

## Necropolis 771

### Chapter 771: Sword, River, Fire, Tree

“Only one of the four great treasures remains free from contamination... and it’s the sword I saw just now?” Lu Yun asked reflexively.

“That’s right!” Ashu nodded. “If my guess is right, the corpsefire we saw earlier should belong to the great one buried in the ancient tomb of Crimson Province. It’s on the same level as the Dusk River, but it’s turned into corpsefire after its corruption.”

Lu Yun shuddered and heaved a mental sigh of relief.

The corpsefire outside the Heaven Locus Marsh wasn’t the main body of the corpsefire—it was just a bit of energy that’d leaked out. Though Lu Yun’s hellfire could counter dead things, he wasn’t strong enough to fight off the main entity of fire given his current strength.

More importantly, someone else was controlling the fire.

“The sword beneath us is being corrupted by the extreme yin in the Dusk River. Once it’s fully tainted, we’ll be dead without a doubt!” Large beads of cold sweat dotted Ashu’s forehead and he looked a little pale.

“How do you know all this?” suddenly asked the Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign. “You were a holy lord of the underworld, yes, but you weren’t a holy king. At your age, you shouldn’t know these secrets.”

Ashu swept a glance at the demon sovereign and continued in a whisper, “What I know has to do with the secrets of the underworld, but since Lu Yun’s replica is the fourth holy king, he has the right to know these things.

“Holy King Atrophy wanted to bring me back because he was also afraid that I would tell others about these secrets...”

“Wait, this has to do with your underworld. I’m willing to follow Lu Yun, but I don’t want to become one of the underworld’s!” The demon sovereign quickly sealed off his senses and consciousness when he saw that Ashu was about to spill the beans.

Though Lu Yun’s replica was a holy king of the underworld, Lu Yun himself was the headmaster of the Dao Academy. These were two entirely different concepts! The demon sovereign was willing to follow Lu Yun, but he sure as heck wasn’t willing to follow Holy King Xing Chen!

Ashu shrugged and continued, “There’s a large mountain in the underworld that’s been our holy mountain since time immemorial. Anyone who stands upon it can peer into the river of time and see what’s happened in the past.”

Lu Yun blinked. “Interesting... Can you see what happened in the world of immortals a hundred thousand years ago?”

“Yes.” Ashu nodded. “There was once a holy lord who almost became a holy king. He stood on the mountain and observed the events of a hundred thousand years ago. He was taken away by akasha ghosts not long after that.”

“Then did he see the truth of what happened?” Lu Yun pressed.

“I don’t know.” Ashu shook his head. “He became reticent and refused to say a word after his experience, and then the akasha ghosts took him away in front of everyone.”

“Did the holy kings not do anything about that?”

“No. Many of them died in the great war a hundred thousand years ago, leaving only three to protect the underworld. Therefore, the great war became a taboo topic for them.” Ashu seemed to see through Lu Yun’s thoughts. “The holy kings have never set foot on the holy mountain, neither have they looked into the river of time from it. Only bored holy lords like us will stand there and look into the past to kill some time.”

He seemed to be just chit chatting randomly, but it was a clear message to Lu Yun that no holy king had ever climbed the mountain. It was restricted grounds for them.

Lu Yun didn’t respond until he suddenly shouted, “Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign, use the Skyturning Seal to destroy that vortex!”

He brought out the Sugato Sword at the same time and summoned curtains of blue light to protect his body. When Xuanxi saw this, she quickly put away her divine decree and landed beside her master.

The demon sovereign was still in an insensate state, but Lu Yun used the power of the Tome of Life and Death to punch through his seals. Upon hearing the instruction, he swiftly threw the seal at the enormous vortex.

Booooooom!

The vortex disintegrated in a mighty cascade of water and a patch was cleared out of the Dusk River as well. A short, pitch-black blade emerged from the center of the waters, stuck firmly into the air over the center of the river.

Crescents of sword qi whistled around the blade, forming whirling tops of death around the treasure. They spun into the Dusk River, churning the monsters there into pieces and reducing them to yin energy. The energy then traveled up the gyrating sword qi to be swallowed by the blade that sparkled with black light and was as thin as gossamer wings.

The black light deepened further the more the shortsword swallowed from the river.

“When the black light fully shrouds the shortsword and turns it into light as well... that’s when it’ll have been completely corrupted,” murmured Ashu as he looked upon the scene. “Yin energy transforming a sword that was refined from the essence of metal... It’ll be turned into light, a conversion of matter itself, like when Lu Yun used rocks and grass to form pills.”

“Using yin energy to transform a sword made from the essence of metal?” About to destroy the layout in front of them, Lu Yun cut himself off mid gesture. “I happen to lack a handy sword. Violetgrave is

suppressing the World Gates, so she's preoccupied. The Sugato Sword eats an ocean's worth of immortal crystals every time I use it... This hiltless sword in the river is perfect!

"Ge Long." Lu Yun suddenly sent his thoughts into hell as a projection and manifested in front of the old servant.

"Sir!" Ge Long hastily scrambled to his feet.

"Can I pick up the sword?"

"Yes!" came the strong affirmative and blind faith in Lu Yun. "The kingdom of hell has taken shape and you are its master. As the wielder of the Tome of Life and Death, there is nothing in the world that you cannot pick up!"

Lu Yun cracked an awkward smile. "I mean... will I attract any karmic repercussions if I pick it up?"

"Oh, no." Ge Long shook his head. "Its owner is dead and scattered to the four winds. This sword is just being used by someone else at the moment. You can pick up the sword, sir. No one will dare make any trouble for you with this old servant around!"

He had even greater faith in himself.

"This old servant will now etch a sword formation in your consciousness. With this formation, sir, you will be able to subdue that sword." Ge Long took a deep breath and sent a tremor through the four coffins far away in another part of hell. The four sword souls came rushing out and approached the two of them.

"Hold on," Lu Yun interrupted the old servant's actions. "The great treasure of the Dusk tomb owner is the Dusk River, corpsefire belongs to the Crimson tomb owner. If the sword is the possession of the Argent tomb owner... then what about the Azure tomb owner? What was their treasure?"

He'd once visited that tomb and sealed it with his own hands. There was a river flowing from it into the East Sea that was very similar to the Dusk River, but it wasn't the same. That one had just been a river of pure corpsewater.

Ashu had spoken of three great treasures just now, but hadn't mentioned the one for the Azure tomb.

"You've already seen that treasure, sir, in the Skandha Range," Ge Long replied after thinking for a moment.

"The Skandha Range? The desolate willow? No, not that, but... the zombie tree?!" That was the only thing that came to mind when he thought about ultimate treasures.

Qing Yu's fifth brother Qing Hongchen had died to that tree, which Lu Yun and Qing Yu had later destroyed with the three immortal fires when they actually blundered into it. Beneath the tree lay the Sal Tree of Life and Death, a divine tree that'd once supported hell, and an Azure Dragon King that'd intertwined with the Sal Tree.

"I... destroyed the treasure??" Lu Yun blinked.

“No, that tree is exceedingly strong and even greater after being corrupted. It is strong to the extreme due to this taint. Even the Ancient Tree of Life and the Fusang Purewood of the ten great spirit roots are far inferior to it.”

Ge Long shook his head. “The three immortal flames destroyed the zombie tree because the Sal Tree of Life and Death had taken its core essence and weakened it beyond measure. With the departure of the Sal Tree, the treasure should’ve already rebuilt the tomb realm and slowly recovered its previous strength.

“As for the tree’s spirit... it entered the underworld during an ancient age and became a mausoleum keeper.”

### **Chapter 772: Sword Formation**

“Do you mean... Ashu?! There is a character for tree in his name...” wondered Lu Yun when he heard Ge Long’s words.

Ge Long mused for a moment and continued uncertainly, “I’m not sure if it’s him either, but various signs indicate that the spirit of the tree has become a true life form.”

