

## Necropolis 811

### Chapter 811: Will You Guys Piss Off Already?

The Dao Academy's actions undermined all of the peak factions in the world of immortals, putting many Nephrite factions first in the line of fire. Giant fortress ships descended in their territory before they had any time to react and escorted their mortals away.

None of them were optimistic enough to think that the mortals would return after finishing their studies in the Dao Academy. These mortals felt no particular sense of belonging to their factions and wouldn't think twice about moving on with their lives. The peak factions had thought they were taking great advantage of Lu Yun's largesse, but now realized with great dismay that the tables had been turned all along.

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"Has anyone noticed?" raised the Yue patriarch. "No one's ascended to the dao immortal realm ever since Qing Yu refined the Central World! My nephew had already sensed the Dao Tree and accumulated enough experience and foundation. When the time was right, he would've been able to pluck his fruit at his leisure.

"But he lost his connection to the Dao Tree as soon as Qing Yu refined the Central World!" His voice gained an icy edge. "The tree is in the Central World, and I suspect that we peak factions are Lu Yun's targets. He not only undermines our foundation, but also severs the paths before us to ensure our destruction!"

"Qing Yu has purposefully sealed off the Dao Tree to stop peerless immortals from ascending!" Shock and dread shaking their hearts, the heads of the Zhu, Ling, and other lesser clans realized what was at stake here.

The Dao Tree they held sacred, the lifeblood of immortals in this world, was under Qing Yu's control! They would never become dao immortals if they didn't please her!

"This is an important matter. We alone won't be able to rival the Dao Academy... all of us must form an alliance!" The Ling patriarch shot to his feet; it wasn't until this moment that he realized they'd been targeted!

"There's someone we must go to now. He's the only one who can help us deal with the academy!"

"Who?"

"Qi Hai of Destiny City in the South Sea!"

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Lu Yun was indeed targeting the peak factions.

Their existence was necessary, but when viewed through the lens of historical trends, their presence was similar to that of primal tribes in something like the Stone Age. They had become enormous obstacles standing in the way of progress and development of the world of immortals.

He was no luminary of humanity with the vision to be emperor of the world. What he wanted was to just follow the trends of history and facilitate the centralization of authority in the world!

Therefore, the Dao Academy added a little something when pushing its agenda of cultivating the mortals from the nine majors, ten lands, and four immortal seas. Sprinkling a little bit of awe and wonder for the celestial courts in the curriculum, for instance.

At the same time, Lu Yun promised the celestial courts of the twenty-four facets that they could recruit whoever they liked from the Dao Academy, as long as the disciples were willing. Therefore, all emperors of the various facets were firmly on his side in this initiative, regardless of their previous opinion of the young man.

They knew that the Dao Academy was no sect, that it didn't belong to any particular celestial court. Lu Yun wouldn't force any disciples to stay once they finished their studies. This was why they'd accepted Lu Yun's offer and sent mortals to the academy for nothing in return.

Allowing mortals to cultivate was the trend of the times. There was no reason to oppose the inexorable grind of the bigger picture.

On the outside looking in, Dusk Province spanned only forty thousand kilometers, but multiple space folding formations filled its premises. The three hundred and sixty-five great cities also opened one after another as branches of the Dao Academy.

Lu Yun turned no mortals away. Everyone who presented themselves was welcomed into cities that rivaled capitals in other parts of the world. Aurum Openia Pills and a great variety of ingredients and materials poured forth like the tidewaters, transforming their constitution for cultivation.

With the Ancient Tree of Life rooted in the immortal crystal garden and unfurling multiple minor crystal veins through the ground, Lu Yun now sat on an abundance of crystals. Moreover, the current world of immortals was much richer in resources than it'd been in the Primordial Era, while only ten thousandth of the number of immortals populated the world.

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"The peak factions have finally gotten up to no good." Lu Yun looked up at the sky, unfazed by the looming pressure slowly descending upon him.

It was the sixth day of the ninth month, in the first year of the Xuanhuang calendar. On this day, tens of thousands of dao immortals from the thirty-six peak factions and a hundred and eight first-tier factions of the world besieged Dusk Province.

"Lu Yun, Qing Yu, you lying hypocrites have committed despicable crimes under the pretense of establishing your dao, and the world suffers for it!! Do you admit your guilt?!" The accusation came from a solemn-looking middle-aged man with purple hair and matching attire. Lightning whipped around him, making him seem like an ancient god of thunder. He was the patriarch of the Zi Clan in Thundergale Major.

This clan was one of the most powerful among the peak factions in the world, rivalling the Lin Clan in Primus Major. Its patriarch Zi Hengxiao was a man of great talent and wisdom, and he'd reached peak arcane dao immortal realm.

Outside of origin dao immortals, he faced no rivals in the world. With his great aspirations, he didn't resign as patriarch once he made the ascension, but instead leveraged the entire clan for a further breakthrough and became a flawless origin dao immortal. He was the undisputed leader of this operation.

"I say..." Lu Yun said coolly, "will you guys piss off already?"

Uncomprehending silence rang loud and clear. Lu Yun didn't seem like a man facing his worst crisis. There wasn't a hint of panic that enemies had arrived on his doorstep!

"How many times have you attacked Dusk Province since my rise? What do you take me for? Your personal punching bag?" Bubbling with frustration, the governor of Dusk showed himself.

He could understand it when others targeted Dusk Province due to his weak cultivation and lack of right to govern the province. However, his territory had matured since then and the Dao Academy established with the approval of the immortal dao. In fact, the will of the immortal dao now resided within Mount Xuanhuang.

But still these people showed their faces?

If he didn't teach them a good lesson this time, there would be no end to this nonsense in the future. Not only was the latest attempt infuriating, it was also rather upsetting.

He counted the Lin Clan among the thirty-six peak clans. When Lin Lie had come to take the Lin brothers away, Lu Yun had thought him to be an exception instigated by House Donglin, representing only a minority of the Lin Clan. But here they were again, and far from the minority!

Lin Yu and Lin Xuan looked on gravely from within Dao City. Their clan... felt so foreign to them at this moment. On the contrary, the Mo Clan, another peak faction of Lazuli Major, had abstained from this farce.

"Hahaha!" Zi Hengxiao and the others laughed uproariously at Lu Yun's words. "That's because you, Lu Yun, are a plague upon the world of immortals! You are a fiend cursed by men and gods alike! You should be killed on sight!"

"Patriarch!" a piercing voice interrupted from within Dusk Province before its owner appeared in short order.

"Zi Chen?" The patriarch started.

## **Chapter 812: Do You Remember the Void Realm**

Zi Hengxiao took a close look at Zi Chen and nodded. "Since the soul seed has been dispelled from your body, you may return to the clan."

Zi Chen, Wu Tulong, and Mo Qitian had recovered their previous selves during their stay in hell. Zhaoqing had managed to purge the foreign influence from them, but since their names weren't written in the Tome of Life and Death, Ge Long immediately erased their memories upon setting them free. They were then sent to Dao City as mentors for the academy.

Though they were no longer dao sovereigns beneath the Dao Flower, their position within the immortal dao far exceeded that of anyone else. With their soul seeds taken care of, their hearts and minds naturally returned to normal.

However, Lu Yun saw the traces of someone else on the three of them. Plainly said, someone had arranged for all of them to meet, so that the true target, Dongfang Hao, would be none the wiser.

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“Patriarch, please refrain from doing this.” Zi Chen shook his head slightly at Zi Hengxiao. “If you stop now, there will still be a bit of hope for the clan...”

“Shut up!” Zi Hengxiao’s expression snapped to a terrifying blankness. “I’ll kill you if you dare say one word more.”

A vein bulged in Zi Chen’s forehead, but true to the threat, he didn’t say anything further. He knew his patriarch was someone who did exactly what he said. Even though he was the clan’s greatest genius, he would be executed where he stood if he went against his patriarch’s wishes.

“Lu Yun, what evil intentions do you and Qing Yu harbor by sealing off the Dao Tree and preventing all peerless immortals from breaking through?!” demanded a peak peerless immortal behind Zi Hengxiao.

