

## Necropolis 951

### Chapter 951: Silverblaze

The difference between a peerless immortal ascended from the void realm and a High Immortal of the Great Firmament was unfathomably great. It was greater than even the disparity between the previous dao immortals and regular immortals.

One step into the dao immortal realm placed one a giant leap into greatness!

As a peak High Immortal of the Great Firmament, Lu Fuyao's full strength wasn't something that could be overcome with combat arts. Although the thirteen monster spirit disciples could deduce the flaws in his methods and techniques, as well as identify how to defeat him, they were too weak to execute upon their conclusions.

Lu Fuyao's weakness was still greater than their strongest counter!

"Scaled-dragon... Lu Fuyao is a scaled-dragon!" murmured one of the disciples.

The monster spirit prince caught up to one of them and grabbed the disciple's head, twisting it off the neck with a quick jerk.

Plop!

The headless corpse fell into the ocean, reverting back to its true form and slowly sinking beneath the surface.

Sympathy for one of their kind clawed at the other disciples; they once again looked at Levitating Island. It was just a stone's throw away, but somehow seemed infinitely removed. A frightening sense of unfamiliarity rose from their hearts.

Plop!

Off in the distance, senior sister Lan had made it onto the island and was about to charge into the sacred land proper when sword light flashed through the air. She fell back into the ocean, soul and spirit scattered.

That flash of light hadn't come from the Mist Land monster spirits. It'd come from Levitating Island.

Lu Fuyao stalked forward relentlessly. Instead of using his hands, he stepped on the remaining disciples and crushed them beneath his feet.

The waters in the nearby vicinity turned the color of the blood.

.....

Within Levitating Island, Goldenlight and Silverlight wordlessly observed the proceedings on their doorstep.

"Can the two of us really endure Lu Yun's vengeance?" Goldenlight looked at his dao partner, a trace of hesitation accompanying a tiny wobble in his voice.

“I am that great personage’s honorary disciple and his sword formation is in Dusk Province.” Silverlight looked at the province, nostalgia marking her beautiful face. “I don’t know if Lu Yun is the Flame Emperor, but my master is superior to all human great emperors. My master will not agree to Lu Yun taking revenge on Levitating Island.”

“But—” Goldenlight’s expression shifted slightly. “If the Dao Academy is your master’s, then why are we attempting to destroy it?”

“It’s Lu Yun’s, not my master’s. My master cares very little for fame and wealth, he would never bother with establishing that junk of an academy. If my guesses are right, he’s only using Lu Yun’s hand to repair the immortal dao. Creating a so-called Dao Academy isn’t part of his plans at all.”

Confidence shone out of Silverlight’s eyes. Master...

She’d never formally become her master’s disciple and only attended a few of his lectures, but he welcomed all comers and considered any audience member to have a shared destiny with him. Hence, all who attended his speeches were his honorary disciples.

Based on his temperament, he would lecture at the peak of Mount Xuanhuang if he really wished to impart dao to the rest of the world. He would never mobilize so many in this kind of ostentatious effort.

However, Silverlight would be proven wrong this time.

.....

An Arcane Immortal of the Nine Heavens, three Golden Immortals of Grand Unity, and eighteen High Immortals of the Great Firmament had surrounded Wellspring. His combat arts were far stronger than what they could bring to bear, but he was beginning to come to the end of his tether.

Blackish-red blood bubbled out of where the dreadful poison beast had slashed through his skin. If it wasn’t for his core essence being of connate water energy, he would’ve fallen in battle long ago. All the same, he teetered on a dangerous precipice and even one of his arms had been chopped off.

Humm.

A wheel of the night moon appeared in the sky, along with the long croon of a wolf howl. A limber figure walked out of the bright silver moon—the Silvermoon Wolfking, Silverblaze.

Her cultivation had reached peak Golden Immortal of Grand Unity and she was half a step away from breaking through. She was one of the few Silvermoon Wolfkings that have been born to the world, so Lu Yun naturally placed a good deal of importance on her. He’d even sent her into the kingdom of hell at one point so she could take advantage of its time compression properties.

Silverblaze hadn’t disappointed. A hundred years in hell had seen her become a Golden Immortal of Grand Unity, second to only Lu Yun’s first disciple Liu Qingmiao and second disciple Zou Longxiu out of all the academy disciples!

Out of those in the academy, Silverblaze was very close to Yuan Tong due to their shared experiences in the Sovereign Ranking. Theirs was a friendship forged through life and death, and she immediately rushed to the North Sea upon sensing his death.

A Silvermoon Wolfking combat art enveloped all of Levitating Island in silvery moonlight. The void stilled with silence.

“Is Yuan Tong dead?” Silverblaze’s voice was coolly aloof. Silver radiance danced in her eyes as she looked at Lu Fuyao.

“A Golden Immortal of Grand Unity, are you another of the academy’s experts?” Stunned appreciation flashed through Lu Fuyao’s eyes as he looked upon the newcomer who’d descended from the heavens. He was captivated by her beauty and entranced by her cultivation. “This prince is Lu Fuyao of the Primeval Era monster spirit nation—Qingfu. Who are you?”

His entourage returned to his side and clustered around him. The Arcane Immortal of the Nine Heavens had acutely picked up on the fact that this young girl was different from Wellspring. Though both were Golden Immortals of Grand Unity, the girl was much stronger than the being of connate water energy.

“Monster spirit ancestors, do you want the monster spirit race that is with you, or the race of your ideals?” Silverblaze called out to the island after taking a deep look at Lu Fuyao.

No response was forthcoming. Everything was still and silent on Levitating Island, the scarlet apes had sunk into a mysterious quiet.

“...from this day forth, the silvermoon wolves are no longer monster spirits of Levitating Island.” A frosty glint flashed through Silverblaze’s eyes. “Any wolf that dares disobey my orders will feel my wrath!”

All of the silvermoon wolves on Levitating Island, the other two wolfkings as well, twitched violently when they heard the proclamation. They’d wanted to lend a hand when they saw their peers from the academy being butchered by the prince, but the two ancestors had kept them firmly in place.

“Any silvermoon wolf that dares remain on the island after three days will no longer be of our tribe! I will use my power as a Silvermoon Wolfking to expunge their silvermoon bloodline!” Silverblaze was truly enraged this time.

As a Silvermoon Wolfking and the strongest of the tribe, Silverblaze had received the little fox’s special aid. Miao had utilized her abilities as the monster spirit ancestor to fully activate the wolf’s bloodline. Silverblaze had become the wolfking of not only her tribe, but of all wolves in the world.

Her word was an unbreakable law in her tribe.

“Now it’s time for revenge,” she murmured to herself with another look at the prince.

Lu Fuyao shuddered violently from the look, and the Arcane Immortal of the Nine Heavens by his side sent out his poison beast without needing to be told to do so.

Wellspring paled even further—he knew how strong this beast was. However, he couldn’t suppress the virulent poison inside his body anymore and had to sit down cross-legged for an internal battle.

“A poison beast?” Silverblaze’s eyes gleamed with moonlight when she looked at the green creature. The moon overhead burst forth with dazzling beams like snowflakes drifting through the air.

## **Chapter 952: Breaking Off**

Resplendent moonlight drifted across the sky like fog, like snow, like frost. It enveloped a patch of seawater around Levitating Island, eliciting anguished shrieks from the poison beast when the light touched it.

The beast began to swiftly melt away, but no one glimpsed what Silverblaze had done, if anything at all. No one knew what'd happened while the poison beast that'd thoroughly stymied Wellspring vanished from sight moments later.

.....

“This isn’t a natural combat art of the Silvermoon Wolfkings!” Qingfu’s Arcane Immortal of the Nine Heavens glowered. “But so what if your combat arts are tremendous? My cultivation level is far higher than yours. I will break all of your techniques with one stroke!”

He rose into the air and brandished a sword that’d appeared in his hand at sometime, bringing it straight down on Silverblaze.

This immortal had only sent out his poison beast to fight Wellspring earlier. If he’d taken the field himself, the battle would’ve been over in moments. Though his combat arts were less than the water elemental’s, he possessed some secret methods from the academy as well. At the end of the day, his cultivation was higher and they were both beings under the immortal dao.

Now that his poison beast was dead, the arcane immortal knew he could no longer treat these defenders casually and decided to fight Silverblaze himself.

“Don’t hurt her!” Lu Fuyao quickly spoke up. “This prince’s consort died from old age a long time ago. I have decided she will become my new consort!”

