

Necropolis 2011

Chapter 2011 – Unable to Resurrect

However, Lu Yun read a certain determination from the Disordered Empyrean Supreme, the kind similar to what the creatures of darkness nursed. Pureblood endarkened immediately dispersed when he killed them; they were completely dead.

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In the same vein, if he forced someone like the empyrean supreme to write her name in the Tome of Life and Death, that would cause her spontaneous death. There were only two paths in front of her now—either die or kill Lu Yun, take his hell dao and the primordial world of immortals.

There was nothing else left for the young man to do but continue to keep her confined and leave with the god of Mount Tai.

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A bleak atmosphere pervaded in the chief worlds. Millions of grand supremes and countless geniuses had died in the tomb of the empyrean supreme. It left an indelible mark upon the realm.

Thankfully, the land of darkness was just as badly off. Their empyrean supreme had naturally brought their best geniuses with him to the tomb. As dangerous as it was, it was also filled with treasure.

If not for that, why else would the empyrean risk his own people, knowing full well that the tomb was a trap?

No one imagined that Yun Yi would be so ruthless as to sacrifice herself! She'd summoned the terrifying existence from nothingness and elicited a second round of sacrifice. But as much as people hated recent events, they didn't know who to vent their spleen on. The instigator was dead.

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It was a picture of prosperity in the World of Immortals these days. Lu Yun busied himself with selecting who he wanted to take to the primordial world of immortals.

While the world was still buried in the burial mound, true life filled it. There was also nothing to worry about when heavyweights such as the wretched old man held down the fort. He was beyond delighted to see pureblood humans appear in his home. Devoted to safeguarding the new shoots of the race, he even selected a few of the most promising to be his personal disciples.

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"Are you... the princess of the primordial world of immortals?" Lu Yun carefully asked Mo Yi.

"Princess of the primordial world of immortals?" Mo Yi blinked. "What's the primordial world of immortals?"

Lu Yun held his forehead.

“No,” the Dao King answered instead. “And don’t force her to recall her past. Things are just fine right now.”

“All of you know the truth?” Lu Yun started. Did everyone know Mo Yi’s identity and background, and was all keeping it from her?

“Enough of that.” The Dao King caressed Mo Yi’s head. “You don’t need to go to the land of darkness to learn how to create a Land of Reincarnation.”

“Do you know how?” Lu Yun brightened.

“I do,” the man nodded. “The core of the Land of Reincarnation is the Hongmeng, and the Hongmeng is where the tree god took root.”

“What do you mean?” Lu Yun’s eyes widened.

“The tree god has always been dead,” the Dao King exhaled heavily. “The Land of Reincarnation cannot resurrect him, he used his life to create it. The him that appeared in the countless loops was a projection, an image imprinted onto the great daos of the Land of Reincarnation.”

“Then the withered wood...” Color drained from Lu Yun’s face. He’d promised Jin Huo to resurrect the tree god! She was abiding by their agreement and had taken up residence in the World of Immortals in a series of high profile maneuvers.

With the primordial world of immortals ready, there was no need for the three of them to oversee it. If the World of Immortals possessed peak grand supremes instead, that would deter the chief worlds from doing anything.

Now that he learned that it was impossible to bring back the tree god, he didn’t know what to say to her.

More importantly was that the lingering will of the Plumed Empyrean Supreme had told her a way to resurrect the tree god when they entered the tomb. The method was real, but it was also a trap. If Lu Yun couldn’t find a way to use the Land of Reincarnation to revive the tree god, Jin Huo would certainly try that way instead.

Even though she was a peak grand supreme who held the order of life, Lu Yun was confident that the one who’d set up the trap wanted the order of life.

The empyrean supreme from the land of darkness.

Without being able to bring back the tree god, there was no need for him to recreate a Land of Reincarnation. Although Leize, Fuxi, and the others were still injured, they were out of immediate danger. They would recover given sufficient great dao reinforcement.

At their level of strength, they could not continue to rely on the Land of Reincarnation. They’d already done so once before. This wasn’t due to consideration for the dignity of a powerhouse, but that heaven, earth, and great dao didn’t permit it. Something like the Land of Reincarnation went against the heavens in the first place. That its denizens repeated the same things again and again was inherently unfair.

“Ai...” Lu Yun sighed explosively. “I promised her, so I can’t go back on my words.”

He'd made up his mind to try the trap with her. He still possessed the power of nothing; it should be more than enough for the trap. But he knew with even more certainty that the dark empyrean supreme had already turned it into a trap to probe his capabilities.

Many knew about the tree god, even Jin Huo knew deep down inside that the Land of Reincarnation wouldn't bring him back. That left a weakness of hers for the dark empyrean supreme to exploit.

Once Yun Yi's plot took shape, he could use it to reverse the situation.

The order of life was a very important factor to the revitalization of the primordial world of immortals. Controlling it meant controlling the world. All immortals from the World of Immortals that moved to the primordial world of immortals had to be baptized by the order of life from the three ancestral gods. Only then could they live and cultivate in that world.

Otherwise, the primordial world of immortals would be nothing more than a burial mound for living beings.

Outsiders would continue to risk their lives to enter the burial mound before it was destroyed. They could safely remain in the world only when they received its order of life. Thus, the dark empyrean supreme's target was Jin Huo's order.

It'd become an inseparable part of her. Contrary to the past, each of the three ancestral gods grasped a complete portion of order. Thus, Chu Xun and Carmine Arbiter were also their targets.

But no matter what, Lu Yun had to accompany Jin Huo on this attempt. He wanted to resurrect the tree god too so he could ask about nihil in the Land of Reincarnation. Why had the tree god wanted the land to transform into something like a world of nothing?

"Wait," Mo Yi suddenly said. "Something's occurred to me, it's not all nothing in the nothingness. What you saw, for instance, is existence within nihil. His existence... is on the same level as our plane of existence."

Chapter 2012 – World Heart

"What do you mean by that?" Lu Yun couldn't make sense of Mo Yi's sudden delivery of rather confusing words.

"She means..." It was the Dao King who answered. "If the guy you saw dies one day, then he'll become... hmm, a realm like the enormous patch of existence that we live in. Order will spring forth within it, then heaven and earth, and eventually living beings.

"Our patch of existence is likely derived from the corpse of an unparalleled being. It's similar to when the beings of the mortal worlds die—maggots and other microscopic beings appear in their bodies."

Anyone else might not understand the Dao King, but Lu Yun did because he was a modern Earthling. When studying the true nature of the universe, some scientists of Earth once proposed that the universe was a cell inside a massive organism, that there were hundreds of millions of such cells inside.

It was very possible that each of them was a universe.

Cultivators were likewise in the dark about the true nature of existence. There was order that formed heaven and earth, thereby giving rise to the conditions that were prerequisite for life to form. But beyond that?

Where did life come from? Where did all things originate from?

Not even empyrean supremes could explain it.

Mo Yi and Dao King's theory might seem ludicrously far-fetched and even blasphemous, but it was very truly possible that living beings were just maggots in the body of a fallen powerhouse. So then, where did life in the nothingness come from? What was nothing? It was a circular dead end, one that would never be resolved.

