

Necropolis 2001

Chapter 2001 – Breaking Creation

The cultivators of the chief worlds quickly backed away, suddenly unwilling to get on Lu Yun's bad side. Heavenfall in hand, the young man chased the god of Mount Tai back to the Jade Record of Creation.

"Lu Yun!!" The Disordered Empyrean Supreme surged into motion. She flashed in front of the young man and waved her long sleeves around, blocking his way.

"Huh?" Lu Yun's eyes widened and he took half a step back, frowning at the woman. Oh, I see. She's pretending to be weak and exhausted.

If it wasn't for Daoist Ingress earlier, she might've already captured the three in the Jade Record of Creation and also Jiang Chen. She was the most frightening existence here. She was an empyrean supreme!

Daoist Ingress had relinquished his old title of empyrean supreme after his rebirth, taking the title of Daoist instead. But the Disordered Empyrean Supreme remained an empyrean supreme!

She'd never lost the strength of an empyrean supreme and her strength came from her father's skull. The shamanic ancestor had been an absolute powerhouse with the potential to become an empyrean supreme. He'd severed that possibility for the sake of his daughter and left the opportunity to her.

He himself died during his empyrean supreme tribulation, but he'd already nurtured the relevant level of strength in his body. He would've been an empyrean supreme the moment the tribulation ended!

As it turned out, his head made it through the trial, making his skull that of an empyrean supreme's.

A terrifying aura emanated from the Disordered Empyrean Supreme's head, one that forced everyone to their knees and cower on the ground. Everyone but Lu Yun!

Empyrean supreme!

This was the true aura of an empyrean supreme!

One after another, Lu Yun's one thousand and eighty golden armored warriors exploded and drifted to the ground as dust. Jiang Chen and the corpse god hunched in on themselves and shivered inside the Bag of Corpse Refinement. The bag itself grew smaller and smaller until it, too, floated to the ground as a speck of dust. It didn't go unnoticed by the Disordered Empyrean Supreme, but she didn't mind it.

"No one can save you now, Lu Yun." A fuzzy black halo ringed her head—the strength of an empyrean supreme. "I'm not interested in the tattered hell dao on the god of Mount Tai, I want your six paths of hell." She strode gracefully toward him with a half smile.

"And I offer you the same deal as before. Take up residence in the World of Immortals and switch to immortal dao. I'll give you the entire realm then, much else hell dao." Lu Yun felt a hint of pressure creep in as the enemy approached him, but he remained calm.

"You have no right to talk terms with me. I can take your hell dao from you whenever I want," the Disordered Empyrean Supreme chuckled. "I took the god of Mount Tai for my disciple back in the day

because I wanted to use him to nurture hell dao. Who would've thought that he'd turn out to be a heap of manure, yet perfect fertilizer for you?"

Standing atop the Jade Record of Creation, the mountain god's expression turned stiff. At the same time, he didn't think much of what the empyrean supreme said. He'd never viewed her as his master, just... someone to use.

It was similar to his relationship with his dao partner, Pangu, Hongjun, God and the others. They were all targets for him to use and the only opinion he held about them was whether or not they were worth anything.

He was currently caught between a rock and a hard place; the two peak grand supremes standing with him watched the empyrean supreme with guarded eyes. Thankfully, her target was Lu Yun.

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Hummm.

A giant sword reverberation traveled through the air as four magnificent swords descended with pomp and grandeur, piercing through the void and taking a stand in the major world like four towering mountains. A young man dressed in bright red robes and a wine gourd at his waist strolled through the air, singing a cheerful song.

"Neither copper nor iron and certainly not steel, once buried beneath Mount Sumeru.

"Forged through reverse yin and yang, fire and water, what say you the might of these swords?"

His distinctive tones triggered the deepest fears in many on the scene, particularly cultivators from the Ingress Jade Heavens. Color drained from their faces as they turned as white as sheets.

The man that'd become a forgotten line in the annals of history was walking toward them. Not as a replica, not as his treasure, but the man himself.

"Ingress!" The Disordered Empyrean Supreme's expression sank as she looked at Daoist Ingress. She wasn't worried because she was an empyrean supreme and the other just a peak grand supreme. But his four swords gave him sufficient strength to challenge an empyrean supreme.

"What did you see earlier??" Lu Yun asked in hushed whispers as he sidled up to the man. The Disordered Empyrean Supreme perked up her ears when she heard the young man's question.

"I forgot," Daoist Ingress frowned. "A replica is not the primary body, after all. I might be able to uncover the truth if I hit that Jade Record of Creation one more time."

He looked at the treasure instead of the opponent at hand. Nothing else seemed to matter. He would find out the truth if he slashed the Jade Record of Creation a second time!

"Forget it." Lu Yun patted his shoulder and sent a clear current through the man's body.

Daoist Ingress started, then nodded with a rueful grin. "I almost got too obsessed there. I'd die if I hacked at it again." Only then did he turn his attention to the Disordered Empyrean Supreme.

"You want hell dao, is it? Have I given you permission to take it?" The corners of his lips turned upward.

“I am an empyrean supreme and you are a peak grand supreme. What do I need to ask you for?” she sneered back at him.

“Do you know that my sword formation once executed an empyrean supreme?” Daoist Ingress stretched out a slender, pale finger and gently flicked it in the void.

Clang!

The four enormous swords reverberated in unison.

“Alright, the rest of you blithering idiots, are you staying here to catch a show?” he chortled.

The other supremes and peak grand supremes on the scene jerked with awareness. With Daoist Ingress and the Disordered Empyrean Supreme present, as well as a Lu Yun who could summon more than one thousand peak grand supremes with a wave of his hand, they stood no chance whatsoever. The Jade Record of Creation wasn't for the likes of them.

There were plenty of other rare treasures and priceless opportunities in the ancient burial mound. It wasn't worth losing one's life for a singular Jade Record of Creation. Thus, a majority of the assembly immediately turned on their heels and left.

When they did, Lu Yun noticed that some chaos dirt puppets stirred, then froze like someone had commanded them to stop. Alarm bells rang in his heart. The spirit entity controlling them hadn't left. It'd just put on an act because it sensed danger. The chaos dirt puppets remained under its control.

Lu Yun looked at the minuscule particle that was the Bag of Corpse Refinement. Jiang Chen and the corpse god within were equally dangerous. At the very least, the treasure had survived being caught between the Bag of Corpse Refinement and Qingping Sword.

“Do you want to die again, Ingress?” the empyrean supreme sneered at Daoist Ingress. Patience began to fade from her eyes.

“Who knows who's dying today before we go for a round?” Daoist Ingress hopped through the air and melded into the sword formation. Wind, thunder, fire, and water transformed into four rays of sword qi and ravaged the void, careening toward the Disordered Empyrean Supreme. He wasn't going to allow her to continue talking.

Instead of becoming embroiled with the sword formation, the empyrean supreme came for Lu Yun. Her target was and had always been Lu Yun. All would be over as soon as she caught the young man and obtained his hell dao.

However, Daoist Ingress' sword formation had enveloped the world and swallowed the empyrean supreme as soon as she shot at Lu Yun. The four towering swords rose and flew through the air, howling with the power of wind, thunder, fire, and water. The Disordered Empyrean Supreme streaked into a black blur and released devastating combat arts from her hands.

Lu Yun turned to the god of Mount Tai.

“Kill Lu Yun!” the mountain god roared and charged the young man with the other two peak grand supremes. While they weren't fully aligned with each other, the complete hell dao on the young man was very tempting.

The features on the Master of Darkness turned crimson once more and Lu Yun threw out a large handful of soybeans right before the god of Mount Tai arrived with his men.

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Boom!

Golden armored warriors descended from the sky and threw themselves at the new enemies.

“How is this possible?!” shrieked the mountain god. “Didn’t the Disordered Empyrean Supreme destroy the peak grand supreme puppets?”

They wouldn’t dare attack Lu Yun if it wasn’t for that!

Chapter 2002 – Kill Disorder

“I can recreate them after they’re destroyed,” snorted Lu Yun. He raised Heavenfall and stabbed the spear at the god of Mount Tai, nailing him onto the Jade Record of Creation.

“You’re mine,” a voice murmured in Lu Yun’s ear. He felt a fragrant wind brush past him, like something was burrowing toward his body.

“The spirit entity?” He shuddered, only just realizing what made this entity different. If it wanted to steal Lu Yun’s body, it could bypass his nascent spirit, soul, and even true spirit to occupy his thoughts. The Tome of Life and Death could protect his soul and true spirit, but it couldn’t safeguard his thoughts.

