

Necropolis 901

Chapter 901: The Akasha Ghosts in Rearbow

So it was extremely likely that Pangu had gone to the future and entered the wheel of reincarnation! Lu Yun mentally flipped through all of the experts he knew of, but couldn't determine who was most likely to be the reincarnated great god.

However, he wasn't in a rush. Since Hongjun and the others had made all the preparations already, he didn't need to worry about this.

After departing the netherdark, he paid another visit to Wahuang.

"What did you say? The great Pangu's Worldcarver is in the tomb beneath the sacred land?" Wahuang goggled at him. "Hongjun told you to come retrieve it?"

"Well, I think it was him..." Lu Yun wasn't quite sure since it hadn't been Hongjun who'd personally told him this. However, given Daoist Yuyu's future status, Lu Yun didn't think there was anything to be skeptical about.

"In that case, go on then, but be careful. Fuxi and I established the human sacred land here both to protect the tomb of Pangu and also to safeguard the lifeforms in the vicinity. There's a great danger in the tomb, and many demon gods have perished inside," Wahuang remarked despondently.

Lu Yun nodded. If his speculations were correct, the great god's tomb should be the most exceptional of its kind beneath the heavens. Formed by passage of the winds and flow of the water, it was an example of naturally occurring feng shui beneath heaven and earth.

As for what level the feng shui in the tomb was at, Lu Yun had no way of knowing. It was likely that Fuxi had drawn inspiration from the tomb to create the dao of formations and feng shui.

Meanwhile, Wahuang had no intention of following Lu Yun down into the tomb. She'd once explored it with Fuxi and they'd almost died for their intrepid adventure. Hongjun had saved them moments before they were swallowed by the jaws of danger—but since he'd also authorized Lu Yun to retrieve Worldcarver, there should be no issues there.

"In addition, you need to be careful since it's very possible that Pangu's corpse has transformed into a zombie or corpse demon. You must be careful not to let it out," reminded Wahuang.

"Eh?" Lu Yun blinked and said sheepishly, "I thought the great god's corpse had transformed into the land of the great wilderness."

Bestowing upon him a fierce eye roll, Wahuang couldn't be bothered with further conversation. The great wilderness was the core of this realm and the origin of all beings. Not even eight hundred copies of the great Pangu would be sufficient for this vast cosmos, to say nothing of one alone.

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This journey of his to the great wilderness had upended many of Lu Yun's previously held beliefs. Once again, it was driven home that history and truth were separate, distinct entities. Contrary to commonly held views, the two simply couldn't be viewed as one and the same.

The great Pangu's tomb was located beneath the human sacred land; Lu Yun entered via a thief's tunnel.

This was the largest tomb he'd ever seen, whether in terms of feng shui layouts or architecture. It was apparent that this wasn't the final resting place of a single entity, but more a burial ground for an entire world.

Despite everything he'd encountered so far, Lu Yun still cherished the belief that the ancestor god of the human race was a world in and of himself.

"Lie Shan, Lie Shan!" An inordinately terrified thought traveled out of Rearbow stored in Lu Yun's body. The blood demon sealed within was howling and shrieking with madness, trying to charge out of the seal.

However, hellfire had fully refined the bow and activated all of its restrictions. With all three of its forms at the ready, the bow's power was on par with the Bell of Chaos. The blood demon wouldn't be able to regain his freedom given his current strength.

"Lie Shan, where are you right now?? Don't go, don't take another step further!!" Unable to break through the bow's seal, the blood demon screamed with urgency and threw itself against Lu Yun's mind.

The boy paused and split off a projection to enter the bow's world. Since Rearbow was also a supreme connate treasure, it also nurtured a world within itself. However, calamitous changes had occurred inside of it—countless ghostly faces were taking shape to wreak furious havoc on whatever they touched.

Upon demolition of the world inside the bow, the treasure itself would be destroyed as well.

For once, the cause of the tumult wasn't the blood demon. That troublemaker was currently sealed in the center of the world, fully played out on the ground and eyes wide with terror.

"What are these things? They are like realm monsters, but they're also not realm monsters..." he looked at Lu Yun with pleading eyes as soon as the boy arrived.

"Akasha ghosts." Dismayed, he surveyed the world roving ghost faces. One third of the world's energy had already been gobbled down by these ghosts!

Rearbow was a connate treasure born of nature; the world inside of it was a real world, replete with the complete power of a world. It could even give rise to living beings of its own and form a complete system with the energy of nature.

But these akasha ghosts had guzzled down a third of the weapon's strength! This meant that Rearbow was now thirty percent weaker than before!

His face dark, Lu Yun stuffed the world full of hellfire and exterminated the intruders. He hadn't been able to use hellfire against the akasha ghosts back in the world of immortals, but in the great wilderness, he was one of the greatest masters around.

Hellfire blazed to its greatest potential in his hands and deployed its greatest strength. These akasha ghosts were no match for it at all.

“How did they get in here?” Lu Yun frowned at the helpless blood demon on the ground. He was counting his lucky stars that he hadn't stored anything of importance in the bow. This development might have spelled the doom of all of his recent efforts otherwise.

“I should be asking you!!” Though the blood demon struggled, he got nowhere with his restraints. Panting on the ground, his scarlet eyes glared at Lu Yun. “Where have you gone to allow these things to barge inside?! This seat is the most magnificent supreme ruler of all demons and I was almost eaten by those things!”

“You don't know what akasha ghosts are?” Lu Yun frowned instead of answering the blood demon's question.

“Akasha ghosts? Not a clue!”

This kind of suffering was the height of humiliation for the blood demon. If he was able to move or to fight back, he wouldn't be afraid of these things that the human called akasha ghosts. But suppressed at the center of this world as he was, he wasn't able to even twitch a muscle. He could only watch on with petrified horror as a horde of those intangible things—so closely resembling dead spirits—gnawed and nibbled away at his body.

“I thought you'd be the one to create them in the future.” Lu Yun fell silent. “You're something created out of the combination of Luo Houluo and Darkriver, so you should possess Luo Houluo's memories. Let me ask you this: what are the realm monsters doing and what do they want?!”

The first time that Lu Yun met Luo Houluo, the latter had walked out of the eye of a realm monster. Granted, Luo Houluo had already allied with the realm monsters by then. Asura may not be Luo Houluo, but he'd inherited Luo Houluo's status and identity.

“I—” The blood demon looked dumbly at Lu Yun. He'd been defeated by the human more than once in this era, but Lie Shan never closed in for the kill. The boy had only continuously restricted his strength; the blood demon's hatred for Lie Shan went far beyond the grudge he nursed against Daoist Yuyu for sectioning him.

“The realm monsters' ultimate goal is the world of celestials, but a great master has blockaded their door to it from the chaos. Therefore, they can only look to the great wilderness and enter it through Mount Buzhou and the Builder Tree,” the demon answered truthfully.

Chapter 902: Make Way For Yin Soldiers

As for why the realm monsters wanted the world of celestials, well, the blood demon had no idea. Luo Houluo and the realm monsters were just using each other, but upon the former's transformation into Asura, his heart was flooded with the desire for annihilation and he no longer paid any attention to the realm monsters.

He would also be a direct cause for the future demise of the realm monsters, which was one of the main reasons why Hongjun hadn't personally killed Asura in his infancy.

“So where are we and why is the bow's world connected to the outside, enabling those creatures to flood in?” the blood demon asked again when the human youth didn't answer him.

“Pangu’s tomb,” Lu Yun continued a beat later, “Akasha ghosts of the future are mutated from great emperors, so where are the ones here coming from?”

“Pangu’s tomb!!” shrieked the blood demon. “Do you want to die?! How dare you enter Pangu’s tomb? Do you not know that all of the most preeminent existences at the start of the world—staggering powerhouses on par with Leize—died inside Pangu’s tomb?!”

“Existences on par with Leize? And a lot of them?” Lu Yun blinked.

“Where else do you think the sky full of stars comes from?” the demon sneered. “In that first batch of most preeminent connate demon gods, Leize and Huaxu were just the lowliest, most ordinary members. But they all died in this tomb, down to the last demon!

“You’re just seeking death by coming here, and you’ve dragged me down with you!” the blood demon concluded with an indignant outburst.