Lu Yun felt his head ache as he traveled with that train of thought. Formula dao couldn't deduce something so enormous.

"Stop thinking about it." Mo Yi stretched out a finger and gently waved it in front of Lu Yun's face, breaking his mental wild goose chase. "Of everything that exists, you just need to remember one thing—creation."

"Right, creation," Lu Yun chuckled.

The primordial world of immortals had come back to life because the power of sacrifice turned the Jade Record of Creation into pure creation. Infusing the world with a dense concentration of that energy called vitality forth again.

Whether it was life or a world, everything came down to creation.

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Lu Yun caught sight of Jin Huo. She'd anticipated his arrival and was already ready. She'd known that the Land of Reincarnation couldn't revive the tree god when they were discussing it in the tomb of the empyrean supreme. Even if he did come back to life, it wouldn't be the tree god himself anymore.

"Are you really planning on going with me?" Her slightly vacant eyes bore into Lu Yun.

"I made a promise and I intend to keep it." Lu Yun nodded. He could read Jin Huo's current mood—she would either succeed, or go down trying.

There was nothing left in life for her anymore if the tree god couldn't come back. Of course, she would create another peak grand supreme for the World of Immortals before she went to her death. She would keep her word as well.

"Don't worry, you have me. I will resurrect the tree god." Lu Yun smiled faintly. "The dark empyrean supreme has turned it into a trap to test me. Eh, I'll just kill him too if it turns out to be too much trouble."

"It's not that simple," Huo Jin shook his head. "The tree god must be resurrected at the World Heart."

“The World Heart?” Lu Yun blinked. He’d never heard of the place before, but he’d encountered a world heart in the Dark World. That’d been an item though, not a place. He didn’t think that the dark empyrean supreme would set up the trap in the Infinite Deorc—that was plainly courting death.

Lu Yun had collected numerous denizens of other realms during his jaunt in the tomb, thereby gaining knowledge of many other realms, but he’d never heard of a place called the World Heart. Not even his Infernum were familiar with it.

He hadn’t personally killed all of his new recruits. The ten Yama Kings had eliminated them as a matter of convenience when they blocked off the passage to the World of Immortals. Since these beings didn’t oppose the chief worlds, they didn’t possess the same unyielding resolution as the creatures of darkness.

The land of darkness and chief worlds had been at odds with each other for so long that they shared a death feud. That kind of bone-deep hatred was carved into their respective orders, so the endarkened wouldn’t bow their head to anyone from the chief worlds.

Even the Tome of Life and Death could only completely erase them and not recruit them. In the same vein, those of the chief worlds would never submit to the darkness. Order compelled them to do so.

The same didn’t apply to inhabitants from other realms. The Tome of Life and Death could command them as it would, unaffected by interference from order.

Lu Yun sent the skeletons he’d brought back from the tomb of the empyrean supreme into the netherworld. The remains of human feasts and the new Infernum all arrived at the kingdom of hell in the World of Immortals.

“The World Heart is a dead world and an incredibly dangerous place. Empyrean supremes have died over the course of exploring it before,” Jin Huo explained. “It’s the most mysterious and magical place in existence, surpassed by none other!”

“That’s where the tree god can be resurrected! Any dead spirit comes back to life in the World Heart, even if their will of death has completely dispersed.” Her eyes grew brighter as she spoke, as if she was already glimpsing the reborn tree god.

“So... you mean... the trap was there all along? That the dark empyrean supreme didn’t need to create it?” Lu Yun paused.

“Yes,” she nodded. “Fallen empyrean supremes have come back to life in the World Heart and living ones have died there. Anything is possible.”

“Alright then, let’s go to the World Heart,” Lu Yun sighed helplessly. He’d employed formula dao as Jin Huo spoke of this mysterious place, but didn’t calculate anything useful. All he could determine was that it would be a very, very risky trip for him.

But with risk came opportunity. Mo Yi and the Dao King had likely said what they said earlier because they’d guessed that he needed to go there. It was formed from the death of a powerhouse in the nothing. Could it have something to do with the one who’d transacted with Lu Yun?

He was suddenly very eager to visit the place.

“You’re going to the World Heart?” The world abruptly shifted around Lu Yun. It was empty and devoid of everything. A massive face appeared over his head and silently looked down on the young man.

The existence in the nothing had come to him at this time! He knew Lu Yun was going to the World Heart because he’d been keeping an eye on the young man.

“Yes.”

Of course he’s keeping an eye on me, there’s no way he’s letting me off that easily. Lu Yun hadn’t thought that he could pull the wool over the other’s eyes either.

“There is a sword in the World Heart. Retrieve it so you can ensure a possibility of seeing me in the future.”

Chapter 2013 – Cause of Death

Lu Yun nodded mutely when he heard the person’s words. He knew what the other meant—obtaining that sword meant he had a chance of exceeding this part of existence and becoming a nihil powerhouse.

If he could exceed existence and enter nothing, he would certainly become that person’s prey. The sword might even be something that the being wanted.

But so what?

Who didn’t want to rise from their world and set sights on even vaster expanses?

With that, heaven and earth returned to normal and Jin Huo appeared in front of Lu Yun once more. The one in the nothing had left. Lu Yun stretched comfortably and regarded the scene with a lazy expression.

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Lu Yun and Jin Huo didn’t immediately set out for their destination. The latter had waited so long that a few days more didn’t matter.

The World of Immortals continued to expand. When it occupied three thousand major worlds of the chief worlds, it halted its outward momentum.

Three thousand major worlds made it the strongest faction since the heavenly emperor’s primordial court. He’d built his dynasty not to rule the chief worlds—it wasn’t his inclination in the first place, given his personality. He’d done so to revive the primordial world of immortals.

The primordial heavenly court lay within the Firmament Prison. The realm monster had already taken up residence in the primordial world of immortals to complete its final transformation.

Since Yun Yi didn’t sacrifice Chu Xingran, that meant she didn’t sacrifice Xie Tianxun either. Therefore, she’d given her strongest replica to the realm monster so it could continue transforming.

The realm monster turned into a true heaven and earth after its metamorphosis. It slowly melded into the primordial world with the aid of the five sets of organs, becoming the seed for a world and germinating at a leisurely pace.

Despite its accomplishments, the current World of Immortals wasn't as powerful as the primordial heavenly court. Even though it was common knowledge that a peak grand supreme was present in the realm, that didn't sway opinions since there were a few peak grand supremes in the chief worlds as well.

Such as King Chu and Queen Xun.

But on this day, they jointly entered the World of Immortals. It was because of this that Lu Yun and Jin Huo hadn't immediately set out on their journey.

King Chu was a tall, middle-aged man in peak health. His aura carried a few traces of a dominating air.

"Congratulations on your rebirth, Peak Grand Supreme Jin Huo." He squeezed out a smile when he saw Jin Huo.

"Mhmm." She nodded, saying nothing else in greeting. "What business might the two of you have here?"

Although she didn't see Queen Xun, the latter was certainly here. She even knew what the couple had come for.

Chu Xun.

There was no direct connection between Chu Xun and Jin Huo. The girl wasn't manifested from Jin Huo's soul parts; she was the daughter of King Chu and Queen Xun. Peak grand supremes wouldn't tolerate the souls of other peak grand supremes becoming their children.