“Fuck off!” Lu Yun roared, hellfire exploding out of his body. He summoned Heavenfall back to his hand and swept it in the void around him.

Boom!

Another tremendous explosion sounded in the void. A simple greataxe had suddenly appeared in the depths of the sword formation and smashed heavily into the Jade Record of Creation.

Craaaaack.

The incomparably durable treasure splintered and began to fall apart.

“No!!” The spirit entity fighting a mental battle with Lu Yun keened and threw itself at the Jade Record of Creation. Heavenfall could slay gods and Worldcarver could break creation!

Worldcarver had been in Daoist Ingress’ grasp all along. He hadn’t brought it out because he wanted to break his Qingping Sword. Now that the sword was shattered, he changed to wielding Worldcarver instead. Even the Disordered Empyrean Supreme was stunned by the insane move.

Some marvelous things had happened the last time Daoist Ingress attacked the treasure with the Qingping Sword. While those memories dispersed with the destruction of his replica, he wasn’t willing to give up that amazing truth without further fight. Thus, he brought out Worldcarver to hack at the Jade Record of Creation.

His replica had attacked the treasure in order to destroy the Qingping Sword so that Daoist Ingress could rebuild anew. This time, he attacked the treasure because he wanted to break it.

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This time, there was no heaven-shattering collision or an eerie vanishing of their five senses. It was like an ordinary axe had crashed into an ordinary plate.

A crisp shattering sound traveled into their ears.

Bam!

The broken Jade Record of Creation filled the sky as shards and dispersed in all directions as motes of light.

"I... broke the scheme? Just like that?" Daoist Ingress stared dumbly at the scattering bits of light, finding everything very unreal.

Yun Yi had used her life to set up this plot so the Jade Record of Creation could take physical form. But Jiang Chen had first prevented it from manifesting, then Daoist Ingress shattered it.

So... Yun Yi failed? All of her calculations and schemes ended with an ignoble whimper in this burial mound?

"No, wait!" Lu Yun yelled. "Don't let the fragments of the Jade Record of Creation leave this place! The burial mound buries the treasure! Destroy them, destroy them all!"

"Yun Yi's goal isn't to help the Jade Record of Creation take form, but to destroy it!" he screamed. "It's too invincible to be broken! Heavenfall can destroy creation, but not the tangible form of the Jade Record of Creation. Inducing it to take physical form weakens it enough to break it with Worldcarver!"

Although he was yelling his head off, his voice only appeared in Daoist Ingress, Chen Xiao, Qing Buyi, Tailong, and Lu Feng's ears. They were the only ones he trusted on the scene.

The three spacetime travelers and Tailong hadn't left with the others as they were far stronger than the other peak grand supremes. While they didn't understand what all of this had to do with Yun Yi, the depth of emotion in the young man's voice spurred them to immediate action.

They rose into the air and laid waste to the shards about to leave the major world. Daoist Ingress came to his senses as well and relit the darkened sword formation.

"Oh?" sneered the Disordered Empyrean Supreme when she saw their actions. "Are you trying to stop the Jade Record of Creation from leaving? Sadly for you, I won't allow you to succeed."

She whistled and grasped a black spear from the air. Stabbing swiftly with a vicious backhand, the spear turned into a black dragon that dove at Daoist Ingress. This world was enveloped by his formation. The shards of the Jade Record of Creation would be free as soon as they broke it.

Indeed, free.

The spirit entity attacking Lu Yun crumbled away the second the treasure shattered, transforming into spirit shards that melted into the treasure fragments. Its addition gave the fragments light, like it bestowed them life.

At the sight of that, Lu Yun no longer knew whether the spirit entity was born of the tainted Jade Record of Creation or if it was another external entity. But he did discover one thing, that the first step of Yun Yi's scheme was complete.

Shattering the Jade Record of Creation was simply the first step. It was Daoist Ingress who came with Worldcarver, and only someone as completely lawless as him would do something as inconceivable like this. All of that had been within Yun Yi's calculations.

Only his sword formation could envelop this world and prevent the treasure from escaping. Therefore, the only one in the World of Immortals who returned to the heights of peak grand supreme was Daoist Ingress.

Then the next step...

Lu Yun looked at the Disordered Empyrean Supreme. This resurrected empyrean supreme needs to die here. For some reason, a buoyant emotion appeared in his heart as he itched to try the impossible. He wanted to see what Yun Yi was trying to accomplish with a plan that demanded her life as the price.

When would the power that she'd sacrificed herself for appear?

Lu Yun found himself accepting his role as a pawn in this moment. Kill the Disordered Empyrean Supreme? Why, he had to do it, of course. He was the only one here who could.

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The Imperial Seal!

The seal that Qiu Feishan had delivered was meant to kill the Disordered Empyrean Supreme. He could clearly sense a new power within it that didn't belong to the treasure. It was stronger than peak grand supreme and he would've rejected it before. Using it would never cross his mind, but when he deduced that it was meant to kill the Disordered Empyrean Supreme, he happily took ahold of it.

That empyrean supreme had coveted his hell dao all this time, showing a desire that far eclipsed that of the mountain god's.

"Oh hang on a moment, I'm playing right into her hands again," Lu Yun suddenly realized. His hell dao was likely a factor in Yun Yi's preparations as well. If not him, then someone else with hell dao would receive the Disordered Empyrean Supreme's attentions and be in charge of killing her.

The empyrean supreme was utilizing her full strength—the black spear was the ultimate treasure she'd refined after becoming an empyrean supreme. It was a bonafide empyrean treasure, one that she hadn't planned on bringing out just yet. Playing the pig could continue until all unknown moving pieces were revealed, but there was no need for her to hide anything after Daoist Ingress smashed the Jade Record of Creation.

Killing Ingress, destroying the formation, and releasing the treasure's fragments... None of that was important. Killing Ingress so she could get at Lu Yun's hell dao was the primary goal.

Her black spear exploded with power, a state echoed by her glowing head. She fully suppressed Daoist Ingress and Worldcarver. The greataxe was no match for her, not when she wielded her ultimate

treasure and the shamanic ancestor's skull. She'd set foot into the next level and possessed the real strength of a true empyrean supreme.

BOOM!

Daoist Ingress fell heavily to the ground.

"You will die here today, Ingress, forever. You will keep the wills of the dead company in this world." The Disordered Empyrean Supreme whistled again and stepped forward, the spear a streak of radiant light that stabbed at her opponent's forehead.

But at the same time, a tiny jade seal abruptly appeared in front of her spear's tip.

Chapter 2003 – Transaction

"The Imperial Seal?!" gasped the Disordered Empyrean Supreme. She hastily put away her spear and shifted ten thousand kilometers back. The terrifying killing intent within the treasure was quite evident, but she soon realized there was nothing to fear.

"The Imperial Seal, hmm? So what if even the heavenly emperor arrives in person?" She was a true empyrean supreme now. She had attained that cultivation level to begin with and now wielded the true strength of those heights through the shamanic ancestor's skull and her spear. In all areas that mattered at the moment, she was a bonafide empyrean supreme.

Thus, she victoriously swept her spear forward and rushed back to the conflict.

The Imperial Seal swiveled in front of Daoist Ingress and rapidly grew bigger, protecting his body. A faint figure floated out of the treasure.

"Yun Yi?!" Both the Disordered Empyrean Supreme and Lu Yun stopped, dazed, when they saw the figure. The Disordered Empyrean Supreme didn't know that Yun Yi was dead, but she knew that the latter couldn't come to the burial mound. If she did, she would die without a doubt.

The heavenly emperor's golden bridge of heaven and earth was designed to prevent Yun Yi from coming here.

The abruptly appearing Yun Yi said not a word. She executed a predefined command like she was a robot. True empyrean strength blossomed from her and descended upon the void. Rays of formidable energy slowly coalesced into the shape of an altar.

The mother altar.

God's mother altar!

Boom!

Colorless flames bloomed from the mother altar and enveloped Yun Yi's last replica and the Disordered Empyrean Supreme.

"You... you!" The empyrean supreme's eyes were wide with horror and disbelief. She was beginning to understand something.

Yun Yi had resurrected her not to give the chief worlds another peak grand supreme or empyrean supreme, but for this singular moment. To sacrifice her! Yun Yi wanted to ensure the sacrifice of a Disordered Empyrean Supreme who'd truly returned to the level of empyrean supreme!

Lu Yun also thought that Yun Yi had completely lost her mind. Using an empyrean supreme as a sacrificial good?? No wonder the dark empyrean supreme hadn't dared visit the burial mound. If his primary body had come, Yun Yi would've found a way to keep him here and use him for the sacrifice instead.

