

## Necropolis 731

### Chapter 731: Star Divinity

"I see, then." Lu Feng gently waved a big fan edged with gold. "Does that mean you make the decisions in the Lin Clan now?"

His aura built up to greater force as he spoke, and the sea water beneath his feet trembled, frothy bubbles breaking through its surface.

"Pssh, so what if you do? You won't be leaving with either the brothers or treasures today." Lu Feng planted himself in front of the Lin brothers. He wasn't extremely tall or strongly built, and in fact looked a bit weedy, but in that moment, he seemed as mighty as a towering mountain. "I'll be paying a visit to the Lin Clan after taking care of you."

Crack!

He snapped the folding fan shut and transformed it into a strange looking immortal sword with dark gold light swirling over it.

"Hahaha!!" Lin Lie threw his head back, his laughter filled with arrogance and disdain. "I more or less know all about you, Lu Feng. Do you think you can strut around like a preening peacock just because you defeated Yin Jiuying of the Corpse Refiners?"

Twin beams of hazy black light shot out from his eyes and Lin Lie's presence surged out of his tight hold. Pulsing balefully, his aura blasted into the skies. An origin dao immortal from the Primordial Era!

The presence of a primordial origin dao immortal was emanating from Lin Lie's body!

"That's Lu Yun's formation of heaven and earth, and a dao-grade one at that! But he hasn't shared any for dao immortals..." Changes flickering rapidly across his expression, Lu Feng immediately recognized the source of the presence radiating from Lin Lie.

A formation of heaven and earth could form a minor world when etched into the body of an immortal, producing the energy of the world and making the recipient no different from a primordial immortal.

Lu Yun distributed these formations through the merchant alliance in Dao City, and any immortal in the world could obtain one as long as they paid the retail price—a price that wasn't too high, in the grand scheme of things. There was an enormous difference between it and the thousand spots that'd been up for grabs in the Dusk auction.

However, all formations up for sale were for use below dao immortal. Ones to be etched into dao immortals still required either Lu Yun's own hand, or the joint efforts of Feinie and Xuanxi. Of course, if a regular immortal ascended to dao immortality with a formation already etched into them, then their formation would evolve into a dao-grade one as well.

Being just one generation older than the Lin brothers, Lin Lie wasn't all that senior in the Lin Clan. He was less than three thousand years old, but he'd already reached peak arcane dao realm. What set him apart was that there was a formation of heaven and earth inside his body.

“Lu Feng, you think too little of the Lins,” jeered Lin Lie as he took note of Lu Feng’s expression. “If the two traitors, Lin Yu and Lin Xuan, could become formation grandmasters, do you really think we have no others?”

The energy of the world coalescing around him, Lin Lie grabbed at the air and returned with an inky spear. A cold light blossomed at its tip as it was leveled at Lu Feng.

“Crawl away, or die.” Tremendous confidence blossomed in Lin Lie’s eyes, dispersing the last bit of arcane dao force in him.

“Are... you talking to me?” A tyrannical light dawned in Lu Feng’s eyes. “A mere origin dao immortal dares speak to me like this?!”

Whoosh!!

Streaking into a thin line, Lu Feng quickly blinked in front of Lin Lie.

Smack!

Before anyone could react, he flung a heavy hand across Lin Lie’s face. The latter’s neck recoiled like a spring, flatlining several dozen meters into the distance before bouncing back.

Smack!

A second slap connected heavily with Lin Lie’s other cheek, sending him spinning round and round in the air like an enormous top.

“That Yin Jiuying’s body was a connate divine beast, the jiuying, and an entity worshipped as a divine spirit in the Primeval Era. Just what do you think you are, you mangy cur, to threaten your daddy like this?!”

Smack!

Smack!

Smack!

Face slaps rang out resoundingly in the air, bringing to mind the Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign’s ambush of Lu Yun not too long ago. The same face-slapping scene had been delivered by Lu Feng then as well.

Though no one knew who’d won in the great battle between Lu Feng and Yin Jiuying in the outer realm, at least both of them had been able to retreat in one piece. The demon sovereign and Lin Lie, however, hadn’t been able to raise any resistance to Lu Feng’s humiliation. It was plain to see that when it came to Lu Feng and Yin Jiuying, both ranked well above primordial dao immortals.

At least the demon sovereign had been able to escape from Lu Feng’s clutches, but Lin Lie could only stand dumbly in place and be slapped silly. He suffered several thousand slaps in just a few breaths, swelling his face up like a pig’s!

Jaws dropped in the crowd—this was a flawless origin dao immortal, a renowned heavyweight in the world! Even if he survived the encounter, he would never again be able to show his face in the world,

not after being pinned down in the air and slapped at someone else's mercy. This was the greatest of extraordinary humiliations.

"It was a wonderful thing for the world of immortals to gain another flawless origin dao immortal, so I was going to leave you in one piece and with some face. But you, you piece of shit that your own mother would be ashamed of, dares threaten me?! Crawl away or die?! I'll have you wishing for death!"

Smack!

Another heavy slap landed on Lin Lie's face during Lu Feng's tirade; blood was oozing out of the hapless Lin immortal's eyes, nose, and mouth. His mind buzzed, and he'd even forgotten how to instinctively call upon his immortal force. Lu Feng's slaps came down with too much force.

"Now let me see what's with that formation of heaven and earth in you!" Lu Feng reached out with one hand, intent on yanking Lin Lie's nascent spirit out for a closer look.

"Enough!" an angry roar sounded, quickly followed by a carpet of silver radiance creeping over the sky. Brilliant cosmic light collected as an enormous sword and slashed down on Lu Feng.

His forehead crinkling into a frown, the faintly golden sword light around him shifted into a long chain and met the sword of starlight in the air.

Boom!

A golden and silver ray of light collided in the air, blasting the premises into the void. Shock tinged Lu Feng's face and he immediately gave up on Lin Lie in front of him. Protecting the Lin brothers behind him, he shot backward in a hasty retreat.

The starlight condensed into a figure of silver—a man. Short and stout, his features were quite ordinary, but a vibrant light sparkled in his eyes that resembled the stars. His silver hair was also as remarkable as a river of stars.

Donglin Taihuang!

He'd disappeared ever since Lu Yun announced a bounty on House Donglin by the Exalted Divine Tombs. Somehow, he'd gained the strength to resist Lu Feng upon his return.

"Star Divinity," Lu Feng said with a faint frown.

### **Chapter 732: A Demon and a God**

"Not a star divinity, no, not quite just yet." Donglin Taihuang smiled brilliantly. "In the end, the cosmic constitution of a mortal still cannot compare to that of the dao sovereign beneath the immortal dao."

Others in the area immediately scattered, not daring to tarry a moment longer. Lu Feng also threw the two brothers right back into Dusk Province.

"So you still have designs on my sister-in-law?" A trace of frost glinted in Lu Feng's eyes.

"Actually, there's another cosmic constitution in Dusk Province," Donglin Taihuang bantered back easily, facing Lu Feng while grasping Lin Lie with his hand.

“Donglin Taihuang, you animal! Qingmiao is only two! Are you even human to be thinking of doing anything to her?! Have you become a fur seal too?!” Having run back to Dusk Province, the pavilion lord shrieked with outrage when he heard the exchange.

Donglin Taihuang stared blankly, then screamed back with discomfort as well, “Xing Mou!! I’m talking about Xing Mou, not your Qingmiao! The half-cosmic constitution that I let roam freely on Levitating Island!”

He was so incensed that he almost threw Lin Lie into the sea, but his reaction set the pavilion lord at ease and he refrained from further outrage. Meanwhile, in Dao City, color drained from Xing Mou’s face to hear their exchange and she sobbed, “I’m just a little girl too...”

Donglin Taihuang’s consciousness was locked on to her. Though she hadn’t spoken loudly, her voice traveled into his ears all the same and he almost coughed up blood at what was being insinuated. With a wave, he sent a burst of energy into Lin Lie to quickly heal his injuries. The Lin immortal jumped to his feet and stood by his savior’s side, casting a look of venomous fury at Lu Feng.

Lu Feng looked back with a supercilious smile at the two, a strange look surfacing in his eyes.

“The key to restructuring the dao origin realm lies with him. Don’t let him get away,” sounded a cool voice. A tiny ripple in the void followed as a woman dressed like a man walked out.

Mo Yi.

“Oh?” Lu Feng blinked. “But the star divine has yet to take his place...”

“We wouldn’t be able to do anything to him if he’s assumed his rightful place. He’s just a hair away from achieving perfection in his realm, so now’s the perfect time to capture him.” Mo Yi presented quite the dashing sight in the air, what with her long sleeves billowing and hair fluttering gracefully.

