

## **Necropolis 571**

### **Chapter 571.1: Empress Timelight's Corpse**

"Parallel spaces." Lu Yun suddenly understood. He could hear Jing Dichen, the Deaf Prince, and Beicang Xiong and their voices were very close, but he couldn't see them for the life of him.

The only possible explanation was that they were in parallel spaces.

Just like in the yin and yang tombs, their physical locations overlapped with one another, but they existed in two separate pockets of space.

"Deaf Prince, Beicang Qiong, Dichen!" he called out.

"Stop!" Beicang Qiong shouted in his rough voice. "I think I heard senior brother Lu's voice just now!"

"I didn't hear anything?" the Deaf Prince yelled in objection.

"I also heard him." There was a hint of joy in Jing Dichen's cool voice. "It's senior brother Lu, he's come to save us! Senior brother Lu, where are you?"

"I shouldn't be very far from you. Just stay where you are, don't move!" Lu Yun tried transmitting his words, but then realized that while his voice could reach them, his consciousness was completely cut off, making it so that the Deaf Prince couldn't hear him. The spatial configuration here was very strange. Sound could be transmitted, but vision and the consciousness were obstructed.

"Alright!" Beicang Qiong and Jing Dichen held the agitating Deaf Prince in a death grip and kept him in place.

"What are you two doing! We need to hurry and look for the World Chest! Little Lin, Little Bai, and Little Feng are still inside the monster's belly!" The Deaf Prince was as loud as ever, his voice betraying his fretfulness.

"Senior brother Lu's here!" Jing Dichen smacked the back of his head, hard, and grumbled, "Wait for him to get here first!"

"Ah?" The Deaf Prince froze. "Is senior brother Lu really here?"

On the other side, Lu Yun carefully made his way forward, guided by their voices.

Whooooooosh!

The sound of wind abruptly rose in the area, followed by a giant tornado churning his way.

"What the... wind?" Lu Yun froze. Before he could react, the decently powerful tornado engulfed his entire figure. Caught up in the whirlwind, immortal energy seemed to slice into his skin like blades.

"Bloody hell, it's trying to assimilate me!" He suddenly recalled the humanoid statues. "Were they also done in by these tornados?"

With a thought, hellfire once again blazed up around him and incinerated the almost tangible immortal energy.

Boom!!

With a burst of concentration, he turned his body into a flaming torch of hellfire. The black fire instantly destroyed the fearsome tornado.

“So it turns out that hellfire can burn immortal energy.” Lu Yun sighed gently with relief. “But immortal energy is completely destroyed once burned. There’s nothing of it left behind.”

It’d been a close shave just now. Had he been a second slower, the violent storm would’ve infiltrated his body and turned him into a statue.

“These energy storms are definitely not a natural occurrence!” An awe-inspiring aura came bearing down upon him, but he couldn’t quite figure out where from.

“The power of space? It looks like there are quite a few parallel spaces around here.” Lu Yun frowned slightly as realization struck him. “Ah, right! There’s a mixture of natural and immortal energies here, so there’s definitely an earthen vein nearby! Perhaps it’s become a dragon vein by now, or something even higher level.”

In the world of immortals, various forms of natural energies, immortal energies, and an assortment of ores came from earthen veins or the higher-level dragon veins. When natural and immortal energies, or spirit stones and immortal crystals, appeared in the same place, it was a sure sign of an earthen or dragon vein close by.

When the Art Saint had laid out the Enneaworm Coffinbearers layout, he’d destroyed the lifepoint of Dusk Province’s dragon vein, thus scattering the natural and immortal energies of the province. As a result, the province, one of the greatest in Nephrite Major, had declined into its current impoverished straits.

Such was the influence that earthen and dragon veins exerted on the immortal and natural energies.

“Since there’s a dragon vein here, that makes it all the easier for me!” A smile appeared on Lu Yun’s lips as he took out the feng shui compass.

Bzzt!

A ray of golden light flared from the compass before dissolving into an embryonic small world that revolved around him.

“Sure enough, there’s dragon veins here... and really powerful ones!” Lu Yun snapped to attention and inhaled sharply. “And... apparently I can only draw from the smallest one. If I mess around with the bigger ones, I’ll suffer backlash from the land!”

Dragon veins were taboos that not even celestial emperors dared touch. Back when he’d set up an immortal burial layout in Azure Province, he’d had to ask Wayfarer to seize sixty-four earthen veins so he could gradually evolve them into dragon veins.

Alas, their efforts had ultimately been for naught.

The palace inside the celestial master tomb was also home to dragon veins, and more than one at that. Given Lu Yun's current strength, he could use the Dragonshift Method to only call upon the smallest among them. Even so, this so-called 'smallest one' still far exceeded his expectations.

"If not for the tomb being isolated from the outside world, I'd be killed by nature's backlash if I so much as touched it." He was rather glad of the tomb's special layout now, so unique that it could even isolate those inside from immortal tribulations. Likewise, the small-scale dragon veins in this place had also been detached from the world at large. Only a bigger dragon vein could maintain its connection to the outside world.

"Rise!" Lu Yun waved his hand inside the small world born from the luopan, summoning a milky-white dragon vein from beneath the ground. It floated aloft, then coiled around him.

The space surrounding him began shaking, like the wrath of the heavens had descended upon the land and was trying to break through the tomb's barrier and punish Lu Yun for his impudence.

But there was a mystical power inside that forcibly repelled the power that would uphold the rules of nature.

Dragon veins were the essence of the world and connected to nature itself. To tamper with them was to incite retaliation from the surrounding land.

The last time, he'd been aided by the Scroll of Shepherding Immortals when making off with the dragon vein in the North Sea, as well as the Azure Dragon King and Empress Myrtlestar residing inside.

The two ancient powerhouses had acted together to stop the rebounding force. Afterward, the Azure Dragon King had swallowed the dragon vein to mend his injuries.

This time, it was the celestial master tomb's power that stopped nature's retaliation.

"Only one who's surpassed dao immortal realm and reached the ingress realm can withstand this backlash from the world itself." Further enlightenment filtered through to Lu Yun. "Too bad I've only touched upon the threshold of ascension. There's three more months to go before I shed the shackles of mortality!"

"But right now... shatter!" With an explosive shout, he waved his arm and sent an enormous white dragon shadow streaking through the air.

The space in front of him cracked like a mirror, revealing the Deaf Prince, Beicang Qing, and Jing Dichen.

### **Chapter 571.2: Empress Timelight's Corpse**

"Senior brother Lu!" The Deaf Prince stared at him. "You're really here!"

"Are you guys alright?" Lu Yun heaved a sigh of relief when he saw the three of them and quickly dispelled his Dragonshift Method. His cultivation was currently too low to sustain a method of this magnitude for long. Controlling an earthen vein was doable, but a dragon vein was another story altogether.

“Senior brother Lu, why are you here?” Eyes and mouth wide open, something occurred to the Deaf Prince and he jumped up with alarm. “Senior brother Lu, you need to hurry and leave! This place is too dangerous!”

“I know it’s dangerous.” Lu Yun swallowed a pill to restore his energy. “Where are Bai Qi, Feng Ruyu, and Lin Yan?”

“They... were eaten by a monster!” Fear flashed in Beicang Qiong’s eyes. “We need to find the seventh World Chest so we can save them.”

“The seventh World Chest?” Lu Yun blinked.

“Right!” Relatively calmer in comparison, Jing Dichen breathed in deeply. “There’s a total of seven World Chests in this underground palace, all of which can withstand the crystal mountains here. The last time we came here, we took six of them.

“At first, we came back to get the seventh World Chest and bring back a crystal mountain for you, senior brother Lu...” Her voice dwindled in volume with embarrassment. She’d already guessed that Lu Yun had come to save them.

“We didn’t expect the mountain to suddenly come to life and swallow them. If not for your Tribulation Surrogate Pill, the three of them would be dead by now!” She couldn’t hide the dread in her eyes.

“The crystal mountain came to life and turned into a monster? How long ago was that?” Lu Yun frowned.

“Not long ago!” Beicang Qiong hurriedly answered. “We saw it with our own eyes—the three of them were swallowed whole!”

“We need to find the seventh World Chest as soon as possible to store the crystal mountain inside. That’s the only way to free them!” In their distress, Beicang Qiong and Jing Dichen forgot to transmit a copy of their words, so the Deaf Prince could only stare blankly at their moving lips, wholly unknowing of what they’d said.

“World Chests won’t do us any good. Take me there.” Lu Yun let out a long sigh while transmitting his voice.

“We got lost...” The Deaf Prince pulled a long face. “It’s all Beicang Qiong’s fault! He was the one leading the way!”

The culprit turned broodingly glum, while Jing Dichen didn’t say a word.

“Never mind, let me do it.” Lu Yun flipped over his hand and took out the feng shui compass again. “A dragon sleeps in mountains coiled, those deathly cliffs with mystery roiled!”

Hum!

Golden light danced on the compass as the small world emerged once more, depicting the layout of the entire palace.

“This is actually an underground palace? Wha...” Lu Yun stared blankly at the so-called underground palace he was currently in. “We’re... outside the celestial master tomb already? But the tomb’s energy still permeates this place...”

The Deaf Prince and the other two also gawked at the sight. What appeared in front of them was an enormous skeleton, impossible to make out in height or size. From what Lu Yun could see, the skull alone was bigger than all of Nephite Major. If this skeleton were to set foot in the world of immortals, the world would probably cave in and break under its weight!

The skeleton sat cross-legged in the emptiness, its hands cradling a small mountain made of immortal crystal. To be more precise, the mountain was small in comparison to the skeleton as a whole, but it was still about as big as the skull.

Currently, Lu Yun’s group was located in the interior of the mountain’s peak.

“What the heck is that?!” His eyes round as saucers, the Deaf Prince looked on blankly. “A skeleton bigger than the world of immortals itself... Is it really the remains of a living creature?”

“Its bones are made of immortal crystal.” Jing Dichen inhaled sharply. “Inside this palace... or mountain, there’s a strange kind of whirlwind that can turn people into immortal crystals!”

Clearly, they too had run into the same kind of tornados Lu Yun had encountered earlier. But protected by their World Chests, the six profligates had little to fear.

“Could this skeleton have been turned into immortal crystal by the same wind?” Jing Dichen was a little afraid of her own conjecture.

“I don’t know.” Lu Yun shook his head. “It doesn’t matter anyway. Let’s go find Lin Yan and the others!”

Halting the Dragonsearch Invocation, he led the way without a word, hellfire flaring to life on his figure. Like children caught misbehaving, Jing Dichen and the other two kept their mouths shut and hastened to follow him.