Transparent flames wrapped around all of the supremes and peak grand supremes within the tomb—even Chen Xiao, Qing Buyi, Lu Feng, Tailong, Jin Huo, and the self-styled wretched old man of the humans!

Lu Yun was the only exception.

Everyone present who'd reached supreme level was a sacrificial good! Whether it was actual supremes, those who wielded strength on par with supremes, or the humans that couldn't cultivate—all would take their places on the altar.

The wretched old man and humans in the burial mound didn't seem to find their final outcome distasteful. They spread out their arms and smiled with the relief of impending release, ready to welcome unending death.

Those sacrificed in these proceedings wouldn't leave even their wills behind. They would fully vanish upon the wind and leave no trace of themselves.

Of course, those who died bearing resentment could further transform into wild ghosts that could not be resurrected. But given this level of sacrificial rite, even resentment would be consumed.

"So you sacrificed yourself in exchange for this power, and now you want to sacrifice the burial mound made out of the entire primordial world of immortals." The Disordered Empyrean Supreme was trying to call upon her father's empyrean strength left within the skull. But under these circumstances, neither empyrean strength nor ultimate treasure proved to be effective against the terrifying power of sacrifice.

Lu Yun's expression turned unpleasant as he knew that he was safe from being sacrificed because Qiu Feishan had delivered the Imperial Seal to him. Not only was it protecting him, but it was also protecting Daoist Ingress.

If Ingress died, then his Sword Formation of Immortal Condemnation would also break and the fragments of the Jade Record of Creation would rush out of the burial mound. All of this was well within Yun Yi's calculations.

Wei Lie had left, the heavenly emperor had also left—it seemed very likely that they'd known something would happen here!

Sacrificial rites demanded a certain process, especially one as magnificent as this one. They wouldn't be completed within the span of a day. Fires of sacrifice already covered everyone; no resistance or escape was possible. They could only watch as the fires devoured them.

The motes of light that were the fragments of the Jade Record of Creation weren't consumed. They furiously dashed themselves against the sword formation, trying to break through it. But since the formation had taken shape, the power of wind, thunder, fire, and water thoroughly sealed off the void.

There was no place for the Jade Record of Creation to run to and the spirit within it keened with despair.

"No!" Lu Yun set his jaw. "I don't care if you sacrifice the others, but you have to leave my people alone!"

Humm!

He blasted out with milky-white radiance—the power of reincarnation. The image of the Tome of Life and Death materialized over his head and he waved the power over to Lu Feng, Qing Buyi, Chen Xiao, and Tailong.

Reincarnation immediately extinguished the fires of sacrifice, but there was still Jin Huo and Cen Sui outside. There was also the wretched old man and humans in the burial mound—Lu Yun wanted to save them all.

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The one thing he wouldn't try was to leave the area. Daoist Ingress' formation had sealed it off. If he wanted to leave, the formation would have to be opened and the fragments of the Jade Record of Creation would follow him out.

Lu Yun didn't know what would happen if the treasure left, but his formula dao was able to give him ever clearer answers. Yun Yi's plot wouldn't harm him in any way. On the contrary, there was a certain possibility for the end goal that made Lu Yun tremble with excitement!

The strong needed to become strong so they could support themselves? The strong needed to disdain knowledge from others and do everything themselves? Bullshit! Only when one stood on the shoulders of giants could one walk further!

Lu Yun had once stood on Fuxi's shoulders, and now Yun Yi had built a skyscraper for him. Only when he reached the top floor could he see into the distance.

"Save me!" Fragments from the Jade Record of Creation collected as a human in front of Lu Yun. It was an exceedingly beautiful woman who wafted a strange illusion. She showed remarkable hints of Qing Yu and the little fox.

But with Lu Yun's well trained mind, he wouldn't be beguiled by these falsehoods.

"How about a transaction?" he called out to the enormous mother altar in the air.

"The master of reincarnation does indeed have the right to transact with me," boomed a resonant voice as a huge face floated ponderously up from the altar. There seemed to be a massive entity looking down on this part of existence.

"I want some people," Lu Yun said.

“The payment?”

“How about I sacrifice the five sets of the organs of the world to you?” He responded after some thought. After Wayfarer and the others ate the divine spirits, he stored the organs in more chaos dirt puppets.

The five chaos dirt puppets reached unforeseen heights and were on par with peak grand supremes. The other six organs of the body were also forming in them. It would be one small step for them to become real living beings.

“I don’t need them.” The androgynous face shook gently. “I’m interested in the bamboo scroll over your head. I’ll give you what you want if you sacrifice it to me.”

The face sharpened with clarity, enabling Lu Yun to confirm that its owner wasn’t in the tomb. It wasn’t in the chief worlds either, or even part of this plane of existence. It was a sovereign that’d exceeded existence, looking down over everything from nothingness.

Chapter 2004 – Resurrecting the Primordial World of Immortals

“Deal!” Lu Yun took out the Tome of Life and Death without second thought and threw it at the mother altar. His reaction scared the person behind the face. It violently jerked backward and Lu Yun summoned the treasure back to him with a beckon.

“See, I gave it to you, but you don’t dare take it,” he sighed. “So c’mon, what do you really want? Or should we fight it out?”

“Do you know that you once walked a section of the true path, then lost your way, but now you’ve created another true path from your deviation?” The face spoke of something else entirely.

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“What true path?” Lu Yun blinked.

“Cultivating nothing,” the face chuckled. “I am actually a Nihil World Sovereign.”

Lu Yun’s eyes widened. A Nihil World Sovereign! That was the cultivation method that the tree god had passed down in the Land of Reincarnation. Cultivating nothing would steadily enlarge one’s body until one day, the cultivator poof’ed straight out of existence and left no trace of themselves behind.

Lu Yun understood the tree god to be a benevolent soul. He was the patron saint of the human race and would never do something that would benefit himself at the expense of others. Since he’d passed the method along and created this great dao, that meant there were unexpected surprises waiting at its end.

Nihil World Sovereign!

The final realm before accessing sequence was Nihil World Sovereign. It wasn’t an end since if one didn’t access sequence, the Nihil World Sovereign would become true nihil and vanish from existence.

The existence in front of them labeled it as the true path? Cultivation into nothing?

Lu Yun suddenly thought back to when he'd first entered the fourth realm. The realm had been completely empty to his eyes then, devoid of everything!

Or had that been a trap set by the tree god so the true path could be laid out in front of cultivators? Was the Land of Reincarnation truly meant as a place of rest and recovery, or was it...?

Or was the existence in front of him saying these things on purpose to confuse Lu Yun? But the true path that he mentioned, was it the decision to forgo the dao palace and directly become a supreme?

Lu Yun didn't know if his thoughts were still in order, but formula dao was well and truly in disarray. He couldn't deduce if this entity spoke the truth or not.

"I'm just an inconsequential ant myself—Nihil World Sovereign is just the beginning," the person continued.

Lu Yun narrowed his eyes.

"But to all of you, I am an inviolable, lofty figure on high. There is nothing in your patch of existence that interests me apart from these beings of flesh and blood. Your bamboo scroll is the only exception. However, I can't protect it if I bring it back with me. It will bring me disaster instead."

Lu Yun remained silent as the sacrifice continued. The Master of Darkness was blood red and the ten Yama Kings had returned to hell through the Gates of the Abyss. Wayfarer, his comrades, and Shu Yan had long since disappeared. He didn't know if they'd left the burial mound or were hiding in some place where the power of sacrifice couldn't reach them.

"Are you really just an ant?" Lu Yun jerked his head up and looked at the face close at hand. There were some things he didn't understand, like why there were living beings in the nothingness. Judging from what the face said, there was more than one person present.

But he also didn't need to understand this as a crazy thought popped into his mind—make the person or the thing in front of him stay!

Lu Yun still possessed his own judgment as the Tome of Life and Death protected his heart and mind. Perhaps the thing in front of him was lying, so he had to capture it and verify how much of what it said was true. Of one thing he was certain, and that was that it coveted the Tome of Life and Death. Thus, the treasure became perfect bait.

An oversight had finally appeared in Yun Yi's plot because she couldn't calculate the existence of the Tome of Life and Death. Even though she could see it, judging from current circumstances, she'd still underestimated it.

"That's right, I'm just an ant." The person smiled superciliously at Lu Yun, seemingly having guessed what the young man would do next.

"Then get down here!" Lu Yun reached out and formed the power of reincarnation into a massive hand, clawing at the face.

Sadly, he closed on empty air.