There was a formation of heaven and earth etched within his body, placing him on the level of a primordial immortal. The ripples of energy within his body had reached peak peerless immortal realm, and in ordinary times, his cultivation would’ve called the Dao Tree to him. He wouldn’t have needed to seek it out himself. But now, no matter how this peak peerless immortal released his presence with abandon, it elicited no response from the world.

Immortals happily watching the show off of the side suddenly looked on gravely at this revelation. The Dao Tree was their reverse scale; whoever grasped it held the world in their hands.

Many had worried that once Qing Yu obtained the Central World, she would suppress the Dao Tree and use it as another means with which to control the immortals in the world. At the same time, however, they also felt that Qing Yu and Lu Yun’s current level of strength wasn’t enough to monopolize the Dao Tree. After all, Dao Fruit were an utmost treasure of immortals dating from the Primordial Era.

However, their greatest worry had indeed happened. Even the various celestial and monster immortal emperors of the world felt their gut clench tight.

“Since the establishment of the Dao Academy, there have been no dao immortal ascensions in Primus Major,” murmured her celestial emperor.

“None in Thundergale Major.”

“Nor in Lazuli Major.”

None of the other celestial emperors spoke. All of the celestial and monster immortal emperors of the world were gathered here. Apart from Zhao Shenguang of Nephrite Major and the still leaderless Witherdew Major, all the rest were here.

A few of their positions had lain empty, but had since been filled in and their replacements reached origin dao immortal in an exceedingly short period of time. The seven celestial emperors and ten monster emperors looked at each other, not sure what to do.

“Let’s observe closely and see what Lu Yun wants to do.” The monarch of Lazuli Major shook his head and indicated for the others not to make any brash moves.

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“Lu Yun, have you made it so that anyone not of your kin, or of the Dao Academy, has the opportunity to ascend to the dao immortal realm?” Zi Hengxiao bit out his words as he looked at Lu Yun. “We have come to Nephrite Major not to besiege Dusk Province, but to demand an explanation!”

He drew himself upright and yelled loudly, “By what right do you, Lu Yun, prevent those of the world of immortals from attaining dao immortal realm?!”

His roar traveled forth in sound waves that reached every corner of the world. This furious denouncement elicited sympathy from many immortals whose ears rang from the exhortation. Those who’d plucked their aether dao fruits in particular looked at Lu Yun with fury.

In that instant, Lu Yun observed boundless resentment come crashing his way like a dense layer of tribulation clouds. Once these grudges and resentment condensed to a certain level, they would form a terrifying curse to kill him even without triggering a heavenly tribulation.

“Indeed, there seems to be some basis in the idea that being universally condemned means dying in one’s sleep.” Lu Yun frowned slightly.

“Lu Yun!” Zi Hengxiao snarled again. “I represent everyone in the world of immortals and all of the immortals in the universe in demanding that you return the Dao Tree immediately! Otherwise, thirty-six peak factions and a hundred and eight clans will doom you beyond redemption, even at the risk of our own doom!”

Wham!!

Wham!!

Wham!!

Booms echoed as thirty-six connate treasures slowly rose to the air and further encircled Dusk Province. Terrifying ripples traveled in all directions, until they enveloped all of Nephrite Major in their dreadful aura.

Peak factions were called thus because they possessed connate treasures with which to hold down the fort. However, their appearance meant that the clan was facing a life and death crisis, and their very survival was in doubt. To these peak factions, it was indeed such a crisis.

They needed Lu Yun to submit and bow his head in front of their despotic power. Once he gave way in the matter of the Dao Tree, then the authority of the Dao Academy and his personal influence would scatter upon the wind. The entire world of immortals would know that Lu Yun had caged the Dao Tree for his own selfish gains and attempted to enslave them all! That would paint a target on his back and

the up-and-coming Dao Academy. These seemingly unrelated matters were the dying gasps of the peak factions!

Currently, thirty-six connate treasures and hundreds of dao immortal treasures hovered in the air. Once this kind of public censure and strength bore down on them, it'd likely sink all of Dusk Province.

Everyone held their breath, waiting for Lu Yun's capitulation. Despair and doom wrapped around the cultivators and immortals within Dusk Province's borders, not to mention the mortals that'd just arrived.

"Return the Dao Tree?" Lu Yun stood in the air with his hands behind his back, shaking his head after considering the various treasures aimed at him. "Is the Dao Tree yours?"

"The Dao Tree is everyone's." Zi Hengxiao answered calmly.

"In that case, let me ask everyone." Lu Yun lifted his head and looked at all the cultivators and immortals beyond Dusk Province. "Do you remember the void realm?"

### **Chapter 813: Ninety-Nine Years**

Do you remember the void realm?

Minute changes filtered through various expressions when this question was posed. No one felt that Lu Yun was crowing about past accomplishments in an attempt to distract from the Dao Tree being sealed off. Rather, those in the know quickly grasped his meaning.

Damn it, no wonder that Qi Hai wasn't willing to get involved. He knew already what Lu Yun was going to do! Zi Hengxiao cursed inwardly.

They'd paid a visit to the South Sea beforehand to invite Qi Hai and the Destiny city lord to join them, but the group had searched high and low over the waters without finding a trace of the city or pill dao sacred land.

That was when they understood that Qi Hai wasn't willing to provoke Lu Yun anymore, but no one had fathomed that the young man would commit such a daring act!

Based on his personality, he should've met them in a frontal assault as soon as they came knocking. In fact, he would've obliterated them on the spot to teach a sharp lesson to all those who would act against him.

However, he no longer acted only on his behalf these days. He represented the Dao Academy and the will of the immortal dao residing in Mount Xuanhuang. Lu Yun was absolutely certain that someone was behind all these peak factions gathering so swiftly, and that the same mastermind was hoping he'd make a mistake somewhere.

Once Lu Yun erupted in a slaughter, he'd set foot into certain traps and the academy would be isolated. All the effort he'd put in thus far would be wasted.

In a chaotic world, one's fist was one's right. But in a civilized, orderly world, a rational system of morals and ethics underpinned its structure. This was what he was working toward.

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“Qing Yu and I have indeed sealed off the Dao Tree to prevent current immortals from reaching dao immortality.” Lu Yun looked at the peak peerless immortal with a supercilious smile. “This is actually for your own good as well. Otherwise, you’ll probably hate us again when you reach aether dao immortal realm. Have you already forgotten when you were almost discarded by the march of time?”

Color draining from his face, the peerless immortal thought of the formation of heaven and earth etched in his body. Its creation method originated from Dusk Province, and he knew full well what Lu Yun meant.

The path of immortality was severed at the dao immortal realm, and Lu Yun aimed to repair the immortal dao by fixing that realm!

“Honestly, I’m a very selfish person,” Lu Yun continued without looking at the immortal. “When Qing Yu restored the void realm and almost eliminated hundreds of millions of immortals, the ensuing resentment was so awful that I had to create the formation of heaven and earth to save all of you.

“But how many dao immortals are there in the entire world and the multiverse at large? A hundred thousand? A million? Or ten million? That little bit of potential backlash from you is absolutely nothing in my eyes.

“If I wanted to, I could destroy the tree right now and connect the new cultivation system with the immortal dao. But here I am, wasting half a year of my time and effort for you ungrateful bastards. I’m doing all this so you dao immortals won’t be eliminated and can be integrated into the new dao immortal realm!

“You want to threaten me with connate treasures? Fine then, I’ll release the seal on the Dao Tree right now and let you pluck your fruits to your heart’s content. You can ascend to dao immortality or even further!

“This seat can then refrain from wasting so much time and energy on hypothesizing things that don’t matter at all. Besides, it’s not like there isn’t a complete system for dao immortals as it is right now,” Lu Yun sniffed coldly.

Zi Hengxiao and the other dao immortals present were all as pale as a sheet, and the peerless immortal was frightened out of his wits. They didn’t doubt Lu Yun’s words in the slightest; the return of the void realm had been something witnessed by all living beings in the entire multiverse, and the young man bore the greatest credit for that miracle.