“That reminds me, junior sister Jing, Huaci is also here.”

“Huaci... She’s come back to life?!” Jing Dichen, Beicang Qing, and the Deaf Prince beamed with delight. They’d left for the tomb shortly after Jing Huaci’s damaged soul had merged with the Soul Restoring Pill; she hadn’t revived yet back then.

“She’s received quite the fortuitous opportunity as well,” Lu Yun murmured and turned around with an unexpected question. “An opportunity as lucky as the one here. Do the six of you want to claim the opportunity here?”

“No!” Beicang Qiong shook his head. “We’re just good-for-nothings idling our days away. While we do have exceptional potential, we don’t have the kind of temperament to make the most out of it. If the opportunity here really lands in our hands, it’ll end really badly!”

Lu Yun had already noticed that the three of them were on the cusp of becoming void-realm immortals. But just like himself, they were suppressing their cultivations to refrain from breaking through and waiting for their heavenly tribulations first, instead.

“The skeleton outside is the remains of a supreme powerhouse.” Lu Yun turned back, explaining while leading the way. “In life, she was known as Empress Timelight, an all-powerful existence surpassing the ancient immortal emperor.”

As soon as he'd seen the giant skeleton, he'd recognized it as Empress Timelight's corpse!

But for some reason, the corpse had withered into a skeleton, and it cradled an object that had absolutely nothing to do with her dao.

Despite how things looked now, she'd certainly held something other than a chunk of immortal crystal in the past. Unexpected events had more than likely occurred later on.

“Empress Timelight, a great empress from before Emperors' Fall!” Jing Dichen shouted subconsciously.

“You know about Emperors' Fall?” Lu Yun looked at her in stupefaction.

“I do.” Jing Dichen nodded. “I am a born skydragon and I belong to my tribe's royal line. Therefore, I've inherited my tribe's memories.

“But to unlock those memories, I have to constantly increase my cultivation. Right now, all I know about the war of Emperors' Fall and Empress Timelight are vague impressions.” She smiled wryly. Her skydragon bloodline was one thing, but her inherited memories were even more precious! Without those invaluable memories, she'd likely have become nothing more but a breeding tool by now.

Once she grew up and fully recovered these inherited memories, it'd enable the dragon tribe to regain the lost arts and methods of their ancestors and return to their most glorious era.

“Mhmm.” Lu Yun nodded and didn't pursue the subject. “Unless I'm mistaken, the thing in the skeleton's hand should be another emperor's treasure.”

Unbidden, the thought of the soul fragment residing inside the Timelight Tower came to him. Perhaps... that soul was truly an emperor from the Primeval Era?

Assuming that the mountain of immortal crystals held by Empress Timelight's corpse was the soul's ultimate treasure, it'd explain everything that had happened thus far.

Once the soul returned to this place, she would not only be able to take over Jing Huaci's body, extinguish Empress Timelight's internal demon, and obtain the Timelight Tower, but also recover her own personal treasure.

## **Chapter 572: Three Evil Coffins, The More the Merrier**

“Unless I'm mistaken, all that's left of that great empress is a soul fragment, so she can't activate the treasure.” Lu Yun's eyes shone bright. “As long as she can't enter this area, she won't be able to call upon the treasure's power. This is a great opportunity! We can make off with it instead!”

The Deaf Prince, Beicang Qiong, and Jing Dichen couldn't help but flinch. Wrest a great empress' treasure away from herself? Was the mighty senior brother out of his mind??

“Don't worry, the connection between the treasure and the soul fragment must've been cut off.” Lu Yun smiled faintly and outlined his thoughts with great confidence. “The treasure's turned into a chunk of

immortal crystal and belongs to the immortal dao now. Even if she is the soul fragment of a primeval empress... she's just a damaged soul in the end. She can't come here, nor can she reclaim it."

The Deaf Prince and the others looked askance at each other, afraid to respond. They were lawless mavericks, known to stir up trouble as easily as they breathed, but they couldn't hold a candle to their senior brother, it seemed.

We're talking about a primeval empress here!

According to Jing Dichen, this was a figure who could squash the primordial immortal emperor with one finger. And yet Lu Yun was blatantly scheming against her!

"It's decided then. You six are going to take this treasure!" Forestalling their protests, Lu Yun made the decision for them. "I've dug up quite a few big tombs in my time, but I've yet to uncover something truly worthy of being called a treasure.

"I'm taking this mountain with me if it's the last thing I do!" His steps became all the more sprightly and lively. Just now, the luopan had not only revealed the truth of everything in- and outside the palace, but it'd also located where Lin Yan and the others were.

The Deaf Prince, Beicang Qiong, and Jing Dichen pulled another long face, then followed him obediently.

"They're just ahead of us!" Lu Yun suddenly stopped dead, seeing that the landscape in front of them was different from before.

Numerous crystal mountains towered above the clouds, some even bigger than the ones the six profligates owned. It would seem that the mountains the six had made off with had been the smallest ones in the batch; any bigger and they would've been too much for them to handle.

Lu Yun glimpsed Bai Qi, Feng Ruyu, and Lin Yan sealed inside a great crystal mountain. Thankfully, they were still alive.

Lin Yan's situation was the most precarious. His body had been almost run through by a pillar of immortal crystal, but there was a layer of dim golden light encircling him. This was the effect of the Tribulation Surrogate Pill, a pill that could ward off disaster for immortals and cultivators alike.

Even so, the pill's brilliance was steadily decreasing. When it disappeared for good, it'd signal the end of Lin Yan's life.

"Senior brother Lu?" Bai Qi shouted as soon as he saw Lu Yun. "Don't get any closer! Be careful, the crystal mountains here are alive, and they might transform into monsters at any moment!"

Lu Yun stopped in his tracks and opened the Spectral Eye to scan the mountains around them. Sure enough, he saw the aura of living creatures emanating from the inanimate features.

"These mountains... all possess complete souls! ...the faceless ghosts!" Lu Yun jerked his head around. "The impostor must have gone out of her way to collect dead souls, all for the sake of creating these monsters! They probably weren't in the shape of mountains at first, but were assimilated into immortal crystals later on."

He finally saw through to the truth of this place. After reaping the souls of many creatures, the soul fragment had turned them into faceless ghosts while feeding their souls to the monsters to revive them.

“Also, I absolutely need to take this mountain away, or it’ll absorb the energy of the land at an increasingly faster rate and end up consuming all of the energy exhaled by the lungs. If that ever happens, the world outside and the worlds beyond will gradually wither.” Lu Yun grimaced when he understood their current quandary.

They were in the true core of the great mountain, the inside of a great empress’ treasure. An imperial treasure, especially one that was still intact, would continuously absorb natural energy in its vicinity to store as its own.

That wouldn’t have been an issue with a complete immortal dao. With the protection of the immortal dao, not even a treasure of this level would’ve been able to harm the outside world.

But the immortal dao was severed, and keeping its remaining fragments together was all it could do. Meanwhile, this parasitic mountain relentlessly leeched away natural energy from the source. At this rate, all of the energy in the outside world would one day end up here.

Hearing Lu Yun muttering to himself, Jing Dichen and her companions shuddered from head to toe.

“You three fall back. I need to lay down a formation to disperse the immortal energy here.” Lu Yun took a deep breath and made a pushing motion with his hand, signaling them to move behind him.

“You have to be careful, senior brother Lu. Apart from those mountain monsters, there’s also immortal ghosts here!” Jing Dichen hurried to warn him when she saw him get to work.

“Immortal ghosts, hmm?” Lu Yun inclined his head. “The layouts here are chaotic and complex... It’s true that it would be hard for me to spot any immortal ghosts that may be hidden nearby.

“That said... immortal ghosts aren’t much of a threat. Yueshen, your turn,” he whispered.

“So you’ve finally remembered me. I thought you’d forgotten I even existed.” Yueshen floated out of the Gates of the Abyss, nine bloodcorpses in tow.

Yueshen Jixiang and Wushen Ruyi were now inhabitants of the City of Life in hell and oversaw the new denizens born in the netherworld. As an immortal ghost herself, residing inside hell magnified Yueshen’s powers. Added to that, her nine bloodcorpses made her an extraordinary existence among immortal ghosts.

Normally speaking, bringing ghosts from one tomb to another was a great taboo that’d result in unspeakable consequences. But, according to Lu Yun’s speculations, though they were still connected to the celestial master tomb, they were in fact separate from the structure itself and didn’t occupy the same space. Therefore, letting Yueshen out shouldn’t cause any problems.

“Alright.” With a faint smile, Yueshen gradually faded from view while the nine bloodcorpses transformed into bloody shadows that quietly stood guard around Lu Yun.

“Bloodcorpses!” Shuddering fiercely, Beicang Qiong hastily brought out his World Chest to protect himself.



“To thin out all this immortal energy, the Enneawyrms Coffinbearers layout should be the most appropriate!”

Enneawyrms Coffinbearers!

It was an ominous feng shui layout that could damage earthen veins, disperse dragon veins, and absorb yin energy from its surroundings. Due to the remarkable density of the immortal energy in the premises, it had to be diluted first before one could collect the treasures inside.

The actual Enneawyrms Coffinbearers was inside hell, so setting up the layout would be a walk in the park for Lu Yun.

“Wait, one layout probably won’t be enough. So...” He grinned from ear to ear. “So let’s lay down the Enneawyrms Coffinbearers, Nine-Phoenix Casket, and Enneaqilin Coffinbiers all at once! The more the merrier!”

### **Chapter 573: Space**

The Formation Orb flew out of Lu Yun’s hand while his luopan morphed into an embryonic minor world. There was already a dragon vein here that he could tap into for purposes of adjusting the environment. He’d be able to create the layouts necessary without further manipulation of the vein.

Lu Yun was most familiar with the Enneawyrms Coffinbearers layout as it’d once appeared on Earth. Meanwhile, the Nine-Phoenix Casket and Enneaqilin Coffinbiers were layouts he’d only ever heard of, but never seen with his own eyes.

That was no matter, as all three of those coffins now sat in hell; he could simply create the layouts by tracing their physical manifestations.

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As soon as Lu Yun’s consciousness entered hell to scrutinize the Enneaqilin Coffinbiers and the Nine-Phoenix Casket, the Enneawyrms Coffinbearers released a beam of black light that enveloped the other two coffins.

Rumble!

A tremor tore through the air, heralding the opening of the Gates of the Abyss amidst a terrifying, thundering din. The three giant coffins flew ponderously out of hell, interrupting Lu Yun’s Dragonsearch Invocation.

