

The Gods 1941

Chapter 1941 - Emperor's Rage

The phoenix cry was still ongoing when Mu Xuanyin became one with the image of the Ice Phoenix, and the Snow Princess Sword became charged with incredible energy. Grim and determined, she stabbed toward the inescapable shadow with Broken Moon Oblivion.

Hideous darkness clashed against dazzling ice. Shrill explosions deafened the ears as an icy blue haze filled the space before bursting like a star in the dark night. The light overwhelmed the darkness and spread across countless nearby stars and star realms.

This was her second warning to Yun Che to stay away.

The sheer brightness of the chilly light stabbed into Nan Zhaoguang's eyes and caused his pupils to contract involuntarily. At the same time, his outstretched hand abruptly shuddered as Mu Xuanyin's counterattack blew a bloody hole right at the center of his palm. Dark blood scattered all over the place.

"Hiss... this woman!" Nan Zhaoming uttered through clenched teeth.

Mu Xuanyin had poured all of her Ice Phoenix divine power into the ultimate attack, and the result was as stunning as it was beautiful. Unfortunately, the chasm of power between herself and Nan Zhaoming was just too great. The burning ice only lasted a couple of breaths before it declined rapidly, and soon it began breaking down layer by layer under Nan Zhaoming's dark energy.

Nan Zhaoming was shocked, but he quickly recovered his composure and sealed the wound in his palm with dark energy. At the same time, his gaze grew a bit darker. He wasn't expecting the woman to give him a second pleasant surprise, but her resistance only strengthened his desire to capture her.

Darkness quickly refilled the void as the icy light declined at an exponential rate. Eventually, even the light surrounding Mu Xuanyin had begun dimming in earnest. When Nan Zhaoming abruptly turned over his blood-drenched palm, she shook like she had been dealt a heavy blow, the Snow Princess Sword's light winked out like it never existed. At the same time, the darkness covered up nearly half of her body in an instant.

"You put up an interesting struggle..." Nan Zhaoming praised, "Unfortunately—"

It was at this moment a sharp whistling sound erupted from the distance. A pair of immense profound energies struck the darkness at the same time and brought the advancement of the darkness to a dead halt.

At the same time, a golden beam pierced through the distant void like lightning and wrapped around Mu Xuanyin's waist. It didn't harm her though. In fact, the second the mysterious energy made contact with Mu Xuanyin, it immediately transformed into dark profound energy and exploded, ripping out of the confines of Nan Zhaoming's dark energy, and not a moment too soon. A pitch black whirlpool that looked like the entrance to an infinite abyss swirled where she was just a second ago.

Mu Xuanyin was pulled back at least fifty kilometers before she came to a stop next to another woman.

The dark profound energy covering the mysterious object faded away to reveal Divine Oracle. After it let go of Mu Xuanyin, it wrapped around its master's smooth arm instead of returning to her waist. The golden aura surrounding Mu Xuanyin's savior was as cold as a venomous snake, ready to consume its prey at a moment's notice.

She was none other than Qianye Ying'er, of course.

Yun Che had told her not to act without his permission no matter what. Clearly, she hadn't taken his warning to heart.

Behind her, Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu floated with a stern expression on their faces.

"Who are they!" Qianye Ying'er asked in a chilly voice.

"Didn't you hear my warning?" Mu Xuanyin responded while breathing heavily. Blood was dripping down from her lips despite her best efforts to suppress her injuries. "You shouldn't have come."

"Is this the first day you know me? Hmph!" Qianye Ying'er humphed imperiously before asking again, "Who are they!?"

"They're outsiders! People who do not belong to this world!" Mu Xuanyin replied in a bone-chilling voice. She had given the world two priceless warnings with the phoenix cry and her ultimate attack, but it came at a heavy cost. She highly doubted that she and the Qianyes would be able to escape.

Her response stunned Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu, but they came to terms with it just as quickly. It was the only answer considering what they had witnessed just now.

"Hehehe!" Nan Zhaoguang shot Nan Zhaoming's wounded right hand a glance while chuckling. "The four greatest experts of this divine region have all gathered in one place. This is perfect."

"..." Qianye Ying'er was already shaken when she sensed the turbulence earlier, but it wasn't until her enemies were within sight that she realized just how bad the situation was. She was going to say something when Mu Xuanyin's whisper entered her ears, "Get ready to escape with all you have... it's the only option."

