

Necropolis 371

Chapter 371: Graveyard

The two-headed zombie was dead; there were no further ripples of life from the phoenix and dragon heads.

Lu Yun didn't spare the other immortals a glance. With a wave of his hand, a white path manifested before him and punched a hole through space, spanning across the tomb to reach the ghost tree, where Qing Han waited.

The Ingress Path.

The Nephrite treasure was the only thing capable of transcending space and connecting the two places.

Qing Han was currently suppressing an endless swarm of ghosts and evils at the tree with the luopan. The two-headed zombie may have fallen, but other unearthly creatures, including the ghost tree, had grown only fiercer.

Ghost Dragon's face was so pale that it was translucent. A vast water realm had appeared by his side, within which a ghastly white ghost face was slowly stirring to life.

"Take this." Lu Yun readied himself to throw the zombie's body to them with a wave of his hand.

"Wait!" Ghost Dragon shouted urgently. "Cut off its phoenix head and throw just that to us. Don't let its body shift to this place!"

After a startled blink, Lu Yun dropped the zombie and slashed at the phoenix head with a burst of sword energy from the Sugato Sword.

Clang!

Sparks flew as the sword connected the phoenix head's neck, but it failed to decapitate its target.

"Hurry up!" Ghost Dragon urged when he saw Lu Yun fail. "Or it'll come back to life again!"

Lu Yun had noticed the slight wave of energy rising from the dead zombie. If it resurrected, his layout of heaven and earth wouldn't be able to keep it down again.

Swoosh!

Fey purple light flashed in Lu Yun's hand. Violetgrave!

The moment Violetgrave was summoned, Lu Yun felt a slight tremor pass through both the phoenix nest and the dragon nest on the other side of the Ingress Path.

Violet sword energy slashed at the phoenix head, and, with a thud, black blood geysered out of the cut surface. Violetgrave had sliced through the zombie that had stumped the Sugato Sword like a hot knife through butter.

"Violetgrave...." Ghost Dragon stared at the sword with a trace of fear.

He hadn't ever seen or even heard about the sword, but somehow, the name came unbidden to him. Something about the ninth-rank sword radiating a strange violet light evoked an instinctual fear in him.

"Take it!" Lu Yun kicked the head to the other side of the Ingress Path. Then, the treasure slowly retreated.

"I'll return once I find the Skydragon Pearl and the Skyphoenix Pearl. Be careful, don't pull any punches if dangers arise, and... keep an eye on Ghost Dragon." A little spark of black flame carried Lu Yun's message to Qing Han's mind. He hadn't transmitted directly to his friend since Ghost Dragon had already shown he could intercept transmissions.

Qing Han nodded and looked meaningfully at Lu Yun.

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The immortals that'd already been present in the altar gaped at Lu Yun and the hundred and eight peerless immortals guarding him. What exactly was going on here?

They'd stumbled into the phoenix nest by accident and discovered the graveyard here. Since then, they'd been raiding the burial pits and handful of ancient tombs in a nonstop frenzy. As they'd been on the Fire Altar, they were cut off from the outside world by its power. None of them had any idea what'd happened in the dragon tomb.

"What the hell are you up to, Lu Yun?" An immortal in black robe with a fine sword on his back scattered the group of peerless immortals with a great swell of power. It was Canghai Xi, an eight-fruit arcane dao immortal from the Dark North Sword Sect and the father of Canghai Chengfeng and Canghai Chengkong.

Rather than fall under the North Sea Court's rule, the sect was one of the legs in the triumvirate ruling over the North Sea. They'd formed a united front to exert authority over the vast sea, or the North Sea would've long been invaded by other factions.

An enemy of the North Sea court was an enemy of the Dark North Sword Sect and Ingress Island.

Canghai Chengkong gave Lu Yun a pleading look, nervous that his father was about to make a move against Lu Yun.

"What can a mere cultivator like me do? There's opportunities and treasures left by ancient immortals everywhere here. Don't you think you're being paranoid in going after me, a cultivator, rather than looking for treasure?"

That gave the approaching immortals pause. Not everyone here saw him as an enemy. In fact, most only gave him a cursory glance before returning to what they were doing.

Hum.

From the northern part of the void came a phoenix cry while crimson light surged and reached for the dome. A powerful treasure had been unearthed!

Canghai Xi stopped in hesitation. In the end, he rushed toward the red light. Judging from the energy the light emitted, the treasure must be at least connate grade! Many elites were already facing off over it.

“What are you still dithering around for?” Lu Yun looked at the peerless immortals around him. “Go find yourselves some treasures!”

The peerless immortals blinked, cupped their hands at him, and scattered.

With the power of the altar dissipating, he could finally get a good look at the phoenix nest. It was a graveyard, but also a battleground.

Here rested the elites of the phoenix clan, serving a similar role as the burial chambers in the dragon nest. However, the nest itself had later become a battlefield for many an epic clash. Lu Yun activated his Spectral Eye and scanned dense clusters of information about the dead. What caught him off guard was that there were humans, monster spirits, demons, and many other strange races he’d never heard about.

More importantly, their death dated back to vastly different eras. Some were from millions of years ago, while some were from hundreds of thousands of years ago. There were even deaths from ten thousand years ago.

Are the dragon and phoenix nest not closed off? Is there another exit? Curiosity struck Lu Yun.

That can wait, though. The nine-headed phoenix said the Skydragon Pearl and Skyphoenix Pearl can be found at the intersection of the two tombs. He quirked his brows bemusedly.

The intersection referred not to where the two tombs physically met, but where the energy radiating from the two tombs met, and created a resulting world. The place he’d found the two-headed zombie was his destination.

However, it’d vanished into thin air the moment he killed the zombie. It wouldn’t be easy for him to locate it again.

“Ah, wait... Xiaoxiao should be able to find it!” Lu Yun’s eyes lit up.

“Hmmm,” a strange, lazy voice burrowed into his ear before he could summon Su Xiaoxiao.

Chapter 372: Seal

“Aaaaaah...” a long, nasally yawn followed; it sounded like a girl stretching lazily after a catnap.

“Violetgrave!” Lu Yun’s eyes lit up. “Have you slept enough?”

“No...” Violetgrave murmured in a distinctly languid, coquettish sort of way. “I sensed... someone familiar. I... just wanted a look.”

“Someone familiar? Who?” Lu Yun blinked. He scanned his surroundings, but only saw the watchful silently Situ Zong nearby. There was no one else.

“I woke up... late. He left already.” Violetgrave yawned again, her voice growing fainter and fainter. “Oh well... ‘m goin’... back to bed.”

“Hold on!” Lu Yun cut in hurriedly. “There’s a secret realm here, can you find it for me?”

Hum...

In the next moment, the sword in his hands discharged a ray of hazy violet. It sliced across what seemed to be empty space, revealing an enormous dimensional fissure before him.

“Ah, you got it. Thanks!” The young man’s gratitude went unanswered; Violetgrave had already gone back to sleep.

“That ‘someone familiar’... could it be Qi Hai, or the other person latched onto his spirit?” Lu Yun frowned slightly, but promptly stepped into the fissure. Now wasn’t the time for such deliberations.

“Look! Lu Yun’s found a completely new secret realm. There must be valuable treasure inside!”

“Come, let’s follow him!” The immortals who’d been keeping an eye on Lu Yun all this time were quite excited. They tried to stay on the young man’s heels, but Situ Zong and the cannon he carried stood in their way as a powerful deterrent. When the old man pointed its barrel at them, their faces colored in instinctive fear.

“Let those suicidal fools come in, Situ,” Lu Yun said, noticing the goings-on outside.

Nodding in deference, Situ Zong leaned to the side to permit passage.

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The young man ignored the would-be freeloaders, focusing intently on the Dragonsearch Invocation to lead him to the Skydragon and Skyphoenix pearls.

But...

There were no tombs to be found here.

No... hmm... they shouldn’t be inside a tomb...

The pearls are treasures created by a dragon and phoenix above the dao immortal realm. If they were buried anywhere, they should’ve been with the burial mounds out there.

A sparkling coin appeared in his hand: the Treasurefall Coin.

He’d stuck it on the Fire Parasol Tree earlier, but the coin had fled back to him when the illusion was dispelled by the ghost tree. As soon as he produced the coin, it floated into the air. However, something seemed to trouble it from there on. It fluttered left, then right, uncertain of which direction to go.

“There are two treasures here of equal value, but they’re scattered in two different directions. That’s why the coin is having trouble,” observed Lu Yun. Remembering a joke from back on Earth, he followed up with a sheepish laugh. “What, is the Treasurefall Coin a Libra or something? Everyone knows that everyone with that horoscope is wishy-washy and sucks at making decisions.”

“Look, everyone! That’s the legendary Treasurefall Coin! If it’s acting like that, there must be treasure here!” Some of the immortals who’d followed after him were quite knowledgeable and quickly grasped what was going on.

“The Treasurefall Coin can’t decide between left or right... which means there’s treasures in both directions. Let’s get them!” Splitting into two frenzied hordes, the immortals bayed with greed and charged down two opposite routes.