"I am a Nihil World Sovereign, formless, intangible, and present in all locations. How can fools of the existence touch me?" The face swayed back and forth, looking at Lu Yun with derision.

At the same time, Lu Yun discovered that the power of sacrifice was fading away. The power of reincarnation could break through sacrifice! Chen Xiao and the others were being protected by reincarnation, but they could neither see nor hear. Their five senses had been stripped from them, just like when Daoist Ingress slashed the Jade Record of Creation with his Qingping Sword.

It was a condition between reality and nihil that appeared again when the power of reincarnation negated the power of sacrifice.

"You don't want the book when I give it to you, so c'mon, what will it take for you to let my people go?" Lu Yun suffused the world beneath the ground with the power of reincarnation. It even seeped through the Sword Formation of Immortal Condemnation into the primordial world of immortals to prevent the regular operation of the sacrifice.

He would be able to destroy this rite given enough time, but he was so weak that the power of reincarnation he could deploy paled in comparison to the power of sacrifice. Reincarnation could negate the sacrifice, but it couldn't keep up with the rate of the sacrifice's expansion. Before he fully erased it, everyone here would be completely consumed.

"A few less people doesn't mean anything to you," he continued.

"I can forgive your show of disrespect if you offer something extremely important to you as a hostage. When you are strong enough, you will enter nihil with your bamboo scroll and come find me," the person said after momentary thought.

"Something... extremely important to me?" Lu Yun frowned slightly and reflexively looked at the Imperial Seal. Yun Yi had given it to him and it was without question, very important to him. It was the key to completing Yun Yi's plot.

But to Lu Yun, lives were more important than a dead treasure.

The person also saw what was in his hand and smirked, "Give that to me."

Lu Yun sank into deep contemplation, a reaction that prompted a broad grin from the person. It would be very suspicious if the young man also handed the treasure over without hesitation.

"Very well then," Lu Yun replied solemnly. "Yun Yi set up this plot with her life and this Imperial Seal is the key. If I give it to you, I may return to being a pawn."

The face stared at the time in his hand and closed its eyes, calculating something.

"It is as you say, you aren't lying. Then give me the seal," he chuckled. "It's just a treasure, a symbol. If that woman from earlier really wanted to elevate you from being a pawn, she wouldn't bet everything on this seal."

Lu Yun nodded mutely and waved the seal to the face. He then closed his eyes and sent over the images of a few people.

The face kept its word—it was situated in nothing and looked down over existence. It could not move against Lu Yun and it coveted the Tome of Life and Death. It had to reach an agreement with the young man to ensure that he willingly entered nihil.

The moment he did, everything would be within the face's control. Time that flowed within existence meant nothing to the owner of the face. Lu Yun's development would occur in a seeming split second.

It wasn't afraid that Lu Yun would renege on his words either because this seal was just that important to him.

Chapter 2005 – Life Blooms

The sacrificial rite was over. Ninety-nine percent of the beings within the burial mound had been sacrificed to that existence. The rite's ultimate goal was to trade their lives for power from the mysterious existence.

Yun Yi first traded her life for the power of sacrifice, then offered up everything within the burial mound. This magnificent rite with an empyrean supreme as the main sacrificial good naturally resulted in greater power being exchanged.

The entire human race had been sacrificed, alongside countless supremes and peak grand supremes. Lu Yun even saw Jiang Chen's Bag of Corpse Refinement—it'd been sacrificed too. So that bag was also alive!

Jiang Chen, however, remained alive and well. He'd sent only a replica to the burial mound, one made from a peak grand supreme who'd turned into a zombie after death.

It didn't matter whether he was alive or dead, for Lu Yun saw a chance of life. The paths of fallen great daos within the burial mound—the dao bones—stirred with life. They were about to resurrect and become true great daos. The Jade Record of Creation that Daoist Ingress had shattered was once more crushed by the power of sacrifice and turned into pure energy of creation, melding into the world.

Vitality from the Jade Record of Creation and revival of the primordial world of immortals was what Yun Yi had wanted to accomplish. The world was buried in the ancient burial mound; Shu Yan, the heavenly emperor, and Yun Yi had bent their elbows to the task again and again in order to resurrect this world that'd sunk in the tides of history. They wanted it to become the center of existence again and glorify the chief worlds.

Shu Yan was the first, the vanguard. When he failed, the heavenly emperor sealed him at the entrance of the burial mound to become a hidden piece for the plan. The heavenly emperor then created the heavenly court and established a resplendent, unified dynasty in the chief worlds. This was also done to imitate the primordial world of immortals.

Sealing away the human race, hunting down Wei Lie, killing Pangu, the death of the heavenly emperor, and the fall of the heavenly court was all to facilitate the affairs of today.

Yun Yi inherited her father's plan and completed the scheme, offering up her life in an even greater sacrifice to break the Jade Record of Creation. Countless supremes, peak grand supremes, and an empyrean supreme was finally sufficient to infuse the primordial world of immortals with life again.

The dao bones within the burial mound were the fallen great daos of that ancient world. They stirred with vitality and the primordial world flared with life force. It all came together as if it was the most natural thing to occur.

“Was it worth it?” murmured Daoist Ingress as he gazed upon the ancient world slowly rising into the air.

“The three generations of that family have a greater breadth of vision than us. If they think it’s worth it, then it’s worth it.” Lu Yun shook his head. “But the primordial world of immortals has only just begun to revitalize. There’s still a long ways to go for it to truly, fully come back to life.”

The five sets of the organs of the world had completely melded with the ancient world. He’d facilitated that by destroying his five puppets. Quite a few thoughts were running through his head at the moment.

When Fuxi first entered the world of immortals from the great wilderness, he met the demon of the immortal dao—the dog in the Imperial Seal. He was forced to split out his senses after encountering the demon and allow them to take their own form, becoming independent entities. The curse in the world of immortals had required his senses to resolve, and that entire process came to fruition today.

Wayfarer and his companions had come to the burial mound to devour the divine spirits of the organs. If those divine spirits didn’t die, then the organs wouldn’t be able to be incorporated into the primordial world of immortals.

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The organs of the world were products of heaven and earth that simulated living beings. At the same time, they represented five different powers of the world. With the primordial world of immortals having just reawakened and not yet become a true world, the five sets of organs took up positions in the five corners of the world to support it.

“One of Yun Yi’s contingency plans is still active—the realm monster formed after the destruction of the primordial heavenly court,” Lu Yun suddenly raised. “That was done for this primordial world of immortals as well. ...oh, and Chu Xingran! There’s certainly more to Chu Xingran than we know. That includes her primary body and the peak grand supreme from the darkness!”

He furiously calculated what he knew of the situation. Since Yun Yi was dead, he would have to figure out many things by himself.

He’d already decided that he would have the World of Immortals in the chief worlds take root in the primordial world of immortals. After all, this was the intersection of all planes of existence!

The chief worlds was a collection of worlds ruled by a plane’s orders. When all planes came together, they resulted in the primordial world of immortals. That made it the strongest realm in all of existence.

Once it fully came back to life, it would be indestructible. It was also the origin of immortal dao.

As for who’d once destroyed it... he didn’t have the capacity or right to wander down that path of thought. Perhaps it was the rhythm of reincarnation responsible for that feat. Life and death—none escaped that ultimate law.

Or perhaps it was the existence that the sacrifice had been made to, the one standing in nothingness and overlooking existence.

None of it mattered. If they came again and wanted to destroy everything, the World of Immortals would be hard pressed to escape ruin no matter where it was. Therefore, it was better to occupy the strongest world in existence and enhance their strength, so they would be better equipped to face future dangers from the unknown.

There was much to do if Lu Yun wanted to return the primordial world of immortals to its former heyday. For instance, destroy this ancient burial mound.

The world was still buried within it, so destroying it was the first order of the day. And the method to do so?

The Dragonquake Scripture.

It was an ultimate method originating from the primordial world of immortals and destroyed when it traveled out of the world. Therefore, Fuxi brought it to the Land of Reincarnation so it could be restored through the endless cycles of beginning and end.

Lu Yun didn't know if Fuxi and the others opposed Yun Yi or were on the side of helping her, because every action that'd seemed to obstruct or dismantle her plans had ultimately turned into something that advanced her goals. Everything they'd undertaken had eventually completed the plot they saw today.

No one revealed the truth during the process and no one made any explanations. They simply kept their heads down and proceeded about their business.

So many lives had been lost, including noble supremes and grand supremes, in pursuit of this final outcome. Was it worth it?

Daoist Ingress didn't think so, and Lu Yun... Lu Yun didn't know.