"The Snow Song God Emperor is correct."

The two Brahma ancestors moved to the front as Qianye Wugu spoke. Despite the dire situation, the old man's voice remained as calm as ever. "This outside threat feels as fallacious as a dream, and yet it is undeniably the reality we live in. God Emperor, for the sake of the Brahma... no, the Qianye lineage, you must protect yourself no matter what."

Before either woman could voice a response, a mammoth force had already pushed them far, far away.

At the same time, the two ancient figures launched forward like an eagle and summoned a mighty, invisible wall with all their strength.

When the two Brahma ancestors got close to the opposition and sensed their power, they immediately realized what an enormous error it had been on their part when they had chosen not to ground Qianye Ying'er by force.

They weren't senile enough to think that the outsiders would allow their prey to slip from their grasp, so they prayed that their full strength was enough to stop them for even a moment and buy Qianye Ying'er a sliver of hope.

Outsiders... people not of Primal Chaos...

Before this, they firmly believed that the remnants of the Brahma Monarch had earned eternal peace under Yun Che's absolute rule, and that they would return to their former glory in ten thousand years.

To think that a new, impossible threat would emerge in less than a few years...

"Hahahaha!" Nan Zhaoming saw through their intent instantly and laughed like a madman. "You think you can escape? I won't say it's the wrong choice, but do you really think you can escape us?"

As the laughing squire extended his left arm toward the two Brahma ancestors, they gathered all of their Brahma Monarch divine power until their hair was dancing like crazy, and their eyes shone like a pair of tiny suns. Finally, they unleashed everything they had at Nan Zhaoming.

It was at this moment something unexpected happened. Nan Zhaoming was in mid-attack when his body suddenly froze as if someone had cast a spell on him. At the same time, his disdainful eyes suddenly contracted into needles before dilating like saucers in an instant. Someone who didn't know better might have thought that his eyes were pricked by golden needles.

Even better, his reaction was followed by absolute terror; terror that seemed extreme enough to tear his very soul into shreds.

He had never displayed this much fear even when he was facing off against the Dragon Emperor of Absolute Beginning or the Sword Sovereign duo.

Nan Zhaoming wasn't the only one who was reacting oddly either. Nan Zhaoguang and the four pages also looked absolutely terrified for some reason. Two of the pages even lost control of their lower bodies and dropped to their knees.

Rumble!!

The attack should've been of no threat to Nan Zhaoming whatsoever. He should've been able to extinguish it with one hand. However, not only did the pair of golden beams land squarely on his chest, the protective aura that naturally protected a profound practitioner's body had disappeared without a trace. As a result, Nan Zhaoming was blown back unceremoniously while blood sprayed out of his lips like a fountain.

Obviously, the two Brahma ancestors weren't expecting this at all. Even Mu Xuanyin and Qianye Ying'er paused visibly in mid-flight.

Before the attack could do more damage though, a palm stretched seemingly out of thin air and caught Nan Zhaoming's back. It also expelled the foreign energy ripping through his body in an instant.

"Calm down. It's just a coincidence," Nan Zhaoguang said while withdrawing his arm. His complexion looked pale, and there was still some lingering terror in his eyes. However, the man was able to gather his wits and continue in a calm voice,

“They’re probably the God Bearers of the Brahma Heaven God Clan. The outsiders mentioned this before, remember? That is why their powers are...”

Nan Zhaoming could’ve—and would’ve if he had a few more seconds—figured this out on his own. He quickly regained his rationality after he overcame his initial emotion.

Nan Zhaoming let out a small sigh of relief before saying in a dark tone, “I know. Hmph! These old bastards dare embarrass me? I’m gonna—”

“Wait!”

A black fog surrounded Nan Zhaoming’s arm, but Nan Zhaoguang caught it before he could vent his anger. “You cannot! I know it’s a small chance, but if they are related to them, then disposing of them without permission will be...”

Nan Zhaoming frowned instinctively before his companion’s words caught up to his mind. His forehead immediately became soaked with cold sweat, and the killing intent he had mustered against the two Brahma ancestors abruptly vanished without a trace.

“Fine! We’ll cripple those two women first!”

Nan Zhaoming was desperate to vent the anger he had accumulated up until this point, so he let out a growl and abruptly vanished without a trace.