“Aowrrrrr!” Resounding roars boomed through the realm, followed by a dozen two-headed zombies popping into existence, each of them at least as strong as a peerless immortal.

They were identical to the one Lu Yun had seen in the tomb of yin and yang back on Levitating Island. Those caught off-guard by the zombies were promptly torn apart, and their damaged spirits eaten before they could flee.

“Lu Yun!” screamed a golden immortal whose arm had been chewed off. “You meant to harm us after all! You led us here to feed the zombies!”

He was loud enough to project his voice out of the demiplane and into the graveyard outside.

“How absurd!” Before Lu Yun could reply, Situ Zong snickered on his master’s behalf. “You followed us of your own accord. What does your decision have to do with my sect head?”

As he spoke, he squeezed a two-headed zombie so hard that it exploded. Being a peak aether dao immortal, he found the zombies here trivial to deal with.

“Scram!” In the next moment, Situ Zong unleashed his full demonic aura as a Star Demon heavyweight.

“He’s a dao immortal of the Star Demon Sect... run!” an immortal shrieked in terror.

The Star Demon Sect was notorious for the amount of bloodshed it had caused in the world of immortals, so much so that countless people would blanch at the merest mention of its name. Simply revealing his origin was enough for Situ Zong to daunt these immortals.

“Lu Yun is the head of the Star Demon Sect?! So we were right all along about him being a plague upon the world!” many wailed as they ran for dear life.

The Fire Altar had sealed off communication before, which prevented the immortals here from learning what had happened outside. Now, hearing someone from the Star Demon Sect hailing Lu Yun as ‘Sect Head’ had both frightened and shocked them, and they scrambled out of the minor world as quickly as they’d come.

The eyes of the dao immortals outside shone with avarice, but no one took a step into the fissure. Their senses told them there was a great horror within the minor world that Lu Yun had opened up. There was treasure there, yes, but also something horrendous enough to make their hearts tremble.

The two-headed zombies weren’t the cause. There was another, more sinister evil lurking in its depth!

Lu Yun had noticed it himself, which was why he’d told Situ Zong to let the immortals in. If they wanted to die, he certainly wasn’t going to stop them. Most of those who’d come in after him were hostile to him in some way, anyway.

There was something else to preoccupy the dao immortals outside, however. The fiery connate treasure had finally come out into the open, burning like a small sun in the air above them.

Even more immortals bolted for the treasure in an attempt to acquire it, while several arcane dao immortals began blatantly cutting down the crowd. After all, acquiring a connate-grade treasure required sufficient strength in addition to luck.

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“The Skydragon and Skyphoenix pearls have formed a seal of water and fire. That’s what’s keeping the great horror here, in the intersection between the dragon and phoenix nests.

“What... could it be?” Lu Yun began sweeping the place with his Spectral Eye.

Chapter 373: The Shaman and the Blood Qilin

The minor world created by the intersection between dragon and phoenix nests was filled with a tremendous amount of death-related information. Clearly, Lu Yun wasn’t the first person to set foot in here. Everyone who had done so before him, however, was dead. Among that number were plenty of dao immortals, including some at origin dao.

Because there were no tombs here, he forced himself to reframe his analysis in a different way. What about the feng shui here?

Just like outside, there too existed a fire and water layout here. The mixture of the two elements had engendered a kind of power of creation, from which the two-headed zombies had sprung.

However, the other end of the layout held a grand sealing formation!

Within the two formation nexus sat the Skydragon and Skyphoenix pearls. The formation bore the momentous responsibility of sealing whatever horror Lu Yun and the others had sensed.

If he took away the pearls, the horror would be instantly released.

After a moment of hesitation, Lu Yun opened his fingers around a black orb that rose into the air.

The Yin Formation Orb.

“I’d like to see exactly what’s under the seal first. The formation is powerful, but it’s no match for the Formation Orb.

“Block the entrance, Situ. Blast whoever dares trespass into smithereens.” Lu Yun loaded ten billion immortal crystals into the cannon with the wave of a hand, then released his control over the weapon.

“Yes, sir!” Situ Zong glowed with eagerness and noticed a newfound connection between the cannon and himself. The young sect head had made a present of it to him.

Shaking all over with anticipation, he annihilated the dozen zombies as fast as he could before heading back to the entrance. After pointing the cannon’s barrel squarely at the outside world, he took a watchful stance as a gate guard.

Under the light of the Yin Formation Orb, everything about the sealing formation was laid bare. Lu Yun traced the structured lines of the formation in wide strides. The Path of Ingress appeared beneath his feet, slowly taking him into its depths.

“What a mess. This is more complicated than the Witherdew Emperor’s Blithe Entrapment Formation... there’s at least ten thousand formations here.” He was taking in as much as he could as he moved.

This grand sealing formation was made up of more than ten thousand individual sealing formations. Layer upon layer of restrictive bindings seemed to amplify each other in waves. In this way, the formation had become more than the sum of its parts.

The Formation Orb and the Path of Ingress were proving invaluable in helping Lu Yun plumb the depths of this formation. He would've had an extremely difficult time finding his way without them.

"Wait a sec... that's a... planet." Perking up with the discovery, he peered deeply at a deep blue planet that floated at the center of the formation like a marble. The formation's power pressed down upon it relentlessly in a myriad of layers.

A planet....

After obtaining so many Envoys of Samsara, Lu Yun had learned the truth behind the world of immortals. Su Xiaoxiao had made some of the greatest contributions to completing the puzzle.

This world that he'd transmigrated to wasn't just any regular heavenly body. Among the many worlds of the universe, the world of immortals was one of the greatest and realest worlds of them all.

It was the heart of the multiverse.

Besides the world of immortals, countless other great worlds existed. Of course, the stars in this world's sky carried their own life-bearing planets. The planet before him—one that in fact resembled Earth very much—was one that could have borne life. And yet no signs of such life were found there.

"This planet is the core of the formation. What the heck is under the seal that it needs an entire planet with the power of a world...?" Furrowing his brow in worry, Lu Yun strode deliberately toward the planet.

Suddenly, he paused his footsteps on account of someone he saw outside the planet: a black-haired girl in a black robe, perhaps fourteen or fifteen years old, quietly seated upon a crimson mass.

Her face was deathly pale and her eyes screwed firmly shut. She held a long spear in one hand, the pointy end of which was stuck between the eyes of the monstrous mass below. In this way, the monster was nailed at the edge of the sealing formation's core.

Evidently, the girl in black had died as a part of the effort.

"Xing Zi. Daughter of the shaman king of the Star Shaman Tribe. ...a member of the shamanic race!" Lu Yun was shocked out of his Spectral Eye by the girl's identity.

The shamans.

In the ancient times, that race had captured several dao immortal dragons and refined them into corpse coffins. They'd rebuffed the dragons' attempts at revenge and defied even the immortal emperor in the process.

They were mysterious, powerful, and terrifying. Even Empress Myrtlestar couldn't fully explain what they were. Eighty thousand years ago, they had reappeared to refine the divine Jixiang Yueshen into a corpse coffin, in which they interred her friend, Wushen Ruyi.

To see the corpse of a shaman girl here was really something else. Moreover, she had slain a huge monster like that, with a single spear, outside the formation's core.

"This crimson monster, then...." He glanced at the pierced mass. "A blood qilin." The corner of his eye twitched.

Much like a blood phoenix, this was a demon that combined life and layout into a single being, and its appearance always heralded cataclysm and war.

"This blood qilin has already eaten who it was in its previous life. It's complete. It's not like Huangqing and Aoxue...." Lu Yun couldn't turn the blood qilin into another envoy.

He'd succeeded with the blood dragon and blood phoenix by reviving their previous incarnations. Then, the newborn envoy could consume their blood form.

However, the blood qilin before him had already fused with its previous incarnation. It was a perfect specimen, a completed demon of blood. At present, Lu Yun lacked the ability to take an existence like that as an envoy.

"Well, I'm fine with settling for the girl who killed it." The young man turned to the little girl above the qilin's head.

Although the blood qilin had doubtless been incredibly potent—it was unquestionably stronger than the old Huang Qing and Ao Xue—it had died at the hands of this Xing Zi girl.

It was very likely that the shaman girl had been greater still.

"I should keep the blood qilin's corpse, too. It's an undying demon. The only reason it's not absorbing life energy from its surroundings is because of the sealing formation. That'll definitely change once the formation collapses.

"Come!" Lu Yun opened the Gates of the Abyss, which sucked in the blood qilin and shaman girl both.

Chapter 374: Enneaqilin Coffinbiers

Hell.

"Hm? How long have I been asleep for?" murmured a little girl in a lilting voice, shaking the grogginess out of her mind. An ear-piercing shriek rang out when realization of the situation hit her.

"Where are my clothes?! Where are they??" Wailing to high heavens, she knelt down and curled up on herself.

Lu Yun smacked his forehead. Has she always been a dork, or does she just have a long reaction time?

It took quite some time for the girl to recover from her shock. Remaining hunched on the ground, she hugged her knees tightly to her chest and snuck nervous looks at Lu Yun.

