

The Gods 1821

Chapter 1821 - Eternal Heaven Divine Realm

It wasn't long before the core of the devil race gathered at the central hall once more.

The first person to arrive was Qianye Ying'er. The way she looked, it was as if she was carrying a storm behind her.

When Qianye Ying'er returned from the Eastern Divine Region and learned that Yun Che and Shui Meiyin had left for the south without the three Yama Ancestors, she had exploded like a volcano and beat the crap out of them. She would've traveled to the south to capture Yun Che and Shui Meiyin too if Chi Wuyao hadn't stopped her.

It was why the three Yama Ancestors were scared shitless and begged for mercy when Yun Che had smiled at them earlier... they thought that he was angry that they had pissed off his woman.

When Yun Che felt Qianye Ying'er walking up to him like a volcano, he turned around and shot her a warm smile, "When did you come back?"

"You're asking me?" Qianye Ying'er said angrily, "I can't believe you found the leisure to go on a trip with that girl at this... time..."

Suddenly, she stopped talking and raised her eyebrows slowly. A while later, she said,

"You... something's not right with you."

"Is that so?" Still smiling, Yun Che responded noncommittally before answering her grievances, "There's nothing to worry about. Even without the three old monsters, there is no one in this world who can stop me from escaping. The Devil Queen and Yan Tianxiao overseeing the overall strategy, the star realms overseeing the war preparation themselves, and Cang Shitian keeping the Southern Divine Region under control, I can afford to go missing once in a while."

"..." Qianye Ying'er's eyes narrowed even further.

It was because Yun Che had taken the time to explain things to her. Previously, he would've just let out a cold snort and ignored her completely.

Before Qianye Ying'er could figure out what was going on, Yun Che suddenly pulled a strand of hair hanging in front of her forehead to the back before saying gently, "In the future, don't trouble yourself over such a small matter, okay?"

"...!?" A flabbergasted Qianye Ying'er blanked out for a second before taking half a step away from Yun Che like she was electrocuted. She then stared and scanned him with her spiritual perception from head to toe.

She knew Yun Che well enough to identify every strand of hair on his body. And yet she still found it difficult to believe that the man in front of her was truly Yun Che.

A person's subconscious was impossible to fake. Any change to one's subconscious would also affect their emotions and actions.

The destruction of the Blue Pole Star had completely changed Yun Che. The realization that it was unharmed had caused a transformation that was just as drastic. That was why he seemed like a completely different person to someone who knew him so well like Qianye Ying'er.

Pausing for a moment after realizing that his action was completely at odds with how he usually acted, he sucked in a deep breath, gathered his dark profound energy, and tried to return to his dark and brooding self.

However, the only images that he managed to conjure in his mind were his parents, his daughter, Lingxi, Caiyi, Yuechan, Cangyue, Ling'er and more... the mere knowledge that they were alive and well filled his blood with red hot love.

He was able to school his expression in the end, but that darkness and hatred that seemed to seep out of the deepest depth of his soul... he just couldn't find it anymore no matter what he tried.

It was at this moment the barrier covering the central hall was unlocked, and Chi Wuyao, Caizhi and Shui Meiyin arrived and entered the chamber together. Behind them, Yan Tianxiao was just dropping down from the sky as well.

Qianye Ying'er allowed herself to be distracted for now and shot Shui Meiyin a look. The latter simply giggled and stuck out her tongue at her.

"Hmm. It looks like our Devil Master has something urgent to announce," said Chi Wuyao as she approached Yun Che. However, just like Qianye Ying'er, she immediately noticed that something was off with him and stared at him for a long time.

"Your Magnificence, I have ordered the men to gather the divine crystals, divine jade and highest quality divine swords you wanted. Your will will be done in six hours at most," Yan Tianxiao reported the moment he arrived.

Yun Che nodded acknowledgingly and said, "Very good."

"Why the sudden mobilization of these resources? And why would you need the swords for?" Qianye Ying'er asked with a frown.

In preparation for the upcoming war, they had been using all the resources they plundered from the Eternal Heaven Realm, Brahma Monarch Realm, Xuanyuan Realm, Purple Micro Realm, Southern Sea Realm and more to empower various profound artifacts, formations, weapons and more.

"I need them for my cultivation," Yun Che replied simply.

His reply stunned everyone except Shui Meiyin. His next words shocked them even more.

"Also, the assault on the Dragon God Realm will be delayed for ten days," Yun Che said slowly.

"Ah? Wha?" Yan Tianxiao lifted his head and stared at the Devil Master in confusion.

Eight days had passed since Yun Che declared of an all-out assault on the Dragon God Realm.

Right now, everyone was doing their utmost to prepare for D-day. Their spirit, power, morale and even their devilish blood were burning like never before. However, if they were to delay the assault now, that energy was sure to falter drastically no matter how sound the reason was.

Even if that passion was rekindled, it would surely be weaker than it was before.

“Why?” Chi Wuyao asked in her seductive voice as usual.

Yun Che was unsurprised by their reaction. He explained, “The Eternal Heaven Pearl we acquired from the Eternal Heaven Realm now has enough power to activate the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm one time.”

“Therefore, I’m planning to use this chance to cultivate for a bit before we crush Dragon God Realm beneath our feet.” A pause later, he explained in more detail, “Previously, the Eternal Heaven Pearl had used up all its power to activate the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm for three thousand years. Although it has regathered a small shred of its power since, it is only enough to keep the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm active for three years, and its time compression is much weaker than before.”

“Long story short, three years in Eternal Heaven Divine Realm is about eleven days in the normal world.”

Qianye Ying’er: “...”

Chi Wuyao: “...”

Caizhi: “...”

Shui Meiyin: (#^.^#)

“I see!” Yan Tianxiao’s realization quickly turned into excitement. “Three years is nothing for most people, but Your Magnificence is the successor of the Devil Emperor herself! Naturally, you’ll be able to make use of this time far better than us mortals do! Your might has already cowed the world when you are still at the Divine Sovereign Realm, surely you’ll be able to squash even the so-called Dragon Monarch like an ant if you are able to become a Divine Master during this time!”

However, just as he finished his sentence, he abruptly realized that the atmosphere wasn’t quite what he expected it to be. A quick scan of his surroundings revealed to him that it was deathly silent for some reason.

Qianye Ying’er and Chi Wuyao exchanged a wordless glance with each other.

Not long ago, Yun Che couldn’t wait even a day longer to make his move after becoming a level ten Divine Sovereign at the Northern Divine Region. Now, he’s delaying his assault on the Dragon God Realm to cultivate in the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm for three years!?

If either of them was slightly more hot-tempered than they were, they might have jumped to their feet, pointed a finger to his nose and screamed at him, “Where the fuck was this you when we asked you to stay just a couple years longer in the Northern Divine Region? And why the fuck are you appearing now of all times!?”

“Something’s wrong with him,” Qianye Ying’er messaged Chi Wuyao directly.

"..." The Devil Queen shot Shui Meiyin a thoughtful look before responding, "Something must've happened between him and Little Meiyin during the time they were gone."

"At least... it's probably not a bad thing."

"How many people can enter this Eternal Heaven Divine Realm?" Caizhi suddenly asked with a strange look in her eyes.

"Two," Yun Che answered before looking at Shui Meiyin, "I will be bringing Meiyin with me during these 'three years'."

Caizhi's face immediately scrunched up. "Can you add one more person?"

"Er..." Yun Che felt a tingle on his scalp, but he had no choice but to say the truth. "Unfortunately, every new addition will halve the amount of time the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm can hold."

"..." Caizhi's chest heaved up and down. She was biting her lips as well.

Yan Tianxiao was going to speak when a sudden chill suddenly turned his back into ice. He immediately bowed his head and kept his breathing shallow.

"Hmph!" Caizhi said with a disdainful snort, "Eternal Heaven Pearl my butt. What a useless artifact!"

She turned around angrily and acted to leave.

"Caizhi!"

However, Yun Che reached her and caught her hand right as she gathered her profound energy. She tried to shake it off, but Yun Che pulled her closer and wrapped his arms tightly around her body. He whispered beside her ears urgently, "Caizhi, it's not that I don't want to bring you into the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm, alright? There's a very special reason I chose Meiyin."

"What does that have to do with me? You don't need to explain anything to me." Caizhi struggled hard, but this time Yun Che refused to let go no matter what.

Chi Wuyao couldn't help but chuckle a little at the sight of the squirming duo. She decided to lend Yun Che a hand and said, "If I'm not mistaken, you intend to cultivate your soul in the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm, am I right?"

"Correct." Yun Che nodded without hesitation.

"I see." Chi Wuyao fell into thought for a moment. She was starting to grow a real idea on what this special "trump card" of Yun Che was about. "In that case, little Meiyin is indeed the best choice. Not even my devil soul will be more helpful to you than her Divine Stainless Soul."

"Mn. That's what Big Brother Yun Che said to me too," Shui Meiyin added. "I'm not sure how I'm supposed to help Big Brother Yun Che yet, but... you have nothing to worry about, Sister Caizhi. I promise I won't disappoint you, and that I will do my best to help him."

After her irritation was put down in a lighthearted manner, Caizhi started growing self-conscious. She blushed a little and put on another token struggle before saying, "Enough. I know already. I wasn't trying to... do anything. None of you needs to explain yourselves to me... let me go."

However, Yun Che held her firmly before whispering into her ears again, “The next time the Eternal Heaven Pearl regains enough power, I’ll move in with you however long you like, okay?”

Caizhi felt even weaker after hearing that. She lowered her head as much as she could and said in a mosquito’s voice, “Seriously, let go already... there’s people here...”

Caizhi’s waist was so thin and soft—it almost felt like he was holding the most wonderful sponge in the world—that Yun Che didn’t want to let go. For the same reason, he didn’t dare to put too much strength into his arms for fear of actually hurting her. So, he declared like it was the most natural thing in the world. “I am the Devil Master and the future king of the God Realm. Who dares to question me hugging my own wife?”

Chi Wuyao: “...”

Shui Meiyin: (*^▽^*)

Yan Tianxiao: (¬ω¬)

“Hah!” Qianye Ying’er looked away. “Manwhore.”

“Oh my?” Chi Wuyao looked at her interestedly. “Where did you pick up that word?”

“Like I know,” Qianye Ying’er huffed snappily.

“Seriously though,” Chi Wuyao muttered while narrowing her eyes into slits, “What on earth did he go through today? It’s almost as if he came back with an entirely new soul.”

Ten hours later.

The Eternal Heaven Pearl floated at the center of the Deep Sea Central Hall while shining a pure white light.

Due to many considerations, they ultimately chose to activate the Eternal Heaven Pearl at the heart of the entire realm, the Deep Sea Central Hall.

Seven different layers were laid down inside and outside the hall. Moreover, the three Yama Ancestors would be guarding them day and night until they returned.

He Ling’s image appeared inside the Eternal Heaven Pearl. She pressed her hands together in front of her chest and focused on gathering the power of the Eternal Heaven Pearl.

“Master, the Eternal Heaven Pearl has too little remaining energy, so I’m going to have to guide and channel them at all times while the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm is active. I won’t be able to listen or transmit anything that might be happening outside.”

“I understand.” Yun Che nodded. “Thank you for your hard work, He Ling.”

“Also, my mastery of the Eternal Heaven Pearl isn’t complete yet, so it’s best if... no, you must ensure that no external force will disturb the Eternal Heaven Pearl during this time. Otherwise, there’s a chance that the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm will collapse on itself. I don’t have full confidence that I’ll be able to prevent it from happening, and if a time and space distortion were to happen during this time, the consequences would be... unthinkable.”

"I understand." Yun Che swept the three Yama Ancestors a glance before adding, "I'm only going to repeat myself one time: do not allow anyone to approach the barrier except the Devil Queen, Qianying and Caizhi, understand!?"

Yan Tianxiao dropped his head knowingly.

"As you command, Master." The three Yama Ancestors stared at Yan Tianxiao right after the hurried reply.

They would've chased off Yan Tianxiao already if Yun Che hadn't said to kick him out now.

Yun Che grabbed Shui Meiyin's hand and looked at Chi Wuyao. "I leave everything to you and Qianying."

"One more thing. Always watch out for Cang Shitian."

"You will pleasantly surprise us when you reappear, right?" Chi Wuyao said with a faint smile on her face.

"Hmph. We hardly need the reminder." Qianye Ying'er replied coldly before side-eyeing Shui Meiyin. "Three years is neither too long nor too short... if you're tired, feel free to use all those erotic techniques you used on me on your precious little girl. I'm curious to know if you'll break her or turn her into a proper—"

"AHEM!" Yun Che cut off Qianye Ying'er loudly even as he sensed a sudden rise in temperature from Shui Meiyin's hand. "He Ling, activate the Divine Realm!"

He Ling's hands parted ways inside the Eternal Heaven Pearl.

A white light surged and engulfed Yun Che and Shui Meiyin.

A moment later, the aura of the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm was replaced by the heavy, cold and ancient aura of the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm.

Chapter 1822 - Heretic God Restriction

Deep within the God Realm of Absolute Beginning.

"This is the Abyss of Nothingness you often spoke of?"

Jun Xilei's feet were shrouded by white mist. Another five steps forward, and she would fall into a bottomless abyss that was said to be able to turn everything into nothing.

The Nameless Sword behind her back had shedded its stillness and weight a while ago. It was still ancient, but it was now glaring in a way that caused most people to avert their eyes.

"The living, the dead, aura, strength, sound, light, soul... everything that is tangible or intangible in this world will turn into nothing in the Abyss of Nothingness," Jun Wuming said slowly. "There were a lot of Divine Masters who, at the end of their lifetimes, tried to explore its secrets with all their power. However, all of them turned into nothing without exception.

"So, no one knows what is at the bottom of the Abyss of Nothingness?" Jun Xilei asked.

"No." Surprisingly, a bit of longing was shining through the murkiness of Jun Wuming's eyes.

The unknown was often as dangerous as it was tempting.

Jun Wuming's vitality had declined rapidly since the day he stopped Luo Changsheng with the Imagination Sword and saved Yun Che. Today, he looked so old that anyone who saw him would be surprised by his appearance.

"Why have you brought me here, Master?" Jun Xilei faced toward her master but averted her gaze immediately when she saw his face. At the same time, a bitter tang spread across her heart.

She hated herself for acting willful all these years. Worse, she knew she would never be able to repay his kindness and love in full. The only thing she could do now was to keep a tight rein on her willfulness, accompany him on his final journey of life, and fulfill his last wishes.

"Cough... cough cough..."

Jun Wuming pressed a hand to his chest, but his eyes were still staring at the Abyss of Nothingness. He explained, "A long time ago, I read about a power called 'Nothingness' from a book so ancient that its history was untraceable."

"Nothingness?" Jun Xilei repeated softly.

"It is a name that doesn't exist in the current recognition of man. Most Divine Masters would simply ignore it if they saw this term. But now that I'm nearing the end of my life, I'm starting to believe that it truly exists."

"As you are aware, the Sword That Returns to Nothing is the height of the Sword Sovereign style."

"Back then, this place is where I completed my understanding of the Imagination Sword."

Jun Wuming closed his eyes and sat down with his legs crossed. "Lei'er, let go of your concerns, the world, your sword aura and your sword intent. Try placing yourself inside a space of 'nothingness'."

"I cannot explain what 'nothingness' is to you. It all depends on you."

Jun Xilei obeyed her master's words and cleared out her mind quickly.

However, she soon felt she could hear something from the lightless, soundless and immaterial Abyss of Nothingness. It almost sounded like some sort of strange screaming.

Am I mistaken?

Nothing happened to the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm after Yun Che and Shui Meiyin had entered the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm. Everything was relatively peaceful.

Chi Wuyao had chosen to relay the Devil Master's order to delay the attack on the Dragon God Realm via the Nirvana Devil Voice after much consideration. As expected, everyone praised the wisdom behind the decision.

Time passed quickly. One day turned into two, two days turned into five, and five days turned into seven days.

“The six Star Gods of Star God Realm have arrived. They are all with Mistress Caizhi right now. Would you like to see them, master?”

Hua Jin reported to Chi Wuyao.

“No need.” Chi Wuyao stretched lazily. “I have nothing to say to them. Back in the Eastern Divine Region, they would’ve all died if little Caizhi hadn’t interfered. That favor and their guilt will drive them to work like a horse for little Caizhi.”

“How goes the Western Divine Region?” She asked.

Hua Jin replied, “It is as you have predicted, Master. The Dragon God Realm is restless, but they’ve decided to stay their hand for now. The five realms are much quieter, but they are also preparing for war. It is so that they can mobilize their core forces quickly when the Dragon God Realm rallies them to his cause.”

“However, I suspect the actual number of mobilized forces will be smaller than expected. It’s because all five realms are secretly conserving their strength while expecting the other four realms to do their best.”