Perhaps Yun Yi's original intentions were to revive the primordial world of immortals so it could support the planes of existence and guide living souls to the right path. She'd done it for the sake of all life, but those who'd died here—weren't they part of the cosmos of life too?

"Why save me?" The wretched old man stood across the way, his expression downcast and forlorn. "I am the only one left alive out of this entire branch of humanity. You are just subjecting me to torment and suffering if you keep me alive."

"There's more than just you left of humanity, there are also hundreds of millions of humans in the World of Immortals." Lu Yun smiled at the elder giant who'd assumed a regular human size. "The humans need a guardian god, one who dares threaten empyrean supremes and is willing to die for them."

A little bit of spirit returned to the wretched old man's face. He still couldn't leave the burial mound, but he could stay here and modify the primordial world of immortals for humanity.

News of its revival was certain to get out. In addition to those from the chief worlds, supremes and grand supremes from other realms had also been sacrificed. The opening of the tomb had also been more than a chief world matter.

The owner of the tombstones and the numerous ghostly spirits present all came from other realms. They'd died here and become evil or ghostly spirits. Of course, they'd all been sacrificed earlier and everything having to do with them had become a page turn of history.

The wretched old man nodded emphatically.

"What do you plan to do now?" Daoist Ingress frowned at Lu Yun. "Destroy this ancient burial mound?"

"No," the young man shook his head. "The layout of the burial mound can keep things under wraps for a little while longer. Once it's broken, that's when the other realms of existence will attack.

"The order of life!" Lu Yun looked at Jin Huo. She was holding Chu Xun's hand. "Repair the order of life! That order is the key to the primordial world of immortals blooming again!"

"I can give up my two thirds of it," Jin Huo hastily responded. "It's not mine to begin with. The ancestral god of life has appeared, so she should be here and be the world's ancestral god." She made to extract her portion of the order.

"No!" Lu Yun shook his head. "The order of life is different from other orders. Anything that is alive possesses it! We were all caught in a fallacy before and thought that the order of life was split into three parts. It's actually always been complete.

"If the three parts are gathered together, they will each become complete orders of life." He made some quick calculations. "Arbiter can't shoulder the complete order by herself. If she becomes the ancestral god of life, disaster will strike her!

"Therefore, all of you need to bear the load. There needs to be three ancestral gods of life." He looked at Chu Xun when he finished. It looked like she should be one too.

Chapter 2006 – The Five Shamanic Elders

To think of the action was to complete the deed, Carmine Arbiter arrived in the primordial world of immortals through the Gates of the Abyss. As expected, her third of the order of life immediately became whole after she met Jin Huo and Chu Xun.

The order of life on Jin Huo then separated into two, one half landing on Chu Xun and both becoming complete orders. The radiance of life bloomed from Carmine Arbiter, Jin Huo, and Chu Xun. Already in the process of slowly coming back to life, the primordial world of immortals instantly boomed with vitality when nourished with the order of life.

The barren world flourished with greenery.

"Great idea, Lu Yun!" A giggling Carmine Arbiter ran up to the young man. "I was afraid all the time in the World of Immortals. Some monster might appear any day and gulp me down! I received the approval of this world as soon as you brought me here and became its ancestral god of life! I'm protected by its order of heaven and earth and don't need to worry about being eaten anymore."

The order of heaven and earth in this world was the will of heaven and earth from the five sets of organs.

“Stay here and cultivate with that wretched old man. He’s someone who killed an empyrean supreme before!” Lu Yun grinned.

“My name isn’t wretched old man!” The er, wretched old man blustered when he heard the reference. “My name is—”

“Alright, I’m out. You guys do as you see fit. This place is completely safe with the wretched old man standing guard it!” Lu Yun picked the god of Mount Tai up by the neck and entered the Gates of the Abyss.

Jin Huo wanted to follow Lu Yun out, but stopped when she thought of something. The young man had kept his original goal in mind all this time—extract hell dao from the god of Mount Tai and recreate the Land of Reincarnation!

.....

Lu Yun refrained from making any demands of those he saved from the existence within nothing. Those with prior relationships with him, such as the overlord of Ice or Moran Wu, left at this time.

Being supremes, they were no fools. While they wouldn’t take the affairs of the tomb to their grave, they would certainly be prudent about what they talked about.

Lu Yun wasn’t concerned that they’d run their mouths. With the wretched old man holding down the fort, not even the empyrean supreme from the darkness dared venture forth. The young man confidently stepped out of the primordial world of immortals with the mountain god in his hand.

Darkness swallowed him the moment he emerged. A pristine figure stood at the center of the world of darkness. She smiled welcomingly, looking at Lu Yun with the triumphant gaze of a victor.

“Yun Yi is just a peak grand supreme, so how can she possibly scheme against an empyrean supreme?” The Disordered Empyrean Supreme dimpled at Lu Yun.

“...Wu Ru...” Lu Yun connected some dots when he saw the empyrean supreme.

“Oh, so you’ve guessed it,” the empyrean supreme chuckled. “Wu Ru is the manifestation of one of my ethereal soul parts. I erased my personality in him so Yun Yi wouldn’t see through it and permitted him to become an independent being.

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“But seeing as he’s still me, it’s just a matter of momentary thought to recall him. As my primary body has returned to the heights of empyrean supreme, so have my soul parts recovered to their peak.

“Everything that Yun Yi has done is about to benefit me. The resurrected primordial world of immortals is mine for the taking. Your hell dao is also mine!” She blazed with arrogance, extremely proud of being the oriole behind the mantis stalking the cicada.

“Do you know that my Gates of the Abyss lead straight to hell, that I can return directly to the World of Immortals?” Lu Yun suddenly asked coldly.

“Hmm?” the empyrean supreme blinked.

“Do you know why I haven’t just headed back there, why I went to the extra step of stopping in the chief worlds?” he sneered.

“You are an ant that’s not even a peak grand supreme, so how dare you presume to scheme against an empyrean supreme?” The Disordered Empyrean Supreme understood what Lu Yun wanted to say, but she didn’t believe there was anything he could pull off against her.

Formula dao was immensely powerful. It’d traversed the chief worlds and could calculate all things. But there was no empyrean supreme in residence within it, not even a peak grand supreme.

Lu Yun wanted to use it against her? Out of the question.

“I’m not scheming against you,” he sighed. “Do you know why that thing is still here?”

He pointed at the tomb of the empyrean supreme, at the golden avenue that extended into the chief worlds. The golden bridge of heaven and earth!

It was the primordial heavenly emperor’s ultimate treasure and formed out of his combat art. There was absolutely no reason for it to still be here.

To guide chief world cultivators into the tomb? There were plenty of other treasures that could serve the purpose, ones that were faster and more convenient!

Color drained out of the Disordered Empyrean Supreme’s face. A figure in white suddenly appeared next to Lu Yun when he finished speaking. The newcomer was as if a mirage, hovering between reality and illusion. He both laughed and cried at the same time.

An akasha ghost.

The akasha ghost that was the heavenly emperor.

“Yun’er also knew that she couldn’t fully plot against a true empyrean supreme, so I stayed within the golden bridge,” the emperor offered offhandedly. “The original plan was for me to immolate myself and direct the bridge in a final strike if you appeared after the primordial world of immortals revitalized. But he turned me into an akasha ghost.” Here, the emperor pointed at Lu Yun with a smile. “So not only is there an empyrean supreme in the chief worlds, there is also me. An empyrean level akasha ghost.

“We don’t need the golden bridge anymore, I can take you out myself.”

There was another person behind him—Wei Lie. It was his past self, the ancestor of the Divine Feathers.

“Just you guys?” The Disordered Empyrean Supreme first looked at the heavenly emperor, then at Wei Lie.

“Are we not enough?” Wei Lie’s past self was also an empyrean supreme and he’d never died. He was a real, live empyrean supreme. He paused after hearing the question. “Ah, do you have helpers as well?”

“What do you think?” The Disordered Empyrean Supreme grinned. Five figures walked out behind her, each appearing from one of the cardinal directions.

They wore animal hides and were dressed very similarly to the elders of the human race in the tomb. All of them wielded tattered black bone staves. Withered and their skin hanging on their bones, it seemed

like they'd crawled out of coffins. If one had to describe them with a term, then these were people with one foot in the grave and on death's door.

"The five shamanic elders! You're still alive!" The heavenly emperor found this development highly unwelcome.

These five elders were the most veteran of the shamanic tribe. They'd followed their ancestor on campaigns across the worlds. Although they weren't empyrean supremes, they stood at the apex of peak grand supremes.