The shadow that zipped past Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu was faster than anything they had ever seen; faster than they even thought was possible. The two Brahma ancestors were some of the strongest experts in Primal Chaos, but even they only managed to catch a glimpse of it before it was too late.

Shred!

Nan Zhaoming sped toward Qianye Ying’er and Mu Xuanyin like a black scar that ripped through everything. What should have been a near impossible gap to close was closing at a depressingly fast rate.

The pressure behind them kept growing and growing. When it became so overbearing they were unable to even draw a single breath anymore, Mu Xuanyin abruptly hit Qianye Ying’er in the back before launching herself toward Nan Zhaoming.

“You!” Qianye Ying’er only managed to let out a single cry before Mu Xuanyin’s ice energy propelled her away from Nan Zhaoming.

Mu Xuanyin flew toward black scar like a dying, ice blue comet.

Ding!

The cold light crumbled like a thousand shattering stars before the irresistible weight. However, she ultimately managed to stop Nan Zhaoming for a breath, and only a breath.

When the moment had passed, the dying light was completely consumed by the black fog. A frustrated growl vibrated under Nan Zhaoming’s throat as the crying Snow Princess Sword slipped out of its

master's blood-drenched fingers, and Mu Xuanyin herself was sent flying into the distance like a lifeless butterfly. Streaks of blood dyed her usually unblemished clothes red.

There were numerous individuals by Yun Che's side who absolutely detested Qianye Ying'er, and some would give anything to rip her to pieces.

There were two people who felt only gratitude toward her, however. One of them was Chi Wuyao, and the other Mu Xuanyin. Their reason was almost identical as well.

In this situation, they might be the only two people who would willingly give up their lives to save her.

If Qianye Ying'er was thinking rationally, or if she was still the cold, heartless woman she used to be, she would've seized the lifeline Mu Xuanyin had exchanged with her life and sped away without ever looking back. However, her blood ultimately wasn't as cold as it used to be.

While resisting the combined power of the two Brahma ancestors and Mu Xuanyin with all her might, she whipped out the Divine Oracle and flung it straight at Mu Xuanyin.

It was a near thing, but the Divine Oracle just barely managed to wrap around Mu Xuanyin's waist before it hit its maximum range before pulling the woman back toward her side.

"Ai!" Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu let out a heavy, but not unhappy sigh at the same time.

Although they had secluded themselves from the world for a long time, they had watched Qianye Ying'er grow up since she was a child... she really had changed completely in the past couple of years.

"Fool!" Nan Zhaoming snorted while removing the ice invading his body with a quick shake of his hand. "What a beautiful relationship you have there. It would be unknighly behavior if I split you two up, wouldn't it?"

He abruptly turned around and let out another growl. Black fog gushed out of his body as the already dark environment darkened a little more. The dark void of space shattered as if crushed by a massive, invisible hand as dark beams surged toward Mu Xuanyin.

When Qianye Ying'er canceled out the energies pushing her toward the distance, she forced herself to come to a stop, swung the Divine Oracle again, and pulled herself toward Mu Xuanyin. She got in front of the bloodied woman right before the dark energies would devour her before unleashing the dark divine power of the Devil Emperor's blood in haste.

Divine Oracle ripped across the sky and tore the attack in half, but it wasn't enough to cancel out the curtain of energy completely. Qianye Ying'er grunted as the remnant energy struck her, but she forcefully steadied herself before taking off with grievously wounded Mu Xuanyin in her arms.

Now was the time to entrap both women and extinguish their hope once and for all, but the invincible power that had easily overwhelmed the duo did not move for some reason.

Nan Zhaoming's hand was frozen in mid-air. Nan Zhaoguang was watching from the back because it was beyond shameful to gang up on two mortal women with his companions, but his expression was now filled with astonishment. The four pages were as stiff as statues as well.

Qianye Ying'er was bleeding from all of her orifices, and most of her protective aura had been destroyed by the attack. More importantly, the light shroud she normally used to mask her features had come completely undone. This meant that her true countenance was completely exposed to the six men.

Her complexion was as pale as a sheet, and her face was a bloody, still bleeding mess. Even so, she was still the Brahma Monarch Goddess; the unparalleled beauty who was beautiful enough to make any man or woman fall in love with her at first sight.