“Very good. You may leave.”

After Hua Jin left, Chi Wuyao pressed a finger to her forehead and basked in silence.

For some reason, she had been feeling ill at ease for the past couple days.

However, she couldn’t figure out why no matter how much she thought.

Eternal Heaven Pearl, Eternal Heaven Divine Realm.

“Hnng... pwack!”

A shower of blood burst out of Yun Che’s mouth, his complexion turning from bright red to pale white in an instant.

“Big Brother Yun Che!” Shui Meiyin rushed to his side and pressed both hands to his body. “Are... are you okay?”

“I’m fine, don’t worry.” Yun Che waved his hand lightly while calming his energy and breath.

“It’s fine, we still have a year or so. You will succeed,” Shui Meiyin said consolingly.

They had cultivated inside the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm for two years.

This wasn’t the first time Shui Meiyin had entered the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm. She could sense that it was much weaker than it used to be.

However, the poor environment didn’t affect Yun Che’s cultivation too much. It was because he could simply absorb energy from the divine crystals and jades he had plundered from multiple king realms. He didn’t need to rely on his environment too much.

At first, he thought that cultivating his profound energy would be much easier than cultivating his soul. However, his progress came to a sudden and complete halt when he hit the peak of level ten Divine Sovereign.

No matter what he tried, no matter how much energy he forcefully absorbed via the Law of Nothingness, he wasn't able to progress even an inch further.

Yun Che had never once encountered a bottleneck in his life as a profound cultivator.

That record ended when he hit the border between Divine Sovereign Realm and Divine Master Realm and discovered that it was like a mountain that stretched on forever. He simply couldn't break through it no matter what he tried.

In fact, he was getting the sense that his best efforts had failed to shake the "mountain" even a tiny bit.

Just now, he decided to throw all caution to the wind and punch through with everything he had, but all he got for his effort was a terrible injury.

"The bottleneck of Divine Master Realm is infamously difficult to break through. It took me thirty seven years to overcome it, and father told me that my progress should be marked as a miracle in the history of God Realm. That is why you don't need to worry at all," Shui Meiyin continued in a gentle voice.

However, Yun Che declared with a frown, "No, this isn't a bottleneck at all!"

He had his suspicions, but it was only after the forced attempt that he was finally able to confirm it.

"Eh?" Shui Meiyin exclaimed.

"It's a restriction... a restriction that was put down by the Heretic God himself, I suspect," Yun Che said heavily. His voice was full of complex emotions.

"A restriction... but why?" Shui Meiyin asked in puzzlement.

Still frowning, Yun Che explained to her, "There are seven special gates in my Heretic God Profound Veins. The first five gates—Heretic Soul, Burning Heart, Purgatory, Rumbling Heaven and Hell Monarch—can all be opened like normal, but the last two gates are sealed by a restriction as well."

"The Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor had unsealed them for me."

"I thought that was it, but it looks like my profound cultivation is restricted as well."

Moreover, the restriction was shaped in a way that eluded his senses until he tried to enter Divine Master Realm.

The Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor had unlocked the restriction on his gates, but not the restriction on his profound cultivation. He wondered if it was on purpose or not.

"As for why this restriction exists..."

Yun Che's thoughts grew clearer after his breathing had calmed down.

“Meiyin, do you still remember the demonic beast rampage that affected more than half of God Realm? The one that began when the crimson crack appeared and lasted until the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor left?”

“Of course I do, and that’s not all. The weather and the elements became increasingly chaotic as well,” Shui Meiyin replied. Then, she exclaimed in realization, “Do you mean...”

“Mn. I believe it’s why the restriction was put down,” Yun Che said seriously, “It’s because the current Primal Chaos could no longer withstand the aura of gods.”

“When the Devil Emperor first appeared, the living panicked, the heavenly way shivered, the elements had turned chaotic, and the natural order had threatened to crumble upon itself. Had the Devil Gods been allowed to return to Primal Chaos, they wouldn’t have needed to destroy the world. The current law and order would’ve crumbled on its own, and the consequences... unpredictable.”

“This was the biggest reason the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor ultimately chose to depart the world,” Yun Che said with a sigh, “She didn’t want to destroy the world the Heretic God had protected until the end of his life... no, until now.”

“So, you’re saying that your sixth and seventh gate, and the realm above Divine Sovereign Realm, fall under the domain of true gods?” Shui Meiyin asked.

“I’m not sure,” Yun Che replied, “but it’s definitely... not a power this world can withstand right now.”

Back at Burning Moon God Realm, when he had sacrificed the Star God’s Divine Origin to activate the sixth gate “God Ash” for the first time, he had sensed the entire world trembling around him despite his blurring consciousness.

Later on, Qianye Ying’er had told him that almost one quarter of the Northern Divine Region was shaking during those several breaths.

At the Southern Sea God Realm, the power erupting from the Titanic Sea God Cannon was also a power that transcended the limits of Primal Chaos. It also caused a massive quake across most parts of the star realm.

If a mere flash in the pan already threatened the world so, then prolonged use of a power that transcended the limits of the world... might truly be more serious than he imagined.

“He was the last god to pass away. There’s a chance he had lived long enough to see the fading of Primal Chaos’ aura, the formation of the new heavenly way order, and the stabilization of the elements. That is why he put down a restriction on his own profound inheritance and stopped his inheritor from being able to open the sixth gate or break into Divine Master Realm.”

Obviously, there was no one in the world who knew his profound veins better than the Heretic God himself.

Yun Che was just a level ten Divine Sovereign right now, but Hell Monarch would put him on par with a level ten Divine Master already.

If he was allowed to break through to Divine Master Realm as well, then... he would definitely exceed the world’s limits.

In other words, the restriction the Heretic God left behind put him at exactly the maximum power the world could endure.

“There’s a very low chance the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor missed this restriction, meaning that she probably came to the same conclusion and decision as the Heretic God. She unlocked the gates so I would have an ultimate trump card to use in a life-or-death crisis, and because she knew it wouldn’t last nearly long enough to damage the world’s law and order.”

“Does that mean there’s absolutely no way to unseal it at all?” Shui Meiyin asked worriedly.

It was impossible to remove a Creation God’s restriction with the current world’s power.

However, Yun Che smiled in a carefree manner before saying, “It’s fine. Everything I have today is thanks to the Heretic God. The restriction is both a limit and a gift, and it is only right that I accept it gratefully.”

“Plus, I may have failed to overcome my upper limits, but my foundation has become far stronger than even I can imagine.”

So Yun Che stopped thinking about breaking through to the next realm, rubbed his hands and rose to his feet. He smiled again and said, “I can maintain Hell Monarch at all times now. That is enough!”

“There’s only a year left now. I’m going to spend all of it cultivating my soul.”

Shui Meiyin let out a sweet cry as Yun Che roughly pushed her to the ground.

“Ready? Let’s begin~~”

The flowing black fabric that was Shui Meiyin’s dress was pulled all the way up to her chest. A pair of smooth, white legs that dazzled the eyes appeared into view, and...

(Ninety nine thousand words went missing mysteriously because the hard disk exploded... it’s not my fault!)

At the same time.

Western Divine Region, Dragon God Realm, Forbidden Land of Samsara.

There was a small distortion in space, and a tall, imposing figure stepped out of it.

His eyebrows were as straight as swords, and every line on his face was sharp and defined. His eyes glowed with divine power almost like the sun on a clear sky.

When he appeared, the air within five hundred meters around him froze, and the world dimmed and fell silent... even the dead felt like they were worshipping the unparalleled lord of the world.

He was Long Bai!

Chapter 1823 - Return of the Dragon Monarch

The Dragon Monarch hadn't tried to conceal his presence when he returned to the Dragon God Realm. Therefore, every dragon god was instantly made aware of his existence.

"Your Majesty, you've finally returned!"

"... the Northern Divine Region is stronger than we could've imagined. The Eastern Divine Region was completely crushed. The Eternal Heaven Realm was massacred. The Moon God Realm was destroyed. The Brahma Monarch Realm submitted to the devils to preserve themselves..."

"Yun Che is now as strong as a God Emperor!"

"The devil race possesses three old and terrifying monsters. The two Brahma Monarch God Emperors who were thought to be deceased, Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu have reemerged and sided with the devil race! We now have confirmation that the Brahma Monarch Realm was hiding the Primordial Seal of Life and Death, and that they've found a way to use it!"

"The Southern Sea Realm was destroyed in a single day. The Southern Divine Region was so scared that Deep Sea, Xuanyuan and Purple Micro all surrendered to the devil race without resisting."

"Ash was killed! Big brother was injured by the Devil Queen and is still recuperating..."

"Your Highness, Crimson Destruction... is too ashamed to see you!"

"All the realms of the Western Divine Region are ready for combat. We only need your orders and your leadership now, Your Majesty..."

.....

The eight dragon gods' sound transmissions entered his ears in rapid succession. He could hear their excitement, joy, regret... the chaos was unprecedented. It was obvious how serious the situation had become.

The Dragon Monarch didn't give them a reply, however. His expression and even his eyes didn't change in the slightest.

He slowly and soundlessly walked toward a certain destination. He was the supreme ruler of the current world, and yet he tiptoed as if he was terrified of disturbing something... or someone.

A long time later, he came to a stop.

An imposing draconic barrier that isolated everything—aura, light, sound and more—stood in front of him.

Any living being who came within five hundred kilometers of the barrier would immediately be struck by a sense of terror. They wouldn't dare to take even a single step forward.

It was because the barrier had been laid down by none other than himself. The draconic aura circulating the barrier was his own aura.

Not only that, he had injected a small amount of his soul into the barrier. If someone tried to break through the barrier, he would be alerted immediately unless he was in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning.

He was certain that no one had so much as touched the barrier, however.

There were a lot of dragon slayers in this world, but none were foolish enough to provoke the Dragon Monarch himself.

As a result, no one knew what had transpired in the world inside the barrier.

The Dragon Monarch raised his hand quietly, and a gap about 3.5 meters tall appeared in front of him.

He exhaled once and stepped in. The gap vanished the second he stepped through, giving no one any chance to peek through it.

The Dragon Monarch stood where he was and stared at the white light in front of him for a very, very long time.

The light belonged to the barrier of the Forbidden Land of Samsara, a barrier that had existed for over two hundred thousand years. It was quiet, pure, flawless and eternal. The power used to construct it was a class above all else, and yet it wasn't intimidating in the slightest. In fact, it cleansed the mind and soul like the purest water in the entire universe.

But that was no longer the case.

Only a couple of years had passed since that day, and yet it had become weak, fragile, and almost non-existent. The barrier was now so thin that it looked like a wisp that could disappear at any moment.

An entire hour later, Long Bai finally stepped forward.

The surroundings had changed completely as well.

The elements were no longer gentle, the air no longer felt fresh, the wind no longer felt comfortable, and the soil no longer smelled intoxicating.

The cloud that usually frolicked across the grass was completely gone. The chirping birds and dancing butterflies were nowhere to be seen, and even the spirit flowers and plants that covered the ground had wilted away.

The Forbidden Land of Samsara was just a place where the Well of Samsara was located. It wasn't a fairyland from the beginning.

It was Shen Xi's presence that had turned it into a fairyland.

Now that she was gone, all that was left was a rapidly wilting garden, and a well that had been dead for eternity.

For the past two hundred thousand years or so, one look at Shen Xi was all it took to fill him with infinite joy and satisfaction. Nothing seemed insurmountable to him as long as she was around.

Now she wasn't. Not anymore. Perhaps forever.

"Listen, Long Bai... If anything... anything... were to happen to Xi'er..."

"I will give up the light... turn into a devil... and make you suffer through every torture that exists in the world!"

“I will spill your blood and scatter your ashes... to every corner of this God Realm... so that you will be stepped on by every living creature in the world for all eternity!!”

Long Bai raised his head with his eyes tightly shut. His facial muscles were clearly writhing in agony.

Every day without fail, Shen Xi’s tearful, hate-filled curses would resound in his mind and soul a million times.

The way she had looked at him especially felt like the world’s cruelest, most poisonous blade gouging his heart again, and again, and again... never-ending.

Another unknown period of time later, he finally arrived at the center of the Forbidden Land of Samsara, former home of Shen Xi.

The bamboo house she once lived in had crumbled into a floor of dead bamboo.

Suddenly, he picked up a few wisps of pure spirit energy. He glanced to the side and saw a clump of still living spirit plants swaying to the wind.

These spirit flowers were the lowest existence in this tiny world, and yet they had captured his eyes like Shen Xi herself.

Heart suddenly beating a lot faster, he strode toward the bush until he suddenly lost strength in his legs and stumbled to the ground. The knees that had never bent to anyone crushed a couple of flowers and leaves and sank into the soft soil. [1]①

At the center of the bush of flowers was a pool of dry blood. A couple of years had passed since that day, and yet they were still giving off faint auras of light... for a moment, the aura that belonged to Shen Xi and Shen Xi alone filled up every corner of his soul.

He unconsciously extended a hand toward the blood stains, fingers shaking and swaying uncontrollably. Right before he was about to make contact though, he abruptly withdrew his hand and... bent down like some sort of dying fish that was thrown into a dried pond. He was inhaling the scent like his very life depended on it.

No one would ever believe that the Dragon Monarch, the unparalleled master of this world, would be capable of such an ugly, and even disgusting act unless they saw it with their own eyes.

A long time later, he suddenly stopped his mad breathing and dropped on one side of his body. He curled up like a prawn and lifted his shivering right hand into view.

This was the arm that had hurt Shen Xi that year.

A relationship that lasted three hundred thousand years, and a dream that lasted over two hundred thousand years... gone in an instant.

There was Shen Xi, and then... there was no more.

“Where are you... Dragon Queen... where are you...”

“I know... you’re still alive... but why... why can’t I find you...”

“I’ll promise you anything... if you return...”

“I will do anything to save your child... I will raise her like my own daughter... I will make her the future master of the Dragon Race if that is your wish...”

“If you return...”

“Ugh... hmm!”

His eyes were blank, and he wouldn’t stop muttering to himself. Blood was trickling down his mouth, and yet he didn’t notice it at all.

“This arm...” he stared at his right arm with what could only be described as a shocking amount of loathing and hatred. “I will cut it off for hurting you... for now though, I still need it for something...”

“I need it... to kill Yun Che!”

When the name tumbled out of his mouth, his eyes sharpened like needles, and his killing intent grew so much that it almost felt tangible.

“No one... is worthy... of my Dragon Queen... and that animal... DARED... sully her!?”

“He must die... he must die!”

“I will tear him to pieces... crush his body... grind him to dust... and scatter his ashes across the world!”

Crack!

His bones broke audibly as he clenched his fists.

The Dragon Monarch hated Yun Che as much as Yun Che hated him.

Long Bai had been a variable Chi Wuyao wanted to avoid as much as possible when they launched their first assault on the Eastern Divine Region, but Yun Che? The Devil Master wished that Long Bai would show up so he could sacrifice his divine origins and tear him to pieces with God Ash as soon as possible.

The opposite was equally true. In fact, Long Bai’s madness might even be greater than Yun Che’s!

There was a dark shadow residing inside his eyes, but it wasn’t the northern region devil race, but Yun Che.

A venomous flame burned within that shadow. He had been waiting for Yun Che to reappear all this time. He had known that the boy would return eventually.

The comeback was far, far sooner than he predicted, however.

In just four years, the boy had become as powerful as a God Emperor and taken control over the entire Northern Divine Region... even he had to admit that his progress was terrifying, dark, and impressive.

No matter how impressive he was, he would never, ever, ever be worthy of his Dragon Queen. He should never have sullied her!

To slaughter Yun Che even a moment sooner, the supreme ruler of God Realm burned with a kind of madness no ordinary person could possibly imagine!

Back at the Southern Divine Region, the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm.

Chi Wuyao abruptly rose to her feet and frowned deeply.

“What’s wrong?” Qianye Ying’er asked immediately.

“...” Chi Wuyao slowly returned to her seat and said, “The Dragon Monarch... has returned.”

“Oh?” Qianye Ying’er looked surprised. “Didn’t you say that he should linger around the God Realm of Absolute Beginning for at least another two months? It’s only been half a month since your declaration.”

“That is why there is the saying ‘No plan survives first contact with the enemy’,” replied Chi Wuyao as she continued to frown. She thought to herself: Was Long Bai’s premature return the reason behind my worries?

He is a threat, but that doesn’t seem right...

Her Nirvana Devil Emperor’s soul was such a transcendent existence that it sometimes gave her supernatural danger senses. Her soul would warn her of danger even before the crisis had arrived. It was very different from Shui Meiyin’s Divine Stainless Soul.

“Hmph. This is good news, right?” Qianye Ying’er replied, “Yun Che longs to slaughter Long Bai with his own hands. Strategically speaking, we have lost our best chance to destroy the Dragon God Realm while the Dragon Monarch was gone. However, Yun Che will only see this as a good thing.”