In an era too old to be recorded, they'd fought together to gravely injure an empyrean supreme. They mysteriously disappeared at some point and everyone thought that they were gone in the pages of history, but here they were again!

The heavenly emperor and Wei Lie wouldn't be afraid of the newcomers if it was just the five of them. But there was also the Disordered Empyrean Supreme to consider. She was a bonafide empyrean supreme.

It was only now that the heavenly emperor and Wei Lie discovered that this world of darkness was a shamanic formation set up by the elders. The power of darkness was a kind of black smoke simulating darkness, not truly strength of the gloom.

In other words, the Master of Darkness was ineffective here. All Lu Yun could rely on was Heavenfall.

"I just wanted to eliminate Lu Yun, but you two had to barge in as well. You can die with him, then." The Disordered Empyrean Supreme grabbed her ultimate treasure out of the air. Since the black spear hadn't been broken in the earlier ordeal, that was the basis upon which Lu Yun concluded the empyrean supreme was still alive.

Chapter 2007 – Tribulation of an Empyrean Supreme

The shamanic formation looked like a massive black skull from a bystander's perspective—the shamanic ancestor's skull.

The skull should've been consumed in the sacrificial rites that'd taken place earlier, but just as Yun Yi and her family set up their plots, so did the shamanic ancestor and his daughter lay their plans.

The skull that the ancestor left behind had remained in the shamanic race during all this time. The race constantly refined it without pause. Given their otherworldly methods, they'd long since plumbed the depths of the empyrean strength within.

The five shamanic ancestors had disappeared because of this skull. After the ancestor died, they were the ones supporting the race so it wouldn't become outwardly strong and inwardly brittle like the dragons. They went into seclusion only after the shamans found their footing, refocusing their efforts on studying the skull. They sought to simulate the power of an empyrean supreme and use it to derive shamanic formations.

And now, the great formation hidden deep inside the race manifested in full—it blossomed with the full strength of an empyrean supreme.

Since the shamanic ancestor didn't make it past his empyrean tribulation, he didn't ascend as an empyrean supreme. But the skull had been baptized in the tribulation and possessed the strength of one. If one was to use an Earth term to describe the formation, that would be a "clone".

The shamanic race used the great formation to clone the shamanic ancestor's skull and place it in this part of the void, enabling it to deploy the strength of an empyrean supreme. Shamanic power exploded in the array and twined around the Disordered Emphyrean Supreme's power, churning toward the three caught inside.

Wei Lie, the heavenly emperor, and the golden bridge couldn't stand up to the combined forces of their enemies!

"Just what did the Disordered Emphyrean Supreme collect from the Infinite Deorc..." Wei Lie cried out. While his past self was also an empyrean supreme, he'd been gravely injured back in the day and was near death. He'd barely hung on to his cultivation realm, and the akasha ghost that was the heavenly emperor couldn't call upon his full strength.

It would only be a matter of time before they died to the Disordered Emphyrean Supreme if the situation continued as is.

Lu Yun remained standing behind Wei Lie and the heavenly emperor. He silently watched the Disordered Emphyrean Supreme and five shamanic elders, not expressing anything. The elders were just facilitating the formation, they hadn't truly joined the fray. The empyrean supreme was fighting two opponents by herself and completely suppressing the two empyrean level powerhouses!

"Did Yun Yi miscalculate?" Lu Yun shook his head as he continued watching the scene. "No, she didn't. Although she isn't an empyrean supreme, her incredible intelligence wouldn't result in such a misstep.

"Ingress..."

Hummm!

Hummm!

Five enormous sword reverberations rang through the air as a sword formation appeared in the void, surrounding the enormous skull of the shamanic ancestor.

"How dare you ruin my plans, Lord Ingress!" Brandishing her spear, the Disordered Emphyrean Supreme swept the heavenly emperor and Wei Lie out of the array. She stood proudly in the void with the spear by her side and howled at the heavens.

"Ruin your plans?" Daoist Ingress chortled. "That's exactly what I'm gonna do. What you gonna do about it, huh?"

His current strength eclipsed what it'd been before. After the Qingping Sword broke, he'd rebuilt anew from the shards of destruction. Daoist Ingress had rapidly recovered his cultivation after battling the Disordered Emphyrean Supreme.

Although he'd yet to pierce through the final paper-thin barrier and return to empyrean supreme, he wasn't far off. Right now, he rivaled the shamanic ancestor of yore. He didn't need to enter the formation as his Sword Formation of Immortal Condemnation had completely enveloped the shamanic

ancestor's skull. Wind, thunder, fire, and water erupted in all directions as rays of sword qi attacking the shamanic formation.

The five shamanic elders were extraordinarily aged. At their cultivation level, they should be close to undying. But since their bodies and nascent spirit were gravely injured, they couldn't contain their life force and it constantly drained away.

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It hadn't been out of choice that they'd vanished from the public eye to study the ancestor's skull. With their potential, they would've dominated the chief worlds, if not become empyrean supremes. They wouldn't have had to hide and change their names, secluding themselves entirely from the world.

The Sword Formation of Immortal Condemnation further injured them upon contact and the elders shriveled some more. Unbidden, they raised their identical bone staves and chanted a long incantation.

The power of the five elements emanated from their bodies, but it was different from the five elements that Lu Yun knew. It was a set of dark elements that opposed the five!

The six orders of the highest degree defined everything there was about existence. Under the order of opposition, all things opposed each other. Even order itself had its opposition. Thus, the five elements naturally had a corresponding counter set.

The five dark elements were a strange power that very few in the chief worlds could capture. It so happened that the shamanic race had a method of cultivating them.

The elders' dark elements immediately assembled into a second formation in the void. While it wasn't as formidable as the one centered around the shamanic ancestor's skull, it was unusually fierce.

It wrapped around the skull and isolated it from Daoist Ingress' formation.

Hummm.

The skull seemed to come alive as its eyes flared with light to glare viciously at Daoist Ingress.

"What does a dead thing want to get up to?" the daoist roared with laughter as a white sword form blossomed in the center of his forehead, turning into the image of a white lotus flower. It slowly turned tangible and bloomed beside him.

Such was sword dao, and the purest form of sword dao beneath the heavens—sword dao manifestation.

It was both a combat art and an ultimate treasure. After breaking his Qingping Sword, Daoist Ingress had formed something similar to the golden bridge of heaven and earth!

The lotus flower instantly reinforced his sword formation and turned the power of wind, thunder, fire, and water into physical manifestations as well. All of them barreled toward the shamanic ancestor's skull in a concerted barrage.

The Disordered Empyrean Supreme swept her black spear around again and suppressed Wei Lie and the heavenly emperor. She rushed out of the formation and threw herself at Daoist Ingress.

She was afraid.

She was afraid because a strange ripple had appeared in the void. Wisps of black smoke were gathering from the surroundings and forming a layer of ephemeral clouds.

“The tribulation of an empyrean supreme is coming. He’s... about to break through to empyrean supreme!” murmured the constrained heavenly emperor within the formation. He abruptly turned into a streak of light that broke free of his restraints and arrived next to Lu Yun, taking up a protective stance next to the young man.

“The tribulation of an empyrean supreme?” Lu Yun’s eyes widened and he subconsciously splayed his hand, ready to deploy Thunder Palmstrike to help Daoist Ingress pass the trial.

“Don’t do anything,” the heavenly emperor hastily said. “Yuyu’s a very bold individual. He rebuilt anew after he shattered the Qingping Sword, but that isn’t enough. His four swords have become his new restraints. He wants to borrow the tribulation to destroy this sword formation and reforge himself again!”

Chapter 2008 – Trump Card

The reforged Daoist Ingress was choosing this moment to weather his empyrean supreme tribulation!

In his current state, it was like he’d been reborn or bestowed new life. Although he was an empyrean supreme in his past life, the reborn version of himself lost that cultivation level. If he wished to reach it again, he had to endure the tribulation for an empyrean supreme!

He differed from the Disordered Empyrean Supreme in that she’d borrowed her father’s skull. Since the skull had already passed its tribulation, she could bypass it.

The heavenly emperor was aware of Daoist Ingress’ ambitions. The latter’s greatest treasure had been his Qingping Sword, then the Sword Formation of Immortal Condemnation. The Qingping Sword was a divine item, but the formation was so renowned for its prowess that many overlooked the sword. It’d taken the Jade Record of Creation to destroy the sword.

Now the daoist wished to borrow the empyrean supreme tribulation to destroy the Sword Formation of Immortal Condemnation! Naturally, the Disordered Empyrean Supreme wouldn’t allow that to happen. It was already taxing enough fighting two opponents. Although she held the upper hand and could suppress them, she wouldn’t be able to kill them in any short period of time.

