

## Necropolis 891

### Chapter 891: Establishment of Human Dao

Dijiang and Lu Yun were entangled in battle. The Bell of Chaos hovered over the demon god's head, erupting with golden oscillation after golden oscillation that washed away the ocean of hellfire that Lu Yun had summoned and destroying even the mirage of the Sal Tree of Life and Death.

No ordinary connate treasure could hope to measure up to the most exceptional of their kind in the great wilderness. If it wasn't for Rearbow fully devoting its energies to protecting Lu Yun's body, he too would be made into minced meat in the face of the bell's might.

At the same time, Lu Yun was no longer who he'd once been. He'd obtained Yi's bow and refined the Constellation Willow, both of which resulted in substantial improvements to his body of the world. Even though his flames were continuously beaten back, his strength was still immensely considerable.

Whirr.

Whirr.

Whirr.

Rearbow appeared in Lu Yun's hands in the form of a bow again and sent a cascade of flaming arrows speeding toward Dijiang. The demon god was unfathomably quick, his four wings leaving afterimages in the air as they beat furiously to evade the attack.

Morphing into a curtain of golden light, the Bell of Chaos loomed over Lu Yun. Fire and lightning shrieked and howled inside its curtain; all five elements spewed forth in a rage of offensive fury that combined into a horrifying destructive power.

Unable to react in time, Lu Yun could only watch as the bell itself came down on him, trapping him inside.

RumblerumbleRUMBLE.

It felt like his replica would be physically ripped apart inside this bell!

"Break!!" He stowed Rearbow as a shadow fragment inside his armor and pummeled the light curtain of the bell with both fists.

The Bell of Chaos began to shake, but it was too strong for even Lu Yun to punch through at his current strength. Due to his capture, the Sal Tree mirage and sky full of hellfire began to vanish.

"I see... he can call upon the strange tree in the Sea of Hellfire, which is why he can use that tree to deploy the flames." Dijiang waved a hand and put away the bell. Contempt curved his lips as he looked at the dissipating Sal Tree of Life and Death.

In fact, many demon gods observing the battle were also smiling. Lie Shan of the human race had been defeated and was now imprisoned in Dijiang's Bell of Chaos!

Thus ended the chapter of humanity's legend, and arrived the doom of a peak faction not yet to find its footing.

Many of them looked at the human tribes located in the Yellow River basin with awakening bloodlust. Lie Shan had been pompous and overbearing, daring to use force and coercion on blue-blooded demon gods, on them!

He'd really thought that he was something. How ludicrous and absolutely insulting that a pointless existence lower than a bug had dared to threaten them!

Well, now that he'd been captured in defeat, it was time to take revenge on those mewling humans.

Dijiang ignored the stirring desires of his kind and glanced further up in the sky. He snorted at what he found in the high reaches. "Leize, are you looking to stick your neck out for the human race still?"

Leize's enormous body was in the firmament, and he was displaying his true form of a dragon five hundred thousand kilometers long. He was a connate divine dragon, the first of his kind in the world. Future generations would bestow another name on him—the ancestor dragon.

Coiled in midair, he stared frostily at Dijiang.

"Release Lie Shan," he growled.

"Don't come throw your weight around here, Leize. Do you really think you can bully me with just a replica?!" Growing ire sounded in Dijiang's voice.

It was a publicly known fact that Leize was very strong. But he wasn't here in the flesh, just one of his replicas! He couldn't even be bothered with personally threatening Dijiang, someone with the Bell of Chaos in his hands!

Dijiang had once thought he was on par with Leize, especially after he'd beaten Rushou to death. But that plainly wasn't the case since Leize had only seen fit to send a replica!

Enraged and humiliated beyond belief, he stared mutinously back at the dragon in the skies.

"There's no need for this, senior, a mere Dijiang can't do anything to me yet." Lu Yun's voice suddenly echoed in the air around them before the Bell of Chaos started trembling violently. Dijiang looked at it with horrified shock.

"This is a battle between me and Dijiang. If you wouldn't mind, senior, please don't interfere."

Blinking, Leize paused before bursting out in hearty laughter.

"I see!" Still laughing uproariously, his mammoth figure faded away.

Humm.

The Bell of Chaos shot into the air and magnified to the size of a mountain. Hellfire sparked inside it and slowly fanned into embers that set the treasure ablaze.

His expression ominously brooding, Dijiang hadn't anticipated that Lie Shan would still be able to cause trouble after he'd suppressed the human with the bell!

“There’s one last restriction in the Bell of Chaos! I’m just one final step away from fully refining the greatest treasure of the great wilderness! Jin nation, Bai Zhaoju!” Dijiang looked to the west where the Jin nation was.

“Get down here!” He reached out with a fore claw and dragged the burning bell into his grasp, suppressing the activity within as well. Then, his four wings beat softly before he vanished on the spot.

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Jin nation drowned in immense grief. Upon the death of their ruler, Goldflare Mountain pulsed with golden radiance at the heart of the kingdom, protecting the land. It was the foremost metal-attribute treasure beneath the heavens and synonymous with the Builder Tree in the Mu nation.

However, it hadn’t seemed to be passed down by later generations, so it wasn’t as famous as the Builder Tree.

Craaaash.

The country shuddered as the now master-less Goldflare Mountain quaked, its protective light curtain torn to pieces.

“Hand over Bai Zhaoju, or witness the annihilation of your nation!” Dijiang demanded coolly from the air.

“Dijiang, you killed our liege, we will not suffer you to take another breath!” The country boiled over at the demon god’s appearance as countless Jin citizens took up arms and charged him.

Munch!

Dijiang opened his mouth wide and devoured the vanguard of citizens coming his way.

“Since you won’t give up Bai Zhaoju, the Jin nation will be erased from the great wilderness today!” He flew into a fit of frustrated rage.

As time went on, resistance from the Bell of Chaos grew increasingly stronger; he was already using half of his cultivation to keep the agitating Lie Shan under control. He had to find Bai Zhaoju as soon as possible and take the Taiyi true feather from him!

It’d dawned on Dijiang by this point that Lie Shan had allowed himself to be captured by the bell. It made it easier for him to wrest the treasure back!

“Erase the Jin nation from the great wilderness? Just listen to yourself, Dijiang.” A cold snort sounded from the void before a burning hot presence descended from the skies. Looking very much out of place, a giant surrounded by flames popped into existence.

“Zhurong!” Dijiang’s eyes widened at the newcomer. An enormous ripple materialized behind him the next moment—a black figure stood within it, looking across at him with the frostiest glare possible.

Gonggong!

The rulers of the Shui and Huo nations had arrived at the same time.

“Do the two of you also want to stick your noses where they don’t belong?” Dijiang regarded the two with hostile unwelcomeness.

“I owe Rushou a debt of protection and enlightenment. I would be the most ungrateful sinner in the eyes of heaven if I allowed you to destroy his kingdom,” Zhurong denounced coolly.

Zhurong and Gonggong were divine spirits of nature rather than connate demon gods. One had been born of connate li fire, while the other from connate kui water. They’d only been empyrean realm at birth, but possessed the innate ability to control their element. Thus, many demon gods naturally looked covetously at them.

It’d been Rushou and Goumang who’d stepped forward to keep them safe until they reached chaos realm and constructed their nations.

They would never stand for Dijiang destroying the Jin nation after killing Rushou. They couldn’t kill Dijiang equipped with the Bell of Chaos, but they could and would protect the Jin nation! Therefore, they’d made use of their elements to project their images and hold him off outside the kingdom.

“In that case, the two of you can follow Rushou!” Dijiang sprang into motion.

He couldn’t use the bell at the moment, but he was still stronger than both of them. Utilizing his speed to the utmost, he destroyed their projections before anyone could take another breath.

“It was all due to Rushou and Goumang’s protection that you survived to this day. How else would a mere water and fire divine spirit be able to create a kingdom in the great wilderness?” He sneered, not thinking much of Zhurong or Gonggong at all. He looked at the reformed curtain of light from Goldflare Mountain and flung himself at it.

Crack crack craaaack.

The protections from this wondrous treasure didn’t last any longer this time around.

“Dijiang! If you dare attack the Jin nation today, I swear I will not rest until you are dead!” Zhurong’s true form suddenly rushed out of the void to stop the demon god.

“Hmmp!” Dijiang sniffed, took human form, and slapped Zhurong away into the ground. “Wait, what?” Shock appeared on the demon god’s face. “Why am I... in human form?!”

This terrified him more than anything. Logically speaking, connate demon gods of the great wilderness had only two forms. Their true form, and one that took the shape of whoever looked at them.

But he was now in human form, and being in this form gave him the most comfortable feeling of connecting perfectly with the great dao! Even more than terrifying, this was horrifically uncomfortable!

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!

Muffled thuds sounded from the bell on him. Standing within it, Lu Yun unleashed all of his power, techniques, arts, and knowledge with wild abandon so they would meld into the connate great dao.

And in this moment, human dao was first established.

Whoosh!

The Bell of Chaos suddenly flew out of Dijiang's robes and shot into the clouds. Lu Yun's figure appeared above it, looking down loftily upon the demon god.

### **Chapter 892: Dreadful**

General panic seized all of the demon gods in the great wilderness. They hadn't cared when the connate great dao changed to requiring human form for cultivation, as it didn't apply to them. But now, great dismay registered upon finding out that the changes were extending to them as well!