Now that he was headmaster of the vaunted Dao Academy and established his own dao, even the will of the immortal dao resided in Mount Xuanhuang. They had no doubt that he could do what he said and complete the immortal dao.

“And I’ll tell you something else, an enormous calamity will descend in ninety-nine years. Previous generations of celestial emperors died not in search of a breakthrough to the ingress realm, but to prevent the arrival of that cataclysm.

“The previous nine celestial emperors are at the end of their rope, and they’ll be unable to do anything more after ninety-nine years. That survival of the world of immortals and your own continued existence

will be determined then.” Lu Yun couldn’t be bothered dealing with these buffoons anymore and returned to Dusk Province, leaving a stunned and gaping crowd of immortals in his wake.

They looked at each other with shock, grappling with the enormity of these revelations. No one knew what to say.

“The previous celestial emperors... died to prevent disaster?” Zi Hengxiao looked around blankly.

“All of you should know the truth. The last generation of celestial emperors possessed great vision and immense talents. Their hearts lay with the people, so they’d fully absorbed the heritage within their heavenly mandates. They’d long broken through origin dao realm and reached ingress realm.” Zhao Shengguang suddenly appeared in a black imperial robe hemmed with golden embroidery.

“The realm of a celestial emperor has always been hidden within the mandates, and these mandates were refined by a divine expert after the end of the great war. He snipped off the presence of a complete immortal dao to preserve this bit of legacy for the world of immortals.

“However, he also left behind a bit of a contingency. Only those with a benevolent heart and truly care for the world can obtain this inheritance.

“What a pity that my two brethren who grasped this heart of an emperor have both died.”

The celestial emperors of Truespirit and Exalted Major had gone to their deaths the moment they understood what it meant to be a celestial emperor, going up in a blaze of mutual destruction with Mount Exalted.

The faces of the remaining celestial emperors didn’t look too happy, while the monster emperors of the ten lands didn’t really care. There might be a legacy stored in the heavenly mandates of the nine majors, but there didn’t seem to be anything similar with the ten lands and four immortal seas.

“There is such an inheritance in all twenty-four mandates.” Zhao Shengguang smiled brilliantly. “What a pity that the monster emperors of the ten lands and four immortal seas have never obtained theirs. Otherwise, the world of immortals now should be similar to the world eighty thousand years ago, with twenty-four celestial emperors like the divine kings of old, rather than nine celestial emperors and ten monster emperors.

“I was lucky enough to find the true heritage of an emperor in the Ancient Tree of Life and win the approval of the Nephrite mandate that way. I still don’t have that sort of benevolence in me, but at least I’ve found the proper path.

“The rest of you... well. Good luck.” With that, he vanished, but his voice still echoed in the air.

“Remember, if you lot are still like this after ninety-nine years, then all you can do then is wait for your deaths. Enjoy this last little bit of tranquility while it lasts.”

## **Chapter 814: Two Conditions**

It’d already been a full year since Lu Yun’s visit to the World Gates. The nine celestial emperors and Violetgrave could keep the gates under control for only ninety-nine more. However, that was a secret known only by a select few. Lu Yun hadn’t expected Zhao Shengguang to so decisively reveal it to the entire world.



Development of the current world of immortals had begun only eighty thousand years ago. The world hadn't even established a basic order to immortal dao since then, let alone recover to its peak. Mortals still outnumbered immortals by a great margin.

Though, perhaps it was better to have the cat out of the bag. At least those peak factions will stop picking on me from now on, thought Lu Yun.

Under everyone's accusatory scrutiny, the immortals from the peak factions departed, shamefaced. Although Lu Yun hadn't physically retaliated against them, their reputation suffered a great blow on this day.

When the Dao Flower had originally returned to the world of immortals, it'd suffered relentless attacks from the Feng and Jin Clans. As a result, the Jin Clan was eventually exterminated and erased from the map, while the Feng Clan had fallen into obscurity as one of the lowliest clans of the world.

This time, although the thirty-six peak factions and a hundred and eight first-tier factions hadn't launched a direct attack against Dusk Province or undermined Lu Yun's efforts to repair the dao immortal realm, their actions had still been recorded into the immortal dao.

It was an undeniable future outlook that the various factions of the world would decline, and that the nine majors would see a concentration of power in their hands.

Just as Lu Yun had said, he'd been theorizing how to save dao immortals under the old system. That was why he hadn't swiftly gone to the Dao Tree and broken it to incorporate the new dao immortal realm into the immortal dao.

According to Ge Long, Lu Yun and Qing Yu would receive the blessing of the immortal dao when they came together as dao partners. That might grant current dao immortals a ray of hope, but that was just a possibility.

Dao immortals were the elites of the current world of immortals and they would play an important role in guarding the World Gates after ninety-nine years. It didn't make sense for Lu Yun to abandon them, nor was it appropriate.

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At the foot of Mount Xuanhuang, Lu Yun and Qing Yu sat face to face, jointly pushing the feng shui luopan to its limit to deduce everything they could about the dao immortal realm.

Donglin Taihuang had been dismantled, his cosmic constitution granting Xing Chen's body a starry radiance after being absorbed. Moreover, the Cosmic Sea, Cosmic Eyes, and Cosmic Skycarver had been fully incorporated into the replica as well. Xing Chen was well on his way to becoming a humanoid treasure.

"That's it." Qing Yu suddenly opened her eyes and dismissed formula dao with a wave of her hand. Lu Yun looked at her expectantly.

"Once Xing Chen becomes a humanoid treasure exceeding the level of connate-grade peerless treasures, the cosmos he projects will be the real constellations—a starry sky identical to the one in the firmament of the world of immortals!

“His rules of existence will shine upon all worlds and complete the immortal dao, which will then illuminate the multiverse according to those cosmic rules and reverse the current order. The dao immortal realm today will be transformed wholesale into the new system!”

Qing Yu’s cheeks flushed red. This was all predicated on them becoming dao partners and receiving the blessing of the immortal dao and all beings in the world.

“Based on our previous thinking, the new void realm is accessible only to immortals of this world. Beyond the gates, space itself has become lifeless ruins of desolation. Still, there resides just as many living souls as in the world of immortals, struggling for hope and survival.”

When the Dao Flower bloomed, it’d granted Qing Yu a bird’s eye view over the many worlds in the universe. Although she hadn’t gotten a clear look at the worlds themselves, she’d seen their denizens.

“If we follow the original plan, we’ll abandon them completely and rob them of all hope. But if your replica can reach greater heights than connate-grade peerless treasures and the great emperor realm, he’ll be able to create a real cosmos outside the world of immortals. Even the immortals outside this world will be able to ascend to the new dao immortal realm!”

Qing Yu levelled an intense stare at Lu Yun. “The five organs of the world are what have accelerated Xing Chen to the great emperor realm. They bear the will of Great Emperor Xuan Yuan, which is why Xing Chen has reached his current cultivation level.”

“I won’t be able to raise Xing Chen beyond great emperor realm or a connate-grade peerless treasure, even with all the time in the world.” Lu Yun smiled wryly. “It’s just not possible, given my limited strength.”

Before Emperors Fall, the world had been a vast and terrifying place, densely populated with connate cultivators who descended upon the world with great power.

There had been countless major worlds like the current world of immortals at the time. If the modern world of immortals was placed back in that era, it’d be no greater than an insignificant particle. In those days, tens of thousands of great clans thrived and each of them counted at least one great emperor in their ranks.

The great emperors had existed because there was such a great denominator in population number. Thousands of major worlds just as great as the world of immortals, if not greater, answered to their command.

Even then, there had been no more than twenty individuals who exceeded this realm. They were the true elites, dominating over the pecking order of the world.

The great dao and rules of the time were superior to those of today as well. Countless wars had shattered the world, and the living souls then could reach tremendous heights despite primal cultivation methods. Even crude and unfinished combat arts and techniques wielded power that could threaten heaven and earth.