“What... what the heck?!” Lu Yun had long noticed that the Enneawyrms Coffinbearers, Nine-Phoenix Casket, and Enneaqilin Coffinbiers could open the Gates of the Abyss at will. Moreover, the Enneawyrms Coffinbearers would charge out from hell to help him whenever he encountered great danger.

The other two coffins had remained quietly in their places up to now, so Lu Yun was highly taken aback to see them all spring to action.

“Just who are the three coffins housing?” He paused and flashed back to guard Jing Dichen, Beicang Qiong, and the Deaf Prince.

At the same time, Yueshen and her bloodcorpses returned to hell. The three coffins seemed to recognize only Lu Yun, so anyone else might be caught in the crossfire if they stuck around.

“If my guess is correct, the Ninefooted Turtle Cist should be in the celestial master tomb as well... Is it in this great treasure?” Lu Yun couldn’t help but speculate.

Bam!

The air trembled violently when the three great coffins landed heavily on the ground. Anguished screams rent the air as countless crystal mountains disintegrated.

“No!” Lu Yun screamed. The mountain trapping Bai Qi, Feng Ruyu, and Lin Yan had collapsed as well under the terrifying power of the three coffins.

Hum.

Before he could do anything, the faint golden light shrouding Lin Yan exploded with the radiance of the sun, deterring the sweeping might of the coffins. Lu Yun gaped in shock, narrowing his eyes against the dazzling glare.

The Tribulation Surrogate Pill!

Such was the pill’s power, and it was the first time Lu Yun had witnessed it since refining it! He knew very well just how powerful the coffins were, yet the pill had completely offset their power!

Bam!!

A great explosion blasted through the air as Lin Yan, Bai Qi, and Feng Ruyu’s bodies rushed toward Lu Yun in a long streak of gold. Lu Yun quickly activated the branch of the Path of Ingress in his body to welcome them. They’d all lost consciousness.

The Tribulation Surrogate Pill could resolve their dangers, but the impact of the collision had still been too strong. Nevertheless, it was actually a good thing that they were unconscious.

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“Who goes there?!” roared an angry voice.

The immortal energy in the palace suddenly churned into a great vortex that swept in all directions.

Rumble!

Booms reverberated through the air as pockets of space collapsed within the great crystal mountain cradled in the hands of Empress Timelight’s body, reverting back to pure immortal energy.

A figure of blue and white stepped out from the void. Completely naked, the woman’s skin was flawless and smooth. She looked like a piece of art chiseled from immortal crystals, and deep blue light flickered all around her.

“It’s you, Lu Yun!” The woman’s gaze focused on Lu Yun. “And the six pieces I set into motion have returned!”

The deep blue light around her morphed into a dress as she slowly descended to the ground.

“You’re the soul fragment!” Lu Yun started when he got a better look. “No, no wait, you’re not the fragment outside... You’ve always been in here! You divided your true spirit in halves!”

She looked completely different from the soul fragment outside. Beauty that could likewise topple cities, she was an entirely different person. The fragment outside had turned herself into Empress Timelight, while the woman before him retained her original appearance!

However, she was a soul fragment as well; one that matched the fragment outside and would come together to form a complete true spirit. This woman could rival a great emperor—or perhaps she was a great emperor herself. It was sheer madness that she’d split her true spirit into two!

Inky smoke billowed out from the Enneawyrm Coffinbearers, Nine-Phoenix Casket, and Enneaqilin Coffinbiers to corrupt the great crystal treasure from the inside.

Face like frost, the woman glared coldly at Lu Yun. “I have indeed underestimated you. What terrible things you’ve summoned here!”

She raised her hand, and what undamaged crystal mountains remained fell into her hands as crystal monsters, accompanied by a tremor through the air. A large mouth and a pair of pale, ghastly eyes emerged behind her.

It belonged to the crystal monster that Lu Yun had encountered in the space where heavenly qi was converted.

“What uh... what?”

The woman seemed to have reversed space with a simple move, as if she wielded full control over this place.

“Spatial power?” Lu Yun paused. However, this was no time for him to pursue that line of thought.

The crystal woman was already making a move against him. Believing Lu Yun to be responsible for the three coffins, all would return to normal once she dealt with the impertinent youth.

A palm strike descended upon Lu Yun, who felt like he’d been cocooned from the world, orphaned and abandoned by all of existence. However, a great rumbling echoed by his ear in the next moment. A giant skeletal arm shot out of the Enneawyrm Coffinbearers and slammed into the woman’s palm.

#### **Chapter 574: Chaos Tribulation**

The woman’s body trembled when her hand of immortal crystal was shattered by the bony arm from the Enneawyrm Coffinbearers. Then, the dragon, phoenix, and qilin coffins soared into the air, hurling themselves at her translucent form.

“Hmph!” Snorting, she erupted with cerulean light and expanded her body at an alarming rate. What was once an ordinary-sized figure became thirty kilometers tall in the blink of an eye.

When the light dissipated, a set of extremely luxurious armor had materialized upon her body as well. She lunged toward the three coffins with an outstretched fist.

Then, something very odd indeed happened: her single punch simultaneously collided with all three coffins, sending the vessels flying three different ways.

Crisscrossing her steps, the woman vanished and reappeared in front of the Nine-Phoenix Casket.

“The nineheaded phoenix refined into a casket? Tsk tsk tsk...” She hammered another blow home with a mocking tut.

Crack!

Groaning under the burden of the strike, frightening fissures ran across the evil coffin’s surface and bloody light seeped out from its interior.

“I’d quite like to see what warranted the nineheaded phoenix as its coffin! Break!” Roaring, the woman thrust her fist forward once more. This punch was still just one single move, but even more mysterious than the last. It attacked the coffin simultaneously from every conceivable direction.

Boom!

A deafening crash shook the firmament as blinding scarlet filled the air.

“The Blood Sea!” the woman and Lu Yun exclaimed in unison.

The Blood Sea was a classical fixture in hell, a body of liquid that carried corpses of all beings. Why was it inside the Nine-Phoenix Casket?!

Sploosh.

Something fell out of the Blood Sea and smashed into the ground: a giant skull that measured a hundred kilometers across.

Fragments of the Nine-Phoenix Casket were scattered about as well; the woman had destroyed the evil coffin in a single strike.

“The Blood Sea... that skull...” The woman’s crystalline eyes were transfixed by the skeletal head. A remnant of bloody light still remained within the latter’s eye sockets.

“You want to refine the Blood Sea... such ambition!” the woman sneered. “Hell was created by humanity, but the Blood Sea is a part of nature. Humans may be able to rule over hell and reincarnation, but they have no dominion over the sea!

“And now, this Blood Sea is mine!” She opened her arms, lighting herself up with the same cerulean light as before. “Once my Vastspace Mountain subsumes the Blood Sea and gains the power of reincarnation, sovereignty over the multiverse will finally be within my grasp!”

The space inside Vastspace Mountain flared with the same shade of blue that she wore, achieving some sort of resonance between the two. The blue light began siphoning away at the floating sea hovering in midair.

Lu Yun’s attention remained firmly upon the Enneaworm Coffinbearers. The lid of the draconic coffin was opening with painful slowness and a pair of humongous skeletal arms reached out. Rather than

interfere with the woman's actions, they scratched insistently against the cover of the Enneaqilin Coffinbiers.

Creak...

The lid of the third coffin flipped open, allowing the arms to pull out a similarly large carcass from within.

No, 'carcass' was a stretch—it was a skeletal frame that dripped with blood. No head or limbs were attached, only something that could barely be called a body. Under Lu Yun's incredulous gaze, the arms inside the Enneawym Coffinbearers and the skull from the Nine-Phoenix Casket attached themselves to the body.

"Who are you?!" The woman paused from manipulating her treasure to cast a wary glance at the legless skeleton.

Rumble...

Turbulence shook the air and the cerulean light from Vastspace Mountain began to dissipate.

An enormous void appeared in the fabric of space and the woman's face paled, or at least as much as it was possible for a crystal visage to do so. Her translucent pallor turned positively transparent in an expression of shock.

A colossal turtle crawled in from the hole in space, its body a deep midnight. Its eyes were closed, and it walked on nine feet. It, too, had been refined into a vessel of burial!

"Ninefooted Turtle! You were turned into a coffin as well!" the woman murmured.

Rumble...

The lid over the Ninefooted Turtle Cist slowly opened as well, allowing a pair of bony legs to swing out.

.....

Witherdew Major, Star Demon Sect headquarters.

Statues of the Enneawym Coffinbearers, Nine-Phoenix Casket, Enneaqilin Coffinbiers, and a shadowy something else were laid upon a giant altar.

In this moment, the hazy ball exploded to reveal the form of the Ninefooted Turtle Cist, upon which four pillars of black flames shot into the sky and gathered into a black cloud.

.....

Witherdew Major, celestial court.

Her current emperor, Tuoba Jie, had successfully attained origin dao realm while enduring no injuries whatsoever.

The power of a single origin dao fruit flowed into the Blithe Entrapment Formation's diagram. The treasure's true potential was finally being deployed, and it would be nigh impossible for Lu Yun to break the formation now. It had become a part of Emperor Witherdew's very existence.

“Hahahahaha!” Tuoba Jie threw his head back with laughter. “Would you look at that! I am the first of the nine celestial emperors to reach the origin dao realm!”

Satisfaction was written all over his face.

“Congratulations, Your Majesty! Felicitations, Your Majesty! Now that you are in the origin dao realm, your life and reign are sure to be eternal and everlasting!” Millions of officials knelt at his feet in worship.

“Now that you’re in the origin dao realm, Your Majesty, when will you deign to uproot the Star Demon Sect?” A younger-looking arcane dao immortal stepped forward with a bow.

“The Star Demon Sect?” Tuoba Jie grinned broadly. “There is no hurry to deal with them now, the heaven and earth formation diagram comes first. Clangbeard!”

“Here, Your Majesty!” The named peerless immortal stepped forward.

“Gather five hundred million Bifang soldiers. We march on Nephrite Major!” Tuoba Jie clasped both hands behind his back. “The Art and Zither Saints? What can two cripples do against Our might, the might of a full-fledged origin dao immortal?”

Boom!

He’d just delivered those words when all of Witherdew Major shuddered. Huge billows of black clouds covered the sky over the entire facet.

“What in the heavens is going on?” Tuoba Jie and his officials took to the skies and gawked at the thick layer of heavenly gloom. “Appear, wretched monster!”

The emperor deployed a copy of the Blithe Entrapment Formation into the firmament with a wave of his hand. His origin dao cultivation was on full display without reservation, and the heavenly power of Witherdew Major erupted alongside his own.