Only in taking human form would they receive the approval of the great dao, which meant that though they could release greater strength in their true forms, they had to assume human form if they wanted to gain a foothold in the great wilderness.

This was extraordinary humiliation for the connate demon gods!

Though humans were descended from the great Pangu, it'd been countless eons since his fall. The human form was also slightly different from the great god's; ergo, demon gods wouldn't be paying tribute to a legendary creator by taking human form.

No, they would really be only imitating human form!

How was it right, how was it proper that the majestic demon gods were forced to assume the shape of mewling latter-day descendants in order to assert themselves in their own home??

"No matter how Lie Shan's done it, humans must be eradicated and Lie Shan must die!"

"If Leize dares obstruct us from killing him, then he must die too!" Nuanzi stubbornly remained in his true form and rampaged furiously in denial.

Although he'd previously acknowledged humanity's status and accepted Lie Shan's strength, he would never permit something like this to happen. He was a connate demon god, not one of the pets that latter-day descendants called great gods!

A prodigious ruckus swept over the great wilderness as countless demon gods blustered and snarled, trying to oppose the connate great dao and refuse the requirement to transform into humans.

Alas and alack, they all failed. Each and every single one.

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Thunder and lightning roared within Jin nation borders, and the demon gods who'd come to watch the battle also lost their minds with outrage. Dijiang stood in the void, turbulent killing intent ripping through his eyes.

Transform into human form? There could be no greater insult!

"Lie Shan, the cause of all this stems from you... Perhaps the great dao will recover if you are dead!" A black spear had appeared in Dijiang's hands at some time—his ultimate treasure. The Bell of Chaos had

also returned to his body to enhance his strength. Though that last restriction still remained intact, it didn't prevent him from releasing the bell's power.

Lu Yun could also sense the overflowing bitterness and wrath from the demon gods, but he wasn't worried. He had his own sources of strength and trump cards to call on.

"Never thought that Demon Vine—ninth of the great connate spirit roots—was growing inside the Bell of Chaos!" Mirth tugged at his lips. He'd been able to break out of the bell's imprisonment because he'd found the Demon Vine inside and refined it into his body, resulting in another explosive thirty percent increase to his strength.

That spirit root was likewise only partially intact with most of its core essence transplanted elsewhere. More importantly, Lu Yun had made a huge discovery after harvesting two spirit roots—they were the only ones of their kind beneath the heavens, so if one of them was destroyed, the laws of heaven would give birth to a second!

In other words, the connate spirit roots that he was refining in the great wilderness now wouldn't affect their future existence.

"Dijiang!" he roared. "You're right, I changed the heavenly dao and transformed it from the primitive great dao to the great dao of humans! From now on, humans are the favored child of heaven and the spiritual leader of all life!

"Come kill me if you have what it takes!" His voice rolled outward like thunder and spread throughout the great wilderness. "Otherwise, I will still exist even if you eradicate humanity, and I will continue to increase my race's numbers. We will be ceaseless and unending, and you will have my wrath to contend with!"

Hummmm.

The armor on his body shifted once more and turned into a blazing wheel of a black sun that hovered over Lu Yun's head. This was Rearbow's final and strongest form, something that not even Yi had been able to manifest.

As the connate great dao was now the embryo human dao, it'd imbued Lu Yun's body of the world with the power to activate the Rearbow's final form.

Chills ran down the backs of Dijiang and other demon gods to see the bow's metamorphosis. In its current form, the bow absolutely matched the Bell of Chaos!

"Dijiang, haven't you found it odd that you've been unable to undo the last restriction in the bell?" posed Lu Yun when he saw that the demon god wasn't in a hurry to attack him.

"What do you know about that?" Dijiang retorted coldly. He'd reverted to his true form as it felt too much of an insult to assume human shape.

"It's not just you, even Taiyi didn't fully refine the bell back in his day. He didn't successfully undo the last restriction either." Lu Yun snorted, "Or did all of you really think that he owed his strength to the bell? Leize doesn't own anything similar, but he can still punch all of your pathetic lights out in one go."

Dijiang's expression darkened ominously. Lie Shan was correct. Though he'd beaten Rushou to death with the Bell of Chaos, he still didn't have the right to challenge an existence such as Leize, and he wasn't a match for Taiyi either.

"Treasures are just items at the end of the day, personal strength is the truest be all and end all!" Lu Yun roared with laughter and flashed to Dijiang, thrusting outward with a single punch. A hundred million rays of sword energy accompanied his move, blasting into Dijiang's body like a frightful storm of sword energy.

Snarling, Dijiang sent his black spear twisting through the air like a black dragon, sweeping it across the void to smash viciously into Lu Yun's fist. A hazy streak of black light rushed across the sky, tearing apart the very fabric of reality.

"Don't destroy the Jin nation, we fight in the cosmos!" Lu Yun shouted and grabbed two of Dijiang's wings, stomped his foot on the demon god's stomach, and punted him into the planet's outer atmosphere. He then gathered himself and shot upward, close behind his quarry.

Dijiang snapped and howled, heretofore unfelt shame flooding his mind.

Since he wasn't in human form, he wasn't acknowledged by the heavenly dao. Therefore, his strength was restrained, even though he was in his true form. The Bell of Chaos rang loudly within his body, beginning to assimilate with the new dao.

Dijiang grit his teeth and stubbornly hung onto his own form. If he changed, that would be an admission of defeat—not to the heavenly dao, but to Lie Shan!

"DIEEEEE!!" Completely losing his mind, two red flames ignited in his eyes and his spear flared with light before hurtling toward the human.

Balling his hands into fists, Lu Yun used punches as swords and filled the cosmos with sword energy. Neither ducking nor evading, he met all of Dijiang's moves blow for blow.

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Down on Mount Buzhou, Wahuang took human form and looked up at the two battling figures with a smile on her face.

"Ah, it's so much more comfortable to take human shape beneath the human dao, there's no need to draw upon our own energy." She stretched out her limbs with an expression of clear enjoyment.

Leize, Huaxu, Zhurong, Gonggong, and Goumang had all taken human form as well. The human dao was greatly bolstered by the addition of these incredible masters.

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"It doesn't matter to me what form I take." Asura sat in the void and cocked his head at the furious battle in space. He murmured to himself, "I don't care as long as I obtain enough strength to kill Lie Shan."

He suddenly broke out into foolish giggles. "Perhaps it hasn't occurred to Lie Shan yet that modifying the heavenly dao has only sped up his execution... It's much faster to cultivate in human form!"

He continued giggling, but there was no happiness in his eyes. It seemed that the smile on his face was just something drawn onto it.

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All eyes in the great wilderness were glued to the conflict. The demon gods were more vested in this clash than they'd been in Lie Shan's battle with Asura.

However, no one moved to intervene.

After all, they possessed their own dignity and code of conduct. They could seek revenge on Lie Shan from the shadows and slaughter humans in secret, but no one could do anything to spoil a match between two peak masters.

This was an ultimate battle between the connate demon gods of old and the newly arisen great dao. More of them would step up to challenge Lie Shan if Dijiang failed, but as successive challengers, not as a mob.

Lu Yun had ripped off all of Dijiang's wings after a furious assault and managed to break four of the demon god's bird feet. However, he'd likewise suffered grisly wounds. Light shone through a dozen clear holes in his body, and a flaming heart of the world could be seen thumping in his chest.

Claaaaang.

Dijiang suddenly summoned the Bell of Chaos into space. Ringing explosively, it smashed viciously into the human youth.

Unable to react in time, the sound waves sectioned Lu Yun off at the waist and sent him flying.

Roaring with bloodlust, Dijiang regenerated his wings and deployed his greatest speed, instantly catching up to the injured youth. He grabbed the lower part of the body and wound back his arm to smash it into the human's upper body.

Blood and flesh flew through space, dying the cosmos red.

Suddenly, a startled Dijiang dropped the half corpse and flung it far away from him. It'd started burning at some time and was now an inferno of hellfire.

An illusory Sal Tree of Life and Death suddenly rushed out of the void, perpetuating hellfire across the stars.

Lu Yun walked out of the sea of hellfire, whole and complete. The black sun over his head was burning again, burning with hellfire.

Taken aback, Dijiang immediately retreated out of the fires' range. He stood at the other end of the cosmos with the bell over his head, coolly staring down the human.

Lu Yun likewise looked back without a word, his body igniting with flames as a black dragon rose from the fiery ocean and charged at Dijiang. Spelling doom, hellfire formed rays of sword energy.

Vast Dragon Seaturner, subverting the Sea of Hellfire!



## Chapter 893: Creator Within Reach

Transforming into a dragon of hellfire, Lu Yun charged Dijiang like he was a sword aimed for the demon god's head. All hellfire within the atmosphere concentrated on the black dragon, and he streaked through the stars like a ray of inky-black sword energy.

Dijiang shrieked madly, changing his black spear into a dragon as well and sending it coiling atop the Bell of Chaos. The two connate treasures melded their strength together to the accompaniment of ringing bell tolls. Golden oscillations spread through space, containing so much fearsome power that the demon gods observing the fight scattered in all directions.

The Taiyin and sun star began trembling, and even the boundary protecting the great wilderness planet from the yin spirits and realm monster began shaking.

Boooooom.

The sword dragon of hellfire crumbled, and the Bell of Chaos flew an unknown distance backward. Dijiang and Lu Yun materialized in space and threw themselves at each other again. No combat arts or mysterious methods flared, just one-on-one physical strength!

