

Necropolis 861

Chapter 861: Becoming the Seal

Suffocation wrapped around Lu Yun the moment his primary body set foot into chaos. Though there was no oxygen among the stars, there was the boundless energy of the world, so he wasn't affected when traveling the cosmos.

But here in the chaos, there was only a wispy, subtle air flow of chaos. A minor golden core cultivator immediately experienced dire suffocation when they ventured into this place.

As for the little fox, though she only possessed the strength of a true divine at the moment, she had once been a great master of the chaos realm. Her cultivation realm and core essence remained, so she wasn't impacted by the surroundings.

Lu Yun quickly lifted up the golden spirit pearl and activated its energy to protect himself. The suffocating feeling immediately vanished upon him doing so.

"Do I need to break apart my primary body?"

"No need, you and Tushan tried taking out the compass with the Bell of Chaos last time, but the bell recoiled onto the two of you and heavily injured Tushan as well." Fuxi easily guessed what had happened during their last attempt after he made a few deductions.

With Lu Yun's abilities and way of thinking, he naturally would've wanted to set up protections for the Dao Flower after arriving here. Formula dao would've highlighted the luopan in his body as the best tool for the job, but unfortunately, he hadn't been able to take it out of his body.

Their efforts stymied and gravely injured by the backlash, he and the little fox could only opt for erasing their memories of what had happened here.

Fuxi beckoned lightly with his hand and sent the two bamboo scrolls hovering in front of him into Lu Yun's primary body. The youth's eyes shot wide open and he looked a bit incredulously at Fuxi.

He could clearly feel the Yellow River Map and Inscription of the River Luo melding with his body, becoming one with him!

The luopan had been forced into him when they traveled through space and time. Affected by the terrible power, there was temporarily no way of separating it. However, Fuxi had just easily done the same thing with a wave of his hand!

"Use your body as the seal and guard the Dao Flower. Become the guardian of the flower in deed and name!" Fuxi declared solemnly. "The Dao Flower will also be able to protect your primary self. From henceforth, your Xing Chen replica will be Lie Shan, the future great emperor of humanity, first of the great emperor title. You will be the Flame Emperor!"

"When Ah Zhi and Tushan's power dissipates after ninety-nine years, your primary body and replica will be able to return to the future through the Dao Flower."

Lu Yun nodded without a word. He trusted Fuxi; this was his great ancestor and the protector of humanity. So what if Fuxi was lying to trick him into becoming the seal for the Dao Flower? Protecting the flower meant protecting all life within this galaxy. Lu Yun wasn't opposed to doing that.

He reached out and summoned the Dao Flower again; the golden spirit pearl glowed with a hazy radiance that enveloped him and the flower. Then, the luopan, Yellow River Map, and Inscription of the River Luo all materialized at the same time, forming a massive seal that closed around the golden spirit pearl.

Power from heaven and earth originated from the luopan while Fuxi's two great treasures represented the laws and patterns of all things in the world. When the three came together, they immediately formed a small world with the golden spirit pearl as its foundation and the other three treasures as protectors. Even the strongest realm monsters wouldn't be able to breach a world made out of all of these connate treasures!

Lu Yun sat in the middle of this world, his hands cupping the Dao Flower and detached indifference written all over his face.

There was no concept of time here, the space within the seal had also been constructed by the golden spirit pearl. Dao Flower in hand, Lu Yun could use it to peer at all moments of time and clearly see everything that had ever happened in the past.

However, when it came to his own matters, he could only go as far as the moment he left his own world. Everything after that was a foggy mess and he could make out nothing from the murk.

Other than that, there were no more secrets of history hidden from him.

"Ai—" Sighing softly, Lu Yun opted to close his eyes and refrain from delving into these so-called truths.

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"Alright, the rest is up to you. I'm going into the depths of chaos to search for something." Fuxi sounded a bit melancholic as he looked at Lu Yun and the little fox.

"Are you really not going to die from this?" Lu Yun frowned.

"I won't die before those connate demon gods are exterminated." Fuxi smiled and vanished into the reaches of chaos.

"Lu Yun, what do you think Fuxi looks like?" The little fox nuzzled his cheek from her vantage point on his shoulder.

"What does he look like?" Lu Yun asked subconsciously, still looking in the direction of where his great ancestor had disappeared.

"An Exalted Divine." The little fox's tone was gentle. "But there are no Exalted Divines in this time."

Lu Yun trembled. "Do you mean to say that the Exalted Divines aren't divines, but Fuxi's descendants?!"

Exalted Divines possessed human heads and snake bodies. They formed the character for dao when they walked, and they did look remarkably similar to Fuxi.

However, Fuxi currently had no descendants and the Exalted Divines didn't exist at the moment. In fact, the divine race wasn't even in the picture yet.

Divine spirits of the world were in a very primitive stage as tribute spirits nurtured by human priests. Naturally forming divine spirits were only slowly coming into their own, but the core divine spirits were already born and represented the four elements.

It was becoming apparent that the origins of the human race wasn't what people commonly said—a natural occurrence after divine spirits grew so numerous that they split off from human dependency. There were likely a lot more secrets to it.

However, Lu Yun, bearer of the Dao Flower, had already closed his eyes. He didn't wish to look into these bloody secrets any longer.

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Lu Yun safely returned from the chaos with the little fox in tow. Time didn't exist in the chaos, but it existed within them. It'd been about six hours since their departure, and Taiyi's ghost had been standing by the seal all this time. Keeping a constant eye on them, he didn't relax until he saw the little fox return safely.

"I'm going to seal off this ocean of flames." Lu Yun looked at Taiyi.

"Seal off the ocean?" Taiyi frowned slightly, two blazes of ghostly fires igniting in his eyes.

"The strength within this sea is decreasing every second. Even though your corpse is now a sun star, it will dwindle away to nothing one day as well. Therefore, I want to seal this place away to minimize unnecessary consumption." Lu Yun looked intently at Taiyi.

If he sealed off this patch of space, all of its energy would converge onto his ghost, very possibly resulting in him truly scattering to the four corners of the world.

"This is a diagram of the Great Formation of the Nineheavens Gates. Use that to seal away this place." Taiyi sighed and waved his hand, materializing a magnificent palace in front of Lu Yun.

1. The divine race's basic elements are earth, air, fire, and water.

Chapter 862: Three Thousand Sword Daos

"The Great Formation of the Nineheavens Gates?" Lu Yun looked at the grand diagram with shock.

It was grander than he could have ever imagined! Palaces clustered within the diagram, each palace representing a standalone world. There were at least three thousand of them!

It was a formation of three thousand worlds?!

The Great Formation of the Nineheavens Gates wasn't only used to seal away the mother altar in the Xuan Yuan Tomb, but was also employed to protect the ancestral planet of the human race—namely, the planet of the great wilderness.

Fuxi had once served as Taiyi's celestial master and naturally passed on many of his tricks to the celestial emperor, including his knowledge of formations. That had played an important role in establishing the

celestial court, and facilitating Taiyi to become the ruler of the great wilderness, making countless connate demon gods his to command.

“Yes, the Great Formation of the Nineheavens Gates!” Taiyi declared proudly. “Fuxi created and set up many of the formations of the celestial court. Only this great formation is this sole emperor’s invention. It is the most wondrous formation of them all since the world’s creation!”

Eyes bright with curiosity, Lu Yun took a close look at the formation’s internal workings.

“...are you sure you want to seal off this area with this particular formation?” he asked with a frown. “My own formations may not be as powerful, but they’ll give you a chance to survive. This formation, on the other hand, will ensure your demise!”

“And you think this emperor fears that?” Taiyi smiled.

“There is already a way to break through this great formation in the future...” Lu Yun offered hesitantly.

“The future is the future. At this current point in time... there is no other formation more suitable for this purpose.” Taiyi shook his head. He’d made up his mind and his figure was fading fast. Before he vanished completely, he asked in an indistinct voice, “After all this time, do you still refuse to forgive me, Tushan?”