Silverblaze’s face darkened when she heard this and killing intent burned ever more brightly in her eyes.

“Break all of my techniques with one stroke? You have to be strong enough to do so first!” she roared and flung out a hand. A giant hand of light appeared in the void, chopping down on the immortal’s strike.

Boom!!

Seawater exploded and the energy of the land began to scatter. Silverblaze was displaying strength on par with the arcane immortal; a brilliant silver star manifested in her eyes—a Taiyin Star!

Her cosmic dao fruit was a Taiyin Star, one that melded perfectly with her wolfking might and combined to release power far greater than any cosmic dao fruit.

Cosmic dao fruits weren’t selected after a round of haphazard shopping. An immortal had to seek out their destined star before they could refine it as their dao fruit. Lu Yun had yet to break through to dao immortality because he hadn’t located the celestial body meant for him.

Fuxi had made use of a tomb in the chaos to craft a star for Lu Yun that happened to perfectly match his life chart. It had the potential to be his dao fruit, but was currently maturing in hell.

Silverblaze's palm strike crashed ferociously with the immortal's sword, the fallout from the collision reaching untold heights. If it wasn't for a great formation protecting Levitating Island, it would've broken apart from this devastating clash.

Boom!

A muffled explosion sounded from midair. Quickly circling around, Silverblaze stomped on the immortal's back, kicking him down from the air. Before he could react to his fall, Silverblaze shifted again and kicked him in the head.

Pop!

She'd kicked his head to pieces and ruptured his nascent spirit! A brilliant star shot out of his headless corpse and returned to the expanse of space over the world of immortals.

"I was wrong, you aren't weak, but you have no technique to your name. And you dare run your mouth about breaking my techniques with one stroke?" Silverblaze wiped away a streak of blood from her mouth.

That immortal had indeed been stronger than her, but she was one of the academy's most accomplished disciples! How could an old freak that'd been asleep for a hundred million years rival her in close body combat?

She regained her bearings and walked through the air, bearing down on Lu Fuyao.

"Protect the prince!" Qingfu's dao immortals were aghast at their colleague's death. Though fear snaked across their faces, they didn't dare retreat. Or rather, they couldn't. Their master, the lord of Qingfu Nation, was a human king of the Primeval Era. Now at peak grand pure realm, he had also awoken from his slumber.

Lu Fuyao was his only son. If he died here, they would end up in much worse straits than having their head kicked apart.

The primary purpose for their trip was to subdue the two who dared call themselves monster spirit ancestors. Who would've thought they'd run into a contingent from the Dao Academy as well? Highly confident and fiercely proud, the prince had thought nothing of killing a few modern day ants. Contemporary immortals weren't even worth a second glance.

It was rather unexpected that there was no response from Levitating Island after all of this, but that the academy had sent one expert after another.

A dozen dao immortals charged Silverblaze while a Golden Immortal of Grand Unity pulled the prince to him and activated a transportation technique with his own blood, attempting to escape from the North Sea.

However, the silver moonlight draped over everything within a five thousand kilometer radius was enough to trap a Golden Immortal of Grand Unity, even though he was burning blood essence to flee.

Stark despair rose in Lu Fuyao's heart. "She'll kill me, she really will kill me!!!"

He hadn't thought that upon waking from his long rest and refining a cosmic dao fruit, his first trip outside Mist Land would lead to his death.

"I am the prince of the Qingfu Nation!" he suddenly shrieked. "I promise you that anyone related to you will be exterminated if you touch even a hair upon my head!"

Thoroughly unmoved, Silverblaze walked on moonlight toward her quarry. Her speed was moderate, but each step promised the advent of death. One step, two steps... closer and closer, tormenting Lu Fuyao with the approach of his demise.

"Stop!! You will die if you dare touch my prince, and not only you, but your entire tribe and even that Dao Academy! My liege's wrath will descend upon all of you!" roared a golden immortal.

The only response was the ever-brightening glow from the moon in the sky. What should've been intangible and formless moonlight had somehow become a large bog. Sunk in the morass, the Qingfu dao immortals flailed and floundered, unable to break free no matter what they tried.

"The headmaster of the Dao Academy is the first great emperor of the human race, the Flame Emperor of the Primeval Era!" Silverblaze finally spoke up, seeming to be addressing Levitating Island more than the group in front of her.

"Who did the Flame Emperor fear in the Primeval Era? He slew connate demon gods and existences stronger than great emperor with his own hands, to say nothing of minuscule grand pure realm immortals!

"Qingfu Nation? The headmaster overturned even Mu Nation, one of the four divine nations in the great wilderness! What kind of nonsensical trash is this Qingfu Nation, a kingdom of monster spirits built by an empyrean cultivator??"

Shiiiiick.

She waved a hand as she spoke and cut Lu Fuyao into two. His cosmic dao fruit immediately shot into the sky and returned to the cosmos as a celestial body.

Silence reigned beneath the heavens.

"Prepare yourselves, ancestors of Levitating Island. There will be a reckoning for the lives of Yuan Tong and the dozen of my junior brothers and sisters. Await the fury of the Dao Academy!" Silverblaze and her tribe officially broke things off with the monster spirit sacred land in this moment.

### **Chapter 953: Ascent Protocol**

The Qingfu dao immortals fled the North Sea with their tails between their legs, never daring to set foot in the vicinity ever again. This battle in which a Golden Immortal of Grand Unity, Silverblaze, effortlessly took down an Arcane Immortal of the Nine Heavens shook the world of immortals.

Following the battle, the silvermoon wolves of Levitating Island began their withdrawal. They didn't dare defy their king and the two scarlet apes of the island hadn't expressed anything either.

Everything remained still and silent on Levitating Island, but Silverblaze's ringing question had shaken every monster spirit in the world. If the two ancestors could sacrifice their young geniuses for an ideal monster spirit race today, then they could sacrifice the rest of the monster spirits at any time.

Though Levitating Island no longer called itself the monster spirit sacred land, it'd always been the sacred land in the hearts of all monster spirits. However, collective faith wavered in light of recent events. Meanwhile, the monster spirit disciples in the Dao Academy mourned being set adrift in the world.

.....

In the third month of the twenty-first year in the Xuanhuang Calendar, the Dao Academy officially established the school for monster spirit dao. An unfamiliar name appeared with the formation of the school—Miao.

Shock and disbelief swept through the world with the founding of this new school. There had been demonic and shamanic dao in the academy prior to this, in which disciples walked the path of demons and practiced shamanic arts. However, there'd never been a school for monster spirits before!

The category was too broad and encompassed too many disciplines. The various races within the monster spirit classification were also the most complex within the multiverse. They'd never been unified, even during the age of human dao. Apart from the monster spirit ancestor of the great wilderness that had long been forgotten, even the monster celestial master of the primordial immortal court had never brought the race together.

But now, the Dao Academy dared to style itself as an authority figure for the race and set a nameless monster spirit as its ultimate sovereign! This was a challenge issued to all monster spirits in the world of immortals. The two ancestors of Levitating Island flew into a rage, as did Qingfu Nation of Mist Land regard this development with fury. After the death of their prince, the nation had quietly bided their time in their new territory.

Another tidal wave of change and struggle through the world soundlessly reared its head. Everyone understood that this was the academy's revenge against the Levitating Island. Taking away their legitimacy was worse for the two scarlet apes than even destroying the island.

.....

Lu Yun didn't pay attention to what was happening in the world; he really didn't have the effort to spare. On this day, he visited the World Gates.

Life thrived and prospered in the world of immortals, but none of that newfound glory or the immortal dao's magnificence found its way here. The world formed by the World Gates was still drenched in blood and suffused with the air of death. Countless divine corpses littered the ground, and the body of the origin divine lay quietly outside the World Gates.

It'd stolen the opportunity that belonged to the Exalted divine spirits and almost destroyed the immortal dao. Though it had later latched onto the Dao Tree to feed off the immortal dao, its descendants had dedicated their lives to making up for its transgressions.

As the last emperor of the divine race, the origin divine had thoroughly faded away into the void now. However, Lu Yun believed that the origin divine was still alive and hiding somewhere. It must still be plotting other things in the dark.

.....

A newly repaired immortal dao didn't affect the nine celestial emperors, Yueshen, Ruyi, or Diexi. Lu Yun took a deep look at the last one in the lineup. Her body was Changxi's body and her true spirit was the weapon spirit of Changxi's ultimate treasure—the shortsword Diexi.