He’s coming out in four days anyway. If anything, this timing is perfect.”

“...” Chi Wuyao remained as silent as death.

“You look... worried?” Qianye Ying’er eyed her. “It is true that the Dragon God Realm’s control over the Western Divine Region would greatly increase with the Dragon Monarch’s return, but if Yun Che kills him then that control would vanish just as quickly, if not quicker. We’ve considered all this already, so what are you worried about?”

“That’s a good question.” Chi Wuyao narrowed her eyes into half-slits. “What am I worried about?”

“Allow me to change my question a little. What kind of scenario will it take to catch us off guard?” muttered Chi Wuyao while tapping her lip with a finger.

“Hmph.” Qianye Ying’er humphed disdainfully. “The only thing that could surprise us now is if Long Bai shows up with the full might of Dragon God Realm right now.”

Qianye Ying’er was obviously joking, but Chi Wuyao immediately paled like a ghost.

Yun Che was currently inside the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm, and it would be another four days before he returned to them. If the Dragon God Realm truly were to descend upon them with the full might of the Western Divine Region while he was gone, they would definitely be in grave danger. Spiritually speaking, Yun Che’s absence during the invasion would drastically lower the devil people’s morale. Physically speaking, their fighting strength would also fall off drastically without Calamity and Misfortune.

Moreover, the Dragon God Realm alone was almost unbeatable. The entire Western Divine Region? It was simply impossible.

Worse, Yun Che specifically instructed them not to disturb him until he exited the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm. They couldn't even move the orb because there was a chance it might disrupt its stability.

The Eternal Heaven Divine Realm was a special realm with its own independent time and space laws. If it were to collapse, a time and space distortion could occur and wipe out Yun Che and Shui Meiyin from existence.

In other words, not even hiding was an option.

Chi Wuyao's reaction surprised Qianye Ying'er. The latter narrowed her eyes slightly and said, "Do you actually believe that could happen? Hah, even if Long Bai were to issue the order to march to the Southern Divine Region right now, and assuming no delays were to happen during this time, it'll take at least several days to mobilize the forces of the Western Divine Region. By the time they finally reach us, ten days would have passed by already."

Chi Wuyao opened her eyes and said seriously, "The worst blow the world can throw at you usually comes from the unknown."

"The Dragon God Realm doesn't know that we have the Primordial Profound Ark. Equally..." Her voice dropped lower. "There might be something that we don't know about the Dragon God Realm."

"They are the Dragon God Realm after all! The strongest, oldest, and greatest realm in the entire history of God Realm!"

Chapter 1824 - The Twins' Secret

Both Chi Wuyao's voice and expression were grave and somber, which immediately caused Qianye Ying'er to arch those beautiful golden brows of hers.

After getting to know Chi Wuyao over the years, she had vaguely realized that Chi Wuyao's Nirvana Devil Soul had the strange and unique ability of spiritual premonition. As a result, Qianye Ying'er never took her unease lightly.

After she gave the matter some thought, Qianye Ying'er said, "If the worst case scenario we hypothesized about truly comes to pass, the first condition that must be fulfilled is that the Dragon God Realm needs to have a grand dimensional formation of the highest class, one that will allow you to cross into another divine region."

"However, I have never seen any such dimensional formation being recorded in the annals of any star realm. I have already assimilated most of the memories left to me by all the Brahma Heaven God Emperors and there isn't any such thing recorded there either. On the contrary, a dimensional formation very similar to what I just described did appear in this generation."

"That is the grand dimensional formation that the entire universe knows about. The one that the Eternal Heaven God Realm built together with the cooperation of countless star realms in order to deal with the

Crimson Calamity. The dimensional formation that connected the Eternal Heaven God Realm to the very borders of the Primal Chaos Dimension.”

Moreover, the foundations of this grand dimensional formation still exist unharmed within the Eternal Heaven God Realm and it could be activated again as long as someone poured enough power into it... Even though the amount of resources you would need to consume for a single round trip was enough to send a king realm into convulsions.

That was also why they had used the words “stake it all on one throw” when the Eternal Heaven God Realm had begun construction on this dimensional formation.

“...” Chi Wuyao remained in quiet contemplation, but she was listening carefully to what Qianye Ying'er said.

Qianye Ying'er continued, “In order to finish building that grand dimensional formation on time, the Eternal Heaven God Realm laid the groundwork more than a decade in advance, and they still had to rely on the help of many king realms and upper star realms in the later stages of the project, just to get it over the finish line. Furthermore, they were only able to get it done within that time because the Eternal Heaven God Realm possessed the strongest spatial profound artifact in the universe, the Great Void Cauldron. If it had been any other king realm undertaking the task, they might not have been able to finish that project even if they were given a hundred years of time.”

“As such, these words have proven that the hypothesized worst case scenario can never come to pass.” Qianye Ying'er came to her conclusion.

“Hmmm... but what if such a grand dimensional formation already existed?” Chi Wuyao mused to herself in a soft voice.

“A dimensional formation that would allow someone to cross from the Dragon God Realm to the Southern Divine Region would not only be gigantic, but the time taken to construct it would also be extremely long. As such, the vibrations of energy that emanated from it during construction would surely stretch out across vast distances of space, and there is no way that this event wouldn't have been recorded in any annals or historical records whatsoever.”

“...” Chi Wuyao fell into another long silence before she finally gave a faint nod of her head and said, “Your reasoning is faultless.”

Still, the unease in her heart hadn't died down one iota.

“However, this matter is far too grave to ignore, and we need to proceed with the greatest caution and prudence. After all, Yun Che is gone for the next few days, and we have to guard against even the wildest possibilities.” Chi Wuyao's eyes grew cold as she barked out an order. “Hua Jin! Summon Cang Shitian!”

Before too long, the figure of Cang Shitian could be seen rushing towards them.

“Shitian greets the Devil Queen. Does the Devil Queen have any instructions for me?”

Cang Shitian showed Chi Wuyao the same amount of reverence he normally showed to Yun Che.

“God Emperor Shitian, where are the Ten Direction Deep Sea Realm’s strongest barriers and defensive profound formations located?” Chi Wuyao asked directly.

Any proper star realm would have its own grand defensive barrier. The strongest of them all, the king realms, did not disregard the importance of this barrier in the slightest. Rather, they regarded this matter with extreme importance and every generation would try to strengthen the barrier by at least a little bit. Because they, who were used to proudly looking down on the rest of the universe, were also most afraid of the idea of being destroyed.

The most important reason for the Eternal Heaven God Realm and Southern Sea God Realm’s swift destruction had been the fact that the enemy had already infiltrated them, so even activating their barrier accomplished nothing.

Cang Shitian understood the implicit meaning in her words and replied, “The ultimate barrier of my Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm doesn’t cover the entire realm. Instead, it focuses on protecting the Deep Sea Divine Region. The moment it’s activated, only those who possess the Deep Sea divine blood can enter and exit the barrier freely. Those who do not can exit the barrier, but they won’t be able to enter it again.”

“How long will it take you to get it ready for activation?” Chi Wuyao asked.

Cang Shitian didn’t waste any time asking pointless questions. Instead, he immediately replied, “We replenish the power supply of our barriers once every three years and we always maintain a supply of at least seventy percent. Even if we are confronted with a grave threat, the fastest we can activate that ultimate barrier is thirty breaths of time.”

“Very good,” Chi Wuyao replied. “Then I want you to immediately charge this barrier of yours to its maximum capacity and keep it in a state where it can be activated at any given time.”

“I need you to accomplish this as quickly as possible, so do not stint on the resources that need to be used!”

Cang Shitian’s brow sank a smidgen, but he immediately cupped his hands and replied, “Yes! The Devil Queen can come over and inspect the barrier herself once twelve hours have passed!”

“You may leave.”

Cang Shitian made a short bow and immediately left to see to his task.

“Hmph, he didn’t say one unnecessary thing nor did he ask any unnecessary questions. What a trustworthy lackey,” Qianye Ying’er, who had been coldly glaring at Cang Shitian all this while, scoffed in contempt.

Chi Wuyao closed her eyes and used her fingers to pinch the space in between her eyes. Threads of black light flowed along her long black hair as she said in a somber voice, “During this period of time, I need to focus all of my attention on the movements of the Dragon God Realm, so I’ll leave the running of this place to you. I’ve already sent a sound transmission to my children, so they will obey your commands in the meantime.”

“Oh really?” Qianye Ying’er’s golden eyes narrowed as a strange light glinted within them. “Aren’t you afraid that I’ll take this opportunity to order those Witches to become the Devil Master’s new playthings in bed?”

“Sigh...” Chi Wuyao gave a long and exhausted sigh. “Being able to train you into such a character is also a talent of his I suppose.”

“Him?” Qianye Ying’er gave a soft snort. “He’s just a beast, one that only knows how to rut violently at that. The only person who has ever been in charge of me is me, no one else can choose what I become.

After she finished speaking, Qianye Ying’er turned around and walked away.

As she exited the hall, Qianye Ying’er looked to the sky. It had once been as blue as the clear waters of the ocean but now it was covered with a dull layer of dreary-looking clouds.

The skies had already turned dark in the distant west. Dark clouds roiled in the air and it seemed as if a great storm was about to fall over the land.

Qianye Ying’er’s brow sank as she suddenly turned around and flew towards the Deep Sea Royal Hall.

As she passed through the barriers and arrived in the heart of the hall, she saw the Eternal Heaven Pearl quietly glowing with a dense white light. The Three Yama Ancestors were sitting around it in a triangle formation and each of them were situated about three meters away from the pearl as they guarded it. They hadn’t moved a single inch since they had begun their duty.

“Listen up,” Qianye Ying’er said to the Three Yama Ancestors. “Your master will leave the Eternal Heaven Pearl in about four days. Before that comes to pass, you must not allow yourselves to be distracted, no matter what happens. Your job is to protect the Eternal Heaven Pearl and that alone. Don’t get involved in any other disturbances that you may sense. This is your only and most important mission, do you understand?”

“Yes, yes. Please do not worry, Lady Qianying,” the Three Yama Ancestors said in unison as their heads dutifully bobbed up and down.

A pair of golden eyes lingered on the Eternal Heaven Pearl for a good long while before Qianye Ying’er finally left.

The Three Yama Ancestors exchanged looks with each other after that.

The same thought filled their heads at the same time:

“That was extremely strange. She deliberately made a trip here to repeat an order that had already been given to us before? Does she think that we three old monsters are getting forgetful with age?”

———

Within the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm, inside of the Sky Poison Pearl’s world.

“Yaaaaaaaah——”

Hong'er yawned loudly as she lazily stretched. After that, she started complaining in a whiny voice, "I'm so bored! Master is doing that weird 'thing' again and Big Sis He Ling is simply standing there and not moving! They haven't played with us for the longest time already!"

"..." You'er nodded her head stoically in agreement.

"Oh that's right. Let's take this chance to try 'that' out again while Master is doing that weird thing together with that big sister." When Hong'er broached this subject, her eyes immediately started glinting with a bright red light and her excitement was plain on her face.

You'er opened and closed her mouth a few times before she finally managed to reply in a voice as weak as an infant's. "Okay."

Hong'er skipped forward happily before stopping in front of You'er. After that, she extended both hands towards her. Two pairs of delicate, snow-white hands which only differed by the light radiating from their skin gently grasped each other.

"Close your eyes," Hong'er said as she shut her ruby eyes. After that, a delighted red blush spread across her face as she crowed, "Let's begin!"

Both girls slowly leaned towards each other as their vermilion and silver locks started to silently tangle themselves together and they only stopped when their forehead finally touched.

Red light immediately pulsed out of Hong'er's body as You'er's gray light started to flow all over her body. The two wondrous contrasting colors actually started to mingle together... and the bodies of the two girls also began to grow diaphanous as they started to merge together in a bizarre manner. After that, they actually merged to form the body of a slender and beautiful girl who looked a fair bit older than either of the girls.

Long quicksilver hair and ruby red eyes... Her shoulders trembled gently as her eyes slowly glanced around. That brief moment of grace and beauty was enough to instantly dim the emerald light that glowed eternally in the Sky Poison Pearl.

However, the girl's body instantly grew hazy and diaphanous as well, and both Hong'er and You'er's bodies instantly coalesced from within her. After that, the girl's figure vanished as if it had never been there in the first place as both Hong'er and You'er fell to the ground with yelps of pain.

"Wah!" Hong'er sat up straight as she chortled excitedly. "This is so fun! And we managed to make it last a really long time this time!"

Even though this transformation had only lasted two breaths, it had lasted far longer than any of their previous attempts, so it really was "a really long time".

"Furthermore, I could see even more of You'er's thoughts this time. Just like I thought, You'er is the same as me. We both sorely miss Big Sister He Ling. Hmph! This is all Master's fault."

You'er opened her mouth and two faint and indistinct words emerged from those tender lips. "Ni... Jie..."

Her eyes were filled with dazed confusion. She had no idea why those two words had suddenly surfaced from within her soul.

“Eh?” Hong’er tilted her head sideways when she heard those words before she replied, “Just like I thought, You’er is the same as me! That name suddenly popped into your head as well... Eh? Why did I know that this is a name? That’s so strange.”

“Ah, who cares!” Hong’er had never let a matter frustrate her for too long. She waved a tiny hand and a longsword emanating a brilliant purple light appeared in it out of nowhere. After that, she eagerly bit down on the body of the sword, breaking it in two. Both her hands held half of the sword as she chomped down on her meal happily.

Before he entered the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm, Yun Che got Yan Tianxiao to rustle up a pile of divine swords. These swords would serve as Hong’er’s snacks, so she wouldn’t get up to any funny business while he was cultivating.

“You’er, you must remember that this is our little secret! Let’s not tell Master about it yet,” Hong’er said seriously. The sight of her trying to speak seriously while her cheeks bulged with food was hilariously adorable.

“... Okay,” You’er said as she obediently nodded her head. Her eyebrows wiggled adorably as a smile that was too pure and cute for this world appeared on her doll-like face.

The arrival of the Dragon Monarch had sent the entire Western Divine Region into a tizzy.

The Dragon God Realm, which had been gritting their teeth in silence all this while, could finally move without any constraints.

“We greet the Dragon Monarch!”

“We greet the Dragon Monarch!!”

As Long Bai walked forward, all the dragons around him bent their heads and knelt in obeisance.

The Master Dragons, Dragon Sovereigns, and the eight Dragon Gods had gathered at the Dragon God Domain long ago.

As he stepped into the Imperial Dragon Hall, the first person Long Bai directed his gaze to was a special guest of the Dragon God Realm.

“Brother Eternal Heaven, you’ve truly suffered,” Long Bai spoke first, his voice tinged with a deep sorrow.

Zhou Xuzi barked out a dry and sorrowful chuckle before he cupped his hands and said, “The Eternal Heaven God Realm was destroyed because of this old man, so I no longer deserve to be addressed with the title of ‘Eternal Heaven’. Now, I only hope that I can be an old sword strapped to the Dragon Monarch’s belt as I accompany you in driving out the devils and killing Yun Che.”

Long Bai replied, “There’s no need for Brother Eternal Heaven to be so gloomy. You are still alive, so the day that the devil race is extinguished will be the day that the light of the Eternal Heaven shines again.”

“This old man thanks the Dragon Monarch for his kind words, it has put my heart at ease.” He smiled at the Dragon Monarch gratefully as he pulled the young man standing beside him forward. “This is my unworthy son Qingfeng. The future of the new, nascent Eternal Heaven Realm will rest on the shoulders of him and his generation.”

However, even if they did end up destroying the devil race, would an Eternal Heaven God Realm without the Eternal Heaven Pearl... truly be able to reach its former heights again?

Zhou Qingfeng immediately fell to his knees and kowtowed towards the Dragon Monarch. “This junior Zhou Qingfeng greets the Dragon Monarch.”

Long Bai glanced at him and said, “Since you are the successor that Brother Eternal Heaven picked personally, you will definitely go on to do great things in the future. There’s no need for such formalities, please rise.”

The eight Dragon Gods had lined up in two rows to greet the Dragon Monarch. The Crimson Destruction Dragon God was the first one to stand up and move to speak to the Dragon Monarch. He suppressed the excitement and wildly raging emotions in his heart before he said in a solemn voice, “My lord Dragon Monarch...”

“There’s no need to say anything.” Long Bai raised a hand to cut off the Crimson Destruction Dragon God before he could even begin. He looked out into the distance as a soul-shaking divine light erupted from his eyes. “You are to immediately send this order to the Qilin Realm, the Emperor Chi Realm, the Blue Dragon Realm, the Hui Dragon Realm, and the Myriad Manifestation Realm. Tell their emperors that they are to personally lead all of their Divine Masters to the Dragon God Realm within the next forty-eight hours! I expect all of them to be present in the Dragon God Domain by then!”

