ceased operating the method.

All he did was frown faintly in answer.

“Oh!” she abruptly continued. “No matter what you, don’t use the Dragonquake Scripture in the chief worlds. Don’t use any of its combat arts either. You’ll become the greatest public enemy if you do.”

“I’m afraid that I’m already the greatest enemy of the realm,” Lu Yun responded expressionlessly. Although he carried on the conversation, all sorts of formulas and calculations furiously assembled and reassembled in his mind. He wanted to know the reason for this scene and more about the young man with the wings.

Divine Feather, Wei Lie.

That was the young man’s race and name. The Divine Feather race was one that’d gone extinct long ago in chief world history. Wei Lie was the last of his race. He was dead—he’d died in the era of the shamanic ancestor’s death. Someone had buried him in the ancestor’s tomb after his death.

Jin Huo chuckled ruefully when she recalled Lu Yun’s identity. He was human and from the offshoot that was growing into its strength. It was only a matter of time before those of the chief worlds and other realms worked in tandem to seal away the race again—or eradicate it once and for all this time.

It couldn’t be helped as they were the connate dao form and favored by heaven and earth. For being the preferred chosen ones, they would be the enemy of all other races until they ruled over everyone.

Or until they ceased to exist.

Therefore, Lu Yun felt that it no longer mattered if he was viewed as a public enemy. He would eventually have to fight the heavyweights of the realm, whether or not he wielded the Dragonquake Scripture.

“Do you know the Divine Feather race?” Lu Yun asked before Jin Huo had a chance to speak.

“The Divine Feathers?” She raised her eyebrows. “Why are you asking about them?”

“The person buried in the shaman ancestor’s tomb isn’t his corpse or any other relic. It’s the last of the Divine Feathers,” Lu Yun answered solemnly. “He’s a very ordinary young man, one at eighteen levels of sequence. Do you know anything about this race?”

Jin Huo’s expression turned unpleasant. “Where’s the god of Mount Tai and the Disordered Empyrean Supreme? Are they both here?”

Lu Yun could read a hint of fear in her emotions. She was afraid of the Divine Feather race!

“I don’t know,” he shook his head. “The Dragonquake Scripture can only see the layouts inside the tomb and the status of the tomb owner. I can’t tell if there are other people here.

“But the tomb qi has been released, so other people have definitely been by.” He could determine the tomb’s condition with a single glance. Since the tomb of the empyrean supreme had been open for at least hundreds of years, it was understandable that someone had cracked this particular tomb open to explore.

“I’ve heard of a Dragonshift Method within the Dragonquake Scripture that can deploy the earthen veins to destroy a variety of layouts and tomb life points...” Jin Huo said slowly.

“You want me to call upon the earthen veins here and use it to attack the tomb of the empyrean supreme?” Lu Yun asked incredulously.

The Dragonshift Method could indeed manipulate the earthen veins. One could even destroy an entire world with the complete Dragonquake Scripture. The original Hongmeng had been severely weakened after the Dragonquake Scripture sent its earthen veins elsewhere, which was how one blow had been sufficient to destroy it.

Normally speaking, feng shui masters used the Dragonshift Method to alter feng shui layouts in pursuit of their own goals.

Use it to destroy an ancient tomb? That actually sounded quite exciting!

Perhaps the empyrean supreme from the darkness was hiding in this tomb and awaiting Lu Yun’s arrival. He wanted to kill two birds with one stone and capture a future threat along with the Disordered Empyrean Supreme.

Chapter 1979 – Divine Feather Empyrean Supreme

“I’ve been feeling for a while now that something is amiss.” Jin Huo frowned and stretched out her right hand, making some calculations off her fingers. It was a calculation technique unique to peak grand supremes, not formula dao.

When she next looked at Lu Yun, her expression was stiff.

“What is it?” The young man arched a brow.

Jin Huo waved a water curtain into existence before Lu Yun. It pictured a massive tombstone with three bloody characters: Lu Yun’s Tomb.

“How did you offend him?” she spoke stiltedly. The owner of this tombstone was someone even she was highly wary of.

“Um...” Lu Yun’s eyes went wide open. The tombstone that’d nailed Miao to death had him in its sights as its next target?

Chu Xun’s tombstone was gone; only his could be seen. Lu Yun had been feeling a shadow over his heart for a while, but hadn’t been able to determine what had gone wrong. His cultivation was too weak— even though he possessed the strength of a grand supreme when he wielded Heavenfall, he was still unable to deduce anything about terrifying existences like the tombstone’s owner.

The same didn’t hold true for Jin Huo, especially as she controlled two thirds of the order of life. As strong as the tombstone’s owner might be, he couldn’t pull the wool over Jin Huo’s eyes since he was another fellow peak grand supreme.

At the same time, Jin Huo could only identify his methods, not nullify them. The tombstone’s owner remained one of the most terrifying existences in the burial mound. He was an absolute powerhouse among peak grand supremes and he was dead. There was nothing that the living could do to him.

A face devoid of color appeared in the water curtain, his eyes boring a hole in Lu Yun.