“What?” Donglin Taihuang started when he heard the disguised woman’s words.

“You’re just a pig we were raising. Now that you’ve grown nice and fat, it’s time to butcher you,” sounded another voice. Chen Xiao and Qing Buyi appeared behind Donglin Taihuang and Lin Lie, blocking off their avenue of escape.

“Or did you really think you could reach your current heights within a hundred years, just with that piddling potential of yours?” Mockery crept over Qing Buyi’s face.

“Dao immortal realm! You two have just ascended to immortality, so how could you have reached dao immortal realm so quickly?? HOW??” Lin Lie’s eyes bulged as the sight was too hard to believe.

“Just who are you?!” Donglin Taihuang demanded, the cosmic radiance around him flaring so brilliantly that it almost drowned him in light.

Sensing how terrifying the four around him were, Lin Lie’s knees grew weak and he almost collapsed to the ground. This was absolutely not the strength of a dao immortal, this was beyond it! It was a level that only primordial immortals could reach!

Beside him, Donglin Taihuang had also reached the same realm. As the five of them fully unleashed their auras over the North Sea, the waters below began to agitate and tremble.

Over Levitating Island, Goldenlight snarled in challenge and shook as his body abruptly expanded to over thirty thousand meters tall. The black iron staff in his hand and fiery cape billowing behind him blasted outward with the strength of connate treasures. Light exploded over Levitating Island, swiftly unrolling over all of the North Sea.

“Do you five want to sterilize the North Sea of all life?!” roared Goldenlight. “Go fight in the outer realm if you want to fight! The current world of immortals can’t endure your strength!”

He had eyes only for Mo Yi, Lu Feng, Qing Buyi, Chen Xiao, and Donglin Taihuang. Lin Lie wasn’t worthy of thought for him.

“If you five dare make the North Sea your battlefield, then I shall bring Silverlight and my eighteen origin dao immortals to the nine majors tomorrow and slaughter everything in them! Just see if I don’t!” Goldenlight shrieked with indignation.

If the five of them erupted in open hostilities over the North Sea, its waters would surely be turned upside down and not a single monster spirit would survive the melee.

“Heh heh heh!” Donglin Taihuang cackled in response. “My kin have nearly all been wiped out anyway, but my clan’s bloodline will not be ended as long as I am alive. As for you four...”

Wham!!

He ignored Goldenlight’s warning and struck a blow without any forewarning!

Most of the North Sea in their vicinity exploded from the move, millions of tons of seawater evaporating on the spot. None of the ordinary beings or lower level monster spirit immortals could survive this terrible force and an untold number of them expired within the span of a quick breath.

“Waaaaaugh!!” Goldenlight squalled with fury. His fiery cloak instantly enlarged to cover the North Sea, and his iron rod slammed into the bedrock to quell the disturbance.

The titanic waves raised by Donglin Taihuang were abruptly frozen in place, and the North Sea slowly, hesitantly, settled back down.

“Fellow daoist, this creature has lost his mind and become a veritable demon. We do not wish to bring misery to the denizens of the North Sea, but he hardly cares about the lifeforms here. What more are you waiting for?” Chen Xiao remarked with a smile.

The four of them had each taken a position in the cardinal directions and sealed off the local subspace, but they obviously weren’t planning on making any further moves.

“So you four were scheming to involve me!” squawked Goldenlight.

“Fellow daoist, you must know that the path of immortality cuts off after the dao immortal realm. This Donglin Taihuang was a star divinity in his past life and thus key to repairing the path. If you can help take him down, that would be a tremendous accomplishment in the eyes of the immortal dao!” chuckled Chen Xiao. “The immortal dao now is the dao of all living beings, not the human dao of the Primeval Era. If you exert effort on behalf of the immortal dao, the monster spirits will naturally receive its blessings as well.”

“Awaughhhh!!” Goldenlight howled and suddenly transformed into a form that possessed three heads and six arms. Screeching a battle cry, he charged Donglin Taihuang.

“Dammit!” Dismay seized Donglin Taihuang’s face when he saw the scarlet ape come his way. He had a chance of escaping if he faced only Chen Xiao and the others, but he wouldn’t even have a chance to self-detonate if the five attacked in concert.

Boom!

A thick layer of heavy clouds suddenly appeared in the sky, countless beings wailing and keening from them. Large herds of fur seals also materialized in the ocean waters, a stifling, overwhelming sight with their numbers.

“Capture the star divinity? Impossible. Repair the immortal dao? Even more ludicrous,” the demon god’s voice echoed from the clouds.

“Demon God, do you really think we can’t do anything to you just because you’ve stolen the true spirit of the Exalted divine emperor?” Mo Yi coldly hectored the demonic clouds in the sky.

“Hahahaha!!” came arrogant laughter. “Of course you can’t! I am the demon god. I am a demon and a god!”

Music suddenly arose behind him, demonic voices lifted in holy chanting. Then... a perfect body strode out from the clouds.

A god born of sacrifice and worship.

The demon god had taken advantage of this time to consolidate the demonic tribes of the world and become their divine spirit, then formed his divine body from their worship!

### **Chapter 733: Demon God Undergoes His Tribulation**

As a demonic aura descended over the scene, all of the North Sea darkened from his arrival.

In response, the human demon warily materialized within Dusk Province while the desolate willow of the Skandha Range grew to thirty thousand meters tall, howling furiously and waving its branches at the demon god in the North Sea.

In Destiny City, Silverlight blurred into a streak of light and instantly returned to Levitating Island. A thick layer of light shimmered around her form in midair as she stood poised for battle.

In the Dark North Sword Sect of Ingress Island, the young man with a sword on his back and the shepherd boy also flickered into existence.

The demon god forming a divine body out of the sacrifices of the demons was a tremendous disaster for the entire world of immortals and had to be dealt with.

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This was Lu Yun’s third time facing the Diabolical Tribulation of World Refinement. The first had been when he stood guard over the resurrecting Dao Flower and the tribulation had descended with the momentum to end all life. He’d beaten that back with thirty-six summons of a bean soldier.

The second had occurred when Zhao Wushuang underwent her tribulation, and that instance had taken form as mountains of thunder and lightning. Countless imprisoned demons and fiends threatened her, but the sudden appearance of Sword Divine Dongfang Hao had caused a divergence and changed it into thunder and lightning of purest black.

If it hadn't been for their unwelcome visitor showing up, Lu Yun wouldn't have been able to devour the heavenly thunder with his Thunder Palmstrike. The Diabolical Tribulation of World Refinement was a unique thunder tribulation that his death art couldn't devour, but anything else could easily be handled by the Thunder Palmstrike.

And this time... the tribulation reared its head again when Qing Yu's refinement of the Central World mandate reached a critical moment.

The skies of the Central World were carpeted by blackish-red tribulation clouds; endless demons howled and tore the ground within them, slowly accumulating the power to end all living beings.

"There's a third transformation to it..." Xing Chen and Lu Yun lifted their heads at the same time to look at the skies above. "The occurrence this time is even stronger than when the Dao Flower bloomed or Zhao Wushuang underwent her trial. Though those two were devastating, there was still a chance for survival. This time... it's just pure destruction!

"Just who is it undergoing their tribulation in the Central World?!" Lu Yun took a deep breath, his face flickering rapidly through various changes.

The thunder tribulation encompassed all of the local immortals and cultivators with its range. Once it descended, everyone in the vicinity would be torn to pieces. Most importantly... Qing Yu's tribulation was at hand. With the presence of the Diabolical Tribulation of World Refinement, it would shift her timetable forward as well.

"I can't swallow this particular tribulation with the Thunder Palmstrike, nor can I deflect it with a lightning rod."

The latest developments affected Qing Yu as well. Her brow was tightly furrowed as her nascent spirit stirred restlessly; a small wisp of smoke floated over her head—initial signs of a heavenly tribulation descending.

"This can't be allowed to continue. I need to find the bastard attempting his tribulation here and kill him before it starts!"

Lu Yun departed from the emperor's tomb, leaving Xing Chen standing guard at Qing Yu's side. Activating the Wandering Step, he covered five hundred thousand kilometers with each stride, darting through the Central World in search of the cultivator in question. The tribulation clouds had just gathered and were still brewing their might—he could still turn things around.

The immortals in the Central World were all going mad as well. Most of them fought and pushed each other to get onto the Path of Ingress, then ran helter-skelter out of the realm. However, there were a few also like Lu Yun, furiously searching for the cultivator before the tribulation truly began.