Combat arts and battle techniques were improving nowadays because the world was changing, and the primal methods were eliminated for their inability to adapt to the new world order. As the times changed, cultivation methods had grown increasingly intricate.

Failure to adapt to the evolving world meant elimination—such was survival of the fittest.

In other words, there could be no great emperors in this world before the dao immortal realm was repaired and the immortal dao returned as the pillar of the world.

Xing Chen had become a great emperor only due to the heritage of the underworld's holy kings and the five world's organs. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to achieve the feat on his own, even in the kingdom of hell.

Qing Yu must have deduced a way to exceed the realm of great emperors, or she wouldn't make such a suggestion.

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"There are two conditions to fulfill!" Qing Yu met Lu Yun's eyes. "First, the five peerless treasures! Corpsefire, Dusk River, Traceless, living soil, and the zombie tree! Second, the nine connate spirit roots in the world!"

Originally, there'd been nine on the list. The tenth spirit root, Emperor Sunflower, had emerged afterwards to bear the immortal dao's Sol Truefire. Its own flame didn't completely ignite until the sunflower devoured the star core above the Embittered Ocean.

"The zombie tree won't be a problem, I branded it before it escaped. It's now in the West Sea, but it looks like the demon god's taken over its body. The nine connate spirit roots, on the other hand..." Lu Yun responded awkwardly.

### **Chapter 815: For All Life In the End**

The nine connate spirit roots were the only ones of their kind and something to be encountered only through luck. Apart from the Emperor Sunflower, Qing Yu also possessed the Fusang Purewood, Embittered Bamboo, and Moon Osmanthus. Since her poison curse had been completely eradicated, she no longer needed these treasures.

Meanwhile, the Chaos Lotus, first of the great spirit roots, was very likely in the hands of Ling Rumeng of the Ling Clan. And Ling Rumeng... was in the Dao Academy.

Boundless yearning and veneration blossomed for the academy once the thirty-six peak factions took their leave, and more than a million immortals matriculated over the next couple of days. Even dao immortals bowed their lofty heads to enroll as disciples.

They all remembered what Lu Yun had said; that, if it wasn't to save them, he would've long shattered the Dao Tree and facilitated the appearance of the new dao immortal realm. This naturally affected Ling Rumeng as well.

Many knew that the greatest spirit root beneath the heavens was in her possession, so her primary motive in coming to the Dao Academy was to seek asylum.

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"The Chaos Lotus is already in Dusk Province," said Qing Yu. "And I've figured out the whereabouts of the eighth spirit root, Constellation Willow. Except..."

“Except what?” Lu Yun’s heart clenched when he heard the name “Constellation Willow”. He had a bad feeling about this.

“You’ve already guessed it—the desolate willow in the Skandha Range is the manifestation of that spirit root.” Qing Yu raised her head and looked to the north. “What else other than the manifestation of a connate spirit root could keep that place under control?”

The Skandha Range needed the desolate willow to hold down the fort. At the same time, however, it was a very costly move to facilitate the evolution of a connate spirit root into a monster spirit, as well as incorporate the Azure Dragon, White Tiger, Vermilion Bird, and Black Tortoise into the tomb. The Skandha Extinction Tomb not only cursed the four cardinal tribes, but all of the divine race itself, and had even nurtured four terrifying blood demons.

As for whether the fiend behind it all, a character that even Ge Long was wary of, was dead or alive in the current age—well, Lu Yun had no way of determining that.

Currently, Ge Long exerted full control over the Skandha Extinction Tomb, and the desolate willow hailed Lu Yun as its master because of the old servant. But, in order to ascend beyond the great emperor realm, Xing Chen had to swallow the nine great spirit roots, thereby spelling the desolate willow’s death.

“Your luopan can leverage the presence of the spirit roots we currently have to determine where the rest are.” Qing Yu quickly changed the topic when she saw Lu Yun’s forbidding expression. “I have a hunch that all ten spirit roots are in the world of immortals.”

Someone had once used her as a pawn with which to collect the great spirit roots, which in turn bequeathed her heightened sensitivity to them.

“Let’s set this matter aside for now. I’m making a trip to the West Sea to bring back the zombie tree,” sighed Lu Yun.

The desolate willow had resolved many a great trouble for him when he was still weak, and the Star Demon Sect of the Skandha Range had been of tremendous help to him. After the great war, when danger still ran rampant in the world, the desolate willow had stood out to shelter many fragile beings, protecting them within the mountain range.

He was loath to do anything that would hurt it.

Alas, Ge Long was right in that there was no absolute good or evil in the world, just different perspectives.

Hummm.

Mount Xuanhuang suddenly trembled as a small fissure opened in the void. A man dressed in blue stepped out from the sky.

“Is someone here?” Qing Yu looked around alertly, but the man didn’t register in her eyes.

“What are you doing here? Aren’t you worried that I’ll shoot you where you stand?” Lu Yun’s expression shifted slightly when he saw the newcomer.

Lu Shenhou!

Though Lu Yun had defeated Lu Shenhou last time, he hadn't killed his long-time rival. Lu Shenhou was a very unique existence that almost seemed not to exist. There didn't seem to be anyone who could see him, apart from Lu Yun, and Qing Yu was no exception.

"I'm here to give you some advice." Lu Shenhou's eyes shone brightly, but he spoke to Lu Yun in an odd tone. "You need to think carefully—there's only one great emperor beneath the heavens right now, and it's you! Your replica is the greatest powerhouse in the world, and you can be the sovereign of the entire multiverse with just a casual thought!

"Why should you sacrifice this invincible replica for the sake of ants scabbling in the dirt?"

"Our principles are different, so we walk different paths." Lu Yun smiled at Lu Shenhou. "What I do is not for the sake of all life or the world. I'm just following my heart. My house is at peace when the world is at peace, I just want to create an easier life for myself."

"Hahahaha—" Lu Shenhou threw his head back with laughter. "With your replica as a great emperor, you can suppress all of life and time with your strength alone. Those ruins outside the world of immortals? You can revitalize them with just the snap of a finger!

"You can reshape this realm as you will and annihilate all of the yin spirits plaguing the realm. Why go to all of this extraneous effort to repair the path of immortality and have the immortal dao pass through the heavens?"

"You can head to the World Gates right now and obliterate all of those would-be invaders with one blow. You would liberate the previous nine celestial emperors just like that!

"You are a great emperor now, one on the level of those before Emperors Fall. You have the strength to destroy the heavens and reshape the universe. You can resolve all problems in a split second!

"So why? Why sacrifice yourself for the good of others? So the immortal dao is broken, let it stay broken. You are as carefree as can be by being a great emperor. Is this kind of life not easy enough for you?"

"Or are you afraid, afraid that the so-called bad omens of being an 'emperor' will search you out?"

The will of the immortal dao in Mount Xuanhuang slowly stirred to wakefulness, a hint of confusion in its nebulous thoughts.

Lu Yun shook his head. "You don't understand."

"I don't understand?" Lu Shenhou's eyes widened. This was hardly the reaction he expected after that delivery.

"That's right, you don't understand." Lu Yun nodded. "I, too, am a part of all living beings. Though my replica is a great emperor, it is still part of life itself."

He reached out and closely inspected his hands. "Look, are my hands different from the ants you speak of? From the height of the heavens, is there a difference between ants and dragons?"

Lu Shenhou jerked, taken aback and lacking a response.

“Since this body of a great emperor wasn’t supposed to be mine in the first place, why should I be reluctant to part with it? The disasters outside of the world can’t be resolved with my strength alone. There were existences that also exceeded great emperor during the time of Emperors Fall as well, but they too perished in the end. Xuan Yuan willingly went to his death because he wanted to keep hope alive for later generations.

“A calamity for all living beings must be resolved by the combined strength of everyone. Look at the various life forms in the world of immortals and look at the beings struggling for dear life in the wrecked outer realms. Don’t they all have their own hopes and dreams?