“I forgave you a long time ago.” The little fox popped up and shook her head. “It was you who couldn’t forgive yourself.”

“Hahahaha! I see, that was indeed the case. So I’ve been agonizing myself into a corner all this while.”

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With the final disappearance of the celestial emperor, the last remains of his spirit and soul entered the diagram of the Great Formation of the Nineheavens Gates.

Lu Yun cast out the diagram with a wave of his hand, turning it into a real formation and overshadowing the sea of fire.

Rumble!

Stars trembled and broke out in a unified dirge as melancholy permeated the cosmos.

Soldiers stationed around the ocean of fire cried out in shock and mourning. Residing within the sea of fire all this time, their emperor had truly passed away this time, disappearing from the world without leaving a trace behind.

Under Lu Yun’s guidance and accompanied by general sorrow, the great formation transformed into levels and layers of palaces around the sea of fire. They then converged and shrank in on themselves onto the sun of Taiyi’s body.

In no time, the corpse lost its suncrow form and turned into a real sun star, revolving gently at the center of the great formation.

Rumble!

A giant hand of frost probed out from the void and slammed into the sun, attempting mutual destruction and wanting to take the formation down with them.

The great formation hadn't stabilized yet, and the sun hadn't been fully incorporated. Hence, it was the perfect moment for the realm monster to attack. At the same time, an endless swarm of yin spirits emerged and scattered in all directions.

"Don't even think of touching the formation with me here!" snarled Lu Yun as he riposted in defense.

His sword dao surged, cutting through space as a stream of stars and connecting with the giant palm. Meanwhile, the army stationed by the sea brought their grief under control and charged at the yin spirits.

Without the sea of fire restraining them, the yin spirits grew exponentially more powerful. Even the weakest among them was a true divinity, and some had even reached the chaos realm!

Fortunately, Xing Chen was from the future and equipped with combat arts and tactics much greater than those available to contemporaries. Despite being only at peak empyrean realm, he rivaled a chaos realm expert in real battles!

His sword dao pierced through the sky with a tail of scintillating stars, each of which contained his powerful will. That made for three thousand streams of stars arcing through the cosmos!

Lu Yun's sword dao was on full display; it'd grown out of Violetgrave's shadow and fully come into its own.

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"This, this is Lie Shan's sword dao!" Bai Zhaoju watched in awe as Lu Yun cut down dead spirit after dead spirit beside the Great Formation of the Nineheavens Gates. The human's sword dao far exceeded that of current times. In fact, it was among the most powerful even by the standards of the immortal dao that would exist in the future.

An indescribable glint flashed through Bai Zhaoju's eyes as he digested Lu Yun's dao through observation, extracting valuable knowledge and combining them to form his sword dao. His battle strength immediately grew stronger, his cultivation making considerable leaps from initial divine king realm to peak initial realm, then intermediate divine king realm!

The speed at which he progressed was incredible. More importantly, his foundations remained as solid as ever.

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The realm monster had shown its true form; it appeared to be a giant jellyfish made out of ice and frost. Countless yin spirits swam in and out of its body, and those who ventured out charged at the stars.

Numerous tentacles waved beneath the lower half of the realm monster's body, each of which was attached to a giant palm. Deploying unfamiliar and strange attacks, they grabbed at Lu Yun.

Snarling, he fully manifested his body of the world. His sword dao splintered into three thousand rivers of sword energy, cutting through the incoming tentacles.

The realm monster was too powerful. Although he couldn't determine its cultivation, its battle strength had absolutely reached peak chaos realm. Lu Yun wasn't its match at all. Fortunately, the realm monster's full attention was on the Great Formation of the Nineheavens Gates and the sun star, or the human youth would have had no choice but to flee.

"I can't allow it to destroy the formation!" Concern weighed heavily on him; he hadn't expected the realm monster to be this powerful! Without the sea of fire keeping it in check, it could very well destroy everything here.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Three explosions rang out as three imposing figures appeared out of nowhere and slammed into the realm monster. They were the three connate gods stationed in this area... Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Dusk Snake!

Their combined efforts knocked back the terrifying enemy off the great formation, but a giant eye suddenly popped into existence above them. Its lightless pupil glared down on the human and gods below like it was a black hole.

Chapter 863: The Bell of Chaos Tolls

Lu Yun felt his replica shudder violently the moment the enormous pupil emerged, like it'd discovered high quality prey. Unbidden, he shot upward with Diexi in hand, rising up to the height of the eye.

"...you're not a realm monster!" Lu Yun narrowed his eyes as he looked at the eyeball larger than a star.

Not a realm monster!

He could immediately come to this conclusion now that he was face-to-face with the eyeball.

"Wait, no, you are a realm monster," he suddenly changed his tune. "You're a realm monster that's reincarnated into the great wilderness!"

Being as there was no wheel of reincarnation in this age, no one controlled this process. As long as the great masters didn't fully perish and left a strand of their true spirit intact, there would be hope yet that they could one day return to the world.

Connate gods such as Taiyi, Yinglong, and Kuafu could reincarnate at any time if they so wished and return to the great wilderness in the body of one of their more humble descendants.

However, that was a fate that some connate demon gods would rather avoid at any cost, while those like Yinglong and Taiyi voluntarily became ghosts to fend off the realm monsters and protect their world.

At the same time, realm monsters could also reincarnate into the great wilderness if they met certain conditions. They would then be life forms under the primitive great dao. The enormous eyeball in front of them was one such mighty realm monster that'd reincarnated and ultimately regained its strength!

"Latter-day humans built hell, maintained order of the netherworld, and controlled reincarnation of the multiverse not to enslave all races, but to prevent realm monsters from reincarnating into the great wilderness!" Lu Yun took a deep breath. Everything was falling into place, and he finally knew what he should do from now on.

“But though you’re very strong and infinitely close to being a creator, I will keep you down today!” He took a step forward and explosively deployed the strength of a body of the world.

The heart, liver, spleen, lungs, kidneys, as well as the six yang organs manifested by their yang brethren, all flared with scintillating light at the same time. Lu Yun opened his mouth and emitted an eruption of sword energy that stabbed at the eyeball.

It was just a pair of eyes; he’d dug this eyeball out last time and suppressed it in the cosmos. However, it still contained boundless might. If the three chaos realm experts beneath him ran into it, they’d disintegrate into pieces from a single glare.

Thankfully, Lu Yun’s body was one of the world and he also possessed the organs of the world. He was the perfect weapon with which to counter the reincarnated realm monster.

His blast of sword energy pierced savagely into the eyeball. It shrieked from anguish and answered back with a blaze of scarlet red flame.

“Fire and water in conjunction, yin and yang in harmony... you’re just one step from breaking free of realm monster limitations and becoming a real living being!” Lu Yun started.

If this realm monster truly transformed into a living soul of the great wilderness, he would no longer be able to suppress it anymore.

Gritting his teeth, he parted the surging flames with Diexi and came howling down on the eyeball. Since he’d possessed the strength to dig it out from its owner, he naturally had the power to destroy it completely.

His primary body had been too severely injured last time for him to continue to control Xing Chen. That was why his replica had been left in space to keep the eyeball under control. Who would’ve thought that it’d show itself again when the Great Formation of the Nineheavens Gates was on the cusp of completion?

Hummm.

The moment that Diexi touched the eyeball, a red ripple burst out of the eye and repelled Lu Yun with a shockwave. A faint smear of blood barreled out of the eye and aimed for the falling human.

“Luo Houluo!” Lu Yun shrieked when he saw the bloody shadow.

“Eh? You know me?” The faint shadow paused and resolved itself into the form of a handsome young man. Luo Houluo was also one that took the form of whoever was looking at him, so Lu Yun saw him as a human.

The demon god had withdrawn his attack and was looking at Lu Yun with confusion. He didn’t seem to have met this human empyrean cultivator before, but the human had instantly recognized him even when he’d concealed his true form.

Hence, Luo Houluo aborted his attack and dithered with indecision.