“Jin Huo, Shu Yan can freely walk away after ruining my plans because I cannot afford to provoke him. But even you dare have designs on one that I have decided on?”

The tombstone’s owner stared at Jin Huo with eyes that lacked pupils.

She chuckled and shifted to the side, revealing the tomb of the shamanic ancestor behind her.

“You do know that the last member of the Divine Feathers lies here?” she smiled.

Bam!

The water curtain exploded and the tombstone owner’s face vanished. It came with an instant easing of the burden on Lu Yun’s heart. That lingering haze was no more.

“That’s it? That’s all it took?” Lu Yun blinked. He knew what this meant. The master behind the grand-supreme-level ghost had given up on the idea to nail him to the tombstone.

“Let’s go.” Jin Huo changed the topic instead of responding. “We can’t afford to offend what lies here and neither can the empyrean supreme from the land of darkness. He won’t dare to scheme against the Disordered Empyrean Supreme here.

“Remember what I told you before? We must stand taller if we are to look further. The Divine Feather young man might be someone so great that we cannot see him until we stand at the height of an empyrean supreme.”

Lu Yun opened the Spectral Eye again to take another look at the tomb of the shamanic ancestor. It was still an ordinary young man inside, one with indistinct features in a long and slender black corpse. Everything about his life, death, and experiences was available to him.

But it was this minor character that scared off the owner of the tombstone, a peak grand supreme?

“I still think that the Disordered Empyrean Supreme is here,” Lu Yun shook his head. “This is the tomb of the shamanic ancestor, so the shaman ancestor is buried here along with the young man. But the ancestor is no longer the owner of this tomb.”

Jin Huo frowned, unwilling to approach the structure.

“The Divine Feather race is adept with bow and arrow.” She looked at the skull in front of the tomb, the skull that had been pierced through with the owner’s own arrow.

“The Divine Feather race...” Lu Yun thought of a person as he turned the name over in his mind. The name of the person he thought of had something to do with this race. Repeated calculations also told him that while the tomb was uncanny, there wasn’t much danger inside. He might even happen upon unexpected gains.

With that in mind, he stepped forward and walked toward the massive black skull.

Frowning ferociously, Jin Huo followed him.

“He’s still hale and hearty after cultivating the Dragonquake Scripture. The Divine Feather race shouldn’t do anything to him, right?” she mumbled to himself.

The massive skull that towered like a mountain was the entrance to the tomb. The burial mound of the empyrean supreme was turning out to be different to any other tomb that Lu Yun had ever been in. This tomb within a tomb was a key point in the burial mound.

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The dark empyrean supreme was responsible for the four blood demons of dragon, phoenix, turtle, and qilin gaining sentience. That was why Lu Yun was certain that the empyrean supreme had more moves to make.

If Lu Yun didn’t enter the shamanic ancestor’s tomb, then the Disordered Empyrean Supreme would be dead without a doubt. Although he did want that to happen, trouble would come for him if it happened at this juncture. He couldn’t withstand the land of darkness, not with his current level of strength, especially as the one from the darkness was a living empyrean supreme.

Although the World of Immortals had Pangu, God, and Leize’s family, they would’ve swept all of their enemies away a long time ago if they could do so. Why would they have to seek shelter in the World of Immortals?

Indeed, seek shelter.

In Lu Yun’s eyes, they hid within the World of Immortals because there was something in the chief worlds and other locales that they feared. At the same time, there was something in the World of Immortals that intimidated the terrible existences outside.

Lu Yun, Jin Huo, and the fast asleep Chu Xun entered the skull’s mouth.

“You’ve finally come, Jin Huo.” A clear, ethereal voice rang out the moment the three set foot inside.

“Are you not fully dead?” Jin Huo blinked. She recognized the voice—the third empyrean supreme of the chief worlds.

The Plumed Empyrean Supreme.

A nearly transparent figure appeared in front of them. It was so weak that it was nigh impossible to make out, but exist it did.

It ignored Lu Yun and approached Jin Huo, speaking in the same even tones. “I am dead. What you see is a projection from the last fragment of my mind when I was still alive.”

What was most surprising to Lu Yun was that this empyrean supreme had anticipated that Jin Huo would come—or rather, that she would come back to life!

“Tell no one what I am about to tell you!” Lu Yun saw the empyrean supreme’s mouth move, but he couldn’t hear anything. He couldn’t even sense any emotional ripples.

It was the combat art of personalized transmission.

Chapter 1980 – Killing Without Drawing Blood

The Plumed Empyrean Supreme's last replica fragment vanished into the air before Lu Yun could react.

Thus marked the third empyrean supreme of the chief worlds. He'd sunk without a ripple into the vast river of time and the only thing that proved he'd once existed was his own arrow stuck in his skull.

"Don't you want to know what he said to me?" Jin Huo said meaningfully to Lu Yun.

"No," he shook his head. "I am only a high supreme who can deploy a grand supreme's strength because of a divine weapon. I don't want to attract the karmic repercussions of an empyrean supreme."