The four great treasures didn’t possess their own spirits and were only the weapons of the four great personages. That tree, however, had birthed a spirit after countless years and come alive. This point alone placed it far beyond the other three.

“If it really is him, then he likely doesn’t know who he is. As you are a holy king of the underworld, sir, you should know their rules. It’s almost impossible for a mausoleum keeper to leave, but that holy king allowed Ashu to walk out as he would. That makes it obvious that Ashu isn’t an ordinary person.”

Holy Kings Atrophy, Antiquity, and Desolation were the strongest holy kings of the underworld and controlled the entire realm. There had been hundreds, if not thousands, of holy kings over the years, but these three had always ranked as the top three. All of the others were dead now, leaving behind the three greatest as guardians of the realm.

However, Ge Long had never heard of a holy lord, who’d become a mausoleum keeper, of being able to leave the underworld. Ashu was the precedent and possibly the only one ever.

“So you mean that zombie tree is alive and fully recovered?” Lu Yun suddenly asked.

“The east tomb of the Skandha Extinction Tomb has been destroyed. Otherwise, it would’ve been impossible to repair my disciple’s soul. This also means that the zombie tree has left the Skandha Extinction Tomb,” Ge Long responded after some thought. He’d already transformed the sword formation into runes and imprinted them onto Lu Yun’s consciousness.

“Sir, we can’t let word about Ashu’s identity get out. The zombie tree is also searching for its spirit. If it finds Ashu, it’ll turn into something even more dreadful than the demon god.”

Ashu had spoken of the other three treasures just now and avoided mention of the fourth. He, too, possessed an instinctive fear of something finding him and assimilating himself.

Ge Long put down his hand after he’d perfectly imprinted a formation on Lu Yun’s mind in the form of a rune. The process absolutely astounded Lu Yun. Ge Long’s skill in etching formation runes and drawing

formation diagrams were greater than his to an nth degree! Compared to the old servant's skill in talismans and formations, Lu Yun felt like he was a child just learning how to walk.

In this moment, he finally understood how there would always be someone better!

"Don't mistakenly belittle yourself, sir." Ge Long chuckled when he sensed Lu Yun's mental turmoil. "The formations and talismans I learned have long declined and decayed, eliminated by the times. The methods I deployed just now are the ones that you and Miss Qing Yu theorized in the Dao Academy."

He grinned diffidently at this point. "Well, I do have a very solid foundation and a far more thorough understanding of the heavenly dao. That's why it appears that my skills are far greater."

Lu Yun nodded mutely. It all boiled down to him being too weak and his cultivation being too shallow. The lower his realm, the less he understood the world. He still remembered the feeling of being pulled free from the muck when he used the corpse puppet and received the cultivation of a peak origin dao immortal. His heart and mind had been clear and seen through everything, and his understanding of the world had reached unfathomable heights.

What a pity that he wouldn't feel that again until he reached that cultivation realm.

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The yin spirits in the river were uncountable and endless, and continuously churned to pieces by the shortsword and devoured. The Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign and Ashu looked nervously at the blade, not taking their eyes off of it for a second.

"Last time, the North Sea monster spirits attacked Dusk Province and tried to seize the river. However, the Dusk River erupted in a fury and killed all of them. Who was behind that?" Lu Yun suddenly asked.

"The yin energy in the river," Ashu responded without even thinking about it. "The river doesn't have its own thoughts, but once polluted by the yin energy, it falls under the energy's control. As for where the energy comes from, that I don't know."

He was greatly on edge as he watched the sword repeatedly guzzle down yin essence. Malice and resentment took a deeper cast on it, and a strange black haze of light began to circle around it.

The sword was starting to convert to light, but the yin energy and countless vicious beasts in the waters hadn't reduced by a single bit. The Dusk River waters seemed capable of instinctively giving birth to these terrible creatures.

Xuanxi had given up fighting for control of the river, so the waters slowly calmed down. However, the demon sovereign had sent out the Skyturning Seal to force out the true form of the shortsword at the center of the vortex.

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After an indeterminate period of time, the shortsword suddenly buzzed softly. What had been a hazy, gray short blade as thin as gossamer wings transformed into a blade of light. However, it remained above the river, taking in the yin energy in its depths. Somehow, its rate of consumption increased by more than ten times after its conversion, and there seemed to be a terrible existence gestating within the weapon.

“It’s time!” Lu Yun sat down cross-legged and deployed the nascent spirit observation method, projecting the sword formation that Ge Long had etched into his thoughts.

Four enormous broadswords manifested and stabbed into the center of the river, surrounding the hazy blade of light. They shot forth four rays of sword energy undetectable by the naked eye, breaking apart the river waters and cutting off the blade’s connection to the Dusk River.

Vicious ghosts and undead creatures snarled and roared within the river, charging over to pummel the formation. However, sword energy fired out wildly from the array, slicing and dicing anything that dared approach. It even destroyed the yin energy residue left behind by the beings when they died.

A face composed of fog slowly rose from the blade of light, creating an enormous void over the center of the Dusk River. Furious bellows echoed over the waters as the entire river rose up to form a pitch-black giant in the air. It waved watery fists and brutally smashed into the sword formation, wanting to break it apart.

However, Ge Long’s formation was too strong. Though it was just a projection from Lu Yun, its every rune and ray of sword qi had been etched into Lu Yun’s thoughts.

In other words, while Lu Yun now possessed the strength to observe the multiverse and Mount Exalted, he didn’t have the ability to observe Ge Long’s formation!

Whoosh!!

Like four doors, the four broadswords flared with light and executed the giant made of water. They then turned on their axis and bore down on the sword of light.

1. Reminder: Fuying, previously known Empress Myrtlestar.

### **Chapter 773: Traceless**

The ghost face manifested by the fog of light and shadow emitted an ear splitting roar. However, it didn’t seem very solid. While it might have unbounded potential in the future, it was currently cut off from the yin energy in the Dusk River. It could barely maintain its existence at the moment, let alone bring any formidable future abilities to bear.

The four broadswords had completely morphed into four doorways that each had a sword hovering within its arch. Four rays of light shot into the sky, containing enough power to destroy the world, and ripped the face to shreds. With how overwhelmingly powerful the formation was, the face didn’t stand a chance.

In its final moments of life before being shredded out of existence, the ghost kept a vengeful glare on Lu Yun, seemingly wanting to commit the human’s face to memory. Wholly unreconciled to its fate, it screamed one final time and vanished on the wind.

With that, Dusk River returned to calm, and the vicious creatures within its waters sank back down to the depths, lethargic and unresponsive. There was no saving the river as it’d already been fully polluted. In the air above it, however, the gray fog around the sword began to lighten after the sword formation turned its attention to the weapon. As it was purified, a haze of milky-white light started to emanate from the gray blade.

The body of the blade itself turned clear without color. When he saw that, a thought struck Lu Yun and he hesitantly dismissed the sword formation. Upon doing so, a bout of irresistible lethargy swept over him from his nascent spirit. Ge Long's formation was so strong that even the six paths of his nascent spirit were unable to maintain it for long.

Lu Yun quickly flashed into hell and took a few pills to recover his mental strength. It took almost three years before his withered nascent spirit recovered enough for him to walk back out. Everything in the outside world was as he'd left it.

It's that one's sword formation! Shock flashed through Ashu's eyes. It's the same as the sword formation in Dusk Province... The three holy kings let me out of the underworld not only because of who I am, but more so because of that one.

The formation of "that one" appearing in Dusk Province meant there was a close relationship between Lu Yun and the august being. Even the holy kings of the underworld had to respect "that one's" wishes and show him face.

Just the sword formation by itself might not represent much; one could also set it up if they'd received the legacy. However, Lu Yun had projected these four swords just now and deployed the formation to its utmost.

That meant it was very likely "that one" was the young man's ally, mentor, or even... follower.