"Who is it, just who is attracting a Diabolical Tribulation of World Refinement? Zhao Wushuang summoned it because she possessed the heart of the Sword of Chaos. The Sword of Chaos bears the will

of the ancient divine court—a great enemy of the immortal dao, hence the immortal dao wanted to decimate it.

“When the Dao Flower bloomed, this tribulation descended because it wanted to protect the flower. If all life was destroyed, then the flower wouldn’t be controlled by any singular entity...

“Then... following this logic, the cultivator this time must threaten the immortal dao. Can it be... him?!” Lu Yun shook. “Ahh, so that’s what’s going on here! What a nice trick of pretending to go down one path while secretly advancing along another! I really would’ve fallen for it if I wasn’t here in person!”

He suddenly came to a halt and summoned the luopan, then injected the slightest demonic wisp into it. The wisp of energy came from the demon god, collected at the moment of its birth when it’d been restrained beneath Mount Exalted.

The compass indicator spun furiously before stopping in one direction.

“Aha, so his primary body really is here! The demon god that appeared in the North Sea was just his replica!”

Whoosh!

Lu Yun deployed the Wandering Step again and shot in the direction indicated by his luopan at full speed.

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Innumerable fur seals shrieked and howled next to a bottomless chasm in the western reaches of the Central World. The soil around it was dyed the bright crimson of fresh blood, in which severed limbs littered the landscape. An untold number of immortals had plainly met their end here.

An egg as tall as a person and dark as night hovered quietly above the chasm. A dense cloud layer had enveloped the Central World, and the presence emanated by the egg grew stronger by the second. It seemed to be nurturing a terrifying demonic entity.

“I didn’t think you’d transfigure yourself into an egg so you could use the tribulation to temper your body.” Lu Yun’s appearance was announced by a tremble in the air; he sized up the egg and denounced it coldly.

“You’re too late, kid,” a ponderous response came from the egg. “This divinity’s heavenly tribulation is forthcoming, and you are already an immortal. The moment it descends is the moment of your death.”

The demon god’s true spirit was once the true spirit of the Exalted Divine emperor, and his true cultivation realm was far beyond the level of the heavenly tribulation. No matter how strong the tribulation might be, it wouldn’t harm a single hair on his head.

“Is that so?” a snigger came from the air.

Wham!

Golden-blue light flashed through the void, closely followed by a great physical seal as large as a mountain. It bore down inexorably on the egg.



The Skyturning Seal.

“Auooooogh!!” The tide of fur seals around the chasm seemed to lose their minds and flung themselves at the Skyturning Seal without reservation.

Blackish-red blood showered through the air and globs of mashed seal blubber plopped down to the ground. The ancient treasure proved its might, but the fur seals seemed to possess a mysterious power that affected it as well. Its glow grew fainter, and it, too, started to sway in the air.

“Someone comes bearing gifts as soon as this divinity is about to emerge in the world. Well then, it would be quite rude to refuse such a tribute,” sounded the demon god’s carefree tones, hardly worried about the attacks on its doorstep.

Hum.

A sword howled fiercely as an enormous pagoda materialized in the void. Tremendous sword energy coalesced into an enormous light curtain that trailed down and stirred up a tornado of blades. The tornado churned toward the egg, displaying the full might of the Sugato Sword.

At the same time, the skeletal form of the Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign appeared and grabbed the Skyturning Seal hovering in the air, leaping up to smash it down on his opponent.

#### **Chapter 734: Suppressing A Demon**

Two of the greatest man made treasures—the Sugato Sword and Skyturning Seal—had taken the stage at the same time and melded their auras together, forming one enormous entity of light and shadow that centered on the Venerated Sacrosanct Demonic Sovereign.

Skyturning Seal in hand, the demonic sovereign smashed it down on the egg with the force of a thunderbolt originating from the cosmos itself.

Rumble!!

A great explosion rang out as a palm of searing red burrowed out from the ground, punching out powerfully at the treasure in the demonic sovereign’s hands.

Boom!

The hand exploded into a downpour of bloody mud, but the demonic sovereign was sent flying as well. The Skyturning Seal slipped from his hand, and even the Sugato Sword in midair was shaken by the impact.

Serpentine creatures that resembled blood vessels started swimming through the land around the chasm; it’d turned viscous and slimy like a bloody swamp. Or, more precisely, it was an Ichor Bog, the very one that’d been outside the Exalted Divine Tombs. It’d somehow made its way here as well.

“Aouuu aough aough aough!!” Fur seals that’d been minced to diced meat earlier by the Skyturning Seal popped back out of the swamp, bizarrely reformed and ready for action. The serpentine creatures swiftly latched on to them and stuck more than ten thousand fur seals together, creating a titanic member of their species.

A big fur seal, the king of fur seals.

As the Skyturning Seal meandered about in the air, at a loss for what it should do next, a faint figure of green walked out of the void. It was a very fine-looking gentleman with chiseled features and a heroic air between his brows. Lanky and lean, a long robe of green drifted around him like a cool, refreshing breeze. He was plainly a Green Firmament powerhouse, one who'd made use of another special method to circumvent the immortal restriction's detection.

"Lu Yun, the Demonic Sovereign Cauldron." Unexpectedly, he addressed Lu Yun out of everyone present at the scene. "Combine the cauldron with its feet."

"Eh?" Lu Yun blinked.

"Combining the two will awaken the demon god's lingering fragment of true spirit in the cauldron. It will send his cultivation into disarray and temporarily prevent him from undergoing his tribulation." The newcomer in green spoke in measured, unflustered tones and projected a completely calm and collected attitude. "However, that will only keep him at bay for four hours. Use that time to enter the immortal emperor's tomb and obtain the Immortal Subjugation Seal."

"Alright!" Lu Yun nodded and flipped his hand, materializing the inky black cauldron and its three cauldron feet.

"The body of my past life!!" The demon god's thoughts shook violently inside the egg. "Bring me the body of my past life!!"

"Aooough!!" roared the big fur seal and he charged as a bloody blur, bearing down on Lu Yun with a blazing demonic aura.

Wham!

The Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign snarled in response, sending the Hadal Bonefire in his head leaping to new heights and commanding a vast billow of sword energy from the Sugato Sword. The resulting sea of swords blocked the big fur seal from its target.

Hummm.

Black radiance sparkled and replaced everything within a hundred kilometer radius. A pair of crimson eyes slowly opened in the void, heralding the awakening of a magnificent demonic entity. They were cold, aloof, and bereft of any emotion. All of creation was naught but dust and grass to them.

Whoosh!

A pillar of black light soared to the heavens, carrying with it a revolving Demonic Sovereign Cauldron. Its three feet had been connected again, and it'd somehow sprouted a projection of a pair of handles where there'd been none before.

One body, two handles, three feet... the cauldron was a weapon of the heavenly dao and symbolized that from dao came one, one begat two, two gave birth to three, and from three resulted all living things.

While the demonic cauldron was becoming whole again, an immense shadow grew in size and reached for the clouds. It surveyed the land with a terrifying demonic aura, even dispersing half of the tribulation clouds for the time being.

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“AHHHHH!!” In the North Sea, the demon god’s replica suddenly shrieked with anguish. A pair of enormous cauldron handles drilled out of its body and vanished into the distance, causing it to explode into dust with a loud pop. Its demise started a chain reaction as the demons in the area clutched their heads in pain, falling listlessly into the sea.

“Get him!” Chen Xiao’s eyes lit up and he grabbed at Donglin Taihuang.

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Central World.

“Suppress it!” roared the man in green. A mysterious rune glimmered between his brows, forming a great seal that slammed into the demonic cauldron. What had once been pure black suddenly flashed gold.

Clang!

Clang!

A pair of cauldron handles whistled through the air and attached themselves to the cauldron. Within his egg, the demon god shrieked and wailed with agony. Confusion stabbed into his thoughts, as if some sort of existence was interfering with them.

“Go obtain the Immortal Subjugation Seal. Remember, you only have four hours.” The man in green blurred into a streak of light as he spoke, smacking firmly into the cauldron and beating back the demonic shadow that wanted to rush out of it.

Meanwhile, the demonic sovereign took up the two treasures again and waded into battle with the big fur seal that had melded with the Ichor Bog. Blows and attacks flew fast and furious in a thick flurry of action.

Lu Yun spun on his heel and left without another word. Once the demon god passed his tribulation, he would be able to directly call upon the immortal dao to temper his body. If he possessed the capability to fully utilize the strength contained in his true spirit, the entire world of immortals would fall to his rule.