Nan Zhaoming and Nan Zhaoguang might be stronger than the strongest experts in this entire universe, but strength did not equal immunity to beauty.

"Is it even possible... for such a woman to exist in this world...?" A page muttered unconsciously.

"Gulp!" Another page gulped audibly before saying, "She's practically as beautiful as Lady Caili..."

The title "Lady Caili" snapped Nan Zhaoguang out of his reverie and caused his eyebrows to scrunch together. The next second, he scolded the man angrily, "What did you just say? Lady Caili is beautiful beyond measure, and it is rumored that she will become a god in the future! How dare you compare her to a mere mortal!"

The yell immediately snapped all four pages from their daze and caused the rightmost man to drop to his knees. He pleaded with abject terror, "I'm sorry! It was just a slip of the tongue, sir squire! I would never compare her to Lady Caili even if I am a thousand times more foolish and brave than I actually am!"

"I'm well aware it's a slip of the tongue!" Nan Zhaoguang humphed coldly. "Still, Do I need to remind you how severe a punishment you will receive if your transgression somehow spreads to our people? You are a page and a glorious pioneer! You won't be able to become an Abyssal Knight if you cannot control yourself!"

The page bowed his head deeply before responding, "Thank you for your guidance, sir squire. This one swears to reflect on his conduct for a thousand days."

It was at this moment that Nan Zhaoguang spoke up, "It's fine, brother. It can't be helped. In terms of appearance alone, this woman is like a priceless treasure hidden amidst a sea of trash. I can hardly believe a world like this could give birth to someone like her. It would be a great shame to kill her.."

"I know. She must be captured alive no matter the cost," Nan Zhaoguang replied while looking Qianye Ying'er up and down repeatedly. "I must warn you though. No matter how tempted you are, you absolutely mustn't lay a finger on her, understand?"

"Of course," Nan Zhaoming replied. "She may be a mere mortal, but she is beautiful enough to be the best of tributes. This means that no one, not even sir knight has the right to lay a finger on her."

"We will give her to the Pope as a tribute. I am certain it will be a great addition to our string of achievements!"

After saying that, Nan Zhaoming forced down his greed and averted his eyes from Qianye Ying'er's face. Mustering his dark powers once more, the man summoned a dark vortex that swelled to an impossible size in just an instant. It trapped Qianye Ying'er and Mu Xuanyin right at the center all too quickly.

The only silver lining was that the dark energy was missing its previous killing intent and brutality, but considering the fate they had intended for Qianye Ying'er, it was hardly any consolation at all.

"Heh..." Qianye Ying'er sneered as her gorgeous eyes shone with a vicious glint. "You filthy dogs think you deserve me!?"

Her eyes turned as black as the abyss right after she said this.

It was an inescapable situation. She had no other choice. She got ready to ignite her Devil Emperor's blood completely and fight these curs to the bitter end.

Suddenly, the Devil Emperor's blood ceased its activity without warning.

At the same time, Qianye Ying'er and Mu Xuanyin vanished from the dark vortex all of a sudden. All Nan Zhaoming and Nan Zhaoguang saw was a crimson flash before they were gone.

A puzzled and confused Nan Zhaoming slowly turned his head to face a nearby star region.

Qianye Ying'er and Mu Xuanyin had reappeared in that direction, but they were now accompanied by seven different auras.

He was surprised because he never sensed them coming. One second they weren't there, and the next they were.

They were Yun Che, the Devil Queen, Caizhi, Shui Meiyin, and the seven Yama Ancestors.

Jun Xilei would've come, but she was way too emotional for battle right now. Yun Che had forcefully left her behind at Emperor Yun City.

Nan Zhaoming's surprise lasted only for a fraction of a second, however. He cackled. "How convenient! Who would've thought that this world's greatest experts would deliver themselves right into our hands! I guess foolishness and ignorance weren't completely negative traits after all! Hahahahaha!"

His laughter was shrill and unpleasant, and the pressure behind it was enough to squeeze a lesser expert's heart into a crumpled heap.

"Yun Che, you—!" Mu Xuanyin's vision had grown a little blurry, but she wasn't so weak that she couldn't even sense Yun Che's aura. Terror seized her heart and soul for an instant before she sensed that Shui Meiyin was nearby. She relaxed, but only a little.

Yun Che turned toward Mu Xuanyin and Qianye Ying'er. Blood red color stabbed into his eyeballs like hot knives. He looked away.