"I remember killing the blood qilin and falling asleep from exhaustion. How did I end up dead?" Her lip quavered, on the verge of tears again.

With a wave of his hand, Lu Yun restored the robe that'd been consumed by hellfire and flung it back over Xingzi.

She was fourteen, the same age she'd been when slaying the blood qilin at the cost of her own life. After an epic battle that raged for seven days and nights, she'd finally killed the qilin, then died as well from exhaustion.

Unlike other races, the shamanic race consisted of regular citizens and three royal tribes: the Sun Shaman Tribe, Moon Shaman Tribe, and Star Shaman Tribe.

As a princess of the Star Shaman Tribe, Xing Zi had been the youngest daughter of the tribe's king and the greatest genius the shamanic race had ever seen. Born with an innate shaman constitution, her cultivation and strength at the tender age of fourteen had nigh reached the level of the kings of the three royal tribes.

Shamanic dao had been very prosperous in her time, reigning superior over immortal dao. However, immortal dao retained its position as the rightful dao of the world at the end of the day. Unlike the ancient divines, the shamans didn't manage to destroy immortal dao and raise their own as the legitimate path for all living beings.

The shamanic race then had cultivated the shaman immortal dao, a combination of both the immortal and shaman daos.

How long ago her time had been, Lu Yun really couldn't tell. Xingzi's memories were all jumbled up, to the point she hadn't even known she was dead when she'd come back to life. Instead, she believed she'd simply fallen asleep from overtaxing herself.

"The eighth Envoy of Samsara greets the master." Xingzi asked carefully. "How long has it been, master?"

"Tens of millions of years? Hundreds of millions? I'm not really sure myself." Lu Yun mused over the clues he'd noted in Xingzi's memory and referenced them against his own knowledge for an educated guess.

In her time, hell and the void realm were already unknown to the world. The only cultivation path that still incorporated the void realm was the one in the world of immortals. More importantly, the Firmament Prison had only just been established, and the scheme to bury the Dao Flower had been at its inception.

Xingzi sprawled on the ground, her empty gaze taking in what was before her.

"Master...." She stared at Lu Yun with puppy dog eyes.

Lu Yun turned to her. "Yes?"

"I miss my mommy."

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Lu Yun left Xingzi in hell rather than bring her out with him. Though she rivaled a peerless immortal after her resurrection, there were too many things he didn't know about the shamans.

Plus, even though Xingzi's techniques, and frankly terrifying talent, outmatched peak peerless immortals, she'd been too young when she died. Being a prodigious genius with many skills under her belt and possessing great strength didn't make up for her lack of experience. She'd heard about some of her race's secrets, such as the corpse coffins, but she didn't know what they were used for.

Still, one thing was for certain: the heritage of the shamanic race remained unbroken in the present day. Xingzi had come back to life as a shaman immortal. Her cultivation method, combat arts, and techniques were completely different from those of the current immortals.

Moreover, Lu Yun found something in her memories that made him caper for joy. The poison curse!

The curse on Qing Han came from the shamanic race!

This discovery shone a ray of hope into his fog of despair. At the very least, he knew who'd planted the curse in Qing Han.

The shamans had emerged eighty thousand years ago to refine Yueshen Jixiang into a corpse coffin and bury Wushen Ruyi in her. Eighty thousand years later, they emerged again and used Qing Han as a conduit to cast a grand curse.

Even if it hadn't been the shamans themselves, someone had used their method. And now, the princess of the Star Shaman Tribe resided in hell.

As the nine-headed phoenix had said, pearls from the four true spirits were necessary to uproot the curse. Yuying and Su Xiaoxiao had only deduced ways to cleanse the poison from Qing Han's spirit root, but to remove the curse completely from his body, the four pearls would be necessary.

The four true spirits had always been hailed as propitious omens. Therefore, the blessings contained in their pearls were the key to resolving the curse.

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"The blood qilin barged into this place to lift the seal so that it could release whatever is trapped here." Lu Yun paced around the cerulean planet and muttered, "So what's sealed here should be...."

Swoosh!

He disappeared into the planet, finding it much less tranquil than its exterior suggested.

Thunder roared with raging fury, lightning split the sky, and wind whipped up the ocean into vast waves. Violent tremors shook the ground and opened great fissures to swallow acidic rain. All possible signs of nature's hostility ruled this unfriendly world.

There was no sign of life anywhere, nor was the environment conducive to its emergence.

At the center of the only patch of land on the planet was a giant coffin running hundreds of kilometers long. Nine black qilins of similar scale surrounded it, frozen in prone positions on the ground. They looked like they were worshipping the giant coffin hovering in midair.

"Enneaqilin Coffinbiers...." Energy from the Formation Orb kept the oppressive power in the surroundings away from Lu Yun.

Scanning the coffin, he muttered to himself, “Enneaworm Coffinbearers, Nine-Phoenix Casket, now the Enneaqilin Coffinbiers... which makes the last the Ninefooted Turtle Cist.”

Lu Yun hadn’t known that the four coffins even existed before he’d arrived in the world of immortals. He’d only read about their corresponding feng shui layouts as recorded in the texts of his sect.

He’d entertained the notion that all of the coffins might really exist upon running across the Enneaworm Coffinbearers and Nine-Phoenix Casket, but seeing the Enneaqilin Coffinbiers here still shook him to the core.

When he’d shown the image of the Nine-Phoenix Casket to the nine-headed phoenix in the Fire Parasol Tree, she’d imparted to him a terrifying truth in turn. Countless aeons ago, the ancestor of the phoenix clan—the nine-headed phoenix’s mother—had turned herself into a coffin to bury an astounding individual.

The dragon and qilin coffins were plainly on the same forefather-esque level, and they, too, buried entities just as powerful! Who could possibly be buried in coffins of the four true spirits? They were auspicious beings of great fortune, worshipped by all, and their ancestors were some of the greatest heavyweights the world had seen.

Yet, there were others who elicited willing transformation from the four spirits into coffins.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Lu Yun shook from the force of multiple minor collisions. The Gates of the Abyss connecting hell to the outside world were trembling, as if someone was... knocking.

“They really are all connected!” Inhaling deeply, he waved a hand and activated the realms of yin and yang, opening the gates with a rumble.

An enormous skeletal arm slowly probed out, cradled the behemoth Enneaqilin Coffinbiers, and carried them into the netherworld.

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Witherew Major, the world of immortals.

On top of the altar, deep within the headquarters of the Star Demon Sect, one of the obscured statues next to those of the Enneaworm Coffinbearers and the Nine-Phoenix Casket abruptly lit up and came into clearer view.

The Enneaqilin Coffinbiers.

Chapter 375: A Big, Furry, Golden Hand

A third coffin slammed down upon hell’s dirt, kicking up a small cloud of dust and sending a massive tremor through the nearby City of Life.

The shaman girl grew whiter at the sight of the Enneaqilin Coffinbiers.

In life, she'd entered the dragon nest to kill the blood qilin to prevent it from releasing this very coffin, but her present status divorced her from her past affiliations. Plus, the Enneaworm Coffinbearers and the Nine-Phoenix Casket were here, too. In some ways, the three entities were much alike in power.

Cangyin came to Xingzi's side to soothe her emotions, a gesture that provoked a thoughtful glance from the little girl.

"Do you want to become a blood qilin? An existence like Aoxue and Huangqing?" she asked.

The water qilin blinked.

All of Lu Yun's envoys were connected to each other. After becoming an envoy herself, Xingzi was naturally informed about the backgrounds of her new colleagues.

"The one in the coffin will revive and continue plaguing the world. If it absorbs the energies of hell, it might free itself from the layout's control. The only way to stop it is to consume its bloodline... and its blood demon strength." Despite her innocent face, Xingzi was very serious.

"My people have a method to strip it of its bloodline and transplant it into your own. You're the patriarch of the water qilins, but your talent is the most lacking among all of us envoys... you can't help the master at all.

"Therefore, I want you to become a blood qilin!" Xingzi's sparkling eyes glowed with roguishness, looking for all intents and purposes like she'd force the procedure if Cangyin breathed a hint of declining.

She wasn't wrong, though; although Cangyin was the head of the water qilins, her talents were limited to the water-attribute abilities of her clan. After helping Lu Yun complete the water intent of his sword aura, she hadn't been able to help him at all.

Now that Lu Yun's sword ocean had transformed into a cosmic sea, the intent of water was no longer particularly important to him, either. He couldn't read her memories, so she was of no help in that regard as well.

All seven of his other envoys were both helpful and important to him. Although Cangyin had cultivated inside hell all this time, she couldn't break through easily because her killer had used a temporal art. She'd have to slowly cultivate her way back, and the Tome of Life and Death wouldn't be of much help to her.

"Alright!" Cangyin agreed and looked intently at her colleague. "But I want more than its bloodline—I want its potential as well! I know your race is a resourceful bunch. As the number one genius in their history, you must have a way to transplant that, too."

"Yes, but the chance of success is very low... and failure means death," confirmed Xingzi after some thought.

"Death? Envoys don't die as long as the master is still with us." Cangyin smiled. "If I do, we'll just try again once I revive!"