He should’ve just squashed this harbinger of doom in its infancy the first time he met the human youth. Who cares about the future? He could’ve set up his own empire in the great wilderness and lived off the fat of the land as its supreme ruler!

Plus, with his knowledge of future events and personal experience in many matters, he would be able to pursue good fortune and evade disaster for a longer life.

“And, I can tell you that there were more than three creators upon the world’s inception. There were a full hundred and eight of them! They’re all dead now, all of them. There’s only Pangu and God left!

“That mysterious Daoist Hongjun didn’t reach this phenomenal level until later on in life. The great wilderness already once endured a cataclysm of great destruction before Taiyi, Fuxi, Dijiang, Nuanzi, and the others were born!

“Do you know what great destruction means? It was the utter collapse of the heavenly dao and death of all living beings. Even the skies were pierced through!” The blood demon became highly agitated. “Do you know how the Blood Sea was formed? Where do you think the endless blood comes from? It’s the blood that flows through the veins of all living beings from when the great wilderness crumbled!

“And do you know how Pangu died? He—” The blood demon suddenly cut off when he was about to reveal that incredible secret. All Lu Yun saw was soundless mouth shapes, and even the mouthed words slowly became disorderly and obscure.

“It looks like the great god’s death is another taboo,” he sighed with resignation.

Turning beet red from the force of his efforts, the demon god finally roared, “Release me!”

“Release you so that you can destroy the world?” Lu Yun snorted.

“I came to my senses after returning to the great wilderness! The obsession for seeking out annihilation has dispersed! I’m a blood demon now, not Asura!” The demon struggled futilely.

Raising an eyebrow, Lu Yun summarily released the blood demon.

Jerking with shock, the blood demon stood up, stretched with great relish, and then... pounced on Lu Yun with a snarl.

Rolling his eyes, Lu Yun slapped him back with a casual backhand.

The blood demon glared at the human for a very long time before plopping on the ground. "This is your world, you make the rules!"

"Out with it, what was the cataclysm of great destruction about? And why do you know all this?" Lu Yun asked coldly.

"I can't speak of the cataclysm. The truth of it is hidden in the netherdark. It will see the light of day sooner or later," the blood demon explained moodily.

Lu Yun nodded. "Be a good demon and stay here quietly since your obsession has left you. I might grant you freedom if we return to the future someday."

With that, his projection faded away.

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Lu Yun was still perplexed by the fact that there were akasha ghosts in Pangu's tomb. According to what Zhi Guangji had once said, these ghosts were creatures mutated from the lingering resentment of great emperors.

"It looks like things here aren't as simple as I thought." Two balls of hellfire ignited in his eyes, followed shortly thereafter by the bow.

Since akasha ghosts had weakened the bow's core by a third, Lu Yun decided to just refine the entire treasure with hellfire and turn it into a great treasure of hell. After an indeterminate period of time, the black flames in his eyes slowly sputtered out, leaving behind a sun blazing with hellfire behind his head.

Throughout this process, the blood demon quietly sat cross-legged in its center, shivering with fear from the changes and not even daring to think of trying anything else.

Pangu's tomb was so vast that it seemed unending, or like a world. Its structure was roughly the same as Yi's tomb—a magnificent and extensive palace. There weren't any extraneous tunnels or burial chambers as it reflected the most primitive layouts of the dao of burial.

However, these kinds of layouts appeared most dangerous in Lu Yun's eyes.

"The mother altar and the origin divine." He sucked in a sharp gasp when he reached the center of the palace.

He'd once seen the mother altar in the Exalted Divine Tomb, as well as a sculpture of the origin divine. However, the mother altar there had been an empty shell since the genuine article was in the Xuanyuan Tomb. The sculpture there had also petrified into nothing but pure stone.

On the contrary now, the one before him was a true mother altar. Five other giant altars floated above it—the altars of metal, fire, water, wood, and earth!

The four-headed, eight-armed origin divine slept silently on its bed. It was alive, but it rested on the mother altar to receive worship since its true spirit was yet incomplete.

“This is the first divine spirit that God created?” Lu Yun frowned at the sleeping origin divine, finally realizing what was wrong here.

The mother altar’s strength was defined by the five elements of metal, wood, water, fire, and earth—as represented by the five elemental altars floating above it. However, the source of the origin divine’s strength should be the four divine elements—earth, air, fire, and water.

In other words, it was impossible for the origin divine to have been born from the mother altar.

“Is there another set of altars somewhere, and that mother altar is where the origin divine was born?”

As Lu Yun mused upon this, the thud of footsteps traveled out of the depths of the palace. Troops of black-armored soldiers marched out, backs ramrod straight and feet marching in unison. They came in Lu Yun’s direction and didn’t change their advance though there was an obstacle in their way.

The soldiers weren’t alive, of course. Lu Yun saw the green flicker of ghostfire in the shadows of their helmets.

“Make way for yin soldiers!” His expression turned exceedingly ugly when he saw what approached him.

Chapter 903: The Yin Prince

To make way for yin soldiers would be a phenomenon that occurred in the future after the construction of the hell of human dao. Yet, it was somehow already present in Pangu’s tomb.

“It’s not just making way for yin soldiers, but there’s also akasha ghosts here... Just what is going on in this tomb?” Lu Yun remained firmly planted where he stood, coldly gazing upon the soldiers drawing closer to him.

Troops upon troops of yin soldiers were layered together. If one looked at them from a distance, they appeared to be a haze of black fog drifting through the dimness of the great palace. The closer they approached, the more he could make out an enormous wheel-less carriage in their midst. Eight supports jutted out from the sides for the bearers—the supports were completely black structures etched with bizarre looking runes.

“Who goes there and how dare you trespass in the netherworld!” A reedy voice rang out as ranks of ghostly soldiers suddenly parted to the side to fully reveal the black litter. A man with a bloodless face and dressed in long black robes stood next to it, fixing Lu Yun with a cold stare.

Lu Yun frowned slightly when he discovered that the man was a chaos realm connate demon god, and so were all of the soldiers empyrean realm masters!

“Flame Emperor of the human race,” he offered.

“What insolence! How dare a minor human proclaim themselves to be an emperor?! This is heresy! Men, capture this insufferably arrogant human!” Affront colored the man’s face and he brandished his sleeves, directing the vast army of yin soldiers to arrest Lu Yun.

“Yin soldiers? Ghostly servants?” Hellfire blazed to life in Lu Yun’s eyes and the wheel of a black sun rose behind his head. Ghostly hellfire roared to life, illuminating the dome with a black light.

The yin soldiers rushing toward him instantly disintegrated into dust when met with the fiery conflagration, a sight that sent the black-robed man into a hasty retreat for the safety of the carriage’s shadow.

Eight hulking men suddenly stepped out from behind the litter’s supports, combining efforts to raise a shadowy defense that somehow blocked Lu Yun’s fire.

Thus given a reprieve, the yin soldiers swiftly regathered beneath the shadow of the carriage and coolly stared down their interloper.

“Impertinent human, how dare you show such impudence in front of the Yin Prince! Men, give no quarter!” Expression taking a vicious turn, the black-robed man barked out new orders. Glaring flintily at Lu Yun, the eight muscular men stepped forward in unison and sent a domineering wave of air to push aside the hellfire.

“The Yin Prince?” Lu Yun took a close look at the soldiers in front of him, especially the eight brawny men who were very likely stronger than Dijiang. They all looked like humans, but there were some minute differences between them and the current human race.

Lu Yun had heard of the Yin Prince before, but he’d always thought this was just another moniker for Great Emperor of the Eastern Peak. He hadn’t thought they’d be two entirely different people!

Here was yet another impenetrably mysterious character in front of him. Lu Yun didn’t know how Tianqi would fare in the future or how strong he’d be as the Great Emperor of the Eastern Peak, but this Yin Prince was absolutely on Leize’s level. He was possibly even stronger than that!

After all, his eight litter bearers were stronger than Dijiang.

“Blasphemy!” Incensed by a lowly human calling their master by his title, the eight men threw themselves at Lu Yun. They were only three meters tall, but were imposingly majestic.