However, Lu Yun's close combat techniques were a thousand times more advanced than what Dijiang possessed; his fists constantly appeared from an unforeseen angle to deliver heavy blows.

At the same time, the demon god's strength was far greater than Lu Yun's. Any punch he managed to land punctured the human clean through.

Not too far off in the distance, Nuanzi watched with an increasingly numb skull. Although Lie Shan and Dijiang were still less than Leize, either of their strengths was something that Nuanzi could no longer compare to.

It would be no exaggeration to say that these two combatants were the strongest in the great wilderness, second to only someone like Leize!

"The method of cultivation now exists in the great dao. I'll be able to reach their level if I take human form and practice human methods..." Comprehension flashed through Nuanzi's mind. "That Asura's already begun to cultivate."

He clenched his teeth to the point where blood oozed out of his mouth, but still refused to transform into a human.

"Why is it that mere humans can receive the approval of the heavenly dao and be able to change it?!" Many other demon gods puzzled over the same question.

While it was true that humanity was of the ancient Pangu's bloodline, Pangu's relationship to them was like that of connate demon gods to their latter-day descendants. Apart from inheriting Pangu's form and a thin strand of bloodline, they hadn't inherited any of the ancient god's combat arts or strength.

Humans were just a pathetic race with nothing special about them. But all that had changed after Lie Shan appeared.

Rumble—

A tremendous shudder traveled down from the stars. The boundary formed by the Taiyin and sun star lay in pieces, revealing the great wilderness to the rest of space. Countless yin spirits instantly honed in on the planet, but they were quickly destroyed upon approach as collateral damage in the monumental fight.

As for realm monsters... they were still sealed into the chaos by the Great Formation of the Nineheavens Gates.

“DIE!!” Freed from confinement to the planet’s upper atmosphere, the two could truly let loose without reservation in space.

Dijiang howled and grabbed a nearby star, throwing it at Lu Yun. It wasn’t a real star, but one of the great masters who’d died in battle and transformed into a star in space.

“You fucker!” Lu Yun went a little crazy at the sight. In his eyes, these fallen veterans were all heroes. Their bodies were not to be defiled, and this was something Dijiang surely knew.

However, the demon god was throwing the bodies of heroes around! This touched upon Lu Yun’s reverse scale.

He carefully caught the star and swiftly lobbed it in another direction. Then, he summoned Rearbow and began shooting.

Arrows fired forth like raindrops and poured down upon Dijiang, who swiftly increased the distance between the two of them and redeployed the Bell of Chaos over his head. It shook out curtains of golden light and kept his body protected within.

The volley of arrows pounded on the bell’s curtains and sent the treasure trembling, but Lu Yun’s current level of strength couldn’t break its protections.

“Come out of that turtle shell if you dare!” Lu Yun snarled.

Dijiang didn’t possess a body of the world that could breathe in tandem with the heavens at every moment. His strength and energy were limited, and he’d exhausted quite a bit of personal reserves in the fight thus far. He pulled in his ponderous body beneath the bell and slowly breathed in the energy found in space, recovering slightly.

“Break the bell’s protection if you have what it takes.” He cast a cold look at Lu Yun and returned to the task of recovery.

“Hmph.” Sneering at the response, Lu Yun blasted outward with all of his strength and beat furiously down on the bell.

He didn’t use hellfire or Rearbow this time, just unleashed himself to the fullest extent possible to resonate with the heavens. He let loose with everything he possessed, his body and organs of the world, and the six yin organs they’d evolved.

In the chaos, the shaking great dao furiously absorbed Lu Yun’s presence and evolved another step further.

Dijiang's expression grew increasingly ugly from his seat of safety inside the bell. He felt like a fish out of water at this moment, that the great dao was retreating ever further away from him. Even the qi in space was slowly slipping out of his grasp and becoming unavailable to him.

"I see... so you are able to modify the great dao when you fully unleash your strength!" Dijiang finally grasped this as he watched Lie Shan's maddened attacks. Every change in the connate great dao had occurred when the human battled a demon god.

"It seems there's really no other way of restoring the great dao without killing him." His face was now an alarming shade of purple, as if he was suffocating. He could sense his strength recede and his regression from a lofty demon god to an ordinary being.

All of the demon gods had discovered this, not just Dijiang. If they still refused to surrender to the great dao and take human form, they would all be summarily demoted to mundane life forms without any power.

"Lie Shan, I will personally rip you apart for this!" An anguished wail burst from Dijiang's mouth before his mammoth form of four wings and six bird feet vanished. A limber middle-aged man dressed in long red robes appeared beneath the bell.

The great dao instantly flooded back into Dijiang's body and restored his strength, while the Bell of Chaos hummed happily as well.

"The path of cultivation?!" Dijiang started, seeing a cultivation method in the great dao. If he could grasp his own cultivation method from what he saw in the great dao, he'd be able to continue cultivating and eventually become a creator!

"It's the cultivation method of the human race, created by Lie Shan! This boy is... an unparalleled genius!" Dijiang looked at Lu Yun in a new light.

He knew of the cultivation methods created by the divine spirits, but those crude and basic methods were of no use to demon gods. Fuxi, Wahuang, and Tushan possessed methods as well, but those were only suitable for themselves.

However, the cultivation method of humans was applicable to all living beings! It could be utilized by all sentient beings beneath the heavens, including demon gods—the caveat being that one had to be in human form.

"Regardless, you are still the source of all trouble!"

Hummm.

The Bell of Chaos exploded into the size of a mountain and bore down on Lu Yun, clanging loudly and sending out golden oscillations.

Lu Yun refused to back down, summoning the blazing black sun from the bow again. The light of hellfire flared from the sun, fighting back against the bell. Behind him, the illusory Sal Tree appeared once more.

Dijiang was even faster in human form and stabbed forward with his black spear before one could react.

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Dijiang had submitted!

He'd submitted to the great dao and to the humans!

This chilled the hearts of many demon gods, but as the great dao grew increasingly heavier and more of their power wrested away, the remaining holdouts had no choice but to take human form.

They didn't want to relinquish their dignity, but they wanted even less to become ordinary! As a mundane being, even their intelligence would be wiped away.

Emitting one last bitter howl, Nuanzi withdrew his true form and became a man in black robes. However, he too quickly discovered the surprise within the great dao.

"Creator... within reach?!" His eyes widened greatly. "But Lie Shan is the source of it all. If becoming a creator is possible, he will always walk ahead of us. Therefore, he must die, no matter what!"

A frosty light glinted in his eyes as he looked up at where Lie Shan and Dijiang were fighting. However, he stubbornly clung onto his last shred of dignity as a demon god and refrained from ambushing Lu Yun.

Many demon gods had given up on the fight and returned to their homes to study the new heavenly dao, and to glean their own cultivation methods from it.

Humans were undoubtedly the most direct beneficiaries of the change in world order. With the change in heavenly dao, their qi refinement method was recognized by the great dao and their cultivation future full of potential and hope.

At celestial divine realm, Shennong spontaneously broke through to divine king—no, human king realm!

As more and more demon gods took human form and incorporated their great daos into the heavenly dao, the human dao cultivation system was finalized in the battle of Lu Yun versus Dijiang.

Connate realm, golden core realm, true human, celestial human, human king, empyrean, and chaos realm!

The seven realms were fully listed in the heavenly dao.

Although they weren't any different from the original realms under the primitive great dao, what they meant was much different from before. Under the human dao, cultivators in the same realm would dominate their peers under the previous dao.

The heavenly dao was no longer its primitive iteration. After this phase of improvement, it'd become the even more marvelous human dao, so of course its cultivators would be stronger than their predecessors.

Human dao had truly been established, but remained in its initial stages. The collective efforts of all were necessary to continue refining it.

Deep among the reaches of the stars, Lu Yun and Dijiang continued waging their staggering battle.

### **Chapter 894: Slaying Dijiang**

Fighting peaked between Lu Yun and Dijiang.

The demon god repeatedly flashed between his true form and human form, deploying all sorts of secret techniques and methods.

The human, however, brought even greater strength to bear. Various combat arts of the immortal dao to come unleashed in full fury from Lu Yun's body. Now that the human dao had officially been established, he no longer had any reservations about anything.

Boooooom.

The void trembled when Lu Yun deployed his nascent spirit observation method, projecting four copies of himself. Joining efforts with his primary body, they stood in the five directions, each of which also corresponded to the five elements.

The heart, liver, kidneys, lungs, and spleen of the world imbued the four projections with the power of the five elements, creating a formation of the five elements in the cosmos.

Heaven and earth shook in response as this realm wasn't just the ground and sky of the great wilderness. It was also space, the chaos, and everything in relation to them!

Power from the five elements surged from their respective orientations and landed in the midst of the formation. At the end of the four cardinal directions, four colossal beings suddenly opened their eyes and looked incredulously at where the disturbance originated from.

"That mythical figure has finally appeared... Human dao has been established, so we should make our return to the mortal world," the giant beast of the west slowly suggested.

"The origin divine has not yet come into being. We can return to the world only when it does and when the Exalted God creates the divine race," a soft, female voice from the south objected to the idea.

"No rush, there's no rush. We can be born only after that person leaves," gently sighed the beast of the north.

With that, the four colossal beings fell silent at the same time and slowly hid themselves in the depths of the void. The four great pillars supporting Yi's tomb beneath Suncrows Plain crumbled with abrupt violence, and the blood demon imprisoned in Kuafu's body soared into the sky.

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"Formations!" Dijiang screamed when he saw Lu Yun's latest creation.