The shortsword had been born on the Taiyin Star outside the great wilderness and was thus imbued with its strength. The star's power could also be found within Diexi's body as well. If she truly grew into her own, she would reach a higher peak than the previous Changxi.

The celestial emperors weakly opened their eyes and looked at Lu Yun with enormous satisfaction.

"Well done, Lu Yun... We didn't pin our hopes on the wrong person." Zhang Fengyang flushed with emotion when he looked at the youth.

On Lu Yun's last visit, he'd made some preparations, given them karmic fruits, and left Violetgrave behind to stand guard. However, the celestial emperors were but empyrean realm and the dao fruits within their bodies... were all from the old Dao Tree.

In other words, these nine would die at the end of a hundred years, no matter what happened then.

Lu Yun took a tendril of soul force from each of them and carefully stored them within the Tome of Life and Death. "The world of immortals has me. Please be at ease, Your Majesties."

"I leave the people of Witherdew Major in your hands, headmaster." The former celestial emperor of Witherdew Major inclined his head at Lu Yun, who nodded back.

The remaining clans and cultivators of Witherdew Major had almost all moved to the capital city of Dusk Province. Lu Yun had nearly occupied the entire major; though there were still pockets of resistance, that handful of immortals wouldn't change anything.

On the day when the immortal dao spanned the world, however, akasha ghosts had suddenly appeared and taken over the major with incredible speed. Lu Yun's Infernum suffered heavy casualties in the process, to which he gave up the idea of conquering the major.

The akasha ghosts were too strong and he had no idea what they were planning in Witherdew Major. Since he didn't have the strength to provoke them yet, he would leave them alone for now.

"You didn't come here just to collect their soul force, did you?" Violetgrave the sword shook gently, permitting the exit of Violetgrave the spirit dressed in a purple silk dress.

She was so mysterious that even Pangu, Hongjun, and God were unable to detect her existence. Lu Yun had thought he'd find clues about Violetgrave in the great wilderness, but he'd only met an existence who possessed Nether Fire.

Perhaps that was the one who'd made the first transaction with Violetgrave.



“I’m here for the Ascension Pool.” Lu Yun frowned at the blood-drenched World Gates. “There’s one last step to take to perfect the immortal dao, and that’s the ascent protocol. If we connect our world to the others out there, other immortals in space will be able to ascend to our world.”

An ascent protocol had existed at the time of the immortal dao’s inception, allowing for denizens of the lower worlds to ascend to the world of immortals when they became immortals. Every world in the multiverse could do so, even Earth. But the ascent protocol had been destroyed in the great war a hundred thousand years ago and no further beings could travel to the world of immortals after it.

Lu Yun now wanted to rebuild it and reopen the passage of travel, truly perfecting the last details of the immortal dao.

“Ascension?” Violetgrave tilted her head at Lu Yun. “Have you given thought to what the other worlds look like right now?”

Lu Yun fell silent, he knew what the sword was getting at.

“The immortals outside of our own are the guardians of their homes. If they ascend to the world of immortals, who will remain to protect their world?”

Lu Yun remained silent.

“The moment the ascent protocol is reinstated is the moment of death for all beings in those ruined husks outside.” Curiosity flashed through Violetgrave’s eyes. Lu Yun was sure to have already considered all of this, and he wasn’t the sort to disregard the lives of others either.

Everyone’s eyes—the celestial emperors, Yueshen, Ruyi, and Diexi—landed on him. They, too, didn’t believe that Lu Yun would selfishly enhance the strength of their world with no thought given to anyone else.

“Is there anywhere else that’s more important than the world of immortals?” Lu Yun murmured as he looked at the bloody gates. “In the time of the great wilderness, the realm monsters wanted to enter our world through the great wilderness. The akasha ghosts now want to use our world to attack the ancestor planet and destroy the realm.”

“Hmm?” Eyebrows raised at this response. This was Lu Yun’s explanation, but it seemed to also hint at his plans.

“I don’t want to sit back any longer and wait for others to attack us. They’ll hover until your strength is exhausted and then send dead spirits to attack the world of immortals. After that, they’ll descend onto the ancestor planet to destroy this realm.

“Therefore, I’m taking the fight to them. The ascent protocol goes both ways!” A cold sneer played at Lu Yun’s lips. “Immortals of the lower worlds can move up to ours, and so can the armies of our world also utilize the protocol to visit the lower worlds!

“I’m shifting to the offensive and razing the nests of those dead spirits to fully grasp what they are. How do the akasha ghosts control them, and can we locate the source of the yin spirits to dispel them once and for all?”

Though all of the planets outside of the world of immortals were dilapidated husks, there were still immortals grimly fighting for their home and desperately driving off the dead spirits.

With the Tome of Life and Death on him, Lu Yun controlled life and death. He'd also forced the treasure into submission when visiting Fuxi's tomb in the chaos, further consolidating his control over the book. Perhaps he could restrain those terrifying yin spirits now and have them enter hell with their rationality restored?

If not, the lower worlds were still a good place to temper academy disciples. The nine celestial emperors would be able to hold on for less than eighty more years. It was both a short time, and a very long one.

If the Dao Academy and immortals of the world really wanted to develop into the realm's powerhouses, they would have to experience struggles of life and death. Apart from the tombs, there was no other place in the world of immortals that could offer such trials.

Tomb raiding was one thing, while battling death for one's life was another.

Lu Yun had already decided that once the Ascension Pool was repaired and the protocol reinitiated, he would implement the next stage of his plan. He would send the armies of the world of immortals into the lower worlds to help them fight off the dead spirits, and in doing so train enormous improvement into the armies.

"You're quite a bold one. Aren't you afraid that the dead spirits or akasha ghosts will invade the world of immortals through the Ascension Portal?" Violetgrave patted Lu Yun's shoulder with a smile.

She plainly approved of his plan. The current world of immortals might win if they passively guarded the realm, but they would also probably end up like the world in the Primordial Era—the immortal dao severed and death of all immortals.

Besides, there were many more secrets about that war a hundred thousand years ago. Lu Yun hadn't been able to see the war clearly when he'd stood in the river of time. He didn't think that the truth was simply everything he knew right now. There must be an even greater mastermind directing everything from the shadows.

He didn't want to always be reacting to the enemy's moves, it was time to proactively search and explore.

#### **Chapter 954: Rebuilding the Ascension Pool**

The Ascension Pool had been integrated into the World Gates after the great war a hundred thousand years ago to prevent anyone from breaking the curse in it. But when Fuxi visited from the great wilderness, he set up a plethora of plans and extracted the treasure's essence from the World Gates, bringing it back with him. He took it into the chaos and quietly awaited Lu Yun's arrival.

However, the actual treasure itself was still in the World Gates. If one wanted it, they would have to enter the gates proper.

The gates were an ultimate treasure born of the immortal dao and even more domineering than some connate treasures. Lu Yun hadn't been able to do anything about them at first. But with the Ascension

Pool's core essence in hand, he could utilize it to summon the rest of the treasure to him instead of having to break into the gates.

Though someone had integrated the two treasures together to prevent the curse on great emperors from being broken, their efforts were null and void now that the curse was no more. There would be no further resistance to Lu Yun restoring the Ascension Pool and the ascent protocol.

The protocol could forcefully call immortals in the lower realms to the world of immortals. Though that would strengthen the world, it would also allow the yin spirits to completely pulverize the last ruined bits of the lower world, erasing the final tendril of the land's energy.

.....

The core essence of the Ascension Pool slowly floated out of Lu Yun's hand, illuminating the premises with faint jade luster.

An answering glow sparkled from the World Gates. Something that resembled an ink stone flowed out of them, gradually becoming one with the core essence. This ink stone was the physical form of the Ascension Pool.

Everything had gone extraordinarily smoothly. Off to the side, Violetgrave lowered her poised hand with surprise. In her eyes, though the originator of this plan couldn't stop Lu Yun, neither would it so easily allow him to obtain the Ascension Pool.

"It looks like the creatures of the chaos have made foolproof preparations. They expected that you would break their curse." Worry flashed through Violetgrave's pale violet eyes when she saw the treasure land in Lu Yun's hand.

Clang!

Clang!

Before she could react, two crisp collisions rang through the locale as extremely profound auras flared before the World Gates.

Worldcarver and Heavenfall!

"What..." The nine celestial emperors gaped at the two weapons. They'd taken note of everything when Lu Yun battled the Dao Tree and the big akasha ghost. Worldcarver and Heavenfall had come from the hands of the two creators themselves!