“Only when I act for all life, will life move for me. If I hang onto this great emperor replica today, I will surely meet with misfortune some other day. My soul will be shattered, but there will later come another descendant who inherits all that I have and sets foot on this same path.” Lu Yun sighed with emotion. “Honestly, this is all hot air in the end. It’s not that I’m being forced into this, but...”

Only a common Earth saying could express his feelings now. “There are some things that money can’t buy! The hell you gonna do about it, huh?”

Lu Shenhou blinked, dazed.

“So it’s you, Lu Shenhou!” Qing Yu exclaimed. She could somehow see him now!

### **Chapter 816: This Bloody Immortal Dao**

“I... find myself convinced.” A trace of dejection appeared on Lu Shenhou’s face. “We are all part of life, so why do we seek to set ourselves apart from others and look down on them?

“We would then find ourselves completely isolated at the end of everything. What a lonely existence,” he sighed, “I finally understand Xuan Yuan, Ling Weiyang, and Bai Qiaojun, and why they did what they did. They too viewed themselves as part of the greater circle of life.”

Qing Yu looked at Lu Yun, who remained silent.

“My name is Zhi Guangji,” he suddenly voiced his real name. “I am already dead, but became an akasha ghost because I nursed great resentment.”

Lu Yun’s heart skipped a beat. An akasha ghost!

Those entities had weighed heavily on his heart for a very long time, and now Lu Shenhou—er, Zhi Guangji professed himself to be one of them!

What were akasha ghosts? Or rather, what turned into them?

Only by thoroughly understanding them could he target his actions accordingly and find a way to counter them. He’d heard of the name Zhi Guangji before, it was one often mentioned with Ling Weiyang and Xuan Yuan.

“This is the Immortal Myriadtree. In the time before Emperors Fall, the three founders read the cadence of immortal dao from this tree and created it that way.” Instead of discussing akasha ghosts with Lu Yun, Zhi Guangji opened his hand to reveal a sapling. The Immortal Myriadtree was also known as the second greatest spirit root of the rankings, listed beneath only the Chaos Lotus.

The time before Emperors Fall had been one of countless great daos illuminating the heavens. Human dao was the greatest among them, ruling over the world and reigning supreme over all other great daos.

It was in that age of glory that the immortal dao appeared, that the three founders were inspired by what they comprehended from the spirit root. Accepting the Immortal Myriadtree, Lu Yun nodded gently.

“If the second greatest connate spirit root bears the cadence of the immortal dao, then the greatest spirit root... the Chaos Lotus...” he murmured subconsciously.

“They extracted the cadence from the Lotus Root and melded it into the immortal dao. What the Immortal Myriadtree holds is just the prototype.” An extremely mysterious look appeared on Zhi Guangji’s face and he waved a hand.

Lu Yun discovered with immense shock that his longtime rival seemed to have isolated this patch of space from the world. Time had stopped; everyone apart from the two of them were frozen in this moment of time—Qing Yu included.

“Now, I’ll use the last tendril of my strength to tell you the greatest taboo beneath the heavens: the secrets behind Emperors Fall and akasha ghosts.” His words had just echoed when the sky turned blood-red. Desolate howls and anguished wails rose while horrifying ghost faces appeared in the sky, snarling as they pounced on the duo.

“Away with you!” Zhi Guangji whipped his head back, his face ghastly white and his features beginning to blur. They turned into a ghost face drawn on a piece of paper, one that seemed to be both crying and laughing at the same time.

An akasha ghost! That was what he’d turned to.

The color in the skies instantly receded, bone-chilling cries and terrible faces immediately disappearing. Clear blue skies returned above them.

Zhi Guangji maintained the appearance of an akasha ghost and his voice began to fade in and out.

“Human dao is what it is because humans created it. The brand of humanity is imprinted on it, so all other lifeforms must take human form to cultivate it. Immortal dao is the path of all life because all of their brands are imprinted on it.”

Down in hell, cross-legged in front of the Karma Tree, Ge Long lowered his head with a soft sigh.

At the foot of Mount Xuanhuang, Zhi Guangji looked at the towering mountain in front of him. “In those times, the rhythm and rules of the world were exceptionally clear. Life was plentiful, and great emperors arose from any race that could cultivate.

“A certain special existence felt that there were too many great emperors in the lands, so she commenced a great slaughter across the universe. However, someone stopped her not long after she began.”

Lu Yun shifted uncomfortably; he’d heard of Carmine Eternal’s great feats before.

“The brand of a race can be found in the great dao wielded by their great emperor!” Zhi Guangji declared gravely.

A dreadful speculation rose in Lu Yun’s mind. Ge Long had once done something tremendous, something that shook the world and terrorized all life. It’d been so devastating that he didn’t dare speak of it even now, while Lu Yun had long surmised who the old servant was.

“Those great emperors, ah those great emperors, they too were pathetic worms in the end. A lifetime of cultivation was served on a silver platter to another. The battle of Emperors Fall was a massacre conducted by the three founders of immortal dao and a few other personages to butcher all of the great emperors in the land, so that strands of their great dao could be stripped fresh from their bodies to be incorporated into the immortal dao!

“A myriad of great emperors perished and oceans of blood were not enough to describe the carnage. Dying in the keens and wails of the universe, those great emperors grew strong again from their resentment.

“However, their resentment was so strong that it took control of them instead and turned them into akasha ghosts to haunt the newly born immortal dao. That bloody path you see upon the void realm isn’t dyed with the blood of later geniuses, but from the blood of great emperors!

“Oh, this bloody immortal dao!

“People tried to stop the battles of Emperors Fall, of course. I was one of them, and I died for my troubles. They extracted my great dao as well and melded it into the immortal dao, so I too became an akasha ghost. I am the only one who can break free of the immortal dao and walk the world.

“Akasha ghosts are the ghosts of the heavenly dao. Once our great dao became part of the immortal dao, so did we become its akasha ghosts.” Zhi Guangji reached out and caressed the mountain in front of him.

“When all was said and done, they recorded all of the great dao they’d stolen onto a piece of bronze, which is why bronze later became the sacrificial metal for immortal dao...” Zhi Guangji’s voice grew softer and softer, fading along with his figure. The backlash for revealing such a secret was patently enormous, and his life brand was slowly disappearing.

“You are willing to sacrifice your great emperor replica for the sake of all life, and Xuan Yuan, Ling Weiyang, and Bai Qiaoju went to their deaths for the sake of future generations... But not everyone possesses such a selfless heart...”

“I have one more question!” Lu Yun quickly raised. “Why did the three founders create immortal dao, and why did they use the great daos of all the great emperors to strengthen it? What is the immortal dao to the world?”

“Hahahaha—” Zhi Guangji roared with laughter. “Because life and the world will continue on only when they flourish beneath an immortal dao that belongs to all life!

“But what does the survival of all beings and the corruption of the world have to do with those august, hallowed great emperors...”



“It turns out we were the ones in the wrong. In the end, we are all a part of life.”

Pop!

His body suddenly exploded like a popped balloon, then vanished without a trace.

“Now that you know about this matter... bury it deep in your heart.” Ge Long’s voice sounded deep in Lu Yun’s mind.

“You’re right,” the young man murmured. “There is no such thing as good or evil in the world, and nothing about who’s right or wrong. It’s just really... all a matter of perspective. To the heavens, what difference is there between a great emperor and a grain of sand?”

### **Chapter 817: The Far Reaches of the West Sea**

Lu Yun’s mood took a downward turn after he learned the truth behind Emperors Fall and what akasha ghosts were comprised of. It wasn’t a sinking sense of fear or dread, but of sympathy.

“Senior Zhi Guangji is right, this path of immortal dao is drenched with blood.”

Ge Long was silent for a very long time. “But... we had no choice...”

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Each of the four immortal seas held a great secret. The North Sea possessed the dragon tomb, the underworld could be found in the East Sea, and the far reaches of the West Sea met with the Black Sea.

The Black Sea was as its name, filled with waters the color of pure ink. However, it wasn’t a dead sea. Life brimmed in its depths and the shade of their home didn’t seem to affect them. A strange primordial ruin could be found at its end, which was where the fur seals resided.