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However, Chu Xun had been born due to Jin Huo's order of life. It was nearly impossible for peak grand supremes to produce descendants otherwise. Her name was the amalgamation of her parents' names—an indication of how much they valued their daughter.

Seeing as Chu Xun was in the World of Immortals these days, a place constantly eyed by the realms, King Chu and Queen Xun had no choice but to come. In their eyes, this was the most dangerous place in the chief worlds. They had to bring their daughter back with them!

Jin Huo didn't care about this and neither did Lu Yun.

Chu Xun wielded the full order of life and could allow others into the primordial world of immortals. There was a wretched old man on guard there, so it was another matter entirely if her parents dared venture forth.

At the same time, Lu Yun wasn't the least bit worried about the order of life. The wretched old man was certainly an empyrean supreme—and an incredibly strong one. The dark empyrean supreme truly hadn't dared face him with either a replica or his primary body.

King Chu and Queen Xun wouldn't dare consider taking over the primordial world of immortals either. Only empyrean supremes had the right to contemplate that course of action.

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Lu Yun didn't care about matters in the World of Immortals anymore. The arrival of Chu Xun's parents raised no particular emotion in his heart. Right now, he was at the ruins of the Firmament Prison.

Its various phenomena were no more with the realm monster's disappearance, but this area was still off limits. It was the territory of a peak grand supreme now.

Tailong.

Tailong wasn't surprised at all to see Lu Yun.

"The last strand of the prison's core essence is in the World Heart." He cut straight to the chase as he knew why Lu Yun was here.

"What?!" The young man trembled.

The World Heart!

"Yun Yi sent the last strand there, so you have to pay a visit if you want it." Tailong spread his hands out with resignation.

Having returned Heavenfall to God, Lu Yun was once more an ordinary high supreme. At the same time, he possessed the life form of a grand supreme thanks to the Disordered Empyrean Supreme utilizing a secret shamanic art.

Lu Yun was currently both a high supreme and a grand supreme. He possessed the ability to meld the core essence of the Firmament Prison into hell dao and make the latter whole. If that task was accomplished, hell would reach heights that not even the Disordered Empyrean Supreme could've imagined.

The dark empyrean supreme had created a trap in the tomb that would force Lu Yun and Jin Huo to visit the World Heart, yet... so had Yun Yi.

It was immensely evident that the World Heart was an extraordinarily important place. Perhaps the dark empyrean supreme wanted to borrow it to kill Jin Huo and Lu Yun so he could obtain the order of life, but so was Yun Yi plotting something there.

"Is it that sword?" Lu Yun sank into deep thought. "What is the World Heart?" He jerked his head up at Tailong.

"Many people have come to the same theory that our patch of existence is the result of the death of an unparalleled powerhouse," he responded with the same theory that Mo Yi and the Dao King had voiced. "The World Heart is that person's heart and there is a sword stuck in the center of it. That is likely why that personage died.

"But don't try to pull it out. The supposed greatest empyrean supreme of this existence—the Nihil Empyrean Supreme—once said that if it is removed, that figure might come back to life. Then our world would no longer exist," Tailong warned solemnly as Lu Yun shuddered.

Chapter 2014 – Seeking Revenge

"What is it?" asked a frowning Tailong when he saw Lu Yun's reaction.

The young man mutely shook his head, operating formula dao anew. He didn't come to any answers.

Tailong's frown deepened, but he didn't press for an explanation. The World Heart was a place that threatened even empyrean supremes. Being just a peak grand supreme, he wasn't willing to overly antagonize the area.

"You better not travel to the World Heart before you ascend to grand supreme," he suddenly said. "Although you possess the life form of a grand supreme, you're not a real one. The World Heart will be too perilous for you prior to reaching grand supreme."

"I know," Lu Yun nodded. He surveilled the Firmament Prison with reluctance, trying to find a trace of its core essence that Yun Yi might've overlooked.

Sadly, he came up disappointed and empty-handed. Yun Yi's style was to take every conceivable possibility into account. Since she'd decided to have Lu Yun travel to the World Heart, she wouldn't leave any trace of the ruins' core essence behind.

The Firmament Prison had become Tailong's training grounds. No supreme or order cultivator would dare seek their fortune in this forbidden zone.

"Go on then. When you return alive from the World Heart, you should have the right to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with us. You will truly campaign through the realms then." Tailong waved Lu Yun off.

"Campaign through the realms... Do you mean the war between the camp of order and the camp of disorder?" Lu Yun asked subconsciously.

"The stand-off between order and disorder is an objective opposition, not a matter between living beings. You'll understand when you see it. The world is big, much bigger than you think. Go now." With Tailong's next wave, the scene changed in front of Lu Yun—he'd left the Firmament Prison.

Lu Yun stood over Huangpang major world and frowned in the direction of the ruins. He remained silent for a very long period of time. Out of all the peak grand supremes that he knew, Tailong was the most mysterious. He was also the least known by people—no one knew his background.

Even Yun Yi had only reached an agreement with him later on.

"Lu Yun, I've waited a long time for you," sounded a chilly, stilted voice. Lu Yun cocked his head to see a smear of pale gold next to him.

The nine clawed golden dragon.

He was the strongest among grand supremes—even a bit stronger than Cen Sui. However, the latter was now stronger than the dragon after traveling to the tomb of the empyrean supreme.

"Whatever for?" Lu Yun smirked.

"Cen Sui is one of yours?" the dragon almost spat through ground teeth.

"C'mon, let's go take a look at Huangpang." Lu Yun's smile deepened and he jumped forward, dashing into the major world close at hand.

Huangpang had become another world of immortals; the Immortal Sect was the strongest faction on it. These days, Huang Pang and Mo Fei were hailed as its leaders. The two cultivated immortal dao and had become true grand supremes.

While they were initial grand supremes, that cultivation level reigned supreme among the current chief worlds.

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The one million grand supremes that'd died in the tomb of the empyrean supreme and Disordered Sea were a severe loss to the chief worlds. Huang Pang and Mo Fei were able to return to being grand supremes because of this—the realm needed new ones.

It was an era in which blood flowed and opportunities abounded. Lu Yun could even become a grand supreme during these times if he wished to. It was why Tailong had said that he should set out for the World Heart after he became a grand supreme. It wouldn't take him too long, not in this current period.

Huangpang was an extraordinarily prosperous and uncommonly strong world. A newly constructed city in the major world, Honored Dragon City, saw an endless succession of immortals streaming to and from it.

Yes, immortals.

Immortals had been previously trapped in the World of Immortals and too frightened to step out of their home. But now that the realm owned three thousand major worlds in the realm, it was the strongest faction in the chief worlds. That bestowed sufficient courage for immortals to stride out of their home and visit other worlds.

In a moderately sized restaurant that served surprisingly exquisite fare, Lu Yun and the nine clawed golden dragon sat in disguise. They filled the table with orders of sumptuous dishes and stared outside the window, listening to the strains of conversation about them.

"Are you searching for an opportunity to become a peak grand supreme?" Lu Yun casually raised after an unknown period of time.