If an empyrean level Daoist Ingress was thrown into the mix, she would lose the fight.

Therefore, she decisively spun her spear around and stabbed it at Daoist Ingress.

Wholly unafraid, the lotus flower fully protected his body. The four enormous swords transformed into towering mountains that relinquished the power of wind, thunder, fire, and water. They did battle with the Disordered Empyrean Supreme on the basis of their own keenness.

Tribulation clouds gathered in the void, marking the impending arrival of the tribulation. Given Daoist Ingress’ current strength, surviving an empyrean supreme tribulation was a walk in the park.

Every corner of the chief worlds felt the telltale ripples of empyrean supreme tribulation. It was taking place near the tomb of the empyrean supreme! Legends had it that the tomb held an opportunity to

ascend to that lofty level. But although matters of the tomb had concluded, no one who entered it had made it out alive.

Yet an empyrean supreme tribulation had descended at this time!

Everyone's eyes focused in the direction of the tomb. The tribulation was so extensive and magnificent that even peak grand supremes couldn't see clearly through the area. But the auras from the Disordered Empyrean Supreme, heavenly emperor, Wei Lie, and Daoist Ingress constantly swept the realm.

There was more than one empyrean supreme at the tomb!

The supremes and peak grand supremes who wanted to observe the proceedings immediately shrank back, withdrawing even their consciousnesses.

"We need to kill him before the tribulation arrives!" shouted one of the shamanic elders. "If not kill him, we need to injure him! You're an empyrean supreme and he's not. He can't withstand a blow at your full strength!"

The Disordered Empyrean Supreme had only one chance to kill Daoist Ingress. Otherwise, she'd have to retreat once the tribulation descended. If she was caught within it, even a real empyrean supreme would be obliterated.

She understood this logic and so her attacks grew fiercer. Her black spear blurred into multiple images that melded into the void. The lotus flower circling around Daoist Ingress was beaten back by the images.

"We need to help him!" The heavenly emperor and Wei Lie flung themselves forward to break free from the confines of the shamanic ancestor's skull.

However, how would the shamanic elders permit them to help? They called upon strength within the skull and summoned five figures in black robes that kept the two within the formation. The five figures were made of pure dark elements and shaped like the shamanic ancestor!

"So the shamanic ancestor cultivates the power of the five dark elements!" It was a very unpleasant revelation for the heavenly emperor. It was only now that he realized what the ancestor had left for his daughter.

The shamanic ancestor wasn't an empyrean supreme, but his strength had reached that level and was incredibly formidable. The shamanic elders had summoned his five images so they could keep the heavenly emperor and Wei Lie inside their formation!

It was just a formation, and the shamanic ancestor's skull had been sacrificed! The power within the formation was just the ancestor's command of the dark elements. But it was sufficient enough for the shamanic elders to suppress two empyrean level powerhouses!

"Oh, the hell is this crap." Lu Yun turned around and walked through a door. When he next reappeared, he was next to Daoist Ingress.

"Heh, so you came here to go to your death?" Busy attacking Daoist Ingress, the Disordered Empyrean Supreme hadn't thought that the young man would appear of his own accord. Her primary goal was Lu Yun!

Nothing else mattered if she could obtain his hell dao. So what if Daoist Ingress became an empyrean supreme? If she had hell dao, she could complete her dao and become the strongest personage within this plane of existence.

She instantly abandoned Daoist Ingress and whirled around, beelining for Lu Yun. He chuckled and vanished, reappearing next to the tribulation clouds.

The Disordered Empyrean Supreme retreated out of range without second thought, arriving in front of the young man. She released the power of the five dark elements and formed a dark spatial power that sealed off the void.

“You can’t get away, Lu Yun,” she smiled with immense satisfaction.

The heavenly emperor and Wei Lie were trapped by the skull. Daoist Ingress was confined inside the tribulation clouds. No one protected Lu Yun now. She wasn’t the sort to waste time on empty chatter and grasped for Lu Yun the moment her form stabilized.

Boom!

Lu Yun exploded with overwhelming power the second the Disordered Empyrean Supreme’s hand neared him. Caught off guard, she flew backward.

“I wouldn’t be afraid of you even without Yun Yi’s backup plans.” He crossed his arms with a smile. “I have a deal with that fellow in the nothingness. He won’t let me die so easily since he wants what I have. Therefore, he gave me one usage of his strength.

“But just one,” Lu Yun thought for a bit. “If I need more than that, it means my treasure appears more than it actually is and there is no real value to it.

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“I walk this path through the chief worlds to lure you out of hiding because I wanted to see if Yun Yi really did anticipate that you’d still be alive. And to see if she’d left enough contingencies against you. The other reason is that... I really do want to kill you.

“After all, being constantly drooled over by an empyrean supreme is not a comfortable feeling.” The power of “nothing” shimmered over Lu Yun’s body.

Chapter 2009 – Forming Camps

Having never cultivated “nothing”, there was no power of nothing on Lu Yun. But in this moment, nihil suffused his body and even forced the power of reincarnation back into the Tome of Life and Death.

It wasn’t that reincarnation was less than nihil, but that the latter was fully developed as a mature tiger. The power of reincarnation, on the other hand, was just a dragonling for the time being.

Lu Yun knew that Yun Yi had further contingencies left in play because Shu Yan was yet to appear. But... she could hang on to this backup plan for now. Empyrean supremes of other realms were certainly observing the empyrean supreme tribulation that’d manifested in the chief worlds. Shu Yan must still be in hiding because of this.

When his thoughts traveled here, Lu Yun abruptly flared the power of nihil to intimidate the empyrean supremes in other realms. And indeed, they retracted their consciousnesses as soon as “nothing” appeared on the scene.

The current Lu Yun could kill their primary bodies through their consciousnesses, so they didn’t dare presume to peer into his secrets.

Having duly scared off any would-be observers, the young man balled his hands into fists and smashed them at the Disordered Empyrean Supreme’s face.

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“What is this, how is this possible?!” she screamed as she knew that death was finally here for her. Nothing in existence could withstand nothingness. Anyone who touched it would turn into nothing themselves.

She couldn’t understand why the young man still physically existed despite wielding nihil. How had he not disappeared from existence??

And then, she knew nothing anymore. The void she’d occupied turned into a large patch of nothing. Lu Yun stood in the air with Heavenfall glinting prominently in his hand.

“I can only release the power of nothing once,” he declared frostily. “Anyone who wants to take me on can put themselves forward again.”

Ringling silence answered him from the surroundings; there seemed to be no one there. However, Lu Yun knew that the empyrean supremes had most certainly heard him. Whether or not they believed him would determine their subsequent presence on the scene.

The five shamanic elders were losing their minds inside their ancestor’s skull. Yet, they didn’t dare do anything and vanished from the void alongside the skull.

Only Daoist Ingress was left to struggle alone with his tribulation. It was supposed to have been a trial of life and death for him as a new empyrean supreme had been born in the Ingress Jade Heavens since his departure. Once Daoist Ingress returned to his old cultivation level, he would threaten the status of his replacement.

If it wasn’t for Lu Yun’s blow intimidating all empyrean supremes within existence, the one from the Ingress Jade Heavens might already be here.

At the heart of things, they didn’t believe what the young man had just said. Since Lu Yun could kill one empyrean supreme, he could kill a second. Who knew what kind of agreement he’d reached with the existence in nihil?

He could only use that power once? Utter bullshit.

No one believed him, so no one came. There was still a long ways to go until the primordial world of immortals fully revitalized. That would be enough leeway for the empyrean supremes to fully probe the young man.

Of course, it wouldn't be easy for them to feel out Lu Yun if Daoist Ingress didn't take his place among the Ingress Jade Heavens again. The young man currently stood to the side of the tribulation clouds and kept a firm grip on Heavenfall, making silent calculations of how to recreate the Land of Reincarnation.

When the god of Mount Tai did so, he was one of the strongest peak grand supremes within existence. Lu Yun was just a high supreme and would immediately fall to his true level once he returned the spear.

"Do you want to manifest the Land of Reincarnation?" the mountain god laughed gleefully. "Go on, beg. I'll tell you if you beg me to teach you!"

Lu Yun ignored him and continued his calculations. While the mountain god had indeed created the Land of Reincarnation, his had been the slightest bit imperfect because his original goal was to refine the five hells.

He'd wanted to derive the sixth hell rather than truly create a Land of Reincarnation.