“So strong!” Lu Yun’s eyes widened with shock and the sun over his head plummeted downwards, hurtling at the eight men.

As Rearbow had fully undergone hellfire’s refinement, it was no longer able to assume its first and second form. It should be treated as a brand new connate treasure, but was able to release even more strength than before thanks to hellfire. It could even imbue its master with power to increase Lu Yun’s strength.

The sun exploded the second it reached the eight men and filled the sky with fiery sparks that coalesced into humanoid shapes. Densely clustering in the air, they filled the firmament with swiftly moving forms.

These were all Lu Yun’s projections formed from the combination of the black sun and hellfire. They all deployed combat arts at the same time and flung attacks at the eight men.

“Roar!!” The eight yelled in unison and fired terrifying sound waves at the figures in the air, making a clean sweep of the combat arts and projections in the firmament.

However, that'd just been a feint to buy Lu Yun enough time to charge over himself. Ablaze with raging hellfire, he almost set the very air on fire.

Boooooom.

He punched out and landed a blow with all of his strength on one of the men's heads. The image of the Sal Tree of Life and Death flickered briefly behind his back.

Puff!

The ridiculously strong man's head exploded and his headless torso stumbled a few steps backward before toppling over.

Beside the carriage, the black-robed man paled and he quickly shuffled backward. However, the other seven burly men jerked out of their shock and sprinted forward instead of falling back. They swiftly approached the human and brought down enormous fists that whistled through the air.

"And I was wondering how there could be eight people stronger than even Leize in this world. All you have is brute strength and your muscles, you don't possess the corresponding power, great dao, and combat arts!" Lu Yun quickly grasped the heart of the issue. No wonder he'd been able to beat one of them to death with one blow; the other guy hadn't even been able to resist.

If that blow had been aimed for Leize, the demon god would've unleashed thousands of combat arts to defuse it. He would've brought his great dao to bear in a counter attack instead of letting Lu Yun attack him as he would.

Lu Yun quickly discarded the idea of meeting the seven blow for blow. Instead, he released all of his arts to their utmost. Though he hadn't comprehended his own great dao yet, he possessed a body of the world. The organs within him represented five great daos of the world.

Empyrean realm was also possible for him because of his body, so where Lu Yun's body stood was where his great dao could be found.

He was once again letting loose to the maximum degree at the moment, melding his great dao into the human dao and changing it one step further. In return, his own strength increased explosively with the blessing of the heavenly dao.

Booooooom.

With fists as sword, Lu Yun drew arcs of black sword brilliance through the air and quartered a second man.

Whoosh!

He shifted his body and arrived in front of the carriage.

"Come on out, Yin Prince," he called out to the person inside.

Chapter 904: Usurp

"Come on out, Yin Prince!" Lu Yun roared in front of the carriage.

The black-robed man had gone translucent with fear, backing up until he fully cowered in the shadows of the litter. However, the yin soldiers that'd retreated to the vehicle couldn't tolerate a human blaspheming their master. They snarled and roared in fury before charging Lu Yun, the remaining six bearers were also close behind them.

"You call yourself a Yin Prince just because you lead this useless pack of clay chickens and ceramic dogs?" Lu Yun whirled around and grabbed one of the burly men, twisting the latter's head right off his neck. Fear finally made itself known in the remaining five at this repeated display of sheer dominance.

"Why must fellow daoist be so overbearing?" The Yin Prince finally spoke from the carriage. "If it wasn't for you possessing a paramount treasure that can subdue my men, how far do you think you could proceed in this tomb?"

His voice was mild and calm with no emotion rippling through it. It seemed to be of no importance that Lu Yun had killed three of his bearers and countless numbers of his soldiers.

What... ah. The Tome of Life and Death.

Was it due to his treasure that the eight bearers and yin soldiers felt so incredibly weak? Of one thing Lu Yun was certain of—they weren't afraid of hellfire. Hellfire could incinerate them only because it was imbued with the strength of the Tome of Life and Death.

"How far could I proceed without that paramount treasure?" he sneered. "A dragon sleeps in mountains coiled, those deathly cliffs with mysteries roiled!"

Humm.

An image of the feng shui luopan materialized over his head as the Dragonsearch Invocation operated at full strength. Blinding aureate light illuminated the tomb, dispersing the yin energy that the yin soldiers had brought with them.

A blueprint of Pangu's tomb coalesced within the radiance, labeling all locations and entities of danger. His Dragonsearch Invocation had reached great perfection, and so were the Dragonspike Litany and Dragonshift Method close to that realm as well.

Once all three methods reached great perfection, he'd be able to deploy the strongest secret art of his tomb raiding sect—the Dragonquake Scripture.

Lu Yun didn't know if the Dragonquake Scripture also originated from Fuxi, but he did know that once it was revealed to the world, it would remake heaven and earth. This ultimate secret art was far beyond the Dragonsearch Invocation, Dragonshift Method, and Dragonspike Litany.

Fuxi might be the founder of formations, feng shui, and burial dao as seen in the future, but the wisdom of humanity was inexhaustible and infinite. The race would continue to innovate and craft new creations throughout the boundless river of time, raising Fuxi's methods to heights he'd never imagined.

As light peered into every shadowy corner of the palace, the Dragonsearch Invocation revealed all sorts of grotesque yin spirits and ghosts tucked away out of sight. Uncanny wisps and undead shrieked and howled, but didn't dare attack what offended them due to the presence of the Yin Prince.

“How far does fellow daoist think this emperor could proceed?” Lu Yun remained unmoving, golden radiance from the luopan combining with the black rays of the burning sun. They formed two fish that circled over his head.

No reply was forthcoming from the carriage.

“Fellow daoist, you keep to your carriage even though this emperor has come. Can it be that you think nothing of this emperor?” Lu Yun took a step forward with a sneer and approached the litter.

There was no curtain in the doorway, just a pitch-black, bottomless hole. He couldn’t make out what was inside it.

The Yin Prince sighed, but still didn’t respond.

“Do you believe me when this emperor says that I’ll smash your chair on sticks to pieces, fellow daoist?” snickered Lu Yun.

“The Flame Emperor has undoubtedly come for the great Pangu’s treasure—Worldcarver. I cannot stop you, so fellow daoist is free to retrieve it as you would. Why do you remain here to put me in these awkward straits?” The Yin Prince offered with resignation, his change in title indicating that he acknowledged Lu Yun’s identity and status.

“Put you in awkward straits?” Lu Yun took another step forward, reaching the shadows of the carriage. A cacophony of eerie howls and shrieks instantly assaulted his mind, filling him with a multitude of negative emotions.

Startled, he backed out of the shadows.

“You see, Flame Emperor, I cannot impede you, but neither can you truly constrain me. You should cease your attentions here, there’s no meaning to any of it,” advised the Yin Prince. “Just go do whatever it is you’d like to do.”

“Then why aren’t you leaving?” Lu Yun frowned.

There was such a dense concentration of negativity within the shadows of the litter that he wasn’t able to linger for long, even though he possessed hellfire. Unless... he turned into a ghost.

“I’m waiting to collect your yin spirit upon your death so that the Flame Emperor’s soul will not scatter. I will save your true spirit this way,” the Yin Prince replied broodingly. “I am not the master of Pangu’s tomb or the netherworld, I’m just an overseer cleaning out the stragglers.

“Since you have come, Flame Emperor, you won’t be making it out alive no matter what. You will die sooner or later, it’s just a question of how long you’ll be able to hold out.”

Chuckling, the Yin Prince, his carriage, the yin soldiers, the bearers, and even the three bodies on the ground slowly faded away. They left not a single trace behind, as if they’d never been here.

Lu Yun frowned slightly. He could clearly sense that the Yin Prince hadn’t departed, that he was still hidden somewhere and quietly observing Lu Yun.

Quiet draped over the palace.

He put away the sun over his head and withdrew the Dragonsearch Invocation, then proceeded toward the center of the palace.

Six altars floated silently in the air and the origin divine slept peacefully on the mother altar. Upon a closer look, Lu Yun realized with great shock that each of the five elemental altars held a body of their own.