But Lu Yun was taking them back out?

"Surely I'm setting off a chain reaction somewhere in extracting the Ascension Pool and rebuilding the ascent protocol. The presence of these two treasures might sway would-be attackers from harassing the World Gates." With a quick thought, he used his nascent spirit in hell to project a copy of Pangu and God. They walked out the door to take up a position in front of the World Gates.

Lu Yun wasn't so confident that he would leave without reinforcing this land. His projections were a product of the six paths of his nascent spirit, imparting to them the same cultivation level as him, but with sufficient strength to utilize the two treasures of the chaos.

Most importantly, Lu Yun trusted that if this outpost really was in danger of being overrun, Pangu and God could manifest through his projections at any time. He didn't want to impose on the two creators, but he would have to in moments of great need.

.....

He entered hell instead of returning to the world of immortals. If he wanted to rebuild the ascent protocol, the Ascension Pool would have to be situated someplace safe. Hell was the most suitable option as Lu Yun didn't dare erect it in the Dao Academy.

Who knew what kind of strange and uncanny creatures might be mixed in with the immortals traveling through the treasure?

He had to keep an eye on this himself. With his nascent spirit holding down the fort and melding with the power of hell, he could inspect every life form in the netherworld. Nothing would slip past his eyes into the world of immortals.

Hell was no longer what it'd once been, particularly after Lu Yun returned from the great wilderness. He'd refined the entire netherworld with the strength of a near-creator, harmonizing the balance of yin and yang within hell. Now it was possible for living entities to enter and not die from the death and yin energy in the netherworld.

This was also why Silverblaze had been able to cultivate here for a hundred years.

However, the Ascension Pool belonged to the world of immortals. It was only temporarily placed here. Once the great disaster passed, he would return it to the world.

The core essence and physical form of the Ascension Pool slowly became one in front of the Gates of the Abyss. A bizarre ripple flowed out of the treasure, through the gates, and integrated into the world of immortals.

This was the ascent protocol, a vital part of the immortal dao.

Granted, it was the old protocol, one that required a life form to ascend to the world of immortals after they became an immortal. Under the old protocol, it was impossible for denizens of the world of immortals to visit any other world.

The world of immortals a hundred thousand years ago was essentially a giant tomb. Only entrance was permitted, and that was the principle around which the ascent protocol was formed.

The world's layout of burial had been destroyed now, but it was still a tomb, albeit a ruined one. If Lu Yun wanted to thoroughly upend the status quo, he would also have to modify this ascent protocol.

The world of immortals was an all-encompassing term. If interpreted narrowly, it referenced this planet of the nine majors, ten lands, four immortal seas, and four great oceans. If interpreted broadly, it was the realm of this planet and the stars beyond.

The world of immortals sat at the highest peak of this realm, with the multiverse stretching out beyond the local cosmos. This was a marked difference to the age of the great wilderness. The realm now was infinitely more vast than the great wilderness, and the planets it produced infinitely more complex.

Just as Fuxi had said, this realm continuously ate away at the chaos and constantly grew stronger. It would ultimately evolve into a world without end if given free reign to expand.

The current world of immortals and its night sky was derived from the previous world of celestials and its night sky. The rest of the multiverse was a result of hundreds of millions of years of evolution in this realm, one propelled by the great dao.

Under the primitive great dao, there was only the great wilderness and world of celestials. Once human dao was established and perfected, the realm took a step forward and crept further into the chaos, giving rise to more planets and galaxies. When it came to the immortal dao, another six hundred million years passed for the rest of the multiverse to form.

But in the eyes of the immortals, these newly born planets were the lower worlds. Though they knew of these worlds' existence, very few of them had ever visited. They didn't know what other galaxies or the multiverse looked like.

The cosmos outside the world of immortals and most of the multiverse had been destroyed by the relentless tide of dead spirits. Lu Yun now wanted to build a new ascent protocol to not only allow those of the lower worlds to rise up, but for immortals of his world to visit them.

It'd never been his plan to give asylum to every single life form out in the multiverse. The immortal dao was the dao of all living things. If the lower worlds lacked life, then the immortal dao would never be able to reach there. These planets would then truly die, and akasha ghosts could do whatever they wanted in the majority of the universe.

### **Chapter 955: Guides**

Lu Yun vacated a tiny clearing near the Gates of the Abyss for the Ascension Pool rather than set it up directly in the depths of hell. He flung it into the void, a place that was formless and directionless. With only the enormous treasure there and the emptiness of the void, taking one step out of the pool would land arrivals in the world of immortals.

He didn't want everyone to learn about the existence of hell for now. Even Silverblaze had only thought it was a special dimension when she trained inside.

.....

As the Ascension Pool completed its reconfiguration, the ascent protocol disseminated throughout the world of immortals and into the immortal dao. At almost the same time, all of the world's immortals and those of the multiverse sensed the treasure's ripples and an inexplicable calling.

"Ascend to... the world of immortals?" Immortals of the lower worlds reacted with varying joy, sorrow, or complete indifference as they comprehended the ascent protocol.

The lower worlds were a wreckage of demolished celestial bodies and planetary debris. Anything that lived here struggled fearsomely for survival, every gasp potentially their last. But still the immortals bitterly defended their homes, guarding their family and friends. The moment they left would be the moment in which their last sanctuary was overrun by dead spirits.

Anyone that wasn't an immortal would perish in a ghastly manner.

Naturally, there was also a portion of immortals who wanted nothing more than to escape this ruinous life of complete darkness and despair. They'd had enough of fire and brimstone, days on the run, and never knowing if they would live to see another day.

The ascent protocol appeared at this time.

"That Lu Yun's finally lost his mind and done something completely insane." In the ten lands, nine heavyweights looked toward the Dao Academy with immense schadenfreude. When the two scarlet apes on Levitating Island perceived the ascent protocol, they also smirked smugly.

"Once the protocol forces the immortals of the lower worlds to ascend, hundreds of millions of lives in the lower worlds will be instantly slaughtered. He won't be able to endure this kind of karmic repercussion even though he's repaired the immortal dao," grinned Goldenlight. "When he repaired the path of cultivation, he created the formation of heaven and earth. When he repaired the dao immortal realm, he went to all that trouble of having his great emperor replica become the cosmos... all to avoid resentment from immortals eliminated by the times!

"He wanted to prevent retribution from seeking him out, but he failed himself this time!"

After the deaths of nearly a dozen academy disciples, general sentiment of the monster spirits on Levitating Island slowly took a turn for the worse. Aside from the silvermoon wolves, so did the silverback gorillas depart the island.

The appearance of the ascent protocol didn't matter to ordinary immortals, neither did they care what would develop because of this. After paying a little bit of attention to it, they went back to their regular business.

The ascent protocol streamed out of the Ascension Pool and melded into the world of immortals, whereupon it suddenly hiccuped. A new rule dropped into the smoothly flowing protocol and incorporated itself into the immortal dao.

This small change vanished into the process like a drop of water in the great sea. Seemingly insignificant, it set off a momentous change in the immortal dao and rewrote the ascent protocol.

Whoosh!

In the crystal garden beneath Mount Xuanhuang, the Dao Flower blossomed and unfurled arcane glyphs from its petals. Drifting about in a graceful storm, they also became part of the ascent protocol.

Faces that had been delighting in anticipated resentment froze, and the expressions of immortals in the lower worlds also turned odd.

We can... choose if we want to ascend?

Immortals could go if they wanted to, but could also remain in their homelands if they didn't want to? More importantly, there was a new convention in the protocol! Immortals from the world of immortals could utilize a descent protocol in the system to visit the lower worlds!

Nothing like this had existed since the establishment of the immortal dao! But Lu Yun, Headmaster of the Dao Academy, had accomplished this monumental feat and opened a passageway between the world of immortals and the lower worlds.

.....

“When we first built the ascent protocol, we wanted to create something that would work both ways. Who would’ve thought that you two kids would complete it first!” Ge Long grumbled with some dissatisfaction as he looked at Lu Yun and Qing Yu.

“Kids?” Lu Yun flicked his eyes at Ge Long. “What should you be calling me?”

“...martial uncle!” Ge Long’s expression darkened and his cheek spasmed. He was perfectly fine calling Lu Yun “milord” or “sir”, but this honorific of “martial uncle” sent him up a wall. Hierarchy in relationships and status were two entirely different things.

“And her?” Lu Yun pointed at Qing Yu.