Formations were the basis by which Fuxi protected humanity. His adept skill and ability to directly call upon the power of the land dissuaded other connate demon gods from brashly attacking Mount Buzhou.

Taiyi had been able to construct his celestial court and become the master of the world back in the day because he wielded formations as well!

And now, Lie Shan of the human race had just deployed a terrifying killing formation. He'd melded the power of the five elements into a frightful attack that ripped into the Bell of Chaos.

Blood seeped out of Dijiang's pores and drenched his body, making it look like he'd just crawled out of the Blood Sea. Cloying fear wrapped around his heart; this formation of the five elements was a harrowing one of absolute slaughter. He didn't have any room to maneuver or counter attack!

That was only to be expected as Lu Yun had deployed this particular formation with the organs of the world.

"DIE!" Lu Yun detonated his four projections when he saw Dijiang's current condition. Erupting with rays of lethal force filling the cosmos, energy from the five elements coalesced into five keen blades that stabbed down at Dijiang.

Though the Bell of Chaos could hold off all five blades, the force of impact would still jar Dijiang into heavy injuries.

Being the quick thinker he was, however, he quickly assessed that he couldn't withstand the attack when it came crashing down on him. He immediately made up his mind and pushed the bell outward to meet the attack head-on.

Rumble—

Blinding brilliance flared from the bell and rammed straight into the five gigantic blades. Dijiang assumed his true form as a scarlet bird at the same time, four wings flapping strenuously to propel him into the far reaches of space.

Lu Yun reached out, grabbed the bell, and brought it under his control.

"Trying to run?" A malicious smile played at the corner of his lips.

A bow of pure black appeared in his hand and fully drew taut in the next second. Energy from the formation of the five elements surged and gathered as a glittering arrow notched on Rearbow.

Lu Yun released the string with confidence, firing an arrow shimmering with pentacolored radiance into space. It quickly vanished into the void.

.....

A hundred million kilometers away.

A twinkling arrow of five colors pierced Dijiang through when he fell out of the void.

Pfft!

Energy crawling over his form and swiftly eating through it, his physical body was no more and even his soul began to fragment.

"Lie Shan!!" the demon god shrieked with anguish. After enduring physical destruction and soul fragmentation, he had only a true spirit in his possession. No matter what, he would have to be reborn into the great wilderness and start anew after this fight.

Demon god true spirits possessed exceedingly high potential and new cultivation methods were starting to circulate after the establishment of human dao. He'd reach his current heights again sooner or later if he cultivated well.

But—

Who knew how long that'd take? He could very likely die during this process and see even his true spirit scattered.

He would never accept this!

“Oh? Dijiang, do you hate Lie Shan as well?” A gentle voice echoed in Dijiang's true spirit.

“Asura!” Dijiang shrank back in shock when he heard the voice, but he was only a spirit form now and couldn't put up any resistance against the demon god.

“Become a part of me since you hate Lie Shan so much... I will take revenge for you!” Maw yawning wide open, Asura swallowed Dijiang in one gulp.

.....

When Lu Yun returned from the cosmos, he sped toward Suncrows Plain.

He'd naturally sensed that the formation in Yi's tomb had shattered and the imprisoned blood demon escaped, so Suncrows Plain was his first stop after destroying Dijiang.

High up in the skies over Suncrows Plain, Kuafu's resurrected body fought and tore at the blood demon.

“So it turns out you're just one of Asura's soul fragments and not the real deal. No wonder, I was wondering how you'd made it out in one piece after encountering Daoist Yuyu!” Lu Yun understood as soon as he saw the blood demon.

In the future, Daoist Yuyu would beat Asura into literal pieces and bury him in separate coffins. Even after somehow escaping from that, he wouldn't have been in one piece with which to follow Lu Yun back into the past!

Madness dawned in the blood demon's eyes when he saw Lu Yun, but he still retained one last shred of reason. He couldn't take on the human, not right now. He tried to shake off Kuafu the moment the human arrived so he could make for the stars, but Kuafu's reflexes were even faster.

The ancient god threw his staff out and transformed it into a forest maze to trap the blood demon inside, making it easy for Lu Yun to lay hands on his enemy with one step.

“Lie Shan, you can't kill me!” The blood demon paled when he saw killing intent glitter in the human's eyes. “You won't be able to return to your time if I die!”

Lu Yun jerked with shock.

“We came as three, so we must return as three. That's why I didn't kill you before!” the blood demon quickly garbled out an explanation when he saw Lie Shan's expression.

### **Chapter 895: Making a Mess in the Mu Nation**

In the twenty years that Lu Yun had arrived in the great wilderness, Fuxi had only told him once that he'd be able to return to his time after a hundred years. As for how exactly... Lu Yun didn't know much.

Thinking back to when he'd first encountered the blood demon in this world, it would've been child's play for the blood demon to temporarily call upon his real strength and kill an insignificant human.

Though Lu Yun had later deceived the blood demon, the latter really hadn't retaliated against the human for it. This seemed to be an oblique confirmation of his words.

"What about Tushan?" Lu Yun stared coolly at the blood demon in his hand. "Three? Tushan is a life form of this era."

"No no no! She's gone through the reincarnation cycle and has been reborn in the world of immortals. She no longer belongs to this time period!" the blood demon hastily explained.

Lu Yun frowned, then suppressed the blood demon with a casual hand flip. He couldn't be bothered to further question whether those words were true or not, he could only wait to ask Fuxi or Ah Zhi.

As for the little fox... Lu Yun knew her all too well. She'd never tell him the truth.

"Kuafu!" He turned around and addressed the corpse standing in the air.

His body was a charred mess like it'd been through a big fire—it was dead, and Kuafu's soul a yin soul. He wasn't a zombie, but a ghost.

"I'll take you to the netherdark. I think I'll be able to resurrect you there!"

The Resurrection death art was useless on the demon god since he'd been dead for so long. But if he resided in the netherdark and waited for the construction of the reincarnation wheel, Kuafu would be able to return through the power of that system.

"There's no need." Kuafu shook his head, his voice raspy and dry. "The rule of the connate demon gods is about to end. I should follow heaven's will and go to my death."

He raised a cupped fist salute to Lu Yun and returned to his place in Yi's tomb without further ado, leaving behind a youth standing silently in the air for a very long time.

Eventually heaving a sigh, Lu Yun traveled west in a streak of light. He didn't know that Asura had eaten Dijiang, but since he'd pulverized the demon god's body and extinguished his soul, that meant Dijiang was as good as dead.

When he arrived at the Jin nation, it was shrouded by a thick sense of sorrow. He didn't see Bai Zhaoju—the future White Emperor had already entered Goldflare Mountain and wouldn't emerge before he reached the chaos realm.

Expression grave, Lu Yun brought out their late ruler's body and placed it in front of the mountain. With the return of Rushou's corpse, every Jin citizen broke out in heartfelt sobs.

"This seat has personally killed Dijiang and avenged your ruler," Lu Yun intoned.

"Zhurong thanks the fellow daoist for avenging my master!" Zhurong and Gonggong walked up to Lu Yun, bowing courteously. Both of them were in human form in accordance with the creed of the human dao.



“Bai Zhaoju is my friend, so I naturally needed to do something on his behalf when his master was killed. But if there comes a day that sees Dijiang reborn into this world, then it will be up to Bai Zhaoju to personally resolve this karmic relationship.” Lu Yun nodded.

“Alright, as this matter is resolved, I shall take my leave.” Lu Yun raised cupped fists to Zhurong and Gonggong before vanishing from the Jin nation.

“To think that the great dao would become the dao of the human race in a few short days.” Gonggong heaved a great sigh as he looked to the east of the great wilderness, where Mount Buzhou stood.

“This doesn’t affect us much since we are divine spirits born of heaven and earth, living beings created by the father god. It matters not who rules the world,” Zhurong responded.

A sparkle flashed through Gonggong’s eyes. “It’s just, this is unfair... Why must we wait for the birth of the origin divine and the Exalted God before we can become our own race...”

“Father god arranged for all this, so he must have his own reasons for doing so.” Zhurong frowned gently.

“But the father god is dead...”

.....

After departing from the Jin nation, Lu Yun instantly crossed the great wilderness and reached the East Sea, heading for Mu nation.

Compared to the Jin nation, things were relatively calm here. The Mu nation hadn’t been unduly disturbed by Rushou’s fall. Goumang was currently in the Builder Tree, overseeing Ling Weiyang’s cultivation.

With the changes in the heavenly dao and appearance of humanity’s cultivation method, Goumang acceded to the wishes of the human dao and became one of its connate demon gods. His cultivation level was greater than Ling Weiyang’s, and he possessed a more thorough understanding of cultivation. With his pointers, Ling Weiyang would progress at a tremendous pace.

However, a particular ruckus had seized the Mu nation as their national treasure had gone missing. Frenzied action swirled as far as the eye could see; everyone was in fine fettle as they chased after the thieves.

Their target? A snow white fox and a little girl that looked thirteen years old!

The little fox and Ah Bao?

Lu Yun was dazed by the turn of events.

The two were surrounded by experts of the Mu nation. Though Ah Bao was at the human king realm and the little fox at celestial human realm, they were facing hordes of Mu experts. If it wasn't for the fact that they were with Lie Shan, they probably would've been put to death a long time ago.

“Arrest the two of them!” roared a livid man with a pair of pure-green eyes dressed in long, jade-green robes. “We’ll bring them back to the human race and demand an explanation!”