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"Xuanxi, try again and see if you can take the river now!" Lu Yun ordered his Yama King.

"Understood!" Xuanxi crossed her arms in front of her chest and the glyph of the Dusk river god decree appeared above her brows again. This time however, the usually turquoise glyph was black, the same color as Dusk River's waters.

Rumble!!

The river trembled as it shot to the sky, transforming into a long black chain like an enormous dragon and coiled in the air.

"Open!" Lu Yun waved his arm and flung open the Gates of the Abyss with a loud roar, taking the river into hell. I already have the Yellow Springs in my kingdom, but it looks like that's the sacred river of Yellow Springs Land. If I really hang onto it, then that facet will be destroyed. I'll have the Dusk River take its place as the great river of hell instead.

There had been a wisp of will within the Dusk River struggling to break free of Xuanxi's grasp. But when the Gates of the Abyss opened, the vast might of the power of reincarnation came down upon it and crushed it into nonexistence.

After being swallowed by the doors, the Dusk River landed in the kingdom of hell and took the place of the Yellow Springs. By now, the kingdom of hell looked vastly different from the hell of the human dao era.

In that era, hell was a tool that humans used to conquer the world, reward good and punish evil, and establish a land of merit and virtue. Now it seemed more like a real world, though it still incorporated

the Karmic Tree right at its center. It wasn't influenced by any power, and Lu Yun was the lord of that realm.

The two concepts of hell were completely different.

Once the Dusk River barreled into hell, Lu Yun's nascent spirit directed the Cosmic Sea in the sky to come down hard on the river and ensure that it flowed quietly in its new home. The vicious spirits and creatures of extreme yin within its waters instantly quieted down, and a sense of release and detachment replaced the grimaces on their faces. Thus gaining relief, they drifted peacefully through the river.

"I have a world and the strength of a connate peerless treasure at my disposal. This is the end of the road for a little river like you." Lu Yun smiled faintly and waved a hand, summoning the transparent sword hovering in the air that radiated a milky-white glow.

This sword had no grip or guard. Two-thirds of a meter long, it was two fingers wide and thin as gossamer wings. Its resting state was to tremble in the air; if it wasn't for the milky-white glow about it, even the consciousness would have a hard time locating it.

The edge of the sword was fully transmuted to the state of light. Formless, shapeless, and untraceable. Ordinary immortals would be very hard pressed to detect its presence once it melded into the void.

Lu Yun poured his powerful nascent spirit into the blade, but to his surprise, found that he was unable to refine it.

"Is it just a weapon and not a treasure?" Frowning slightly, Lu Yun discovered that he could use his nascent spirit to manipulate the sword, but he couldn't make it his through refinement. This was a characteristic shared by weapons of the mundane world.

In other words, anyone with a stronger nascent spirit would be able to take the sword away from him. Thankfully, there weren't that many that fit the bill in the world of immortals.

His nascent spirit rested in hell and was bolstered by the power of the netherworld. Even the nascent spirit of an origin dao immortal might not be stronger than his. What he needed now was a greater cultivation realm and strength to fully deploy what his nascent spirit was capable of.

Incidentally, the stronger he grew, the more complete the kingdom of hell would be, and the stronger his nascent spirit would become. It was a positive feedback cycle that was to his benefit.

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"This is a fantastic sword! Though it doesn't possess any additional attributes and can't deploy combat arts or sword dao, its edge is very keen. That edge itself makes it worth it!" Lu Yun hid the sword in the air with a quick thought; its disappearance was marked by the vanishing of the milky-white hue.

"It's gone?" The Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign and Ashu goggled at each other.

"Nope, it's right in front of your nose." Lu Yun grinned.

The demon sovereign jerked and hopped backwards, sending out his powerful consciousness at the same time. There, right where he'd been standing moments ago, was the faintest trace of a sword



shadow. He was the equivalent of a primordial origin dao immortal, yet he hadn't sensed it at all before this!

Ashu wasn't as impressed. "You better not bring out this sword in front of an ingress realm immortal. You won't be able to protect it then."

Lu Yun nodded. The sword that faded so well into the void it didn't leave a trace could pull the wool over the eyes of origin dao immortals, but had nowhere to hide in front of ingress realm immortals. Nascent spirits of the latter were greater than his, so they could very well take the weapon by force.

For now, at least on the surface, ingress realm immortals were very rare in the world of immortals.

"You will be called Traceless," he bestowed upon the sword.

### **Chapter 774: A World as a Tomb**

It was pitch black all around them. With the Dusk River and Traceless collected, complete darkness and utter quiet descended upon the premises. With neither sky above in sight nor earth below in view, it felt like they stood in an enormous black hole.

"Come with me." Lu Yun brought out his luopan. The brilliant golden light it released took the shape of a golden avenue leading into the depths of the darkness.

The Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign and Ashu followed closely after the young man. The dark was too bizarre; losing all its yin energy made the strange void even more dangerous and even Ashu felt a prickle of fear.

"Where are we?" The demon sovereign shoved his concerns down.

"We should be inside the pearl of the Moat Snake," Lu Yun said with his eyes fixed on the luopan in his hand, clearly enunciating every word. "The snake reached heights I can't comprehend, and its snake pearl became a real world!

"However, the world turned into a dead realm after the snake's death." Instead of the luopan revealing the true nature of this realm, Lu Yun came to this conclusion through his own calculations.

"We need to hurry up," Ashu said with slight panic. "The Moat Snake's resentment won't scatter after its death, they're very likely to still be around. The three of us aren't powerful enough to even tickle it. Let's go, let's go at once!"

The golden avenue created by the luopan led to the end of the world. Though the three of them moved at top speed, it still took them four hours to depart the world of darkness. What greeted them upon exit was a world of verdant green and a cacophony of bird song, insect chirps, and animal roars, all signs that they had entered a place of great vitality.

The sudden brightness caught them off guard, and they narrowed their eyes and shaded their eyes with their hands.

"Are we inside the snake now? Is this the snake outer-coffin?" Lu Yun looked around, flabbergasted. He was suddenly reminded of Su Xiaoxiao's tomb. It had been brimming with life as well, but the two worlds were day and night apart.

“Should be.” Ashu squatted down to take a closer look at the ground. “The Moat Snake is the divine beast of the land rather than a simple earth element beast. The land encompasses everything, be it metal, wood, water, fire, or earth. It’s a standalone ecosystem with its own circle of life.

“Impressive, how impressive! Someone refined the corpse of the Moat Snake with great power, making it more than an outer-coffin like you speculated. It’s also a real world. The great dao the snake grasped in the past has remained entirely intact and manifested in this very world.” Ashu’s wealth of knowledge allowed him to draw conclusions through simple observation.

“In that case...” Eyebrow raised, Lu Yun shared a look with Ashu before the two said at the same time, “There must be a descendent of the Moat Snake here!”

“The Moat Snake was so powerful that it wielded a standalone dao encompassing everything in the world. Not even after its death should its body be desecrated!” exclaimed Ashu. “Refining it into an outer-coffin is one thing, but in order to refine a real world while keeping the snake’s great dao intact, the snake had to be willing!”

“It’s the only Moat Snake in the world,” Lu Yun murmured. “If it has any lingering obsessions, it must be to pass its bloodline on!”

“Then the grudges in the world of the snake orb couldn’t have been the Moat Snake’s!” Ashu turned back to where they’d come from, but the path was gone, replaced by a vast, primal forest.

“It must belong to the snake’s enemy...” said Lu Yun. “Perhaps the Moat Snake killed someone at the cost of its own life. Its body was later taken away and refined into this outer-coffin with a standalone world within it.”

The demon sovereign’s head swiveled between them in utter confusion. He knew nothing about the way of burial, thus this conversation was complete gibberish to him. He didn’t let it concern him, though. Instead, he kept a wary eye on their surroundings with the Skyturning Seal in hand and blazing Hadal Bonfire at the ready. If this world had been derived from the Moat Snake’s great dao, it would be filled with great dangers and terrible threats lurking around.