“If anyone dares to even hold anything back, then they can’t blame this dragon for being ruthless!”

All eight Dragon Gods nodded their heads as their hearts wildly shuddered.

As the Dragon Gods, the beings closest to Long Bai, this was the most tyrannical and shocking order they had ever heard the Dragon Monarch give. It was so astonishingly overbearing that they could scarcely believe that it had come out of the Dragon Monarch’s mouth.

Chapter 1825 - Venerable Withered Dragons

Even though the Dragon God Realm was the supreme ruler of the God Realm and the direct ruler of the Western Divine Region, the generations of Dragon Monarchs had very rarely given any orders to the Western Divine Region or the other king realms. They had also very rarely forced someone into compliance.

This was because the Dragon God race’s pride and strength caused them to look down on such methods. To them, such things were unnecessary.

However, the command that Long Bai had just given was extremely tyrannical and unyielding. He had even said the words “they can’t blame me for being ruthless”!

The eight Dragon Gods themselves were completely and utterly shocked by those words, so they could well imagine what sort of waves it would cause when it reached the ears of the five king realms of the Western Divine Region.

However, once they recovered from their shock, the eight Dragon Gods felt blood rushing through their bodies.

The Ash Dragon God had died a miserable death and the Crimson Destruction Dragon God had been utterly shamed and humiliated, so the proud dragon blood that had lain dormant in the eight Dragon Gods for countless years had been brought to a boil due to their shared wrath and indignation. As a result, Long Bai's sudden heavy-handedness and ruthless decisiveness stirred them up much more than it had shocked them.

Long Bai only wanted the Divine Masters of the five king realms. This battle was going to be the grandest battle in the history of the God Realm, so he really only did need the Divine Masters.

Anybody who was weaker than a Divine Master would be no more than an ant in the upcoming battle.

"Yes!" The Azure Dragon God shouted, but he immediately continued after that, "All of the upper star realms have also prepared for battle, do we..."

"There's no need," Long Bai replied in a grave voice. "These upper star realms only have one or two Divine Masters apiece and all of them have their own grievances and petty squabbles, their own habits and idiosyncrasies. They are nothing more than a tray of loose sand. Furthermore, most of them won't be able to get here within forty-eight hours, so it's pointless to mobilize them."

"Also." Long Bai turned around, the touch of his dark and somber gaze making everyone feel as if a mountain had landed on their shoulders. "Summon back any and all of the Dragon Sovereigns and Master Dragons who are still abroad. This is a matter of extreme importance, so all of them need to rush back within the next forty-eight hours!"

Long Bai's voice was calm and serious, but it was enough to shake the entire Dragon God Domain. As the hearts and souls of all those who were present trembled, they also noticed that Long Bai's determination to wipe out the Northern Divine Region far exceeded even their wildest imaginations.

Zhou Xuzi found it hard to contain the excitement that was blooming on his wizened face. Before this moment, he had feared that the Dragon Monarch would do one of two things. The first was that the Dragon Monarch would completely underestimate the Northern Divine Region and the second was that he would be arrogant enough to disdain making any big moves, instead choosing to wait for Yun Che to come to him.

However, all those worries were for naught. The Dragon Monarch had returned and he had summoned all of the Dragon Gods, Dragon Sovereigns, and Master Dragons back to the Dragon God Realm. He had even forcibly conscripted all of the Divine Masters in the Western Region's five king realms... The grand scale of this mobilization and the ruthless decisiveness that drove it convinced everyone present that the doom of the devil race was nigh.

"If the Dragon Monarch is going to be this vigilant, the Northern Divine Region is sure to die!" Zhou Xuzi mumbled to himself as he closed his eyes.

“Azure, Jade, Pure, White Rainbow, Cyan Abyss, Purple River, Sky.” Long Bai read out the titles of the Dragon Gods one by one. “All of you are to personally see to the order that I just gave. There must be no mistakes.”

“Crimson Destruction, you are to follow me.”

———

Southern Divine Region, Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm.

The jade finger that Chi Wuyao had pressed in the space in between her eyes unconsciously twitched as the black light in her eyes slowly transformed into a boundlessly deep vortex of darkness. A look of unprecedented solemnity had also appeared on her face.

What sort of situation would cause a huge power to choose to cut off all methods of retreat and leave no room for error?

She had thought only the devil of the Northern Divine Region had the resolve to throw their lives away like this, and this had been due to their million years of hatred and resentment.

However, Long Bai, who stood above the entire universe and controlled the exalted Dragon God Realm in the palm of his hands had used his authority as the Dragon Monarch to give a similar order...

This definitely wasn't due to the fact that he suddenly viewed the Northern Divine Region as a proper threat... It was clear that there was a dreadfully twisted reason for his actions.

A warped distortion in his heart induced by extreme hate.

Chi Wuyao felt a headache gathering at her temples.

The Dragon Monarch loved the Dragon Queen and viewed her as a treasure, this was something the entire God Realm knew about. However, Chi Wuyao knew a very long time ago that the Dragon Monarch's infatuation with Shen Xi had far exceeded what any normal person could ever imagine.

It was at this moment that Chi Wuyao realized that she had been mistaken. The Dragon Monarch's feelings toward Shen Xi could no longer be called simple infatuation. They had evolved into a crazed obsession!

He practically valued her more than the entire Dragon God Realm!

The Northern Divine Region had had a huge advantage against the other three divine regions in their previous fights, and that was their resolve to fight to the death. On the other hand, the major powers of the other three divine regions had put their survival first and foremost and none of them were willing to gamble their tens of thousands of years of power in a desperate life-or-death struggle against the devils of the north.

This huge advantage had just vanished into the aether now that they were facing the strongest Dragon God Realm.

The Dragon Monarch, who should have been the most steady and calculative person in the universe, had actually chosen a method that even a common realm king would consider extreme. He had not only

chosen to mobilize the entire core of the Dragon God Realm's power, but he was even forcefully conscripting the core forces of the other five king realms of the Western Divine Region.

The price Chi Wuyao had paid to defeat the Crimson Destruction Dragon God had not been small, but she had made that sacrifice in order to scare the five king realms of the Western Divine Region into thinking about self-preservation instead... Now, that effort had practically been nullified by the Dragon Monarch's actions.

"To think that the supreme ruler of the God Realm, Long Bai, would turn out to be its biggest lunatic," Chi Wuyao muttered to herself. "Shen Xi... Just what sort of person is she that she could make the ruler of the universe go mad for her?"

"In the end, this is really something that Yun Che brought on himself. Sigh..." Chi Wuyao gave a short sigh of lament as this unresolvable worry continued to gnaw at her mind.

"He also kept repeating and emphasizing forty-eight hours..."

Long Bai took the lead and Long Fei followed behind him as they traversed the length of the Dragon God Domain. They reached a very special barrier and opened it, stepping into an underground palace that had not been disturbed for many years.

The Crimson Destruction Dragon God suddenly halted, his draconic eyes shaking in their sockets. "Dragon Monarch, are we actually going to..."

Long Bai simply ignored his words and continued walking forward.

The Crimson Destruction Dragon God did not speak again. He gave a silent sigh as his face swiftly grew composed and solemn again.

This underground building that had not seen the light of day for countless years was both huge and desolate. A dim light that was radiating from some unknown place layered the entire space with gray. However, this desolate emptiness also contained an incredibly dreadful oppressiveness that was so heavy that it could even suffocate a Divine Master.

The pace of both dragons unconsciously started to slow.

This empty and gray space was exceptionally long and there were no more barriers to obstruct them. However, that dreadful and heavy oppressiveness made every step forward incredibly difficult.

Their slow and measured footsteps continued for a long time before they finally reached their destination.

The gray light in front of them revealed five figures that were sitting side by side.

No aura radiated from their bodies and they seemed to be the desiccated corpses of people who had died many years ago.

In this dreadful and solemn silence, Long Bai slowly raised a hand.

"Please wait a moment!"

The Crimson Destruction Dragon God anxiously stepped forward and forcefully grabbed Long Bai's rising arm with his right hand. He said, "My lord Dragon Monarch, even though the Northern Region is strong, doing this is... too much!"

Long Bai did not speak. He merely looked at him with calm and steady eyes.

"..." The Crimson Destruction Dragon God quietly clenched his teeth. He quickly regained his composure and slowly released his grip on the Dragon Monarch's arm.

He retreated a step and bowed his head in shame as he said, "I have overstepped my bounds. I beg the Dragon Monarch for forgiveness."

Long Bai still didn't reply. Instead, the draconic energy in his hand started to shake as his eyes flashed. He unleashed his draconic energy and his dragon soul at the same time, and a solid-looking wave of white light engulfed the five gray and withered figures.

Roar—

Even though this dragon roar was rather soft and muffled, it reverberated violently in this dim space.

As the dragon roar resounded in this empty space, the five "mummified corpses" slowly opened eyes that had been closed for countless years as they started to straighten their backs.

Five pairs of turbid ancient eyes opened fully and the entire space became incredibly quiet... It seemed as if even the smallest mote of dust had become frozen in place.

"Who has awakened us?"

A voice as vast as the sky itself resounded in this sealed space. It had clearly come from the hunched figure in the middle, but it also seemed to have come from a vast and distant sky.

Thud!

The Crimson Destruction Dragon God fell to his knees heavily as the head of the strongest Dragon God deeply bowed towards the withered figure that sat on the extreme right. "Your unfilial son Long Fei... greets royal father."

The hunched figure replied in a deep voice, "My name is Long Wu, I am not your deceased royal father. There is no need for the Crimson Destruction Dragon God to stand on ceremony."

"..." The forehead of the Crimson Destruction Dragon God remained pressed to the ground for a very long time before he finally got to his feet. However, unshed tears could be seen glimmering in his eyes for the briefest of moments before they disappeared.

Long Bai stepped forward and announced in a calm voice, "I am the seventh realm king of the Dragon God Realm, Long Bai, and I was the one who awakened the five Venerable Withered Dragons from their slumber."

"What calamity has befallen us?" The Venerable Withered Dragon in the middle asked.

Five pairs of eyes focused on Long Bai.

The Venerable Withered Dragons was a title that was not recorded in any annals or records, something that did not even exist in the memories of any king realms.

They had never once shown themselves to the world.

The lifespan of a dragon far exceeded that of the other races and the Dragon God race possessed the longest lifespan amongst the dragon races. The emperor of the Dragon Gods, Long Bai, could live up to five hundred thousand years, a number which was ten times the limit of the human race's.

Furthermore, a Dragon God who had reached the peak of the Divine Master Realm, had reached the limits of their Dragon God divine power, and had full mastery over every strand of power in their body and soul, could cultivate an extremely mysterious forbidden art...

The Withered Dragon Divine Hibernation!

It was something that a Dragon God that had reached the peak of power could only use once in their lives.

Any Dragon God who cultivated the Withered Dragon Divine Hibernation could enter a unique state of "divine hibernation" when their life was about to reach its natural end.

Once they entered the state of "divine hibernation", their body, power and soul would fall into a deep sleep. This deep sleep would also cause their bodies to age extremely slowly, to the point where a Dragon God's final lifespan could be stretched by another two hundred thousand years.

The most absurd thing about the "Withered Dragon Divine Hibernation" was that it completely preserved the peak power and soul that the Dragon God possessed in life and they only had to be awakened once more to unleash their awe-inspiring might upon the world.

The caveat was that these sleeping Dragon Gods could only be awakened once.

Any Dragon God who was roused from the "Withered Dragon Divine Hibernation" would inevitably pass on after seven days. No matter what their age or condition before they entered into "divine hibernation". Even a Dragon God who had entered into this state during his peak years would still pass after seven days.

As such, the most powerful Dragon Gods who were about to die a natural death chose to use this method instead. To the rest of the world, they had already become dust hundreds of thousands of years ago, merely words on the pages of history. However, unbeknownst to everyone else, they had instead become the slumbering "Venerable Withered Dragons", who had devoted the very last embers of their lives and will to become the hidden guardians of the Dragon God Realm, the most powerful guardians of the Dragon God Realm.

If a calamity struck, they would be awakened from their sleep. If the eras were peaceful, they would naturally return to the dust after another two hundred thousand years... and a new Venerable Withered Dragon would immediately take the place of the one who had passed on.

In Long Bai's generation, there were five Venerable Withered Dragons who were currently in hibernation. Furthermore the person who was the latest to wear the title of "Long Wu" was the Crimson Destruction Dragon God's own father, the previous Dragon Monarch!

Long Yi, Long Er, Long San, Long Si, Long Wu... These were five names that could not be any more ordinary, but they belonged to the five strongest guardian Dragon Gods of the Dragon God Realm, who had willingly consigned themselves to slumber in this lightless and desolate place.

And today, they were all woken up by Long Bai.

This was also the very first time that any Venerable Withered Dragon had ever been roused in the history of the Dragon God Realm.

As he calmly met the gazes of the five great Venerable Withered Dragons, Long Bai calmly replied, "The devils of the Northern Region have exploded out of their hive of darkness. Both the Eastern Divine Region and Southern Divine Region have fallen, and the entire universe is in peril. In fact, our race lost one of our Nine Dragon Gods, to the shock and dismay of the other realms."

"Even though the darkness has not yet encroached upon our borders, this dark calamity is entirely unprecedented in scale and impact. As such, I have come to awaken you five venerable ones."

Long Bai's words stirred up the hearts of all five Venerable Withered Dragons.

"How did the insignificant Northern Region become such a plague upon our lands?" Long Yi asked in a sonorous voice.

Long Bai replied, "Their leader is someone who inherited the powers of the Heretic God and he has also very likely inherited the legacy of the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor. As such, the originally-harmless devils of the Northern Region have undergone a complete transformation in just a few short years thanks to him."

The powers of the Heretic God, the legacy of a Devil Emperor... Those words caused the hearts of these five venerable ones, hearts which were as dry as petrified wood, to shudder in a violent and uncontrollable manner.

"The good thing is that Yun Che is young and reckless, wild and arrogant. Hence, he only dwelled in the Northern Divine Region for four years before leading that swarm of devils out of it. This has given us the best opportunity. If we cannot completely and utterly destroy him and his forces right now, he can simply flee back to the Northern Region and hole up in the darkness again. If that happens, the threat that awaits us in the future will be boundless."

Four short years... Complete transformation of the Northern Region... The consecutive defeats of the Eastern Divine Region and Southern Divine Region... If we don't kill him now, the threat that awaits us will be boundless.

These few words had become more than sufficient reason for the Venerable Withered Dragons to rouse themselves from their slumber.

Chapter 1826 - Deep Sea Crisis (1)

After a short but terrifying silence, the five great Venerable Withered Dragons slowly got to their feet. The dim underground space shook gently for an instant and it still seemed to be trembling even after the shaking had subsided.

"We only have seven days," Long Yi said.

Long Bai raised his hands and performed a simple gesture of respect as the Dragon Monarch. "After these seven days have passed, the glorious feat of you five venerable ones destroying the devils will be carved into the annals of history."

"Once you become a Withered Dragon, you no longer care for such transient things as fame," Long Er rumbled.

The Dragon Gods who preserved the last of their life and strength to transform into the slumbering guardians of the Dragon God Realm had naturally abandoned all of their worldly desires a very long time ago.

They had all once been figures which had reigned over the universe, but they were also people that the world thought had been consigned to the pages of history.

"Where are the creatures of darkness right now?" Long San asked, his imperial majesty shaking the air.

Amongst the five great Venerable Withered Dragons, two of them were Dragon Monarchs of old. One was Long Wu, and the other was Long San.

Long Yi, Long Er, and Long Si were all previous Dragon Gods.

However, anyone who had the privilege to cultivate the Withered Dragon Divine Hibernation and become one of the sleeping guardians of the Dragon God Realm had reached the very limits of cultivation in the current era.

This was especially true for Long Er. He had been one of Long San's Dragon Gods in "life", but when he entered "divine hibernation", his power had exceeded Long San.

The appearance of these five great Venerable Withered Dragons would undoubtedly shake the world.

"The Southern Divine Region, in the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm," Long Bai replied. "I have already given the order to mobilize our entire race, and I have also gathered the strength of the Qilin Realm, the Emperor Chi Realm, the Blue Dragon Realm, the Hui Dragon Realm, and the Myriad Manifestations Realm. Two days from now, we will descend upon the devil race."

"Two days from now?" Long Wu raised his head to look at Long Bai, the cold might in his voice evident. "Why did you awaken us now then?"

As someone who had received Shen Xi's blessing for his entire life, Long Bai was undoubtedly the strongest Dragon Monarch in the history of the Dragon God Realm, whether it came to his dragon body or his dragon soul.