He did not comfort Mu Xuanyin or criticize Qianye Ying'er. There was only cold, deathly silence.

Shui Meiyin's grip around Yun Che's arm abruptly tightened, and the World Piercer in her left hand blinked repeatedly as if she was tempted to use it right there and then.

Yun Che rarely wore his emotions on his sleeve these days, but the tiny disturbance in his aura was all everyone needed to tell that he was furious beyond imagination.

At the back, the three Yama Ancestors held their breath for fear that the mere act of drawing breath would draw their master's wrath.

By now, Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu had made it to Yun Che's side. Shui Meiyin's appearance had improved their mood considerably to say the least.

"There is no need to stay here overly long, Your Majesty. Let us retreat immediately," Qianye Wugu said. "This is not a matter of imperial honor. They hail from the beyond, and their powers are beyond our recognition or ability to resist right now. Retreat is the only viable option."

"What are you waiting for? Go!" Mu Xuanyin ordered in a tone that wouldn't accept no as an answer after pushing Qianye Ying'er away.

Yun Che neither looked back at her nor said anything. He gently removed Shui Meiyin's hand from his arm before walking toward the outsiders.

"Yun Che!" Mu Xuanyin cried out in panic, but someone caught her arm before she could do anything. Chi Wuyao said quietly, "Calm down. Meiyin is with us. We are safe even if we assume the worst case scenario."

"Do not blame him for acting overly rash. It is you whom they hurt after all."

"Plus, our strongest foe is in the Western Divine Region right now. It could mean nothing, but..." Her voice abruptly dropped an octave lower. "It could also mean a golden opportunity."

Mu Xuanyin: "...?"

Meanwhile, Nan Zhaoming and the others were all looking at Yun Che.

Mu Xuanyin, the Devil Queen, the three Yama Ancestors, the Qianyes... they were all obviously experts who stood at the pinnacle of this universe, so to say that the insignificant little Divine Sovereign felt out of place would be an understatement.

That wasn't even the strangest thing, however. For whatever reason, it seemed that regarded this Divine Sovereign as their superior!

"You're looking for the king of this world, right?" Yun Che started while still walking toward the outsiders. "Here I am."

"Oh?" Nan Zhaoming and Nan Zhaoguang scanned him for an instant before snorting at the exact same time. "Interesting."

It didn't really matter to them if the king of this world was a Divine Master or a Divine Sovereign, to be honest. Both were ants they could squash anytime they wanted to.

"How kind of you to show yourself before us. Are you here to meekly claim your death?" Nan Zhaoming taunted with a half-smirk on his face. He looked like he was staring at a pitiful reptile on the ground, not a person.

Yun Che did not respond to Nan Zhaoming's words. His icy cold eyes hid a mad killing intent that hadn't shown itself for a very, very long time. Tone and appearance remaining exactly the same as before, he

said, "As the pioneers of the Abyss, I am sure you have enjoyed a great deal of freedom and pleasure during your short stay, am I right?"

Darkness glowed from the center of his palm as he raised his arm. "In that case, it is time~ to~ die~"

Chapter 1942 - God Ash Returns

Western Divine Region, Qilin Realm.

"The inheritances of both the Creation God and the Devil Emperor, a dragon body and soul that is superior to all other dragons..." Mo Beichen said while staring at the kneeling Qilin Emperor, "I may be new to this world, but I have read and learned much of its records. What you are saying..."

His voice abruptly turned harsh. "Is completely impossible!"

"This old one wouldn't dare to lie to you, Venerable One!" Qi Tianli protested in fear and trepidation, "There isn't a living soul across the four divine regions who doesn't know about this! You only need to inquire with another person to know this is true!"

"The God Realm is a million years old, and it had always been under the Dragon God Race's control until Emperor Yun ascended to this world. Despite being born in a lower realm, Emperor Yun was able to annihilate the Dragon God Race and conquer all four divine regions at the age of thirty! Even better, he did it as a bonafide Divine Sovereign."

"His achievements have no precedent, and it is unlikely that anyone will ever surpass them in the future. Only the Creation God and Devil Emperor's inheritances could have produced a monster like him!"

"..." Mo Beichen continued to stare at Qi Tianli with a frown on his face.

A long and stifling silence later, the man suddenly let out a cold chuckle. "If what you say is true, then this expedition has just become a lot more interesting."