Lu Yun had hardly forgotten that when the demon god had first arrived in the world, his unbounded aura had almost demonized an entire major. The Immortal Subjugation Seal was what the primordial immortal emperor had once used to bring all immortals to heel. Only that treasure had the ability to make use of the immortal dao and finally bring the demon god into the fold, making it a demon god that had to answer to the immortal dao.

As for actually killing the demon god... well, there didn't seem to be anyone yet who could destroy the true spirit of a great emperor.

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“Heh heh heh—” a sinister chuckle sounded in the heartland of the Central World as Ge Yanxia stood up from a patch of Ichor Bog that’d suddenly materialized.

Immortals that’d been trying to find a way out of the area had all scattered the second the tribulation clouds appeared. Making use of the swamp to manifest herself, Ge Yanxia wasn’t affected by the immortal restriction in the slightest. Bloodlust flashed through her eyes when she looked upon the seated Qing Yu, who was refining the central mandate.

“That brat Dongfang Hao keeps wanting to get you so he can control the immortal dao through you, but I just want to eat you. That’ll make me the Dao Sovereign then!” Ge Yanxia brayed with gleeful laughter.

Zing!

Without further ado, an ancient bronze spear gleaming with a faint luster pierced her through from head to toe, nailing her bulbous form to the ground.

Though she shrieked and struggled with pain, wanting to use the strength of the bog to disassemble herself and slip away, the power of time contained within the spear kept her firmly confined where she was.

Xing Chen walked out of the void, black light dancing dangerously in his eyes.

“You’ve actually become one with the Ichor Bog, huh? I won’t be able to kill you if I don’t drain the swamp so... where is the primary body of the bog?”

Whoosh!

Emerald Mistfire crackled to life and set both swamp and fur seal ablaze. Shrieks redoubling in intensity, the fire slowly consumed Ge Yanxia and left behind a mound of ashes.

“Lu Yun, I will break you into a million pieces the next time I see you!!” Ge Yanxia’s howl of tortured pain echoed through the area for a very long time.

1. The author makes a point of saying the tip went out her... anus. I opted for the more common English idiom. These fur seals are already graphic enough? Please let me know if you disagree and I can put it back in.

### **Chapter 735: Immortal Emperor, Immortal Ghost**

“Just what is that Ichor Bog...” Xing Chen frowned when he heard Ge Yanxia’s final vengeful squeal. In his eyes, the fur seal was dead, returned to whatever odious substance she was comprised of.

Yet somehow, she was still alive.

Tribulation clouds slowly dispersed in the sky, but the stifling and ominous atmosphere lingered on.

“Four hours to retrieve the Immortal Subjugation Seal... That’s almost impossible!” Lu Yun had already rushed deep into the immortal emperor’s tomb, but its complexity ran far beyond his expectations.

Layers upon layers of formations and layouts overlapped and intersected with each other; it would take quite some time and effort for him to decipher them all.

Outside the tomb, Xing Chen began to fret with worry.

“There's another way.” Qing Yu suddenly opened her eyes and looked at her beloved's replica. “I can pass my tribulation first and become an immortal, then return to refine the Central World's mandate another time.”

She was already halfway through the process of refining it, and as she progressed, the concentration of the immortal dao's might upon her increased as well. Her tribulation would descend at the moment of complete refinement, but she still lacked a critical last detail. Success wasn't guaranteed unless they made use of special provisions.

“No!” refused Lu Yun. “You can't attempt your tribulation unless we're a hundred percent sure of success!”

“Don't worry, I can handle things.” Qing Yu inclined her head and closed her eyes again, continuing her refinement of the mandate.

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Though the heavenly tribulation was no more, none of the immortals in the Central World dared return to the scene. The demonic aura had grown so colossal after the appearance of the completed cauldron that one could feel it even in Destiny City.

Within the immortal emperor's tomb, Lu Yun took one painstakingly difficult step after another in a complicated route.

“This isn't a formation, layout, or boundary. It's actually a restriction.” He panted heavily and his body felt like it weighed a thousand kilograms; circulation of immortal force within his body had almost ground to a halt. He'd been picking his way through this passageway for nearly two hours, but still hadn't reached its end.

“Just what kind of place is this?” He tried calling upon his Wandering Step, and when that failed, the death art Boundless Step instead, but a strange power blocked both of them. He saw more than one corpse lying on the ground as he made his way further in—all of them had perished when their nascent spirit exploded. Plainly, the nascent spirits of ordinary immortals were unable to withstand this restriction.

“Right, nascent spirit!” His eyes lit up. “Mine is incredibly strong and practices the nascent spirit observation method. It won't be obstructed by this restriction.”

Hummmm.

To think of the deed was to act upon it, so his nascent spirit replica immediately emerged from his body and observed it from the air. Then, the energy of the world gathered into another outline of Lu Yun's body.

“This is definitely possible!” His double created by the nascent spirit was identical to his primary body, and the immortal restriction was ineffective in levying any kind of restraint.

Whoosh!

His projected double became one with his nascent spirit replica, then turned into the trace of a shadow before disappearing in the depths of the tomb. Lu Yun's primary body remained seated cross-legged on the ground, attention fully focused on the six paths of his nascent spirit in hell and continuously supplying energy to his nascent spirit double.

"You actually succeeded." A sudden breath of wind brushed past Lu Yun as a ghastly white figure blinked into existence next to him, looking very out of place. He was translucent and didn't have the slightest tinge of color in his face; a ball of verdant green flame burned in his empty eyes.

The immortal emperor!

This ghastly figure was none other than the immortal emperor Lu Yun had once seen!

But at that meeting, the emperor had been handsomely perfect, as if he'd been sculpted out of the finest jade. He'd been an otherworldly gentleman, but now... he was an immortal ghost.

What?!

"You successfully pioneered a nascent spirit method, thereby supplementing the deficiencies in the nascent spirits of immortals." The immortal emperor's ghost drifted around Lu Yun, his voice equally tenuous and accompanied by hints of a chilly air. "But that is not enough, you need to reform the path of cultivation to address the root of the problems with nascent spirits..."

"I've done enough." Lu Yun's eyes snapped open and he looked piercingly at the ghost. "Reforming the immortal dao isn't my responsibility alone. It's a matter for all beings under its purview. If I continue down this path and really launch a revolution on dao itself, I'll attract the envy of the heavens sooner or later and that will doom me beyond redemption!"

"Are you that afraid of death?" The emperor's voice took on a hard edge and the wind in the passageway dropped a few degrees.

"Yes, I'm terrified of death." Lu Yun nodded. "If I die, I lose everything. Everything I'm doing now will be meaningless. Like you, have you accepted your death?"

He wasn't one to shy away from admitting how much he feared death. Having died once already, that feeling of plunging into a horrific abyss of despair was imprinted on his mind and soul.

"No—" wailed the immortal ghost with a lowered head. "But so what of that? I failed, and it was fated that I fail.

"My cultivation had reached peak grand pure realm and I was about to join the ranks of the primeval human lords. But a descendent from later generations appeared in front of me to inform me that I'd failed. Hahahaha—"

Though he threw his head back with laughter, the two trails of bloody tears down his cheeks further highlighted his macabre look.

"So you admitted defeat just like that?" Lu Yun shook his head slightly.

“The future has long been determined, fate cannot be eluded,” the immortal ghost said bleakly. “I fought it, but still was defeated by them in the end. I didn’t even have the chance for a return blow.”

“The seeds of failure were planted in your dao heart. You’d accepted your defeat, so victory was never in the cards for you,” Lu Yun sighed, sorrow tinging his voice.

“And you? What if one day a future descendent appeared in front of you and told you that you, too, would fall? What would you do?” The immortal emperor gradually recovered his calm and proposed the scenario with the slightest lilt of mockery.

“I would kill him, then continue walking down the path I’d laid out for myself.” Lu Yun grinned. “If someone sent a later descendent to me to throw my dao heart into disarray and shatter my faith, that would mean he’s afraid. He’s afraid of what I’m doing now and of the path that I will take!

“That would be why he cooked up a so-called descendent from the future—to try and ruin everything that I’m setting up now!

“If that’s the case, then what do I have to fear? I’ll be the final victor if I simply follow my path.”

The immortal emperor trembled at this response and his face twisted in a harsh grimace. Blackish-red liquid flowed out of all of his orifices.

Whoosh!

With that, the immortal ghost dispersed, leaving nothing but a pile of bone dust.

### **Chapter 736: Immortal Emperor**

Lu Yun’s nascent spirit double reached the end of the passageway in only a few breaths, whereupon it was met with a scintillating ray of brilliance that almost blinded him and robbed him of all perception. There seemed to be a sun at the end of the tunnel... no, not seemed, there really was a bonafide sun!