“Your Majesty, the black cloud is coming from the Star Demon Sect!” remarked the youngish arcane dao immortal with unmasked shock as he pointed in the western quadrant of the sky.

“How dare the Star Demon Sect pollute Witherdew Major! Death... to the Star Demo—” Tuoba Jie was furious. Amplified by the major he ruled over, his voice spread throughout Witherdew in seconds.

Crack! Rumble rumble rumble!

He didn’t even have time to finish his statement when the choking clouds sounded thunderclap after thunderclap. Before anyone could react, a bolt of black lightning cut down from the heavens directly upon him.

Bang!

The Witherdew mandate that Tuoba Jie carried was instantly shattered, and the Blithe Entrapment Formation’s diagram went along with it. In fact, Tuoba Jie himself was no more; only a pile of ash remained where he’d once stood.

The first celestial emperor among the nine to reach the origin dao realm thus died an ignobly sudden death at the height of his triumph, but that certainly wasn't all.

The first lightning bolt was only the overture to a symphony of destruction. A tempest of black electricity bore down upon all of Witherdew Major like an inexorable storm, targeting every immortal in the land!

.....

Nephrite Major, Dusk Province, Skandha Range.

The Star Demon Sect members had been transported here by a mysterious force as soon as the black cloud appeared. An enormous face appeared upon the towering trunk of the desolate willow.

"So the five of you founded the Star Demon Sect..." it declared in a sonorous voice to the five demon sovereigns before it.

"His Eminence the Demon God has returned," the first among the sovereigns remarked after a long period of silence. "...so I see no reason for the Star Demon Sect to exist further."

"No." The desolate willow's leaves quivered slightly. "The Demon God does not need the Star Demon Sect, but Sir Lu Yun does."

"Lu Yun?" The first sovereign blinked. "He must be His Eminence's heir. With the great one's protection, who in the world of immortals could harm him?"

"No." The desolate willow turned oddly serious. "The Demon God is Sir Lu Yun's servant."

The five demon sovereigns stared flabbergasted at the talking tree, unsure of what to say.

According to legend, the desolate willow had been planted by the Demon God himself a long time ago.

.....

On the day of Witherdew Major's calamity, every immortal within its borders was eradicated. From its reigning origin dao immortal to the lowest true immortal, every person who had attained immortality was no more.

No immortals remained in Witherdew Major when the thunder and lightning dispersed for good, shaking the entire world with the absurdity of the news.

Emperor Witherdew's ascension to origin dao realm had caused concern for many, considering Tuoba Jie's propensity for conflict; but the situation had entirely reversed itself all of a sudden.

Witherdew Major was as good as razed to nothing.

Their work done, the Star Demon Sect and the black clouds overhead vanished into thin air. It was like they'd never been there in the first place.

Life in Witherdew went back to normal as well. Nothing seemed much different from before, except for one thing: immortals no longer walked that land.

.....

Celestial master tomb, Vastspace Mountain.

A giant of bone stood in the middle of the crystalline mountain, standing upright between earth and sky. The Blood Sea originally under the woman's constraints was free and wrapped around the giant like a scarlet cape.

The faintest glimmer of red sparkled from inside the giant's skull, like a pair of quasi-eyes, as it glowered at the crystal woman.

"Who are you?!" The woman—an empress from before the primeval emperor's fall—glared back with utmost solemnity. To an outside observer, she'd expanded to match the giant's size. Or rather, she'd contracted the surrounding space to make her appear immeasurably greater in stature.

The skeletal giant remained silent, and instead, thrust an aura of endless blood at the woman.

"A dead thing, then! Your true spirit dissipated a long time ago. If I guess correctly, your source is inside that nine-dragon coffin!" She avoided taking the skeleton's attack head on and transposed herself next to the Enneawym Coffinbearers in a flash of cerulean.

"Break!" she roared angrily. In a reproduction of the Nine-Phoenix Casket's destruction, her fist appeared from every direction again, carrying an intensity that threatened to annihilate anything it made contact with.

Black shockwaves oscillated through the air.

Lu Yun's Tome of Life and Death was already in place to protect the Deaf Prince and company, as well as himself, but he still felt like he was no more than a candle in a storm. He could be snuffed out at any minute.

The circumstances unfolding in front of him were beyond comprehension and utterly terrifying.

If Vastspace Mountain's internal structure didn't have so many folds and layers of space to dampen the shockwaves' effects, even the netherworld's book might not have been enough to save them.

A prodigious hum from the Enneawym Coffinbearers heralded the appearance of an enormous shadow above it. It wrapped itself over and around Lu Yun and the others, stifling the catastrophic energy that filled the air.

However, the Enneawym Coffinbearers held, and the nine dragons that bore the black coffin opened their eyes.

Bright dragonsong echoed throughout the space. Color drained from the woman's face as her crystal body fissured with cracks.

The nine dragon corpses slowly stretched out their huge bodies, and their cold, lifeless eyes glowed with an unholy radiance.

"Empress Vastspace!" they roared as one. "Despicable traitor! Treacherous worm... die!"

The dragons erupted with black smoke, forming a thick layer of ominous cloud cover. These billowing clouds were the exact same ones that had rained death upon Witherdew Major!



Rumble—

Black lightning began forming amidst the haze, escalating into a terrible torrent of thunder that blasted in the woman's direction.

"A chaos tribulation!" Empress Vastspace shrieked with fear. Her soul fragment immediately abandoned the crystal body, fleeing toward the outer realms. She didn't even have time to take her greatest treasure with her.

The black chaos tribulation then enshrouded the entirety of Vastspace Mountain within.

### **Chapter 575: Vastspace and Timelight**

The black chaos tribulation rampaged through Vastspace Mountain, crushing immortal crystals into pure immortal qi. With the efforts of the three surviving coffins, the energy collected as streams that flowed toward the broken Nine-Phoenix Casket.

A blood-red flame roared to life in the middle of a pile of shards. Reborn from its proverbial ashes, the mended casket arrayed itself in the center of Vastspace Mountain once more.

Ker-rack!

The giant skeleton began disassembling itself. Its head, body, arms, and legs detached and returned to their respective coffins.

Amid halos of black light, the Gates of Abyss opened once more to admit the coffins' re-entry, upon which the set of ancient gates slowly ground shut.

Lu Yun shivered violently and finally noticed that the Deaf Prince and the others nearby were unconscious. The free-flowing immortal energy inside Vastspace Mountain was also completely gone.

Monster corpses were scattered about on the ground, their shapes identical to the crystal monstrosities from earlier. However, their crystalline forms were no more, having turned into something entirely different.

"These aren't real monsters, they're some kind of puppet!" he murmured to himself. "Was that woman just now Empress Vastspace?"

"Space... and time. Together, they make up the fabric of the universe. If Empress Timelight is the master of time, then Empress Vastspace must be the overlord over space. The nine dragon corpses on the Enneaworm Coffinbearers called Empress Vastspace a traitor just now..."

Mulling over recent events, Lu Yun found that he'd tucked away something important for later perusal.

"In the time of the mythical Emperors Fall long ago, every great emperor was completely wiped out of existence. The title of 'emperor' itself became an ill-omened curse, something not to be claimed. It seems to me, though, that Empresses Timelight and Vastspace died before that era. Perhaps Vastspace betrayed Timelight somehow?" He shook his head slightly. History couldn't be that simple. "Forget it. If Vastspace Mountain is Empress Vastspace's treasure, it must contain power over space."

Lu Yun couldn't help thinking of the evil coffins again, including the Ninefooted Turtle Cist that had appeared at the eleventh hour.

Originally, he'd thought that the four coffins buried one person each. Instead, a single person was buried in all four! His body was split between them somehow. More importantly, Lu Yun had also seen a Blood Sea.

This time, it was the genuine article.

Given feedback from the Tome of Life and Death, the Blood Sea dated back to time immemorial. Humanity's hell was built with it as the core. The fifty thousand kilometers' worth of crimson waters to the southwest of Life Province were only a pale imitation.

The true Blood Sea was buried inside the four evil coffins—the same coffins that'd returned to hell to stare down the endless void once again, constantly on guard against the prisoners entrapped therein.

.....

Shaking his head to cast off idle thoughts, Lu Yun turned his attention to the Deaf Prince and his friends on the ground. The World Chests they owned floated a short distance above them, covering them with a shower of blue light.

"There are seven World Chests in total that are capable of carrying away the crystal mountains here. In fact, the seven chests are the seven sources of Vastspace Mountain proper." Lu Yun pulled out the missing seventh chest.

"All six of these heirs possess the best bloodlines found in the world. Once they come into their own, they'll be real giants among their fellows, far surpassing the original nine celestial emperors."

When Jing Dichen had said that she was skydragon royalty, rather than an ordinary member of her race, Lu Yun realized what the Deaf Prince and his friends were fated for. He also finally knew why the races they hailed from allowed them to run amok everywhere the way they did.

The current world of immortals held no one worthy enough to be their teacher, and forcing one upon them would only limit their development. Therefore, Empress Vastspace had taken note of their arrival, made certain arrangements, and purposefully given them the six World Chests.

"And this seventh chest?" Lu Yun looked down at his own box. After the four coffins returned to hell, the seventh chest had landed in his grasp. "Empress Vastspace isn't dead. She'll fuse with the soul fragment in the outside world to become a whole being again. The little fox is a strange one, but I doubt she can handle a primeval emperor like Vastspace."

Crack!

His hands alight with hellfire, Lu Yun crushed the seventh chest with his hands.

Rrrrrumble...

The entire mountain trembled ever so slightly. The fragmented chest in his hands emitted six cerulean rays of light, merging with the six chests that each of the profligates carried.

“These World Chests shouldn’t exist inside Vastspace Mountain in the first place. Empress Vastspace refined six subordinate chests connected to a mother chest. The latter, the seventh in my hands, controls the former.

“But, the empress didn’t do this to eventually possess their bodies. She wanted to teach them and take them as her own disciples.” Lu Yun was certain of the ancient spirit’s intentions. Why else would she allow them free passage through the mountain?

They’d only run into trouble because her soul fragment in the outside world had encountered trouble and been forced to summon a crystal monster.

Now that the seventh World Chest was shattered, the treasure source it contained was absorbed by its six children. The six profligates, formerly operating under the limitations of the mother chest, were now free to use the entire mountain as they pleased. In essence, they’d refined the treasure for their own.

“I gave away Timelight Tower outside to Jing Huaci, and now I’ve helped these six refine Vastspace Mountain.” Lu Yun gave the Deaf Prince and his buddies another once-over before snorting to himself. “This is the life of a tomb raider, alright!”