Yuchi Tianhuang had stumbled upon it a long time ago and traveled back a hundred and fifty thousand years, where he met Xuan Yu and relayed the condition of modern times to the immortals of the Primordial Era.

Lu Yun had visited the West Sea once, but only for a short duration as his primary purpose was to disrupt Dongfang Hao’s tribulation. He hadn’t had time to probe the ends of the West Sea.

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“Why did you have to bring me?!” Perched on Lu Yun’s shoulder, the little fox grumbled unhappily, “The Black Sea is too strange! We didn’t like coming here even in the Primordial Era!”

She swung her head furiously in great denial, calling forth crisp chimes from the golden bell around her neck as she did so.

“So you finally remember who you are?” Lu Yun glared at the fox. “Out with it, where did you send the Deaf Prince and the others?”

“They’re in the celestial master tomb. They’ll come back when they fully refine Vastspace Mountain and the Timelight Tower.” The little fox looked a bit guiltily at Lu Yun with her baby blue eyes.

“Hello? Did you forget that I’m a holy king of the underworld??” Lu Yun’s glare sharpened with intensity. “Someone took away those two treasures a long time ago!”

Miao shrank in on herself and didn’t dare say another word.

“And Yu Hengluo! Where did you take Yu Hengluo?!” Frustration bubbled in Lu Yun’s heart. He’d found the girl after she vanished from the celestial master tomb and placed her beneath Mount Xuanhuang. Intending to use the power of the immortal dao to heal her, he’d been blindsided to find that she’d vanished a second time!

Lu Yun still didn’t know why there were two versions of her, but had keenly picked up a trace of the little fox’s presence where the second one had vanished. So Miao was behind Yu Hengluo’s disappearance as well!

The little fox stretched out two fat paws and slapped them over her eyes, playing an admirable imitation of being deaf and dumb.

Lu Yun grabbed her by the scruff of the neck and peered viciously into her face. Miao hung her head and went limp in his hand, the very picture of not responding to anything he would do to her.

Fox in hand, Lu Yun headed for the far reaches of the Black Sea. The zombie tree was located where it ended, where the nest of fur seals lay.

The demon god had already conquered the fur seals and allied with Dongfang Hao to exert complete control over the West Sea. The West Sea court was no longer, and countless monster immortals had fled their home to be absorbed by the other three marine factions.

It was a ghost town in the West Sea these days; there was no one present apart from the fur seals and some mundane beings that couldn’t leave. The merchant alliance had established many branches in the West Sea as well, but they’d all been pulled up by the roots, their wealth and resources claimed by the fur seals.

There wasn’t anything the merchant alliance could do in retaliation since the demon god backed the fur seals—they could only withdraw from the West Sea. As things stood now, the West Sea was almost completely isolated from the rest of the world.

“What happened here?” Lu Yun passed by countless islands along the way, but they were all deserted. Most of them were drenched with blood and littered with corpses. An ugly expression descended upon him as he read their information with the Spectral Eye.

Fur seals had slaughtered them all. Their souls were gone, leaving behind empty husks of bodies. A faint air of resentment floated over the West Sea, but it gave birth to no vicious ghosts or malicious spirits.

“What do those fur seals want to do?” Lu Yun lifted his head to look at the ends of the Black Sea, where a great tree shadowed half of its waters. A demonic air wreathed forebodingly around it, making it more terrifying than the zombie tree he’d once seen.

It’d reached peak human king realm and would become a great emperor upon taking one small step forward!

Lu Yun’s brow furrowed tight.

“Let’s go, the zombie tree is no longer something I can handle,” he sighed and turned to leave.

His replica could’ve defeated even a demon tree on the verge of becoming a great emperor, but they were at the far reaches of the West Sea... If two personages such as they had a great battle here, then all four great oceans would suffer from the fallout.

Apart from a few special locations in the current world of immortals, there was no other place that could endure a clash between great emperors. Once the four great oceans were impacted, the twenty-three facets would lose their bindings and immediately disassemble, becoming twenty-three independent worlds. They’d also become instant fodder for the yin ghosts outside of the World Gates.

The demon god knew about Lu Yun’s replica, so he very smartly didn’t conceal himself in the primordial ruins. Instead, he rooted the demonic tree at the far reaches of the West Sea to await Lu Yun’s arrival.

Once the immortal dao was repaired and connected heaven and earth, he’d become the first great emperor beneath it. Lu Yun already knew how to fix things, it was just a matter of whether or not he was willing to discard the current dao immortals.

“Since the headmaster has visited from afar, why leave in such a hurry?” A clear voice sounded in the air as the demon god walked out wearing black robes.

Lu Yun halted and looked at the speaker. This was the demon god’s human form, the body that’d become a void-ascended immortal. It was a replica, and because it cultivated the immortal dao, that enabled the demon god’s primary body to become one beneath the immortal dao.

“What am I supposed to do instead? Have a few drinks with you?” Lu Yun snorted with laughter.

“I happen to have some fine wine here, so it would be just as well if we had a few drinks.” The demon god swept his arm out in an inviting gesture.

Lu Yun nodded slightly and followed his enemy further into the ends of the West Sea. Both sky and earth were black beneath the demonic tree, and everything wafted a faint demonic air.

Wine the color of blood flowed into a cup; Lu Yun lifted it with decorum and drained it in one go.

“This is fine wine.” He smacked his lips appreciatively. The wine was blood-red and very strong, but there wasn’t any tang of blood to it.

The demon god drained his cup as well.

“I didn’t kill the creatures of the West Sea. The fur seals have turned traitor and taken the Ichor Bog with them, heavily injuring Sword Divine Dongfang Hao as well. Almost all of his men are dead,” the demon god raised after savoring the taste of his wine. “My ideal future is to take root in the core of the multiverse and assimilate my demonic dao into the immortal dao, thereby becoming the sovereign of all life under demonic dao.

“Thus, I wouldn’t kill the immortals here like this.”

## **Chapter 818: The Demon God’s Master**

The demon god deeply cherished his dream future—he wanted to imitate the primeval shamans and control the immortal dao through melding demonic dao into it, pioneering a demonic immortal dao! Therefore, he would never go on a senseless rampage. In his eyes, all living beings were his future followers and worshippers.

He was no madman, he just wanted to turn the world of immortals, the universe, and the entire multiverse into demonic soil. He didn't want to annihilate all life.

But now, someone was controlling the fur seals and had used them to butcher all of the cultivators and immortals of the West Sea. They'd even collected all of the fragmented souls, true spirits, and his Ichor Bog!

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Lu Yun put down the cup and looked at the demon god with a shake of his head.

"I know why you're here, and I can give you the corrupted zombie tree." The demon god sighed when he flicked a glance at the tree behind him. "I can't oppose that one... I'm far from being his match. His demonic nature is stronger than mine and his will far superior.

"My ideal is to create a matchless era of demonic immortal dao, but he wants to destroy all life. He's a complete madman."

Lu Yun blinked.

"You've completely refined the Exalted divine emperor's true spirit, and the demonic tree is the best body for it. You'll be infinitely close to being a great emperor if you coalesce a nascent spirit... are you really willing to give up all of that?" Lu Yun asked curiously.

"I don't want to die," the demon god responded seriously. "The moment I form my nascent spirit and truly control the tree will be the moment of my execution. He won't let go of me this easily!

"He could seize even my Ichor Bog, to say nothing of a demonic tree that I've just gained. He's just waiting for me to grow into my strength."

"Who is he and what is his relationship with you?" Lu Yun asked in response.

"He is my master and was dismembered by a certain taboo existence. He was kept in four coffins and used a little bit of his nature to create the four blood demons. Now he's come back to life and taken his place in the world again..." murmured the demon god.

Lu Yun shuddered violently. The demon god's master was the terrifying being that Ge Long had segmented and buried in the four evil coffins, the ones voluntarily created by the elders of the four divine spirits!

He'd thought that Ge Long had completely destroyed the fiend after taking control of the four demons, but now it walked the earth again!