“These are the bodies of Exalted divine spirits... and five of them...” Consternation struck Lu Yun when the bodies came into focus as he approached from the distance. The head of a human and the body of a snake, the dao character in their movements. They were very similar to the true forms of Fuxi and Wahuang.

“What the heck is going on here?” He shoved all thoughts of the Yin Prince to the back of his mind and leapt onto the closest altar—the Wood Altar.

As he did so, the liver of the world inside of him formed a tenuous connection with the altar. The emerald-green corpse of the Exalted divine spirit on the Wood Altar trembled, and he opened lifeless eyes to look at Lu Yun.

“Usurp!” A quiet thought traveled into Lu Yun’s mind and breathed the word into his thoughts.

“Huh?” He frowned and lifted his head to look at the origin divine.

Previously fast asleep, it too had opened its eyes and was glaring viciously at the human.

Chapter 905: Houtu

A strong wave of malicious resentment surged from the origin divine before it charged at the human. At the same time, the Wood Altar beneath Lu Yun’s feet suddenly turned completely black; inky tentacles reached out from it to entangle his feet.

Frowning slightly, Lu Yun stomped down and broke the tentacles apart.

“Ah, I see! The mother altar is the mother altar, how would it develop the five elemental altars? It’s you, you’re the one who stole the opportunity that belonged to the Exalted divine spirits and derived the five altars from the mother altar. You want to refine the divine spirits!”

He understood everything now.

The five elements formed the core essence of the mother altar, so the first divine spirit to be born from it should've been the Exalted divine spirit. But now, their fortuitous opportunity had been wrested from their hands and the origin divine had expelled the five elements out of the mother altar. It'd injected its own power of earth, air, fire, and water into the mother altar and was attempting to refine it!

“How could I possibly let you succeed?” Lu Yun snorted and sent hellfire billowing out of him, clearing away the miasma of negativity. He took one step forward and traveled to the mother altar, punching out at the origin divine without another moment of hesitation.

“Wah! Wahn! Wahhhh!!” The origin divine cried like a baby when it noted Lu Yun’s arrival, but there was more murderous intent and violence in its tones than there would in a baby.

Boom.

Earth, air, water, and fire energies churned on the mother altar and transformed into four keen blades of sword energy, slashing at Lu Yun.

“Swords of earth, air, water, and fire? Look at you showing off a cheap imitation of sword dao in front of a master!” Lu Yun snickered.

The black sun over his head flared with inky-black energy and smashed the four rays of sword energy apart. Hot on the heels of this opening move, his punch arrived painfully on the origin divine’s head.

Puff!

One of the origin divine’s heads exploded into pieces.

Lu Yun jabbed out three more times in swift succession and blasted the origin divine’s three other heads to bits. Its headless body sprang up, deep-seated fear emanating from its form.

“Trying to get away, are you?” Lu Yun leered and took one step to the side, kicking firmly at the air with his right foot.

Boooooom.

Pangu’s tomb shuddered violently and Mount Buzhou shook three times, a slight quaking felt throughout all of the great wilderness. Wahuang jumped up in fright and hurriedly activated the great formation protecting the human sacred land. She looked nervously at the foot of the mountain.

Many demon gods likewise looked her way. Mount Buzhou was the foremost divine mountain in the great wilderness; it stood there since the beginning of time, never wavering. But today, it’d shuddered noticeably!

This wasn't a good omen!

Within Pangu’s tomb under Mount Buzhou, Lu Yun—source of all the alarm—couldn’t be bothered with any of the repercussions. In the air twisted five enormous dragons that he’d summoned from beneath the ground.

These were five heavenly veins, ones superior to dragon and ancestral veins!

Almost at the realm of great perfection, the Dragonshift Method had swiftly summoned the five heavenly veins when deployed. They were arranged according to the five elements and possessed elemental power due to influence from the mother altar.

The veins transformed into draconic shadows and pounced on the origin divine with savage snarls. Screeching in horror, the origin divine split itself into four rays of flight that scrambled in four different directions.

“You’ve got quite a few lifesaving measures, huh!” Lu Yun’s face was a bit pale. Since his method had yet to truly reach the realm of great perfection, brashly calling upon heavenly veins would result in backlash from the world.

Lu Yun had no extraneous effort to spare for hunting down the origin divine anymore. He had to utilize his body of the world to furiously absorb the power of the five elements around him and strengthen his organs to withstand the momentous heavenly wrath bearing down on him.

The situation was much like when he defended the torch dragon against its tribulation, but this time, the heavens were looking to smite him!

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“How fierce... he beat the growing trouble to pieces!” The Yin Prince surreptitiously poked out a head from the carriage; what emerged was a stunning sixteen year old girl dressed in a downy-yellow shirt.

When the black-clad man saw his mistress peek out, he hastily stuffed her back into the litter.

“You mustn’t show your true form, Your Majesty! The unscrupulous sorts in the great wilderness might set their eyes on you!” he explained patiently. “You know just as well, Your Majesty, the types of trouble and ruckus that the greatest beauty Tushan raised when she first emerged. That disturbance was indescribable and many connate demon gods waged war against each other just to get closer to the one they liked!

“If it wasn't for Tushan having a bit of strength, she might have fallen into their lascivious grasps a long time ago!”

“So Tushan is strong, but I’m not?” Narrowing her almond-shaped eyes dangerously, the Yin Prince grumbled with dissatisfaction at her retainer.

“Your Majesty Houtu naturally possesses unparalleled skill and ability, you have nothing to fear when it comes to connate demon gods. But that Flame Emperor looks the very picture of a lecherous good-for-nothing, and he’s ruthless and vicious in his ways. He’s destroyed even the origin divine, so we should exercise caution, Your Majesty!” the man quickly changed his tune.

“That’s more like it.” With another glare, the Yin Prince returned to her seat. She rested her chin in both hands and looked at the human youth fighting the heavens in mid air.

“Though humans are descended from the great god Pangu, they've inherited only his form and not his strength. If it wasn't for Leize safeguarding the race, the demon gods likely would've rounded them up a long time ago to distill Pangu’s bloodline out of them,” the Yin Prince murmured. “But to think that someone like the Flame Emperor would be born to them! He's directly changed the heavenly dao and raised the human race as the legitimate successors of the world.

“Your Majesty is entirely correct, but this Flame Emperor is merciless and cruel. He's slain countless numbers of preeminent demon gods without a second thought. Violence and bloodlust fill his being, he’s destined not to live for long,” the man quickly added. “When he dies here, this subordinate will personally refine him into a bearer and have him carry your litter!”

“You seem to quite dislike him, Yulei.” The Yin Prince looked sideways at her servant.

“Flame Emperor was disrespectful to Your Majesty, so this subordinate naturally dislikes him!” Yulei declared righteously. “If this subordinate possessed Shentu’s strength, I would kill him with my own hands!

“But I have already notified Shentu of the happenings here. Even if the Flame Emperor is lucky enough not to die in Pangu’s tomb, Shentu will not suffer him to live!”

Brow slightly furrowed, his mistress seemed to disagree with what Yulei had done.

Chapter 906: The Reason Behind Pangu’s Death

Though Lu Yun was still defending himself against the recoil of the world, he wasn’t actually suffering any tangible harm. His body possessed the same origin as heaven and earth, so that directly weakened the backlash by more than fifty percent. He was actually leveraging heaven’s wrath to refine the five heavenly veins beneath his feet as well, which in return would further improve his Dragonshift Method.

As the recoil slowly faded away, the five veins beneath his feet gradually sank into the ground. A draconic shadow flashed across his body, heralding that his Dragonshift Method had finally reached great perfection.

“I’m just missing the Dragonspike Litany now... If I can nail a heavenly vein with a spike and destroy a formidable faction that reigns supreme, it’ll probably immediately ascend to great perfection!” Lu Yun lifted his head as he spoke and looked in the direction of the world of celestials. He already had a target in mind.

“That’s strange, there’s only these altars in the palace of Pangu’s tomb. Where’s his axe and where’s the great god’s corpse?” Lu Yun stood atop the mother altar and blankly surveyed the surroundings.

The mother altar was located at the highest peak of the palace and the five elemental altars arranged below it. Though he stood on the mother altar, he couldn’t find any trace of the weapon.