His name was Yu Hen—both Goumang’s disciple and the first prince of the nation. He was so incensed that he was about to spit fire from his eyes. There was only one national treasure, and it was the key to him breaking through to the chaos realm. But Lie Shan’s two companions had stolen it!

“What’s going on here?!” Lu Yun descended from the skies and stood protectively in front of the little fox and Ah Bao.

“Lie Shan!” Yu Hen surged an angry step forward when he saw the youth, jade-green flames stirring to life on him. “How dare you ask what’s going on?! You explain why these two have stolen the Mu national treasure!”

Of the two thieves, one was only human king realm and the other not much stronger at celestial human realm. Someone else had to be aiding them from the shadows, and Lie Shan was the most natural suspect.

The little fox squirmed into Lu Yun’s robes and flat out refused to show herself.

“What have you taken from them?” Lu Yun grabbed her by the ears and hauled her back out. Ah Bao’s nature was kind and simple, this must’ve been the fox’s idea.

The little fox’s ears and tail stuck straight up, her four little legs paddling furiously in the air as she glared at Lu Yun.

“What Mu national treasure, that’s my treasure! I lent it to Goumang a long time ago and we agreed that he would return it to me when I came back. Here I am, but he pretends not to know me!” She broke free of Lu Yun’s hand and darted to Ah Bao’s shoulder.

“What a joke! When did our national treasure turn into one of your possessions?!” Yu Hen flew into a rage.

“Then you go ask the old fart if he borrowed this connate seal of yi wood from me, Tushan!” Likewise erupting in an outburst, the little fox took human form. A young girl whose beauty could captivate nations lightly held an emerald green seal in her hands. She glared coldly at Yu Hen and the Mu experts surrounding them.

Crackle!

Greenish-black electricity sizzled around the treasure as she spoke.

“As the saying goes, return borrowed things on time to be welcomed again next time!” fumed Troublemaker Tushan. “If you’d been upfront and told me that you needed to borrow it for a bit longer when I first arrived, that you needed to help your silly little son break through to the chaos realm, then I would’ve let you done so. I am no miser!

“But you pretended not to know me and even sealed away my treasure, claiming it for your own. So don’t blame me for taking it back now!

“Also, you have a hundred million years of friendship with Rushou, Goumang! How would you not know what kind of person he is? If it wasn’t for you keeping Bai Zhaoju here and refusing to let him see his master, Rushou probably would’ve sent him into Goldflare Mountain a long time ago to cultivate. He wouldn’t have died in Dijiang’s hands!

"I wonder if the person who actually wants to refine Bai Zhaoju isn't Rushou, but you! Are you helping Ling Weiyang in the Builder Tree right now, or are you refining his body of the great dao?!" Tushan's crisp voice rang throughout Mu nation like a breeze brushing past wind chimes.

"You harlot, how dare you defame my royal father!" Yu Hen had been entranced by the girl's beauty, but flushed beet-red with anger when he paid attention to her words.

Boom!

He exploded into action and punched out at Tushan with the momentum to destroy the land.

Lu Yun watched the development coldly and flicked the prince away before he reached the little fox.

"Lie Shan!" Yu Hen wiped off jade-green blood after he flew out five kilometers. "This is the Mu nation! Or do you want our nation to declare war on your human race?!"

"It's not up to you whether war is declared or not." Lu Yun looked back at Tushan. "Is what you say true?"

"Naturally," Tushan huffed with dissatisfaction that he was questioning her.

"Take me to see Goumang," Lu Yun demanded frostily.

"Lie Shan, don't think you can do whatever you want just because you've killed a few connate demon gods! You would do well to keep in mind that you're not the master of this realm!" A cold light flashed through Yu Hen's eyes.

All of the cultivators in the Mu nation had gathered, and there were even three chaos realm experts hidden in the surroundings. They released a frightening aura to pressure Lu Yun's group.

"Keep yourself safe." Lu Yun brought out the Bell of Chaos and handed it to Tushan.

The little fox blinked, she hadn't thought that Lu Yun would take it back from Dijiang. This meant... that Lu Yun had probably killed the demon god.

Greed flashed through Yu Hen's eyes when he saw the bell, but was swiftly replaced by a wave of fear. Dijiang had been able to beat Rushou to death when he wielded the bell, but he in turn had died to Lie Shan. Then this meant that Goumang wasn't a match for the human either!

The connate demon gods had kept a close eye on the battle in the cosmos, but cultivators such as them—yet to reach chaos realm—were unaware of the final outcome.

Though the three chaos realm demon gods knew, they hadn't had time yet to inform Yu Hen.

Lu Yun ignored the crowd around them and set off for the Builder Tree.

## **Chapter 896: Possession**

Goumang wants to refine Ling Weiyang?

Lu Yun wouldn't tolerate that no matter what. Although he wasn't close to the current Ling Weiyang, his future self Ashu would be Lu Yun's friend.

Lu Yun's presence grew stronger with each step he took and hellfire slowly ignited on his body. His measured pace to the Builder Tree left behind a trail of hellfire footprints. Yu Hen and the others parted before him, not daring to block his way any longer.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that Lu Yun had crushed the dignity of the Mu nation beneath his feet all by his lonesome.

Troublemaker Tushan held Ah Bao's hand and followed close behind the human youth. This kingdom wasn't how it appeared on the surface; if Lu Yun set off on his own to confront Goumang, he could very likely fall into a trap.

She swiftly re-refined the Bell of Chaos, making it hers again and activating the final restriction within the treasure. The bell expanded explosively into the size of a small mountain and hovered over her head. The bell was hers to begin with, so only Tushan could undo the final restriction within it.

Although the troublemaker couldn't deploy the bell's true strength just yet, she could direct it to reinforce Lu Yun and enhance his strength. What put her mind at ease was that Dijiang had been unsuccessful in attempting the final restriction, and he hadn't been able to open the last corner of the bell to disturb the Deaf Prince and the others either.

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"I suspect that Goumang died a long time ago, and that who we see now isn't the real Goumang!" the little fox's voice suddenly sounded in Lu Yun's mind. "Goumang's dead, something else is possessing his body!"

Lu Yun frowned slightly, recalling the Mu ruler's appearance. He looked just like the future Deaf Prince, the implications of which made Lu Yun's expression even graver.

"Lie Shan, you've obtained your Constellation Willow. Do not meddle further in my nation's matters. Please depart from the premises." Goumang's voice traveled out of the Builder Tree as the tree itself shuddered gently, releasing an aura as vast as the heavens.

Goumang's enormous form slowly floated out of the tree. He was in human form and looked exactly the same as Deaf Prince Xiangliu Hongzhen of the future. Even their bearing was very similar, but he exuded a much stronger presence than the Deaf Prince.

A beam of black sparks erupted out of Lu Yun's eyes to scan the projection. Though he couldn't use Spectral Eye right now, he still picked up on a slight note of something off—there was a tiniest hint of frost hidden deep within Goumang's body.

"Realm monsters!" Lu Yun exclaimed. "So you're a realm monster! You killed the real Goumang!"

His outcry sent a wave of incredulity through the nation.

"What nonsense are you spouting, Lie Shan?!" Yu Hen burst out with shock and loudly reprimanded the human.

"It looks like you're not of Goumang's bloodline either, but a realm monster too," Lu Yun sneered and punched out with a casual turn of the body.

“How DARE YOU!” Goumang’s expression changed drastically within the Builder Tree as he quickly sent a mountainous hand down from the heavens to block Lu Yun’s punch. Emerald radiance then cascaded through the skies and took Yu Hen into the tree.

“Hold, you cretin!”

“What do you think you’re doing, Lie Shan?!” The three Mu chaos realm experts revealed themselves at the same time when they saw Lie Shan attempt to kill Prince Yu Hen. However, they didn’t dare to overly threaten the human. What if he turned the entire kingdom into a sea of hellfire on an angry whim?

Within the Builder Tree.

Encased in a block of black ice, extreme cold invaded Ling Weiyang’s body. If it wasn’t for the tiny sapling growing on his head, he probably would’ve already died under these appalling conditions. A tiny spot of light shimmered within the sapling—Goumang’s true spirit!

Goumang had died decades ago and even his firstborn fallen to soul possession. Yu Hen was now a tool for realm monsters to control Mu nation with and infiltrate the great wilderness.

Fuxi had long suspected that some of the connate demon gods had switched allegiance to the enemy—the once Luo Houluo being one of them. However, he’d never entertained the thought that Goumang, one of his own allies, had died and been possessed by the realm monsters!

Realm monsters appeared no different when they wore Goumang’s body and acted the part of the leading benefactor of the great wilderness. However, they’d coordinated plenty of moves in accordance with their brethren and dead spirits in space, killing innumerable numbers of great wilderness gods.

It hadn’t been until the little fox’s arrival that she discovered something slightly amiss, which was why she argued things no further and just quietly took the seal back when she got nowhere. Quietly informing Lu Yun of her suspicions had been next on her agenda instead of announcing things far and wide.

The ramifications of realm monsters possessing the ruler of Mu nation were far too monumental. Once word of this got out, the great wilderness would absolutely boil over! The impact of Rushou’s death would pale far in comparison.

Lu Yun was also someone who understood what should and should not be done. Hence, he floated into the air to negotiate with Goumang inside the tree.

“Goumang, Ling Weiyang is my benefactor after helping me obtain the Constellation Willow. Hand him over and I will ignore the Mu nation after this. If not, I’ll turn it into an ocean of hellfire!” Lu Yun’s eyes burned as he stared closely at ‘Goumang’.