His driving principle in exploring tombs was to search for thrills and uncover the truth of history. Treasures themselves were largely secondary. If he happened to chance upon some, great. If not, that was alright too.

The six profligates were plainly fated to obtain Vastspace Mountain; he naturally saw no reason to rob them of their prize.

“They’re practically the masters of Vastspace Mountain now, so they should be quite safe here. I should start looking for the Skyqilin and Skyturtle Pearls for Little Yu.” Lu Yun summoned the Path of Ingress from inside himself with the wave of a hand, then walked through the passage it created back into the celestial master tomb.

## **Chapter 576: Lake of Yin**

After Empress Vastspace’s escape, the Deaf Prince and his five friends began to refine the source of the Vastspace Mountain, leaving it temporarily without an owner.

The branch of the Path of Ingress in Lu Yun’s possession could easily navigate around the domain, but his mood plummeted when he returned to the celestial master tomb.

“Yuchi Tianhuang is being pursued!”

Although he was but an Infernum, he was one of the select few with great potential that Lu Yun had bestowed special attention to after sufficient progression in his own cultivation.

The Scaled-Dragon King, Beigong Yu, Yuchi Tianhuang, Xue Daozi, Bing Ling, Bing Xuan, and the latest addition, Kui, were all a rank beyond regular Infernum.

Regular Infernum couldn’t stray too far from Lu Yun or his Envoys of Samsara, lest their souls be decimated and scattered. On the other hand, the ones Lu Yun had handpicked were granted enormous freedom, even though their names weren’t written in the Tome of Life and Death.

Lu Yun and Yuchi Tianhuang maintained a line of communication, through which Lu Yun could clearly sense the man's emotions: his despair, anger, and resignation. Yuchi Tianhuang could likewise sense his master's reappearance. However, his delighted surprise quickly evaporated and was replaced by heavy concern.

Lu Yun then noticed his follower moving swiftly away from him.

Yuchi Tianhuang knows my strength, and he knows someone as powerful as Kui is in hell. Still, he chooses to put more distance between us. He doesn't want me to cross paths with whatever's chasing him!

"Can it be the two scarlet apes?" Heart pounding, Lu Yun reached Yuchi Tianhuang with a thought, his voice ringing in the Infernum's mind. "Yuchi Tianhuang! Who's after you?"

Yuchi Tianhuang shuddered as he fled. "That bitch of a fur seal!"

Lu Yun paused. "Bitch of a... fur seal?"

"Ge Yanxia from the fur seals of the West Sea!" Yuchi Tianhuang spat out. "Don't come here, milord. I suspect that their immortal dao is complete!"

"What?!" Lu Yun frowned deeply. "Explain."

"The West Sea fur seals are a very reclusive race, never showing any interest in the power struggles of the world. But they're more powerful than the Corpse Refiners or even the Fangyang Nobles! That old bitch Ge Yanxia is just an aether dao immortal, but I'm not her match!"

Lu Yun had etched a formation of heaven and earth into Yuchi Tianhuang, making it so that he could rival a void-ascended peerless immortal, thus ensuring he was much more powerful than regular aether dao immortals.

However, he still wasn't Ge Yanxia's match. The only possible explanation was that she was a void-ascended immortal as well, and that the rules of immortal dao were complete within her!

"Their race's ancestral lands must be a giant ruin from the primordial world of immortals, preserving a complete immortal dao," concluded Yuchi Tianhuang.

"Oh?" Lu Yun made a mental note. "Return to hell first."

Though Yuchi Tianhuang wasn't with Lu Yun, the overlord of hell could still send him back to the netherworld.

"If I do, milord, that old bitch will kill Yu'er!" Yuchi Tianhuang said in a pleading voice.

"Then you may return to hell with her and her corpse divine soldiers."

Situ Zong and the other Star Demon Sect members had become scapegoats for others. Upon setting foot into hell, they'd turned into beings similar to Infernum.

"Since living ghosts are transformed into Infernum when entering hell, I wonder what corpse divines will turn into?" Lu Yun rose and took the Path of Ingress toward Yuchi Tianhuang.

He could recall Yuchi Tianhuang into hell from afar, but not the people around him. He would have to personally open the Gates of the Abyss in order to bring Yu'er and her soldiers into his domain.

"Make your way to Yuchi Tianhuang first and protect him, Bing Xuan, Bing Ling." Lu Yun had long come to the realization that there must be places in the world that still nurtured a complete immortal dao from the Primordial Era.

Any primordial herbs growing in ancient tombs now were potent poisons, due to the lack of a complete dao, yet Lu Yun had been given herbs bearing the complete laws of immortal dao when he'd refined a Tribulation Surrogate Pill for the head of the Panorama Pavilion.

If there were ruins in the world of immortals that could properly cultivate primordial herbs, they could nurture immortals like those in primordial times as well!

"So it looks like the little fox is right." Lu Yun sucked in a breath through his teeth. "A great era of the world is coming, and all kinds of powerful beings are emerging from the corners in response."

Bing Xuan and Bing Ling, two of his arcane dao immortals, departed for Yuchi Tianhuang's position as two streaks of light.

Lu Yun couldn't yet etch arcane dao-grade formations of heaven and earth. Even aether dao-grade formations left him exhausted. The formations in Bing Ling and Bing Xuan were only of the peerless immortal level, which, nonetheless, was still enough for the current world of immortals.

"I wonder what the primordial ruins in the fur seals' territory are like." Lu Yun was riding the Path of Ingress forward when suddenly, a pillar of black light shot out of the ground at him.

Caught off guard, Lu Yun fell from the path and rolled when he hit the ground, dodging the black light by a hair.

"Such dense yin energy!" He scowled. There were ugly cracks all over the clearing with terrifying yin energy geysering out of them. He'd also seen various bodies scattered on the ground when he landed.

"Look, the one who fell in just now is Lu Yun!"

"He's fallen into the Lake of Yin. He's dead without a doubt!"

A clamor of voices mocking his misfortune came from afar.

"What are you doing, Zou Longxiu?!"

"Come back!"

"Lu Yun's doomed after falling into the lake. You're risking your life for nothing!" The voices grew urgent.

"Ha!" Lu Yun heard a dismissive huff. Zou Longxiu didn't shrink back at all, but slowly made his way toward Lu Yun, the glacial air radiating from him leaving a trail of frost in his wake and temporarily freezing the yin energy.

However, Lu Yun could clearly see that the frigid aura wasn't enough to freeze the yin energy for good. After only a few moments, the overwhelmingly thick energy ripped open the protective layer of frost as if it were tangible blades.

"This subordinate will get you out of here, sir!" Zou Longxiu arrived in front of Lu Yun before long. Thick yin energy tinged him, turning the chilly white fog around him black.

### **Chapter 577: The Second Disciple**

While yin energy continuously sprayed out from the surface cracks, the discharge pooled into a lake aboveground. For that reason, the immortals who'd discovered this region had labelled it the Lake of Yin.

Since quite a few of them had already died inside the lake, dao immortals included, they judged Lu Yun dead beyond the shadow of a doubt when he fell in.

Some lamented his demise, while others were jubilant at his misfortune. At any rate, there was a love-hate relationship between Lu Yun and pre-void-restoration immortals. They both craved his spontaneous death for his sins, yet also longed to retain their current status in the world order with his formation of heaven and earth.

As a monster king from the Yellow Springs Land, Zou Longxiu was a famous figure amongst the monster spirits of the ten lands and had his own circle of close friends. Nerves and worry gnawed at them when they saw him dive into the lake to rescue Lu Yun.

.....

Zou Longxiu was a mutated ice mo, one of the immortal beasts of the world. When he called upon his full talents, he was able to turn an area five hundred kilometers around him into a world of ice.

But inside the lake, his realm of ice was reduced to a mere meter centered on him, and its usually snow-white gleam was an inky pitch-black. In fact, his very body was black from the taint of yin energy.

Even still, his gaze was resolute as he made his way forward and finally stopped in front of Lu Yun.

"Why go to all this trouble?" Lu Yun looked at his would-be rescuer with a gentle shake of the head. He wasn't afraid of the yin energy here. He'd only fallen off of the Path of Ingress due to the force of impact with the yin energy exploding out of the ground.

Seeing Zou Longxiu disregard his own safety like this baffled Lu Yun. True, the monster spirit had declared his allegiance in front of so many others, but truthfully, Lu Yun had thought very little of this supposed loyalty.

However, the ice mo's actions now painted him in an entirely different light.

"Zou Longxiu... Zou Longxiu might truly share part of my destiny." Lu Yun murmured the other's name repeatedly.

"Sir!" Zou Longxiu's eyes belched yin energy, a blatant sign of how deeply it'd sunk into his body. With his current cultivation, it was difficult to withstand such a fearsome invasion. "Your servant can still hold on. Sir, please come with me!"

A sphere of frigid air exploded from him, shaking his figure and turning his body into an ice sculpture. A tremendous chill spread in every direction and formed a spotless curtain of white light. Clearing an area six meters across, it banished all yin energy within its vicinity as the monster king's eyes glowed faintly.

"Zou Longxiu!!! Do you not care about your own life?" His friends frantically circled the Lake of Yin. Some had even thrown caution to the wind and came barreling inside.

"Go away!!" With a wave, Zou Longxiu shot out a beam of white frost from his hand and blasted the monster immortals away. "Sir!"

The monster king became agitated when he saw Lu Yun remain indifferent inside his curtain of light.

"Ah well," Lu Yun sighed. "Zou Longxiu, are you willing to accept me as your master and become my second disciple?"

Struggling to withstand the yin energy, Zou Longxiu froze in confusion. What did I hear just now?

Becoming the young human's disciple was no small matter. After all, his first disciple was a born peerless immortal and the daughter of the Panorama Pavilion's master, an arcane dao immortal himself!

The immortal dao inside her was whole and complete, as it was with immortals of old. This kind of potential was unparalleled in the immortal world. Not even Twin Stars Zhu Yan and Yue Longsha, the two connate immortals of Nephrite Major, were on her level.

In comparison, Zou Longxiu was absolutely leagues and leagues apart from them. But Lu Yun was suddenly willing to take him as a disciple?

As the monster king's emotions flared, the white curtain of light around him trembled, then shattered from the terrible pressure from the yin energy outside. Pouring in through the breach, the inky energy shaped itself into an enormous wave that bore down on Lu Yun and Zou Longxiu.

Fear and despair floated onto the monster king's face. However, Lu Yun gently waved a hand, summoning a blossom of black flame that erased the fearsome wave with a graceful flit across the sky.