Given the departure of the origin divine, however, the five dead Exalted divine spirits were slowly absorbing the mother altar’s energy and beginning to resuscitate.

After giving the matter some thought, Lu Yun split out some of the organs’ strength and directed it to the five elemental altars, sealing them off so that nothing else would disturb the divine spirits’ revival.

“So there were five ancestor gods of the Exalted divine tribe...” Lu Yun scratched his head.

The Exalted divines weren’t the enemy. They would later establish a divine court and etch their divine emperor’s Sacred Origin Runes onto the Dao Flower, helping the immortal dao assimilate divine dao and take another step closer to perfection.

As for the changes in the divine court in the future... it now seemed likely that the origin divine would eventually usurp Exalted divine rule. Their last celestial emperor should be the origin divine Lu Yun had just seen.

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He was in no rush to locate Pangu’s corpse and weapon after sealing off the five altars. Rather, Lu Yun sat down cross-legged on the mother altar and silently theorized everything about this tomb. His calculations told him that the safest spot in the palace was atop these six altars. If he dared walk down and return to the ground, he was sure to die a nasty death.

“This palace...” he suddenly opened his eyes and looked to the skies. “Worldcarver is outside the palace?”

Lu Yun blinked. The palace was the main structure of Pangu’s tomb. If his weapon was outside the palace, that meant Worldcarver wasn’t actually in the tomb.

“Then where’s the great god’s corpse?” Lu Yun sat dumbly on the altar and looked around at a loss. His calculations told him that the layout of the tomb wasn’t to lay anyone to rest, but to nurture the six altars.

But this was still a tomb at the end of the day, and though its primary purpose was to foster the six altars, there was still a great person buried inside—Pangu! This was still a magnificent tomb, the foremost tomb of the world!

“Unless...” His face darkening, Lu Yun took a deep breath and slowly opened his hand. A black sapling materialized on it, accompanied by a sea of hellfire that rushed into the ancient tomb. The Sal Tree of Life and Death!

It wasn’t a mirage this time, but the actual tree that the master of hell had summoned from his domain.

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“Oh my heavens!” The Yin Prince and Yulei yelled at the same time.

“No wonder he can manipulate hellfire, that demonic tree’s fallen into his hands!” The Yin Prince’s voice had shifted so completely that she no longer sounded like a man. Gorgeous eyes bulging with shock, she clapped her hands tightly over her mouth, as if wanting to mute herself through physical force alone.

Off to the side, Yulei was likewise flabbergasted.

“This is bad, this is very bad indeed. With the demonic tree in the Flame Emperor’s hands, anywhere he stands is the true Sea of Hellfire. Shentu won’t be his match!” Yulei had no words to describe what he was witnessing.

Although Lie Shan had summoned the mirage of the tree a few times, not many in the great wilderness knew what it was. Additionally, it’d only ever been a shadow—which didn’t represent much. Many were the connate demon gods who could summon a shadow of Mount Buzhou or even the sun and overlay it with themselves.

But Lie Shan had called the real tree to him! Hellfire blazed on its branches and roiled outward into a fiery ocean. Wherever it stood was the equivalent of the Sea of Hellfire!

The Yin Prince’s carriage flared with black light in the next moment, enveloping her soldiers and Yulei, then vanished without a trace into the void.

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Within the Sea of Hellfire, Lu Yun’s eyes burned ferociously and he deployed the Spectral Eye.

“A dragon sleeps in mountains coiled,

“Those deathly cliffs with mysteries roiled.

“Danger shies if mountains hide—” He spat out a mouthful of blood.

As he operated the Dragonsearch Invocation, his mind had suffered a grave injury and even the Spectral Eye exploded!

Hummm.

The Tome of Life and Death suddenly materialized and hovered protectively over his body, preventing him from imploding to pieces from the terrible backlash.

“Pangu’s corpse is also a taboo? What the sheer utter fuck?! How are there so many taboos in the world? I don’t believe this one will elude me, your daddy’s coming for you today!” Flying into a rage, Lu Yun grabbed the book over his head and grasped in it his hand. He collected all of the strength within him and injected it into the Sal Tree; all of Pangu’s tomb turned into a fiery ocean as hellfire roared into every nook and cranny.

Within the tomb, all of the dreadful creatures lurking in the shadows instantly perished from the blazing conflagration.

“A dragon searches through heaven and earth!

“Do hereby hearken this world and soul!”

Boooooom.

A golden dragon suddenly appeared in the ocean of hellfire and burrowed into Lu Yun’s body. He turned pure gold, and even hellfire took on an aureate gleam, dancing as flames of blackish-gold.

“AhhhhHHHHH!!” Lu Yun screamed, two beams of golden light shooting out three hundred meters into the distance from his eyes. They ripped forward with the momentum to pierce the heavens.

“I see, I see!” he gabbled. “So this tomb is made out of Pangu’s corpse, and this palace carved out of his head!”

The golden light had illuminated Worldcarver and identified its current position. It rested right above the palace, almost hewing it into two. Pangu... had died because Worldcarver had sliced his head right open!

Chapter 907: Footprints

Pfft!

Lu Yun spat out another mouthful of blood as something suppressed his blazing hellfire. Even the Sal Tree of Life and Death retreated back to the netherdark.

Firmly grasping the Tome of Life and Death, he looked up at the firmament to where a pair of purple eyes burning with purple flames regarded him frostily. Lu Yun locked eyes with it while the Tome of Life and Death emanated bronze radiance to protect its wielder.

He didn’t know who the eyes belonged to, but he was certain that the master of these eyes was the one behind the taboos of the world. Living beings were hit with recoil if they touched earth veins because those were taboo, Emperors Fall was taboo, the great war of immortals was also taboo... and it was all because of these purple eyes!

It'd done so to bury the truth.

Even the current age he was in, the rule of the demon gods, would eventually become a taboo. Future generations would completely forget this era and the origin story of how the human race came to be. And now, it'd also made the reason for Pangu's death a taboo. No one could learn of the truth, or they'd suffer the condemnation of the heavens!

Lu Yun had made use of the Tome of Life and Death, death arts, and a Dragonsearch Invocation at great perfection to finally pierce through the veil of mystery. Hence, the eyes materialized to prevent the truth from being revealed.

He refused to back down, glaring with determination and maintaining a tight grip on the book. He would never admit defeat here. Never.

"Ai!" a soft voice sighed. "I buried truth in order to protect all life. It's not a good thing to know too much. Please keep the reason for Pangu's death a secret, fellow daoist."

The voice was low, resonant, and suffused with resignation.

"Who killed the great god? He can't have committed suicide." Lu Yun frowned.

Having this conversation meant that the master behind the eyes of purple flame had acceded, and Lu Yun also recognized the fire burning in those eyes!

Nether Fire!

The Nether Fire that belonged to Violetgrave, but the master of these eyes was absolutely not her!

Violetgrave had once said that the first person to transact with her had traded for Nether Fire, and that they'd eventually destroyed the hell of human dao.

Could that person be the owner of these eyes?

"With your current status, you can learn of only so much. Death will lie in wait for you if you run afoul of certain taboos!" said the voice. "If one day you fully master the Tome of Life and Death, then there will be no secrets remaining to you in this entire world. No, not even in all of the chaos."

It dwindled away until the last word was simply a breath upon the air, as did the eyes hanging in the void.

Lu Yun stood upon the mother altar and looked down at the book in his hand. That being knew of the treasure and its power... It hadn't admitted defeat because of Lu Yun's strength, but given way because he was the master of the Tome of Life and Death.

"You may retrieve Worldcarver, but you cannot move Pangu's corpse. His body is the foundation of Mount Buzhou and the mountain will fall if you shift his body," sounded the voice once again. "Mount Buzhou will fall sooner or later, but absolutely not now."

Lu Yun nodded silently. This time, he could clearly sense an enormous entity slowly depart from the premises.

Hellfire had absolutely wrecked Pangu's tomb. Under its blazing might, everything sinister, ghostly, or of yin energy was reduced to dust. Even vicious beings that could kill Lu Yun with a snap of their fingers were unable to withstand the fiery ocean.

However, Lu Yun still remained on the mother altar.