He raised his eyes and looked at the black skull hanging over them. Although the Plumed Empyrean Supreme was completely dead, traces of his existence remained. With the strength of that kind of august personage, who knew if he would be reborn at some time or place in the future?

The Disordered Empyrean Supreme had been reborn through her father's skull. The Plumed Empyrean Supreme's own skull was fully intact and right here.

"You're a smart one," Jin Huo curled her lip. "It would indeed be empyrean level karmic repercussion. You're better off not knowing."

However, Lu Yun caught a slight shift in her expression. Although she'd been resurrected and grasped two thirds of the order of life, she'd resembled more a living corpse up to this point. There had been life in her eyes, but it was drowned out by bafflement and helplessness.

She was alive without a purpose.

Although she spoke of reviving the tree god, she didn't see any hope in doing so. But now, Lu Yun saw vitality bloom in her, changing her from a living corpse to someone fully present in the here and now. She seemed much more awake and animated.

Hope.

The past Jin Huo had been consumed with despair. She didn't know why she lived and had accepted Lu Yun's condition because the instincts of the dead propelled her.

Now she had hope, and Lu Yun didn't pry.

There was a world inside the skull that connected the burial mound to the tomb of the shamanic ancestor. When they set foot inside the skull, they were transported away into an unknown world.

"Do you have a method to revive the tree god?" Lu Yun couldn't help his curiosity after all.

"Didn't you want to avoid karmic repercussions?" Jin Huo chuckled.

"The tree god isn't an empyrean supreme," he grumbled. He'd noticed Jin Huo's eyes growing brighter, which caused him to worry.

A door made of white bones stood in front of them, the bones woven like they were bamboo. Neatly arranged, they formed a modestly sized double door. It was roughly twenty-two meters tall and sixteen meters wide. The doors were open—someone had been one step ahead of them and already gone inside.

“Someone’s arrived before us, which is why the tomb qi has been vented.” Lu Yun was in no hurry despite the tomb of the shamanic ancestor being on the other side of the door.

“Do you think the person that came first—whether it’s the god of Mount Tai, the Disordered Empyrean Supreme, or the one from the darkness—do you think they saw the fragmented will of the Plumed Empyrean Supreme?” he suddenly raised. “How can a stray thought anticipate your arrival? Could the Plumed Empyrean Supreme see the future and knew that you would walk through his skull to access the tomb?”

“If he was really that all-knowing, would he have died here, especially to his own arrow?”

“What are you getting at?!” Jin Huo paled with horror.

“The empyrean supreme from the darkness knows I’m here. He knows that I took the fruit of life and death, and that I revived you. He has no plans to ally with the humans. As an empyrean supreme, how would he not know that they’re stuck here? He said all that for my ears.”

The elder giant could sense Lu Yun’s arrival through their shared bloodline. Meanwhile, the land of darkness had listed Lu Yun as a threat. One of their peak grand supremes went to the trouble of personally plotting against him, so would their empyrean supremes be ignorant of what he represented?

That empyrean supreme likely had his own ways of determining where Lu Yun was.

“All of this and the fragment from earlier is a trap, including. Maybe the Plumed Empyrean Supreme really was here once, but someone’s definitely modified what he left behind!

“A personalized transmission? Heh, more like something designed to draw my curiosity!” Lu Yun narrowed his eyes.

“It was fake? Are you saying that what the empyrean supreme told me, that his way of resurrecting the tree god, is fake?” Jin Huo’s expression turned very unpleasant.

“No, it’s very real.” Lu Yun shook his head. “Traps are used to kill, but will fake bait attract prey? You could tell that the tombstone’s owner had done something to me, so how can you not tell if someone in front of you is telling the truth or not?”

“The real method can bypass the Land of Reincarnation and revive the tree god! But that method is like a delicious morsel of meat hung in a trap. Just one bite will doom you to the point of no return!”

“Yun Yi made countless plans and created numerous contingencies in pursuit of her ultimate goal. Even now, I have no idea what she wants to do...” Lu Yun sighed. “The dark empyrean supreme is on another level compared to her. He wants to kill the Disordered Empyrean Supreme, you, and me. He’ll scheme against us in unexpected ways and kill without drawing blood.”

There were great karmic repercussions involved in killing. Generally speaking, the stronger one was, the less one wished to be plagued by karma. Thus, those with high cultivation levels generally set up traps within traps to avoid taking action themselves.

Only when all of their plots were sprung and schemes revealed would they show themselves to reap the fruits of their labor. True powerhouses were unwilling—not unable—to be entangled with karma. It took too much time and effort to digest karma, diverting their attention away from pursuing their great dao.

That was why so many of them took disciples and created personal factions. They could integrate their great dao into the chief worlds and obtain the recognition of heaven and earth, but also send out their juniors to take care of these trifling matters for them. This way, the heavyweights could avoid forming further karmic relationships.

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“Let’s go.” Lu Yun looked at Jin Huo. “If I could resurrect you, it won’t be hard to resurrect the tree god.”

“I know,” she nodded. “But the Land of Reincarnation is a place for the injured to recover. If the dead return to life there, will they still be themselves?”