Xingzi grinned broadly as well. Eagerness flickered in the depths of her eyes. Clearly, she was a mad scientist in all things shaman-related.

In the heart of hell, opposite the endless void, black rays shone from the Enneawyrms Coffinbearers and the Nine-Phoenix Casket into their newly arrived peer.

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The instant the Enneaqilin Coffinbearers was absorbed into hell, the sealing formation began crumbling. The countless smaller formations that were its building blocks seemed to spontaneously lose their power as well, starting a domino effect.

“What’s happening? Why is the formation suddenly failing like this?” Lu Yun was rather confused. As the target of the sealing formation, the Enneaqilin Coffinbearers’ presence should’ve had no bearing on the integrity of its cage.

Boom!

The air shook as the blue planet was destroyed alongside the formation that it powered. The annihilation of the energy source seemed to further speed up the ruination that surrounded it.

Before Lu Yun could react, his body reappeared in the intersection between the dragon and phoenix nests, along with two fist-sized pearls glowing with hazy light.

The Skydragon and Skyphoenix Pearls!

The former was surrounded by watery light, while the latter was aglow with a vibrant fire. With their appearance, the minor world created by the mixture of dragon and phoenix strength began shattering.

“Shit, I have to go!” Coloring with concern, Lu Yun tried to beckon the pearls to him. Alas, the pearls had an apparent life of their own and counteracted the call of his energy.

Why’s the minor world disintegrating too? The young man really couldn’t figure it out.

“Those are the Skydragon and Skyphoenix Pearls!” a number of the immortals still attentive to the goings-on in the minor world clamored with surprise.

“That world is going to crumble soon. Don’t let him out!” Many grinned with schadenfreude.

The Skydragon and Skyphoenix Pearls were life spheres created by a dragon and phoenix beyond dao immortality. They wouldn’t be affected by the destruction around them. One couldn’t say the same for an insignificant cultivator like Lu Yun, though. Despite Situ Zong’s guardianship, the boy would be buried alongside the minor world. Even an aether dao immortal wouldn’t be able to ward off the devastation of a world’s implosion.

Hum.

The appearance of a white path disrupted their malicious delusions. It extended from the gap in the minor world, creating an escape route for Lu Yun. Setting foot on the Path of Ingress, he injected power into the Treasurefall Coin at the same time in an attempt to capture the pearls.

“Destroy the Path of Ingress!” an immortal shouted. At least a hundred brilliant sword-lights slashed through the air in tandem.

“Who dares!” roared Situ Zong. He stepped up with blast after incinerating blast, exterminating intrepid sword immortals in droves.

“Immortals of the Ling Clan, desist!” shouted Ling Zhen, who’d profited quite a bit by breaking open a large burial mound very shortly before.

“Exalted Immortal Sect, stay your hands!”

“Don’t move either, immortals of the Donglin Clan!” The other hundred and seven immortals called for their respective allies and factions to abstain. Ling Zhen was the most direct of them all and sent a fellow peerless immortal of his clan flying without another word.

“What are you doing, Ling Zhen!” his kinsman roared angrily. “Lu Yun has a death grudge with our clan! Your nephew Ling Ruyu died at his hands! Do you intend to repay his evil with kindness?”

Stunned, Ling Zhen paused for a moment.

Ling Ruyu had been the first Ling genius to reach void realm. As one of the best and brightest, he’d been blessed by the Dao Flower. Alas, a dao immortal under Lu Yun’s command had stomped him to death on Immortal Sky Island.

“Lu Yun has shown me great favor!” He gritted his teeth after some mental turmoil. “At the very least, you can’t kill him here. What happens after he leaves is none of my business!”

“Is that so?!” the peerless immortal snarled in anger. “Then Ling Zhen is a traitor of the clan. He deserves death! Get him!”

The man’s enraged howls didn’t have the intended effect; instead, it caused his kinsmen to hesitate.

Although the Ling Clan heeded Ling Zhen’s words, the other factions’ immortals wouldn’t be so easily swayed. They continued hammering at the Path of Ingress and Situ Zong.

Though the cannon on the old man’s shoulder was powerful, there were too many evasive targets for him to get them all. The swarm of return attacks as they dodged the blasts were a bit too much for him to handle.

By now, dao immortals had joined the fray as well. Situ Zong’s robes were quickly stained red from the new offensive barrage. The world created by the intersection of dragon and phoenix intensified its self-destruction.

“No, no... this is all wrong!” Finally subduing the Skydragon and Skyphoenix Pearls through the Treasurefall Coin, Lu Yun clutched them tightly and jerked his head around in sudden realization. “The sealing formation’s destruction shouldn’t have affected the world around it... unless....”

The blood drained from his face.

“The Enneaqilin Coffinbiers wasn’t the thing being sealed. It was part of the formation, too! Its power had been used to seal something—someone—else! The coffin isn’t the horror everyone’s dreading!”

Boom!

A furry golden hand punctured through the ground, piercing the minor world’s membrane altogether.

Chapter 376: Enormous Ape

“Ruuuwoooaarrrr!” a piercing shriek erupted beneath the earth as both land and sky broke into a million pieces.

A gleaming, golden ape burrowed out from the crust. At least thirty meters tall, it wore a suit of tattered armor and carried a huge iron club that was about the same height as itself. However, one end of the club seemed to have been cut off by something, causing the weapon to look a little unbalanced.

An arcane dao immortal... ape? Lu Yun looked around dazedly. The Enneaqilin Coffinbiers had sealed away a pathetic primate like this?

No! It's only this weak because of being sealed away for so long, so it only has the strength of initial arcane dao right now! I still need to get out of here!

The Skydragon and Skyphoenix Pearls were already his. As soon as the ape appeared, the minor world undertook the final step toward total annihilation, scaring the young man out of his wits.

Lu Yun dashed to the entrance upon the Path of Ingress, then used a Size Manipulation Talisman on both Situ Zong and himself. As tiny motes of dust, the two of them were able to dodge the incoming attacks.

“Die!” An explosive shout descended from above.

An arcane dao immortal had kept his eye on the proceedings. Although Lu Yun and Situ Zong had shrunk down to particle size, they couldn't escape the detection of someone so powerful.

As soon as the duo cleared the exit, he delivered a downward slash at them. Situ Zong had no time to react; the enemy was too swift for him and he didn't even have the time to adjust the aim of his cannon.

“Piss off!” Lu Yun howled. A storm of silver thunderbolts flared from his body. Gathering into a single stream, they rose up and met the arcane dao immortal's sword.

Crackle!

Lightning tore apart the sky for at least fifty kilometers around. All color drained from the immortal's face as he took the full brunt of the electric attack, hurtling backward from the frenzied blow.

“Fuck him up, Situ!” Lu Yun snarled.

The old man finally snapped to. He aimed the cannon at the arcane dao immortal in involuntary flight and fired a shot at maximum power.

Boom!

The explosion was accompanied by a loud scream of despair as the immortal's chest was punched clean through by the cannon shot. The destructive energies in the pillar of light decimated everything in his body.

“What?!” Other immortals in the vicinity blanched in fear.

They'd heard of the might of Lu Yun's imitation war treasure before. Indeed, some had watched him blast the North Sea emperor's replica into smithereens elsewhere in the tomb. But the current cause of their fright was the unexpected tempest of lightning he'd just released.

The more astute among them recalled how Lu Yun had once used an endless squall of thunder to destroy two dao-grade formations and innumerable immortals outside Xiankan. What he'd used a moment ago was a repeat of that, really.

Now, Lu Yun and Situ Zong were safely outside and back to their normal size. The cannon barrel on the latter's shoulder was a bit deformed by the heat, but no one was brave enough to strike due to the silver lightning still crackling all over Lu Yun's body.

Having collected the thunder from refining the Tribulation Traversing Pill, it was one of his trump cards in the tomb. If he hadn't made use of it just now, they probably would've died.

Kaboom!

Before the surrounding immortals could react, an even louder blast burst forth. The dragon and phoenix minor world was no more. The golden ape and its big club leaped out from the chaotic void where it used to be, roaring its fury to the sky.

Hum...

The moment the giant ape appeared, the fiery connate-grade treasure from earlier hurtled in its direction.

"Not good! Quick, stop it!" There were seven ultimate experts around the treasure. All of them had plucked eight arcane dao fruits, but their surpassing strength failed to prevent them from being scattered by the treasure's burst of energy.

They could finally see the treasure for what it truly was. A blazing cape of rippling flame, it shimmered with searing prominence and hummed in the air. The golden ape's cry was a kind of summons; it was calling upon its old battle-garments!

"The connate-grade cape must've belonged to that giant ape. Kill that monkey! Don't let it get the treasure!" Sounding a piercing howl, Canghai Xi gave up on stopping the cape and led the charge on the back of his sword.

Three more peak arcane dao immortals followed him in the attack. Unless they killed the ape, they had no chance at the cape at all. It was extremely likely that the cape had only appeared in the first place because it'd sensed the ape awakening.