"An opportunity for my replica to break through to chaos realm lies within these five altars." He surveyed the elemental altars hovering beneath the mother altar and frowned slightly. "But... my body of the world comes from the future and can't ascend to chaos realm in this time period."

His body would break through to empyrean realm in the future and refine the great dao of the future. If Lu Yun ascended to chaos realm in this age and assimilated the great dao as it were now, he wouldn't be able to go back to his time.

At least, Xing Chen wouldn't be able to.

However, his replica had a greater mission on its shoulders—to make the immortal dao whole!

"Ai, Little Yu probably calculated as well that the five elemental altars are the key to Xing Chen breaking through to the chaos realm. But if they enter his body, my primary body will also be impacted and turn into a divine spirit..." Lu Yun gave up on the notion in the end. He didn't want to transform from being a human to being a divine.

"Eh?" Something caught his eye inside the palace.

Footprints had appeared over the scoured surface of the palace ground at an unknown point in time. Dense and thickly dotted, they were everywhere. Many things unseen seemed to be standing in the palace and looking up at Lu Yun.

He felt his hairs stand on end as the feeling of being watched rose from the bottom of his heart.

"No, wait. There's more secrets left in this tomb, the akasha ghosts..."

Zhi Guangji had also been an ephemeral existence that was an akasha ghost. Apart from Lu Yun, no one had been able to see, hear, or sense him. The same beings now filled the palace, and were even stronger than the former Dao Flower guardian. Lu Yun couldn't see or sense them, but they truly were standing in the palace, despite there being no other trace of them other than the footprints.

They were a kind of existence like akasha ghosts, but ones even stronger.

"Just like death spirits accompanying a realm monster, the akasha ghosts are just the hangers-on of these beings." Lu Yun's expression flickered uncertainly.

He'd calculated just now that he'd be obliterated if he dared walk down from the mother altar; there wouldn't even be a complete corpse left when his attacker was through with him. The culprit wouldn't be the master of the eyes earlier, but the owners of these dense footprints!

"Fuxi drew the Scroll of Shepherding Immortals with God's essence to restrain the akasha ghosts... the mother altar is God's greatest treasure, so it too can suppress the creatures below.

“Man, do I really have to refine these altars and break through to chaos realm to get out of this predicament?”

That hellfire hadn't burned them along with everything else was testament to how strong they were.

“You can retrieve Worldcarver first, then think of a way to leave this place.” The Yin Prince's genteel tones sounded once more.

The black litter appeared again with its eight bearers standing beside it. Everything was how it'd been before, and the three that Lu Yun killed had somehow revived. Apart from the black-clad Yulei beside the carriage, he was joined by another handsome young man in a white robe.

“Hmm?” Lu Yun hadn't thought this personage would appear again and this time, to resolve his problem. Wasn't the Yin Prince waiting to collect his corpse?

“Do you know how to retrieve Worldcarver?” Lu Yun asked with shock. “And do you know the reason for Pangu's death?”

“No.” The Yin Prince suppressed an eyeroll. “The connate demon gods who knew are all dead and became the owners of these footprints.”

Chapter 908: A Mess of Accusations

“You didn't kill the connate demon gods that came here before?” Lu Yun looked askance at the Yin Prince's carriage.

“I'm just in charge of collecting their bodies,” came the snorted answer. “If I didn't collect their corpses, then they would also turn into those things.”

“Then it looks like it's those eyes that did it...” Lu Yun frowned.

“Not him either.” The Yin Prince rested her chin on both hands and cocked her head. “The big guy in the shadows wanted to kill you earlier, but the one behind the eyes blocked him from taking action. Otherwise, you'd be part of those footsteps by now as well.

“He's the tomb keeper of Pangu's tomb and here to conceal the truth.”

Lu Yun felt his head spin from all the possibilities and implications.

“So how do I retrieve Worldcarver?”

Though the footprints were inside the palace, he could keenly perceive that the void was filled with something unseen. Perhaps it was the akasha ghosts, or something else entirely. If he dared take a step away from the mother altar, he'd be instantly dissected by them. The Yin Prince couldn't do anything to them either.

“Come into my carriage.” The prince waved a hand to extend a path of black light before Lu Yun.

“Milord!” Yulei and the newly arrived Shentu protested at their master inviting the dratted human into his carriage.

“Milord, this Flame Emperor isn’t anything good. Please think twice about this!” Yulei blocked the way to the litter and glared ferociously at Lu Yun.

“Indeed,” nodded the white-clad young man with a sunny disposition. “Flame Emperor Lie Shan is infamous throughout the great wilderness for his perverted ways and pursuit of fleshly pleasures.

“It’s said that the greatest beauty Tushan has become his bedwarmer, as has the mountain ghost of Qingqiu Mountain his plaything. He’s built a harem in the human Yan Tribe and takes in beauties all over the great wilderness. He’s the number one lecher in all the land!”

Lu Yun froze, looking dazedly at Shentu. “Wait, say that again!” Ghostly black flames abruptly ignited in his eyes.

“Was I not clear enough? Are you afraid of your misdeeds coming to light before my master?” Shentu sneered.

In the carriage, the Yin Prince frowned musingly. This clean-cut human youth didn’t seem like a profligate lecher, no matter how she looked at him.

“This talk is all over the great wilderness now.” Seeing how furious the human looked and thinking back to when the youth summoned the Sal Tree of Life and Death, as well as how ferociously he defied the heavens, Yulei quickly added, “And it didn’t come from us!”

Shentu looked askance at his colleague. In his eyes, the Flame Emperor was just a minor human that wasn’t worthy of proper consideration. Even though he’d beaten Dijiang when the demon god wielded the Bell of Chaos, Shentu was still confident of taking down Lie Shan in battle.

“Then who did it come from?” An enormous golden dragon shadow slowly collected over his head; this issue touched upon his bottom line. It was one thing to accuse him of building a harem and collecting the various beauties of the great wilderness, but the sanctity of the little fox and Ah Bao was not to be violated.

“All of the connate demon gods are talking about it! Rumors fly thick and fast even in your human race,” Yulei quickly explained. This had made the rounds in the great wilderness a long time ago, almost everyone had heard and knew about it.

After becoming the Flame Emperor, Lu Yun bent his mind toward seclusion and deriving the future of the human race. He spent his days perfecting human cultivation methods and had no attention or desire to spare on matters outside.

Though the previous Shennong, Shaodian, and others had heard of the sayings, they wouldn’t disturb a meditating Lie Shan for them. Ah Bao and the little fox weren’t the type to fixate on unfounded rumors, so they didn’t pay much attention to the gossip either.

Dismissing the Dragonshift Method and hellfire, Lu Yun sat down cross-legged and slowly operated formula dao to calculate the changes in the world.

“I see... you guys have made the first move because I’ve been preoccupied. But these kinds of methods really are a bit low class.” Lu Yun raised his head and looked at the world of celestials with a cold sneer here playing upon his lips.

“Since they are just rumors, please set foot in my carriage.” The Yin Prince invited once again. She truly didn't believe that someone who could receive the approval of the heavenly dao and advance its evolution would be the foremost lecher of the land. If that were the case, then the heavenly dao now wouldn't be one of human dao, but one of unreserved perversion and bodily pleasure.

“Though my carriage isn't some sort of ultimate connate treasure, those things out there still can't harm it.” She suddenly found the human's brooding expression quite funny.

“In that case, I shall not insist on polite refusal.” Lu Yun withdrew his formula dao and set foot on the path of dark light.

The previous miasma of frightening negativity was nowhere to be found when the path extended into the shadows of the litter. Those emotions plainly belonged to the connate demon gods who'd died here—they were full of regret, bitterness, and the burning desire for revenge.

Yulei and Shentu's expression was also forebodingly ominous at the development, but since their mistress had already given her orders, they didn't say anything else.

A soft fragrance greeted Lu Yun as soon as he entered the litter. He paused, dazed. The so-called Yin Prince was a charming young lady! Her features wouldn't launch a thousand ships like Tushan's would, she was absolutely still a peak beauty in the great wilderness.

“This...” He stared dumbly at his host, unable to collect his wits. “The Yin Prince is a woman?” He shook his head fiercely with a rueful chuckle. “No wonder those two outside bore me such hostility, I see now.”