“...martial aunt!” Ge Long almost ground his teeth into dust.

Qing Yu’s eyes curved into crescents from the force of her smile.

“The ascent and descent protocols were actually already in the Ascension Pool. I only used the strength of the Dao Flower to draw them out. Little Yu and I didn’t actually create them.”

That mollified Ge Long somewhat.

.....

When the Ascension Pool became whole and the complete system transferred between the treasure to the immortal dao, it became part of the natural world order.

Quite a few immortals were taken aback by the appearance of a descent protocol. They could travel to the lower worlds? What were those like?

Most had no idea what any world outside the world of immortals looked like. Their home was more like a prison that kept them all trapped here. Now that the door to the outside world was open, they were naturally curious.

The void where the Ascension Pool was located slowly took shape as an enormous city that wrapped around it.

Ascension City!

This city was the hub connecting the lower worlds to the world of immortals. It was an empty city for now, devoid of any life other than the four guides.

.....

The Ascension Pool looked like an enormous ink stone; it held a faintly golden pool with tiny ripples traveling across it. A young man in a white robe sprawled lazily on a reclining chair next to the treasure, pouring haphazard mouthfuls of wine into his mouth.

“That ready-made little brother of mine is such a damn hassle. A guide? A guide for the newly ascended sounds all nice and fancy, but I’m really just a doorman.”

Lu Feng was a first generation guide in Ascension City. Being the quirky troublemaker he was, making him a guide on duty by the Ascension Pool was a worse fate than killing him outright. But since Lu Yun had given his orders, there was nothing that could be done.

Thankfully, Qing Buyi, Chen Xiao, and Mo Yi were all fellow guides as well.

“And what do you know?” Mo Yi raised an eyebrow at him. “Lu Yun more or less knows where you guys come from. It’s for your own good that he wants us to hold down the fort here.”

“Alright, alright. Honestly, it’s easier to get closer to the immortal dao if we cultivate in Ascension City,” Qing Buyi chuckled. “But you’re different from us, cultivating here doesn’t make a difference to you, does it?” He looked skeptically at Mo Yi.

“Why do you think I’m here?” Mo Yi rolled her eyes at the three notorious good-for-nothings in the world of immortals. “Lu Yun’s probably afraid of you three roasting any monster spirit immortals that ascend.”

The three traded startled, sheepish glances and didn’t have a witty comeback. In their sheer lawlessness, they really had thought about trying alien monster spirit flesh if the opportunity presented itself.

### **Chapter 956: The First to Ascend**

Lu Yun appointed the four of them as guides in Ascension City mainly because he wanted them to guard the locale. Not only was the treasure a conduit for immortals to travel to the world of immortals, but it was now a two-way portal for their own to visit the lower worlds.

The Ascension Pool was too important to Lu Yun. Although this was an area that he’d split off from hell, he wasn’t wholly confident that it was safe from assault. After grave consideration, he asked Mo Yi and the others to come and be ascension guides. They could welcome the newly arrived immortals and protect the city at the same time.

The four of them had tremendous backgrounds, but apart from Mo Yi, the other three weren’t fully integrated into the immortal dao. Since the Ascension Pool was an important treasure of the immortal dao, they’d be able to more quickly incorporate themselves into the immortal dao if they cultivated by its banks.

Apart from this, the world of immortals was an unknown planet to all of their future visitors. The guides would play a key role in acclimating them to their new surroundings and showing them the way into their new home.

This would be a deed of great merit and shared destiny of good karma. Those who could cultivate to immortality in those ruined worlds were undoubtedly geniuses of enormous determination. Guiding them into their new lives would naturally come with untold benefits.

.....

Splaaaash.

A sizable ripple traveled through the Ascension Pool and a ray of golden light blasted out from its center. A young man came tumbling out with it.



Thump!

He dropped heavily to the ground and landed near Lu Feng's foot.

"Is this the world of immortals?" The young man picked himself up and looked blearily at his surroundings.

"The first to ascend?" Lu Feng smiled gently at the young man and shifted his arm gently, helping their first visitor up. "That is correct, this is Ascension City in the world of immortals. You are the first to ascend from a lower world to the world of immortals."

He smiled a warm and comforting smile as he looked upon the young man, taking out a nascent spirit jade slip and three premium immortal crystals at the same time.

"Here are three premium immortal crystals and everything you wish to know in the jade slip. Alright now, you may go."

"These are immortal crystals?" Eyes wide, the young man closely inspected a crystalline chunk that glowed with a milky-white haze. "When I became an immortal, my master rewarded me with only a piece of supreme spirit stone."

He extended his consciousness into the jade slip, finding an introduction to the nine majors, ten lands, and four immortal seas of the world of immortals. Many places of danger and commonplace knowledge about the world were also recorded within.

"Nian Rufeng thanks the senior for your largesse!" The young man bowed at Lu Feng.

"Nian Rufeng? Our destinies intersect, alright. We have the same character in our names." Lu Feng smiled again when he heard the boy's name. "Since we share an affinity for each other, I'll make a recommendation for you to become an inner disciple of the Dao Academy."

Nian Rufeng shook his head at the invitation. "In response to the senior, this junior activated the ascent protocol not to join the world of immortals, but to beg for help!"

He looked to be a boy around eighteen years old, but his maturity far exceeded his appearance. His eyes were bright and he looked unblinkingly at Lu Feng.

"Senior, the Blue Wilderness Continent is under attack and the boundary that protects the continent is about to fall to the dead spirits. Hundreds of millions will become their food. Please save us, senior!"

Thump!

He fell to his knees and kowtowed frantically at Lu Feng.

Lu Feng's brow furrowed; he hadn't expected that the first to ascend would come with a cry for help.

"The Blue Wilderness Continent?" He peered through the Ascension Pool in the direction where Nian Rufeng had come from. There was an enormous dark-blue planet there with a few giant continents floating on the boundless seas. However, all of them were occupied by dead spirits, apart from one with a boundary around it. It endured stalwartly—the Blue Wilderness Continent which Nian Rufeng had spoken of.

The boundary was cracked and peeling, it wouldn't endure for long. Once it broke, death and mayhem would descend upon the Blue Wilderness Continent.

This was all that Lu Feng could glimpse. He would have to visit in person if he wanted to see more.

"Don't worry, the headmaster rebuilt the ascent protocol so that we from the world of immortals could also visit the lower worlds. We do so to protect those of you still living there." Lu Feng put away his devil-may-care attitude as pity began to well up from his heart.

The world of immortals wasn't the paradise that denizens of the lower worlds imagined it to be, but compared to their homes, the world of immortals really was a land of magic and miracles.

"In that case, remain in Ascension City. There will come others who follow you back to your world to defeat the dead spirits!" he concluded resolutely.

"Thank you, senior!" Nian Rufeng frantically kowtowed again, like he faced his lifesaver.

Lu Feng remained still, looking at the others standing around the Ascension Pool. Mo Yi, Qing Buyi, and Chen Xiao grew somber. They truly understood only now what Lu Yun's restoration of the ascent protocol and adding the descent protocol meant to the lower worlds.

Nian Rufeng was their visitor and the first to come with a plea for help. There would certainly be others to come.

Lu Yun valued this issue highly, but he didn't make an appearance himself. Instead, he shared with others in the world of immortals so that everyone could understand what kind of universe it was out there, and what had happened outside their world.

"The tides of yin spirits that appeared in Azure Province of Nephrite Major weren't happenstance. The great tomb in Azure Province must lead to space, to where the dead spirits are!" Someone quickly thought of the unholy tide that'd almost once destroyed Azure Province.

The world of immortals boiled over from the implications, with the exception of the powerhouses that'd just awoken. After evading several calamities, they naturally understood the severity of this issue. But to them, the most important task at hand was to recover their strength.

.....

Nephrite Lord Zhao Shengguang was the first to react. He came in person to Ascension City to meet Nian Rufeng and understand the specifics of the Blue Wilderness Continent.

There were roughly three hundred million beings on the continent, the majority being human. Approximately one tenth of them were cultivators, and only a few ten thousand of those were immortals. It was these immortals who'd built a line of iron defense in the gaps of the boundary, laying down their lives to protect those behind them.

Legends say that an ancient immortal called Blue Wilderness had created the boundary, so the continent was named in his honor.

“The strongest in the Blue Wilderness Continent is only a High Immortal of the Great Firmament?” Zhao Shenguang mused deeply. “I hereby order General Zhu Zheng to lead a million Vermillion Bird troops to follow Nian Rufeng and exterminate the dead spirits!”