As the terrifying horror sealed in the depths of the dragon tomb, the giant ape's strength had severely degraded from its prolonged imprisonment and its level was only equivalent to an initial arcane dao immortal. Even so, its combat strength far exceeded modern immortals' imagination.

The golden ape roared once more, then swung its club in a wide, powerful sweep, fending off all four arcane dao immortals. The remaining three were focused on suppressing the connate-grade treasure.

Lu Yun found the sudden development rather ridiculous.

Despite hailing from seven different factions, the seven arcane dao experts were cooperating in perfect synchronicity. There was no doubt or hesitation in their movements. But... they'd been at each other's throats for the treasure's sake only moments earlier.

The immortals of this world may have no idea how to raid tombs, but they're good at surviving!

If treasure was the only thing on the line, they would naturally go all-out against one another. However, when a monster threatened them in a tomb, they immediately set everything aside to defeat it.

This was a reaction born from eighty thousand years of experience forged in blood and sacrifice. It'd been the same way earlier at the ghost tree. Donglin E and Tuoba Jie were enemies, but the former had devoted full strength to stabilizing the Blithe Entrapment Formation nevertheless.

"That monkey has the power of a two-headed zombie about it. Form up!" Lu Yun called out.

The hundred and eight peerless immortals were still nearby. When he gave the order, they immediately returned to the Formation of Heavenly Spirits and Earthly Demons.

"The big iron club that the ape wields is the Divine Seaquell Staff!"

Chapter 377: Scarlet Ape

The Divine Seaquell Staff!

The sight of it immediately set Lu Yun's heart ablaze. It was made of the same material as the Divine Seaward Iron, which he'd ultimately used as Black Emperor's main component.

The Divine Seaward Iron had been a cherished treasure of the blackwater snakes; now it was clear that a formidable powerhouse must have obtained it in the ancient times by cutting off a section of the giant ape's iron staff. It'd then been refined sometime down the line into the seal-like Divine Seaward Iron.

If Lu Yun could take the staff for himself, he could sacrifice the souls of a few enemies and mass produce Black Emperor-class cannons. At that time, anyone standing in his way would be welcomed with a cannon shot to the face!

The hundred and eight peerless immortals had completed the Formation of Heavenly Spirits and Earthly Demons and trapped the fearsome ape inside it. Lu Yun didn't take charge of the grand formation this time, but left everything to the peerless immortals themselves.

The giant ape swung his staff in a savage dance inside the formation, roaring all the while as he fended off the four peak arcane dao immortals besieging it. However, the power of the land interfered with the connection between him and the fiery cape. As a result, the cape's aura slowly waned.

"Concentrate on suppressing the treasure!" roared the remaining three powerhouses surrounding the cape.

.....

Protected by Situ Zong, Lu Yun retreated from the battlezone. The energies generated by the clash of multiple arcane dao immortals were too powerful. Stray shock blasts alone would be powerful enough to pulverize him into fine powder.

Unconstrained fighting between pinnacle powerhouses was destroying increasing swathes of the cemetery. One after another, zombies, immortal ghosts, and other strange undead creatures crawled out of their graves, quickly turning the cemetery into a chaotic battlefield.

“You’d better forget about robbing that golden ape.” All of a sudden, Empress Myrtlestar appeared beside Lu Yun and draped him in a layer of protective starmist.

Lu Yun finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Qing Han had lost contact with the empress a while ago. After the empress had entered the phoenix nest and been swallowed by the sacrificial altar, the nest had severed the connection between them.

There was now an external force interfering with this area in turn. He’d tried to use the Path of Ingress to forcibly tear a rift through space earlier, but still couldn’t get in touch with Qing Han. Thankfully, he could rely on the Tome of Life and Death to contact his own Envoys of Samsara.

“What’s that?” Lu Yun’s eyes suddenly sparkled. To be sealed here by the Nineqilin Coffinbiers and used as the source of the two-headed zombie’s power meant the golden ape was nowhere near a harmless, benevolent creature.

“A Fiend Beast, Scarlet Ape.” Empress Myrtlestar spat out the name.

“Scarlet Ape?” Lu Yun blinked. He searched Xingzi’s memories to find the name.

“They’re an already extinct species. Compared to their Primordial Era brethren, the bloodline of the species is now mixed and impure. Rather than a Fiend Beast, contemporary Scarlet Apes can be at best called immortal beasts possessing the bloodline of the Scarlet Ape... However, the one in front of us is a pureblood, through and through,” Empress Myrtlestar explained. “So do not even think about it. The ape’s roots are too deep and its causality too great. Nothing good will come from provoking it.”

“It’s a little too late for that,” Lu Yun responded somewhat helplessly. “I’m the one who set it free. Also, look at the staff in its hands. See that severed end? I’ve already refined that into one of my treasures.”

The empress stared into space.

“Anyway, causality or whatever, I’ve never been afraid of things like that. Causality, hehehe....”

So-called causality was a special kind of force born when goodwill, karma, virtuous merit, and retribution were mixed together.

Causality. Plainly put, cause was always followed by consequence. Said consequence could be good or bad, but Lu Yun could rely on the Sal Tree of Life and Death as well as hellfire to digest those consequences. Hellfire in particular was a delightful tool for bad karma that could dissolve retribution and cut off causality.

I need to somehow get this iron staff. That said, this big fellow isn’t easy to handle, so cutting off part of it will also do.

Scarlet Ape?

Xingzi's memories imparted to him what a Fiend Beast was. Back in her time, these apes had been one of the strongest races in the world, on par with the three great royal tribes of the shamanic race. In an era dominated by the shamans, these apes had stood head and shoulders above dragons and phoenixes.

Lu Yun turned around and looked a little sheepishly at Empress Myrtlestar.

"That's Seaquell, a divine treasure from the legends. It's a staff that's even harder than connate weapons. How exactly am I supposed to cut off a part of it?" replied the empress with a wry smile.

"With this?" Lu Yun took out the Sugato Sword.

"Not enough. The Sugato Sword is one of the finest manmade weapons, but the connate treasure it's said to have broken was also said to have been defective. It will shatter the moment it runs into something like Seaquell." The empress shook her head.

While Lord Sugato had been a formidable powerhouse in the primordial times, he was, in the end, only an ingress realm immortal. Although it was a mighty treasure, his Sugato Sword couldn't cut through an extraordinary weapon of legend like Seaquell.

"What about this, then?" Lu Yun brought out a ninth-rank immortal sword that was glowing with a haze violet: Violetgrave.

Empress Myrtlestar's figure shivered imperceptibly. Plainly, she wanted nothing to do with this malicious weapon that devoured its previous owners.

"Don't worry, it's asleep. It won't eat you." Lu Yun squeezed out a chuckle when he noticed her expression, but the empress' expression remained stony, obviously refusing to reconsider.

"I will give you this instead, so forget about the staff." She deposited a pair of silver eyes in Lu Yun's hands.

It was also a connate treasure known as the Cosmic Eyes. Belonging to the same set as the Cosmic Skycarver and the Cosmic Sea, they'd once belonged to the dragon empress. But now, the will of the dragon empress had completely dissipated, so they'd naturally landed in the Empress Myrtlestar's hands.

Lu Yun accepted the eyes and casually tossed them into hell, but his gaze remained riveted on the Scarlet Ape that was currently battling four mighty opponents.

Huff!

All of a sudden, the ape opened its mouth wide and breathed a golden-red tongue of flame, aiming it straight at the arcane dao immortal in front of him. At the same time, ripples of black water surged from Seaquell, forming a massive wave.

Sooner than one could realize, the surrounding area turned into a world of water, followed by intense flames blossoming from the water world!

Boom!

The giant ape's staff caught the arcane dao immortal off guard and landed squarely on his head. Black beads flew out with an explosion of brain matter, his eight arcane dao fruits scattering into the air.

"Keke—" The Scarlet Ape growled at the sky before opening its mouth wide and sucking the eight fruits straight into its belly. Its hair instantly became brighter and its presence grew even more powerful.

"This is bad!" Canghai Xi and the other two remaining people gaped in horror. "This brute cultivates fire and water attributes at the same time!"

However, the Scarlet Ape no longer paid them any attention. Instead, it swung its staff once again, this time aiming it at the Formation of Heavenly Spirits and Earthly Demons in the sky.

Crack!

The formation immediately shattered, and one hundred and eight peerless immortal coughed up blood as they fell from the sky.

Roar!!

The Scarlet Ape howled again as the scarlet, flame-like cape finally broke free of the three dao immortals' suppression. Streaking into a multicolored rainbow, it landed on the ape's back.

Chapter 378: Saint and Demon

"Roar!!" Draping over the Scarlet Ape, the fiery cape curled around its body like an enormous gout of hazy flame. The big monkey was going berserk with rage; its body was encircled by fire while its staff unleashed frightening water waves.

A violent recoil snapped into the remaining six peak arcane dao powerhouses. Spewing up blood, they fell back one after another.

The ape was simply too strong.

Its battle prowess had skyrocketed after regaining its fire cape, and it now surpassed the limits of the arcane dao realm. Against such power, its opponents were no match at all. As for the other dao immortals, they'd simply be swallowed whole the moment they attempted something.