"Yes," the dragon nodded. "That maggot Cen Sui is almost one himself and he works for you now?"

"That's his own fortune, it has nothing to do with me. I can't help you become a peak grand supreme." Lu Yun first nodded, then shook his head. He knew why the nine clawed golden dragon had come looking for him. The dragon was one of the strongest in the chief worlds, but he'd been stuck at his cultivation level for too long.

It was why he'd constantly changed identities, flitting from the Moran Clan to the dragons. He was limited to the dragons now, however, and unable to transform into other races anymore.

"You can!" He stared fixedly at Lu Yun. "Give me the azure dragon ancestral god's command of creation! I'll immediately break through to peak grand supreme if I have it!"

"And why should I do that?" Lu Yun shrugged. He picked up his wine cup and drained its contents.

“Because I can help you find what you want in the World Heart!” the dragon enunciated carefully. The two of them were close to either grand supreme or peak grand supreme. No one else could hear their conversation.

Lu Yun put down his wine cup and regarded the dragon with a frosty look. It wasn't common knowledge that he wanted to head to the World Heart, yet the nine clawed golden dragon had so easily spoken of it.

“I naturally have my own aces if I dare come looking for you.” The dragon smiled at the young man's expression.

BOOM!

A heaven-shattering explosion rang out as an enormous hand descended from the sky. It pounded one of Huangpang's cities flat with a simple slap.

“So you're still alive, Huang Pang, Mo Fei... Since the two of you never died, you can die today!” A sonorous voice thundered from the firmament while the hand continued to smash toward the major world's capital city. It was a grand supreme, another incomparably mighty grand supreme.

Lu Yun's lips curved in a chilly smile. The city that the hand had just destroyed was mostly populated with immortals from the World of Immortals.

Chapter 2015: Back to a Clay Idol

“Are you worried?” Contrary to the young man's reaction, the nine clawed golden dragon remained coolly composed. Occurrences like these happened with moderate frequency on Huangpang.

Lu Yun slowly sat back down and shook his head.

“It was immortals from your World of Immortals that died. Are you not frustrated by that?” the golden dragon pressed.

“The testing of my capabilities has begun.” Lu Yun lifted his head to look at the grand supreme invading Huangpang.

He was an extraordinarily powerful grand supreme. Although he wasn't on par with the nine clawed golden dragon, he was only a hair lower. Huang Pang and Mo Fei didn't have the right to antagonize this level of powerhouse.

Lu Yun came to some answers after a round of deductions. Huang Pang and Mo Fei had been supremes back in the day, so those with grudges against them were also supremes—including the disciple of this grand supreme.

The death of a supreme-level disciple typically didn't mean anything to a grand supreme. People died everyday in the chief worlds and a supreme was just an ordinary adult in the grand scheme of things.

However, the situation was different now. Huang Pang and Mo Fei were behind his disciple's death—the leaders of the Immortal Sect on Huang Pang. The grand supreme also wouldn't have dared raise a fuss if he walked the world by himself.

It so happened that there was an entire faction behind him.

Thus, he came and crushed an entire city as his greeting card, killing millions and even tens of millions of cultivators. He wanted to enrage Lu Yun and see how the World of Immortals would respond.

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"Huang Pang and Mo Fei, you once bullied and killed my disciple through superior numbers. I will have justice for my pitiable disciple today!" roared the grand supreme as he hurtled toward the capital city. He was seeking to land the same blow as before, one that held nothing back. Not only would it claim Huang Pang and Mo Fei's lives, but half of the major world would also be ruined.

While the couple was also at grand supreme, it hadn't been long since their breakthrough. Their cultivation levels were yet to stabilize, so they were completely unable to defend themselves against the blow.

Huangpang was the three hundred and sixty-fifth major world that the World of Immortals had claimed. It formed a chain with three hundred and sixty-four other major worlds of the chief worlds and constructed a complete immortal dao.

The World of Immortals possessed three thousand major worlds in the realm; the first three hundred and sixty-five were the foundations. It would be difficult for the three thousand major worlds to amount to anything if one of the original worlds was destroyed.

Far from expanding indiscriminately, the World of Immortals carefully took every step only after hundreds of millions of deductions. The three thousand worlds—three thousand and one, if including the world of immortals—were one such meticulously planned move. Their foundations were the immortal dao formed by the three hundred and sixty-five major worlds.

If something happened to Huangpang, so would the other three thousand be shaken.

The void split open in the nick of time as a ray of intersecting black and white light blasted into the grand supreme. He split apart like a porcelain object.

"Peak grand supreme!" his terrified voice rang out.

"Go to some other world if you want to throw your weight around. Do you have a death wish in picking one right under my nose?" Tailong uttered frostily.

The grand supreme knew nothing after that as he was... dead.

"Our thanks for the senior's aid!" Huang Pang and Mo Fei maintained their composure throughout the encounter. They manifested upon seeing Tailong take action and bowed in gratitude.

"Mm." No further sound was forthcoming from Tailong.

"Did you already know?" The nine clawed golden dragon looked at Lu Yun again. So the young man had been so displeased because so many immortals had died, not because he'd been worried for Huangpang's safety!

“The three hundred and sixty-five major worlds are the root of the World of Immortals. How can I possibly be so ill prepared?”

The other three hundred and sixty-four were under Jin Huo’s protection. This was the only one out of her reach because it was so close to the Firmament Prison. However, Tailong was present in the ruins and Lu Yun was his strategist. The young man’s territory was naturally his territory—Tailong wouldn’t idly sit by when someone sought to cause trouble.

Of course, destroying a city meant nothing to him. It was just a collection of ants in his eyes.

Lu Yun had yet to shift to that kind of mindset, so he viewed it as a precious collection of people. They were living beings with ideals and emotions. To be destroyed for no reason, just like that?

It was a very hard pill to swallow.

He had to choose a select few in the tomb of the empyrean supreme as he couldn’t save everyone, but here...

He waved the Gates of the Abyss open and a path unseen by the living unfurled from it. Souls of the dead from the grand supreme’s blow filtered to hell through the path. No one could see it, but the dragon close at hand clearly saw everything that Lu Yun did.

“This is not the mindset of the strong,” he pointed out. “Pity for the weak will only drag you into the abyss. Saints who seek to do good by the world ultimately become clay idols in temples.”

Lu Yun fell silent; he also understood this logic. He’d never pictured himself as a good guy. He was just a normal guy—a normal guy with modern thoughts.

Fuxi’s reformation of Earth had been very successful. The civilization of cultivation had been extinct on Earth in the past, but its awareness of thought was unparalleled in the chief worlds. Any Earthling, not just Lu Yun, would most likely possess a heart of sympathy. They would very probably picture themselves among the masses, the regular people.

They wouldn’t place themselves on a pedestal.

All life was born equal and everyone was equal. Those not of my race were sure to think different thoughts.

Such were Lu Yun’s principles. He only cared about humanity—the modern day immortals. He wouldn’t even blink if it was another race in front of him.

The Gates of the Abyss were open and the Yellow Springs Path stretched through an endless sea of Hell Flowers. Countless yin spirits and ghostly entities entered hell.