He's the Luo Houluo of this era, not the one of the future who came back with me! Lu Yun's thoughts raced furiously. He knew what was going on now. The future Luo Houluo wanted to enter space not to seize possession of Taiyi's soul, but to search for the realm monsters. He'd sworn fealty to them!

"Luo Houluo, you've thrown your lot in with the realm monsters and become their dog!" Bai Ze erupted in fury when he saw the demon god.

Though Luo Houluo possessed views opposite to the great gods when it came to their descendants, he was a connate being just the same as them. They were the same race and in the same boat, so they should've resisted the realm monsters together!

But now, Bai Ze could plainly see that Luo Houluo had defected to the enemy.

"What is a dog?" Luo Houluo cocked his head. "Ah, the life form that humans have domesticated to hunt prey. That's an apt analogy, I am indeed hunting for the realm monsters now."

A strange smile flitted over his face; he didn't feel there was anything bad about Bai Ze's description.

That kid's a bit odd, he actually inspires fear in a reincarnated realm monster and dug out one of its eyeballs last time. Tsk tsk tsk, if I capture him, I may be able to figure out how to control these reincarnated realm monsters. I can turn the tables on them and be their master instead!

Gleefully counting his chickens before they hatched, Luo Houluo reached out and grabbed at Lu Yun.

He was one of the strongest connate demon gods of the world, the founder of demonic dao in both the great wilderness and in the future. Even the great demon god in the future, Ji Du, was his disciple. There was no room for resistance in front of him; the gap between him and Lu Yun was too great.

Lu Yun felt like part of the world was crashing down upon him. His body and organs were firmly suppressed. Such was the power of the strongest connate demon god, able to fully restrain the master of hell with a single thought.

Ring—

Ring—

Ring—

Peals of gentle bell tolls rang throughout the stars. An enormous golden bell suddenly appeared protectively above Lu Yun. Luo Houluo's hand was repelled as soon as he touched the human.

"The Bell of Chaos! Taiyi's Bell of Chaos!" he gasped.

"Die!" Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Dusk Snake had herded the realm monster jellyfish to where it would be suppressed by the great formation, and the formation was beginning to settle down. They shot into the air for a concerted strike upon Luo Houluo.

"Ignorant fools," sneered Luo Houluo and thrust out a palm strike with a casual backhand. As a preeminent demon god, the three couldn't match his strength either. Such a simple reaction was enough to gravely injure them.

Ring—

However, the Bell of Chaos sounded again at this time and shattered his palm strike.

1. Reminder that the two are the same in this age. Demon gods that are willing to protect life and view even their mortal descendants as being of the same bloodline are hailed as gods.
2. The OG demon god who took over the Exalted divine emperor's soul and forced two celestial emperors to use their lives to kill him. They failed.

Chapter 864: Troublemaker Tushan

A woman with a mane of silver hair and donning pure-white robes walked elegantly out of the void. In that instant, all of space fell silent for a moment.

At just barely sixteen years old, she was extraordinarily beautiful—in fact, all possible descriptors for charm seemed insufficient to describe her. She was in human form, as she wasn't an entity that took the form of whoever was looking at her, but her appearance seemed to fulfill all standards of beauty across the various species beneath the heavens.

Even members of other species would be captivated by her allure. There was a special bearing about her that perfectly interpreted all possible renditions of beauty within the world.

The little fox... Tushan!

Troublemaker Tushan!

Luo Houluo stared dumbly at Tushan before shaking himself awake with a violent shudder.

"Tushan!" he shrieked hoarsely. "Don't the rumors say that you've lost all of your cultivation because of grave injuries?"

"You just said it, they're just rumors." Tushan smiled faintly at the demon god. It was just the slightest upward curve of her lips, but Luo Houluo felt ready to burst with joy. The preeminent beauty of the great wilderness had just smiled at him??

"Damn, what a terrifying woman!" Luo Houluo firmly bit the tip of his tongue and cut down a burgeoning inner demon. He had to remain clear-headed!

Ring—

With a graceful flick of her hand, the troublemaker sent her bell ringing out in a powerful toll once more. The realm monster and eyeball instantly exploded into dust when the ferocious sound wave washed over them.

Luo Houluo crossed his hands in front of his chest and took the force head-on. Spitting out a mouthful of blood, he flew backward into the void.

"This might... no wonder it's the first connate treasure of the great wilderness!" Luo Houluo was stronger than Tushan, but when she wielded the Bell of Chaos, he couldn't put up a fight against her at all.

There was nothing for it but to glare at Lu Yun and turn on his heel to leave.

Tushan looked silently at Luo Houluo's departing figure. Instead of chasing after him, her form slowly scattered and dispersed, with the bell returning to the little fox in Lu Yun's arms as well.

The little fox yawned weakly and fell sound asleep.

Lu Yun took a deep look at the little fox in his embrace and sighed softly. That had been a replica that she'd left in the bell. Though it was her replica, it'd still exhausted her stamina and sent her into a deep sleep that she wouldn't wake up from anytime soon.

The sea of flames that'd blazed for several hundred thousand years was gone, replaced by an enormous sun star. Layers and levels of palaces protected the star, keeping the sun's heat firmly trapped within itself.

"It looks like there's still an enormous gap between me and the demon gods within the great wilderness."

Diexi was a connate treasure that Lu Yun could fully deploy, but even with the shortsword in hand, he still couldn't stand up to a stray thought from Luo Houluo. However, if he could truly reach the chaos realm, then an opponent of the demon god's caliber shouldn't prove to be an issue any longer.

"Lie Shan of the human race greets the seniors!" Lu Yun raised a cupped fist salute to Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Dusk Snake.

"You're human? Since when did humans produce a great master of the combat arts at the empyrean realm?" Dusk Snake frowned when he heard the youth's background.

"That there weren't any in the past doesn't mean there aren't any now." Lu Yun took special note of that senior's reaction. "This matter is over now, so this junior will take his leave."

"Wait." Dusk Snake walked out and prevented Lu Yun from leaving. "Her Highness Tushan and the Bell of Chaos are matters of great import. Leave them behind, you may go yourself."

Lu Yun's expression began to turn ugly. They wanted the little fox and the bell?

The little fox had completely exhausted her mental state; it was no different from consigning her to death if she remained here. Dusk Snake's target was most likely the Bell of Chaos.

People said that the Bell of Chaos was one of Taiyi's possessions, that he'd been born clutching the bell. But now in Lu Yun's eyes, this bell should've belonged to the little fox in the first place. It'd only spent some time in Taiyi's hands.

Bai Ze and Xiang Liu looked askance at Dusk Snake, but didn't say a word to stop him.

The Bell of Chaos was the foremost connate treasure beneath the heavens, a treasure that Taiyi had used to quell the great wilderness, establish the celestial court, and occupy the skies above the great wilderness. The bell and the Great Formation of the Nineheavens Gates had enabled him to be the sovereign of the three realms.

Though Taiyi had established his court to defy the realm monsters, he'd also well and truly become the ruler of their world as well.

During this time, he'd used the Bell of Chaos to suppress countless demon gods within and without the great wilderness, forcing them to bow their heads in submission. Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Dusk Snake had been among those he'd subdued. They'd later become celestial kings of his court.

Tushan had plainly been grievously injured and lost her cultivation. She was in no shape to carry on after scaring off Luo Houluo, so of course Dusk Snake would make a move when the Bell of Chaos was so close at hand.

This Lie Shan human in front of them was just an empyrean realm cultivator. Though current life forms might call him a great master of combat arts, he was just an ant in the eyes of connate gods like them.

"Her Highness?" Lu Yun paid special attention to what Dusk Snake called the little fox. He looked down at the sleeping form in his arms. No-Good Tushan had already married Taiyi and become a royal consort of the celestial court?

The little fox was currently fast asleep and dead to the world. If she'd woken up and heard what Dusk Snake called her, she probably would've summoned her replica in the bell again and blasted Dusk Snake to pieces.