“A million immortals?!” Nian Rufeng leapt up with a yelp.

“Indeed, a million immortals,” nodded Zhao Shenguang. “The Vermillion Bird army is one of the four aces of my Nephrite Major and comprises of millions of golden immortals.”

Thump!

Nian Rufeng fell to a sitting position on the ground.

### **Chapter 957: Imparting Knowledge to the Lower Worlds**

The world of immortals prior to the establishment of the Dao Academy was a very different one after its founding.

After the Dao Academy came into being, the world of immortals entered a state of fast-paced development, particularly after Lu Yun returned from the great wilderness. Everyone’s cultivation improved at a rapid clip, and there were no more ancient immortals any longer.

Ancient immortals referred to those who’d never experienced the void realm during their cultivation journey.

The formation of heaven and earth was now mainstream knowledge. Even those who hadn’t cultivated their way through the void realm had all created a small world inside of them via the formation. Though there was a gap between them and immortals that’d broken through after the void realm, it wasn’t significant.

When Lu Yun had first arrived in the world of immortals, golden immortals were the nobility of the world. Lofty and removed, they placed themselves above regular immortals and would never join the army.

Now with the immortal dao’s high velocity of growth, golden immortals were everywhere to be found. Even peerless immortals would join the army as a regular soldier now, to say nothing of golden immortals.

As one of the four aces of Nephrite Major, the Vermillion Bird troops naturally re-selected their members when the general population improved so much. Their lowest bar was now set at the golden immortal realm. Their commander Zhu Zheng was a Golden Immortal of Grand Unity and a disciple of a peak Nephrite Major faction—the Zhu Clan. Due to their relationship with Zhu Zheng, the clan was aligned with both Nephrite Major and the Dao Academy.

Zhu Zheng taking a million soldiers to reinforce a place called the Blue Wilderness Continent immediately sent waves through the world of immortals. No one had thought that the Nephrite lord would really use his armies like this. Everything was in flux at the moment and a new hierarchy of strength had yet to be settled. Wasn’t he afraid of losing such a sizable force in a lower world?

Not only did the Vermillion Bird army head to the lower world, but so did the academy select a hundred exceptional disciples to accompany him to temper themselves. After thorough contemplation, Lu Yun added “trials in the lower worlds” as one of the tests for the inner academy.

.....

Reinforcements arrived in the Blue Wilderness Continent with the momentum of Mount Tai, instantly crushing the boundless dead spirits outside the continent. The energy of a world was anathema to these spirits, and the inner world of a void-ascended immortal was their perfect counter. What had once been an unimaginably terrifying enemy was thus suddenly no longer so terrifying to the immortals.

However, the academy disciples who traveled with Zhu Zheng discovered that, apart from a few void-ascended immortals like Nian Rufeng, the rest of the immortals in this world were all ancient immortals without an internal world.

With that discovery, the disciples took matters into their own hands and passed on the formation of heaven and earth, etching the formation into these ancient immortals.

Zhu Zheng gaped when he saw their actions, but said nothing to stop them. He also believed that if the headmaster was here, he’d be doing the same thing.

It was now the twenty-third year of the Xuanhuang calendar, twenty-three years since the academy’s founding. Knowledge from Lu Yun’s hands that’d once been regarded as unimaginably precious was now found all over the streets as ordinary and commonplace trivia.

The world of immortals was all the stronger because of this.

As fortress ships and cannon crystals fired off furious barrages, the planet in which the Blue Wilderness Continent resided in was quickly cleansed of all dead spirits. The Vermillion Bird troops also suffered some casualties as there were a few tough targets among the enemy. In fact, Zhu Zheng felt that he’d lost a lot of face because he and his men were almost overcome once.

“Before we left, the headmaster mentioned that the Blue Wilderness Continent is one of the safer spots in the lower worlds. The other stars and planets are much more dangerous.” The leader of the academy disciples was Lu Qingshuang of the Lu Clan. She addressed Zhu Zheng calmly when she saw the general’s expression.

Zhu Zheng’s jaw dropped.

“Too weak... you are too weak. The world of immortals is to experience a war even more dangerous than the lower worlds after seventy-seven years. With the Vermillion Bird’s current battle strength, you’ll be good for only cannon fodder.”

Zhu Zheng shuddered violently. The cataclysm that Lu Qingshuang spoke of was no secret. It was what everyone in the world worked toward these days.

“Therefore, the headmaster says that you should go experience the various realms of the lower worlds and battle death. Only then will you become true experts, or you’ll always be a motley crew of mediocrity,” Lu Qingshuang added the last line with no thought spared for her audience’s feelings.

It was very humiliating that one of Nephrite Major's aces would be labeled a motley crew, but there was nothing Zhu Zheng could say to refute it.

"General Zhu can return now to report on your mission." Lu Qingshuang turned in another direction.

"Are you not coming back with us?" Zhu Zheng asked doubtfully, taking a look at the academy disciples that were getting to know the local immortals.

"The crisis of the Blue Wilderness Continent is only temporarily resolved. Those dead spirits will be back at some point. We will be remaining here to build an academy to safeguard the continent," the girl responded matter-of-factly.

"What?!" Zhu Zheng immediately understood Lu Yun's plans when he heard this. He was going to establish academies in the lower world and pass on knowledge from the world of immortals!

Lu Qingshuang looked wordlessly at the general.

"Then, take care of yourself, Miss Lu."

As a Zhu Clan descendant, Zhu Zheng was familiar with Lu Qingshuang. The Lu Clan had once been a peak faction in Nephrite Major as well. Lu Qingshuang was a Lu genius and Lu Yun's cousin.

Lu Qingshuang was only a peerless immortal and thus Zhu Zheng doubted she could protect the continent. But since Lu Yun had decided to make his move, then the academy here would be as solid as Mount Tai.

It was at this moment Zhu Zheng understood that Lu Yun not only wanted to be a saint of the world of immortals, but that he wanted to be a saint of all life. He didn't build academy branches in any other location in the world of immortals, choosing instead to locate them in the lower worlds. This timely assistance in the most dire straits would be more effective at winning over hearts than anything else.

.....

When the Vermillion Bird troops returned, Zhu Zheng made a full report to Zhao Shenguang and expressed his desire to lead his men back to the lower worlds.

Zhao Shenguang naturally permitted this deployment.

Increasing numbers of immortals activated the protocol to ascend to the world of immortals. Apart from a few who truly wished to leave their homes, most were here to request help. Their worlds wouldn't hold on for long.

Nephrite Major sent out her other three aces—the armies of the Azure Dragon, White Tiger, and Dusk Phalanx that Lu Yun had returned to the imperial court. Each army split out a million golden immortals and sent them campaigning through the lower worlds.

At the same time, academy disciples descended en masse and built academies in the lower worlds, bringing all sorts of the combat arts, cultivation methods, and supplemental paths to these struggling worlds so they could defend themselves.

The Dao Academy didn't open new branches in the world of immortals, but put down firm roots in the lower worlds.

Though the campaigns inflicted massive casualties on Nephrite's armies, those who survived returned three times stronger than before, whether in terms of cultivation or battle strength.

These results finally alerted the other factions of the world what was at stake here.

### **Chapter 958: Lower Worlds**

Though the Ascension Pool and Ascension City were both in "Dusk Province" and the four guides were experts from the Dao Academy, that didn't impede other factions in the world of immortals from taking up residence in Ascension City.

Immortals from the lower worlds continued to stream into the world of immortals, while those in the world of immortals regarded this new frontier with avid curiosity. Now that a connection had been established and stabilized through the Ascension Pool, the battlefields of the lower worlds were prime trial grounds for their juniors and disciples.

In addition, those who ascended from the lower worlds possessed exceedingly high talent, potential, and maturity that rivaled the greatest geniuses of the world. If given further training and carefully nurtured, it was only a matter of time before they developed into unparalleled powerhouses of the world.

Thus, the new visitors to the world of immortals were hot targets that many factions vied over.

There were only two parties that didn't have representatives in Ascension City nowadays—Levitating Island and Qingfu Nation of Mist Land.

Qingfu Nation once sent representatives to Ascension City, where they'd been promptly slaughtered by Liu Qingmiao and Zou Longxiu. The nation then sent a delegation to the Dao Academy to demand an explanation, but were met by Liu Qingmiao and Zou Longxiu again instead of Lu Yun. That party was massacred to the last as well.