Kaboom!

A loud explosion sounded from the Firmament Prison. The void shook and Lu Yun jerked his head up.

“The dark peak grand supreme... it’s her!” He realized. Chu Xingran’s primary body was attacking Tailong!

She'd fully assimilated into the chief worlds and was no longer expelled by the realm. She could even cultivate and deploy the orders of the chief worlds for her own use. It'd been the dark peak grand supreme behind the supreme earlier.

She was making a move now to kill Tailong.

Chapter 2016: Realm of Illusion

Lu Yun didn't think that the dark peak grand supreme was a match for Tailong, but if he'd dared make a move, that meant he had aces up his sleeve to play. The young man wasn't planning on doing anything—he also wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to see what Tailong's trump cards were.

Tailong's earlier statement of campaigning through the realms made Lu Yun's scalp crawl. He was too mysterious. The young man had once asked Jin Huo, Hongjun, Fuxi, and even the heavenly emperor about the man—they didn't know anything either.

Perhaps Tailong was a peak grand supreme from a generation younger than all of them. Or perhaps he didn't come from the chief worlds, or even this part of existence.

"Do you know his background?" Lu Yun asked casually as he looked at the nine clawed golden dragon.

"Who?" asked the dragon, despite knowing full well who the young man referred to.

"Tailong."

"I do," was the surprising answer. Lu Yun glanced sharply at the dragon.

"I'll tell you his background if you give me the azure dragon ancestral god's power of creation," the nine clawed golden dragon smirked.

Lu Yun ignored him and turned his attention back to the Firmament Prison. He understood now that the grand supreme hadn't wanted to destroy Huangpang earlier, but to force Tailong into taking action.

Tailong's relationship with Lu Yun was no secret—in the eyes of the peak grand supremes, the former fell under the young man's banner. That blow had just been to raise Tailong's attention. His weaknesses would be apparent if he took the field, thereby creating openings for the dark peak grand supreme to take advantage of.

Thus, the enemy moved in while Tailong was still in motion.

The explosion was the collision of uncontrollable strength after the two of them exchanged numerous blows. Their clash blew the Firmament Prison to smithereens.

Thus marked the end of the Firmament Prison of the chief worlds. There wasn't even rubble left of it.

Tailong appeared as he always did—a young man in pristine robes, white teeth gleaming between red lips. He appeared completely harmless as he faced a young girl in black robes.

Black and white, boy and girl. It rather hearkened to the order of opposition.

Having lost the advantage, he was fully suppressed by the dark peak grand supreme. Giving way once meant constantly giving way. They flashed in and out of sight in the air, but a trickle of blood dribbled out of Tailong's lips.

"Tailong's injured!" Lu Yun frowned. "How was he hurt?"

He hadn't been bleeding when they met at the tomb of the empyrean prison, so this injury was a new development.

"See, this is the price of being a good person," the nine clawed golden dragon sighed. "If it wasn't for him saving Huangpang earlier, he wouldn't be caught flat-footed and his enemy wouldn't have the upper hand."

Being a true grand supreme, he saw things further than Lu Yun did. It was true that Tailong nursed an injury, but if he hadn't gotten involved moments ago, there would be nothing that the dark peak grand supreme could do against him. He might even kill his attacker instead.

"Tailong won't die." Lu Yun frowned and looked around him.

Tailong had traveled with Chen Xiao, Qing Buyi, and Lu Feng in the tomb of the empyrean supreme. Their friendship plainly ran deeper than being acquaintances; the other three wouldn't idly sit by while Tailong was being hunted down.

While the fight in the air didn't exude fearsome energy ripples, every grand supreme in the chief worlds should sense their struggle. Chen Xiao and the others should be here already.

But there was no sign of them, just Lu Yun.

Lu Yun had wanted to see Tailong's trump cards for himself, but the latter being gravely injured ran outside of his expectations.

"Jin Huo, what's going on?" Lu Yun could only reach out to Jin Huo since he didn't know where the others were. "...huh?"

That was strange, he couldn't communicate with Jin Huo! The void had been sealed off. Apart from sensing hell through the Tome of Life and Death, all of his connections to the outside world were severed.

The nine clawed golden dragon looked around with alarm.

"Eighteen peak grand supremes!" he gasped. "Eighteen peak grand supremes have blockaded the area. They're determined to kill Tailong!"

No matter how strong Tailong may be, he would die when faced with eighteen peak grand supremes—unless he was an empyrean supreme.

Only Lu Yun could save him now.

God couldn't send him Heavenfall, but if he utilized the power of nothing he kept in store, the enemies they faced would still be a joke.

Lu Yun looked at the nine clawed golden dragon; the latter's face was as white as a sheet. Complete eradication of everything in the area was a given when eighteen peak grand supremes descended upon the scene. Nothing would be left, and on top of it, they were being led by the peak dark grand supreme!

Even the dragon was facing his doom now.

Lu Yun remained staring fixedly at the dragon next to him.

"How do you know that there's eighteen peak grand supremes here?" he suddenly asked.

"Eh?" The dragon blinked, then chuckled. "Oh, so the gig is up."

Their surroundings dissolved. Huangpang was gone, the Firmament Prison was gone. All was replaced by an empty void. There was no sign of the tremendous battle from earlier. It was as if nothing had happened and it was all a dream.

"Realm of illusion," Lu Yun uttered softly.

There was no point in maintaining the illusion after the young man started doubting it. The nine clawed golden dragon's mission was a failure so long as Lu Yun didn't throw himself into saving Tailong.

The dragon in front of Lu Yun was indeed the nine clawed golden dragon that the young man was familiar with, yet he'd joined the banner of darkness a long time ago.

Lu Yun normally wouldn't be lulled by a minor illusion, but he'd fallen into the trap the moment the nine clawed golden dragon appeared. The dragon had continuously distracted him, especially when he blatantly mentioned that the young man was headed to the World Heart.

Distracted and restless, Lu Yun plunged headfirst into the realm of illusion.

If it wasn't for the dragon slipping up about the eighteen peak grand supremes and the baffling wound on Tailong, Lu Yun would still be blithely unaware.

Tailong would go into hiding if he was injured, as opposed to letting eighteen peak grand supremes surround him. The existence of the dark peak grand supreme was no secret, so he would certainly be on guard.

How would a mere nine clawed golden dragon know about the enemy if Tailong didn't?

The nine clawed golden dragon smiled at Lu Yun and slowly disappeared.

"We're not in the chief worlds," Lu Yun frowned. "But they think a little too highly of themselves if they're trying to trap me by taking me to another realm. Or are they trying to force me to use the power of nothing?"

He snorted. With the Gates of the Abyss constantly connected to hell, he could leave anytime he wished.

Chapter 2017 – Unexpected Immortals

"That place won't hold him. He can leave through the Gates of the Abyss." Two figures appeared outside of the Firmament Prison. Tailong and... Fuxi.

Tailong was the one speaking and he held the nine clawed golden dragon in his hand.

“There is no place beneath the heavens that can hold him if he wishes to leave,” Fuxi said quietly. “But if he understands the situation, he’ll stay there until he becomes a true grand supreme. Only that place in all the lands can help him ascend in the shortest amount of time possible.