He'd both succeeded and failed. He'd derived the Disordered Hell through Lu Yun, but all of the accomplishments also belonged to Lu Yun. This time, he was the only one who knew how to create a Land of Reincarnation. The Disordered Empyrean Supreme had taught him how and she'd learned of it from the land of darkness.

"The god of Mount Tai does not possess the method to create a Land of Reincarnation." The heavenly emperor walked up to Lu Yun. "You must visit the Infinite Deorc if you want to learn how. That is where the method can be found."

Lu Yun tilted his head at the man.

"What we call the land of darkness is our name for their home. The Infinite Deorc is a tangible realm just like the chief worlds—the difference being that disorder is the predominant order in their territory." The heavenly emperor continued after some thought, "All things oppose each other under the order of opposition. Order itself is no exception."

"All of existence is divided into two camps, the camp of order and the camp of disorder. The chief worlds is the leader of the camp of order and its cultivators have access to all types of order that are available."

"Is the Infinite Deorc the leader of the camp of disorder?" Lu Yun asked.

"No," the heavenly emperor shook his head. "It is just an ordinary realm in the camp of disorder."

"...just an ordinary realm?" Lu Yun blinked. "An ordinary realm can bully the leader of order and grind their face into the dirt?"

"Yes," the heavenly emperor nodded matter-of-factly. "The primordial world of immortals was the intersection of existence, the world that kept order and disorder in balance. The chief worlds and the allworlds—leader of the camp of disorder—were both directly subservient to the primordial world of immortals."

"When the primordial world of immortals was destroyed, these core realms also fell into decline. However, the realms of the camp of order weren't as aggressive, so the allworlds swiftly recovered. The chief worlds have constantly suffered from Infinite Deorc campaigns, so it hasn't recovered yet."

Lu Yun finally understood the situation.

"I feel that you should focus on helping the chief worlds recover," he said to the heavenly emperor.

"There's no point in doing so," the man shook his head. "Without the support of the primordial world of immortals, the chief worlds drift around, rootless. And why should I help it recover? At the end of the day, we are still the enemies of the chief worlds and everything in existence."

"...you are... a dao form?" Lu Yun grasped the heavenly emperor's meaning.

"Yes," the emperor nodded. "My ultimate goal is to restore the primordial world of immortals, occupy it, have all dao forms within existence live in it so I can become a true god and truly immortal. I will sit on high and look down over all."

Chapter 2010 – Not Dead

The primordial heavenly emperor was also a dao form! In fact, he was human! It was a secret that he'd always buried deep. No one knew his family's true form apart from himself, Yun Yi, and Shu Yan. When he ruled as emperor, he maintained a large harem to hide their identity as dao forms, fathering numerous strange races throughout the course of his reign. The only one who was a pureblooded human was Yun Yi.

She had always hidden her identity as well.

Dao forms were the public enemy of all living beings in existence, particularly after the human race of the chief worlds was eliminated. There were no more factions of dao forms after that—apart from the humans in the Land of Reincarnation.

Humanity now walked the path of cultivation again and spread throughout the chief worlds. Thus, chief world denizens once more focused on the race, determined to destroy it once and for all. At the very least, they would doom the race beyond redemption if complete annihilation was impossible.

Yun Yi and her family had undertaken everything not for the chief worlds, but for humanity itself. That had ever been the case. That was why she'd ultimately chosen Lu Yun—because he was human and the one who'd brought the race out of the Land of Reincarnation.

Her plans didn't necessarily culminate with Lu Yun, but whoever ended the loops of reincarnation. The one who ended the land would have to enter the tomb of the empyrean supreme after learning the truth. Searching out the god of Mount Tai and refining a new Land of Reincarnation would be their next course of action.

Prior to this, Lu Yun only calculated that he was caught in a plot and there was something waiting for him. He never imagined that he would be the ultimate beneficiary from her planning!

As for the spirit within the Jade Record of Creation that wanted to possess him... Daoist Ingress wouldn't have come if it didn't exist. Heavenfall and Worldcarver would then be absent from the subsequent conflicts.

The organs of the world and the Jade Record of Creation were important steps to revitalizing the primordial world of immortals. However, only Heavenfall and Worldcarver could kill the spirit entities that'd been born within.

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If not for Heavenfall, the manifestations of the five senses wouldn't be able to eat the divine spirits of the organs. The spear had defeated the divine spirits by the time they arrived.

When all was said and done, the massive game of smoke and mirrors—including many fatal plots against Lu Yun—was all meant to protect him. Yun Yi, her father, and grandfather had schemed against many of their own people. They placed those of the same mind as them on the opposite side and wove a web of truth and falsehood, making it impossible to guess who their plans were for.

Lu Yun's formula dao had been obscured in the tomb of the empyrean supreme. The Disordered Empyrean Supreme hadn't been able to determine anything either.

He slowly nodded his head.

.....

"Why haven't you killed me yet?" Within the world of the Tome of Life and Death, the Disordered Empyrean Supreme regarded a manifesting replica of Lu Yun with a complicated expression. She was still an empyrean supreme, but even those powerhouses had to bow their heads in this world.

There was a large black dog sprawled on the ground—the demon of immortal dao that'd originally lived in the Imperial Seal. After the unknown existence of nothing took the seal, Lu Yun sent the demon back here again.

Moving with the ease of experience, the demon immediately found a comfortable nook and created a dog house. He really was a bonafide dog.

The internal world was gradually becoming a true world; the tree god's primary body stood in the center and supported its new home. Lu Yun wanted to reforge the Land of Reincarnation for only one reason—resurrect the tree god.

The Disordered Empyrean Supreme wasn't dead because Lu Yun's earlier blow was to pull the wool over everyone's eyes. He hadn't released much of his power of nothing—his declaration was a bald-faced lie for whoever would set foot into his trap.

"Yun Yi wouldn't go to so much trouble and effort just so she can sacrifice an empyrean level powerhouse." He looked at his captive. "If it was anyone else just now, that blow would've killed you."

"Oh?" The Disordered Empyrean Supreme cocked her head.

"Wu Ru is you and you are Wu Ru. You used the life extension art to help me grasp the life form of a grand supreme," Lu Yun responded. "If it wasn't for that, I wouldn't be able to call upon the strength of a peak grand supreme even when holding Heavenfall. Nothing that occurred earlier would've been possible!"

A mute Disordered Empyrean Supreme spread out her hands.

"The shamans are a branch of humanity," Lu Yun finally sighed. "If it wasn't for me, you'd be the beneficiary of this plot."

The empyrean supreme remained silent and gently sat down on the ground. She took a while to gather her thoughts before saying, "I will still try to kill you if you don't kill me now. I will take your hell dao from you."

"I have the power of reincarnation and will eventually derive the complete great dao of reincarnation. You can have hell dao whenever you want." Lu Yun didn't mind her declaration and waved the complete hell dao into existence. It was a black river that bisected the world at its center.

The world of the Tome of Life and Death spontaneously turned into hell with the appearance of the great dao. They were within Lu Yun's nascent spirit, so everything was under his control. He was the divine creator in here.

"You can withdraw this at any time so long as you remain alive. Hell dao has taken root in your body. What you mean by giving this to me is just a grant of favor. It would not be my hell dao." The empyrean supreme was smiling, but the look in her eyes was impossibly cold.

With the immense plan that Yun Yi and her family had set up, more than the three of them were needed to complete it. The other two empyrean supremes of the chief worlds and those with equivalent strength were also involved.

They appeared to oppose each other on the surface, but worked toward the same goal in reality.

If Lu Yun hadn't appeared, then the primordial world of immortals after the sacrifice would be the Disordered Empyrean Supreme's world. Her survival was predetermined, but no one expected Lu Yun to arrive with the Tome of Life and Death. Even the existence receiving sacrifices in the nothing was interested in the mysterious treasure.

Thus, everything that should've belonged to the Disordered Empyrean Supreme shifted to Lu Yun's pockets. She'd known the reason for everything the moment she was revived and acted accordingly to the best of her abilities. Her presence this time was to help Lu Yun kill her so a source of future trouble could be taken off the board.

She had her own desires, such as Lu Yun's great dao, but when placed in the plot and working toward its fruition, she had to die. If the young man didn't kill her, she would continue to oppose him and seek to take hell dao.

It was a very conflicting set of emotions—such was meant by the order of opposition.

Lu Yun fell silent. It would indeed be a bestowment from a superior position if he gave hell dao to the Disordered Empyrean Supreme. It was a roundabout way of recruiting her to his banner.

He even entertained the thought of forcing her to write her name in the Tome of Life and Death. Only then could they truly avoid future trouble.