Zou Longxiu stared blankly at the young man.

"Are you willing to become my second disciple?" Lu Yun looked at the monster king, satisfaction tinging his smile.

Liu Qingmiao, his first disciple, was a reincarnation of one of the little fox's soul-parts. Possessing a complete soul and inheritance of her own, she would never follow in Lu Yun's footsteps.

So, after witnessing Zou Longxiu's conduct and character, Lu Yun decided to take him in as a disciple—a disciple of the tomb raider sect!

"This disciple pays his respects to the honorable master!" Pulling himself together, Zou Longxiu immediately fell to his knees and performed the master-disciple ceremony of three bows and nine kowtows.

The monster immortals around the lake stared at him in stupefaction.

Firstly, they could see a layer of black flames around Lu Yun that protected both of them, keeping the lake's yin energy firmly at bay. Secondly, Zou Longxiu had suddenly kowtowed to Lu Yun and called him master!

The scene elicited admiration and jealousy all around.

"Who would've thought that Lu Yun would have a way to counter the terrible yin energy! No wonder he's the guardian of the Dao Flower and capable of feats like creating the formation of heaven and earth..."

.....

"I'll etch a formation of heaven and earth for you after we leave," Lu Yun said. "For now, I'll impart the Dragonshift Method to you so that you can strengthen yourself with the power of earthen or dragon veins."

He rested a fingertip against the center of Zou Longxiu's brows. Dragonshift Method!

Boom!

Brain set abuzz, a long passage of mysterious and profound incantations appeared in Zou Longxiu's mind. This isn't a combat art from this world... how marvelous it is!

Having yet to get back on his feet, Zou Longxiu remained entranced on his knees, meticulously digesting everything about the Dragonshift Method.

There were three major realms to this method. The first drew energy from the land to alter the terrain, the second drew from earthen veins to create feng shui layouts, and the third could manipulate dragon veins to alter and transform the world!

Lu Yun himself was in the second realm and could only set a foot in the third realm and handle dragon veins when aided by the luopan. But to do so wasn't the same as attaining the third realm of his own accord. Consequently, he suffered backlash from the land every time he shifted a dragon vein.

Had he truly reached the third realm, he'd be able to avoid this recoil altogether. In short, the third realm was a state in which the self intermingled with the world.

Nevertheless, no matter the realm, one could always merge with earthen and dragon veins and draw upon their energy. As long as one refrained from moving the veins, they wouldn't suffer adverse repercussions.

## **Chapter 578: Fur Seal**

"Zou Longxiu." Lu Yun waited for the monster spirit to wrap his mind around the Dragonshift Method before having him stand up.

"Master!" It wasn't until now that Zou Longxiu finally realized the magnitude of Lu Yun's abilities. There was so much more to this human than what appeared on the surface. Just the Dragonshift Method alone was sufficient to turn tombs into his backyard!

"Are you still unwilling to erase the vestige of a second bloodline inside you?" Lu Yun asked earnestly.



Though considerable, Zou Longxiu's potential couldn't be labelled as unparalleled. The reason for that lay in his mixed ancestry. If he could refine his secondary bloodline and purify his dominant lineage, his potential would be fully unleashed and he'd be capable of feats like instantly freezing the entire lake.

As things stood, his mixed blood tarnished his ice mo bloodline and weakened his strength and talents.

"This disciple... is unwilling!" Zou Longxiu took a deep breath, his tone and expression as firm as ever.

"Very well then." Lu Yun nodded. "From what I can see, your second lineage comes from an immortal beast of extreme yin. If you can obtain the yin vein below the lake and refine it into yourself, you'll be able to combine the two bloodlines and evolve them into a new one.

"A bloodline of extreme yin is one of the strongest lineages in the world. Only, there's too little of it inside of you, so devouring this yin vein will make you a lot stronger!" Lu Yun looked at Zou Longxiu, his intense gaze making his disciple shake.

"This yin vein is likely a dragon vein that's been polluted by yin energy. It's been abandoned by nature, so you can devour it without fear of backlash. Go now and consider this my trial... If you can devour the yin vein, you'll become the founding disciple of my tomb raider sect. If you can't... then you're on your own." Lu Yun sat down cross-legged and closed his eyes. "Three days. I'll wait here for you for three days."

Bing Ling and Bing Xuan had gone to save Yuchi Tianhuang, but Lu Yun wasn't worried in the slightest. He'd left the mark of the Gates of the Abyss on Bing Ling, so if needed, Kui was ready to appear at a moment's notice to defeat the fur seals. This was, of course, a last resort. He'd really rather prefer Kui to not show himself.

Lu Yun's tribulation would soon be upon him, and he had a gut feeling that it'd be full of trouble and danger. The denizens of the world weren't going to let him have his way so easily. Therefore, he'd left two aces up his sleeve, namely Kui and the celestial emperor's corpse puppet.

As for Qing Yu's tribulation... As long as he could survive his own, he'd be an immortal and gain an even greater mastery of the Tome of Life and Death that'd allow him to repair hell. There wasn't much to worry about.

He was certain that compared to his days as a cultivator, his strength would be in an entirely different league after becoming an immortal.

.....

Using the Dragonshift Method, Zou Longxiu sank underground in search of the giant yin vein.

For his part, Lu Yun had already employed the Dragonshift Method to discover that the core of the lake was this vein, a dragon vein tainted by yin energy.

This kind of yin vein was extremely rare. Generally, dragon veins decayed after being invaded by yin energy, then ultimately disappeared for good.

Meanwhile, the crowd around the lake had yet to disperse. Everyone hovered nearby, as if waiting for something. Without warning, the lake's perimeter shrank abruptly and gathered toward a certain spot. Gleaming like black jade, a small sapling slowly emerged at the center of the lake.

“It’s an Arcane Yin Tree. The Arcane Yin Tree has finally appeared!” an immortal shouted in delight. However, he didn’t recklessly dive into the lake. For immortals like him, the yin energy inside was still as lethal as ever.

“An Arcane Yin Tree?” Lu Yun blinked, then found information about this tree in Su Xiaoxiao’s memories.

Arcane Yin Trees grow over yin veins. A single flower blooms every sixty thousand years, which produces a single fruit another sixty thousand years later that requires yet another sixty thousand years to mature.

All in all, an Arcane Yin Fruit requires a hundred and eighty thousand years to produce a single Arcane Yin Fruit. This fruit is a soul fruit of extreme yin that can transform into a complete soul, or be used to remold an almost-destroyed soul.

“Transform into a complete soul...” Lu Yun’s eyes lit up with excitement.

If my replica can refine this fruit, he’ll become a real living being. At that point, Xing Chen’s replica won’t be one of his, but another one of mine!

On top of becoming a true entity, Xing Chen would also gain the ability to self-regenerate. If he were injured again, he would be able to take care of himself, rather than needing Lu Yun to do so for him.

Lu Yun looked back and fixed the Arcane Yin Tree with an ardent stare. Rather than an immortal fruit, an Arcane Yin Fruit was a kind of soul fruit. Nurtured by yin energy, it didn’t require the immortal dao, so its growth wouldn’t be affected by the damage done to the immortal dao.

After taking root in a yin vein, an Arcane Yin Tree would only appear when its fruit had matured. Once the fruit matured, it claimed the energy of the entire tree and left it as a withered husk.

As the yin energy of the lake converged toward the Arcane Yin Tree, the light emanating from the tree grew ever more dazzling. A thumb-sized fruit glittering faintly with black light could be glimpsed amidst its branches.

According to Su Xiaoxiao’s memories, this fruit needs a hundred and eighty thousand years to mature... But this celestial master tomb was only built one hundred fifty thousand years ago...

Just as I thought, this tomb was built over even bigger ruins. While ruminating over the issue, Lu Yun vigilantly surveyed his surroundings.

Without a doubt, there were quite a few immortals that were aware of the Arcane Yin Fruit, and as the amount of yin energy started decreasing, they began wading into the lake.

“Stop!” Lu Yun froze when he saw someone throw himself headlong at the tree. With a flick of the hand, Violetgrave appeared in his grasp and cleaved the peerless immortal in twain with a quick backslash.

Plop!

This monster immortal came into view in its original form—a giant python rolling in the lake and hissing its distress.

Brandishing Violetgrave, Lu Yun took to the air with a grim expression.

“It’ll eat the soul of anyone foolish enough to get too close to it before the fruit matures. Do you people want it to become sentient?” His voice echoed in the air and made all of the surrounding immortals blanch.

The Arcane Yin Fruit was indeed a soul fruit that could transform into a complete soul. Before it matured, it’d eat the soul of any living creature it touched, extract their mind, and absorb it as nutrients to develop its own awareness.

If a mature Arcane Yin Fruit were to become sentient, no one present would be its match. Even Lu Yun would have to make a run for it.

“Lu Yun, just say so if you want this fruit for yourself. Why put on airs to scare us?” The giant python’s friends had already moved forward to heal his wounds and reattach the split halves. Face wan, the python bristled with hostility as he glared at Lu Yun.

“It’s true, I do want the fruit.” Lu Yun’s mouth curved up gently as Violetgrave lightly vibrated in his grasp and sang out with a bright croon. “If anyone wants to die, you can come try me.”

Violet sword light exploded, turning into a sword river that flowed beside him. In it, one could see his sword techniques drifting without end. The sight made the surrounding immortals fall back in fear. True, Lu Yun wasn’t an immortal yet, but he was on the cusp of attaining immortality. His tribulation would arrive in only three months!

Moreover, void-ascended immortals like him were the only ones who could be called genuine immortals. In comparison, current immortals were nothing more than false immortals.

“A void-realm immortal! Lu Yun’s about to become a void-ascended immortal!” Those present turned pale and even dao immortals could be seen grimacing. They’d already run into several void-ascended immortals inside the tomb, and ordinary aether dao immortals were simply no match for their ilk.

Whoosh!

But at this time, sharp sword brilliance flashed through the air and a kelp-green ray of sword light appeared in front of Lu Yun almost simultaneously.

“Hm?” He froze, but the violet sword river sprang into action and parried the incoming blow. Even so, the tremendous force conveyed through the sword strike was enough to shake Lu Yun’s upper body.

“A void-ascended immortal... A real void-ascended immortal?!” Lu Yun narrowed his eyes and looked in the direction of where the attack had come from, only to see an awkward humanoid figure struggling toward him.

It was an obese woman with grotesque features, mottled, dark-green skin, and a messy shock of hair sticky like ocean kelp. Meanwhile, her legs looked soft and weak as she walked, as if they were newly evolved appendages. On the whole, her movements were reminiscent of someone swimming in water.