“If he brashly heads to the World Heart without ascending to grand supreme first, only death will be in store for him. He doesn’t have much time left.” Fuxi looked to the distance with a meaningful look in his eyes.

“Are you sure... that Lu Yun’s treasure is that item?” Tailong frowned slightly.

“No,” Fuxi shook his head. “But no other possibility comes to mind given that the thing in the nothing covets Lu Yun’s book. It can only be that item that elicits greedy eyes from nihil.”

Fuxi called the being in the nothing as “that thing”. Plainly, he didn’t view it as a living being.

The nothing was nothing, there shouldn’t be anything within it.

“May he understand,” Tailong concluded.

.....

The Gates of the Abyss were open, but Lu Yun hesitated in front of them.

This was a strange place; he couldn’t sense any great dao or order around him. To him, this seemed to be a place of nothing. It was like when he first entered the fourth realm from the world of immortals. All was empty and a vast void.

Formula dao was ineffective here, but he somehow had a hunch that he would regret his actions if he left like this.

“Is there fortune to be had somewhere in this place?” He furrowed his brows and looked around, but still saw nothing. “This should be a plot from the dark peak grand supreme to probe my abilities. How can she possibly do something that would benefit me?”

He tried his best to come to some answers, but still had nothing for his efforts.

A tiny spark flashed in front of him at this time and his eyes subconsciously followed it. It streaked in front of him like a tiny meteor and vanished into the unending nothing.

Lu Yun dismissed the Gates of the Abyss without second thought and chased after it.

.....

“May the spirits of our ancestors protect us!” Crooned recitations from a far off distance filtered into Lu Yun’s ears.

Objects were beginning to come into sight. He saw a primitive tribe made of large and small humans—they knelt in front of a crude altar and worshiped it. The spark from earlier landed on the altar and formed flames invisible to mortal eyes.

“The power of sacrifice?” Lu Yun’s jaw dropped. He could tell that the spark that’d flared to life in front of him was the power of sacrifice. The tribe had exchanged their sacrifice for power from an unknown existence in the void.

Although they worshiped their ancestor, said ancestor had either long reincarnated into their next life or scattered to the four winds. They had possibly become a will of death drifting through the void. Thus, the one they worshiped was the master of the altar.

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Lu Yun found that the void around him was beginning to recede, replaced by blue skies and green hills. He’d somehow blundered into a real world!

Order and great dao wove themselves into a vast heaven and earth. This place was stronger than any he’d seen thus far—even mightier than the internal world of the Tome of Life and Death!

His mouth turned dry. He could tell that if he cultivated here, his strength would leap forward and he’d become a grand supreme in the shortest period of time possible!

“What is this place?? Why is there such a powerful world here?? This doesn’t make any sense!” Lu Yun couldn’t understand it.

The world inside the Tome of Life and Death was strong enough that the order born from it could support the entire World of Immortals and possibly even the chief worlds. But compared to the one in front of him, it was still a hair weaker.

“As expected, the wonders of existence are not something that a minor being like me can comprehend.” Lu Yun lowered his head and looked at the tiny human tribe. They were fighting another tribe now and the invisible flame jumped on the altar. It released its maximum power to reinforce its tribe.

“Fellow daoist, the wars of mortals must be freely decided. They are not something that we cultivators can interfere in.” A voice far away, yet close at hand sounded in Lu Yun’s ears. He didn’t understand the language, but he could comprehend the emotions within.

He reflexively operated formula dao to deduce the local language from that short sentence.

“I naturally won’t interfere in the affairs of mortals, but their wars are also part of the heavenly dao. Even a grain of sand might hold three thousand worlds, to say nothing of mortal clashes,” Lu Yun chuckled.

He faced a handsome man dressed in dao robes. Tall and limber, an ethereal air wrapped around his body. What surprised Lu Yun was that ripples of immortal dao traveled from the other.

Immortal dao!

This person walked the immortal path, he was an immortal!

But there was no sign of the immortal dao to be seen in this world!

Have I ended up in the past again? Lu Yun swung his head back and forth. No... the Gates of the Abyss are still connected to hell. I haven't traveled through time. That set him more at ease. He wouldn't know how to get home if he traveled through time once more. He wasn't a spacetime traveler.

The appearance of this immortal meant that there were other realms in existence that cultivated immortal dao, and they were realms ruled by humans!

"I see." The immortal nodded upon hearing Lu Yun's words. "Fellow daoist is already a high supreme, so do remember that you cannot intervene in the affairs of mortals. You will attract fatal attention otherwise.

"Farewell." The man floated away, seemingly having arrived here just to tell Lu Yun that he could not interfere in what he saw.

Lu Yun cocked his head and looked at the altar on the ground. The sacrificial fire still burned and imbued the tribe's warriors with a marvelous power, granting them increasing strength in battle.

Cultivators could not intervene in the affairs of mortals... but this altar was plainly the product of a cultivator.

Chapter 2018: That Weak?

Lu Yun sank into deep contemplation, not over what the immortal had said or why there were immortals here, but whether or not this world was real.

Formula dao could operate without a hitch and deduce the answers he needed, which was why he'd immediately learned the immortal's language. But he still questioned what he saw as he'd experienced a realm of illusion moments ago. Illusion had lured him here and he'd dwelled within it without questioning anything. He'd also employed formula dao then—everything had been normal.

Just like things now.

He suddenly quite understood the feeling of being once bitten, twice shy.

"Forget it, I'm not thinking about it anymore. Since I'm here, I'll just go with the flow. This is a place where I can come and go as I wish, so what if it's a realm of illusion?" Lu Yun couldn't be bothered with the particulars after thinking about it some more.

No matter what, the order of heaven and earth here was real. If all of this really was an illusion, then it wasn't something that living beings had the power to create.

.....

Seeing as the speed of cultivation in this world was nearly one thousand times faster than in the chief worlds, Lu Yun decided to stay for a while so he could cultivate. After giving a series of instructions to the Yama Kings, he sought out a cave to meditate.

It was only a matter of time before he became a grand supreme, he possessed everything he needed to take that final step. The time he needed wasn't the passage of time in the outside world, but the amount of time spent communicating with the order of heaven and earth and the great dao of the world.

Even if the flow of time increased by millions of times in the outside world, the time of great dao and order still wouldn't change.

This world was so strong that its orders and great dao reached unfathomable heights. Lu Yun didn't need to consider the issue of time when he cultivated here. His initial calculations told him that here, he needed only the equivalent of ten years in the World of Immortals to ascend to grand supreme!

If he was still in the World of Immortals, he would need ten thousand years, or even longer! That was already an incredibly fast speed for ordinary high supremes, but too long for Lu Yun.

The two tribes beneath him clashed in heated battle. He observed for a little while before leaving.

.....

"Did you get a good look at the person?" The immortal from earlier returned when Lu Yun left. A woman in black robes stood next to him; she frowned in the direction that the young man had departed in.

"It's a very strange great dao." The immortal dao wrapped around the immortal had disappeared—a tiny bit of it circled his fingertip.