"I will give you this demonic tree if you let me seek asylum in the Dao Academy and have me for its dean of demonic dao," the demon god suddenly offered.

Lu Yun thought for a moment, then nodded his acquiesce. The immortal dao was the primary pillar of the Dao Academy and the paths of all could be found within it. Divine dao, shamanic dao, and demonic dao all fell within its purview.

The current dean of divine dao was Zhaoqing, Lu Yun's tenth Yama King, and the dean of shamanic dao was Xingzi. Demonic dao was a premier great dao as well, but its dean position had remained empty all this time. The five heavyweights of the Star Demon Sect were unwilling, and indeed they also lacked the qualifications for the role.

It was a perfect match if the demon god joined the Dao Academy.

"I will allow it," responded Lu Yun. "But you can't do as you wish after you join the Dao Academy as our head of demonic dao. You can't invade the other schools just because you want to."

"Naturally." A smile appeared on the demon god's face while the towering demonic tree pulled itself up, shrinking to a sapling the height of three inches. It landed in his hand, which the demon god then gave over to Lu Yun.

After he took possession of it, Lu Yun sent the tree to hell.

"My darling disciple, so you've betrayed your master and given something your master favors to someone else!" An aged voice suddenly rang out, one slightly fuming with rage.

"My master's here!" Gasping in horror, the demon god exploded a hundred million tons of seawater with a wave of a hand, filling the air with black mist to blot out their surroundings. This black seawater was so peculiar that it could obstruct not only the eye, but the mind as well.

"We need to go!" The demon god's body could no longer endure the pressure of a great emperor's true spirit after he'd given up the demonic tree, so he didn't dare release his strength—he could only grab Lu Yun and run.

"No rush, I'd like to see what kind of being your master is." Twin flashes of starlight glowed in Lu Yun's eyes, and he somehow traded places with Xing Chen in the next second.

Without further ado, the presence of a peak great emperor bloomed over the West Sea. Its appearance heralded the manifestation of an immortal dao that ran through the world, a path of immortality that dripped with scarlet blood.

"It's you?!" Fear and incredulity suddenly tinged the aged voice, and an elder dressed in black robes appeared in front of Lu Yun. His features were indiscernible and black energy wrapped around him. A kind of destructive, ruinous desire projected unabashedly from his emotions.

"It's me?" Lu Yun blinked, understanding what the old man meant. Somehow, this wasn't the first time that this elder had met him, and he knew the level of strength that Xing Chen wielded.

That put Lu Yun on high alert. Within hell, the Dusk River, corpsefire, Traceless, living soil, and demonic tree sent energy to Xing Chen through the Tome of Life and Death, further strengthening the replica.

"Do you know me?" asked Lu Yun.

“DIE!!” came the answer. The elder erupted into motion and brought down a pitch-black blade of light onto Xing Chen.

“What the fuck, crazy old man!” Lu Yun roared. He hadn’t thought that the elder would start a battle here without a further word!

Though the old man wasn’t a great emperor, he wielded the strength of one! A clash between two great emperors would be enough to level the West Sea and disassemble the world of immortals! It was at this point when Lu Yun finally understood what the demon meant by “madman”.

Didn’t this elder know that once the West Sea exploded and the world broke apart, the resulting backlash would blow even great emperors to pieces?

Is he really not afraid of death??

The black blade came down on Lu Yun’s head with the momentum to doom the world. Its light glinted with boundless hatred, and even Lu Yun had no idea where all this hatred came from. There wasn’t any time for him to consider this at present, however. Traceless appeared in his hand and he gripped it in a backhanded riposte, meeting the blade of light head-on.

“Bastards, do you want to destroy the world of immortals?!” a furious roar descended from the heavens.

An enormous bell and cauldron dropped from above and smashed at Lu Yun and the elder, wanting to separate the two. The experts of the Purple and Crimson Firmaments had arrived in the nick of time with the sword bell and sword cauldron.

The combined might of the two treasures manifested something like a minor world, summoning a primordial ruin located beneath the Black Sea—the fur seals’ home. When it appeared, it sucked Lu Yun, the demon god’s master, the sword cauldron, and sword bell into it.

Kabooooooooom.

And then it exploded.

### **Chapter 819: Lieshan**

Agonizing pain pierced straight through Lu Yun’s body, assaulting his mind in waves. All of his tendons and bones felt like they’d been ground to paste and were being barely held together by the poor sac of his battered skin.

Suddenly, he felt something wet and warm touch his cheek. He struggled to open his eyes and saw the little fox lying prone next to his ear, unconsciously licking the blood on his face. She looked as broken as Lu Yun.

“This is my primary body. What’s going on? My primary body was in the kingdom of hell. How did I get here and in this state?” Dazed, Lu Yun took stock of his condition. His blood vessels, flesh, meridians, and bones were all blended together like dumpling filling. He couldn’t sense the six paths of his nascent spirit, the kingdom of hell, or Xing Chen. Even the Tome of Life and Death was nowhere to be seen.

What little immortal force remained in him was the only thing keeping him alive. Once it expired, his primary body would, too. And since he couldn't sense his nascent spirit, the death of his body would mean the actual death of him.

"What's going on? What the heck happened?" This was the worst injury he'd ever suffered since setting foot on the path of cultivation, and he'd never been this close to death before.

Waves of intense pain returned with redoubled fury and muddled his mind. Right before he fell unconscious, he heard a back and forth of some unknown language.

Then, there was only darkness.

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"Ancestors' spirits bless us."

"Ancestors' spirits bless us."

"May the men of Ning Village return safely with a bountiful harvest."

"May the men of Ning Village return safely with a bountiful harvest."

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Piercing yodels cut through the serenity of dawn. Ten men donning heavy leather armor with bows on their backs and sharp weapons in their hands marched into the dense forest before them, their steps unified and heads held high. They were in fine fettle and their collective presence imposing.

Half a year ago, a hunting group had brought Lu Yun and the little fox out of this very forest. After six months of arduous effort, the Ning people managed to bring them back from the brink of death, but only just.

It'd taken all this time for Lu Yun to recover, and he was currently no different from a fragile, ordinary mortal. His cultivation and immortal force were lost, and his constitution was in the same state as when he'd first arrived in the world of immortals.

A connate dormant bloodline with no capability to cultivate.

The little fox was in no better state. She'd also lost all of her cultivation and eight of her puffy tails. She'd even lost the ability to speak.

Without Lu Yun, she would die a quick death. The bell hanging around her neck was still there, however. Lu Yun had checked it thoroughly, but it seemed to be an ordinary item with nothing unusual about it.

The real issue at hand was that Lu Yun had no idea where he was. The explosion of the ruin had been too dreadful and he'd been blasted unconscious as soon as it went off. Even a great emperor with a world's body couldn't withstand its might.

Over the past few days since he'd awoken, he'd observed the constellations in the sky and discovered that they were no different from those in the world of immortals, save for some minor differences. He must be somewhere in the world of immortals, in a corner that no one knew anything about.

The world of immortals was vast. No one, contemporary or from the Primordial Era, had ever explored every inch of the world. That left many pockets of unknown territories. He must have been thrown here by the explosion—an undeveloped utopia of tranquility far removed from the struggles of the world of immortals.

I should focus on recovery for now. As long as I live, the Yama Kings of the Ten Halls and my Infernum will be safe and sound. Qing Yu won't be worried either.

He slowly closed his eyes and observed the many realms of the world with his nascent spirit observation method and deployed the breathing method of the five elements at the same time. In his weakened state and losing his spirit root, he couldn't employ the Method of Life and Death, but could practice the three cultivation methods he'd created: the breathing method, nascent spirit method, and body tempering method.

I've lost my connection to the Tome of Life and Death and in turn, my connection to the kingdom of hell where all my treasures are. Lu Yun chuckled wryly to himself.

He would immediately set foot on the path of cultivation again if he could get his hands on a single Aurum Openia Pill. After he recovered the Tome of Life and Death, all problems would be easily resolved. However, he'd have to ascend to immortality if he wanted to locate his replica.