Its terrifying heat and luminosity had melted everything around it, turning the environment into dense flows of leaping lava and currents of red air.

“Everyone who’s come here is dead...” Lu Yun felt like his own double was also being melted by the dreadful waves of heat. The Tome of Life and Death resided within his primary body, offering no protection for his double. However, the six paths of his nascent spirit still circulated in hell, continuously ferrying enormous power that enabled him to maintain the projection.

A resplendent world as glorious as the cosmos unfolded in front of him. A wheel of a blazing sun hung in the center of this world, radiating grim light and waves of heat.

The sun was... a coffin. The main chamber of the immortal emperor’s tomb held a fiery sun as a coffin that granted the great emperor of immortals his final rest!

The Immortal Subjugation Seal lay within the blazing coffin before him, and from it rose a pillar of light that stabbed into the skies. It broke through the barriers of the tomb with immeasurable momentum, but what Lu Yun had eyes for wasn’t the legendary treasure, it was... the coffin.

“You had me come here not for the seal, nor the item that cannot be named, but for this blazing sun of a coffin.” Lu Yun seemed to be both murmuring to himself and addressing someone as well.

“To be more precise, the Sol Truefire that blazes atop the coffin.” The ghost of the immortal emperor once again appeared quietly by Lu Yun’s side, as if he’d been here all along and hadn’t taken a single step away.

“The primeval human emperor used hellfire as the foundation to illuminate hell and establish the rule of human dao,” murmured the immortal emperor. “Fire is the origin of civilization, the symbol of enlightenment, and the guide of living beings. Only fire can create an ultimate dao.

“The three founders of immortal dao collected the flames of the world and attempted to use the three great immortal fires—Emerald Mistfire, Lucent Voidfire, and Daevic Skyfire—as the foundation for a world that could encompass the immortal dao. But they failed.

“The three great fires are the fires of immortal dao. Though immensely strong, they did not possess the strength to illuminate a world. I inherited their dying wish to find a flame that could spark such a world and I... succeeded.

“This Sol Truefire is one that will light up the heavenly palace and behold a world of immortal dao.”

The immortal emperor opened his arms wide and took in a deep breath. He didn't seem to be a ghost in this moment, but a real man of flesh and blood.

Lu Yun stared dumbly at the emperor in front of him. He was suddenly reminded of a particular scene—the resurrection of the Dao Flower!

In the Firmament Prison, where the tomb burying the Dao Flower was located, there’d been one last survivor from an incomparably ancient period. She’d used the civilization of an era to irrigate and revive the Dao Flower.

Dao was the path of all living beings and of civilization, and fire the key to the doors of civilization.

Hell was illuminated by hellfire, and if the heavenly palace wished to become a true world that wasn’t subordinate to the world of immortals, it required the support of its own flame as well.

The immortal emperor had located that flame in the Primordial Era.

During the Primordial Era, the Central World had seceded from the world of immortals and become the basis of the immortal court. Back then, the immortal emperor had wanted to further redefine it as a separate world and the root of a race, much like the hell of human dao.

Sadly, the world had suffered a cataclysmic blow before he could fully realize his ambitions.

“Now, I entrust this flame to you!” A smile floated onto the immortal emperor’s face as he looked at Lu Yun. “This is the dying wish of the three founders, and it is my wish as well: use the Sol Truefire to create a world that truly belongs to immortal dao and ensure that it prospers forevermore, that its light is never extinguished!”



“You’re going to become one with the flame?!” Lu Yun immediately saw through the emperor’s intentions. The immortal emperor was dead, his soul scattered and true spirit extinguished. This ghost was just a manifestation of his obsession, one that carried the last of his will.

The Sol Truefire wasn’t something that Lu Yun could touch. It completely burned everything in its vicinity, taking the form of a sun itself. In fact, it was more dreadful than the actual sun hanging in the skies of the world of immortals.

However, the flame belonged to the immortal emperor, so if he combined his will with it, he would be able to calm it and hand over a tamed Sol Truefire to Lu Yun. If he did so, though, the last traces of the emperor would be erased. There would no longer be an immortal emperor of the Primordial Era in all of the world.

“You need to think carefully about this. I can save you, reform your true spirit and shape your soul again... I can bring you back to this world so you can continue trying for your aspirations...”

“Hahahaha!!” the emperor laughed heartily. “So what of life, and what of death? I failed and died for my inadequacies. Even if I am reborn, I would still be a failure.

“My only wish now is for the Sol Truefire to carry on my hopes and illuminate all life, that the immortal dao be eternal...”

Zoom!

The immortal emperor rushed into the blazing sun as he spoke, and the debonair youth in the coffin slowly opened his eyes.

Whoosh!

He shot into the sky and held his hand out to the Immortal Subjugation Seal, which came down gently in a haze of resplendent glow.

“The immortal dao is free and unfettered, and immortals are without chains and shackles! The world needs no Immortal Subjugation Seal!” The immortal emperor gave voice to a long whistle, igniting the golden seal in his hand and turning it into a ball of blazing flame. All of the flames on the coffin gathered to the seal in his hand; tongues of fire flickered to life on his body at the same time.

Though he was going up in flames, the immortal emperor flung his head back in deep, satisfied laughter, the kind that originated from the bottom of one’s heart. At long last, the greatest wish of his life was to be fulfilled.

His body grew indistinct as his will was immortalized in the flame.

Puff!

Nothing was left behind of the emperor, and his will began fading away as well. A brilliant pearl that shone with the brilliance of a sun hovered in front of Lu Yun.

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Dao City.

“WaaaAHHHHH—“ While keeping an eye on Donglin Taihuang, the little fox suddenly burst into loud sobs.

“Your Immortal Majesty... We have an emperor no longer, our emperor is no more!” Tears streamed down Qi Hai’s face as he froze, trembling within Destiny City. “You’ve... disappeared completely... How I wish our ideals were the same... I made my moves for humanity, but you undertook things for the good of all...”

“Your Immortal Majesty!!” The lord of Ingress Island and head of the Dark North Sword Sect wailed and beat their chests in anguish.

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“Was that the immortal emperor? The man that defined an epoch a hundred thousand years ago...?” Silverlight and Goldenlight looked at each other. “What a pity we were sealed away and never witnessed his eminence for ourselves... He is no longer.”

### **Chapter 737: Treasure Spirit**

Lu Yun sighed softly as he looked at the resplendent pearl in front of him. Though the primordial immortal emperor had owned the Immortal Subjugation Seal, he’d never actually used it to control immortals. All of that had been hearsay; he’d only ever used it to light the Sol Truefire.

He didn’t make use of the opportunity to manipulate the immortal dao after obtaining the Dao Tree either—he’d protected this cancerous tumor so that it wouldn’t be exploited by others.

Lu Yun seemed to understand a bit of the immortal emperor’s mindset at this moment. The man had hardly gone willingly to his death. He’d only been one small step away from lighting the heavenly palace and forging a world that could forever guard the immortal dao, an immutable existence like hell.

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“So your ultimate goal wasn’t to have Little Yu’s poison curse exterminate the immortal dao. Your true goal was this,” Lu Yun suddenly spoke aloud. “You purposefully brought the immortal emperor to us last time so that he would see us, that he would glimpse new hope and voluntarily sacrifice his will to tame the Sol Truefire.”

“Correct.” Lu Shenhou’s softly chuckling form materialized in the void. “He was the first to experience all four realms of the immortal dao since its creation, and the strongest immortal since the inception of the immortal dao.

“The Primordial Era—as it is referred to today—was the most prosperous age of immortal dao after its founding. In fact, I almost witnessed the roaring heyday of human dao from the Primeval Era again.”

Lu Yun shook.

“He was a great man. We thought we’d destroyed the foundations of immortal dao after severing the path of cultivation. The decline, withering, and corruption of immortal dao was inevitable—or so we trusted. We hadn’t factored on an immortal emperor single handedly safeguarding it and bringing such vitality to the world of immortals that it almost cast light on the entire multiverse.”

Lu Shenhou sighed with emotion. "The immortal dao wasn't severed only a hundred thousand years ago, so how can a tree grow when its roots are destroyed? But somehow, that immortal emperor did it.

"He reconnected the path with his strength alone and made it whole again. However, he also died in the great war a hundred thousand years ago... so of course the immortal dao broke again."

Lu Yun listened without a word.

"What a pity he wasn't perfect in the end. He had far too many flaws in his heart." Lu Shenhou grinned with great satisfaction. "He always thought that the immortal dao he knew was less than that of olden times, that his cultivation had yet to reach that of a primeval human lord's. Little did he know that his era was actually the period in which immortal dao was the greatest, and that his level had long reached parity with those human lords.