He wasn't a real immortal. He'd transformed into one to fool Lu Yun after analyzing the great dao on the young man through certain methods. It wasn't a flawless disguise, so Lu Yun began to doubt the veracity of the world after detecting certain inconsistencies with the other "immortal".

"I've never seen it before." The hint of immortal dao faded from the man's fingertip.

"An outsider?" The woman's lips curved coolly. "So outsiders have come again. Do they have designs on our world?"

"Kill him," the man said. "Our world is the only patch of purity in existence. Any outsider who dares come must die."

"Should we notify the exalted grand supreme?" asked the woman.

"No, it's just a high supreme, and one from the outside. The two of us can easily kill him," the man rebuffed with confidence. "After him!"

He blurred into motion and caught up with Lu Yun, who was still searching for a place to cultivate.

"Eh?" Lu Yun noticed the disturbance behind him—the immortal from earlier. He wasn't an immortal anymore, but an unknown cultivator. Lu Yun could feel his domineering killing intent coming from miles away.

"So he was just feeling me out earlier?" Lu Yun paused and balled his hand into a fist, punching out with Darkstar.

KABOOM!

An enormous explosion ripped through the air. The man was hit just as he approached Lu Yun. He didn't have time to make his move before he was reduced to dust and drifted apart on the air.

“He’s... dead? He’s that weak?” Lu Yun blinked. He’d pulled most of his punch because he just wanted to injure the other, not kill him. Who would’ve thought that the forcefully approaching man couldn’t withstand even one of his blows?

“What?!” The woman following close behind jumped with shock and immediately turned around, fleeing in a panic.

The man was her senior brother and a peak high supreme. Someone who’d killed him with one punch was a true grand supreme, not a high supreme!

“Weirdos.” Lu Yun carefully probed the surroundings and discovered that the man hadn’t entered the Gates of the Abyss as an Infernum. “Is he a creature from the land of darkness? No... he’s not an endarkened.”

He furrowed his brows. “He rejects me from his very bones, the kind that would rather die than submit. What’s going on? Does he somehow hold a grudge against me? Or does he nurse one against the chief worlds?”

He looked around blankly, sensing a lack of repulsion from the local heavens and earth. So this world didn’t reject him on principle. Then what’d happened earlier didn’t make sense! Normally speaking, the endarkened didn’t become his Infernum because the orders of the Infinite Deorc compelled them so. If he was in the darkness, he would constantly feel that its major order—disorder—wanted to expel him from the fundamental particles of its being.

“What a weird world and weird inhabitants.” he scratched his head and continued looking for a cave.

All the same, he understood that he couldn’t remain here for long. Lu Yun had just killed a high supreme and one had gotten away. He’d been in for a world of trouble if they sent their patrons and backers.

Grand supremes were one thing—he could absolutely withstand one with his current strength. But if a peak grand supreme came? There wouldn’t be much he could do to save himself.

Thus, he called upon the Boundless Step and disappeared from the area.

.....

“An outsider killed Yue Lu with one move?” A grand supreme dressed in gold considered the fleeing woman with an ominous expression. “So outsiders have come upon us again...”

“Yes! The outsider looks to be just a high supreme, but senior brother Sue Lu couldn’t take even one of his blows. He was beaten to death!” the woman answered with trepidation.

“I see now,” the grand supreme nodded. “Take me to him.”

Chapter 2019 – Maggots

Lu Yun didn’t know that a grand supreme had him in their sights. His current goal was to ascend to grand supreme and leave this place. At the same time, he wasn’t naive enough to think that no one would be coming for him after he killed a high supreme.

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He was an indeterminable distance away from his previous location and had changed his form with the Shapeshifting death art. Lu Yun now walked this unknown world as a completely different being. After a series of calculations, he changed the ripples of his great dao to that of the man he'd just killed.

Although he neither cultivated the local great dao and nor knew the man's cultivation methods, he changed into the man via Shapeshifting and also emulated the presence of the person's great dao.

After the Tome of Life and Death transformed from an ancient bronze book into a bamboo scroll, its death arts further evolved. Shapeshifting could now emulate the specific aura of a great dao.

While Lu Yun didn't know why the man wanted to kill him, the other didn't turn into an Infernum upon his death. That was enough to demonstrate that he abhorred Lu Yun from the core essence of his being—abhorred outsiders.

If LU Yun didn't want to be hated, he had to turn into a local.

"The spirit qi here is the most primitive example of qi and applicable to all sorts of great dao. Even the great dao here is wholly without attributes..." Lu Yun stood by the shore of a tiny lake and quietly perceived the heaven and earth around him. He was discovering that this world was natural and primitive, untouched by any great dao or order.

"Is this a world of sequence?" His eyes shot open with surprise. This world was remarkably similar to the Myriadsea World that he'd once visited. But that had been a fake world and one affected by many great daos.

This seemed to be a real... prehistoric... world of sequence unclaimed by any great dao or order. Any great dao and any sequence could coexist with the others here, including immortal dao.

Although there was no overarching great dao or order, he could see millions upon millions of great daos. They were incredibly strong—mightier than any Lu Yun had seen thus far. However, none of them occupied the world as its sole ruler.

In lieu of that, they could only... exist here.

Indeed, just exist.

The phrase popped into Lu Yun's mind for some reason. He was thinking of his previous conversation with Mo Yi and the Dao King, that everyone's existence and the world they knew wasn't real. That everything was the product of an incredibly powerful being that'd died in the nihil.

Tailong had also mentioned that there was a sword at the World Heart that was key to killing that venerated being. That they might come back to life if the sword was pulled out.

"Order is objective, but sequence is subjective. Heaven and earth can theoretically give birth to a variety of worlds of sequence, but someone needed to create it in that world..." The more Lu Yun thought about it, the more he felt that Mo Yi and the others were right. It also seemed that the world he was in was a real world.

"A real world, a real existence.! Is this a world opposing nonexistence and the nothing?" Lu Yun spread his arms out and took a deep breath. "But still, this place isn't home no matter how good it is. I'm going home as soon as I ascend to grand supreme."

A smile floated onto his face. Since formula dao could operate here, it could analyze everything about this world. If he could peer into their secrets, he would be able to turn his own world—the corpse of that unparalleled powerhouse—into a patch of real existence.

The caveat was that he needed to become a grand supreme first. He would have the right to seek the truth of his world only after that. Otherwise, all formula dao would be able to manage was just surface level information.

The tiny lake was a premier spot for cultivation. Qi was densely concentrated here and the ripples of great dao in the surroundings were uncommonly agitated. It was better than where he'd been before.

Lu Yun took a seat on the ground and silently operated the Method of Life and Death, entering a cultivation state.

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“That’s weird, there’s no sign of him.” When the black-robed woman returned to the scene of disaster, she found no traces of Lu Yun. Anxiety began to close in around her.

“That person is no fool. He won’t wait here for you to return after he committed murder.” The grand supreme in golden robes shook his head. “There is indeed the presence of an outsider here, but it vanishes later on. He must be skilled in some sort of presence concealment art.

“Go on back, I will notify my fellow daoists that an outsider has entered our world. This is not a good development—they are all maggots from the bodies of demons. The demons will soon follow them after they invade our world!” The grand supreme vanished on the spot.