“To draw the patterns of mountains coiled, those deathly cliffs with mysteries roiled.

Danger shies if mountains hide, layers of mysteries do heaven and earth bide.” The luopan rumbled as it rotated, its golden light shrouding Lu Yun and revealing the truth of where they stood.

Gone was the vibrancy before their eyes, a gray world suffused with death energy took its place. Broken burial mounds protruded out of a gray land that didn’t harbor a hint of life in it.

Lu Yun also saw zombies wandering around like the walking dead. Some were five kilometers tall—zombies of giants they had encountered outside. Others were less than one meter tall, some had a third eye, but those all shared something in common.

They were human!

Whatever their sizes or appearances, they were all zombified humans.

“So this is the truth of this place... where we are is completely different. Can this be two tombs in the realm of yin and yang?” the demon sovereign made an unthinking comment with a shudder.

“You’re right, it’s the layout of yin and yang tombs.” Lu Yun could see traces of living souls with his luopan. Although they were quite far away, he could still sense them. They were the immortals who’d entered the Xuan Yuan Tomb from the door outside.

“Fortunately, whoever built this tomb didn’t harbor malicious intent. Although it’s a layout of yin and yang tombs, there is no killing layout here. Those in the yin tomb are in danger, but still alive,” he took a deep breath.

The yin tomb in the celestial master tomb had been deadly because someone had established the Hell of Skinning there—the seventeenth layer of hell. Anyone who entered through the yin tomb was instantly skinned alive. Thankfully, the same didn’t apply here.

“We entered through the door of the yang tomb, which is the safe one. That’s why the snake pearl is located right after the door to guard it.” Lu Yun drew a circle in the air with his finger and manifested a graph of the taiji.

“The shape of the taiji is an intersection of yin and yang, with a spot of yin on the yang side and yang on the yin side. We entered through the spot of yang in the yin realm, while those immortals entered through the spot of extreme yin on the yang side.

“Tsk, I thought the Heaven Locus March was the tomb when, in fact, the entire Heaven Locus Land is part of the Xuan Yuan Tomb! The marsh is the yin side of the tomb, and the area outside the marsh is the yang side!”

A shudder passed through both the demon sovereign and Ashu. The living in Heaven Locus Land... had been living on top of a great tomb all this time?

Nothing could be more horrifying!

“The yin tomb and the yang tomb... The yin tomb buries ghosts, while the yang tomb fosters life! The yin tomb is where Xuan Yuan was buried. This yang tomb is where the descendent of the Moat Snake is being nurtured!” Lu Yun put away his luopan with a frown. “The world’s spleen is in the yin tomb as well... It’s become a god and is sitting on top of the Earth Altar.”

## **Chapter 775: Lunatics**

Lu Yun was here for the spleen of the world. At the same time, he was loath to relinquish the bloodline of a premier divine beast. How strong would the only offspring of the only Moat Snake be?

Once it grew up, it would be at least as strong as the primeval human kings, if not a great emperor in its own right.

“Milord!” Following silently beside them all this time, Xuanxi suddenly said, “The moat snake has some kinship with the divines. If I go with Zhaoqing, we may be able to capture its descendant.”

Lu Yun’s eyes lit up and Zhaoqing walked out of hell, sweeping a graceful curtsy in front of the young man.

Incredulous, Ashu held his breath. He knew full well who Zhaoqing was—the daughter of the Exalted Divine emperor! Progeny of a true great emperor, she was one of Lu Yun’s followers as well??

“How eminent and dignified is one who doesn’t need to show especial respect to even the three holy kings... so she’s also...” Ashu swallowed hard.

“I’ll go as well, that guy might not really be dead. Perhaps the trace of bloodline it left behind is itself.” A crisp and energetic voice sounded as a ripple of red spread through the air. A young girl roughly eighteen years old materialized out of the void wearing a red silk dress.

“Carmine Eternal!” shrieked Ashu when he saw the newcomer. Fear mixed with veneration mixed with incredulity shone out of his eyes.

The last time Carmine Eternal appeared and deterred the Blood Sea, Holy King Atrophy had been by Lu Yun’s side. Ashu hadn’t dared look or send his consciousness in their direction; he didn’t want to chance showing himself for fear that the holy king would discover him.

So now that the human form of Carmine Eternal emerged on the premises, the shock of seeing her for the first time startled Ashu into a yelp. Color drained out of his face as an aftereffect of panic and despair.

“Is this sis that scary?” Carmine Eternal was adorably charming with a hint of naive cheeriness. While her face wouldn’t launch a thousand ships and neither would she be described as a stunning beauty, there was a peculiar quality to her bearing that made her seem both bloodthirsty and pure.

It was a very strange and contradictory feeling.

Trembling, Ashu couldn’t form a single word. He finally understood how Lu Yun had won that day, how he’d subdued the Blood Sea and struck fear into the creatures of its depths so that they wouldn’t dare emerge from the waters.

The she-demon Carmine Eternal was by Lu Yun’s side!

The girl hopped over to Ashu and lightly patted his cheek. Despite the gentle gesture, the former holy lord instantly turned translucent, and his body that’d been coming back to life flooded with death energy.

“Alright, alright, I’ll stop teasing you. Be careful not to let your main body find you, you know what I’m talking about. If you’re eaten... then I suppose I’ll have to kill you once I’m recovered, no matter how distasteful the task may be,” Carmine Eternal said merrily.

Ashu’s breathing and heartbeat stopped simultaneously; his skin turned grayish white as black fog rushed out from his body. He’d returned to being a living dead and the strongest holy lord of the underworld!

“Is... is this young lady that frightening?” The Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign had seen everything clearly and how Ashu’s life force had dissipated due to excessive fright. In other words, Carmine Eternal had just scared him to death. An entity almost returned to life had spontaneously returned to being a living dead!

“Honestly...” Carmine Eternal took back her hand from Ashu’s face and giggled, “The moment you return to life is the moment your main body finds you. Therefore, you should just be a good little boy and stay a living dead.

“You wish to be alive, but so does your main body want to be a living being. Eating a living version of you is its only hope. Or rather, the start of its hope since it’ll have to eat a lot more living beings after you.”

Her tone grew frostier the more she spoke and an eerie red light began glinting in her eyes. Ashu nodded expressionlessly.

“If it wasn’t for you following Sir Lu Yun, I would kill you on the spot right now and make sure you can never come back to life. That way, the trouble you left behind will have to root itself in the underworld forever and won’t be able to stir up further trouble,” snorted Carmine Eternal.

In this moment, Ashu and Lu Yun finally gained a thorough understanding of why the three holy kings had so easily let Ashu leave the underworld and dismissed him from being a mausoleum keeper. His main body, that something he’d been instinctively fearful of, had already tracked him to the underworld.

As things were, Ashu would still provide enough food for the zombie tree to become a great demon king even if the holy lord didn’t return to life. After sensing Ashu’s existence, the zombie tree had patiently taken root in the underworld and settled down to wait because it’d also discovered that its spirit was in the process of resurrection. It could wait—Ashu would be much more useful once he was alive.

.....

Carmine Eternal left with Zhaoqing and Xuanxi to search for the bloodline of the moat snake.

“What’s that woman’s background, and why is Ashu so afraid of her?” This was the only thing on the demon sovereign’s mind after a long befuddled silence.

In his eyes, Ashu was a great holy lord of the underworld. Invincible and knowing no fear, no one other than the holy kings could touch him. And yet, a harmless and innocent young lady had scared him back to death!

Lu Yun too was curious as he wanted to learn of Carmine Eternal’s background.

“All you need to know is that... before Emperors Fall, Carmine Eternal once personally eradicated thirty-six major worlds with great emperors at their helm.” Ashu fell silent after this opening, then elaborated distantly after gathering his thoughts. “There are two great personages in the world unrestricted by limitations of any kind. They subdue all races and ensure that every powerhouse follows the rules and toes the line.