"We only needed the smallest of the tiniest, most insignificant ant to plant the seeds of defeat deep within his heart. Once it germinated and took root... nothing could save him.

"And then he failed." Lu Shenhou summoned the blazing pearl with a gentle beckon, which transformed into a tiny ember when it landed.

"And you happen to be precisely his opposite. Your heart is so strong that it's almost flawless. You never faltered in your belief that the present will triumph over the past. We only had to let him see you and sense your conviction. After that, he would manifest of his own volition and tame the Sol Truefire like a good little boy."

Smugness colored his tone.

"Right there is where you're very wrong." Lu Yun let out a long sigh. "I have my weaknesses, and there are many... The most serious of which is my soft-heartedness."

Lu Shenhou paused. "What?"

"I'm too soft-hearted..." Lu Yun shook his head. "Did you really think I'd let someone who cherishes all of life sacrifice himself after coming face-to-face with him?"

"You mean to say that you can resurrect a dead man with your pathetically tattered hell of human dao?" Lu Shenhou scoffed. "That might have been possible when the human Great Emperor of the Eastern Peak ruled over reincarnation. He determined life and death, but he, too, would find his hands tied now if he came back to life. He wouldn't be able to bring the immortal emperor back either."

"Hahahaha!" Lu Yun burst out laughing, letting loose like he'd heard the funniest joke in the world. "The Great Emperor of the Eastern Peak ruled over reincarnation, you say? He could determine the life and death of all with a single thought? Even he wouldn't be able to bring back the immortal emperor? Hahahaha!"

Lu Shenhou silently stared at the madly cackling Lu Yun.

"If that is the case, why did the great emperor die?"

Lu Shenhou's eyes widened at the question.

“If he couldn’t control even his own life, how could he possibly have been the master of all lives in the multiverse?” Lu Yun’s smile dropped. “Are you here to just crack jokes and clown around?”

Lu Shenhou was still reeling from the sudden revelation.

Rumble!

The ember pulsing in his hand suddenly flared into a human figure—the immortal emperor, who’d disintegrated into nothing after taming the Sol Truefire with the last of himself! Upon his emergence, he blasted forward with a punch and shattered Lu Shenhou’s body.

“Just as you led me to see him, so too have I been waiting for you.”

Whoosh!

The Sol Truefire blazed and ignited the air itself, creating an ocean of flames in the void. At its center was a golden heart that beat slowly.

“Impossible!!” shrieked Lu Shenhou.

The immortal emperor had indeed died, leaving not even a trace of him behind. Not even the Great Emperor of the Eastern Peak of the Primeval Era would’ve been able to resurrect him.

But he was here?? He was here?! Returned from the Sol Truefire and brimming with so much vitality that he might as well have never died!

“The human lords of the Primeval Era? No, I’d exceeded them and truly reached the heights of an emperor, akin to the great emperors before Emperors Fall. I was one in both title and strength.” Hovering in the air, the immortal emperor continued coldly, “But you who have never been a part of the immortal dao will never know its greatness...”

“The primeval human lords? Nothing but a bunch of sad weaklings!” Lu Shenhou laughed with abandon. “So you truly reached the emperor realm, what of it? You failed in the end anyway. We killed you once, we’ll kill you a second time.”

Ignited by the Sol Truefire, Lu Shenhou’s body faded into nothingness.

The immortal emperor turned to Lu Yun, staring at his hands in disbelief. “How have you managed to do this?”

Within the tunnel, Lu Yun stared fixedly at the pile of bone powder left from the first appearance of the immortal emperor’s ghost. It wasn’t his remains, but his presence could be sensed in the pile.

His feng shui compass circulated slowly across from him, showing a slightly blurry miniature sitting cross-legged at the heart of the luopan that looked identical to the immortal emperor.

“That’s the heart of the world... What’s going on?”

Whoosh!

The immortal emperor's body suddenly scattered, and the world's heart vanished in a flash along with the Sol Truefire. The double Lu Yun had created through his nascent spirit observation method faded away as well.

Lu Yun opened his eyes.

"What's going on here, Ge Long?" Lu Yun's six paths in hell solidified into his figure and turned to Ge Long.

He'd collected the immortal emperor's presence with his luopan and observed him with the six paths of reincarnation, but he hadn't expected to actually manifest the immortal emperor!

"If you combine the rules of reincarnation and your nascent spirit observation method, sir, you can manifest those who have died." After a thoughtful pause, Ge Long continued, "It's similar to summoning the Ninth Heaven's Demon-Destroying Patriarch, but the manifestation is just an illusion driven by the individual's thoughts.

"The immortal emperor's true spirit, on the other hand, has truly been resurrected due to his presence collected by the luopan. He's become one with your compass and resides in it as the treasure spirit.

"It's the power of time! Someone used the power of time to deliver a fragment of the immortal emperor's spirit from the past to the present."

### **Chapter 738: Connate Yin Water**

"Time... the Timelight Tower!"

That treasure was the first thing that came to mind when time was on the table. The Timelight Tower had been the ultimate treasure of Empress Timelight—one that could modify the rate in which time passed and even traverse the time continuum.

"But the Timelight Tower is in the underworld, inside the celestial master tomb." Lu Yun fell into deep thought. "Apart from that treasure, this is the only thing that can affect time..." He clutched at empty air to return with the dao weapon of time. "The dao weapon of space, the dao weapon of time..."

"Empresses Timelight and Vastspace respectively controlled time and space, and both of them vanished before Emperors Fall. They didn't participate in that battle..."

Lu Yun seemed to be on the verge of grasping something, but it remained tantalizingly out of reach. He subconsciously looked at the Tome of Life and Death; there was a special corner of space within it which held a girl fast asleep—Yu Hengluo.

"I'm just going to forget about what I can't wrap my mind around. The truth will come out, sooner or later." He stood up and heaved a long sigh, then took a careful look at his feng shui compass.

The true spirit fragment of the immortal emperor was deep asleep inside it, having become the resident spirit of the weapon. The luopan's energy was nurturing him into a gradual recovery.

"Since the emperor's coffin could spark the Sol Truefire, it's no ordinary item either. I'm taking it with me!"

As the tomb had ceased to possess a purpose, the restrictions within had deactivated as well. Lu Yun flew like the wind, reaching the end of the passageway with a few steps.

The heart of the tomb was now a world of darkness so complete that one's outstretched hand would be invisible to the eyes. Even the Spectral Eye failed to pick up anything. In here, his consciousness was firmly confined to himself.

"Gaseous nascent spirit soil?" Lu Yun paused. Last time he'd run into this situation, he'd been in the celestial master tomb. That endless flood of gaseous grains had isolated everything in its vicinity.

"No, wait... this isn't nascent spirit soil, it has a completely different structure."

Frowning faintly, his ears picked up on something different in the darkness. Though his consciousness and sight were sequestered, his hearing wasn't affected. He could clearly hear the rise and fall of an enormous breath, as if something was awakening in the darkness.

"What is it?" Lu Yun took a half step back, Violetgrave at the ready in his hand.

"It's vapor, black water vapor..." An idea struck him and he collected a bit of black light in his hand. "Connate kui water of yin!"

Yin wood of the east, yang metal of the west, yang fire of the south, yin water of the north, and yang earth of the center were the strongest tangible forms of the five elements.

"The lungs of heaven and earth nurtured geng metal, while the heart fosters li fire, the liver protects yi wood, so if there's kui water here... can the kidneys of heaven and earth be here as well?!" Lu Yun trembled violently and quickly shot backward when the thought occurred to him, not daring to stay a moment longer.

Boom!

A tremendous roar sounded along with an enormous pulse of water as soon as he exited the chamber. Where he'd been standing was promptly annihilated into a void of nothingness.

Cold sweat drenched his back.

"The kidneys of heaven and earth have fully formed and become a divine spirit! The Water Altar comes from the Central World, which means this thing must've formed roughly five thousand years ago. It then broke free of the altar's restraints and caused tremendous instability in the Central World, shaking loose all that stuff onto the twenty three facets below."

When the Central World had rocked from instability five thousand years ago, countless fragments of it had showered onto the world of immortals, the most famous of which were Levitating Island in the North Sea and Myriad Formation Summit in Dusk Province.

It now looked like the unrest was all a result of the kidneys of heaven and earth coming to life in the immortal emperor's tomb. Thankfully, the emperor's coffin resting on top of the organ's divine spirit all this time had kept it from running amok.