"Dammit.... Fall back, we're no match for this big monkey!" Canghai Xi shouted in despair. He waved his sleeves and gathered the many immortals of the Dark North Sword Sect inside, then sped toward the tunnel connecting the dragon and phoenix nest.

The other five arcane dao immortals also stopped fighting and fled in panic.

"His Majesty brought heavy weaponry from our Witherdew court. The scroll of the Blithe Entrapment Formation will definitely subdue this monster!" one of them blurted out upon seeing the situation.

This immortal had arrived at the dragon tomb with the Witherdew Emperor, but instead of staying with Tuoba Jie, he'd led another group to enter the phoenix nest from elsewhere.

Heavy weaponry from Witherdew Major!

The mention immediately rekindled the hope of the despairing immortals. If they could leave this clearing and find the Witherdew Emperor.... With all their strength combined, they'd certainly defeat the giant ape.

"None of you will leave this place alive!" Just then, a cold voice echoed through the air. The head of a giant snake broke through the void and swallowed one of the peak arcane dao immortals, along with everyone inside his sleeves.

"Beigong Xuan!!" Canghai Xi paled. As one of the leaders of the Dark North Sword Sect, he'd naturally seen Beigong Xuan's true form before.

"All of you will be buried here." Beigong Xuan extended his mouth, exposing fangs dripping with venom. "Senior, we meet again." Transforming back into human form, he looked at the Scarlet Ape and bowed his head, all the while blocking the exit.

"Grawwwlll!" The Scarlet Ape snarled, its eyes brimming with thick bloodlust. It didn't pay attention to Beigong Xuan, but charged at the other immortals, staff in hand.

A rain of blood showered through the air. Out of the ten thousands of immortals gathered in the area, several thousand of them were reduced to meat paste by a single staff strike.

Beigong Xuan's eyes also blazed with bloodlust.

Bang!

Before anyone could react, the ape's staff had killed another eight-fruit arcane dao immortal.

"Are you sure you still want its staff?" Empress Myrtlestar asked with a near smirk.

Instead of replying, Lu Yun waved a hand and materialized a vast path that tore open the air and led to the ghost tree.

The situation in that battlefield was pure chaos, but clearly, the ghost tree had already been suppressed and all kinds of undead creatures were being massacred. The fighting was nearing its end.

Lu Yun stood in front of the Path of Ingress, surveying a giant ship as black as ink sailing forth from the void. On board, seventeen almost-melted cannons took aim at the violent ape and fired simultaneously, turning the world white.

The weapons melted even further after delivering this attack, but he didn't show any hesitation whatsoever. Caught off guard, the giant ape was again sent flying by the white pillars of light.

"All of you come this way, the Witherdew Emperor is on the other side." Though quiet, the Dusk lord's voice reverberated through the air.

The surviving immortals first blinked, then rushed toward their lifeline.

"No one's leaving!" Beigong Xuan's face fell as he immediately changed targets to Lu Yun.

Puff—

However, a dark green fire blossomed in the air as a magnificent figure emerged once again: Yuying.

Beigong Xuan stiffened and he fell back several steps in succession, eyes large with disbelief. He'd clearly trapped Yuying in an extremely dangerous place inside the tomb not long ago. How had she suddenly appeared here?

The green immortal fire immediately forced him back.

Boom boom boom!

The next moment, white beams of light exploded again from the seventeen cannons on the Divine Glory and blasted the Scarlet Ape back once more as it stood up. This time, a full ten cannons exploded into scrap metal after the attack.

Seizing the opportunity, the surviving immortals scrambled onto the Path of Ingress and fled the cemetery.

"All of them are enemies of yours, and they were trying to kill you just a moment ago. Why are you saving them now?" A puzzled Empress Myrtlestar looked at Lu Yun.

"They've also faced the evil spirits inside this tomb together with me." Lu Yun's tone was as calm as ever. "Some among them are indeed mortal enemies of mine.... But when facing a crisis, they chose to set aside their grudges, so why can't I do the same?"

The empress fell silent, then waved her hand and unleashed a ray of starlight that struck the Scarlet Ape and threw it backward.

The ape roared madly, but the combined power of the empress and the Big Dipper Starstone was far above his.

Of course, this surge of power couldn't be maintained for long. The empress was merely a shard of a broken soul and couldn't fight for long.

"It seems you truly wish to establish a sacred land and become a saint in this world," she quietly added.

"Saint?" Lu Yun shook his head. "Immortalized after death but loathed when alive.... The world of immortals doesn't need a living saint. Only clay idols in temples are objects of worship, so I won't become a saint. I want to be a demon, a great demon king that topples the world!"

He grinned, baring his white teeth. Empress Myrtlestar's heart quailed when she saw the figure the young man currently cut.

"Toppling the world? Who do you wish to topple?" she asked in a whisper.

Lu Yun was already heading up to the Divine Glory with Situ Zong in tow. The Yin Formation Orb now embedded into the ship's core was Divine's Glory's true trump card. Everyone could observe the main cannon and eighteen auxiliary cannons. Meanwhile, the Formation Orb remained safe from prying eyes.

Grasping the ship's spirit key, Ge Long stood beside Lu Yun, his face grave. The giant Scarlet Ape no longer attacked, now that it'd been made fully aware of the ship's prowess.

"Wow! So many big yum-yums... Milord, may your old servant eat them?" Ge Long couldn't help but ask, carefully while gulping down saliva.

Apart from the Scarlet Ape, there were also countless undead chasing the immortals. The old servant couldn't help but swallow hard at the sight of those tasty treats.

"As long as you can eat them, be my guest." Lu Yun's gaze stayed fixed on the Scarlet Ape.

The Formation Orb was a connate treasure, but the Divine Seaquell Staff in the ape's hand and the cape on its back were treasures of the same level.

Which one was stronger, which one weaker? No one could say.

So Lu Yun stared at the ape, fully on his guard.

At his words, the delighted Ge Long picked up his head and casually threw it out with an underhanded toss.

Fwoop...

Midway through its trajectory, the head swelled to three hundred meters across. Mouth yawning open, it gleefully honed in on a group of undead chasing down the fleeing immortals and swallowed the undead whole.

"What's that?" Quite a few of the rescued immortals froze at the sight. "Is that Lu Yun's treasure to suppress the undead?"

However, Lu Yun himself had been given a scare by his servant. Ge Long was still a core realm cultivator, but there were several peerless immortal zombies among the creatures he'd just swallowed! They couldn't even put up a fight in front of Ge Long!

Hotfuckingdamn. Next time I explore a tomb, I'm definitely bringing this guy with me. He now felt a little regretful.

When it came to his envoys, including Canghai Chengkong, whose name was written in the Tome of Life and Death, he knew each and every one of their abilities like the back of his hand. But Ge Long, the first one to die to Lu Yun, had become an oddity... a strange, undefinable creature, even though his name was also in the Tome of Life and Death.

Wait! He suddenly recalled something. Not only did I kill him... but I killed him with the vanished combat art, the Enneawym Coffinbearers. Could his existence be related to the Enneawym Coffinbearers?

Lu Yun briefly lost himself in thought.

Ge Long's abrupt appearance greatly decreased the pressure on the surviving immortals. They scrambled for a place on the Path of Ingress and walked it all the way to the outside of the Blithe Entrapment Formation.

"Lu Yun!" sounded a cold and somewhat stiff voice. "This kind of fortress ship comes from my Ling Clan. It can only deploy its greatest potential under our command. If helmed by my clan's immortals, it can definitely kill the giant ape!"

Lu Yun glanced backward. The one who'd yelled just now was a black-robed peerless immortal from the Ling Clan. Along with another dozen immortals from his clan, he'd arrived beside the ship's hull. This peerless immortal was the one who'd clashed with him earlier, Ling Yu.

"Get lost." Lu Yun spat, then looked away.

"Lu Yun, you need to consider the bigger picture when you explore a tomb!" the same immortal shouted again.

Lu Yun couldn't be bothered to answer. The remaining immortals were already on the Path of Ingress and headed to the area on the other side.

"Alright, that's enough eating, we're leaving," the youth commanded Ge Long while taking a deep look at the Scarlet Ape, who was still keeping its distance.

Ge Long hurriedly recalled his head and put it back on his neck. Twisting away awkwardly, Situ Zong subconsciously stayed well away from the uncanny old servant.

The Ling immortals' eyes blazed at the sight, seemingly mulling over something. But seeing Lu Yun readying to sail the ship away, they also hastened to retreat on the Path of Ingress.

The Scarlet Ape's eyes glowed a dark crimson as it stared fixedly at the position where Divine Glory's main cannon should have been. Although Lu Yun hadn't returned Black Emperor to that spot, its aura remained there nonetheless.

Yuying likewise summoned back the Emerald Mistfire, turned around, and vanished into thin air. Beigong Xuan stared blankly at the now deserted spot, unable to react.

Roar!

All of a sudden, the iron staff in the Scarlet Ape's hand swung toward the slowly healing spatial tear, smashing wide the rift created by the Path of Ingress!