“Those two are unrestricted by anything not because they’re the strongest, but because they really will do anything!

“Before Emperors Fall, the great dao flourished in prosperous glory, birthing countless connate treasures in nature. Because of that, one of them felt there were so many connate treasures in the world that they were a detriment to general cultivation. Based on that belief, he invaded the vaults of various factions and personally destroyed countless treasures!

“The other felt that there were too many powerhouses in the multiverse at that time. Since there were so many, they could exert control over the heavenly dao and impact its operations, thereby obstructing

the development of life. So she chose the thirty-six strongest major worlds at the time and killed every single cultivator in them, including the great emperor!

“Reality later proved her to be... right.

“And now those two wholly lawless individuals... no, those two sheer lunatics, are Lu Yun’s followers.” Ashu looked at the young man like he was looking at a freak.

Lu Yun shrugged a bit awkwardly while Ge Long cackled in hell. It wasn’t a bad feeling to hear others recount his grand feats and famous achievements.

“Well, the two of them did something even crazier, and they dragged in a lot of others as well.” Ashu smiled wryly. “I’m not going to speak of that though, it was sheer madness!”

### **Chapter 776: Living Titans**

Ashu suddenly shuddered and shut his mouth; Lu Yun could see that Ge Long was levying a menacing side glare at the holy king from hell. Though the two were currently in two different worlds, Lu Yun could still feel that Ge Long was looking at Ashu.

“Ge Long, just what did you and Miss Eternal do?” Lu Yun asked curiously.

“Can’t speak of it, can’t speak of it!” Ge Long quickly retracted his glare and shook his head furiously. “It won’t do you any good to learn of that now, sir, and it’ll attract some unnecessary trouble instead.”

Lu Yun rolled his eyes with an enormous sigh. “Which means... I’ll naturally learn of it when I’m strong enough, right?”

“Well, I actually hope you never learn of it, sir.” Ge Long coughed awkwardly.

“Okay then.” Though Lu Yun was curious what the two had once done, he wasn’t so curious that he wanted to seek death.

After setting foot into immortality, he’d become much more reverent of this world. It held many secrets that couldn’t be touched, ones so strong that they’d almost pulverized Ge Long and Carmine Eternal’s souls. Those great taboos were so powerful that the two great heavyweights who weren’t limited by anything could only hunker down in hell for shelter.

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Ge Long was no longer glaring and Carmine Eternal had seemed to move her eyes from Ashu as well. This afforded enough breathing space for the holy lord to recover some of his composure.

“Some things are best left unasked and unspoken of,” Ashu mumbled and hunched in on himself. “Both of the two great ones looked at me just now... Perhaps when we unintentionally discover certain things or reveal certain things, that’s when certain powerhouses will look at us.”

“You are the strongest holy lord of the underworld with the potential to become a holy king. Do you not count as a powerhouse as well?” the Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign asked curiously.

“Heh heh heh, even a holy king doesn’t count as a powerhouse, to say nothing of me. As strong as the one who controlled my previous life—wasn’t he pummeled to pieces too?” Ashu quickly changed the

topic. “We should head to the yin tomb. Though this yang tomb looks safe, there are many taboos here that we can’t touch.”

Lu Yun and the demon sovereign nodded at the same time, not wanting to further randomly speculate about these topics. In the time before Emperors Fall, those with their level of cultivation were just the tiniest of gnats. After all, even great emperors had perished in that battle.

The final war a hundred years ago in the Primordial Era was called the war of immortals, a conflict in which immortals raised their weapons against each other. But according to various clues and signs, that war had actually been a collective defense against certain entities invading the world of immortals.

Given that, who knew what was the real truth of Emperors Fall in the Primeval Era, a conflict in which great emperors apparently fought each other?

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“The yin and yang tombs of the Xuan Yuan Tomb are different from those of the celestial master tomb. The ones in the celestial master tomb were two parallel spaces forcefully separated by the seventeenth layer of hell—the skinning hell.

“Though the tombs here are also parallel spaces, they are worlds fostered out of the moat snake’s body. They’re two parallel tomb realms!” Lu Yun took his earlier theories to a deeper level based on what he’d observed earlier.

Ashu nodded slowly. “If they’re parallel tomb realms, it’ll be a bit difficult to break through from here to there.”

Last time in the celestial master tomb, Lu Yun had walked to the end of it and focused on its source to compel the two sides to come together. However, the Xuan Yuan Tomb was different in that the yin and yang tombs were a product of the moat snake’s great dao.

The snake outer-coffin was the core of the tomb, and the tomb realm born of it encompassed the entire Heaven Locus Land, making that the real tomb. The two doors outside led to the two tomb realms instead of the snake outer-coffin. Lu Yun’s luopan had projected the outer-coffin and the truth of the tomb.

“It won’t be difficult.” Lu Yun shook his head. “The spot of connection between them is the two points of the taiji diagram. If we find the point of extreme yin in the yang tomb, we’ll be able to use it to enter the yin tomb! The point of extreme yin is over there.”

Lu Yun pointed south to where a blazing sun hung high in the sky. Dense waves of heat and light warmed the land, and the further south one traveled, the greater the concentration of yang qi.

However, neither Ashu nor the demon sovereign objected. They all understood the theory that the extremity of anything will reverse course. When yang qi gathered to its maximum, it would become pure yin.

There was no place of extreme yin in the yang realm tomb as yang qi suffused all four cardinal directions. Life flourished everywhere, so if such a place had a spot of extreme yin, it had to lie to the south where yang qi was the thickest.

The trio took to the air and flew to where the sun blazed hottest.

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“All trespassers in the Xuan Yuan Tomb will die!” An earth-shattering roar rang out as a man five kilometers tall and dressed in pelts shot up out of nowhere. He lifted an enormous stone axe and swung for the trio’s heads.

Hulking in figure, his strength was also fantastically great. The axe swing split heaven and earth; though it missed the trio, its strong ripples still sent the three flying. Even Ashu and the demon sovereign found it difficult to endure this terrifying might.

“Titans! Living titans!” Ashu yelled and materialized his pitch-black shortsword. However, the Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign was faster than him. The Skyturning Seal swelled explosively into a towering mountain and hurtled at the giant stone axe.

Booooooom!

The enormous collision shook the land and deafened ear drums, razing all flora within fifty kilometers.

“The Skyturning Seal!” screamed the titan and dropped his axe, immediately running off in the opposite direction. Though it looked like stone, the axe of unknown material fell heavily to the ground, unmarked by the momentous collision with the seal.

“Invaders, invaders have come!” The titan’s booming voice carried throughout the primal forest, bestirring violent disturbances from the tranquil quiet. More titans wearing animal pelts and wielding primitive stone weapons charged out from the copse of soaring trees.

“Let’s go!” Lu Yun immediately changed his mind and deployed Size Manipulation, transforming into a dust particle and escaped from the premises with the Wandering Step. As the demon sovereign and Ashu were equipped with his talismans, they too turned into dust particles and followed close behind him.

“Um? Where are they?” The hundred-strong group of titans rumbled to a stop and scratched their heads with puzzlement.

### **Chapter 777: Xuan Yuan Slaves**

“Those titans are terrifying!” The three didn’t land until they’d put a good amount of distance between themselves and their pursuers, but even so, they didn’t dare return to their original size.

“Those titans are at peak dao origin realm not because of their cultivation, but because their physical body is that strong! I didn’t kill him even with a blow at full strength!” the Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign recounted with shock. He’d clashed head-on with the giant just now and brought the Skyturning Seal down with everything he had—but it hadn’t killed the titan!

First of manmade treasures, the Skyturning Seal ranked first when it came to offensive and killing capabilities. It was a terrifying weapon created by one of the founders of immortal dao. That the titan remained perfectly fine after receiving such a blow was greatly beyond the demon sovereign’s expectations.