“Lie Shan, do you really think yourself invincible and the greatest in the land after killing just a Dijiang?” The Mu ruler’s eyes also flared with emerald flames, and he manifested to look frostily at the human youth.

“Dijiang said the same thing to me and now look at him, he’s dead.” Lu Yun smiled toothily. “Do you want to die too?”

Hummm.

The void trembled as Rearbow transformed into a blazing black sun over Lu Yun's head. It flared with black radiance and sent a panicking Mu nation running for shelter.

The people were quite confused—hadn't Lie Shan been jovially received last time he visited? Why had everything suddenly turned into this mess? Was it only because their liege had borrowed Tushan's treasure and refused to return it?

As for the accusation of Goumang wanting to refine Ling Weiyang... they refused to believe it.

"Hand over Ling Weiyang, or I'll kill you even if I have to destroy the Builder Tree!"

Instead of unmasking the realm monster for what it was, Lu Yun launched into a direct threat because he could tell not only did it have its sights set on Ling Weiyang, but it was also siphoning off the tree's power to refine it!

The Builder Tree was the foremost divine tree of the great wilderness. The only thing that could measure up to it was likely the Sal Tree of Life and Death beneath the Sea of Hellfire.

If the realm monster really did refine the Builder Tree, it'd probably immediately open access to this patch of space and allow realm monsters and dead spirits to stream in freely. While Lu Yun didn't know what would happen after that... it couldn't be anything good. Particularly with how the world of immortals would be in the future.

The realm monster finally panicked when it heard Lu Yun's declaration to destroy the tree. The human absolutely had the ability to!

### **Chapter 897: The Struggle for Legitimacy**

As the crowd watched on with gazes overwhelmed by shock, Lu Yun walked through the void and arrived in front of the Builder Tree.

Whoosh!

Hellfire ignited with a fury and set his body on fire, prompting fear from the Builder Tree as it sensed the approach of hellfire. This kind of flame happened to be the precise counter to the foremost divine tree beneath the heavens.

"Fine! I'll give you Ling Weiyang! Take him and get out of my kingdom!" 'Goumang' yelled with indignation. In his eyes, the tree was far more important than a constitution of the great dao.

"I will still destroy the tree if there's even a hair missing from his head." Lu Yun was completely unrelenting.

Caught mid-action in extinguishing Ling Weiyang's true spirit, the realm monster jerked to a halt. He could see that the Sal Tree mirage had already formed outside the Builder Tree, whereupon boundless hellfire streamed in from the void and surrounded the tree he was in.

Goumang's hand froze in the air, and he fiercely grounded his teeth before throwing Ling Weiyang out.

"I'll self-detonate in human territory if you dare destroy the Builder Tree, just try me!" he snarled.

Lu Yun caught Ling Weiyang with a snort and left the Mu nation with Ah Bao and Tushan.

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Tushan reverted to her fox form and burrowed into Lu Yun's robes, sending a wave of resignation through the youth. The little fox had once been partial to Qing Yu's embrace, but now she clung to him whenever possible.

She was plainly on the path of recovery and had reached peak celestial human realm, placing just one step away from human king. She counted as a quasi-great master of combat arts, but for some reason, she still liked burrowing into Lu Yun's robes in her true form.

Unfortunately for him, Lu Yun had no other choice in this situation.

Ling Weiyang said not a word on their way out of the Mu nation. He hadn't known the truth before, and had only learned of it after he entered the Builder Tree and met Goumang's true spirit. It'd never occurred to him that the Mu ruler he'd known all along was a fake.

"Was that a realm monster?" he suddenly asked.

"Yes, that is the number one threat to the great wilderness." Lu Yun nodded.

"Mm." Ling Weiyang fell silent once more. A tiny sapling was rooted to his nascent spirit—the future zombie tree. It was a small branch of the Builder Tree that Goumang had personally grafted into Ling Weiyang's soul in his childhood.

Ling Weiyang was now one with the sapling and couldn't be parted from it.

The group quickly arrived in human territory. After an unprecedented increase in strength upon the establishment of the human dao, some humans had broken through to the human king realm.

However, conflict between the tribes was even worse than before. The antagonism and disputes that demon gods had previously sowed among the human race exploded completely out of control. Apart from the Yan and Xiong tribes, as well as some of the other larger tribes, the remaining ones all devolved into furious battles.

Thirty percent of humanity died in less than two years!

During Lu Yun's travels to the Mu and Jin nations and challenge of Asura and Dijiang, Tianqi and Bingyi made use of the time to kill three chaos realm demon gods. Add to that Lu Yun's defeat of his two opponents, that well and truly awed the great wilderness—no one dared interfere with humanity's affairs ever again.

Most of the Dongyi tribes had surrendered to tribes in the Yellow River basin, and the human race had essentially split into two camps: the Yan Tribe along the Wei River Basin, and the Xiong Tribe along the Ji River basin.

The Xiong Tribe grew at an explosive pace after the establishment of the human dao. Several of its members broke through to human king realm, and if it wasn't for Tianqi in the Yan Tribe, the latter wouldn't have been able to maintain its footing in the race.

At the same time, these two tribes were the only ones not embroiled in the flames of war due to their strength.

Battles and dissension flew thickly between the tribes. Yan and Xiong furiously recruited all of the factions around them, slowly consolidating the entire race.

In the twentieth year of Lu Yun arriving in the great wilderness, humanity's internal conflict gradually calmed down and the two great human alliances were officially established.

Connate demon gods had increasingly withdrawn from the world stage at this point, focusing their efforts on studying cultivation methods so that they could break through and become a creator. The great wilderness thus slowly became a planet ruled by humans.

Chief of the Yan Tribe, Shennong, abdicated his position and confirmed Lie Shan as the new Shennong, whereupon Lie Shan hailed himself as an emperor with the title of the Flame Emperor! [ref[Yan is the character for fire. We could go with Yan Emperor if people prefer, but I thought the English would make more sense. Both names are used in actual Chinese mythology.]/ref]

The human dao resonated with the title as soon as it appeared, and the heavenly dao acknowledged Lu Yun's identity as the first great emperor of the human race!

The title even made its way to the human sacred land, to become a personage venerated by all members of humanity.

That naturally drew the ire of Xuanyuan—chief of the Xiong Tribe. Though Lie Shan had accomplished enormous achievements for humans and could even be listed among the first generation Shennong, Xuanyuan, Youchao, and Suiren as a fellow saint, he refused to accept that Lie Shan was now the emperor of humanity.

It wasn't that he nursed bitterness in his heart, but that he, too, cherished his own ambitions. He felt that given enough time, he would also become a great master like Lie Shan and vie against the powerhouses of the great wilderness. He would also be able to carve out a paradise for humanity!

But if the Flame Emperor was accepted now, then that would forever be a weight on his head and a thundercloud he'd never be able to get rid of.

Xuanyuan's cultivation had also advanced by leaps and bounds beneath the human dao, and he was a peak expert of the race now. But one was easily affected by shadows over their dao heart, and further progress would be obstructed if one's mind fell into despondency.

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True to his usual style, Lu Yun handed over all administrative power to the previous Shennong as soon as he became the Flame Emperor. He bent his mind to studying the current iteration of human dao and used formula dao to determine where humanity's future could be found.

"Humanity's path... lies not in the great wilderness!" He shook as he stood up and looked to the sky.

The world of celestials!



Up in the cosmos, there was a vast world that was bigger than the great wilderness and even the stars beyond.

Taiyi had occupied this world when he first founded his celestial court, becoming the legitimate ruler of the realm. In the same vein, humanity would have to form their own court in that world if they wanted to become the masters of the great wilderness and protagonists of the realm!

The great wilderness was the heart of this realm and its roots, whereas the world of celestials was the place of origin for the heavenly dao. However, a group of demon gods currently squatted in the central zone of that world—where Taiyi's court was once located. There was nothing that Leize or Fuxi could do about them either.

They'd once been demon gods loyal to Taiyi, but had immediately proclaimed themselves as the legitimate successors of the celestial court upon Taiyi's death. God had once kept the world of celestials under control, but now God had also fallen.

"This isn't some struggle against the heavens or a rebellion of any sort, but a struggle for legitimacy! The connate demon gods in the world of celestials represent the last fortunes of their kind in the great wilderness. We'll have to kick them out if humanity is to be the master of this realm," Lu Yun murmured as he looked up at the sky.

### **Chapter 898: Guang Chengzi**

A war for legitimacy!

Taiyi's celestial court hadn't fallen apart after his death, but had instead been taken over by his old officials. In doing so, they perpetuated the fortunes of the connate demon gods and continued to represent the legitimate orthodoxy of the realm. They were also the last fortunes of the connate demon gods of the great wilderness.

Though demon gods now didn't care about luck and providence or being recognized as the proper rulers of the world, the same didn't hold true for the human race. If they wanted to truly obtain the approval of the heavens and become principals of this realm, they would have to first wrest away the demon gods' final wisp of fortune.

And, Lu Yun alone wouldn't be enough for the task.

Back in his day, Taiyi had needed to convene thousands of demon gods to conquer the world of celestials and establish his court. He'd gathered the will of all connate demon gods at that time, thereby consolidating the will of all life.

Therefore, Lu Yun must also collect the strength of the human race if he wanted to seize the celestial court. He needed to occupy the world of celestials, the celestial court, and the heavenly dao with humanity's consciousness.