This world was a real existence and countless outsiders had made their way here over endless eons. They’d all died very grisly deaths and their souls scattered upon the wind.

Their origins were the primary reason why. They were lives derived from corpses and thus carried the will of the one who’d died. Once they established themselves and flourished in this place, the terrifying existence might be reborn here and seek to claim the world.

Something similar had happened once before and this world paid an untold price to cleanse itself of the outsiders. After that, eliminating all outsiders became its ironclad law. Whether it was formidable heavyweights in the nothing or “maggots” from fallen powerhouses, they were hunted down without mercy as soon as they entered this world.

This patch of existence was objective and opposed the unending nonexistence, so it didn’t repel any form of life. It was the local inhabitants that expelled outsiders.

The news of the arrival of an outsider immediately spread through the region. This part of true existence was so vast that one grand supreme wasn’t able to spread the news too far. Of course, he also didn’t think that the outsider could get too far.

There were countless grand supremes, some peak grand supremes, and even an empyrean supreme on guard in nearby proximity. It would be too easy for them to locate an outsider.

Cultivators took to the sky like a horde of locusts and covered the skies. Powerful consciousnesses swept over a million kilometers as a looming pair of eyes opened in the void and honed in on everything within one hundred and fifty million kilometers.

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Lu Yun was already more than one hundred and fifty million kilometers away. In fact, he was ten times that distance.

However, he underestimated the resolution of the local inhabitants. When they failed to locate him within one hundred and fifty million kilometers, more and more eyes appeared in the void. They seemed bent on searching through every single corner of the world.

Chapter 2020 – A Lagging World

“Hmm?” Sitting cross-legged by the banks of the minuscule lake, Lu Yun finally discovered that something was off. He raised his head to see a pair of icy-blue eyes staring straight at him.

It felt like it saw through everything that was him—scanning every single one of his cells and peering into his tiniest hair. Everything but the Tome of Life and Death!

The Tome of Life and Death!

That was his greatest weapon and his greatest weakness. The eye had honed in on him because it couldn't see through the treasure.

Lu Yun yelped and turned into a particle of dust, throwing himself into the lake. At the same time, an exceedingly weak, yet remarkably strong will emanated from the eye.

Countless powerhouses received its message at the same time and converged on this location. Not only had the eye conveyed Lu Yun's appearance, but even the aura of his soul, the oddness of his nascent spirit, and the particle of dust that he'd turned into was fully relayed.

Joint calculations from several people quickly determined that the nascent spirit stymieing even an eye of great dao must come from the outside world.

High supremes weren't powerhouses in this world; they were only ants in front of the grand supremes, peak grand supremes, and empyrean supremes. But high supremes from the outside world were different. They entered this world with the will of the demons beyond. It would be an utter disaster once they constructed a transportation formation or some sort of altar.

Up in the air, the eye of great dao was firmly locked onto Lu Yun. It would track the Tome of Life and Death no matter what the young man turned into. Shapeshifting could change the treasure's master, but not the treasure itself!

The Tome of Life and Death was Lu Yun's nascent spirit. Although it demonstrated certain marvelous uses at critical moments to help its master through the crisis at hand, more often than not, it was Lu Yun who called upon it.

Currently, his utilization of the treasure was limited by how much strength he possessed. As he was only a high supreme at the moment, the Tome of Life and Death was limited to the level of a high supreme.

The eye in the sky wasn't from the combat art of a living being—it was an eye of the great dao. The great dao of this world had coalesced into something similar to a rule and a pattern. That was why it was able to hone in on the Tome of Life and Death. Theoretically speaking, it shared the same origins as Lu Yun's treasure.

The powerhouses of this world traveled at fast speeds. A dozen grand supremes assembled at the tiny lake—including the grand supreme in golden robes from earlier.

"There are indeed traces of cultivation here, and it belongs to a great dao that we've never seen before!" A grand supreme whose body was so red that it seemed like he was on fire frowned at the discovery.

"The eye of great dao is never wrong," Gold Robes answered matter-of-factly. "According to its feedback, the person is now a grain of sand that's melded into the lake in front of us. The seventeen of us shall join hands to refine this lake!"

"Join hands? That's showing this outsider too much respect," grumbled Red Flames.

"We need to bring our full strength to bear against outsiders, even if they are only an ant!" hectored a man in green robes. "Set up the formation!"

The seventeen grand supremes moved adroitly, surrounding the lake under guidance from the eye of great dao. A formation dropped down from the sky and began refining the lake.

Although it was a lake to them, it would be a vast sea anywhere else. Accordingly, there were countless beings that lived inside... but they were now all caught inside the array.

The denizens of this world would rather kill innocents than run the risk of letting an outsider get away!

"Venerated grand supremes, what is the meaning of this?!" A shocked high supreme abruptly charged out of the waters and rushed toward them upon the waves.

"An outsider has entered your territory, so I'm afraid you must be inconvenienced for the sake of preventing future disaster," Gold Robes responded expressionlessly.

Hand seals flew from his hands as he spoke and shot into the formation, enhancing its might to the maximum. The lake was enveloped by something that seemed akin to both fire and water; all of its inhabitants keened as they were turned to ashes.

"Stop!! Stop!!" screamed the high supreme on the lake. "I am the disciple of the Thalassic Peak Grand Supreme! This is the peak grand supreme's territory!! You, you guys!!"

"The Thalassic Peak Grand Supreme has been notified and it is with her permission that we refine this lake," Green Robes remarked. "The outsider is adept at transformation, so everything in this lake must die. We must erroneously kill a hundred million to not let even one through!"

"Kill!" The seventeen grand supremes brought their strongest power to bear and operated the formation with its peak power.

BOOM!

The remaining waters that were yet to be fully refined suddenly exploded upward in a geyser, forming a massive fist that punched the formation. Backlash recoiled onto seventeen grand supremes and they jointly spat out a mouthful of blood.

“The cultivators of this world... are pathetically weak,” Lu Yun’s voice sounded. “You would rather kill a hundred million in error to not let even one through? How do your actions set you apart from demons?”

He emerged from the waters and slowly rose into the air. The seventeen grand supremes looked at him with fearful surprise.

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“Are you a peak grand supreme?!” Gold Robes, in particular, was aghast.

“No, I am a high supreme.” Lu Yun looked at his hands and murmured, “I thought the fellow I met earlier just wasn’t skilled at battle and more learned in arts that emulate great dao, but it turns out that the cultivators of this world are far behind the times.”

While the formation looked invincible to the inhabitants of the lake and unquestionably domineering, it was full of holes to Lu Yun. In fact, it might as well be made of paper!

Although these seventeen grand supremes possessed the strength and cultivation level of grand supremes, their methods were laughably weak. Any supreme from the chief worlds could wipe the floor with them, to say nothing of Lu Yun!

It was so comfortable here and all sorts of great dao available at one’s fingertips that its cultivators had lost any sense of ambition. The local combat arts and dao methods remained stagnant from a very ancient age.

The knowledge and treasures of the ancients were the best?

No, the times were constantly improving and advancing. Anything that couldn’t keep up was destroyed.

It was no wonder that the cultivators of this world were terrified of outsiders.