Alas, she was out cold and Dusk Snake had lost his patience. He suddenly reached out and grabbed for the fox. However, he didn't dare kill the boy. Lie Shan was a human empyrean cultivator. Heaven knew how much in resources Fuxi had used to propel a lowly human from the bottom of the totem pole to his current heights. If Dusk Snake killed him, Fuxi would be out for his hide.

Lu Yun shifted slightly to the side and dodge the grab when he saw Dusk Snake make a move.

"Oh? You dare avoid me?" Dusk Snake snorted and shook all over as he brought down an overbearing aura onto Lu Yun.

"I'm no match for Luo Houluo, but that doesn't make me afraid of a half-baked connate demon god like you." Lu Yun looked on coldly and sliced through the void with Diexi, hacking apart the aura that the great god released.

"You bastard!" Dusk Snake was incensed to see a mere empyrean cultivator raise a blade to him. Without a second thought, he brought down a palm strike on Lu Yun.

"Don't!" Color drained out of Bai Ze and Xiang Liu's faces when they saw their brethren really attack the human. If this boy died, Fuxi would skin Dusk Snake alive!

Boooooom.

A tremendous boom rang out as Lu Yun took three steps back. Dusk Snake also stumbled back a step, which left everyone gobsmacked.

"What's going on! How can an empyrean ant repel me?" Incredulity filled Dusk Snake's eyes. Though he'd only taken one step back, he really had been rebuffed by an empyrean realm human.

Though Lu Yun had sealed off the sea of flames and battled the realm monster earlier, everyone had attributed those feats to Tushan after her replica appeared.

Chapter 865: Hellfire Reappears

In the eyes of anyone else, those who'd reached empyrean realm were great powerhouses they couldn't begin to dream of defying. But to chaos realm demon gods, everything below their realm was piddling insects. Empyrean realm masters of combat arts were just slightly bulkier insects.

That was why no one had taken Lu Yun seriously. Tushan, the one they dreaded, had fallen into a deep sleep. However, this insect of a human had just managed to beat back a connate great god!

Shame begot fury. Dusk Snake snarled and lunged at Lu Yun, raising his hand and attacking with a palm strike. Its violent strength threw all celestial soldiers within a five thousand kilometers radius off their feet, while Bai Ze and Xiangliu watched in horror.

"Dusk Snake, you bastard! Are you trying to destroy this place?!" It took their combined efforts as chaos realm experts to offset Dusk Snake's terrifying might—this display of absolute power was free of any impurities or weaknesses. Dusk Snake had unleashed his full strength in a fit of fury.

"Destroy this place? No, the Bell of Chaos will grant me power to rival His Majesty. Then I'll be able to keep this place safe all by myself!"

Bam!

His palm strike was about to land when a sudden explosion shattered the defensive barrier jointly created by Bai Ze and Xiangliu. Powerful shockwaves ran in all directions and tore through everything, shredding lesser soldiers in the vicinity into bloody mist.

Boom!

Dusk Snake's giant form was hurtled into a star, while Lu Yun remained standing in space, unmoving.

The world's heart, liver, spleen, lungs, and kidneys unleashed their concerted might while the connate power of the five elements created a perfect cycle within him. Such was the power of a body of heaven and earth.

Lu Yun might not be Luo Houluo's match since the latter was among the most powerful chaos realm demon gods, but Dusk Snake... He was only in the initial chaos realm, far from being in the same league as powerhouses like Luo Houluo.

With the power of his replica's body unleashed, Lu Yun also employed his three connate peerless treasures—the Cosmic Sea, Cosmic Eyes, and Cosmic Skycarver. A run-of-the-mill initial chaos realm demon god wasn't his match at all.

"Impossible!" Dusk Snake scrambled up from the star he'd knocked into, his eyes brimming with shock. Just now, he'd felt an overwhelming surge of strength from the human before him, one that far exceeded his own.

The turn of events caught the others off guard as well.

Earlier, the effort of knocking Dusk Snake backward a step had forced Lu Yun to take three steps in order to steady himself, but now, he'd managed to throw the demon god tens of thousands of kilometers away in a head-on clash! How could an empyrean realm human be this powerful?

Swoosh!

Lu Yun took flight and dove at Dusk Snake.

“I will destroy the human race for this offense!!” screamed Dusk Snake in return, his body transforming from a reflection of the viewer to a giant, pitch-black snake that ran tens of millions of kilometers long, dwarfing even the star behind him. That was his true form, a connate demon god born into the world!

“Then you give me no choice but to kill you!” Lu Yun’s eyes glinted with murderous intent. Since arriving in the great wilderness, he’d never felt such a strong urge to kill someone until now.

Destroy the human race? He didn’t give a shit if Dusk Snake had admirably performed his duties in guarding the cosmos or if he’d accomplished tremendous feats for the great wilderness. The fact that he’d threatened to destroy the human race was reason enough for Lu Yun to kill him!

Hum.

Diexi radiated a bloodthirsty light as it transformed into a giant butterfly of the same color. It spanned six hundred meters from wingtip to wingtip, but it was still a tiny particle when compared to Dusk Snake.

“That’s Changxi’s sword!” Dusk Snake recognized the shortsword at first glance, but he wasn’t worried at all. As a senior connate demon god in the great wilderness and a lord of the celestial court, he possessed his own connate-grade peerless treasure as well.

Bam!

Inky-black flames surged from his body, unleashing the aura of death. Bai Ze and Xiangliu’s eyes shot wide open in terror.

“Hellfire! That’s hellfire from the netherdark hell! How did you get your hands on it?!”

Hellfire was the most powerful flame of the great wilderness. Taiyi had attempted to tame it and use it to build his own hell and the wheel of reincarnation, but he’d failed. Who would’ve thought that hellfire would fall into Dusk Snake’s hand instead?

When Taiyi and Yi fought the realm monsters hundreds of thousands years ago, if Dusk Snake had brought out his hellfire, then the two gods wouldn’t have needed to die...

Xiangliu’s gaze turned chillingly murderous.

Dusk Snake paid no attention to Bai Ze and Xiangliu’s reactions. He blasted out with endless hellfire, a version that was hundreds of millions times more powerful than the hellfire Lu Yun would summon in the future. This was the genuine article!

Bai Ze and Xiangliu dared not approach them. If they made a move against Dusk Snake, the hellfire would graze them and scatter their souls.

“Hellfire!” Lu Yun’s eyes glinted strangely. He could sense a small spark of hellfire on Dusk Snake that was lodged into a powerful connate-grade peerless treasure. The treasure had become the fire’s container, which was how Dusk Snake was able to summon the flame.

But Lu Yun didn't fear it. Although Xing Chen was currently separated from his true form, he was the owner of the Tome of Life and Death; both he and Xing Chen had access to its abilities. Hellfire was harmless to both him and his replica. Of course, Dusk Snake's treasure that contained hellfire could still hurt him, but he wasn't going to back down.

Diexi whipped through the sky and exploded into tens of thousands of crimson butterflies, isolating the area. Bloody sword energy cut relentlessly into Dusk Snake's mammoth body.

He twisted his way through space, leaving an eerie trail in his wake. Meanwhile, hellfire continued to expand in all directions, creating a sea of fire.

An enormous mountain emerged slowly from the heart of the sea. Dusk Snake shrunk his body down and coiled around the top of the mountain, his power instantly scattered Diexi's sword energy.

Lu Yun sheathed his sword, standing within the sea of hellfire and facing off against Dusk Snake.

Chapter 866: Smash and Grab, Hit and Run

"You're... you're not afraid of hellfire!" Dusk Snake's voice turned hoarse and dry, like he was a dry corpse walking.

Hellfire, even its tiniest spark, was beyond the control of living beings. Taiyi's cultivation had been infinitely close to that of a creator's, and the great connate treasure that was the Bell of Chaos had been in his possession. Even so, he still hadn't been able to obtain the slightest wisp of those flames.