The clock was ticking on his ninety-nine years.

If he failed to ascend to immortality again in ninety-nine years, the World Gates would be breached, and Violetgrave would become something even worse than the endless yin spirits. However, given his weak constitution, he had to take baby steps. He had to start with the basics of his breathing and observation method.

The mountains and woods here are rich in resources and energy. It's likely to have grown the ingredients I need for refining an Aurum Openia Pill. Fortunately, the ingredients required are pretty commonplace. What makes the pill rare is the difficulty of its refinement.

Lu Yun went over some mental plans. He would enter the mountain to search for the ingredients after he'd recovered enough. Even if he couldn't refine the pill, he could at least create medicine with the same properties. He wasn't too pessimistic about things, and his primary goal was to return to the path of cultivation and recover the Tome of Life and Death.

"Brother Lieshan, Brother Lieshan!" a lilting voice called out. A girl roughly thirteen years old came up to him with a spring in her steps.

The past six months had proven time enough for him to learn the language here. Lieshan was the name he'd given himself. He didn't dare use his real name in a place he didn't know. What if it was part of a territory ruled by some peak factions?

If he was exposed, he'd be killed by the peak factions before the Dao Academy could find him. He couldn't risk it, and picked the name Lieshan out of his nostalgia for Earth.

"Ah Bao." Lu Yun opened his eyes to smile at a fair-skinned girl with clear, big eyes. It was thanks to her care that his injuries had recovered. She was the village chief's granddaughter. Young, but quick on the uptake and clever with her hands.



“Brother Lieshan, the little fox has grown fat enough to be a meal!” She yanked the little fox from Lu Yun’s arms and gave her a good onceover. The little fox struggled in desperate fear, sending Lu Yun pitiful looks.

Ah Bao had talked about eating the little fox more than once over the past six months, but Lu Yun had always opposed the idea, saying the fox was too thin. Now that the little fox had gained enough weight to fill her frame, the girl was highly excited about the prospect of a good meal.

“That’s just as well!” Lu Yun nodded. “I want to get a taste of this fox as well.”

The little fox was ready to burst out into tears.

### **Chapter 820: Qingqiu Mountain, Tushan**

Ah Bao’s pretty eyes immediately creased into crescents from the force of her smile. Without further ado, the little fox stiffened and toppled out of her embrace.

“Now now, no more joking, Ah Bao. Foxes are sentient creatures, so we can’t eat them. No no,” sounded an aged and kindly voice from the distance. An elder with a benevolent expression—the chief of Ning Village—plodded over to them.

“Shan’er, are you feeling better?” Picking up the little fox from the ground, the chief patted her furry little head and placed her back into Ah Bao’s arms.

Ah Bao caressed the fox’s smooth fur with peals of delightful chuckles that tinkled like a silver bell.

“Thank you for your care during this time, grandpa village chief, I feel much better.” Lu Yun jumped down from his boulder of bluestone and stretched mightily. “I’d like to follow the hunters into the forest tomorrow.”

With his current strength, entering the forests of the mountain was to seek death. Horrifying beast roars sounded from the woods from time to time, and given that Lu Yun was less than a mundane mortal at the moment, he’d find nothing but a grisly end if he ventured in.

“We can talk about that later.” The village chief took a seat on the ground and looked closely at Lu Yun. “Shan’er, you don’t seem like a child of the mountains... you seem more like the rich sons of the big villages outside.”

Lu Yun’s heart skipped a beat. In the past six months that he’d recovered in Ning Village, none of the village people had probed for his background. Though this land seemed far removed from the rest of the world, conflicts and strife existed in it all the same. Permitting an outsider to stay with them for half a year was the limit of their tolerance.

“You’re very right, grandpa, I’m not from here... I’m from Nephrite Major,” Lu Yun answered tentatively.

“Nephrite Major?” The village chief and Ah Bao looked at each other, confusion registering in their eyes.

“Where’s Nephrite Major?”

Is this actually a secret realm completely isolated from the world?

Everyone in the world of immortals should know about the twenty-four facets. Even residents of undeveloped secret realms or fringe territories would have a vague notion. Unless, this really was an independent secret realm completely cut off from the rest of the world...

Entering a place like this was difficult, and leaving it even harder!

When they'd restored the void realm, Qing Yu had seen many places like this one during her meld with the immortal dao. Inhabitants of such places were primitive, but possessed great strength. They knew nothing about the world of immortals or of the immortal dao.

Had the primordial ruin sent Lu Yun to one such place after its explosion?

If that was the case, there wasn't much he was worried about. All he had to do was focus on recovery and setting foot on the path of immortality again. Once he recovered the Tome of Life and Death and Xing Chen, he'd be able to return to the world of immortals proper.

"Nephrite Major... is a place very far away. I was gravely injured after a fight with my enemy and fell here." It was better to tell the truth now than shy away from addressing it. One lie needed countless others to make sense out of it, so it was better to just admit what had really happened.

"Then Shan'er is a great expert of wondrous battle techniques?" The village chief smiled.

"Not really a great expert, I just know some methods." Lu Yun shook his head.

"You're being too humble." The village chief's smile deepened. "Alright, rest here in Ning Village. If you wish to enter the mountain, just tell Ah Zhuang and have the hunters take you with them."

He left without further concern about Lu Yun's background. He'd been the one to save the young man, so he knew how Lu Yun had gained his injuries. If Lu Yun had lied just now, he would've been thrown out of the village the next day.

People of the mountain were honest and unsophisticated, but that didn't mean they liked being lied to.

"Ah, wait, grandpa village chief!" Lu Yun quickly called out to the departing elder. "Where is this place?"

He decided to ask the most burning question on his mind in the end. He'd be able to figure out his rough location if he had a name; the only skill he could call upon right now was formula dao.

"Does the little fox not know this place?" The village chief blinked. "This is Qingqiu Mountain. Isn't the little fox Tushan of Qingqiu Mountain?"

Startled, Lu Yun glanced at the fox in Ah Bao's arms. Miao stared blankly right back at him.

Qingqiu Mountain? Tushan?

Weren't those things found in myths and legends?

Were they in a ruin that was an even older fragment of the world, one that perfectly preserved things from a primeval aeon, one in which legendary myths existed?

An even more terrifying thought rose in his mind, but he didn't want to consider it at the moment. The village chief left with Ah Bao, so the fox burrowed back into Lu Yun's arms and looked piteously at him.

“Qingqiu Mountain, Tushan...” Lu Yun frowned ferociously. “I hope it’s not like what I’m thinking. If it is, then...”

“Yip yip yip!” The little fox stretched out a fat paw and scratched Lu Yun’s chest, crying out softly.

“Are you saying you want to go into the mountain and look for that Tushan?”

The little fox hastily bobbed her head up and down.

Lu Yun rose and looked at the unending tops of a forest that wasn’t too tall. He sighed softly, “Let’s wait until we gain a bit more strength. At least... we need to figure out if we’re in a ruin of mythological legend first, or if we’ve traveled through space and time from the West Sea and returned to the past.”

Travel through space and time, returning to the past!

Yuchi Tianhuang had once traveled through the ruins of the West Sea to return to the world of immortals a hundred and fifty thousand years ago. The fur seal nest at the far reaches of the West Sea was a location in which the spacetime continuum was in flux.

The experts of the Crimson and Purple Firmaments had summoned the ruin in order to fend off the destructive power of two great emperors, causing it to explode.

Those idiots of the Crimson and Purple Firmaments only know how to screw things up! But no matter how Lu Yun cursed, there was nothing he could do now.

He’d been about ready to pull the demon god’s master into hell and use the power of the netherworld to dispel the fallout of two great emperors clashing. If it hadn’t been for the newcomers interrupting his death art with their sword bell and cauldron, he would’ve handled things a long time ago.

I wonder how that big demon is doing. Lu Yun sighed, feeling a bit melancholy.

It would’ve been fine if they’d dropped into some isolated ruin from the time of myths and legends, but if they really had traveled back in time... he didn’t know what to do. In fact, he didn’t even know how to find his way back.