Now that the emperor's coffin had dimmed, the spirit immediately took advantage of the reprieve to fan the flames of disorder. It hurtled about randomly with connate yin water, seeking to break free of the tomb entirely.

"I'd always thought what happened five thousand years ago was the result of a massive conspiracy. I hadn't thought it'd be because of this thing... Then... what about the seal over the Abyss of Divine Burial?" A distinct headache brewed from Lu Yun's acute lack of brainpower. "Was the Water Altar just a happy coincidence that reinforced the seal and slowly became its core?"

"No, wait, that's wrong, that's still wrong. There were manmade traces left at the scene, so it wasn't a coincidence. Someone purposefully guided the people to worship the altar and facilitate the godhood of this thing!"

"It's like the lungs! If someone hadn't sent those to the bottom of the abyss, the lungs would've also become a god a long time ago, too!"

"So there definitely was a massive conspiracy involving them five thousand years ago!"

Wham!

Wham!

Wham!

Increasingly violent collisions sounded from the center of the main burial chamber; all of the Central World started quaking as well. This was the true strength of an organ of heaven and earth!

Though Xing Chen had two of them in his body, he couldn't deploy anything beyond a minuscule, trifling amount of their power. A divine spirit formed from one of them, however, could shake the facet with their power alone.

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"What's going on?!" Making use of both the Skyturning Seal and Sugato Sword, the Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign tore the big fur seal to pieces. Not even taking a single second to celebrate his victory, he shook with trepidation instead and looked askance at the ground beneath his feet.

"It looks like Lu Yun has successfully obtained the Immortal Subjugation Seal... that thing is awake." Gravity afflicted the youth from the Green Firmament. "An expert from my Green Firmament grievously injured it five thousand years ago, and it's been suppressed by the immortal emperor's coffin ever since. It still carries a fatal wound, so it can be easily slain if one can cause the injury to flare up again.

"But it's too strong, so Lu Yun can't identify where the injury is." The Green Firmament representative kept a firm hand clamped down over the cauldron and egg and suddenly turned around with a yell.

"Demon Sovereign, the Skyturning Seal was yours to begin with, so giving it to you now is returning it to its rightful owner!"

"Use the seal to suppress the demon god's egg until Lu Yun arrives with the Immortal Subjugation Seal. Under no circumstances can the demon god be allowed to undergo his tribulation!"

The demon sovereign smashed his seal into the Ichor Bog to prevent the big fur seal from reforming. “What are you going to do?” The Hadal Bonfire in his head flickered rapidly in thought.

“Naturally, I’m going to finish what my senior was unable to complete.”

Whoosh!

A black flame blossomed from the youth’s body. He instantly crumbled to dust and a tremendous nascent spirit departed through the void. There were no ripples of life to it, like it were a dead being.

With the departure of the Green Firmament expert, the Skyturning Seal shook and slammed into the cauldron as a streak of light. About to return to its black appearance, the cauldron trembled and flashed pure gold again.

Hadal Bonfire smoldering with determination, the demon sovereign stood on top of the cauldron, one hand pressing down on the seal and the other wielding the Sugato Sword. Terrifying sword aura howled and swept like a great storm, slicing down whenever the big fur seal tried to reform itself.

Roaring and snarling, the demon god kept attempting to take form and charge through the seal’s suppression. Alas for its efforts, the seal sat firmly in place without moving one bit.

### **Chapter 739: Yin God of the Green Firmament**

“No, wait!” About to depart from the emperor’s tomb, Lu Yun suddenly screeched to a halt. “The divine spirit of the kidneys looked scary and all that jazz just now, but that was just a front! It shook all of the Central World when it was born five thousand years ago, but now it can’t even break out of an immortal emperor’s tomb? It’s all bluster and hot air, it’s trying to scare me off!”

He whirled back and opened the Spectral Eye to scan everything within five thousand kilometers. Though it couldn’t penetrate the water vapor formed by the connate yin water, it could still read if there was anything alive or dead there.

“The divine spirit formed by the kidneys is hovering between life and death, in a condition that is both dead and alive. Someone delivered a heavy blow to it when it was born five thousand years ago!

“After five thousand years of suppression from the Sol Truefire and losing the Water Altar, its injury’s grown worse and its strength has declined to less than a hundred millionth of when it first formed!”

Dwelling on this, Lu Yun headed back to the main burial chamber. In the absence of the Sol Truefire, the divine spirit was stirring to wakefulness. Its strength would increase as time went on until it finally returned to peak condition.

“The immortal emperor’s coffin is certainly a rare treasure since it could keep the Sol Truefire going. If the divine spirit eats it, that’ll greatly shorten its recovery period!” Lu Yun deployed the Wandering Step when he thought of this and dashed back to the entrance of the chamber.

“What, you haven’t left yet?” a surprised voice sounded the second he came back.

Lu Yun lifted his head to see a completely dead nascent spirit hovering in the air, observing the situation in the burial chamber.



“A yin god?” Lu Yun blinked, recognizing the entity. “You!”

“I didn’t think you’d have the nerve to come back.” The being nodded, then teased, “Five thousand years ago, a senior of my Green Firmament injured the divine spirit within, borrowing the immortal emperor’s flame to do so. Even so, it still possesses the strength of an ingress realm immortal from the Primordial Era. What do you have? Are you hurrying back to meet your death?”

“So, what about you?” Lu Yun shrugged. “You’ve lost both your physical body and the Skyturning Seal. Right now, you’re as strong as an arcane dao immortal from the Primordial Era. You’re also looking to meet your death by being here.”

The yin god laughed uproariously. “You’re right, I am here to seek my death. I am a yin god. Dying again doesn’t matter for someone already dead.”

“Dying again? Your true spirit will disperse if you die again.” Lu Yun frowned faintly.

“Whyever not, if my death can secure life for everyone in the world of immortals? But you, you have a bright future full of potential. Why did you come back to throw your life away?” sighed the yin god.

Lu Yun paused for a moment of silence and then answered, “You can’t kill it by yourself. At most you’ll just injure it deeply and send it back to sleep. Let me help you.”

The yin god wiped the cheeky grin off his face and nodded. “I need a physical body.”

Lu Yun flicked out a golden bean with a snap of his fingers and the two watched it transform into a golden-armored warrior. The yin god shook and his nascent spirit was drawn into the warrior despite himself.

“It’s you!!” shrieked the warrior in the next second. “You’re—!!” He clamped down hard with his teeth and didn’t say the last couple of words.

“Aha, as I thought. My bean soldiers are inhabited by the yin gods of the Green Firmament.” Lu Yun was hardly surprised by the reaction.

“Ahem... no. You can only summon the most ordinary of yin gods. You can’t summon those of the Green Firmament yet, not with your current strength.” Excitement danced in the warrior’s eyes. “But once you’re a dao immortal or reach the ingress realm, you’ll be able to summon yin gods like me!”

“Honestly, what precisely is a yin god?” Lu Yun frowned.

“I’ll tell you once we handle the divine spirit in there!” The golden-armored warrior heaved a long sigh. He was different from the ones previously summoned by Lu Yun as he wasn’t affected by the caster’s own strength. In fact, he wasn’t affected by the immortal restriction either.

Bean soldiers were a death art from the Tome of Life and Death. Though the restriction was menacing, it didn’t exert any control over the book. It could restrict Lu Yun because of the youth’s own weakness and the fact that he was someone who lived beneath the immortal dao. Death arts, however, fell under another jurisdiction.

As they spoke, the golden-armored warrior punched apart the walls of the main chamber and charged straight in.

“Erm... even though that fellow has a body and can utilize all of his strength now, he’s still not going to be a match for that divine spirit if he acts like this...” Lu Yun held his forehead. “Dragonshift Method!”

Whirrrr.

Brilliant golden radiance erupted from his body. A black and a white dragon shadow surged out from the ground, giving the tomb a vigorous shake in the process. They were the dragon veins of the immortal emperor tomb—one yin and one yang.

Complementing each other perfectly, they were incomparably aggressive and infinitely close to becoming ancestral veins. Now that Lu Yun was an immortal, he could directly call upon dragon veins when he deployed the Dragonshift Method.

Additionally, this was the Central World, a dead world abandoned by the heavens, so he wouldn’t suffer the backlash of the world if he moved the veins.

Hummm.

The two dragons transformed into yin yang currents and followed the golden-armored warrior into the main chamber.

Upon his return, Lu Yun had discovered he could touch the dragon veins. When he'd first discovered them, restrictions surrounding them had warded off all intruders. But now, those too had been dismantled.