Chapter 379: Humans, Get Out Of the North Sea

Bang!

Space exploded, sending spatial fragments scattering in every direction. However, Lu Yun had already retracted the Path of Ingress. While the ape had shattered the void, it still couldn't pursue the vanished treasure.

The ape put its staff away and extended its arm inside the void, grabbing Beigong Xuan.

"Talk!" Its tone was hoarse and its words carried a strange accent that was entirely different from modern speech in the immortal world. Quite obviously, it hadn't been long since it'd learned the current language from the immortals it'd been battling moments before. "Who was that mewling human just now!"

Beigong Xuan twisted and transformed back into a snake in spite of himself, his eyes filled with fright.

"H-he's called Lu Yun, the lord of Dusk Province in Nephrite Major!" Beigong Xuan shouted hastily, terrified that this fearsome fiend would pinch him dead.

“Nephrite Major, Dusk Province’s lord.” The ape flung Beigong Xuan’s giant figure away. “You may follow me, but from now on, you are forbidden to transform into a human. I hate humans! Monster spirits should look like monster spirits! Why should we fawn over and imitate humans?!”

“U-understood....” Beigong Xuan was a peak nine-fruit arcane dao immortal. While only eight arcane dao fruits were left inside him now, he was still stronger than others of the same level. Even so, he was nothing but an oversized loach in the Scarlet Ape’s hand.

.....

The crowd finally heaved a sigh of relief when the last layer of space closed on itself. Canghai Xi flopped to the ground, his mouth wide open and heaving for breath, grateful to be still alive after such a narrow escape. Out of seven eight-fruit arcane dao powerhouses, three were dead!

Two had been smashed to death by the Scarlet Ape, while the third had been swallowed by Beigong Xuan. Such a loss was unprecedented in the history of the world. From now on, the factions behind those dead powerhouses would see their statuses plummet.

“Where did that monkey come from? Why is there such a terrifying living creature inside the dragon tomb?!” Canghai Xi murmured to himself while fighting for air. Someone as sharp-eyed as him had seen that the ape was a living being, not one of the zombies or ghosts roaming around.

He wouldn’t have been as surprised to see a living dragon or phoenix spring out of nowhere. After all, they’d already come across undead dragons and phoenixes—but an ape?

“It’s Lu Yun!” shouted the previous peerless immortal from the Ling Clan. “Lu Yun’s the one who unraveled the seal inside the dragon tomb and freed the giant monkey!”

All eyes landed on Lu Yun. Joining the group with Ge Long and Situ Zong, the Dusk lord had already stowed the Divine Glory.

The ghost tree had been eliminated, and the Blithe Entrapment Formation was back in its owner’s possession.

“Ling Yu!” Ling Zhen thundered at the immortal, “do you even know what you’re saying?”

“Ling Zhen, you ungrateful traitor! Do you even remember where you come from?!” The peerless immortal called Ling Yu sneered. “You’re the son of the patriarch, yet you shamelessly submitted to an enemy of our clan! Everyone here saw him enter the minor world, destroy its seal, and release the monkey!

“We’ve lost three peak powerhouses and more than ten thousand immortals in one go! We didn’t need to lose so many!” Ling Yu deftly dumped all responsibility squarely onto Lu Yun’s shoulders.

“Ling Yu, you can shut your mouth now,” coolly ordered the eight-fruit arcane Ling dao immortal. “This matter ends here. After we exit the tomb, all Ling disciples are forbidden from opposing Lu Yun, on pain of being branded a clan traitor!”

“What?!” Ling Yu blanched and stared dumbly at this great personage of his clan. “Forefather! Lu Yun murdered the hope of our clan, young master Ling Ruyu!”

"I have spoken. This matter ends here! One more word and I'll kill you," glowered the arcane dao immortal.

Ling Yu's heart shook and he fell silent, but deep resentment still glinted in his eyes.

"What's the matter? Is the Ling Clan bowing their heads to Lu Yun?" After celebrating their narrow escape, the other immortals were now rather confused. Lu Yun had indeed been the one who'd released the big ape that'd killed more than ten thousand immortals and two peak powerhouses.

Moreover, it was no secret that the Ling Clan and Lu Yun were irreconcilable enemies. Ling Ruyu had been the clan's rising star, the ray of hope that was supposed to prevent them from being eliminated in the new world order after the restoration of the void realm.

So why was the clan choosing to swallow their humiliation and call it quits? Minds reeled from the sudden development out of nowhere.

"I was on Immortal Sky Island when all this happened. Ling Ruyu coveted Lu Yun's ship and chose to oppose the Dusk lord of his own accord. He has no one but himself to blame for his death. But... the Ling Clan has always been infernally overbearing. This isn't the way they usually do things!"

"You bunch of fools," an aether dao immortal sneered suddenly. "Lu Yun took one hundred and eight peerless immortals with him into the monster's lair to slay the demon. If the demon didn't die, none of you would have returned alive!"

Cheeks stinging from the verbal slap, the immortals glowered darkly at the aether dao immortal while Canghai Xi and the other three surviving powerhouses also looked at the Ling ancestor in confusion.

"None of this matters." The Witherdew Emperor looked at Lu Yun, his tone leisurely. "The lord of Dusk Province possesses formidable talent and has created the Great Formation of Heavenly Spirits and Earthly Fiends. As long as we find a method to integrate it with our bodies, we, too, can attain the realm of harmonizing ourselves with the world, just like a void-realm immortal."

The newly arrived immortals gasped at the emperor's words. Ling Yu, too, felt an icy grasp clench around his heart, as though he'd been drenched from head to toe in ice water.

Kill Lu Yun now? That'd be as good as declaring himself the enemy of every immortal in the world.

"Hmph! Are we to blindly trust his words? Who knows if it's actually possible to integrate the formation into ourselves?" Ling Yu snorted one last parting shot before falling silent. Naturally, he wasn't the only one to think this way; many others harbored the same doubts.

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

The entire dragon nest suddenly started to shake. Deafening explosions thundered one after another, as if the nest was being pummeled by a giant weapon. A rain of stone fragments cascaded from the ceiling as the dragon and phoenix nests began crumbling.

“What’s going on?!” The Witherdew Emperor’s expression sank and his somewhat weary figure snapped to attention.

“It’s the giant ape! He’s attacking the dragon tomb!” Canghai Xi shouted in fright. He was truly terrified of the Scarlet Ape. The creature’s staff had easily mashed two experts dead, neither of whom had been weaker than himself.

As for the one eaten by Beigong Xuan, well, the poor sap had just been really unlucky.

Crack!

Ugly fissures snaked through the tunnel walls in the dragon tomb.

“The tomb’s breaking! The North Sea’s probably going to become a ghost realm inhabited by the undead.... We’re leaving!” Lu Yun immediately called out the Divine Glory, rushed below the ghost tree to yank Qing Han out, then carried his friend aboard the ship.

.....

Billions of tons of water sprayed skyward in the seas surrounding the North Sea’s capital, dusting throngs of nearby cultivators into ashes before they could react.

From below the surface shot a giant black iron staff, stirring all of the North Sea into raging waves that tore through the territory.

“Humans! Get out of the North Sea or die!” a hoarse snarl spread across the entirety of the North Sea.

Chapter 380: The Monster Spirit Ancestor’s True Form

The declaration crashed into the world of immortals like a thunderbolt. Proclamation complete, the Scarlet Ape resumed its carnage. Every single human currently in the North Sea, whether cultivator or immortal, fell to its staff.

The ape killed everything in its way in a bloody progression to the shores of Ingress Island.

Thousands of kilometers across, the island was the size of a large province in one of the human majors. Gleaming with the hue of precious gems, a rich spiritual aura permeated the air. This island was a pearl of the North Sea, one of its most fertile regions.

Fire erupting from its eyes, the ape looked coldly at the vast island.

“Senior, Ingress Island is our ally!” Beigong Xuan hastened to say, still following behind the Scarlet Ape. The two other great factions of the North Sea—the Dark North Sword Sect and Ingress Island—weren’t pure monster spirit factions, but included humans as well.

The Scarlet Ape glanced back and leveled a glare filled with utter malevolence at the blackwater snake. Beigong Xuan’s mind immediately went blank and he shrank in on himself from trepidation.

“Do you wish to imitate the dragons, phoenixes, qilins, and tortoises in becoming humanity’s flunkies?” Cold and eerie, there was a murderous undertone to the ape’s raspy voice.

Beigong Xuan looked down, afraid to utter another word.

This Scarlet Ape was a survivor of a distant era far, far in the past. If one were to describe that era with words, it could be called 'primeval', and what the ape spoke of was obviously a secret from those primeval times.

What made Beigong Xuan's heart tremble was that... the four true spirits were humanity's lackeys?

He, too, didn't hail from the current era. He'd once been the spirit pet of Qi Hai, the foremost pill master of the ancient era, and had followed him into the dragon tomb. That was how he'd survived the great immortal war.

True, the ancient dragons and phoenixes had been subordinates of the immortal court, but said court hadn't been a human dynasty, but had encompassed every race of the immortal world. Humans, monster spirits, and divines alike had made up the ranks of the immortal emperors.