“It’s because you’re too weak.” Ashu took a careful scan of their surroundings. “You two need to be careful, I know what’s going on here.”

“Hmm?” Lu Yun looked at the holy king.

“This is the world before Emperors Fall! The rules of the moat snake’s great dao have created a tomb realm that perfectly replicates the time before Emperors Fall!” Ashu took a deep breath. “The titans we saw earlier aren’t the ones who went extinct before the Primordial Era, but ones who lived before Emperors Fall.

“In that era, humans were much more prosperous than the other races. Countless branches splintered off humanity, and the titan race was one of the strongest ones. An adult titan possessed the strength of a peak origin dao immortal even without cultivating.”

Lu Yun and the demon sovereign gaped at Ashu.

“Though the titans boasted of extraordinary potential, they were only above average in that aeon. In those days, the greatest geniuses of the truly dominant factions were born with the cultivation level of a human king.

“Back then, the heavenly dao had evolved to its highest, most sophisticated form. All was truly thriving and flourishing—human kings were as common as cabbages and great emperors as numerous as dogs. There were even a few great ones who’d exceeded the great emperor realm.”

Ashu sighed, “In comparison to that, immortal dao now is too weak and too young. As viewed against the backdrop of that vast and glorious era, an immortal dao that’s less than six hundred million years old is hardly even a baby!”

“That’s not right, the immortal dao has existed for six hundred million years.”

Ashu looked blankly at Lu Yun who’d interjected. “You...”

“What about me?” Lu Yun had been captivated by the world Ashu was describing and didn’t understand why the storyteller had suddenly stopped to stare oddly at him instead.

“You’re... right. The first day of the first month in the first year of the Xuanhuang calendar happens to be the six hundred millionth and first day of the immortal dao’s founding.”

“What?!” Lu Yun, the demon sovereign, and even Ge Long eavesdropping from hell jumped with shock.

Ge Long quickly made his estimations. “That’s right... It’s been six hundred million years since the inception of the immortal dao, and that was the first day!” He looked at Lu Yun with an even greater look of respect. “Six hundred million years is a perfect minor cycle!”

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“Can it be a coincidence?” Lu Yun didn’t quite believe his ears. The day in which he’d established the calendar was something he’d planned for a very long time. He simply felt that things were too chaotic in the world right now, and that a standard reference of time was needed to bring order to the confusion.

Therefore, he followed the calendar system of Earth and after uniting the world of immortals, employed formula dao to derive the Xuanhuang calendar. He and Qing Yu had picked that precise day after careful calculation.

But it was also because of this that Ge Long viewed Lu Yun and Qing Yu with newfound veneration. The two had jointly developed formula dao, and it seemed their creation was capable of theorizing the immortal dao!

One thing of note was that formula dao didn't exist within the confines of the Tome of Life and Death—it was completely independent of that treasure.

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“Six hundred million years... is still too short. In that legendary era, six hundred million years was just the travel time for a great emperor's journey of self discovery,” continued Ashu. “When the immortal dao is strong enough, the living beings that fall within its purview will see a corresponding rise. They'll become as strong as the titans too.

“Six hundred millions years...” With a final odd look at Lu Yun, Ashu shoved thoughts of the calendar to the back of his mind. Since Qing Yu is the sovereign of the immortal dao, perhaps choosing this day had something to do with her as well. “Since this tomb realm is the world before Emperors Fall, perhaps there will be more terrifying life forms from that era. We must be careful.”

Lu Yun nodded. “But since that world has been destroyed and it's now the immortal dao that rules the heavens, the titans no longer have a chance to cultivate...”

Ashu blinked. The titans from earlier were very fierce, but they only possessed powerfully built bodies and lacked combat arts or cultivation methods. They just seemed to be ordinary beings that were ridiculously strong.

“If we bring them to the outside world and have them cultivate immortal dao...” The demon sovereign's eyes lit up.

Lu Yun shook his head slightly without a word, Ashu remained silent as well.

“They're also tomb keepers,” sighed Ashu. “They'll scatter on the wind if they leave this place. ...Xuan Yuan Slaves! They're descendants of the Xuan Yuan Slaves!

“That group disappeared a long time ago, I actually thought they'd vanished in the annals of history. I didn't think they'd be living here and guarding the yang tomb.”

“Xuan Yuan Slaves?” Lu Yun arched an eyebrow.

“Just like their name, they're the slaves of Xuan Yuan! Xuan Yuan is the owner of this tomb and an unparalleled existence beyond great emperor in the time before Emperors Fall! After his demise, his slaves didn't forsake their master, and in fact renamed themselves Xuan Yuan Slaves so that their master's splendor would continue to illuminate the heavens!

“Their cultivation has completely scattered, but they still protect the tomb. Ah, that's right, the corpsefire! They should be the ones wielding the corpsefire and using it to control the zombies in the tomb!” Ashu suddenly grew nervous. “The slaves don't follow the immortal dao. Though they're

confined to this tomb realm and lack any cultivation whatsoever, they still possess many unconventional abilities that make it highly likely they'll be able to figure out where we are."

Boom—

An enormous rumble blasted from the skies before he finished his line of thought and a great beast claw descended upon their position. A huge mushroom cloud rose into the air, revealing a lion burning with golden flames and fixing its pale-gold eyes firmly on a spot in the void—on three minuscule life forms on a tiny dust particle.

"Those who disturb my master's slumber shall not be permitted to exist!" It brandished its front claws as it roared, pouncing forward and enveloping fifty thousand kilometers with the golden flames on its body.

Hummmm.

The Skyturning Seal swelled to prodigious proportions and came down on the lion.

### **Chapter 778: Art of Incantation**

With a resounding boom, the kilometer-wide Skyturning Seal smashed into the ground and shook the earth. Intense shockwaves rippled out from the seal in all directions for hundreds of kilometers, forcing back the blazing sea of golden fire.

The fiery lion was annihilated, but it instantly reappeared in the next second. This time however, it didn't come back with the flames.

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"What's going on here?!" The Venerated Sacrosanct Demon Sovereign returned to his original size and withdrew the Skyturning Seal. He turned incredulously to Lu Yun—the nascent spirit observation method!

That lion enveloped by golden flames wasn't a true living entity, but something similar to the projections of Lu Yun's nascent spirit observation method.

"It's the art of incantation!" Ashu quickly identified, "one of the great daos before Emperors Fall. With that great dao, even an ordinary mortal could utilize the art of Words and direct the world's energies. They could transform the energies of the world as they saw fit."

The lion brimming with golden flames was an entity condensed out of the world's energies, making it very similar in nature to what Lu Yun conjured with his nascent spirit observation method.

However, Lu Yun's method used nascent spirit energy to shape the subjects of his thoughts. It was an act of combining conscious will with projecting what had been observed, utilizing the product as one would an arm or a leg.

Something created by the art of incantations was an external object—directed by the incantation and less nimble or agile. But according to Ashu's words, even an ordinary mortal would be able to conform reality to their expectations if they grasped this art, making it terrifying beyond belief.

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“Roar!”

“Roar!”

“Roar!”

Tremendous snarls rose and fell in the void as enormous beasts sparking with the light of fire converged from all sides. All of them were gathered from the energy of the heavens rather than being truly alive, but that didn't make them any weaker than real beasts. They were each on par with a peak origin dao immortal!

“How dare trespassers disturb Xuan Yuan's slumber! You will die for this unforgivable sin.” An enormous eagle voiced human language, its words a cue for the thousands of enormous beasts to pounce on the trio in a strange battle arrangement.

Lu Yun, Ashu, and the demon sovereign had returned to their regular sizes since there was no point in reducing their sizes for concealment. Though the Xuan Yuan Slaves didn't cultivate, they possessed an exceedingly curious ability that enabled them to pinpoint where intruders were.