Dusk Snake had succeeded only due to the black mountain-shaped connate treasure beneath him. For his success, he paid the hefty price of having the fire nibble away at his life force for every second he deployed it. Despite his strength, there was nothing he could do about that. The greatest reason why he wished to obtain the Bell of Chaos was to use its strength to fully bring his hellfire under control.

.....

Lu Yun didn't speak; he merely waved a hand to summon Diexi. It fluttered around him in the form of a graceful, bloody butterfly. He then took to the air and walked toward Dusk Snake.

The snake's dark eyes followed the human's movements. There was an increasingly uneasy presence exuding from the boy that put Dusk Snake on edge; the presence came from his own greatest trump card—hellfire.

"Die!!" Dusk Snake suddenly roared and sent hellfire roiling toward Lu Yun in the form of fiery snakes.

Seeing their comrade in full fury, Bai Ze and Xiangliu had ordered the celestial army to retreat long ago. They observed far from the sidelines as hellfire was too terrifying. When fully unleashed, it could transform the entire great wilderness and the cosmos above into a sea of flames.

"That thing is useless against me." Twin sparkles of black danced in Lu Yun's eyes. He'd discovered that energy from the Tome of Life and Death had soundlessly appeared within his body at some point and was protecting his replica. Plainly, the treasure felt that the current Xing Chen couldn't withstand hellfire.

Lu Yun was slightly surprised by the development, he'd always thought that fire of the netherworld was contained within his own body. He hadn't thought that strength from the book could also be found within Xing Chen!

"Ah, that's right. Whether it's Xing Chen or my primary body, both of them are me..."

Whoosh!

His eyes suddenly surged with two great goutts of black flame—his hellfire!

It wasn't really manifesting, just deploying some strength and imbuing Xing Chen with it.

Hummm.

Diexi flared with scarlet light and near instantaneously cut down the fiery snakes pouncing at them. Radiance unabated, it continued ruthlessly to meet its opponent.

Dusk Snake hissed, sending the mountain beneath him upward to block Diexi's light.

Boooooom.

One gigantic collision later, the sea of ominous flames shook violently. Diexi's sword light shattered to pieces on the mountain and the vast mass hurtled toward Lu Yun like a shooting star.

Instead of backing down, he threw himself forward to meet it and blasted out with a punch. Hellfire sprayed everywhere as he punched the sea of flames wide open. In the last possible second before impact, his hand turned into a claw and grasped the mountain in his hand.

Howling in challenge, Dusk Snake charged the human. The mountain was his ultimate treasure! It couldn't land in someone else's possession even if he lost his own life!

However, Lu Yun wound back his hand and smashed the mountain back at the screaming Dusk Snake, flinging him backward onto a nearby star.

The star that was transformed from a great master's body exploded into pieces!

"The Stone of Three Lives!" Lu Yun yelled in surprise at the mountain he clutched. "This is the ultimate treasure of the netherdark—the Stone of Three Lives! If it's your greatest treasure, then I have to kill you first before I can take it!"

Stone in one hand and shortsword in the other, Lu Yun pounced on Dusk Snake. The latter was sitting groggily in the wreckage of a former star, unable to wrap his mind around what had just happened.

He'd never fathomed that hellfire would be ineffective against a human, and that even his Stone of Three Lives would end up in another's hands!

Fear started to wrap its clammy fingers around him—but this was such a foreign feeling to him. He'd never felt fear even when facing realm monsters. However, this empyrean human had successfully inspired it in him!

This fear came from death!

Though the human was still a ways from him, he could clearly sense the ominous march of death when he glimpsed the murderous look in the boy's eyes.

"Flee!" Dusk Snake whirled around and vanished without a trace.

"He ran?" Lu Yun started, then grinned. "Do you really think you can get away? White Emperor, I'm going to kill Dusk Snake. Be careful on your way back to the great wilderness." He roared at Bai Zhaoju and then deployed the Wandering Step, likewise vanishing on the spot.

"Eh? Ah? Okay!" Bai Zhaoju had no idea how to describe what'd just happened. "He's gone to kill a great master of the chaos realm." He turned around and looked blankly at a celestial soldier next to him, who also nodded blankly back.

Since there was no longer a battle here, Bai Ze ordered the soldiers back to their posts. The Great Formation of the Nineheavens Gates had stabilized and destroyed the realm monster it'd sat upon, as well as the endless dead spirits in the vicinity.

Peace had returned to the area. The great formation operated on its own with the Taiyi sun as its core. Constant and without end, it would run continuously. Realm monsters would no longer be able to enter the cosmos from here.

"Bai Zhaoju, do you know that Lie Shan kid?" Bai Ze asked seriously.

"In response to the celestial king," Bai Zhaoju hastily bowed. "This junior does indeed know Lie Shan. I gave him a golden spirit pearl in accordance with Fuxi's orders."

"I see." Bai Ze mused for a moment. "When you return to the great wilderness, don't return to the Jin Clan. Go... to the Mu Clan."

He waved a hand at Bai Zhaoju, who blinked, then nodded.

.....

In the boundless cosmos, Lu Yun sped swiftly after the fleeing demon god with the Wandering Step.

Dusk Snake was afraid after that beating.

"Lie Shan of the human race, this seat guarded the stars for five hundred thousand years and killed countless dead spirits, even a realm monster! This seat has rendered great services for all of life, you cannot kill me!" he suddenly turned back and roared at Lu Yun.

"What does that have to do with me?" Lu Yun was expressionless. "Smash and grab, hit and run. How else can I get the Stone of Three Lives if I don't kill you?"

Hefting the stone, his killing intent didn't abate in the slightest.

"If you'd brought this out five hundred thousand years ago and ignited hellfire, Taiyi wouldn't have died. Yi and all the other masters wouldn't have died. The celestial court's hundreds of millions of soldiers wouldn't have needed to spend their lives guarding this desolate patch of space!"

With the stone in hand, he could clearly feel that the snake had refined it for at least hundreds of millions of years.

“Of course, it’s your treasure, so we can’t say much about the fact that you weren’t willing to bring it out. At the same time, I can’t be bothered with considering whether or not you’re a hero of the great wilderness now that I want what’s yours!

“If you want to cast blame on anyone, then blame yourself for pissing me off and coveting the Bell of Chaos!”

With that, Lu Yun fired off a crimson ray of sword light with a quick backhand.

Chapter 867: Pursuit

The Stone of Three Lives was already in Lu Yun’s hands, but he realized that in order to truly obtain and refine this ultimate treasure of the netherdark, he had to kill Dusk Snake.

Another alternative was to force the Tome of Life and Death to come out and seize the stone, but it’d lain still in his body after collecting the body of God and helping him withstand hellfire. Thus, he chose the first method of killing Dusk Snake!

This was the end of the road for the demon god; fear and a hint of crazy streaked through his eyes when he heard Lu Yun’s words.

“If you want to kill me, then I’ll exterminate the human race first!” He finally screeched and twisted his massive body around so that it fell on the planet of the great wilderness!

“Stop him!” Lu Yun roared with a cold snort.

Hummm!

Next to the planet, a burst of silver illumination flared from the Taiyin Star while Diexi transformed into an enormous butterfly and abruptly vanished into thin air. Changxi then walked out of the star, wielding her shortsword and striking out at Dusk Snake.

“Changxi, how dare you harm me?!” The snake roared and crashed toward Changxi, momentum unabated.

Though Changxi was also a chaos realm connate god, her cultivation was a step lower than Dusk Snake’s. She wasn’t a premier chaos realm demon god, so her face paled when she saw the other throw himself at her with no thought for caution.

Despite that, she remained staunchly in place and refused to back down. In the segment of memory that Lu Yun had erased from his mind, countless yin spirits had besieged the Taiyin Star and he’d saved her from being overrun. Therefore, now that Dusk Snake wanted to destroy the boy’s race, she would stymie his objective even at the risk of her own life.

“You court death!” Dusk Snake opened his mouth wide and shattered Diexi’s light, then bit down on Changxi.

Hummm.

Jade brilliance suddenly flashed through the void as a green arrow pierced through space and connected with Dusk Snake’s head.