“A fur seal?” It took a single glance for Lu Yun to see through the creature’s nature. This was a fur seal, and one that’d taken human form not long ago.

Are there also fur seals in the world of immortals? Realization struck him as soon as the question emerged, and he mentally snapped to high alert. This must be one of the West Sea fur seals that Yuchi Tianhuang spoke of earlier.

The Infernum had mentioned that West Sea fur seals very likely lived inside a special ruin from the Primordial Era. The immortal dao in these creatures was complete. In other words... these fur seals were connate immortals!

“You’re right... I’m a fur seal.” With a hand gesture, the abnormally distended woman called the sticky-looking, kelp-green sword back into her grasp. “You, you’re called Lu Yun, right?”

When the woman smiled, the sight of misshapen and uneven teeth crammed into her mouth almost made Lu Yun gag.

“What a coincidence, I’m called Ge Yun. My mother is Ge Yanxia.”

“Your family name’s Ge, and your mother’s surname is also Ge?” Lu Yun’s brain had trouble making sense of it.

“That’s because my grandfather is also my father.” Ge Yun smiled again, her big, sticky face almost making Lu Yun vomit. “Lu Yun, my race wishes to thank you for coming up with the formation of heaven and earth, or whatever it is you call it. By patching the defects of the current immortals, you’ve lifted our restrictions and made it possible for us to legitimately set foot in the world!”

Ear-piercing laughter suddenly shrilled out of her mouth. “As repayment for your lovely deeds, I’ve decided to make you my man!”

### **Chapter 579: The Sal Tree of Life and Death Evolves**

The woman called Ge Yun abruptly shifted back into her true form as a fur seal and pounced on Lu Yun, trailing a pungent cloud of fishy stench in her wake.

Fur seals in the world of immortals were different from those found on Earth. Their skin was a mottled dark-green and looked thick and gooey with dark green hairs growing from it in patches, much like a mangy dog.

Ge Yun’s obese figure was more than forty meters long, and two dark yellow tusks jutted out of her enormous mouth. Ecstatic, excited squeals emitted from her mouth as her two upper limbs slapped the ground repeatedly.

It obviously hadn’t been long since this... thing... had acquired human form. It wasn’t yet used to it, and it was happiest and most comfortable in its natural fur seal shape.

Clamoring with reckless abandon, Ge Yun arrived in front of Lu Yun in the blink of an eye.

“Get lost!” Stifling a sudden bout of revulsion, he extended his hand and turned Violetgrave into a torrential sword river that surged at the fur seal.

The creature was a void-ascended immortal, but Lu Yun wasn’t far from that level either at a mere tribulation away. As such, he was many times stronger than when he’d come across Fangyang Xing.

Sword dao revolved endlessly in his hand, releasing heaven-shattering force as the sword river fired a pillar of light that pierced the sky and seemed to cleave the very void in half.

Puff!

Kelp-green blood spurted into the air; the fur seal shrieked miserably as a black chunk of fat weighing fifty kilograms was shaved off by the sword strike. Even so, the creature's body was almost entirely covered in sticky, lumpy fat. While the damage seemed terrible at first glance, it hadn't truly harmed its essence.

"Ahhhhh! I'm going to eat you!!" Ge Yun shrieked. Mouth wide open, it spat a giant black water jar out of its mouth. Following which, the water jar upended itself and unleashed a deluge of seawater that filled the newly dried-up Lake of Yin to the brim.

"Oh no, fall back!" Turning pale with fright, the other immortals took to the air and fled in the opposite direction. The seawater was extremely heavy, so much so that it could annihilate even a peerless immortal upon contact. Without a doubt, the black water jar was an immortal weapon of prodigious power.

Thankfully, the lake had previously been emptied, so despite the great limitations, the immortals nevertheless managed to flee through the air. Otherwise, all of them would have perished in the blink of an eye.

This fur seal's combat arts aren't especially strong, but its body and immortal dao are both exceptional!

Lu Yun had figured out the fur seal in the short moment he'd made contact with it. It didn't even measure up to current immortals, when it came to arts and skills, but its extraordinary physique and fearsome treasure more than made up for it.

In a sense, it personified Lu Yun's concept of supplemental paths as king.

In any case, the seawater's impact was too formidable for him to weather with his own strength alone.

"But against seawater..." Turning his palm up, he summoned the Sugato Sword into his hand.

Boom!

The next moment, the sword loudly disintegrated into boundless sword energy that wove in the air to form a vast net. As soon as the heavy seawater crashed into the net, it was sliced into many smaller flows that trickled away.

"It's better to diffuse a flood than to block or flee from it," Lu Yun stated loud and clear as he continued breaking the deluge down into smaller flows. His voice surged outward and built upon itself, becoming a deafening wave of sound.

The black jar seemed to contain an endless supply of seawater and created wave upon staggering wave that pulverized some of the weaker immortals. Even the stronger peerless immortals and some dao immortals were small boats adrift in the storm, about to be snuffed out by the fearsome water at any second.

Meanwhile, a greater part of the immortals resorted to passive defense against the giant waves or tried to endure them head-on, but all they achieved for their efforts was to be crushed to a paste.

At this juncture, the crowd finally heard Lu Yun's words and took note of his actions. Understanding struck them out of the blue, and some of them emulated him by weaving great nets in the sky to impede the water's flow.

As for Lu Yun, he felt an astonishing amount of goodwill pouring into him from every direction, ultimately converging on the Sal Tree of Life and Death that was rooted in his dantian. Several karmic fruits slowly began taking shape.

He'd used almost his entire supply of karmic fruit in recent period, but imparting the way out of this crisis was a lifesaving grace that earned him extraordinary goodwill from the surviving immortals.

Sure enough, I'm able to make more efficient use of goodwill as the Sal Tree grows!

Previously, the goodwill flowing into the Sal Tree was automatically converted, then forwarded to him in the form of increased cultivation. To condense it into karmic fruit, the goodwill first had to become virtuous merit.

But now that the sapling had grown into a small, robust tree, it could directly convert goodwill into karmic fruit. Moreover, the seed of hellfire had also appeared at the foot of the Sal Tree, gently kindling it.

The tree is evolving! Lu Yun shook.

According to the records within the Tome of Life and Death, the Sal Tree of Life and Death was as it appeared—a formidable spirit root that shouldered the human hell, one that could be described as the ancestor of all living plants in the world.

It's evolving again? He was a little baffled. Ah, yes, primeval humans used the tree as a foundation for hell and storage for hellfire... Ah! But back then, there was no Tome of Life and Death in hell!

Even as one of the highest authorities among the primeval humans and privy to all of their secrets, Qi Hai still hadn't been aware of the existence of the Tome of Life and Death.

But since Lu Yun controlled the tome, the tree also absorbed the book's power and began evolving in a brand new direction. Gleaming, bright-yellow luminescence shimmered over the tree's formerly jet-black trunk, as if the color of... virtuous merit!

Goodwill... virtuous merit! I need a lot more merit to fuel its evolution... That's fine. After I go out, I can immediately set that thing in motion. Many thoughts whirled in his head in that split second.

Meanwhile, the fur seal had hopped onto the waves and once again pounced in his direction. The deluge earlier hadn't been meant to crush Lu Yun to death... Instead, it was meant to create an environment that'd multiply the creature's strength.

But Lu Yun quickly froze when he noticed that Ge Yun wasn't the only fur seal inside the inky waters. Many more of them snarled viciously as they rode the waves in his direction.

“These fur seals were ordinary monster beasts in the Primordial Era. There was nothing unusual about them, but even the most ordinary of beasts from the ancient times isn’t so ordinary when transposed to the current era...”

A fine layer of sweat seeped out of his palms; these fur seals were void-ascended immortals! While they weren’t proficient in immortal methods or combat arts, they could overwhelm him with their vast immortal force alone.

### **Chapter 580.1: Fright**

A group of void-ascended fur seals... no, they couldn’t be called void-ascended immortals, but connate immortals. They were born into immortality and grew up under the influence of a complete immortal dao. As such, they were stronger than even Zhu Yan or Yue Longsha.

But to Lu Yun, they were nothing more than a group of wild beasts. Yes, their strength was nothing to sniff at, and their cultivation was in the immortal realm, but they knew very little of immortal methods.

They didn’t even know how to fly.

“Hahaha!” Ge Yun stood on the crest of a wave and threw its head back with hearty laughter. “Lu Yun, I’m going to eat you, since you dared hurt me! Children, capture this lowly human!”

“Augh woorgh aaaargh!” The seals frothed at the mouth like rabid beasts and set foot on the waves, throwing themselves at Lu Yun.

For its part, Ge Yun stayed away from the human. Losing more than fifty kilograms of flesh from a single sword stroke had truly spooked it. Had his sword penetrated a little deeper, the youth might truly have injured its essence.

Fur seals were nothing more than ordinary beasts back in the primordial times. Of course, since immortal dao had been complete back then and woven into the fabric of the world itself, even the most common animal had been an immortal beast in that era.

When the world of immortals had fragmented, the fur seals were, by chance, swept into a larger shard retaining a complete immortal dao. In fact, the environment inside was entirely identical to that of the ancient primordial world.

So the race had continued on in the same way as they ever had, and newborn calves came into the world as true immortals. Conversely, the tribe had mastered very few cultivation methods, so those who reached dao immortal realm were one in a million.

Someone with Ge Yun’s cultivation was an extraordinary figure among its kin. Nevertheless, it’d been scared witless by Lu Yun’s earlier attack, so it chose to unleash the fur seals inside the water jar—its descendants—and use them as cannon fodder.

Though ordinary fur seals couldn’t transform into other species, they still possessed a complete immortal dao and mighty physical strength, so even someone like Lu Yun felt threatened by the combined assault of several hundred of these beasts.

“Damn it!” He paled when he noticed several fur seals rushing toward the Arcane Yin Tree, only to be instantly churned into bloody mist by the black halo of light emanating from the tree and their souls devoured.

“Vermin... scram!!” In a fit of anger, he gestured with his hand and summoned the last of his cannons to his side.

Boom!

The cannon fired a blast worth a full billion immortal crystals, evaporating seawater and fur seals alike. The Lake of Yin trembled, and the fissures on the lakebed widened substantially, draining the boundless sea water underground.

In return, after being swallowed entirely by the Arcane Yin Tree, yin energy once again came gushing out.

“What is this, what in the heavens is this thing!!!” Mouth agape, Ge Yun looked in horror at Lu Yun’s weapon of war. “Mom said that immortals these days are useless trash, and that all of the war treasures have been ruined... So what in the heavens is this thing that you brought out?!”