As a result, he would not shrink even when faced with the might of his predecessors. He calmly replied, "I understand that all of you are only left with a short seven days after you awaken, so I suggest that the five venerable ones take a look at the new world around them while completely awakening the power slumbering within your bodies."

"Once these two days have passed, it will only take us two hours to reach the Southern Region's Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm."

To travel from the Western Region's Dragon God Realm to the Southern Region's Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm... in two hours?

Anyone who heard those words would instantly dismiss them as complete hogwash.

However, these words had come from the Dragon Monarch's own mouth.

Long Fei had already suspected something along those lines, so he didn't look too shocked. However, all of his mental preparation still couldn't stop his heart from shuddering violently at those words.

All of the Venerable Withered Dragons turned to look at Long Bai at the same time once they heard those words.

"The World Dragon City?" Long Si asked.

Long Bai replied, "That's right."

The five Venerable Withered Dragons fell silent at the same time. After a second had passed, Long Yi said, "Since we are now withered dragons, we are beholden to the current Dragon Monarch's commands, but using the World Dragon City is highly unorthodox. Please reconsider, Dragon Monarch."

Long Er said, "Back in the ancient Era of the Gods, the Heretic God built two profound ships and imbued them with the divine power of the World Piercer. The first was called the Spirit World of Heaven and Earth and the second was called the World Dragon City."

"It is rumored that the Spirit World of Heaven and Earth contains a gigantic world within it. As long as it has enough resources, it can jump through space at will. It is recorded that the Heretic God gifted it to the Sword Spirit God Clan. Unfortunately, it has long since vanished into history."

"The World Dragon City is the ship that the Heretic God gifted to the dragon god race. It can compress space and shrink the distance between two points. It doesn't jump through space but it still transcends the concept of 'speed'. So even if we are traveling from the Western Region to the Southern Region, it will only take two hours."

"However, the energy source of the World Dragon City is extraordinary as well. The moment we use it, it might very well wither away forever. It is our dragon god race's last trump card and method of escape. Our founding ancestor said that we are not to use it unless our race is in danger."

Long San said, "The Dragon Monarch's ardent desire to exterminate the devils is commendable, but you must reconsider this course of action."

"I have already made up my mind."

Long Bai didn't waver one bit despite the Venerable Withered Dragons' advice. "Our dragon god race reigns above all creation, we are destined to be the rulers of the universe. From the inception of the God Realm up to now, there has never been a race able to contend with us."

"However, Yun Che, who has inherited the legacies of both the Heretic God and a Devil Emperor, has perfectly seized upon the hatred festering in the Northern Divine Region to become our sole threat, the sole wild card in this universe."

“He will also be the last threat and wild card to exist in this universe!”

Long Bai’s eyes narrowed slightly, as a shocking majestic light shone from his eyes. “Once we eradicate this threat, there is nothing that will ever be able to threaten our race again.”

“However, if we allow the devils to flee back to the Northern Region, the three divine regions will be powerless to deal with them. If we want to pull this threat up by the roots, we need to catch them by surprise and make sure that they have no way of avoiding or escaping us. Once we cut off their escape routes, we will end this plague forever!”

“Hence, this is actually the most suitable time to use the World Dragon City! Rather than letting it slumber for all eternity, isn’t it better to use it during this most opportune time? Let us show the world a unique miracle that comes from ancient times.”

Five great Venerable Withered Dragons did not attempt to persuade him again. Long Yi said, “Since the Dragon Monarch is so determined, then we will simply obey. We will simply be fulfilling the duty we have long waited for, we care not whether your actions are misguided or not. However, we still hope that the Dragon Monarch will seriously consider this matter over the next couple of days.”

“Mmm.” The Dragon Monarch gave a slight nod of his head, but it was clear that he wasn’t moved in the slightest by their words.

After they walked out of the place where the Venerable Withered Dragons had been hibernating, the Crimson Destruction Dragon God finally said, “My lord Dragon Monarch, before you returned, I had been deathly worried that you would underestimate the devils of the north. But I never imagined that you would place such importance on them.”

“...” Long Bai did not reply.

The Crimson Destruction Dragon God asked another question. “My lord, there is something that I still do not understand. When I found you in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning, you sent me a sound transmission telling me that you still needed to stay in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning for another two months. Why did you...”

“Do not ask any unnecessary questions.”

“Yes.” The Crimson Destruction Dragon God looked away from the Dragon Monarch and did not pursue the matter any further.

He still did not know why the Dragon Monarch had gone to the God Realm of Absolute Beginning.

Why did you go there... That was the question that the Dragon Monarch would never be able to answer.

Five years ago, he had personally set up an isolating barrier around the Forbidden Land of Samsara while he frantically searched for any traces of Shen Xi in secret... He was sure that Shen Xi wasn’t dead, and he was definitely not able to accept her death either way.

Five fruitless years had gone by, but nothing had been accomplished. It was as if she had completely vanished from the world. There were no traces of her moving around in the universe nor were there any reports of her corpse being discovered. There wasn’t even a single trace of her to be found.

A few months ago, the Azure Dragon God told him that he had “discovered the aura of the Dragon Queen in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning”, and he hadn’t waited a single second before making his decision. He merely left the Azure Dragon God with a few stern commands before he rushed off to the God Realm of Absolute Beginning.

In the end, he had indeed sensed Shen Xi’s aura in the area that the Azure Dragon God had reported. Even though it was extremely weak, it had indeed contained her divine aura of light which no one in this universe could replicate.

He slowly followed this extremely faint aura deeper and deeper into the God Realm of the Absolute Beginning. Every time he was about to give up, another thread of her aura would arrive at the most convenient time and renew his determination to continue searching for her.

By the time the seventh day had passed, he had already realized that it might have been a ruse to lure him away.

However, he still chose to stay and continue searching for her even in spite of that.

Later, the Crimson Destruction Dragon God sought out his aura and sent him a sound transmission to inform him of the north’s invasion and the drastic changes to the Eastern Divine Region.

However, he had detected an exceptionally dense aura of light at that time, and he had also found a fragment of white cloth. [1]

He could tell with a single glance that it was a fragment of Shen Xi’s outer garments!

There were a bunch of faint red words radiating a slight aura of light written on that fragment of cloth... The words told him that she would return to this place sometime within the next two months.

When he received the Crimson Destruction Dragon God’s sound transmission, he became convinced that this had simply been a ruse to lure him away... A trap that couldn’t have been any more simple.

However, he still didn’t leave. He even told the Crimson Destruction Dragon God that he would stay in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning for another two months.

Even if it was almost certain to be a ruse, he would still hold on to the smallest fragment of hope.

Finally, half a month later, the last traces of her aura had disappeared from that piece of cloth and he closed his eyes and gave a long sigh. He knew that it was time for him to wake up from this fruitless and crazy dream.

At this time, countless strong auras started to approach the Dragon God Realm, it seemed as if all the power in the Western Divine Region was streaming toward it.

However, this huge movement of forces was not something that could be concealed. Very soon, everyone in the universe knew that the Dragon God Realm was about to make a move and it was going to be a grand move.

What was about to unfold was perhaps the largest and grandest battle the God Realm had ever seen. It was also undoubtedly going to be the most terrible battle that the God Realm had ever seen.

A battle that would be so dreadful that even Divine Sovereigns had no place in it!

The news swiftly spread through the entire Western Divine Region before it started spreading through the other regions.

Both the Eastern Divine Region and the Southern Divine Region grew quiet after they received the news. It was as if all the profound practitioners across the God Realm were collectively holding their breath as they waited for the battle to decide the fate of the God Realm.

The Xuanyuan Realm and Purple Micro Realm also became exceedingly obedient at that time. The two great god emperors turtled in their homes and refused to come out, they definitely would not dare to step foot in the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm

These forty-eight hours passed by in a flash.

The Dragon Monarch's strongly-worded command had forced the five god emperors of the Western Divine Region, who had all made their own little plans and contingencies at first, to rush over to the Dragon God Realm within those forty-eight hours. They had also obediently brought all of their best troops with them as they gathered in the Dragon God Domain.

At the very least, they did not dare reserve any part of their forces that were known to the world.

Within the Ten Direction Deep Sea Realm, Cang Shitian was currently delivering a report regarding the massive movements in the Western Divine Region to the Devil Queen.

"In the last four hours, the profound warships from the Qilin Realm, the Emperor Chi Realm, the Blue Dragon Realm, the Hui Dragon Realm, and the Myriad Manifestations Realm have arrived in the Dragon God Realm. All of them are their core profound warships, and the entire assemblage of these forces is astounding. Many of the Dragon Sovereigns and Master Dragons who were outside the Dragon God Realm are also rushing back at full speed... and it is very possible that all of them have been recalled."

"However, the Dragon Monarch does not seem to have shown his face during the last two days."

Cang Shitian looked up to observe Chi Wuyao's reaction before he continued, "The Devil Master originally planned to launch a surprise assault on the Dragon God Realm so that he could catch them before the Dragon Monarch's return, but the Dragon Monarch's sudden return has spoiled that. Furthermore, it seems as if he is preparing for his own decisive move as well."

"As such, there is no way for us to launch a surprise attack anymore, and we might want to consider whether we even want to launch the assault at all. Now that the entire Western Divine Region seems to have mobilized... I'm afraid that they will probably come knocking on our door before we even have a chance to attack."

Cang Shitian did not pass up an opportunity to flatter Chi Wuyao as he said, "However, the Devil Queen's excellent foresight led to Shitian preparing the Deep Sea Barrier. It seems as if the Devil Queen had already suspected that such a scenario might occur."

"I understand. You may leave," Chi Wuyao simply replied.

She actually didn't need Cang Shitian to report to her at all. All of her attention had been focused on the Dragon God Realm over the last few days as she had used Zhou Xuzi's eyes to spy on all the changes happening in the Dragon God Realm. As such, she was far more clear on the situation than even Cang Shitian.

Cang Shitian did not immediately leave. Instead he asked, "Devil Queen, this Shitian has a question. How much longer will the lord Devil Master be in seclusion? The Dragon God Realm might launch their attack at any moment and we will need the Devil Master to decide whether we should fight or flee."

"There is no need for you to waste any energy on this matter. The Devil Master will naturally appear when it is time," Chi Wuyao replied in a calm voice.

She naturally couldn't let it be known that Yun Che had entered the Eternal Heaven Pearl, so the news that was released publicly had stated that Yun Che had suddenly found an opportunity to achieve a breakthrough in this cultivation, and that was the reason for his sudden seclusion in the Deep Sea Royal Hall. In fact, the news that the "Devil Master might achieve a breakthrough" had sent waves of excitement through all of the devils' hearts.

"Understood... This Shitian will take his leave."

Cang Shitian left and Chi Wuyao closed her eyes once more as she focused on the Dragon God Realm once again.

Qianye Ying'er could sense the deep worry in Chi Wuyao's heart, so she didn't say a single word to disturb her.

The Dragon Monarch's sudden return had caused the situation to become extremely twisted.

At this time, Chi Wuyao suddenly rose up from her seat, the dark devilish aura around her trembling chaotically.

"Who are... those people..." She muttered in a dark and solemn voice.

The strange aura around Chi Wuyao caused Qianye Ying'er's heart to sink and she swiftly stepped forward and said, "What happened?"

Chi Wuyao raised her head to look at her. After that she tapped a finger on her forehead and flicked it forward.

A strange image immediately floated into existence.

This image had come from what Zhou Xuzi's eyes and Chi Wuyao had used her Nirvana Devil Soul to cast it into an image.

The Dragon Monarch's figure was slowly descending from the skies high above them in Zhou Xuzi's eyes.

The five god emperors of the Western Divine Region were all gathered and the forces that had assembled there were shocking to behold. However, Zhou Xuzi's eyes were not focused on the Dragon Monarch or the five god emperors. Rather... he was looking at the five gray figures standing behind the Dragon Monarch.

These figures and the auras they radiated were completely alien to them. It seemed as if they were unwilling to be touched by the light of day and their entire bodies remained shrouded in those grey robes.

Accompanying them was the strongest Dragon God, Long Fei.

What had utterly shocked Zhou Xuzi... Chi Wuyao, Qianye Ying'er... the five god emperors of the west... and everyone present was that these five figures stood directly between the Dragon Monarch and the Crimson Destruction Dragon God!

Through the Nirvana Devil Soul, Chi Wuyao could clearly feel the changes in Zhou Xuzi's emotions. When Zhou Xuzi's spiritual senses and eyes came into contact with those five gray figures... he felt as if a thousand mountains had collapsed on him.

The hands that the five god emperors were raising all froze in midair... and they had even forgotten to greet the Dragon Monarch in their extreme shock.

"Who are... those people?" Chi Wuyao muttered again.

Qianye Ying'er shook her head with a grim look on her face, and Chi Wuyao's next few words fell on them like meteors from heaven.

"The five figures are radiating the draconic energy that is unique to the dragon god race. Furthermore... their auras are not the least bit inferior to the Crimson Destruction Dragon God's!"

"...!!??" Qianye Ying'er swivelled around, the look on her jade face dramatically changed. She cried out in shock, "What did you just say!?"

Long Fei was the strongest Dragon God in the Dragon God Realm, the dreadful being that surpassed both Qianye Fantian and Nan Wansheng! He was the person second only to the Dragon Monarch in this universe!

However, those five foreign figures which seemed to appear out of thin air were actually... all at least his equal or better!?

1. This wasn't something that the Dragon Monarch had blasted off Shen Xi in their brief but violent confrontation. It was actually part of the clothes that Yun Che tore apart on a regular basis. He Ling had quietly and dutifully gathered these ripped clothes and deposited them in a spot that wasn't easily seen. Some mysterious person picked a strip of it up when they investigated the Forbidden Land of Samsara. (At this moment, I would like to make a proposal to deduct He Ling's salary)

Chapter 1827 - Deep Sea Crisis (2)

"It isn't possible for five such people to exist in this world right now! It would be impossible even for the Dragon God Realm!"

Qianye Ying'er's golden brows knitted tightly together. Even after she heard Chi Wuyao's words and saw the five robed beings stand in front of the Crimson Destruction Dragon God, she was still unable to bring herself to believe what she was seeing.

To be more accurate, she simply could not accept it.

If this was really true, then the Dragon God Realm's true strength was so dreadful that it was enough to send them into despair.

She swiftly focused and sent out a sound transmission. Two white figures swiftly flew over as Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu appeared before them.

"We received the god emperor's urgent summons. What instructions do you have for us?" Qianye Bingzhu asked.

"Those five figures shrouded in robes, do you have any impression of them?" Qianye Ying'er pointed at the grey figures in the image.

Before Qianye Ying'er had even asked the question, the two ancestors of the Brahma Monarch had already focused their gazes on the five people standing behind the Dragon Monarch.

Even if it was only an image, these two old men, who had ostensibly seen and experienced everything there was to see and experience in this world, still felt an incredible amount of pressure radiating from those five figures.

"I do not recognize them," Qianye Wugu said with a shake of his head.

"And not recognizing them is the most terrifying thing of all," Qianye Bingzhu said.

"Even though I am only looking at them through an image, I cannot measure the depth... of those five hooded figures," Qianye Wugu said with a deep sigh. "Our ancestor said this, 'The Dragon God Realm is far more frightening than they appear to be'. The truth of these words is ringing loudly in my ears right now."

Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu's words had undoubtedly shattered Qianye Ying'er's final hopes.

Five monsters that were comparable to the Crimson Destruction Dragon God... Just these five people alone were enough to destroy most of the king realms in existence.

The Crimson Destruction Dragon God was the person who had nearly become the next Dragon Monarch, and now the Dragon God Realm had suddenly produced five other people who had the power and qualifications to contend for the rulership of the Dragon God Realm!

Qianye Ying'er's heart had been thrown into complete disarray and Chi Wuyao wasn't faring much better.

This sudden change in the circumstances meant that the Dragon God Realm now possessed the power to utterly crush them! And that was before they counted the power of the five king realms of the west!

Chi Wuyao's eyes narrowed before she spoke in a slow and unhurried manner. "It's good that we managed to discover the existence of these five old monsters far in advance. If not, meeting them in battle without any forewarning would have been unimaginably disastrous."

"Do we retreat?" Qianye Ying'er asked.

They had the option to flee back to the Northern Divine Region, a perfect refuge that even ten Dragon God Realms would not be able to force their way into.

Chi Wuyao pondered that question for a moment before she replied, "We should let the Devil Master decide whether we should retreat or fight. Currently, the biggest variable on our side is him. We'll need to see what sort of surprise he gives us after he emerges from the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm."

"If this surprise doesn't exceed the surprise that the Dragon God Realm has already given us, we will have no choice but to retreat."

"Hmph! Do you think he will be willing to?" Qianye Ying'er said with a soft snort.