Thinking of the mess of accusations tarring him and then of the Yin Prince in front of him, Lu Yun shook his hand with resignation.

“A woman?” The Yin Prince shook her head. “I'm not human, my name is Houtu and I am also a connate demon god.”

“Houtu!!” Lu Yun jumped up when he heard the name and hurriedly assumed a prim and proper pose to make the deepest bow possible. “Lie Shan of the human race greets Your Majesty Houtu.”

He didn't call himself Flame Emperor this time as he was facing Houtu, the first great god that humans had ever worshipped!

Prior to the birth of tribute spirits and before Fuxi became the holy emperor, it was Houtu's protection that had given humans enough space and time to gradually find their footing in the great wilderness. It could be said that without her, there would be no human race for Leize to defend. Fuxi and Wahuang would've been devoured by the demon gods at the moment of their birth as well.

It was only with Leize, Huaxu, Fuxi, and Wahuang continuously safeguarding the race, God creating the rites of worship, sacrifices to the tribute spirits, and creation of cultivation methods that humans were able to fend for themselves. When humans weren't on the verge of daily extinction, Houtu slowly faded out of public view and eventually disappeared from the scene.

But humans still remembered her. Many of the large tribes still worshipped her, and future descendants of the race would keep her memory alive. Successive generations of emperors and kings would also continue to burn sacrifices to her.

To think that the Yin Prince would be Houtu!

“You still remember me?” The Yin Prince looked at Lu Yun with surprise and laughed softly. “I thought that humanity had forgotten me a long time ago.”

“How would the human race ever dare forget our deepest gratitude to Your Majesty? Many of your idols can still be found in various large tribes of my race,” Lu Yun corrected solemnly.

Chapter 909: Pangu in the Flesh

The Yin Prince went into a brief daze upon hearing Lu Yun’s words. She blushed and responded stiltedly, “Thank you for the thought.”

Outside of the carriage, Shentu and Yulei scowled to hear the human youth compliment their mistress.

“Nothing good’s going to come from that pervert complimenting Her Majesty!” Yulei grumbled.

“But Her Majesty has indeed done much for the human race and there are indeed golden statues of her in many of the human tribes. That much is true.” Shentu was rather depressed. He knew this debauched womanizer was just trying to get closer to his mistress, but there was nothing to be done when the playboy spoke only the truth.

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“Let us be on our way.” The Yin Prince waved a hand at those outside. She'd heard the discussion between Shentu and Yulei, but didn't express anything in return.

The black carriage was very large as it held a world of its own on the inside. Birds chirped and flowers abounded, it was a scene of vibrant life that was at exact odds with the tomb outside. The Yin Prince sat on a cushion and regarded Lu Yun curiously, but he didn't dare meet her gaze.

After all, he was the head perverted womanizer in the great wilderness right now, he wouldn't go looking for humiliation at a time like this.

He sat at the edge of this world and looked out the carriage windows. He could see the scene outside and how translucent shadows floated through the air.

“Is that them?” He blinked when he saw the shadows.

“Correct, that's them. Everything that dies inside Pangu’s tomb turns into those things,” sighed the Yin Prince. “Some of them are transformed from the living beings that existed before the great devastation, and some are from modern day connate demon gods. I’m just one person and even though I collect their corpses without rest, I can’t keep up with their pace of change.

“Therefore, I can only wait outside and scare off anyone who would enter. But for some reason, many are those who come seeking death.”

She glared at Lu Yun, who rubbed his nose nonchalantly.

The translucent shadows in the air were like yin spirits, but they weren't yin spirits. They were a dead entity even more thoroughly dead than yin spirits, to the point where they almost didn't exist. Even the beholder of the Tome of Life and Death, Lu Yun, couldn't see them clearly for what they were.

“If hellfire can’t restrain them, what can?” He frowned. “All things in the world have their counter. Since they exist, then there must be something that can keep them down.”

He didn’t dare imagine what would happen if this group of things charged out of the tomb. At the very least, it was a given that current great masters wouldn’t be able to withstand them and would probably even be assimilated by them.

“This world would likely be completely destroyed and return to the chaos if they rushed out.” Melancholy filled Houtu’s face. “Thankfully though, they’re buried in Pangu’s tomb and rest here peacefully. But if there’s too many of them, the tomb will explode from their numbers!

“Unless... unless another existence on par with Pangu is willing to die here and form a second tomb.”

“So the great god really did willingly go to his death!” Lu Yun gasped.

Houtu rolled an irate eyeball at him. “Don’t make Pangu out to be so heroic. He was a living being too, so he also desired to survive. Who would willingly give up their life?”

Lu Yun smiled sheepishly.

“So where do those things come from?” He glanced at the shadows outside the window again.

“How would I know?” Houtu pursed her lips. “Alright, I’ve brought you to Worldcarver. It’s up to you on how you obtain the greatest treasure in the world.”

The Bell of Chaos was hailed the greatest connate treasure in the world as Worldcarver had exceeded the range of connate treasures. Thus, it was correct to call the axe the strongest treasure overall in the great wilderness.

The Yin Prince’s carriage had arrived outside Pangu’s tomb at some point in time. Through the window, Lu Yun could clearly see a towering giant standing in a patch of unknown space. His eyes were widened, filled with reluctance and remorse. An enormous axe emanating a marvelous presence and glinting frostily had sunk into his head, almost splitting his skull apart.

The great god Pangu and Worldcarver!

“So things really are like this!” Lu Yun alighted from the litter and took in everything with enormous shock. They weren’t in Mount Buzhou or the great wilderness anymore, but in another patch of space entirely. The translucent beings that seemed to exist and not exist at the same time had also disappeared.

“Worldcarver!” Lu Yun regarded the axe with new eyes when he realized something. “So it turns out the weapons of dao in the long-haired monsters’ hands are based off of Worldcarver!”

He took a deep breath and set foot into the unknown.

An uncommonly heavy presence immediately pressed down on him from all sides. If it wasn’t for his body of the world, he would’ve been immediately smashed into minced meat in this strange place.

“This Flame Emperor of the human race has a few tricks up his sleeve alright! He’s able to remain standing here!” Battle intent thrummed through Shentu’s veins when he saw the human youth set foot

into space and remain unharmed. "I must spar with him when we depart from here and see who's the real god of war between us!"

Shentu was Houtu's strongest guard; he'd slain three hundred demon gods when they'd mobbed her for protecting the human race. He'd even defeated Dijiang and Nuanzi, putting an end to their offensive through sheer intimidation alone.

Now that he saw such a master emerge from the humans, a great desire to see who was superior brewed in his heart.

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Boooooom.

Space itself suddenly trembled as the shadow of an enormous tree materialized in the air and took root in the center of the area. Hellfire immediately blazed into existence and turned the vicinity into a world of hellish flame.

Color drained out of Shentu's face and he darted for the safety of the carriage's shadow.

"He, he can control that demonic tree and summon hellfire? In that case, who can stand up to him when he's in that fiery ocean?"

He possessed the confidence to battle with Leize, but none of that remained when faced with the horrifying inferno. He could even withstand hellfire burning on its own, but an entire ocean of it could reduce the entire great wilderness to ash, to say nothing of a body of flesh and blood!

"Though he has hellfire, it still won't be that easy for him to pick up Worldcarver." Houtu rested her chin in both hands and silently studied the human at the center of the flames. "Worldcarver recognizes only Pangu."

Lu Yun sat cross-legged in the air, surrounded by hellfire. He stared fixedly at the towering giant in front of him and silently operated the nascent spirit observation method.

Hummmmm.

Flames surged and roared, marshaling for a mighty giant rising from the ocean.

Pangu!

Pangu in the flesh!

Lu Yun had projected Pangu's true form with the nascent spirit observation method!

Houtu goggled at the sight. Shentu and Yulei were even more flabbergasted that a human had somehow materialized Pangu in the flesh.

Indeed, the great god was here in person!

Lie Shan's projection was completely the same as the body who stood in space, not just in terms of appearance, but also in divine bearing and presence. The only difference was Lie Shan's version was far

weaker than the real Pangu and only possessed the human's cultivation level, but this was still extraordinarily frightening.