The ruler of Qingfu Nation almost went out of his mind with fury. His cultivation level of peak grand pure realm placed him at the apex of the world of immortals, but he could do nothing against the Dao Academy. That person's sword formation protected Dusk Province. Even great emperors beyond grand pure realm would face death if they attacked Dusk, to say nothing of regular grand pure realm masters.

Meanwhile, the two scarlet apes on Levitating Island didn't take any action from beginning to end, as if nothing out of the ordinary had happened in the world.

Ascension City grew increasingly lively these days. It was an enormous city that spanned ten thousand kilometers across. Appearing more like a cluster of cities, it stretched on without end.

The center of the city—a thousand meters around the Ascension Pool—was a forbidden zone that no one could access. Only those with the headmaster's express orders could enter this crucial spot and travel to the lower worlds.

The other factions of the world once resisted this control and attempted to overturn the status quo. A massive allied army attacked the defenses around the Ascension Pool, reinforced by Golden Immortals of Grand Unity and Arcane Immortals of the Nine Heavens.

Lu Yun responded with domineering force and almost dyed the city red to pacify the insurrection. The four guides were also revealed to the world at this time.

After this matter, the world finally realized that though Lu Yun possessed an ambitious vision and willingly shared his knowledge to enemies and friends alike, he was also inordinately unyielding when it came to his principles. He killed people like slicing vegetables—unblinking and without hesitation.

The world of immortals gradually calmed down after these events. Lu Yun was still the master of Dusk Province and the Dao Academy in this new world order. Though Primeval Era experts had awoken from their slumber, they wouldn't be able to knock him off his perch.

However, there was one detail that everyone overlooked, and that was Lu Yun didn't put in a personal appearance in all of the tumult. Everything was handled by the sovereigns and deans of the academy.

The Dao Academy now operated on its own like a vast and precise machine. Its operations could still be handled in perfect order even in Lu Yun's absence. His Yama Kings stepped down from their deanships after finding successors for their positions; they were the ones who'd stepped forward to oversee the developments with Levitating Island and Qingfu Nation.

They hadn't bothered Lu Yun with their problems, and he was now more of a spiritual leader for the Dao Academy.

.....

Qing Yu sat at the peak of Mount Xuanhuang, meditating on the Dao Flower in her hands. A joint session of formula dao between Lu Yun and her had surprisingly revealed that her dao fruit was the Dao Flower!

If she could refine the Dao Flower, she would set foot into the dao immortal realm and be the supreme sovereign of immortal dao. As for Lu Yun, his dao fruit was in the lower worlds.

The chaos dao fruit that Fuxi had prepared for him was still growing and removed from the chaos. Time could no longer resolve his problem, so Lu Yun needed to think of another way to break through to the dao immortal realm. Joint efforts between him and his dao partner placed his search in the lower worlds.

The cosmos of the lower worlds was a new region of space formed after the great wilderness. A combination of the energy of a realm and the chaos, it was unexplored territory. No one knew what kind of strange and exotic treasures might appear there.

But no matter how Qing Yu and Lu Yun tackled the problem, the answer was always the same—Lu Yun must head to the lower worlds.

.....

Autumn of the thirty-second year of the Xuanhuang Calendar.

The world of immortals now frequently interacted with the lower worlds a decade after the restoration of the Ascension Pool. Immortals often traveled to other realms to help their denizens fight off the dead spirits. They even visited worlds that didn't send a representative to request help.

Due to the arrival of the world of immortals, the realms scrambling for survival in the dangerous wreckage of space brimmed with new vitality after ten years. Of course, it wasn't a purely charitable effort. Immortals who helped the lower worlds naturally did so with their own goals and desires in mind.

The lower worlds were barren, infertile, and lacked resources. Their levels of natural qi were even more pathetically inadequate. But to the visiting immortals, the lower worlds were perfect locations for arduous tempering. The cultivators and immortals of the lower worlds were also fantastic recruitment targets.

These immortals that traveled to the lower worlds were no pampered young masters living off the fat of the land. The dark and dusky tombs of the world of immortals were their goal since day one of cultivation, and many of them understood that they would one day die in those tombs.

In their eyes, there was no difference between fighting dead spirits in the lower worlds and exploring an ancient tomb.

.....

"Why are you always following me around?" Lu Yun smiled wryly at the dusty little fox hanging onto his shoulder.

He'd come to a nameless lower star and changed his appearance to avoid alarming anyone. Though he'd repaired the immortal dao and reconstructed the ascent protocol, he was still a major thorn in the side of many. There were many among the creatures of the chaos or immortals of his own world who'd love to take him out of the picture.

Grand pure realm immortals on par with human kings of the Primeval Era walked the world these days. It would be trivial for them to kill him.

"I'm here to protect you, of course!" The little fox stood up and slapped her chest.

"Can you take human form? It's so weird to always have a fox tucked in my robes." Lu Yun plucked the sooty fox off his shoulder and addressed her seriously.

"Aiya... looks like you've fallen for my beauty too." A smile curved her lips before dreamy radiance flashed across the little fox. The heaven-toppling beauty of a man who Lu Yun had first encountered in the world appeared in front of him.

The little fox caressed her face with great satisfaction. "Aren't I good looking?"

Lu Yun rolled his eyes. "Are you worried that people won't notice you? Turn into Ah Niu's appearance."

"Ah Niu?" The little fox blinked and thought back to the simple, honest, and somewhat dumb tribute spirit of the Yan Tribe. She shook her head fiercely. "No, no! I'm not turning into that dumb Niu! How about..."

Dreamy radiance shimmered over her once more as she turned into a thirteen year old girl.



Ah Bao.

### **Chapter 959: A Primitive Star**

Lu Yun's face twitched to see the little fox resemble Ah Bao and tug on his hem like the mountain ghost once had. Though she'd last seen him hundreds of millions of years ago, to him, he'd only bid her farewell a dozen years past. She was now Wanfeng and had recovered her previous memories, and administered Dusk Province for him.

When he saw the mountain ghost again, a peculiar distress rose in his heart when he thought of Wanfeng. His farewell of a dozen years had been hundreds of millions of years of interminable waiting for Ah Bao. Just like the fake Fuxi had said, Lu Yun's ten years were too long.

"Why don't you go back to your own form?" He rubbed his nose.

The little fox rolled a sultry eye and returned to the shape of a dusty fox with a shake of her body. She jumped to Lu Yun's shoulder and looked around blankly.

"Where are we?"

They were on a desolate star that likely belonged to a planet somewhere. Though dead spirits roamed the star, there weren't that many of them. The little fox had visited some lower worlds during this time, but this one seemed different from the ones she'd set foot on before.

"This is a newly born star." Lu Yun lifted his head to look at the sky above. It was gray and nebulous, without life. It wasn't the boundless night sky above it, but the chaos.

Within the multiverse, the energy of a realm refined the chaos and created stars according to the laws of celestial bodies. There was a shifting boundary between the intersection of the multiverse and the chaos, and this star had just been born out of the chaos.

If Lu Yun wanted to seek out his own chaos dao fruit, he had to search in places like these.

This was a primitive star in which the laws of a realm collided with the chaos. There were still traces of energy from the chaos on this newly born star. However, it was too weak for him and couldn't become his dao fruit. It'd be shattered by the strength within his body the second he refined it into himself.

"What a shame that I destroyed my opportunity with my own hands," he chuckled ruefully. He'd personally struck twice to destroy the chaos dao fruit that Fuxi had nurtured within his tomb.

The first time had been to resurrect Fuxi—killing the four divine spirits had also destroyed the budding dao fruit. The second time had been when he combined the essence of the Ascension Pool with its body; the essence had been the core of the tomb. Though it was now stored in hell, it was almost impossible that it birth another chaos dao fruit.

"Have you ever considered that maybe the chaos can also nurture its own stars?" The little fox jumped on top of Lu Yun's head and looked into the shifting gray. She murmured, "The chaos is such a mysterious place. No one knows what exists within it."

"Maybe, but the chaos is too big for me. I don't have the ability to enter it like Fuxi did." Since there was no sense of time in the chaos, Lu Yun couldn't guarantee that the world of immortals would still exist

after he entered it and found his dao fruit. He'd been able to locate Fuxi's tomb last time only because the demon god had subconsciously led him there.