"He wouldn't in the past. But now..." As she thought of Yun Che's sudden change, even the somber Chi Wuyao couldn't help but chuckle. "He might very well listen."

"Such a huge assembly of forces will need at least four days to travel from the Dragon God Realm to this place, even if they have the fastest profound ships traveling at maximum speed," Qianye Ying'er said as she started to regain her composure. "Yun Che will probably come out in two days, so even though the timeline is a little tight, we will still have just enough time to retreat if we have to."

"However, we should give the order to prepare to retreat first, so that we can deal with any other variables we have not foreseen."

Chi Wuyao fell into a deep and contemplative silence before she gave a curt nod of her head.

Long Bai's early return to the Dragon God Realm and his unimaginably forceful and ruthless command had already given Chi Wuyao a lot of pressure... but it had not been enough for her to consider retreating.

However, the sudden appearance of these five old monsters had instantly eradicated all of their hopes and beliefs.

Even the most exquisite plans and strategies were nothing more than bad jokes in the face of absolute power.

"Hua Jin, send a sound transmission to the Heavenly Wolf Star God, Yan Tianxiao, Fen Daoqi, all the assembled higher realm kings... and Cang Shitian. Give them orders to immediately..."

RUMBLEEEE...

A huge rumbling noise rang out, a sound that was reminiscent of a huge landmass cracking apart... Violent tremors immediately shook Zhou Xuzi's soul, and both Chi Wuyao and Qianye Ying'er turned back to look at the broadcast image in shock.

A gigantic shadow had slowly started to rise up from the ground, and it was only after they changed the angle from which Zhou Xuzi was looking at the shadow that they could clearly see what that gigantic silhouette was.

It was actually a huge floating island that stretched nearly two hundred kilometers long!

No! To be more exact, it was a floating city!

A faint grayish-white light seemed to emanate from the buildings that milled on top of it. Every brick, roof tile, and piece of profound jade was also radiating an extremely dense and ancient aura... An aura

so ancient that Zhou Xuzi, an old man himself, could not find any trace of it even in the memories of his founding ancestor.

“What... is that?” Qianye Wugu breathed.

It was an existence that even he was unaware of.

The two previous Brahma Heaven God Emperors once again recognized how shallow their knowledge of the Dragon God Realm truly was.

“Could it be... a special kind of profound ship?” Chi Wuyao’s devilish eyes grew sharp and focused as she said those words in a low voice.

“A profound ship!?” Qianye Ying’er was just about to disagree with her, but she immediately understood why Chi Wuyao had made such a guess. Given the fact that he had gathered the forces of all the king realms together, it was most likely that this was a profound ship, no matter how little it resembled one.

“Dragon Monarch, who are... these seniors?” Zhou Xuzi was finally unable to suppress the shock in his heart, so he voiced the question that everyone was dying to ask.

Long Bai didn’t even glance at him as he replied, “These are the five venerable guardians of my race. They are also this dragon’s predecessors. Please do not ask anything else.”

The predecessors of... the Dragon Monarch!?

Those few words had caused the shock in everyone’s heart to explosively multiply. The more they thought about it, the more shocked and frightened they grew.

“...” Zhou Xuzi made a simple bow. “The Eternal Heaven’s unfilial son Zhou Xuzi greets the Senior Dragon Gods. With the five venerable ones leading us, the devil race will be like a candle that can be easily snuffed.”

The silent Venerable Withered Dragons finally showed a reaction when they heard the words “Eternal Heaven”. Their gazes swept across Zhou Xuzi before Long Yi gave a soft sigh and said, “The lass who created the Eternal Heaven God Realm was such a breathtaking talent. To think that her descendants would fall so far.”

“...!?” Zhou Xuzi’s head jerked up and shock rippled in his eyes.

He had actually called the Eternal Heaven Great Ancestor... a lass!?

These words had not only shocked Zhou Xuzi, they had also shocked Chi Wuyao and Qianye Ying’er who were spying on them from the south.

“This regal bearing, tone, and those words,” Qianye Wugu said. “These people might very well be the Dragon Monarchs or Dragon Gods of old.”

“To think that the dragon god race was holding such an ace up their sleeve. Terrifying, terrifying,” Qianye Bingzhu said.

“Given their enormous strength, it really doesn’t matter what status they used to hold.” Chi Wuyao’s eyes remained fixed on the gigantic floating city in the image. “What I am most concerned about is this strange city... What exactly is it!?”

The moment this floating city appeared, the violent unease in her heart instantly multiplied... It far exceeded the unease she felt when those five dreadful old ones had first appeared.

She could not even concentrate on continuing the orders that she was about to give Hua Jin.

Long Bai calmly surveyed the forces assembled before him as his voice shook the air. “I thank the gathered god emperors for sparing no effort in rushing over here. The disaster from the north has engulfed both the eastern and southern regions, and it is something even the heavens and earth cannot tolerate. Hence, I will have to trouble all of you to war alongside me in order to remove this threat.”

The Qilin Emperor bowed slightly as he said, “How could we dare disobey the command of the Dragon Monarch?”

The Chi Dragon Emperor took a big step forward, and his voice was even louder than the Qilin Emperor’s. “Exterminating the devil race is the solemn duty of our race. My Emperor Chi Realm has long been prepared for it, we were merely awaiting the Dragon Monarch’s return and command! Even if I die after this, I will not have a single regret!”

“That’s right!” the Hui Dragon Emperor yelled. “My Hui Dragon Realm has also been preparing for this day! Once we received the Dragon Monarch’s command, all of the Divine Masters in the Hui Dragon Realm were raring to go! Every single one of us has assembled here today without question! With the Dragon Monarch leading the charge, we will definitely wash that cursed devil race in a sea of their own blood!”

The attitudes and sentiments of the five king realms of the Western Divine Region had clearly changed.

The Ash Dragon God’s death and the Crimson Destruction Dragon God’s pathetic defeat had caused the five king realms to question the invincible aura of the Dragon God Realm. As a result, they would handle any given task with trepidation while working to preserve their strength in secret.

However, no one had guessed that the Dragon Monarch would give such an unprecedentedly tyrannical command on his return, one that quashed all thoughts of self-preservation.

As such they had all arrived in the Dragon God Domain with hearts filled with apprehension, but when they saw the full array of the Dragon God Realm’s forces assembled before them, all of their previous fears of the devil race and their previous thoughts questioning the invincibility of the Dragon God Realm vanished like smoke.

The Dragon Monarch was personally taking charge of this battle and all of the Dragon Gods, Dragon Sovereigns, and Master Dragons had been fully mobilized... Furthermore, he had even produced five of the most dreadful old monsters in existence to aid them.

This was before even accounting for the core Divine Masters of their five king realms.

With such a grand array of forces, what did they have to fear from the devils of the north?

Some of them felt like this wouldn't even result in a terrible battle. They would sweep in and smash them to bits like a wave smashing apart a sandcastle.

On the other hand, the only wild card that the devils had was the Devil Master Yun Che, a being who had always defied the bounds of logic and reason.

However, the five hidden monsters of the Dragon God Realm were just as big of a trump card!

Their attitudes naturally went through an adjustment due to this new factor.

The Dragon Monarch raised a hand to quiet the god emperors before he continued, "This dragon is greatly comforted by your ardent fervor to rid the world of the devil race. As all of you are Divine Masters who stand at the peak of the known universe, there is no need for this dragon to waste any more time speaking. Since everyone is present, please move into the World Dragon City. After that, we will travel straight to the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm, the place where the devil race has gathered all of their forces.

"The World... Dragon City?" the Qilin Emperor mumbled. He seemed to recognize the name from somewhere, but he simply couldn't recall it at the moment.

"This is?" The Blue Dragon Emperor stared at the floating city. The Dragon Monarch had just told them to "move into the World Dragon City". Could this floating city truly be some sort of special profound ship?

The Dragon Monarch calmly said, "This is the divine ship that the Dragon Gods' ancient ancestors left to us. We can use this ship to travel straight to the Southern Region's Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm! And we will only need two hours to get there!"

RUMBLE— — — —

After that, the image violently shook and collapsed.

"This is impossible!" Qianye Ying'er said as her pupils shrunk to dots. She strongly voiced her disbelief. "The fastest profound ship in the Western Divine Region is the Blue Dragon Realm's 'Tranquil Heart Temple' and its maximum speed is about the same as the fastest profound ship in the Eastern Divine Region, the Vanishing Moon Celestial Palace."

"Whether it is the Tranquil Heart Temple or the Vanishing Celestial Palace, they will still need at least three days to get here from the Dragon God Realm, even at their fastest speed. Furthermore, there is no way that this huge profound ship can keep up with those profound arks which were built for extreme speed! Two hours... that is simply preposterous!"

"No." Chi Wuyao breathed a long sigh as she spoke in an unhurried but lifeless manner. "Now that he is addressing all of the forces of the king realms of the west, there is no way that the Dragon Monarch would lie."

"Furthermore... the name 'World Dragon City' does exist in the fragments of memory contained within the devil soul I inherited."

If not for that, she wouldn't have become so flustered that she would be unable to maintain that image.

“...!?” Qianye Ying'er stared at her. “What is that... thing?”

Chi Wuyao replied, “The Spirit World of Heaven and Earth and the World Dragon City, those are the names of two special profound ships that existed since the ancient Era of the Gods. They were both also imbued with the power of the World Piercer. In fact... you've already seen the Spirit World of Heaven and Earth before.”

Qianye Ying'er's brow furrowed before she exclaimed, “Could it be... Yun Che's Primordial Profound Ark!?”

“That's right,” Chi Wuyao said with a nod of her head. “Even though it consumes a ridiculous amount of energy, you've personally witnessed the might of the Spirit World of Heaven and Earth. We relied on its very power to easily slip into the heart of the Eternal Heaven God Realm and launch our assault.”

“Meanwhile this World Dragon City... In the memories of my devil soul it did indeed belong to the dragon god race, but who would have thought that it was not destroyed in that terrible battle all those years ago and had actually survived to the present.”

Chi Wuyao's tone grew more somber with each word. “It is a profound ship on the same level as the Primordial Profound Ark. So even if you told me that it would only take an instant to reach here if it had enough resources, I would still believe you. Much less the two hours that the Dragon Monarch had just proclaimed.”

Qianye Ying'er's golden pupils shrank even further.

Two hours... The Western Divine Region would be able to launch their attack in two hours!?

Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu had been quietly soaking up everything on the sidelines. The moment they heard that, both of them immediately said, “Let's retreat.”

The core of their forces, the Devil Master, wasn't around, and the other side had not only gathered all of their core forces, they had even produced five old monsters out of thin air.

The devils had absolutely no chance of winning this battle.

To make matters worse, they only had two hours to retreat!

It was very clear that the Dragon Monarch had assembled the greatest possible force he could muster so that he could ruthlessly cut off all of the devil race's escape routes... He was determined to exterminate them!

If Chi Wuyao hadn't been able to secretly hijack Zhou Xuzi's soul in the first place, they wouldn't even have had these two hours!

The people of the world would only perceive the extreme lengths that Long Bai had taken to be his ruthlessness in dealing with the devil race. No one would ever believe that this had really originated from his personal hatred of Yun Che.

He wanted to drive Yun Che into ultimate despair, and the most terrible of endings!

“No, we can’t!” Qianye Ying’er said in a dark and cold voice as her brow dramatically sank. “If we retreat, what’s going to happen to Yun Che!?”

The Eternal Heaven Pearl was currently in the midst of maintaining the opened Eternal Heaven Divine Realm, it could not be carelessly moved around! If the devil race were to retreat... then would they simply leave the Eternal Heaven Pearl, and Yun Che and Shui Meiyin along with it, in the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm?

“If we retreat, we will still have life and hope. If we defend...” Chi Wuyao paused for a long time before she whispered, “How long can we truly defend for?”

Given the timeline that Yun Che had given them, he would need about two more days to emerge from the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm.

However, the full might of the Western Divine Region would descend upon them in two hours.

If they retreated... they could indeed preserve their lives and future. Retreating in a spread-out manner would mean that they would preserve a good part of their forces even if the Western Divine Region gave chase. Furthermore, once they escaped back to the Northern Divine Region, nothing would be able to threaten them any further.

But this choice was equivalent to abandoning Yun Che.

However, choosing to stubbornly defend this position... Unless a miracle occurred, the best case scenario would be the decimation of their forces and the worst case scenario would be complete annihilation. Moreover, it didn’t seem possible for them to buy enough time for Yun Che until he could emerge from the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm.

Qianye Ying’er’s hand suddenly shot out to grab Chi Wuyao’s shoulder, her fingers forcefully tightening.

“Chi Wuyao.” This was the first time Qianye Ying’er had ever spoken to Chi Wuyao in such a darkly vicious voice and her eyes were also gleaming with a shockingly dark malice. “I don’t care what you are thinking about right now, but you had better understand my position first!”

“Yun Che has to survive! Even if all your people from the Northern Divine Region have to die to ensure that!”

Her trembling fingers tightened their grip even further. “You’re someone who is most adept at stirring up the hearts and minds of the people, so I believe that you can definitely think of a way to get everyone to sell their lives for Yun Che even in this desperate situation... You must!”

“Do not talk to me about logic or rationality right now! And do not make me hate you!”

Chi Wuyao turned to give Qianye Ying’er a deep look, but she did not shake off the fingers that violently gripped her shoulder.

“I’m not as capable as you make me out to be. Furthermore, I won’t need to stir up anyone’s hearts and minds regarding this matter.”

In the end, she was still the Devil Queen and she had already fully regained her composure by now. As she stared at Qianye Ying'er, her pitch-black eyes had once more transformed into bottomless, soul-devouring abysses which could swallow up everything.

"If you want to choose to stay and defend this position, advocate leaving first," she whispered.

"..." Qianye Ying'er's golden eyes rippled and the hand which had fiercely grabbed Chi Wuyao's shoulder started to relax its grip.

Chapter 1828 - Deep Sea Crisis (3)

Inside the central hall of the Deep Sea God Realm, a pure, white light was circulating slowly around the Eternal Heaven Pearl but it was clearly dimmer than it was a few days ago. Standing guard faithfully and tirelessly around it were the three Yama Ancestors. It had been many days since Yun Che and Shui Meiyin had gone in, but they hadn't lost their concentration for even an instant.

The front of the central hall was filled with people. Even now, a great number of profound practitioners were flying over at top speed.

It was because the Devil Queen had sent out a critical alert order. Soon, every essential profound practitioner of the devil race, the god emperor, and the Sea Gods of Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm were present.

The Devil Queen stepped out into the open, and everyone focused their eyes on her. Considering the situation, whatever she was going to announce must be of the greatest importance.

"First, I would like to thank everyone for carrying out the Devil Master's order and preparing for the all-out assault against the Dragon God Realm."

Even as she spoke, her devil soul informed her that the World Dragon City had been activated, and that it was approaching them at a level of speed that couldn't even be described as "speed" anymore. Whatever pipe dream she might have had before, it was mercilessly crushed by the sight of the vessel leaping from one space to another with every passing instant.

Even so, she didn't allow her voice or her expression to waver in the slightest. The only visible change in her appearance was that her normally invasive charm was a tad weaker than before.

"But..." she sighed audibly as she said this, "I regret to say this, but the situation has changed, and not for the better."

Everyone held their breath at the same time.

"For a million years, we, the northern region devil race, have been forced to hide in the darkness like rats under the oppression of the three divine regions. Then, against all odds, you shattered the chains that bound us for so long that they almost felt like a part of us, and returned our will to this world once more."

"Make no mistake, you, all of you, are the pride of the Northern Divine Region and the devil race. No matter how dark our future may become, you will always be praised as the generation who made the impossible possible. You will always be the eternal flame of hope that keeps our future generations going."

“For now though, this... is where our journey must come to an end.”

It sounded like Chi Wuyao was praising their outstanding achievements, but no one felt good about it for obvious reasons... Something was deeply wrong here.

“Your Majesty,” Fen Daoqi took the initiative to broach the subject, “what happened? Please speak clearly. It is thanks to the Devil Master and you that we’ve come this far. And we will bravely follow you two even to the ends of the world.”

Chi Wuyao shot him a glance before saying, “Your bravery was never in question. It is I who have committed a grave blunder. I recently discovered that I’ve completely underestimated the Dragon God Realm and the Western Divine Region’s strength.”

A small commotion broke out, but Chi Wuyao’s next words silenced it immediately.

“We are not in familiar territory, but I’m sure that some of you have heard of the Dragon God Realm’s recent movements. First, Long Bai has returned earlier than expected. Second, not only did the Dragon Monarch not underestimate us, he issued a most ruthless order, one that rendered all the psychological attacks we have accrued against the Western Divine Region so far useless.”

“Not only has the Dragon Monarch conscripted every Divine Master of the five king realms into his army, he has recalled every Dragon God, Dragon Sovereign, and Master Dragon as well. In total, there are over eight hundred Divine Masters in the Dragon God Realm right now... it is a force we cannot ever hope to fight directly.”