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The main burial chamber was now an ocean of inky-black depths, countless beasts patrolling its waters. Thanks to the power of the kidneys of heaven and earth, the local environment had become a complete ecosystem.

Innumerable creatures pounced on the warrior the second he rushed in. These organisms were all transformed from entities that’d died in the tomb. Thanks to the kidneys’ influence, they’d become yin creatures that were neither dead nor alive.

“Away with you!” As the warrior raised a hand, the vivid golden gleam about him instantly shifted to green.

Dreadful water pulses rippled through the ocean of yin water, blasting away the creatures in its depths. However, the yin water seemed to make them invincible; they reformed the second they were destroyed. Not only that, the yin water herded together the scattered fragments of souls and yin spirits and began to craft them into even stronger creatures.

Before the golden-armored warrior could react, a black shark that ran half a kilometer wove out of the depths and threw itself forward with an open maw.

Bam!

The void trembled and the yin water around it abruptly receded. Having time for only one ghastly shriek, the shark exploded on the spot.

A three-hundred-meter-tall giant wearing two dragons for shoes appeared in front of the golden-armored warrior. There was a black ball in the giant's left hand—connate water energy.

It was Lu Yun.

"Feet astride divine dragons... this is the primordial water god Gonggong! How?!" Surprise seized the golden-armored warrior.

"Just something I'm projecting after having observed it. It's not the real water god," came Lu Yun's voice. "Its divine spirit is recuperating inside the immortal emperor's coffin."

Gonggong lumbered into action, the black and white dragons beneath its feet streaking forward into the remotest part of the ocean.

#### **Chapter 740: The Tenth Spirit Root**

Lu Yun's manifested water god wasn't all that strong, and in fact, was almost on par with himself. However, the two dragons that water god Gonggong used for shoes were the two dragon veins beneath the tomb of the immortal emperor. They were almost ancestral veins and possessed incredible might. Combined with the Dragonshift Method, Lu Yun was temporarily able to bestow greater strength to his manifestation than it would otherwise wield.

This also brought to him a stroke of inspiration at the same time, leading his understanding of the nascent spirit observation method to new heights.

Observation with the nascent spirit didn't just result in using the power of the world to project whatever was being studied; he could also create form by borrowing from others.

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Dark-green radiance shimmered over the golden-armored warrior when he discarded the look of a bean soldier for his original appearance of a youth in green robes.

"There's a scar in the deepest reaches of its true spirit. If you can cause it to flare up again, you'll be able to seriously injure it!" he quickly spoke up when he saw Lu Yun rush over.

"I can't trigger its old injury, not at the moment," Lu Yun's response sounded in his mind. "If I cause it to act up again, then this divine spirit really will become a fat lamb for the slaughter. All of the things that go bump in the night will come charging out to claim ownership of it."

The youth started.

"I've already discovered the demon god's presence, at the very least. He's lurking in the dark, waiting to take advantage of whatever prime opportunity shows itself!" Lu Yun sneered. "If he can divide himself into two, then he can divide himself into three! I'm willing to bet that him undergoing his tribulation is just another smokescreen—his real goal is the pair of kidneys!"

The organs of heaven and earth!

Xing Chen already possessed two, but they were completely concealed via Holy Lord Ashu's special methods, thereby evading detection by others. The kidneys here didn't possess that kind of cover, and as such, Lu Yun was sure that there were many eyeing it up.

For one, the demon god didn't currently have a body and there weren't many in the world that he could take. The Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign was one possible candidate, but the divine spirit born of the kidneys was undoubtedly one of the most suitable.

An organ of heaven and earth was no small matter. If one could assimilate such an organ, it was highly likely that they would be able to transform into a world themselves.

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Kui water vapor had formed an ocean in front of them, and though it was so dark as to be impenetrable, it'd still taken on some of the translucent qualities of water.

Lu Yun and the youth in green both approached the coffin of the immortal emperor. It'd once been a blazing sun, washing over the main chamber with solar radiance. Now that the Sol Truefire had departed, its true form was available for all to see.

It was a flower.

A golden flower still in bud form that'd been chiseled into the shape of a coffin.

"Emperor Sunflower!" Lu Yun went slack-jawed with shock upon seeing it. "The last of the ten great spirit roots—the Emperor Sunflower!"

There were ten connate spirit roots in the world, the greatest of which was the Chaos Lotus and speculated to belong to genius Ling Rumeng of the Ling Clan, the one who'd summoned a lotus for her phenomenon of ascension.

Qing Yu herself possessed three of them—the Fusang Purewood ranked at number three, Moon Osmanthus at number six, and Embittered Bamboo at number seven.

Number ten was now right before Lu Yun's eyes!

The Emperor Sunflower was a flower akin to the blazing sun, nurturing within it an incandescence and heat that was greater than the full sun. Legend had it that the Emperor Sunflower and Fusang Purewood came from the same origins, that the two spirit roots were twins of nature.

The Fusang Purewood had been Empress Myrtlestar's treasure, while the Emperor Sunflower had been the principal ingredient that enabled the immortal emperor's body and Sol Truefire to lie in state.

"The divine spirit is inside the Emperor Sunflower. It wants to draw on the spirit root's energy, and if it ends up eating the spirit root, both fire and water will coexist in it. It'll be an entity of both yin and yang then, a being that rivals the human lords of the Primeval Era!" The dire consequences of the situation suddenly struck the youth. "Hurry and stop it, the Emperor Sunflower's strength is healing the sword wound in its body!"

No one had dreamed that the emperor's coffin would be sculpted out of a spirit root!

Hiss hiss hiss.

Serpentine sibilance traveled out of the water domain as enormous black snakes slithered out of the coffin. Jaws extended and blue venom glinting off their fangs, they leapt at Lu Yun and the youth.

“Don’t let those water snakes bite you! That’s poison of the nascent spirit!” Lu Yun found mention of these snakes from Xingzi’s memories. Their poison wouldn’t harm the physical body, only the nascent spirit. In fact, the nascent spirit would instantly die if even grazed with this poison.

Lu Yun wasn’t afraid; his current body was a projection to begin with and the nascent spirit it harbored was nothing but a strand of his six paths. But if the youth next to him suffered a bite, there would be no recourse for him, not even from the overlord of hell.

In Xingzi’s memories, there was no antidote for a water snake’s poison. One bite was sufficient to pierce through life, consign the nascent spirit to death, doom the true spirit, and wipe out the last traces of that being beneath the heavens.

“Nascent spirit poison!” gasped the youth and flung himself out of the way, narrowly evading a water snake in the process.

Whoosh.

The next moment, the water snakes released their blue venom and dyed the waters a rich blue.

“Out of the way!” Gonggong grabbed the youth and threw him to safety over his shoulder.

Whoosh!!

Emerald flames erupted from the water god’s hands and blazed furiously in the ocean, purifying the yin waters. They then formed a ferocious snake of fire that churned toward the group of water snakes.

Screeches burred in the waters as the water snakes were exterminated.

“Impossible! What’s going on here? How can Gonggong use fire?! If you learned Gonggong’s methods, how can you then use fire?! Don’t you know that water and fire are incompatible?!” exploded a roar of exasperated rage from the coffin. An enormous head extended from the petals of the Emperor Sunflower and fixed a vengeful glare on Gonggong.

Lu Yun was only projecting the ancient water god with his nascent spirit observation method, he wasn’t actually using the god’s water methods. Two of his Yama Kings—Cangyin and Su Xiaoxiao—were characters of the Primordial Era, so they’d both seen Gonggong with their own eyes before.

As the patriarch of the water qilins, Cangyin had once conversed and shared insights about dao and cultivation with the water god. Thus, it was the easiest thing for Lu Yun to manifest Gonggong. His nascent spirit observation method was newly formed, so no one else knew about it apart from the Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign.

Whatever was in the Emperor Sunflower had simply thought someone practicing Gonggong’s methods had arrived, so seeing Lu Yun unexpectedly deploy Emerald Mistfire greatly alarmed it with the unwelcome development.

“And here I was, wondering what manner of great personage you’d be. You’re just an old fart of a snake spirit...” sneered Lu Yun. His body underwent tremendous changes in the next second and he became a giant wreathed in flames—Zhurong!

Fwoosh!

The Emerald Mistfire, Lucent Voidfire, and Daevic Skyfire spontaneously ignited on him, burning so brilliantly that the connate kui water energy couldn’t douse the flames.

“The methods of the Zhurong Clan! Celestial Master Zhang’s three immortal fires!” shrieked the snake spirit in the flower. “Mercy, oh great one! This little monster spirit didn’t know of the venerated one’s arrival! Please spare this humble spirit, oh hallowed master!”