As it yelped, it subconsciously sank downward in search of seawater to hide itself in. However, the water it immersed itself in wasn’t quite seawater anymore. Corrupted by dense yin energy, it was now water of extreme yin.

As a result, Ge Yun howled with pain the moment it entered the water, its immensely rotund body withering at a speed visible to the naked eye. Flesh, essence, soul, and nascent spirit were all swallowed by a strange force.

Suddenly pale, Lu Yun abruptly whirled around. On the Arcane Yin Tree, the Arcane Yin Fruit was as red as fire and bounced on the branches like a dancing flame.

His blood ran cold. The fruit had matured, but the tree hadn’t withered!

What he’d been most afraid of had occurred. An eye had appeared on the fiery Arcane Yin Fruit, which now closely resembled a fiery-red eyeball. For its part, the diminutive tree had become a thing of shadow.

“Waaaaaargh!” Without warning, a scarlet mouth grew on the tree’s trunk and issued an ear-splitting shriek. Every living creature around the lake, other than Lu Yun, was blown to pieces by the sound ripples.

Be they immortals or fur seals, their blood essence and souls all landed inside the tree’s mouth. Frozen stiff, Lu Yun didn’t dare twitch a single muscle.

The Arcane Yin Fruit’s enormous eyeball stared fixedly at him, looking him up and down with a gaze that was ghostly, icy, and evil all at once.

“Hahahaha!” a deafening laugh came from the tree as it turned into a shadowy blur and disappeared from sight.

Thump!



Lu Yun plummeted into the Lake of Yin and fought to regain his breath.

"It left me alive on purpose. That shriek was more than enough to shatter me as well!" His entire body felt numb, as if he'd plunged into an icy hole. It took a long moment for the sensation to fade.

"The Arcane Yin Tree is definitely stronger than the two scarlet apes! Even the two empress soul fragments might not be its match! Too bad..." Lu Yun smiled wryly. "A treasure of this magnitude isn't something I can touch right now. Even if I obtained the fruit, I wouldn't be able to refine it.

"...hmm?" He suddenly froze. A tiny dot of red light was glowing from the tree's previous position. Upon closer inspection, it was a small fruit slowly surfacing from the mass of yin energy.

"This is..." Lu Yun's eyes widened. "An Arcane Yin Fruit!"

A second one! And this one too was already mature.

He stood up and carefully moved closer. An ice cold aura spread from the fruit the moment he grabbed it and entered his body. He shook as his soul trembled with bliss.

"This fruit really has matured not long ago!" He saw minor debris on the ground, leftovers from a dead Arcane Yin Tree. "Er... if I have the fruit in my hand... what's with the other tree that ran away just now?"

Nothing about recent events made sense.

He was certain that the fruit he held was the one he'd originally glimpsed. Through the Spectral Eye, he could see the same exact grain pattern and aura upon it.

He looked up, his gaze blank with incomprehension. All of the immortals in the vicinity were dead, and Ge Yun's water jar drifted aimlessly in the lake of yin energy.

"Sure enough, this celestial master tomb is very bizarre and full of dangers. Not even the soul of a primordial empress dares do whatever she wants." He inhaled sharply, then beckoned with his hand and tried summoning the big water jar.

"What the..." He felt his energy being drained, but it didn't elicit any reaction from the jar. "It must be similar to the World Chests!"

Heart pounding, he hastily forced away the surrounding yin energy and made his way to the jet-black water jar. Roughly seven meters tall and three meters wide, it was as dark as the night and decorated with simple engravings.

He tried imbuing his energy into the jar, but found that the origin source inside it appeared infinite, as if it was an entire world. In addition, he could sense pure demonic energy pervading the depths of the jar and nearly assimilating his energy.

"Ge!" He saw the name 'Ge' etched in unadorned letters on the other side of the jar.

## **Chapter 580.2: Fright**

"Is this the supreme treasure of the fur seals?" Lu Yun frowned faintly. "That can't be it. According to Su Xiaoxiao's memories, the fur seals didn't have any special lineages or powerhouses. As a species, they

were the lowest of the low in the Primordial Eta. Aether dao immortality was the limit of their potential, so it's absolutely impossible for them to craft this kind of treasure.

"Plus, there's a rich energy inside that obviously came from demons... Demons... Ge, Ge!"

His eyes shone as he suddenly thought of something. "The four celestial masters of the ancient immortal court... were from the human, monster spirit, demon, and divine races! Their family names were respectively Zhang, Xu, Ge, and Sa!"

Celestial Master Zhang, Celestial Master Xu, Celestial Master Ge, and Celestial Master Sa! As it happened, the demon celestial master's family name was Ge!

"Does this mean that this jar once belonged to the demon celestial master?"

According to Su Xiaoxiao's memories, the demon celestial master was the then number one equipment refiner in the immortal world, one who could manifest the forge of earth and sky—the highest realm of the equipment dao.

"He's probably the one who refined the bone bricks as well. The fur seals are surnamed Ge, but they can't possibly be Celestial Master Ge's descendants. Maybe they're one of the insurance policies he left behind?"

He recalled Ge Yun saying that, if not for Lu Yun freeing the fur seals from their self-isolation with his formation of heaven and earth, the race wouldn't have been able to set foot back in the world.

Fur seals were primitive creatures that didn't form clans or take on family names. However, the ones he'd run into now claimed the surname Ge and possessed Celestial Master Ge's treasure. It was impossible for there not to be some sort of connection between the two.

"I'll have to ask the little fox when I head back..." He couldn't help but shake his head with a wry smile.

"That fox had everything planned out from the start, that's why she told me not to discuss any part of what happened here when I return.

"But the demon celestial master's treasure is immensely useful to me. I have quite a few precious treasures on me, but none that someone of my level can use... A primordial treasure like this jar will suit me just fine."

He regained his calm and started refining the jar. The treasure held a universe inside, and he could even sense a complete immortal dao in it.

"I must obtain a copy of the complete immortal dao and research it from every angle. To do so, I need to go where the fur seals live... Ge Yanxia, was it? I need to take her alive!"

But right now, Kui was the only method at his disposal to capture a primordial dao immortal alive—one who possessed a complete immortal dao. Neither he, nor his other subordinates had that kind of strength.

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Boom!

Quite a long time later, the Lake of Yin suddenly erupted, energy boiling forth from underground and flooding an area a hundred kilometers wide. Almost palpable, the yin energy lacerated the surrounding space like a sharp blade. Meanwhile, faintly discernible dragon howls could be heard below ground.

Lu Yun immediately paused his refinement of the jar and sprang to his feet, pointing one finger at the sky and another at the land while shouting, "Hold!"

Simultaneously, he deployed the Dragonsearch Invocation and Dragonshift Method to stabilize the giant yin vein underneath.

"Dragonsearch Invocation, Dragonshift Method... Dragonspike Litany!" he roared furiously.

Still below ground, Zuo Longxiu was at a critical stage in his bid to absorb the yin vein, so Lu Yun had unleashed the final legacy art of his sect: the Dragonspike Litany!

His sect possessed two great inheritances: the first was the cosmic feng shui method, a skill that allowed one to decipher feng shui through observation of the stars. The second was the sect's core legacy, an inheritance with power far exceeding the cosmic feng shui method... namely, the Dragonsearch Invocation series.

Dragonsearch Invocation, Dragonshift Method, and Dragonspike Litany!

The so-called spike in the Dragonspike Litany referred to the kind of spike used to skewer something. By forcibly manipulating the power of the land, it could pin earthen and dragon veins in place.

Allegedly, when the Dragonsearch Invocation, Dragonshift Method, and Dragonspike Litany all reached great perfection, they could be combined into one single 'Dragonquake Scripture'.

According to the annals of the tomb raider sect, the three feng shui arts originated from the split Dragonquake Scripture. But since time immemorial, no one had ever cultivated all three arts to great perfection, not even the sect's ancestor.

In fact, forefathers throughout various eras had used only the Dragonsearch Invocation at most.

While the Dragonshift Method and Dragonspike Litany had always been passed on, no one had ever practiced them, given that the Earth had been in its Degenerate Age.

But this time, in order to help Zuo Longxiu devour the yin vein, Lu Yun had resorted to the Dragonspike Litany without hesitation. It was his first time using it ever since he'd arrived in the world of immortals.

One step away from taking form as a true dragon, the yin dragon vein shrieked with anguish as it found itself impaled by a formless spike, unable to move a single inch.

Zuo Longxiu transformed back into his true form. A huge beast, somewhere between a tiger and a lion, with a body covered in icy patterns, opened its maw wide and relentlessly devoured the energy of the yin vein.

"Stabilize your cultivation, don't try breaking through!" Lu Yun's voice rang out like a thunderclap, the enormous commotion immediately reaching his disciple's ears.

The monster spirit shook from head to toe and immediately halted his increasing cultivation. Instead, he turned his efforts to fusing the vein with his bloodline and strengthening the lineage from his mother's side.

"This is the North Sea Scaled-Dragon King's dual cultivation method, remember it well!" Lu Yun imparted the method to his disciple as he spoke.

Zuo Longxiu returned to human form and sat down cross-legged above the yin vein, entering a deep meditative state.

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"A yin dragon vein about to gain sentience cannot be destroyed like this!" A frosty shout came from the emptiness as a long spear dove from the sky like a golden dragon and stabbed straight at Zuo Longxiu. The speartip reached the monster king's brow even as the voice echoed.

"Wu Tulong!!" At this crossroad between life and death, Lu Yun sprang into action and stopped the fearsome spear light with his hand.

A trace of blood oozed out between Zuo Longxiu's brows.

"Lu Yun." Wu Tulong looked at Lu Yun with a smile. The spear in his hand was now golden in color, and terrifying energy pulsated from its entire length. Just like Lu Yun, he was also on the verge of becoming a void-ascended immortal, being a mere tribulation away.

"You aren't being controlled by Sword Divine!" Lu Yun's eyebrows shot up. In this moment, he once again saw the young genius glowing with spirit and vitality.

"How can a trivial soul method do anything to me?" Wu Tulong grinned. "But although I'm not being controlled by the soul seed, I still need to carry out Sword Divine's orders."

Swish!

He brandished his long spear. "Now that I'm here, I'm saving this yin dragon vein."

"Oh yeah?" Lu Yun shook Violetgrave with a flourish, eliciting a soft croon from it. "I'd like to see you try."

Wu Tulong's pupils constricted violently. "Wielding dao through the sword... You've reached the same heights as Sword Divine!"