Rumble.

Pangu's form disintegrated in the next second and returned to the sea of hellfire.

Chapter 910: Worldcarver

"I can't do it!" Lu Yun hunched over, panting heavily. "Pangu's body structure is too complicated, even more so than the world itself. Hellfire can't perfectly recreate his body!"

To utilize the nascent spirit observation method didn't mean to just simulate the subject's external appearance, it was even more crucial to observe the internal structure of the subject. It was because of this principle that Lu Yun had listed formula dao as the basic foundation of all methods within the dao academy. Formula dao could utilize the tiniest of details to deduce the true nature of something from the outside in.

He'd used Pangu's body just now to deduce the great god's internal structure and make an initial projection based off of his findings. However, he'd gleaned only a thousandth of the great god's structure, making for an equally short-lived projection.

"If I could enter Pangu's body and make a detailed observation of his flesh and blood, I might be able to deduce a hundredth of his body structure. A projection of that level should be able to claim Worldcarver," Lu Yun murmured to himself.

However, the great god's body was flawless and impenetrable. Even though the great axe had split it open, it still wasn't something that Lu Yun could access. The ancient tomb and palace that they'd been in earlier was just a spatial plane in Pangu's head. Where Lu Yun wanted to go was inside the great god's physical body.

"What is it?" The Yin Prince walked out of the carriage and elegantly approached Lu Yun, curiously watching the human youth in deep thought.

"I'm observing Pangu's true form!" Lu Yun cast a glance at the Yin Prince and forcefully looked away.

"His body structure is too complicated. I might be able to do something if I could enter his body, but it's seamless and impossible to access."

His fingers sped through various hand seals as he continuously theorized how he might tackle the problem.

"Aren't you a duplication of Pangu's body?" the Yin Prince asked doubtfully. "Though humans haven't inherited the great god's combat arts and strength, they inherited his body and form. The human figure is Pangu's true shape."

Lu Yun started and turned around, staring dumbly at the Yin Prince. She blushed from the intense attention and bashfully ducked her head.

"You damned lecher, what do you want?!" Yulei and Shentu rushed over, placing their mistress behind them.

Lu Yun heaved a sigh and lowered his head, studying his own body.

“The human body is indeed shaped after Pangu’s true form, but it’s still not as complex as the great god. One hundredth... the human body happens to have inherited precisely one hundredth of his body structure!” Lu Yun’s eyes lit up.

Possessing one hundredth of Pangu’s internal structure would be enough for him to project the great god’s form. But the human body was still only the human body, equivalent to a devolved Pangu. What he could project from observing his own body wouldn't be the great god in the flesh. However, Lu Yun had managed to deduce a thousandth of Pangu’s true form earlier.

“Please step aside, Your Majesty.” Lu Yun took a deep breath after a moment and cautioned the goddess to take shelter.

She nodded slowly and returned to her carriage in a cloud of perfume. Yulei and Shentu realized that Lie Shan was about to attempt something and quickly retreated to the shadows of the vehicle as well.

Whoosh.

The Sal Tree of Life and Death reappeared, along with the Sea of Hellfire. This time, Lu Yun deployed the nascent spirit observation method on himself. Leaping hellfire drowned him out and coalesced into the figure of Pangu.

Humm.

After a tremendous reverberation, he disappeared and was replaced by a towering giant.

“Pangu!” Seated in her litter, the Yin Prince leaned forward and regarded the second giant with shock. If it was said that Lie Shan had projected only Pangu’s body the first time, then he’d manage to recreate the great god entirely the second time!

Though she knew that the person in front of her wasn’t Pangu, it still gave her the misconception that the great god was here in person.

Boom—

Boom—

Boom—

Pangu strode out to the corpse that was many times greater than him, the air shaking with every step that he took. When Lu Yun reached the great god's head, he realized that by using his own body as the blueprint and boundless hellfire as flesh and blood, he’d only managed to project a Pangu that was as big as the great god's head.

Pangu was really too enormous.

He took a deep breath and floated upwards, firmly grasping the gigantic axe and yanking it outwards.

Sizzle—

Bolts of black lightning flared in the air and struck at the bold human.

“Break!!” Lu Yun roared and activated Thunder Palmstrike, swallowing the field of electricity whole.

Crackle—

The terrifying lightning poured into his body and burrowed right back out to circle around him.

Rumble.

Trembling ferociously, muffled bangs sounded from the void as the titanic Worldcarver inched its way out of Pangu’s skull. However, Lu Yun’s hairs stood on end the next second and he almost loosened his grasp on the axe.

Pangu’s dimmed eyes suddenly lit up and peak fury exuded from his body, crashing into Lu Yun’s mind.

“You’re not Pangu!!” Lu Yun snarled. “The great god hasn’t truly perished, it’s only his body here. Don’t try to fool me!”

With a surge of strength, he pulled out the axe from Pangu’s head!

“Ahhhh!!” Wrathful howls emitted from the great god’s mouth. His rigid arms jerked into motion and swung at Lu Yun’s projection.

“No matter what you are, you will die for defiling Pangu’s body!” Lu Yun roared.

His projection had been replaced with a blazing inferno of hellfire and the Sal Tree at the center of the fiery ocean. Thousands of fiery dragons rushed out from the Sea of Hellfire and pounced upon the great god’s body.

Lu Yun was certain that Pangu’s true spirit had departed and that another life form had taken advantage of the vacancy to attach on. However, Pangu’s body was so large and strong that it was too difficult for any other thought or spirit to exert full control over it.

That was why he’d remained here and hadn’t shifted elsewhere.

Hellfire blazed with wild abandon and shot along the backs of the fiery dragons onto Pangu’s body, fully enveloping it.

“AHHHHH!!” Shrieking and howling with fury, a giant stark-white face tunneled out of the great god’s body. It was a ghostly face that seemed to be both crying and laughing, it was...

An akasha ghost!

The very same as the first one Lu Yun had encountered in the tomb!

He could clearly sense that this ghost’s strength was much stronger than the owners of the empty footsteps in the palace. If it wasn’t for hellfire bolstering his strength, he would’ve died in an instant to this thing.

The Yin Prince also grew nervous and walked out of her carriage with a scroll in hand. She looked anxiously at the akasha ghost.

Her litter was a world of its own and she was its mistress. Nothing could harm her so long as she remained in it, but the suddenly appearing ghost raised her hackles. She could feel a prickling sense of danger from it.

Unbidden, troops of yin soldiers marched out from the carriage's shadow and formed a strange battle formation, protecting their mistress within. Yulei and Shentu regarded the giant akasha ghost with grave alarm.

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"It looks like the ghosts in the tomb and the source of those nonexistent footprints is you." His projection wielding Worldcarver, Lu Yun walked over the fiery sea while staring coldly at the akasha ghost.

Its features didn't seem to be real, more like someone had drawn them with a crude brush. Seeming to be both smiling and crying, it looked rather shabby and unfinished. However, there was no doubt regarding the terror it sowed. It tainted the surroundings with palpating negativity, even seeming to take control of Pangu's body with it.

White as a sheet, Lu Yun recalled when Qing Yu first battled the akasha ghosts.

"The Scroll of Shepherding Immortals! The scroll can restrain the akasha ghosts," Lu Yun murmured. "Though I don't have the scroll, I have God."

God's essence was the ink of the scroll and he depicted the birth of the divine spirits, it wasn't the scroll itself that could defeat the ghosts, but God!

Lu Yun's eyes shut open and the ocean of flames beneath his feet agitated with motion.

Whoosh!

A man wearing purple walked out of the fiery sea.

God!

Lu Yun had projected God with his nascent spirit observation method!

It was a million times easier to project God than Pangu as God's corpse laid within the Tome of Life and Death. Now in this crucial moment for survival, the book voluntarily helped its master, transmitting the structure of God's body and source of his strength into Lu Yun's mind.

The God that he projected only possessed the same cultivation level as Lu Yun, but he'd fully replicated the ability to control these akasha ghosts!

His replica now holding Worldcarver, Lu Yun walked up to stand next to God as the Yin Prince also advanced to form a triangle, surrounding the akasha ghost within.