“Combat arts and treasures are useless against these things, so don't waste your energy.” Lu Yun quickly stopped the demon sovereign when he saw the later was about to send out the Skyturning Seal again.

“Nascent spirit observation method!”

Hummm.

Enormous exotic beasts crackling with purple-gold lightning popped into existence, following by bolts of purple-gold lightning careening wildly through the air.

Kui!

Just like the moat snake, the kui was the only one of its kind in the world. It had to die before a second one was born, but there was now a dense cluster of them in the skies!

A furious frenzy of thunder and lightning blasted out from ten thousand kui, shrouding ten thousand kilometers with stormy fury. Its onslaught was so overwhelming that the energy of the local land was broken up into disarray, and the bodies of the creatures formed by incantations began to break apart. However, the kui that Lu Yun projected with the nascent spirit remained untouched.

“Incantations itself are a fine enough art, but there's too many limitations to them. It makes sense that they were left behind in history...” Lu Yun's projections were just peerless immortals and theoretically less than an ant in front of these creatures, but the reality was that these inordinately strong incantation creatures were destroyed by simple projections.

Rumble.

Rumble—

RUMBLE!!

Ten thousand kui called upon their strength at the same time and sent thunder howling with abandon around them. Heavy, foreboding clouds gathered in the sky, forming an enormous cyclone of lightning and thoroughly bestirring the energy of the land in the area.

Any incantation beasts vanished utterly when they set foot in its wake.

“It’s them! They’ve come again! They’re the only ones who can instantly find the weaknesses of incantations! They’re here to destroy us like they did our forefathers!” wheezed a wizened elder so gaunt and aged that it boggled the mind and pointed a doddering finger at the herd of kui in the air.

“They’ve followed us into the tomb! Are they here for Master Xuan Yuan’s body? No wonder they keep heading south... After them, we can’t let them go to the yin side!” This elder was a bit different from the other Xuan Yuan Slaves. Instead of animal pelts, he wore a linen robe so old and tattered it looked more like rags.

A group of his brethren clustered around him, all so thin and weak that it seemed a strong gust of wind would blow them away. However, hundreds of giants at least five kilometers tall hovered protectively behind them.

“Go, notify those of the wood and water tribe to ignore the little moat snake. Go guard the south and don’t let the intruders near the yin side door no matter what!” the elder rasped with all his might.

“Titans, receive your orders! Kill the three foreigners at all costs!”

“Understood!” Hundreds of titans waved their great axes and sprinted at the trio in a snarling charge.

The earth trembled like a giant earthquake was upon them as the wizened elder waved his dark staff, hopping and capering around while muttering certain incantations, looking like what mortals did when they summoned supernatural powers.

Hum.

A ray of orange light rose from the earth and melded into the realm, turning it into a swampy morass.

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“This is an incantation too!” Ashu sensed the change in their surroundings. “Incantations are ever changing and highly versatile. Not only can they deploy the energy of the land and coalesce it into something real, they can call upon the elements of the world as well!”

“Incantations...” Lu Yun frowned. “They seem a bit similar to shamanic curses, but a little different as well. Demon Sovereign, hold off the titans. I’ll contend with the old man. Let’s see if his incantations or my combat arts are stronger!”

Incantations were something he’d never encountered before and one of the strongest great daos of the world. However, with the passage of time and the changes that had swept over and dao itself, the immortal dao was now the ruler of the world. The art of incantations was no longer recognized, so it could only be described as a secret mystic at most.

“Since you’re using earth-related incarnations to disturb the space, I’ll use the wood combat arts to break up your work!” Lu Yun extended a hand and grasped at the east.

Hum!

A ball of emerald green light appeared in his hand—Mastery of the Five Elements and connate wood energy!

As soon as it appeared, countless plants began to grow furiously over the land and devour the orange earth-affiliated strength.

### **Chapter 779: High Priests of the Five Elemental Rites**

The orange power of earth was so strong that it was only a hair weaker than connate earth energy, making it impossible for ordinary plant roots to constrain it. However, Lu Yun was calling upon the connate energy of wood with the Mastery of the Five Elements. Infused with almost aphrodisiac-like potency, the plants furiously devoured the surging earth-attribute energy.

Wood could counter earth, but earth could nurture wood.

Fertilization from this tremendous nutrient almost gave the plants life and turned them into nymphs and sprites, strengthening them further to take in even more of what the elder was summoning.

In Lu Yun's eyes, this was a beneficial feedback cycle, but to the aghast elder on the other side, this spelled absolute doom. He hadn't thought that the enemy would summon connate wood energy without a second thought and fully counter his earth incantations!

The plants devoured every last bit of earth energy in the void, reverting the ground from its swampy form and clearing the hazy air. All sorts of flora sprouted beneath their feet and entangled the charging titans.

The titans were tremendously strong as they were on the level of dao origin immortals, but so were the plants here! What they lacked was a conscious thought pattern—which the arrival of the connate wood energy resolved, sparking self-awareness and enabling them to explode with the same might as the titans.

No matter how the titans roared and struggled, they couldn't rip free of the plants.

"Connate wood energy! What kind of person is he to be able to call upon that? Is he the Azure Dragon King?" The wizened elder paused to stare at Lu Yun in the air, his overwhelmed eyes filling with disbelief. In his mind, the ability to summon connate wood energy was the signature combat art of the Azure Dragon King.

Connate wood energy!

Such a being had also existed in the time before Emperors Fall. The Azure Dragon King was the son of the Azure Dragon of the east, one of the four notables who'd founded the four cardinal divine tribes.

Just like the moat snake, there was only one instance of the Azure Dragon King's bloodline, and his bloodline was even more terrifying than the kui or moat snake's. Azure Dragon had been a divine spirit manifested out of certain rules, and the Azure Dragon King the first of its direct bloodline.

Though the Azure Dragon King had died in the era before Emperors Fall, it wasn't long before the Azure Dragon birthed another Azure Dragon King that was the same as the one before. Now that Lu Yun

replicated their signature combat art in summoning connate wood energy, that gave the illustrious elder the impression that Lu Yun was the latest one

“So what if he’s the Azure Dragon King?!” the elder suddenly howled at the skies. “You will not disturb my master’s rest even if your father the Azure Dragon came here in person! We protect Master Xuan Yuan to our deaths!”

He suddenly split himself into five and stood in the position of the five elements, taking up the ringing incantation anew.

Rays of pentacolored light streaked through the skies and imbued the titans with radiant splendor. Pentacolor armor appeared on the hulking figures and they swung the great axes in their hands, hacking through the plants so they could charge again at Lu Yun.

One by one they took to the air—not in flight, but with mighty leaps and bounds from their strength alone.

Hummmm.

The second they took to air was when the Skyturning Seal arrived. The mountaneous seal slammed down, smashing them into the ground. Despite that, the titans were so hardy that they weren’t really injured by the blows. Nailed to the earth, they whined and yelled since at most, the slams stung them a slight bit.

It was still a rather impressive sight, all things considered.

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Five thousand kilometers away, the great elder of the Xuan Yuan Slaves raged with fury. Lu Yun’s counterattack reigned dominant in the space between them, and none of the elder’s incantations found any footing within the vicinity.

However, more Xuan Yuan Slaves poured in from all directions and set up a perimeter around the zone of connate wood energy. Five enormous altar projections stood in their respective directions, restoring calm and order to the chaotic energy of the land. A figure stood on each of the gigantic altars, ones that looked down coldly at the trespassing trio.

“Venerated High Priests!” The elder shook with excitement when he saw the altars and fell to his knees.

“This slave greets the hallowed high priests!”

“Greetings to the venerated high priests!”

“We greet the noble high priests!”

Greetings and acknowledgments rose and fell in all directions. It seemed that all of the Xuan Yuan Slaves in this tomb realm were kneeling on the ground and worshipping the figures on the altars.