"But even if the demon gods don't care about legitimacy of rule, the rise of humanity should be putting them on their guard. There's undoubtedly countless pairs of eyes fixed on the human race right now. If I do anything big, it'll probably result in their retaliation." Lu Yun frowned slightly.

With the establishment of human dao, all life had to take shape in human form. This was far beyond the limits of demon god tolerance. If it wasn't for the cultivation method within human dao which gave them hope of becoming creators themselves, they would've erupted in an all out extermination of the human race a long time ago.

As strong as Lu Yun might be, he wasn't a match for all of the demon gods in the world. Even Leize had chosen to give way when faced with their collective strength.

“Thankfully there’s a Xiong Tribe that’s getting a bit antsy these days. Xiong Tribe... Xuanyuan?” Lu Yun’s frown deepened. “Xuanyuan... Xuanyuan... The Xuanyuan now shouldn't be the one that I meet in the future, right?”

He turned around and looked to the south where the Xiong Tribe was located. It was stronger than the Yan Tribe; though the Yan Tribe boasted of two human kings—the previous Shennong and Jiang Ti—the Xiong Tribe possessed three! Additionally, their chief had reached peak human king realm.

In this era, the great dao was distinct and its rules clear; cultivation was a much faster undertaking than in the future. Most importantly, the human dao had just been founded and possessed an extraordinary degree of affinity for humans. Human cultivation speed was endless times faster under the human dao than compared to the other races.

If it wasn't for Lu Yun’s primary body sitting beneath the Dao Flower to protect it from realm monsters, he would've descended in person to continue cultivating.

“So the Xiong tribute spirit’s already reached empyrean realm, no wonder Xuanyuan’s chafing at the current order... Well, this is a perfect opportunity. The demon gods won’t tolerate a united and harmonious human race, but if humanity splinters into constant warfare, they won't pay us as much attention then.” Lu Yun stroked his chin as a smile appeared on his face. He then left to seek out Shaodian—the previous Shennong.

Shaodian immediately disengaged from cultivating when he sensed Lie Shan’s arrival. Under the human dao, all flaws were purified from the qi refinement method, so one could awaken from cultivation anytime they wanted to.

The previous Shennong was solidly at peak initial human king, and he was half a step away from mid-human king realm.

“Your Majesty!” Shaodian bowed when he saw his visitor.

Though Lu Yun was Shennong, he was more than chief of just the Yan Tribe. As the Flame Emperor of the human race, he was the ruler of all humanity and thus it was appropriate for Shaodian to hail him as such.

Fuxi had outlined the ways of etiquette and protocol, and the human race had adhered to those principles for thousands of years.

Lu Yun hailing himself as emperor was a kind of protocol, and so was Shaodian showing him this manner of courtesy. Though humanity was weak and fragile, they were no barbarians grubbing in the dirt, respecting only the law of the jungle. They led their lives via a code of conduct, and this was a major reason why Fuxi had chosen this race.

“There’s no need to stand on ceremony, Shaodian.” Lu Yun quickly helped him up. “How go the battles with the Xiong Tribe?”

“In response to Your Majesty, though Xuanyuan still refuses to submit, he fears your strength and doesn’t dare go on the offensive. He can only use smaller tribes as bait to continuously harass us,” Shaodian responded. “Also, the spies we’ve arranged in the Xiong Tribe have sent back word that the tribe dares defy Your Majesty because a great master has arrived in their midst.

“It’s very likely to be a chaos realm demon god, and Xuanyuan’s son Han Shuniu has taken the expert for his master.”

“Han Shuniu?!” Lu Yun’s eyes lit up and brightened even further to hear that he’d taken a master. “Is this great master’s name Guang Chengzi?”

“Your Majesty is wise and all-seeing. Though that person is a demon god, he calls himself a fellow daoist and practices the human qi refinement method. He’s a qi cultivator!”

Any who trained in Lu Yun’s qi refinement method were called qi cultivators, regardless of race.

“There’s nothing to worry about then, since that personage has appeared in the Xiong Tribe.” A smile crossed Lu Yun’s face. Guang Chengzi? If his guesses were correct, this would be Daoist Yuyu’s senior brother. It would seem that Hongjun’s three disciples were stretching their legs now that the connate demon gods were fading out of the world stage.

“Shaodian, choose 365 of the best Yan cultivators in the true human realm and give them to my disciple,” Lu Yun commanded solemnly.

“Understood!”

Lu Yun then flickered over to Mount Buzhou.

“Lie Shan of the human race greets Your Majesty Wahuang!”

Though he was the Flame Emperor now, he was more humble and respectful than ever when faced with the Holy Emperors Fuxi and Wahuang. If it wasn’t for their protection in the dark ages, humanity likely would’ve gone extinct long ago.

“There’s no need for such ceremony, Flame Emperor.” Wahuang leaned comfortably against a boulder while in human form. A mischievous grin played at her lips when she looked at Lu Yun’s chest, or rather, at the little fox’s head poking out of his robes there.

Embarrassment descended when Lu Yun noticed the holy emperor’s gaze.

“So, you’ve decided to conquer the celestial court?” Wahuang asked merrily.

“No.” Lu Yun shook his head seriously. “There’s no need to, not yet. Attacking the celestial court is a move that will affect the situation as a whole. Though the demon gods have faded out of public view, they are still constantly keeping an eye on us. I’m not strong enough to conquer the celestial court yet.”

“Then what are you doing here?” Wahuang asked with surprise.

“Goumang has died and been taken over by realm monsters.”

“Mm, I know.” Dejection dimmed Wahuang’s eyes.

Goumang and Rushou had been powerful demon gods who’d once been Leize’s left and right hand demons. To think they’d die within a few short years like this!

“The Builder Tree at the heart of the Mu nation leads to the world of celestials. That’s probably the realm monsters’ true goal.” Lu Yun frowned.

“In the version of history that you know, someone smashed Mount Buzhou to pieces, and the first celestial emperor of humanity broke the Builder Tree!” Wahuang looked calmly at Lu Yun.

### **Chapter 899: Martial Uncle**

“Humanity’s first celestial emperor...” Lu Yun rubbed his nose. “That’s not going to be me as well, is it?”

“How would I know? It’s Fuxi and his friends who went to the future, not me. You’re the one who’s come from the future, also not me!” A huffing Wahuang glared at Lu Yun, who smiled back ruefully.

“These matters have long been buried in the future, so I’ll have to live through those events before I know what the truth is.” He shook his head slightly.

“If you’re not going to the world of celestials, what are you doing here? You’re not here just for a chat, are you?”

“Of course not,” Lu Yun quickly explained. “I’ve selected three hundred sixty-five of the best talents from the Yan Tribe and tasked Tianqi with bringing them here. Will Your Majesty personally train them? They will be the future cornerstones of the human race.”

He bowed at the holy emperor.

Wahuang cocked her head and sized up Lu Yun with a half-smile. “You selected three hundred sixty-five Yan tribespeople? Humans of Mount Buzhou are the greatest human geniuses. Why didn’t you choose from them?”

“The human sacred land has to do with humanity’s foundations and the inheritance of our legacy. What exists here should remain here. If I choose from Mount Buzhou, I might very well create a relationship that later threatens the sacred land.

“Besides, those three hundred sixty-five are going to follow me into battle. I can command them with my authority in the tribes, but those of the sacred land acknowledge only the holy emperors, not the Flame Emperor.”

Wahuang’s forehead smoothed out slightly to hear this response. Acknowledging only the holy emperors and not the Flame Emperor... that was indeed the tradition of the human sacred land. After Lu Yun proclaimed himself to be the Flame Emperor, the first to laugh at him hadn’t been the connate demon gods or the Xiong Tribe, but the humans of the sacred land.

Those in the sacred land had greater potential than those elsewhere in the great wilderness. They had a dozen qi cultivators at the human king realm and one infinitely close to empyrean realm.

That however, wouldn't be an easy goal. Empyrean realm was the equivalent of a great emperor in the human dao era. One had to grasp their own great dao to be able to ascend, which was something out of reach of the current human race.

"So you do possess some degree of self awareness," Wahuang chuckled. "Alright, I agree. I'll train those tribespeople well."

"My thanks to Your Majesty!" Lu Yun bowed. "Lie Shan will be taking his leave now since you have agreed."

"Go on." Wahuang waved at Lu Yun.

After his departure, he headed for the netherdark instead of the human tribes. He wanted to see Daoist Yuyu.

It must've been Hongjun's will that Guang Chengzi go to the Xiong Tribe. Lu Yun didn't know what the dao ancestor was planning, so he wanted to ask Daoist Yuyu.

As for Guang Chengzi, well, Lu Yun couldn't meet him yet.

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"Ahhhhh this is so boring, so booooooring! So lonely~~~" Daoist Yuyu hugged Eternal's egg, caressing it gently over the Blood Sea. He grumbled softly, "Why did master give me this task, there's not a single living thing in the netherdark. Though Eternal's recovered some thought patterns, she can't talk yet.

"I'm so~~ lonely~~"

He unclasped the big gourd at his waist and dumped a large gulp of wine into his mouth. "Senior brother's gone to be the future kingmaker, second senior brother's gone to civilize the monsters and gremlins, but I got the short end of the stick and got sent to this middle-of-nowhere netherdark!

"There's not even a dead thing here, much less anything alive!

"Oh woe is me~~~~" His complaints echoed throughout the netherdark.