"If I had the ability to travel the chaos, then the dangers facing the world of immortals would be resolved," he snorted wryly and comforted himself, "But the energy of a realm possesses a fatal attraction for many things in the chaos. Perhaps a star born there will be attracted by the laws of celestial bodies here."

"Young man, how much for your fox?" a slightly hoarse and weak voice sounded behind Lu Yun.

He turned around to see a malnourished elder almost drooling over the little fox. Uncomfortable with the stare, Miao darted into Lu Yun's robes.

Though the elder appeared in human form, Lu Yun was certain he wasn't human. The elder's skin was blackish gray and two horns poked up from his head. A slight bulk protruded from his back—something else should be there as well.

"Not for sale." Lu Yun frowned and declined without another word. He'd sensed the existence of other life forms on this primitive star, but couldn't identify how strong the unknown creature was in front of him. Despite that, he could sense the greed and desire from it.

"Even a leg would be fine... I haven't eaten in three years." His eyes shifting green, the elder stared at the bulge in Lu Yun's robes. "No food in three years, I'm going to die from starvation!"

"A spirit stone for its leg!" He swallowed noisily. "You're human, so I can't eat you, but I won't be punished for eating a fox. Give it to me for a spirit stone!"

He advanced on Lu Yun with eyes that glowed green, exuding a strange ripple from his body that seemed completely foreign to that of life forms beneath the immortal dao.

Frowning slightly, Lu Yun twitched his fingers and summoned Quietus to him from a faint ripple in the void.

"Young man, you wanted to attack me first. They won't say anything now that I beat you and take your fox away."

Humm.

A pair of black bat wings extended from the elder's back and he vanished on the spot in a blur.

Irritated, the little fox itched to take action, but Lu Yun shoved her back in before she could do anything.

"Just stay quiet. Every expert in the multiverse will know I'm here if you try anything." As he spoke, Quietus transformed into a water ripple and slashed at a certain corner.

No one apart from Lu Yun, Qing Yu, Fuxi and some others knew about Quietus, that it was a treasure of the chaos. Lu Yun had never displayed it before others, and the connate demon gods in the chaos didn't have the courage to return to the world of immortals yet.

Quietus recognized Lu Yun as its master and was very well matched to him, so Lu Yun was able to bring a corresponding level of strength to bear with his cultivation. He didn't use any combat arts or techniques

with this slash, just followed the most fundamental trajectory of immortal dao without any extraneous flourishes.

Whoosh—

A single stroke was enough to make the vanished elder materialize again, his face full of sweat. Quietus was halted less than half an inch from his forehead.

No killing intent exuded from the unknown life form, or Lu Yun would've taken his life with this move.

### **Chapter 960: Darkfuries**

"Mercy, milord, mercy! This lowly one will never dare do it again!" The elder dropped to his knees in front of Lu Yun and begged for lenience.

"Speak, what manner of thing are you and who are those you speak of?!" Lu Yun roared.

"This humble one is no thing, this humble one is a darkfury!" the elder quickly explained. "Those I speak of are the rulers of the Quiet Realm. They established the rules that no creatures of this world are to harm humans."

"The Quiet Realm?" Lu Yun looked around. This world was a newly born star from the intermix of energy from a realm and the chaos. Still and quiet, there were very few lifeforms on it. It was quite appropriate to label it part of the Quiet Realm.

"Are they humans as well?" he blinked at the rule.

"This humble one doesn't know who they are." The darkfury snuck another glance at the little fox, swallowing gently.

Miao almost erupted in a furious tirade. Many connate demon gods had sized her up in the great wilderness, but they'd coveted her beauty or the Bell of Chaos. This darkfury was the only one who'd ever wanted to eat her!

Lu Yun knew of this species—they were beings of the Blood Sea that'd gone extinct when he ransacked the netherdark and fought Luo Houluo and Darkriver. They were reborn in the hell of human dao sometime later and became indigenous residents of hell.

When human hell was broken, its natives scattered throughout the multiverse. Once a peak race of the netherworld, darkfuries were second to only the Asura race. However, the latter was extinct and even their ancestor turned into a blood demon. In contrast, the darkfuries were alive and well.

This new addition to the Quiet Realm was a brand new star that the immortal dao was slowly sinking into. Most of its inhabitants didn't practice the immortal dao yet. The race before Lu Yun, for example, practiced human dao.

"Alright, get out of here." Lu Yun swept a glance over the darkfury and then ignored it.

The elder immediately scuttled off like he'd been reprieved from a death sentence.

"You're letting him go just like that?" grumbled the little fox. "You should've at least asked him about this Quiet Realm."

“What would a low-ranking being who hasn’t eaten for three years know?” Lu Yun shook his head. “I’d be better off using formula dao than interrogating him.”

This world was incredibly large and at least ten times bigger than Earth. However, its native population was very low. There weren’t that many dead spirits and there were even fewer living ones. Lu Yun scanned less than ten thousand life forms with his consciousness—there were the darkfuries and some other strange races that he’d never seen before.

Dead spirits weren’t very interested in a newly born world. Only a few of them roved this star, so those living here were relatively safe.

After shooing away the darkfury, Lu Yun sat down cross-legged to calculate where his fortunes were. He was certain that his dao fruit was in this world, but where?

The answer remained elusively out of reach.

While he struggled for the answer, the little fox lay quietly in his robes and didn’t disturb him.

“I still can’t do it,” he chuckled wryly. “Formula dao can deduce the world and all living beings, but it doesn’t operate as smoothly when it comes to matters of the self.”

The flaw of formula dao was that it couldn’t be deployed on the user. He and Qing Yu had used it on each other to determine where the other’s fortuitous opportunity was. Determining that his dao fruit was located in the Quiet Realm taxed the limits of Lu Yun’s abilities.

When the little fox heard this, she jumped out of his robes and imitated Lu Yun’s position, deploying formula dao herself.

“There! In that direction!” She opened her eyes and pointed a furry paw in a certain direction. Though her grasp of formula dao wasn’t as strong as Lu Yun and Qing Yu, she still counted for a strong expert in her own right.

“It’s over there, somewhere very far away... But I can’t figure out where exactly it is,” she concluded woefully.

Since she wasn’t as adept in formula dao, she could only determine a rough location. If it’d been Qing Yu here, she could’ve instantly deduced what Lu Yun should do here.

She’d offered to come, but Lu Yun had turned her down. She needed to refine her own dao fruit and increase her strength so that she would have absolute power in the cataclysm to come. Lu Yun needed to handle his own matters by himself.

“A general direction’s enough. We’ll find that star as long as we keep walking that way!” Lu Yun grinned broadly. It looked like the little fox could do more than just create trouble for him.

.....

“They were here, a human with a monster spirit!” The darkfury from earlier reappeared on the scene with a dozen of his compatriots behind him.

They were all extremely skinny, some to the point of skin and bones. It really did seem like they hadn't eaten in many years. The group surrounded Lu Yun the second they arrived and pointed pairs of glowing green eyes at the little fox.

To their gaze, this dusty creature wasn't a fox, but a delicious feast!

"I want to eat her tail! Her tail looks so soft, it must be delicious!" A darkfury that looked rather young swallowed hard.

"Pfft. Children know nothing about the world, alright. Her tail is nothing but fur and doesn't have any meat. You need to eat her hind leg... roasting it fills your mouth with juicy oil with each bite!" rebuffed a female darkfury beside the child.

"But she's so small, is there enough for us to split?" Discussion sprang up in earnest.

The darkfury that Lu Yun had pardoned earlier approached him merrily. "Young man, take a look around you. Leave the fox behind and we'll let you go, or you'll suffer for it otherwise!"

The little fox teetered on the edge of a murderous rampage as she listened to how these darkfuries would prepare and eat her. If it wasn't for Lu Yun maintaining a death grip on her scalp, she would've already sliced and diced this group into minced meat!

For some reason, a thick sense of sorrow rose in Lu Yun's heart. In the Primeval Era, the darkfuries had been a guardian of the human race. Their emperor had served the Great Emperor of the Eastern Peak and helped humans conquer new territories and defend against the outer demons.

Who would've thought that their descendants would fall to these straits?

"Are you really that hungry?" Lu Yun asked.

"Young man, we share kinship with the human race and are under that group's rule. We cannot eat humans, but you must leave the fox behind!" the elder called back.

Thump!

Lu Yun waved his hand and flung a wild boar the size of a small mountain onto the ground.

"Meat!" The darkfuries couldn't restrain themselves any longer when they saw the struggling boar and pounced forward, opening their mouths to tear at the flesh.