Boom!

He was knocked askew and sent off course from his devastating dive.

A girl dressed in golden armor and hair flaming like the sun walked out of the sun star. Alertly holding a jade-colored bow, she quickly reached Changxi's side.

"Big sister!" Gratitude graced Changxi's face and she shook slightly when she saw the golden-haired girl.

Xihe, the connate demon god born of the sun star!

In the mythology that Lu Yun was familiar with, Xihe was the consort of Emperor Jun. But the legendary emperor had yet to be born in this age, and neither would he be a connate demon god. He would be a great emperor of humanity sometime in the future.

This was a clear example of how real history differed from mythology.

A blazing power constantly exuded from the golden-haired girl, but her expression was as icy as frost. A thick killing intent emanated from her pale-golden eyes. The jade-colored great bow in her possession was the Great Yi's ultimate treasure, his bow!

"Dusk Snake, are you courting death by hurting my sister?" Her tones were so chilly that they stabbed straight into the bone. She drew back on the bow once more and aimed it at Dusk Snake.

"Get out of the way!" The snake screamed at seeing Lu Yun closing in on him. An inferno of hellfire ignited on him again and he recklessly charged the two sisters.

Xihe was stronger than Changxi and Dusk Snake, but her face changed when the snake started furiously summoning hellfire. She grabbed Changxi and scrambled madly to the side.

"Hellfire... this is hellfire from the deepest pits of the netherdark hell! Why is it in your hands??" Xihe yelled.

Dusk Snake ignored her and rushed into the boundary set by the Taiyin and Sun Stars, then angled himself down in a dive.

This boundary was a joint effort between Leize, Huaxu, Taiyi, Fuxi, and Great Yi. It was the final line of defense to prevent dead spirits and realm monsters from breaching the great wilderness. However, hellfire could pierce straight through this protection and enable its bearer to bear down on its target.

Though the Stone of Three Lives was in Lu Yun's hand, Dusk Snake was still the treasure's master. The snake could continue to command hellfire with it and imbue his strength with the flames. Stone burning in his hand, hellfire tried to climb all over Lu Yun and burn him to ashes.

Unfortunately for Dusk Snake, the boy wasn't afraid of hellfire.

"What's going on here?" Xihe looked at Changxi, her golden eyebrows tightly scrunched together.

Last time dead spirits had attacked the Taiyin Star and attempted to breach the great wilderness, Xihe had been refining her bow and overlooked what was going on outside. She'd never seen Lu Yun before.

The youth in question was close behind Dusk Snake and had also rushed into the great wilderness. The two were less than five thousand kilometers apart—an insurmountable distance for ordinary people, but just a stone’s throw away for great masters of their level.

The arrival of chaos realm masters immediately caused a great disturbance. Countless beings lifted their heads up to the sky, and even powerhouses of the same level extended tendrils of their consciousness to determine what was going on.

“It’s Dusk Snake of Taiyi’s celestial court! He’s being hunted by another great master, but who??” A few chaos realm connate demon gods in the area were flabbergasted. In their eyes, Lu Yun was just an empyrean cultivator. It was beyond incredible that he was pursuing Dusk Snake!

Since when could empyrean cultivators do this to great masters??

“Lie Shan of the human race, the big river is up ahead. If you don’t want humanity to be wiped out, you will stop now!” Dusk Snake snarled, his voice echoing throughout the land.

“Human race! Dusk Snake is being chased by a human! Since when did humans have such a strong expert?” Further shock shook the hearts of those listening. Humans were undeniably the lowest of the low in the great wilderness. They would rather believe Lie Shan was a monster spirit than think he was human!

Humans were weak and fragile, born lacking of many things. Though they had strong reproductive abilities, their strength had always been negligible.

“It’s possible that it’s actually a human... Last time one of them resonated with the great dao and a chaos realm cultivator made a move. Fuxi prevented anything from developing further then.”

“Humans are not to be underestimated!” Many experts looked to the great river basin with steely looks in their eyes.

“Then let’s see if you destroy the humans first or if I destroy you!” Lu Yun snorted and arrived in front of Dusk Snake with a quick shuffle. He reared back with the Stone of Three Lives and ruthlessly smashed it down on the snake’s heart.

“AhhhhHHHHH!!” Dusk Snake wailed and shrieked, but suddenly detached his head and bounced it at the great river!

All of the Yellow River would overflow the moment his head entered the waters, instantly wiping out the humans on both sides of its banks!

Chapter 868: Lord of the River, Hebo

Boom!

Sparking with hellfire, the Stone of Three Lives continued on its trajectory and slammed into Dusk Snake with tremendous strength. His body instantly disintegrated into a mass of ash and sparks, but his detached head sailed into the great river below like a meteor of doom.

Lu Yun stared coolly at the churning waters below, making no attempt to intervene.

Boom!

A second explosion rocked the land. Great waves reared above the water surface as an enormous hand rose out of the river and slapped the snake's head back with unbridled force.

Lu Yun easily grabbed the returned head.

"My deepest gratitude!" He bowed at the river.

"How dare you, Bingyi?!" Dusk Snake's head shrieked in Lu Yun's clutches, his eyes dripping with venom.

A hazy figure emerged from a high wave of the surging waters.

"There's no need for gratitude." The figure flashed Lu Yun a slight smile, sparing no attention for Dusk Snake. "This seat was appointed Lord of the River, Hebo, by His Celestial Majesty himself. Celestial Master Fuxi ordered me to protect the humans residing by the banks of the great river, so this was part of my duties as the river god."

Hebo was the greatest god within the Yellow River. Although he wasn't a connate demon god, he'd received his divine decree directly from the hands of Taiyi. Since the river was one of the greatest in the great wilderness, his access to its full power enabled him to rival a chaos realm connate demon god.

Nothing that happened in the Yellow River basin could escape his notice. He'd learned of Lu Yun's existence long ago and how important the young man was to Fuxi.

Nevertheless, the human race had to rely on their own deeds in their development. Hebo was only going to protect it from destruction. He didn't care if some tribesmen were worshipping gremlins or other spirits as river gods.

Lu Yun hadn't known about Hebo before, but upon his return to the great wilderness, he'd sensed a terribly powerful being residing within the great river.

Noting Hebo's blatant disregard for his existence, Dusk Snake raised his voice and called out, "Bingyi! This seat is a celestial king of the celestial court, assigned by His Majesty to guard the cosmos. He..."

And then Hebo was gone, his manifestation crashing back down as water droplets. Dusk Snake stared dumbly at the great river, uncomprehending of how his noble self had been ignored just like that.

"Don't you understand yet?" Lu Yun boomed, striking an imposing figure between heaven and earth. He clutched the snake's head firmly in his hands, leaving no wriggle room. "Taiyi's passed away and so has his celestial court dispersed. Hebo now serves Fuxi."

Color drained out of Dusk Snake's face.

Numerous powerful minds scanning the area retreated as soon as they saw Lu Yun carrying Dusk Snake's head.

Dusk Snake was a powerful connate demon god. Although Taiyi had subdued him and made him a celestial king of the heavenly court, he was no meek wallflower to quietly bide his time. Now that Lu Yun had decapitated even him, no one dared risk the ire of someone with such immeasurable power.

No one considered him a regular empyrean realm cultivator either. Someone who could kill a chaos realm being was surely on the same level, despite his projected cultivation!

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“Big brother Lieshan, you’re back!” Ah Bao threw herself into Lu Yun’s arms, burrowing her flushed face into his chest. The little fox popped out weakly, grumbling in complaint.

“Ah, the little fox is back as well! It’s so thin now... it’s not gonna taste good!” Ah Bao mischievously fished out the little fox from Lu Yun’s arms, who played dead after struggling for a bit. Emerald light streamed from the mountain ghost’s hands into the little fox’s body, and Miao’s dim eyes brightened with vitality again.

“So you still remember me, little mountain ghost.” Having recovered some of her energy, the little fox cast Ah Bao a sheepish look.