“Not only that, five hidden powers who are at least as strong as Crimson Destruction Dragon God himself have emerged. Suppose that I have a plan that could deal with eight hundred Divine Masters, these five Dragon Gods... turned even that flimsy hope into nothing.”

Not far away, a frowning Qianye Ying’er had to restrain herself from interrupting Chi Wuyao.

She should be giving assurances to the people right now, not tell them the whole truth and spread despair even more! What in the world was she thinking!?

At this point, every devil person’s expression had taken a turn for the worst. They felt as if the Devil Queen had poured a bucket of ice water over their fighting spirit, extinguishing it in an instant.

A surprised Yan Tianxiao implored urgently, “Your Majesty, are you saying that we should—”

“Retreat, yes!” Chi Wuyao’s hard gaze swept across the people as she continued, “All realms are to organize an immediate retreat as soon as this meeting is over! In half an hour at most, you are to organize the men into your respective profound arks, scatter in all directions, and escape to the Northern Divine Region at top speed!”

Clamor clamor

Forget the rest of the devil people, even the Yama Devils, the Witches, and the Moon Eaters could scarcely believe their ears.

“Wait!” Most people didn’t have the authority to question the Devil Queen’s orders, but the Yama Emperor did. Frowning deeply and speaking in an even deeper tone, he asked, “Why the urgency? Half an hour is just too much!”

Chi Wuyao replied, “Because the enemy will descend upon us in two hours at most!”

Chi Wuyao hadn’t changed her tone, but the listeners felt like they were struck by lightning anyway.

The Western Divine Region would hit them in... two hours?

Naturally, everyone’s first thought was that the Devil Queen’s claim was impossible. Before they could voice their accusations though, Chi Wuyao waved her arm and brought up a projection. It was the image she spied through Zhou Xuzi’s soul.

In the projection, they saw a floating city with many terrifying profound practitioners in it, especially the gray or white figures standing at the center of it all. Their “weight” was enough to stifle their breath even through a projection.

That wasn’t the scariest thing, however. It was the fact that the space outside the floating city was changing by the instant, and that it didn’t look like it was flying at all. No, it looked like the floating city was leaping across dimensions itself!

At the same time, a completely unfamiliar term called “Spatial Jump” popped into everyone’s mind!

“What... is that!?” Yan Tianxiao exclaimed in shock.

“This is a live projection I conjured from a spy I planted in the Western Divine Region. What you’re seeing is what is happening right now,” Chi Wuyao said. “The Dragon God Realm calls this floating city the ‘World Dragon City’. It is a profound ship the Dragon God Realm has hidden from the other realms until now. It is an inheritance of the ancient Dragon Gods, and it contains the power of the World Piercer in it... you should understand now that I was neither lying nor exaggerating when I said that they will arrive in two hours at most!”

“We were hoping to catch the Dragon God Realm by surprise, but it turned out that the Dragon God Realm was harboring the same thoughts as us. Worse, their plan was more ruthless, devious and sudden than ours!”

Doubt, shock, panic. Every emotion erupted at this moment.

Not only that, the Sea Gods and Divine Envoys of Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm were staring at their master, Cang Shitian as well. The god emperor was furrowing his brows and brooding like a dark cloud, but he chose to keep his silence for now.

The king realms of the Western Divine Region had come together as one, the hidden Dragon Gods had returned to the world, and their destination... was none other than the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm!

If a battle truly took place here, it would be no exaggeration to claim that the very realm they were standing on would shatter into dust!

Buzz

Yan Tianxiao waved his hands and created a buzz that shook everyone's ears and eliminated all the noise. Then, he asked solemnly, "Has the Devil Master agreed to this?"

The Devil Queen shook her head at first, but stopped herself midway and nodded slowly. "There's no need to hide anything now, I suppose."

She moved out of the way and revealed the sealed entrance to the central hall. It was surrounded by seven flowing barriers. "Earlier, I told you all that the Devil Master has entered secluded cultivation after chancing upon a breakthrough opportunity. The truth is, he found the way to use the Eternal Heaven Pearl and activate the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm. Right now, he is cultivating inside it."

There was practically no one who didn't know that the Eternal Heaven Pearl was in Yun Che's hands.

"...!?" Qianye Ying'er shot Chi Wuyao another incredulous look. Why did she reveal this as well?

Qianye Ying'er didn't understand what it meant to exchange honesty with honesty in the face of death.

Her wits and ruthlessness might be surpassed by no one, but her ability to control the will of the people was ultimately far below Chi Wuyao's.

"...is it not possible to enter or exit the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm freely?" Yan Tianxiao asked.

Chi Wuyao shook her head before replying, "The Eternal Heaven Divine Realm is a world with its own independent laws. It is completely separate from the real world, meaning that the Devil Master has no way of knowing what is going on right now. There is no way to send a message to him either."

"Moreover, external disruption is absolutely forbidden after the Eternal Heaven Pearl is activated. Otherwise, the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm may collapse, and in the worst case scenario... the Devil Master himself may die with it."

Yan Tianxiao's expression grew solemn. "How much longer will the Devil Master be cultivating inside the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm?"

"Two days," Chi Wuyao said indifferently. "The Devil Master is the Devil Emperor reincarnate, and he's capable of creating miracles no matter the situation. This time though... fate isn't on our side. We must retreat."

"But..." Fen Daoqi sucked in a deep breath before asking, "what happens to the Devil Master if we retreat now? I understand that the Eternal Heaven Pearl mustn't be disrupted, but is it possible to transfer it to a profound ark? Using the gentlest means we can think of?"

Chi Wuyao fell silent for a moment before sidestepping the question. "Worry not, I shall protect him myself. Your duty is to leave immediately. We have already dilly-dallied for too long."

The meaning behind her words became clear. The commotion turned into deathly silence once more.

"You are saying that we can retreat, but the Devil Master cannot? But... but that means..."

Chi Wuyao said, "It is a terrible choice, but it is also the only choice we have. Without the Devil Master, any battle waged against the Western Divine Region can only end in complete annihilation. If we leave now, we will still have hope and a future."

She swept her gaze across the crowd again before frowning suddenly. "What else are you people waiting for? We only have two hours left! We cannot afford to waste a single moment! Leave and make preparations for the retreat now!"

"N-NO!"

A young man's cry suddenly cut through the air. It was Tian Guhu with a distorted expression on his face, "We can never leave the Devil Master behind!"

Chi Wuyao glared at him. "Are you going to die for nothing then!? You have already created history! You have already earned more than enough glory! Right now, retreating is the wisest and only choice we have! As long as we escape back to the Northern Divine Region, as long as we stay alive, there is always hope to make a comeback! This is not the time to be acting emotionally!"

"Without the Devil Master, we wouldn't have forged the era of devils, however short it may be! Without the Devil Master, we wouldn't be creating any history! Without the Devil Master, we wouldn't even have the strength to set foot on this land right now!"

Tian Guhu's face was red, and his voice was shivering. "We may not survive at this last hurdle, but at least we would've shown that we are penned animals of the Northern Divine Region no longer! It was our ancestors' long-cherished wish to look down on our oppressors and savor their fear!"

"The one who truly forged this era and miracle isn't us, but the Devil Master! We are just lucky devils who got to enjoy the shadows cast by his darkness! With that in mind, I can never leave the Devil Master to face the Western Divine Region himself!"

"This is an order!" Chi Wuyao's voice grew severe.

"Forgive me, but that is one order I will not obey!" Tian Guhu dropped to his knees, but his determination was unwavering. "If I somehow survive this crisis, you may punish me however you wish. But the only way you're making me abandon the Devil Master in a time of crisis... is to execute me!"

"..." Chi Wuyao remained frowning, but her voice softened a bit as she explained patiently, "Tian Guhu, I am not blind to your loyalty. However, while it makes sense for me, the wife of the Devil Master to live and die with him, you are different. Your life and strength should be devoted to the survival of the Northern Divine Region. You don't deserve to die a worthless death for the Devil Master."

"I must disagree, Your Majesty!" Tian Guhu replied without hesitation, "Starting now on, Guhu of Tian swears to spill all his blood and power only for the Devil Master!"

His words caused ears to ring, hearts to race, and souls to shiver.

"Well said, my son!!"

Tian Muyi, the Imperial Heaven Realm King roared as he stood next to Tian Guhu. His subsequent declaration shook the ground itself. "That we are standing on this soil and basking in its sun is already a favor we may never repay in a lifetime! To leave the Devil Master to die while we escape? The guilt would haunt me until I die!"

“If our war against the heavens must end here, so be it! We will simply entrust our duty to the next generation. But today, Imperial Heaven Realm King Tian Muyi will fight for the Devil Master with all his power!”

He even turned around and shouted, “Men of my Imperial Heaven Realm, heed my call! This upcoming battle is a battle of no return! This battle is fought in the name of the Devil Master and the Devil Master only!”

“All those who wish to leave may board the Imperial Heaven Ship and leave now! If you manage to return to the Northern Divine Region, I trust you to become the guide and hope of our future generations! Remember, no one will stop you, and no one will scorn you for making this choice!”

“As for those who wish to fight for the Devil Master, stand behind my back right now!”

A scene that shocked every Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm profound practitioner present and even Qianye Ying'er happened. Every Imperial Heaven Realm profound practitioner had moved behind Tian Muyi and Tian Guhu like they had practiced this their whole life.

Not one person had chosen to escape this fight!

Chapter 1829 - Deep Sea Crisis (4)

The most stunning thing of them all wasn't even that they had all chosen to protect the Devil Master to their deaths. It was that not a single one of them had hesitated when they made the choice.

It meant that the choice wasn't a product of intimidation or persuasion. It was something they truly believed from the bottom of their hearts.

Considering that it had been stated time and time again that staying behind was practically a death sentence, it was an unbelievable outcome!

It was at this moment Yan Tianxiao spoke up, “All Yama Devils, Yama Ghosts, Yama Guards and Yama Soldiers, heed my call. Those who wish to stay behind and fight for the Devil Master, you will prepare for battle right now. But know that there is almost no chance you will witness the dawn of another day, and that all our struggles may just amount to a bit more time for our Devil Master.”

“All those who wish to leave, you will engrave this generation of Yama Devils and Northern Divine Region into the souls of our future generations! You will also be responsible for ensuring the continuation and reinvigoration of the Yama Devil bloodline!”

He fell silent, and again, not a single profound practitioner of the Yama Devil Realm chose to leave.

“...” Yan Tianxiao turned around to look at his people. His heart boiled something fierce when he saw the panic on their faces turning into unyielding determination.

“Hehe, it looks like everyone is of the same mind.” Fen Daoqi chuckled as he turned around to look at the Moon Eaters one by one. “When the Burning Moon God Emperor perished at the hands of the Devil Master, the Burning Moon Realm couldn't deny that they felt humiliation, reluctance, and even hatred toward the Devil Master.”

“But today, darkness has broken out of its prison, and the light of the devil shines bright in the sky. These few months of freedom were short, but every moment was a moment our ancestors dared not even dream of. Those old grudges seem so insignificant compared to what we have today.”

“If only for the respect and admiration in my heart, I, Fen Daoqi, am fully willing to give my life for the Devil Master!”

Fen Daoqi had spoken in a calm and peaceful tone, and yet his determination seeped into everyone’s hearts like water anyway. There were no regrets.

“A million lifetimes will not be able to repay the fact that the Devil Master has brought us all here today! It is our turn to fight for the Devil Master!” a Moon Eater roared at the top of his lungs.

Unlike the Imperial Heaven Realm, the Yama Devil Realm and the Burning Moon Realm were king realms. And yet not a single person had chosen to retreat.

This scene shocked the profound practitioners of the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm so badly that one of the Sea Gods said in a hushed voice, “This has to be a setup... right?”

“Of course it is. There’s just no way!” another Sea God echoed the sentiment.

As members of a king realm themselves, they knew better than anyone there was nothing a king realm feared more than to lose their lineage. It was because they could ill afford to lose their cultivation and their status in most circumstances, much less on a hopeless undertaking like this. In that sense, it would be apt to describe the Divine Masters of a king realm as the biggest cowards in the entire world.

“...” Cang Shitian still didn’t say anything. His twitching eyebrows were the only visible reaction on his face.

“That’s right! It’s time we fight for the Devil Master!” A roar overwhelmed the Sea God’s hidden jeers in an instant.

“Not only did the Devil Master give us new life, he pulled the Northern Divine Region from the brink of extinction! That is a kindness even a hundred generations will be hard pressed to repay! If we are to abandon him now and escape ourselves, how will we ever be able to face ourselves? What would be the difference between us and those dogshit animals who backstabbed the Devil Master when he saved the world!?”

“I haven’t planned to return alive from the moment I stepped out of the Northern Divine Region, much less partake in the conquering of the Eastern Divine Region and Southern Divine Region with my own arms and legs! I have no more regrets in this life! I will gladly die a million times for the Devil Master!”

Huo Tianxing, the Desolate Calamity Realm King spoke coolly, but his eyes looked like burning coal.

“Dying and ending my lineage here may bring shame to my ancestors, but I’m sure they’d be even more ashamed if I were to abandon the Devil Master now for a moment of living.”

He patted his proudest son on his shoulder, “Huang’er, from this moment onward, we will fight not for Desolate Calamity Realm, nor the Northern Divine Region. We fight only for the Devil Master... are you afraid?”

"I am." The Desolate Calamity Prince nodded once before shaking his head slowly. When he looked up again, his eyes burned with never-before-seen determination. "But if it's for the Devil Master, then not even ten times the fear is enough to make me take a single step backward!"

He turned around, raised his arms, and shouted like thunder, "Men of the Desolate Calamity Realm, we have already created miracles and witnessed history being made under the Devil Master's leadership. Do we have any more regrets? No? Then today, we die for the Devil Master!"

Blood poured into the Desolate Calamity Realm profound practitioners' heads, and both their faces and their eyes turned as red as fire. Together, they shouted, "We die for the Devil Master!"

The chant was supposed to come from the profound practitioners of the Desolate Calamity Realm only, but somehow, it woke something from the devil people's hearts and caused them to shout,

"We die for the Devil Master!"

"We die for the Devil Master!"

Like a spark that started an inferno, the chant spread to every corner of the central hall, the palace, and even the god realm itself. Soon, even the sky itself was shaking from the war cry:

"WE DIE FOR THE DEVIL MASTER!!"

"WE DIE FOR THE DEVIL MASTER!!!"

Every northern region devil person was roaring at the top of their lungs. Every shout only affirmed their determination and raised their fire even further.

Their fists were clenched, their auras were rising. Before they knew it, the fear, panic and despair that had sapped their strength like ice earlier were gone like they had never existed. All that was left in their eyes and on their faces... was the blazing will to fight.

The war cry might have happened inside the Deep Sea God Realm, but the profound practitioners outside the god realm were shaken by it as well.

It was just like that day they stepped out of the Northern Divine Region together; the day their wills became united as one.

This time though, not only did the devil people come together faster than before, their unity exceeded even that time.

The choice should've been as clear as day. One was a retreat that only a complete idiot would consider to be humiliating, and the other a death trap with no return. And yet every devil person of every king realm, upper star realm, and middle star realm who weren't even qualified to participate in this battle at all... choose not to retreat.

Even Qianye Ying'er couldn't believe her own eyes for a very long time.

In her original estimate, they should be thanking their lucky stars if they managed to persuade even half of the devil people to stay... After all, it really was the point of no return.

Again and again she scanned Chi Wuyao. Again and again she confirmed that the Devil Queen hadn't been using her devilish powers at all. In fact, she had purposely kept her charm to a minimum.

"What... what the..." The Sea Gods and Divine Envoys stared at the devil people in disbelief. Words couldn't begin to describe the shock in their hearts.

Each and every one of these people—especially those that belonged to upper star realms or higher—bore the heavy responsibility of continuing their lineage and guiding the future generations. And yet they had chosen to die instead of abandoning their Devil Master... this couldn't even be described as loyalty anymore. To the devil people, the Devil Master had become a faith that could never be sullied or abandoned.

Suddenly, a different kind of emotion started overcoming their shock and disbelief. The screams of the devil people suddenly felt unbearably accusatory for some reason. It was then they realized... that that emotion was shame.

Thanks to a certain scene being broadcasted to the entire world through the Eternal Heaven Projection, there was no one who didn't know that the god emperors had chosen to repay Yun Che's act of saving the world with the greatest betrayal. It was an eternal stain that not even time could wash away.

On the other hand, the "sinful", "filthy", and "intolerable" devil people showed in the simplest and most stunning manner what it truly meant to repay a favor with death.

Their eyes unwittingly met one another. They immediately looked down and felt that shame growing even more.