There had once been plenty of dead spirits here and netherdark natives, but when Lu Yun battled Darkriver and Luo Houluo during his last visit, he'd sent hellfire scouring over everything in the realm. The premises had been cleansed of all life and awaited rebirth in the hell to come.

Lu Yun heard Yuyu's complaints as soon as he rounded Mount Tai, and he couldn't help but listen to them in a daze.

"Fellow daoist!" He crossed the void and landed in front of Daoist Yuyu, giving the mournful guardian quite a shock.

He shot to his feet and flung the wine gourd behind him, relaxing only when he saw that it was Lu Yun.

"Martial uncle, you scared this poor daoist senseless by suddenly showing up like this!" Yuyu chuckled wryly and fetched his wine gourd.

Lu Yun stared dumbly again.

“What did fellow daoist call me? Martial uncle?”

“You and my master call each other fellow daoist, so you’re naturally my martial uncle.” Daoist Yuyu was rather vexed at how youthful Lu Yun looked. “There are only two others in the entire world who can call my master fellow daoist—you’re the third! He hit me on the head real hard when he learned that I called you fellow daoist!”

Lu Yun still didn’t quite understand. There were only two others who called Hongjun fellow daoist?

That must’ve been the creators Pangu and God, then. Does that mean Hongjun thinks I can become a creator in the future?!

Lu Yun started to daydream, but a depressing thought soon struck him. God would die in the future.

“Martial uncle?” Daoist Yuyu wagged two fingers in front of Lu Yun when he saw the human staring.

“Eh? Ah.” Lu Yun came back to his senses.

“Martial uncle hasn’t come to just laugh at me, have you?” Daoist Yuyu plopped back down on the one-hundred-and-eight ranked white lotus and hugged Eternal’s egg to himself, looking at Lu Yun with dissatisfaction.

“Eh, I’m here to ask what plans does your master have?” Lu Yun smiled ruefully at the daoist who really did look like he’d been exiled to the netherdark.

“What else can he be planning? He wants us three to guard the great wilderness and make sure the demon gods and realm monsters don’t get up to any trouble.” Daoist Yuyu reeled off, “Netherdark and the Blood Sea should be Asura and the demon gods’ final sanctuary, but since the hell of human dao has yet to be established, they’ll be the masters of the great wilderness if Asura gets the Blood Sea.

“That’s why I’ve been sent here to guard the netherdark.” He caressed Eternal’s egg again.

“That’s it?” Lu Yun frowned.

“Of course not!” Yuyu stood with sudden seriousness. “Asura’s birth means the doomsday of the connate demon gods, but whoever Asura eats now will become the future Asura race of the netherdark. They’ll become his replicas and make him stronger, so you have to conquer the celestial court as soon as possible and create order in the three realms. Only then can you use the three realms to fight Asura and make sure he doesn’t grow too strong!”

## **Chapter 900: Pangu is in the Future**

“Asura?” Lu Yun’s forehead scrunched slightly.

“My dear martial uncle! Don’t you make the mistake of thinking that Asura is easy to handle. Luo Houluo was born in the world of celestials and the ancestor of all heavenly demons. Darkriver was born in the netherdark and forefather of all earthly demons. With heaven and earth coming together in one body, he’s already received the approval of the world. If you can’t obtain control of the celestial court and grasp the three realms, you’ll actually be less than him.”

Daoist Yuyu continued gravely, "He's gone on an endless feast of connate demon gods at the moment, and his strength increases every time he eats one. Dijiang's in his stomach as well."

"No wonder I couldn't figure out where Dijiang is, so he's become food for Asura." Lu Yun frowned even more ferociously.

Asura would be quartered and suppressed in the future, but that would only destroy part of his soul. He would still create the four terrible blood demons and incite a war between heaven and earth. The blood demon that he himself would turn into in the future was being kept in Lu Yun's Rearbow even as they spoke.

"You'll be able to rival the current Asura and restrict his growth only after you possess the power of the three realms. Otherwise, even if you somehow manage to defeat him, that won't stop him from continuously growing stronger. If that's the case, there'll come one day when he is the strongest existence beneath the heavens and destroys everything he sees," Daoist Yuyu sighed.

"Umm... I have a question. Why does he want to destroy everything?" Lu Yun smiled wryly.

All this talk of destroying heaven and earth, but what good would it do for Asura to do so? What, would it give him a sense of satisfaction to reduce the realm into the chaos and leave him the only being in existence?

Daoist Yuyu stared blankly when he heard the question and scratched his head, dumbfounded.

"This is what my master's told me... I don't know why he wants to destroy everything either. But the will emanating from his being really is one suffused with the desire for destruction and annihilation."

"Why doesn't fellow daoist Hongjun put down Asura himself?"

Daoist Yuyu's face spasmed fiercely when he heard the words "fellow daoist Hongjun".

"My master has entered the heavenly dao to observe its future, he doesn't have the effort and time to spare. Besides, my master's primary body is suppressing the outer realm and keeping the realm monsters out of the world of celestials. It's only a minor replica of his that walks the great wilderness, which doesn't have the strength to fight Asura."

"I see." Lu Yun nodded, finally having a complete picture of things.

That even Pangu had fallen in battle to those creatures was testament to the horrifying strength of the realm monsters. Taiyi's celestial court had been similarly outmatched, but he'd traded his life to halt the realm monsters outside the cosmos and arranged for his celestial army to stand guard in the stars.

What it ultimately came down to was Hongjun acting as a deterrent in the skies of the world of celestials, suppressing the strongest existence amongst the realm monsters. That was what had bought some breathing space for the planet of the great wilderness.

"Asura is terrifying... the realm monsters even more so... but so is the great wilderness equally as strong. Why do Fuxi and the others look to the future for help instead?" asked a baffled Lu Yun.

“Indeed, Asura is terrifying and the realm monsters even more so, so why do they think that the future is the key?” Daoist Yuyu shook his head. “I’ve asked my master the same question before, and the answer he gave me was...”

“Was what?” Lu Yun quickly followed up.

“From whence do the realm monsters come from, and why are they born?” Daoist Yuyu shook his head.

Lu Yun shook, comprehension clearing up his thoughts.

“My master and the other two creators have never viewed realm monsters as our enemies. The biggest enemy of the great wilderness isn't them, but whatever resides in the chaos that transforms dead worlds into them. If we can't root that out, then it's only a matter of time before the great wilderness becomes a realm monster as well.

“And then we will be the endless tides of dead spirits within its body,” Daoist Yuyu postulated with a melancholy air.

“I understand.” It wasn't until this moment that Lu Yun truly understood the difference between him and the real powerhouses of this realm.

In his eyes, the realm monsters, Asura, and the unending tide of demon gods were indeed the enemies. He felt that peace would reign in the great wilderness as long as he took care of them all.

But Hongjun, Pangu, Leize, Fuxi, and the others had seen through to the crux of the matter long ago. Realms monsters were the enemies, yes, but whatever created them was even more horrific.

Hongjun, Pangu, and God—the three creators—had exchanged moves with that unknown entity in the chaos countless numbers of times. The world as it existed now had no hope of triumphing over it, which is why they looked for help in the future.

“The innumerable connate demon gods will never agree to you occupying the world of celestials and reconstructing the celestial court. They'll absolutely raise countless obstacles in your path. Therefore, Fuxi has entered the chaos to find the treasure that will quell the demon gods, and you need to find another that will squash the court's fortunes.” Daoist Yuyu changed the subject.

It was inevitable that Asura would be born, and his race taking possession of the Blood Sea was a development tacitly approved by Hongjun and the others. What Lu Yun needed to do was to restrict Asura's strength so that he wouldn't develop to the level of being able to destroy everything.

And for now, the demon gods were the biggest barriers in his way.

“Is the Bell of Chaos not enough?” Lu Yun frowned.

“Why would Taiyi have died if it could really uphold the fortunes of the celestial court?” Daoist Yuyu shook his head slightly.

“That's because the bell belongs to Tushan. Taiyi was never able to fully refine it,” Lu Yun explained.

“Tushan is also one of the four great celestial masters of the court. She assisted Taiyi, so she could absolutely deploy the bell's fullest strength. But that still wasn't enough! The Bell of Chaos is the



greatest connate treasure of the great wilderness, yes, but the one I speak of has exceeded the range of connate treasures!”

Daoist Yuyu turned incomparably grave. “I speak of great god Pangu’s ultimate treasure, his axe Worldcarver! It’s located in his tomb beneath Mount Buzhou!”

“Worldcarver... so Pangu really did hew this realm into being?” Lu Yun’s eyes went wide open. This was a question he’d wanted to ask Fuxi last time, but hadn’t had the chance to.

“No. While the great god really did want to clear the void for a world, the creators don't yet have the ability to fashion a world.”

“Are you a projection of the great god's nascent spirit?” Lu Yun suddenly asked.

Daoist Yuyu was startled into rolling his eyes. “Does this humble daoist look like the great god’s nascent spirit? Then wouldn’t I be Pangu himself?”

Lu Yun looked wordlessly at the other.

“Martial uncle, Pangu hasn’t really died!” Daoist Yuyu suddenly said mysteriously. “I’ve heard my master mention sometimes that the great god’s nascent spirit and true spirit still exist, and that they’ve traveled to the future through some sort of power!”

Lu Yun’s eyes lit up. “Pangu exists in the future?”

“It’s just something that my master mentioned a few times. I don’t know what the truth is,” Yuyu replied with resignation.