“Don’t call me little,” Ah Bao giggled. “You’re younger than I am!”

The little fox ducked back into the sanctuary of Lu Yun’s collar. She’d grown up in Qingqiu Mountain, so it was only natural that she be familiar with its mountain ghost. In fact, Ah Bao had recognized the little fox as soon as she and Lu Yun arrived at the Ning Village. That was why Ah Bao had often joked about eating her.

The great wilderness was fraught with danger and internal conflict constantly raged between humans. It would be suicide to allow strangers into one’s village. Lu Yun had been allowed to stay only because Ah Bao recognized the little fox.

“Lie Shan, how did you... how did you become powerful enough to kill such a mighty god?!” Shennong and Jiang Ti came up to Lu Yun with disbelief. All of the great wilderness had noticed when Lu Yun chased down Dusk Snake, and the Yan Tribe was no exception.

Jiang Ti had fully recovered from his injuries; he now appeared to be a strongly-built young man, rather than his previous feeble form. More importantly, cultivating the qi refinement method had propelled him into the true divine realm and greatly prolonged his life.

Shennong, on the other hand, had reached peak true divine realm. One more step would take him into the celestial divine realm.

Due to the human sacred land, Lu Yun’s inventions and discoveries had spread throughout human territory, such as the qi refinement method, ways of agriculture, usage of herbs, and identification of poisonous plants. The human race had been growing stronger as a whole at an unexpected pace.

Of course, humanity was still weak in comparison. In order to prevent other races from acquiring his cultivation methods and learning them to attack the human race, he made it so that only humans could practice this refinement method.

“Remember when you guessed I was a great master as soon as I arrived at the Ning Village?” Lu Yun responded with a smile. “I journeyed the great wilderness this time to recover my strength.”

“Ah... No wonder Holy Emperor Fuxi holds you in such high regard!” Realization caught up with Shennong.

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News that a human had killed a chaos realm demon god and brought his head back to human territory took the great wilderness by storm.

Humanity had been one of the weakest races for the longest time, with the most powerful of the species in the true divine realm. That was the lowest bar possible for the major races.

Although Fuxi and Wahuang had been safeguarding the human race, and Hebo ordered to guard the great river and prevent the race's extinction, they weren't part of the human race's own power.

Lie Shan's sudden emergence heralded the powerful rise of the human race! A chaos realm expert would make the race one of the major players in the great wilderness!

The human sacred land also wasted no time sharing the news with the rest of the race. At the same time, they clarified that the qi cultivation method everyone was making use of was the great master's invention. That further astounded all humans, especially the tribes that were itching to wage war against the Yan Tribe.

Many more tribes were quick to approach the Yan Tribe and offer to join them. With a great elite who could kill a chaos realm demon god, the tribe was on the cusp of conquering all humans. It was better to voluntarily assimilate themselves into the great Lie Shan's tribe and seek protection, rather than to wait for oncoming defeat.

Chapter 869: Hongjun

A complex web of relationships underpinned the human sacred land. Factions and cliques were found everywhere, each representing a different group of interests. But it wasn't humans in charge of their sacred land, that was Fuxi and Wahuang.

Though Fuxi had entered the chaos to search for something that could destroy connate demon gods, Wahuang was still present at Mount Buzhou to ensure that things ran smoothly. She would later become Nüwa in the mouths of later generations.

One holy decree from Wahuang immediately disseminated Lie Shan's feats far and wide. Thanks to the sacred land's greatest efforts, Lie Shan's accomplishments were mentioned in the same breath as Youchao, Sui ren, Xuanyuan, and Shennong. He was a literal saint to the human race!

More importantly, the strongest of the first generation Youchao, Sui ren, Xuanyuan, and Shennong had only been at true divinity, but Lie Shan was a bonafide great master of the combat arts, and he'd killed a chaos realm demon god in broad daylight!

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On the banks of Wei River.

Dusk Snake's head had been minimized down to three meters and was casually thrown onto the ground. Lu Yun's formations covered the local area to prevent him from escaping.

He could've executed Dusk Snake with a single blow and simply taken the Stone of Three Lives, but there were two among his Infernum that had something to do with the snake—Bing Ling and Bing Xuan. They were both descendants of Dusk Snake and possessed his bloodline.

Therefore, he wasn't in a hurry to head to the Mu Clan to visit Ling Weiyang, as he wanted to distill the snake's true blood from the head.

Dusk Snake was still conscious and knew what the human wanted to do. He wanted to struggle, to beg for mercy, but he couldn't even release a single ripple of consciousness. He could only watch mutely as Lie Shan refined his true blood.

"Fellow daoist." A genteel voice suddenly sounded at Lu Yun's ear.

Lu Yun lifted his head and saw a young man wearing long golden-purple robes and a small crown in his hair walk out of the void. His cultured face bore hints of a warm smile, and he bowed at Lu Yun.

"Fellow daoist." Lu Yun quickly rose to return the gesture.

He'd met this young man not too long ago—the latter had been observing the world in a flower at the foot of Mount Buzhou. This was absolutely a great master of combat arts, possibly one of the strongest in the great wilderness. Though he appeared as an ordinary human, that was precisely what was most frightening about him.

"This humble self is Hongjun. I am here to request a favor from my fellow daoist." The young man introduced himself and bowed at Lu Yun again.

"Hongjun!!" Lu Yun almost jumped straight into the air. "What might the dao ancestor need from this junior? Please just say the word!"

"Dao ancestor?" Hongjun blinked when he heard Lu Yun's title of address and shook his head. "I am unworthy of being a dao ancestor. I am just here to borrow something from my little friend."

"Please name whatever it is, Dao Ancestor!" Lu Yun replied gravely.

Hongjun didn't refute things a second time. "Reincarnation!"

It was Lu Yun's turn to blink.

"You come from the future, fellow daoist, so you should know that the basis of humanity's strength in the future comes from reincarnation. However, it doesn't yet exist in the great wilderness. Construction of the wheel of reincarnation must come from you."

"Come from me? Then does the chicken come first, or the egg?" Lu Yun frowned.

All of his present accomplishments were a result of help from the Tome of Life and Death and the power of reincarnation it held within. But if reincarnation originated from him, then did reincarnation come first, or did he exist first?

He really didn't have an immediate answer for that.

“This humble self doesn’t know if reincarnation comes first or if you come first, but one thing I do know is that fellow daoist possesses an ultimate treasure of reincarnation. That is the origin of the wheel.” Hongjun smiled.

“The Tome of Life and Death!” Lu Yun suddenly understood. Whether it was reincarnation or him, they both stemmed from the Tome of Life and Death! “Is that what the dao ancestor would like to borrow?”

He tried his hardest to force the book out of his body, but it didn’t respond no matter what he did.

Hongjun shook his head. “This humble self is not here for fellow daoist’s ultimate treasure, but for the Stone of Three Lives. The stone has picked up traces of that treasure’s presence and birthed a prototype of reincarnation. All that needs to be done is to lend the stone to this humble self.”

“That’s easy.” Lu Yun took out the stone and placed it in Hongjun’s hands.

Hongjun elicited a brief and anguished scream from Dusk Snake’s head with a casual point, reducing it to dust and directing a fist-sized globe of true blood into Lu Yun’s hands.

“My thanks, fellow daoist.” Hongjun bowed once more upon receiving the stone and left.

The little fox had popped out at some unknown point and clambered to Lu Yun’s shoulder. Confusion sparkled in her eyes when she watched Hongjun leave.

“So it’s... him,” she murmured.

“You know the dao ancestor?” Lu Yun looked askance at the little fox.

“If who you call the dao ancestor is that person... then I am one of his honorary disciples. He was the one who enlightened me and helped me forge my dao foundations so that I would reach the chaos realm,” the little fox muttered.

Lu Yun wasn’t surprised by this. In his understanding, Dao Ancestor Hongjun was on the same level as the great Pangu. He too was a creator!