For the first time, the rulemakers and the kings of the God Realm were forced to reevaluate their idea of the term "devil people".

"Phew..."

It was at this moment Cang Shitian finally broke his silence and murmured to himself, "What beautiful unity, what enviable loyalty. There is nothing in the world more luxurious than this."

"What do we do, my lord?" the closest Sea God to him asked in a low voice.

"It will be too late if we wait any longer," another Sea God said.

"..." Cang Shitian shot Chi Wuyao a look. Sensing his unconcealed gaze, the Devil Queen simply faced toward him, nodded, and looked back at the devil people as if it was just a normal exchange of gestures. There was no icy warning or subtle threats that he could sense at all.

"Heh, what an impressive woman. No wonder she is crowned the Devil Queen of the Northern Divine Region," Cang Shitian muttered something no one understood with a complex expression on his face.

Meanwhile, the six Star Gods arrived beside Caizhi.

Their leader, Aster the Heavenly Jade Star God said to her, "Princess, if you leave, we leave. If you stay, we stay."

Caizhi shot them a look before looking at the central hall where Yun Che was. Her aura bubbled restlessly as if she couldn't wait to head into battle.

That was all the response they needed.

On the other hand, the Brahma Kings and Brahma Monarch Divine Envoys were considerably more perplexed than they were. They sent Gu Zhu a sound transmission asking, "What should we do, Mentor Gu?"

"We stay," Gu Zhu replied indifferently. "The young miss will be angry if you withdraw."

Both the Brahma Kings and the Divine Envoys had to stifle a sigh.

Sigh, our poor, pitiful Brahma Monarch Realm. When will our tribulations end?

Finally, Chi Wuyao said in a soft voice that somehow still made itself heard, "Please calm yourselves and think carefully! The core of the Northern Divine Region is here! What future will we have if you are all dead?"

"Enough, Your Majesty!" Yan Tianxiao waved her off. "Our hands are ours, our legs are ours, and the same goes for our lives and power. We have made our decision, and not even you can change our minds now."

"Your Majesty, let us waste no more time on this and move on to the war preparations, shall we?" Fen Daoqi said seriously. "The Western Divine Region is powerful beyond imagination, but the Devil Master himself is the Devil Emperor incarnate and a man of miracles! With our bodies and your intelligence, we may just be able to stall out the enemy long enough for the Devil Master to return."

"Once the Devil Master exits the Eternal Heaven Pearl, we will pave the way with our bodies and deliver the Devil Master to safety... as long the Devil Master survives, the flames of hope of the Northern Divine Region will never die!"

Fen Daoqi's words struck a chord in the masses' hearts and caused them to roar again.

"That's right!" Tian Guhu shouted loudly, "Please believe in us, Your Majesty! We will not die uselessly until the last drop of our blood falls! We will defend the Devil Master until he returns!"

Chi Wuyao stared at the crowd for a very long time until finally, she let out a heavy sigh. "Very well then. We will defend the Devil Master with every drop of our power."

The devil people abruptly fell silent, and they clenched their fists until the veins looked like they would burst. Every living being naturally feared death, but if that fear was surpassed by faith, it would transform into the greatest fuel that filled every vein in one's body with fire.

Chi Wuyao raised her hand and declared her first order with unquestionable authority, "All realms, return to your positions, ready your weapons and profound artifacts, and gather your strength to peak form."

"God Emperor Shitian, activate the Deep Sea Barrier now and evacuate as many profound practitioners outside the Deep Sea God Realm as you are able."

“This is an all-out defense battle, so no one is to exit the barrier without orders, much less launch an assault on their own!”

“All Divine Masters are to return to this place and assemble in forty five minutes! Everyone who isn’t a Divine Master should stand by your profound artifacts and formations and be ready to operate them at a moment’s notice!”

.....

A long chain of orders later, the northern region’s profound practitioners finally dispersed completely to carry out their orders. A drastic change came over the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm.

After that, Chi Wuyao passed through the barrier and entered the central hall.

She ordered the three Yama Ancestors, “Yan One, Yan Two, Yan Three, follow me. For now, there is no need to guard this place.”

Qianye Ying’er walked in just in time to hear this. She immediately frowned and voiced her disagreement, “Wait! You can mobilize anyone you want, but not them!”

The three Yama Ancestors’ necks shrank in unison when they heard Qianye Ying’er’s words.

“I know what you’re worried about,” Chi Wuyao said, “but they are the greatest power we possess right now. I’m going to need them... to face down the Dragon Monarch.”

Qianye Ying’er frowned slightly. “You’re going to—”

She cut herself off midway and still shook her head. “That’s still unacceptable. There must be at least one person guarding him.”

“Alright,” Chi Wuyao relented, “Yan Three, you may stay. Again, no matter what happens in the future, you mustn’t allow anyone or anything to touch this place, understand?”

“Yes,” replied Yan Three.

Qianye Ying’er spoke again, “No, leave Yan One here.”

“...let’s both take a step back, shall we?” Chi Wuyao shot her a helpless look. “Yan Two, you stay behind to protect the Devil Master. Yan One, Yan Three, the two of you will follow me.”

“Yes, yes,” Yan Two accepted his orders and returned to his seat.

This time, Qianye Ying’er finally kept quiet.

Yan One and Three were the only ones who looked sad.

“Chi Wuyao, you are amazing,” said Qianye Ying’er with a complicated expression. “I must admit that I hadn’t expected this outcome at all.”

However, Chi Wuyao shook her head and said, “No. I already told you that I am not as capable as you think. I didn’t compel them to want to die for the Devil Master, their will is entirely their own. All I did was to bring it out into the open.”

“Besides,” Chi Wuyao smiled as her eyes turned distant, “it is what he deserves.”

“Don’t you think that the price is too high though? This may be the death of the core of the Northern Divine Region and their future,” said Qianye Ying’er while staring straight into Chi Wuyao’s eyes. “This is the most unacceptable outcome for the northern region Devil Queen, am I right?”

Chi Wuyao shot her a smile but didn’t say anything.

When they walked out of the central hall, Cang Shitian immediately walked up to them. He seemed to have been waiting for some time.

“The Deep Sea Barrier has been activated,” said Cang Shitian. For the first time, he didn’t bow or address the Devil Queen as “Your Majesty”.

“Thank you,” Chi Wuyao said indifferently, “I heard that the power of the Deep Sea lies in its myriad forms. I also heard that it is especially suited for defense. Considering that this is the final barrier of your Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm, it must be able to astound even the likes of the Western Divine Region.”

“There are many things I dare not claim to be true, but the efficacy of this Deep Sea Barrier is not among them. You won’t be disappointed, Devil Queen.” Cang Shitian smiled a little before asking suddenly, “If you don’t mind, I have a question for you.”

“Oh?” Chi Wuyao glanced at him.

“Considering the current situation, the chances that your forces will survive is almost zero. However, you are about to entrust the first and most important defense line to my Deep Sea Barrier; to me.”

It was impossible to decipher Cang Shitian’s expression. “Aren’t you afraid that I’ll stab you in the back? If I open up a way when the Western Divine Region shows up, the Deep Sea Realm may still suffer severe repercussions, but the merit should be enough to lessen the punishment somewhat. At the very least, we wouldn’t be wiped out to the last. On the other hand, if I were to stick with you and fight the Western Divine Region until the end, they would definitely destroy me and my entire realm.”

“You should know that I, Cang Shitian, am a smart man... and this choice is about as simple as it gets.”

Chapter 1830 - Deep Sea Crisis (5)

As the situation changed, Cang Shitian’s attitude had clearly changed as well.

Previously, he had to bend his knees to the devil race in order to protect himself and to prevent the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm from turning into the next Southern Sea Realm.

Now though, he held the initiative... because he was the one who controlled the Deep Sea Barrier.

If he chose to backstab the devil race and open the barrier after the Western Divine Region arrived, their already hopeless situation would become even more hopeless than it already was. Not only that, the merit he would earn from doing it might even be enough to cancel his crime for having submitted to the devil race.

It was the wisest and simplest choice... so simple, that even a three year old couldn’t make the wrong decision.

The Deep Sea Sea Gods and Divine Envoys at least were clearly anticipating it. They were all waiting for Cang Shitian to give that order.

However, not only did the Devil Queen not raise her guard in his presence, she didn't demand that he submit to something like the Brahma Soul Death-Wishing Mark. Forget taking control of the Deep Sea Divine Realm by force, she hadn't even warned him verbally or shot him a warning stare.

Her lack of reaction greatly piqued Cang Shitian's interest and curiosity.

After all, the Devil Queen he knew was anything but a "good person".

Chi Wuyao replied in an indifferent tone, "I heard that you, God Emperor Shitian, were the first person to swear his loyalty to the Devil Master after the Southern Sea Realm was destroyed. In fact, you even attacked the Southern Sea God Emperor prematurely and got ahead of both the Xuanyuan God Emperor and the Purple Micro God Emperor."

"The Xuanyuan God Emperor and Purple Micro God Emperor are of the follower type, so their choice to submit to the Devil Master at the time was hardly unexpected. Your choice and your decisiveness however, deeply interests me. It is why I have spent some time researching you recently."

"Is that so? What kind of person do you think I am then, Devil Queen?" Cang Shitian asked with a grin.

"You are a man who refuses to obey the norm," answered Chi Wuyao directly. "When you begged the Devil Master to take you in, you gave him a most curious answer. You complained that the world was too 'boring'."

Cang Shitian: "..."

"That was not the only answer you gave, but it is the only one that I chose to believe, even if it was the least believable reason of them all for someone of your status. Why do I say so? Because it fits the terrible infamy you've made for yourself in the God Realm."

"For the past month, you have done everything in your power to seize the Southern Sea Realm, Xuanyuan Realm and Purple Micro Realm's resources. You have spared no effort to collect intel on the Western Divine Region and the remnants of the Southern Sea. You used everything trick up your sleeve to perform your duties most wonderfully."

"Most people would think that you're just trying your best to express your loyalty... but in reality, you did it because you enjoyed it, didn't you? Everything you've been ordered to do so far was something you have always wanted to do, but were never able to... until now."

"..." Cang Shitian's eyes started twitching uncontrollably.

Her eyes were covered by black mist, so he could only catch glimpses of her gaze from time to time. That alone still sent a chill through his heart.

They couldn't have had more than ten exchanges since their first meeting, and yet he felt like she had seen through his entire person completely.

Chi Wuyao had already walked past him by the time he awoke from his daze. “You have been a god emperor for a long time, so long that few things in the world can stimulate you anymore. To you, the inability to vent your frustrations was no different from torture.”

“That’s why you were very excited when the Northern Divine Region invaded, and darkness blotted out the heavens.”

“Well, a new opportunity has appeared before you. It is up to you to take the risky gamble, thrill seeker.”

“Am I gambling, or are you gambling?” Cang Shitian asked.

“We both are,” said Chi Wuyao with a smile. “But if you need a little push, I can give you that. You are a man who jumps into the darkness like an excited child and dreams of witnessing the change of the world in your lifetime. You won’t make the safe choice and become a boring emperor like Xuanyuan and Purple Micro, right? That would be a shame.”

“...” Cang Shitian narrowed his eyes but said nothing.

Qianye Ying’er had been staring intently at Chi Wuyao’s back throughout the conversation. She thought to herself: if this witch ever becomes an enemy... she will die first no matter the cost!

“Oh right.” Chi Wuyao suddenly stopped in her tracks and looked at Shitian again. “Can you adjust the Deep Sea Barrier to just thirty percent of its full power?”

Cang Shitian replied, “Of course. The Deep Sea divine power is capable of countless changes, much less basic energy control.”

“Very good. When you activate the Deep Sea Barrier later, please make sure it’s at thirty percent power,” Chi Wuyao said.

“But why?” Cang Shitian frowned. “It will take a not insignificant amount of time to reactivate it at full power. It is practically suicide against the Western Divine Region’s forces.”

“You only need to do what you’re told.”

The Devil Queen’s voice was faint, but the authority behind it was unquestionable.

“Very well. I will do as you command, Devil Queen,” Cang Shitian stopped asking questions and accepted the order.

.....

The news that the full might of the six king realms of the Western Divine Region was about to bear down on the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm sent countless Deep Sea profound practitioners fleeing like headless chickens. Countless people and profound arks were scattering in every direction.

Rumble rumble rumble...

A while later, a blue-colored barrier appeared in the sky before expanding slowly to envelop the entire Deep Sea God Realm.

The crystalline blue energy of the barrier made it look like a bubble that might burst at the slightest contact. It was hard to believe that it would be the ultimate barrier of a southern region king realm.

Time passed quickly and mercilessly. Two hours passed in the blink of an eye.

In the central hall, Chi Wuyao finally turned around and faced the entrance.

The last thirty minutes before the inevitable was supposed to be the busiest time, and yet she had spent it staring at the Eternal Heaven Pearl until the very last moment.

In the end, Yun Che hadn't appeared ahead of time, not that she thought that a miracle would happen from the beginning.

Back facing toward the Eternal Heaven Pearl, Chi Wuyao started walking toward the entrance. Her eyes blackened with every step she took until they looked like a pair soul devouring abysses.

Yun Che, Mu Xuanyin and I have watched you grow, taught you, felt our hearts flutter for you, and witnessed all of your good or bad moments...

For you... she was willing to give up the Snow Song Realm she had protected her whole life.

For you... I am willing to end the future of the Northern Divine Region as well.

If you are able to escape, even when no one else can, then...

Given enough reason, even the most logical woman would want to act illogically once in a while.

I'm sorry... I don't have even the slightest confidence that I'll be able to do it... two days is just too long, too long... if only you could hear our voices... if only you could appear even a day sooner...

The sky of Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm was dark when she exited the central hall.

Every Divine Master was gathered in front of the entrance. Everyone was present. Not a single person had withdrawn from the battle.

No energy swirled in the air despite the terrifying lineup, however. There was only suffocating silence.

The Northern Region profound practitioners looked at Chi Wuyao. The Deep Sea profound practitioners looked at Cang Shitian.

"Let's go."

Two simple words opened the curtains for a great battle that would stun countless star realms to come.

"Let's go!" said Yan Tianxiao with a light wave of his hand. He sounded neither excited nor tragic. There was only calm.

They moved to the west of the Deep Sea God Realm and stared at the empty space where the enemy was expected to appear. If anyone had any lingering fear before, they were gone now... after all, they were the ones who chose to insert half their bodies into the grave.

When even death could no longer strike fear into a person, all that was left was the will to fight until the last drop of blood.

They didn't have to wait too long. An unnatural spatial distortion suddenly appeared out of nowhere, and the next moment an impossibly huge floating city flashed into existence.

BOOM !!!!!

The World Dragon City slammed into the Deep Sea Barrier like a meteor.

The crystalline blue barrier shivered intensely. Thousands of kilometers of earth outside Deep Sea God Realm was flattened like soft clay.

If they hadn't evacuated the people earlier, this impact alone would've taken countless lives.

The floating city stopped above the barrier after the impact. At the same time, many terrifying pressures passed through the Deep Sea Barrier and enveloped the entire Deep Sea God Realm in a vice-like grip. Hearts began racing many times faster than before.

In the God Realm, Divine Masters were the pinnacle of all existences. Those who became a Divine Master gained the right to disdain anything that wasn't a king realm. Even the king of an upper star realm could decide the fate of a middle star realm with the snap of a finger.

Divine Master Realm was the realm countless profound practitioners dreamed of attaining, but physically couldn't do it even if they cultivated their whole lives.

So... how much pressure was six king realms worth of Divine Masters exuding? The strongest king realms in the world no less?

Suffice to say, it was something no mortal could ever imagine.

The Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm was a king realm themselves, but even they seemed to be shivering before the pressure.

"God Emperor, have you—" a Sea God implored in the softest voice possible only to be shut down rudely by his master.

"Shut up," growled Cang Shitian. When he lifted his head and stared at the floating city, the struggle in his eyes suddenly vanished like it was never there. Taking its place was a blazing madness that erupted like a volcano.

Ah...

What a terrifying pressure this is! It feels like my soul is being torn to pieces!

The despair is physical... the only outcome I can see from this is the destruction of the Deep Sea Realm, and the death of everyone who chose to resist!

But if I can turn this around... if I make the impossible bet and actually win...

This is madness alright... so much madness that I can't wait to bet on it with my life!

His eyeballs were shivering, his scalp was completely numb, and every pore on his body was shivering with fright and excitement... he knew then that he would make a mad choice no one sane would ever make.

He nearly ejaculated from the decision alone.

This is life! This is the choice—no, the entertainment a true god emperor would enjoy!

Long Bai slowly stepped out of the floating city. He looked at the king realm below.

In the God Realm, there were sixteen god emperors, but only one monarch!

Right now, that monarch was standing right above their heads and looking down on them like a god. Everything and everyone was but ants before him.