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“The high priests of the five elemental rites! It’s the five high priests under Xuan Yuan’s banner!” Ashu widened his eyes at the altars and the figures standing on top of them. “To think that they’re still alive...”

“No.” Seemingly in response to Ashu’s words, the shadow at the centermost altar sharpened into focus as a real man. He seemed to be in his thirties and wore a long, bright yellow robe. He appeared elegant and poised, and the trace of a warm smile could be found on his face. “The five original priests have been long lost in the river of time. No one could’ve survived from the era until now.”

“But you really are the priest of earth, and you stand upon the altar of earth...” Ashu slowly rose in the air to take a better look. “Are you their descendant?”

The priest of earth shook his head again. “At best, we can be described as their successors. We are not of their bloodline.” The man erased the smile on his face and turned chilly. “Speak, what is it that you have come here for?”

“The spleen!” Lu Yun flew over as well. “I want the spleen of heaven and earth in the yin tomb!”

He didn’t waste time beating around the bush as the five priests were simply too strong. If they decided to stop the trio, Lu Yun would have no way of entering the yin realm tomb, to say nothing of obtaining the spleen.

The Xuan Yuan Slaves only possessed great physical strength and the bizarre incantation art. They couldn’t cultivate, but that hardly applied to the five priests. In fact, Lu Yun sensed domineering cultivation realms from all of them.

He didn’t know what they’d practiced, but if they took to the field, neither Ashu nor the demon sovereign would be their match. What shocked him was that the five altars beneath their feet were the real deal! They were identical to the Water and Metal Altar he’d seen before, as well as the Wood Altar he’d moved to hell!

Or was there more than one set of altars to the five elements in the world?

The priests quieted at his answer.

“The spleen has become a god and a poisonous blight upon the Xuan Yuan Tomb. It would be wonderful if you could take him away. However, you won’t be able to with your current level of strength,” raised the priest of earth after a long period of silence.

### **Chapter 780: Volcano**

“Not only can you not manage it, but neither can the immortals navigating through the yin tomb do so either,” the priest of earth said seriously, his gaze fixed on Lu Yun.

Dangers and threats abounded in the yin tomb; it was almost impossible to get to Xuan Yuan’s burial chamber from there. Meanwhile, the point of extreme yin in the yang tomb led directly to the head of the snake outer-coffin, which housed Xuan Yuan’s coffin.

“I’ll be able to deal with it as long as I can get to the spirit manifestation of the spleen.” Lu Yun smiled when he noticed the skeptical looks on the priests’ faces. “Truth be told, the world’s kidneys had evolved into a divine spirit as well, but I still managed to kill and refine it.”

The five priests turned to Lu Yun at the same time.



“You’ve refined an organ of the world? How foolishly daring.” The priest of earth gaped at Lu Yun in disbelief. “The world’s organs were intangible and undefinable instruments ensuring the operations of the world, but they somehow took concrete shape and became the recipients of tributes. Only someone with unimaginable power would be capable of purposefully creating such an arrangement.

“Aren’t you worried that all your effort in refining the organ will end up benefitting someone else?”

Some believed that a great opportunity had fallen into their lap after laying hands on a supreme treasure, but what they didn’t realize was that they’d actually just become someone’s pawn, and all their effort would amount to nothing in the end.

In the priest’s eyes, the organs of the world must be peerless treasures that’d been years in the making by a great being of unfathomable heights.

Countless elites, including great emperors, had tried refining the organs, but all of them ended up meeting an untimely demise. Not only were their organs reclaimed, so was everything they ever were.

“If I’m daring enough to refine the organs of the world, I naturally do so for certain reasons.” Lu Yun shook his head. “Besides, I’ve already refined four organs. Once I acquire the spleen, I’ll have gathered all five yin organs and be able to create the true body of the world by manifesting the six yang organs.”

“What?!” the five priests jointly shrieked with shock. “You, you’ve refined four organs already?! Impossible!! If that’s the case, the owner of the organs must have come searching for you already...”

“It’s his replica who’s refined the organs,” said Ashu. “And his replica is the fourth holy king of the underworld!”

“A holy king of the underworld?” After a pensive pause, the priest of earth nodded. “I see, there are no problems then if you’re a holy king of the underworld. Follow me.”

Gone were the Xuan Yuan Slaves and the other four priests, leaving only the priest of earth. He set a course for Lu Yun and his companions to head south.

“Why does he trust us so much?” the demon sovereign asked, caught off guard by the sudden about face.

“Because I’m acquainted with the five former high priests,” murmured Ashu. “He must know about me since he’s the successor of the previous priest of earth.”

The priest in question nodded. “You can’t be found by the zombie tree no matter what. Otherwise, the many worlds of this universe will be doomed.”

Ashu fell into a pensive silence.

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South of the tomb realm resided an enormous volcano belching thick black smoke. It was so large that its mouth was as big as a province in the world of immortals, running hundreds of thousands of kilometers across.

Yang energy abounded within a five hundred thousand kilometer radius of the volcano, causing Ashu to squirm in agitation. If he could cultivate here for a year or two, he'd become a living man. However, he'd given up on that plan after Carmine Eternal's warning: the moment he came back to life, the zombie tree would come for him.

"The door leading to the yin tomb lies within the volcano." The priest of earth turned to Lu Yun. "Given your cultivation and strength, though, you'll be burned to death by the endless fire elements before you can even get close to it."

Whoosh!

White flames burst out of the demon sovereign's body, releasing a conflicting energy of extreme cold and heat.

Boom!

The fire elements in the area gathered at tremendous pace, scattering the demon sovereign's Hadal Bonefire and turning it into elemental fire. Eyes wide with horror, the demon sovereign barely kept himself from knee jerking into his skeletal manifestation.

"My Hadal Bonefire cannot burn here!"

That meant a flame more powerful than Hadal Bonefire had taken root in the area, claiming the five hundred thousand radius as its territory. No fire lesser than it could burn here.

"Hadal Bonefire?" an icy female voice remarked from the mouth of the volcano. A young woman donning palace attire emerged with fire swirling about her. She was the priest of fire, the one who had left earlier. The volcano below was the real altar of fire!

"That's nothing but a lowly yin fire." The priest of fire flicked a glance at the demon sovereign and curled her lip, her delicate features arranging themselves into slight derision.

"What we saw earlier wasn't the true fire altar, but a manifestation created by the volcano!" Realization struck Lu Yun as soon as he saw the priest of fire emerge.

The five elemental altars were each a unique entity that could not be duplicated, but the power of the altars could be manifested by various corresponding treasures. Before Emperors Fall, the five altars were controlled by the priests under Xuan Yuan's banner. The five priests now were able to manifest the five altars through their treasures and legacies.

The tomb realm created by the Moat Snake allowed no cultivation, so the five priests were no cultivators. All of their power came from tributes and faith. The Xuan Yuan Slaves treated the five priests as divine spirits and worshipped them, granting power similar to that of sacrifice-born divine spirits.

"The art of incantation isn't about tapping into the world's power and manipulating it on your own, but connecting to the five priests and tapping into the world's power through them!" With his formula dao operating at its limit, it didn't take long for Lu Yun to come to an informed conclusion.

The five priests each ruled over a part of the tomb realm, and these five treasures of the world were the sources of all power here. The priests received their strength from the Xuan Yuan Slaves, and the two parties complemented one another perfectly to form a perfect cycle.

“We aren’t the biggest obstacle you face, little fellow, that’d be the fire elements in the environment.” The priest of fire chuckled, “If you can make your way to the door and open it, no one will be able to stop you.” She suddenly changed the audience that she addressed. “Alright, there’s nothing for you to do here anymore. You are all dismissed.”

The Xuan Yuan Slaves lurking around the volcano retreated silently.

“That’s it?” Lu Yun blinked, nonplussed.

The priests of fire and earth exchanged a look and shook their heads.

“Outside of special occasions,” sighed the priest of earth, “Even I have trouble passing through the great fires to reach the door.”