“We should be going to Mount Buzhou!” The little fox tugged at Lu Yun’s robes. “Eternal and Arbiter must settle down as soon as possible, or they’ll be born soon!”

The two eggs that Yinglong had given Lu Yun were constantly on the little fox’s mind. They had to go where they needed to go as quickly as possible. Otherwise, they would be ordinary connate demon gods the moment they hatched and just regular chaos realm cultivators.

“Mm, now that I have the true blood in hand, it’s time to visit Mount Buzhou again.” Lu Yun looked to the east. “Bai Zhaoju should’ve gone to the Mu Clan and sought out Ling Weiyang by now. So... I guess I’ll wait a little bit longer to visit the Mu Clan.”

He wanted to visit Ling Weiyang to find out a way to capture the Constellation Willow. Though Ling Weiyang was currently a no-name minor character, Lu Yun still believed he possessed the requisite ability to do so.

Instead of burrowing back into his robes, the little fox stood on Lu Yun's shoulder. Thanks to the core essence of a Qingqiu mountain ghost, she'd recovered her energy and her cultivation had rebounded to the celestial divine realm. The Bell of Chaos on her chest now emanated a faint golden luster.

However, Lu Yun's trip to Mount Buzhou this time wasn't as tranquil as before. Somehow, news of the little fox being Tushan and possessing Taiyi's ultimate treasure the Bell of Chaos spread like it had wings. Numerous dominating presences locked onto Lu Yun the second he left the Yan Tribe.

"Fuxi is right, these connate demon gods are cancerous tumors upon the great wilderness. There are realm monsters and dead spirits in space, ready to attack the great wilderness at any time, but these connate demons are wholly unmoved..."

Chapter 870: Wahuang

Currently, there happened to be a connate demon god blocking Lu Yun's way.

Though they were in the Yellow River basin and Lord of the River, Bingyi, stood guard in its waters, the two demon gods were still so bold as to step forward and prevent Lu Yun from walking out of the premises.

They were initial chaos realm cultivators on the same level as Dusk Snake, but Hebo didn't dare show himself like he had before when the snake threatened the Yellow River. Two of them acting in concert was too much to handle. In fact, all of the nearby gremlins and spirits also scattered as well.

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"Lie Shan of the human race, hand over the Bell of Chaos and Tushan! I will permit your true spirit to reincarnate if you do so!" A purple-golden elk pawed the empty air upon which it stood. Among the majestic branches of his antlers was a pure gold pair that glittered with terrifying lightning.

Fuzhu!

He was a tremendously mighty connate demon god that didn't take the form of all living beings. Manifested in his true form, he radiated an intensely strong presence.

Another connate demon god stood by his side, likewise present in his true form. It was a large snake topped by a human head, graced with a pair of wings on its back—Huashe!

Fuzhu and Huashe weren't counted among the strongest of demon gods, but they were absolutely the most difficult to get rid of.

Lu Yun's expression darkened ominously and the little fox burrowed back into his arms.

"You can't summon your bell replica again. Otherwise, we won't be able to retrieve those two eggs when we reach Mount Buzhou," Lu Yun transmitted to the little fox, who nodded slightly in return.

Whoosh!

A blossom of black flame danced upon his palm when Lu Yun spread out his hand, causing Fuzhu and Huashe's faces to freeze.

Though Hongjun had borrowed the Stone of Three Lives, the hellfire within it had taken root in Lu Yun's body. Equipped with the Tome of Life and Death, he easily tamed this branch of hell's flames.

"Don't the two of you want to know why I was chasing Dusk Snake?" Lu Yun grinned, then bared his teeth savagely. "Because he possessed hellfire, so I had to kill him and take it for myself. Slicing and dicing him was the only way to lay claim to it myself!"

Swoosh!

Hellfire ignited over his body and blazed furiously.

Fuzhu and Huashe shot backward, instantly popping up tens of thousands of kilometers above the clouds. They looked rather perturbed. Tushan and the Bell of Chaos should've been theirs for the taking if they joined hands, but who would've thought that Lie Shan of the human race would be such a prickly porcupine!

He possessed hellfire!

Whoosh!

Lu Yun took one step forward and caught up to them.

"What, don't you want Tushan and the Bell of Chaos anymore?" He snorted, stoking the flames on him to greater heights. Fuzhu and Huashe's terrified faces reflected a mixture of black radiance and a deadly cold aura.

Boom.

Lu Yun walked up and jabbed straight at Fuzhu's face.

"Don't you go too far!" Fuzhu roared and released purplish-golden arcs of electricity from the golden antlers on his head.

"Playing with lightning huh? I'm your daddy in that!" Lu Yun crowed and seized all of the lightning bolts sizzling his way.

Crackle crackle crackle.

What would be utterly terrifying thunder and lightning in the eyes of other living beings was reduced to dust in Lu Yun's hands. Shock cracked Fuzhu's indignation and he quickly sprang backwards.

At the same time, Huashe flapped his enormous wings and whipped up monstrous waves in mid air. They churned toward Lu Yun with not only the purest energy of water, but also an extremely corrosive power.

Fuzhu released his lightning again, melding with Huashe's waves. The two combined into a ferocious beast that slowly stood up in the sky. Electricity popped and wreathed around it; it took the form of a huge elk with a pair of gigantic wings on its back. Snake scales crawled all over its body and it looked inordinately terrifying.

"Die!!" The massive beast howled at the skies and charged Lu Yun.

“Fuck off!!” Lu Yun punched back with both hands, deploying sword dao through his fists. They acted as two razor-sharp flying swords, one slashing out with Vast Dragon Seaturner, and the other with Peng of Kun!

Boooooom.

A tremendous rumble sounded above the clouds that threatened to shake this part of the world. The enormous beast that Fuzhu and Huashe had jointly created was instantly blasted to pieces, and hellfire lashed out to evaporate the water energy and lightning that formed the beast.

Lu Yun flew a few thousand kilometers backward, a knot of something clogging up his chest before he spat it out as a mouthful of blood.

Two connate demon gods working together were too strong for him. Even though he had a body of the world and possessed hellfire, it was still very difficult for him to meet the two head-on.

The two instantly swooped down on him with fury when they saw he’d been injured. One transformed into thunder and lightning, the other as the floodwaters.

Of course Lu Yun wouldn’t back down now. He unleashed a new creation of his that he’d derived from tempering the body with the five elements—a boxing method of the five elements, and enhanced its strength with the organs of the world.

Connate elemental energy swirled to him; the primitive great dao trembled as it sought to take in the great dao that Lu Yun was exuding.

Facing off two chaos realm experts by himself forced him to fully deploy all of the combat arts of the future. Shaking ever more violently, the primitive great dao materialized from the chaos and urgently took in what Lu Yun was giving off.

In this moment, the great dao that’d already absorbed Lu Yun’s qi refinement method began to evolve in another direction.

None of the humans in the great wilderness discovered that their bodies were slowly changing beneath the great dao. They were transmuting into beings more appropriate for this world and more suitable for cultivating the great dao.

Within the human sacred land, a young girl wearing a spotless long white skirt looked at where the three masters were exchanging blows. A smile crossed her face.

“So it turns out that human dao originates from Lie Shan, no wonder he will be the first great emperor of the human race. He will be able to establish human dao as long as he continues to release the great dao within him!”

A soft and tender beauty filled her face, while contentment marked her features. Though she didn’t possess the same heart-pounding beauty as Tushan, she radiated a peaceful aura at all times, like she was the epitome of tranquility found in nature.

The girl was Wahuang, younger sister of Fuxi and daughter of Leize and Huaxu. She watched silently as Lu Yun defied the two connate demon gods.

The great wilderness was the core of this world, source of all beings, and manifestation of the great dao. As long as Lu Yun continued to release his strength in the great wilderness, that would affect the great dao and constantly push it to evolve.

The Tome of Life and Death could be found on him, which was the true source of everything. At the same time, just him and the treasure alone weren't enough to fully transform the primitive great dao into human dao. Only when all of humanity worked in conjunction would they make the great dao theirs.