While the current relationship between monster spirits and humans was indeed antagonistic, the Scarlet Ape's vehemence seemed to go far beyond that.

"We monster spirits possess hearts of steel and an unyielding spirit. Why do we need to ally ourselves with humans?" A round of black waves billowed erupted from the staff in its hand as it swung it down at the island.

Boom!

Faster than one could blink, formations and restrictions on the island shattered one after another from the impact, crushing too many cultivators to count.

Monitoring the island from the shadows, Su Xiaoxiao tensed. Without a word, her figure gradually faded into nothingness as she returned to the netherworld.

Behind the ape gone berserk, the cape fanned out multicolored lights that surrounded the creature's golden figure in what resembled balls of flames, while formidable waves surged from the staff—a perfect combination of fire and water.

Boom!

Seaquell was now more than three thousand meters long, and the impact from it slamming into the island produced a tremendous fissure that ran from one end of the land to the other.

"Humans on the island, scam from the North Sea. Else, die!"

Rumble!

Shooting forward, the Scarlet Ape announced its landfall with a tremendous roar that ripped through the island like rolling thunder. However, a pair of hands hundreds of meters wide formed in response and slapped down at the ape with an imposing momentum.

The master of Ingress Island had finally shown his hand.

Upon revealing his power, clouds and winds surged in the sky and dimmed the world, and the lifeforce of the land around the Scarlet Ape was expelled, so much so the area around the creature almost seemed disconnected from the world.

“Ingress realm?!” Scowling at the giant hands in the sky looming over him, the ape growled as if deeply insulted. “How dare a mere ingress realm human attack me!”

It stuck its staff into the ground and spread its arms wide, compelling Seaquell to swell into an enormous mountain range that faced the island master’s hands head-on.

Boom!

Within a radius of fifty thousand kilometers, seawater and hundreds of millions of living creatures exploded violently when mountain met hands. Legs sunk deep into the ground, the Scarlet Ape’s golden fur was now dyed by the scarlet of its blood.

Hum...

The droning hum of a sword rang out as a grey sword appeared from nowhere and slashed at the Scarlet Ape.

Clank!!

A metallic clang echoed when the weapon neared the ape, unceremoniously halted by the blazing cape. A man clad in grey materialized and retrieved the immortal sword, joining the giant hands in the sky in an offensive against the giant ape.

Roar!!

The raging Scarlet Ape threw its head back and howled its fury at the sky, its golden fur glinting sharply. In the next moment, two extra heads and four extra arms grew out of its body.

Three heads and six arms!

The strength of its aura increased once more, and the black staff in front of him rippled with light as it split into three identical copies. Thus bolstered, the ape leapt in the air to do battle with the grey-robed immortal and the pair of giant hands.

.....

Inside the North Sea capital seas, a great white path suddenly broke through the water’s surface, immediately followed by dozens of thousands of immortals and a black fortress ship.

In the last moments of the dragon and phoenix nest’s destruction, Lu Yun had summoned the Path of Ingress once more and brought the surviving immortals away from the crumbling tombs.

“Ingress Island and the Dark North Sword Sect have both made their moves!” The immortals sensed the great battle over Ingress Island as soon as they emerged.

This was a fight between formidable powerhouses at the very top of the world’s pecking order! Shockwaves from the clashes shook the waters a million kilometers away.

“These giant hands... that’s an ingress realm powerhouse!” Lu Yun murmured in shock, sizing up the hands that were keeping up a relentless offensive against the Scarlet Ape. “And the grey-robed sword immortal, while he isn’t at ingress realm yet, is in the same league as the celestial emperors of the nine majors!”

He suddenly recalled what Empress Myrtlestar had once told him, that the dread zombie born from her corpse was no great threat to the immortal world because there existed too many beings who could subdue it.

And now, he was seeing a pair of ingress realm and a sword immortal who could rival a celestial emperor!

Hum...

A giant curtain of light rippled through the air as a black dragon thousands of meters long burrowed out, viciously slamming itself against the giant hands.

“Old fart of Ingress Island, you secretly helped the blackwater worms against my North Sea dragons that year! Today, I will not rest until I see you dead!” Ghost Dragon howled in anger. Behind him, a nine-headed phoenix bathed in flames also made haste to join the fierce fight against the giant hands.

After slaying the ghost tree and the ghost in the Realm of Unearthly Water with the help of the zombie phoenix head sent by Lu Yun, Ghost Dragon and the nine-headed phoenix were now entirely free.

In fact, the Fire Parasol Tree that’d been swallowed by the ghost tree had returned to its origin as a peerless treasure of the phoenixes.

Hence, dragon and phoenix now fought the ingress realm hands together. However, the two of them hadn’t yet recovered their full strength. Even coordinating their actions, they barely managed to suppress the hands.

“Dragons and phoenixes, dogs of humans! You deserve nothing but death!” roared the Scarlet Ape as it flung its three black staves at the dragon and the phoenix.

The battle above Ingress Island dissolved into a chaotic melee, even as the several-hundred-thousand-kilometers-wide island slowly sank below the sea.

.....

“Since when were there so many powerhouses in the immortal world?” Shudders traveled down the Witherdew emperor’s spine. He’d thought that after becoming a celestial emperor, he’d only need the help of Witherdew Major’s heavenly mandate and some further meditation to pluck an origin dao fruit and reign invincible throughout the world of immortals.

But now he’d suddenly run into five powerhouses, all of whom were stronger than a celestial emperor, just in the North Sea alone!

The more the golden-furred ape fought, the more valiant it became. It hadn’t been long since it’d been released from its seal and it was continually recovering by absorbing the vitality of the land in its surroundings.

“The North Sea is now a hotbed of trouble. We shouldn’t stay here for long. Ladies and gentlemen, this is where we part ways!” Standing on the Divine Glory, Lu Yun split open the void and disappeared from the sea region, along with all followers of the Star Demon Sect.

“I do hope that Lu Yun can truly do something with the Great Formation of Heavenly Spirits and Earthly Fiends...” quite a few immortals murmured to themselves, entrusting their hopes to him.

.....

Lu Yun sailed the ship to the formation space he'd previously created and brought the little fox and Xing Mou aboard the ship. As for Feinie, she'd already returned to hell. Soon after, the pitch-black Divine Glory broke its way through the waves and sped toward Dusk Province.

A battle between five pinnacle powerhouses was most dreadful indeed. No heavenly mandates protected the North Sea, so the entire ocean was almost flipped upside down, and lives were lost to raging waves, horrifying currents, and seawater detonations with each passing minute.

Trying to take to the air was meaningless when an appalling storm made the skies even more dangerous than the colossal waves down below.

In such an environment, dao immortals were the only ones who could barely manage to survive. They shielded their factions' disciples and fled the North Sea, while those below the dao immortal realm didn't even have the luxury of fleeing.

The entire North Sea seemed to have capsized, and countless islands shattered. Even some palaces at the bottom of the ocean weren't lucky enough to escape this disaster.

“That's Lu Yun's ship... Lord of Dusk, please save us!” Many cultivators floundering in the sea cried out for rescue at the top of their lungs when they spotted the black ship. These were all wandering cultivators seeking a livelihood in the North Sea. They had no powerful backers, so of course no dao immortals would appear to rescue them.

Wham!

A group of immortals disappeared as a massive wave crashed over them.

Lu Yun sighed and released the Path of Ingress with a wave of his hand. It split into countless avenues to various regions of the North Sea, extending into the waters in order to rescue the immortals struggling for their lives.

But their numbers were too great, and to save them all was simply impossible. Moreover, the battlefield was constantly shifting as the powerhouses moved and fought in turn, their zone of combat encompassing almost all of the North Sea.

Lu Yun deployed ten more fortress ships and rescued more than a million immortals, but had no choice but to vacate the North Sea in the end.

When the fleet of ships approached the edge of the North Sea, a mist of silvery luminescence emanated from the nearly ruined Levitating Island. The already sunken floating isle once again took to the sky, and palace halls densely dotted its slopes.

And then... a magnificent figure materialized.

It was a woman of extraordinary beauty. Lu Yun could swear that, even after living two lifetimes, he'd never seen such a stunner. Even Empress Myrtlestar and his Envoys of Samsara paled in comparison with her matchless features.

Hers was an absolute, unequivocal beauty that brooked no doubt. It could suffocate someone or drive them mad.

Resting in Qing Han's arms, the little fox stared blankly at the figure, a hint of bewilderment emerging in her eyes despite herself.

"How beautiful..." The numerous immortals of the ships stared, entranced, bewitched, and ensnared by the figure.

"The monster spirit ancestor!" Su Xiaoxiao and Cangyin murmured inside hell when they saw the figure. "This is the monster spirit ancestor's true form."

Lu Yun looked at the fox in astonishment... Err, is this how the furball used to look?

Hum...

The monster ancestor pressed gently downward with her slender hands. A silver ripple spread out and pacified the endless winds and waves it met, slowly soothing the North Sea to its previous stillness.