Qi Tianli hurriedly added, "This old one swears on his life that he is telling the truth."

Mo Beichen looked up at the sky and said slowly, "His Majesty has spent his whole life seeking the way of the Creation God.... the inheritances of the Creation God of Elements and the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor, you say? Hehehe... the Abyssal Monarch will be most glad when I present him these gifts!"

The Abyssal Knight was obviously speaking to himself, but the words "spent his whole life seeking the way of the Creation God" landed in the Qilins' ears like thunder.

The Qilin Emperor bowed his head even more until his forehead was touching against the ice cold floor.

Just how powerful was the Abyss? The answer he got was despairing to say the least. Absolute obedience was without a doubt the wisest... no, the only choice he could've made.

Mo Beichen looked down once more and asked, "Where is this Yun Che right now?"

Qi Tianli replied, "Emperor Yun—I mean, Yun Che may be the emperor of Primal Chaos, but the actual ruler of this world is the Devil Queen. What this means is that Yun Che is often absent from Emperor Yun

City, and his whereabouts are unpredictable and undiscoverable. However, Yun Che is a man who values bonds deeply, so he will show up if you kidnap someone he cares about and use them as a bargaining chip..."

"Kidnap? Bargaining chip?" Mo Beichen's gaze suddenly grew so harsh that it drilled into Qi Tianli's head like a pair of icy spikes. "Are you insulting me?"

Qi Tianli shivered all over before his head hit the ground with a loud thump. "This old one dares not! Of course the Venerable One would not need to resort to such cheap tricks to capture a mere Yun Che! What was I thinking? This old one begs the Venerable One to forgive foolishness and slip of the tongue and show mercy, mercy..."

"Remember this, Qilin," Mo Beichen said in a powerful, intimidating voice. "The Abyssal Knights serve the Abyssal Monarch and the Pope, and it is the highest honor one could possibly receive in the world! Our bodies bear the power of a Half-God, and our souls bear the eternal responsibility of nobility! Our willpower and faith will not be shaken by anyone including ourselves!"

"Simply put, a person who would employ such a method will never be unworthy of serving the Abyssal Monarch!"

"This old one knows his sins..."

"Save it," Mo Beichen interrupted. "I am not so petty that I would criticize your natural vulgarity and ignorance. Now say what you're supposed to say."

"Yes, yes." The Qilin Emperor hid a sigh of relief before continuing, "If the Venerable One wishes to take control of the four divine regions in the shortest amount of time possible, there are some candidates who could be of great use."

"First and foremost, I must speak of Cang Shitian. He was the former Deep Sea God Emperor when the Dragon God Race still reigned supreme, and is now the Chief Enforcer of the new world. He is the Devil Queen and Yun Che's most faithful dog."

"Although Cang Shitian was a God Emperor, he could not be farther away from one in terms of conduct and dignity. He is headstrong, crazy, self-serving and pragmatic. He was the first person to change sides when Yun Che was on the rise. He went so far as to disgrace himself in order to prove his loyalty."

"If you never arrived, then he would forever be Yun Che and the Devil Queen's most faithful dog. But since you have, I'm certain he won't hesitate to backstab them in order to keep himself alive. He will do anything to convince you of his loyalty and accept his surrender."

The Qilin Emperor then recalled their earlier conversation and added in a hurry, "Of course, this old one is aware that a person of such conduct is absolutely unworthy of your patronage, but Cang Shitian is the Chief Enforcer of Primal Chaos, and he has total control over all the Enforcers scattered across the four divine regions. You may not accept him, but his aid is absolutely critical in achieving your objective."

"Hmph!" Mo Beichen didn't deign to give Qi Tianli a response. "Continue."

“The Xuanyuan Emperor and Purple Micro Emperor of the Southern Divine Region are the same as this old one. They are followers who would rather... bask under a great tree than become one themselves. Their loyalty to Yun Che is true, but it isn't the type that would rather break than bend...”

“The Chi Dragon and Hui Dragons had their life veins severed at the end of the war, and this old one only disposed of a small number of them during the recovery period because I believe they have already been punished enough. They submit to Yun Che not because they are loyal, but because they are afraid. If they were given the opportunity to enact vengeance against their tormenter, I cannot see any reason why they would do otherwise...”

“...”

“...”

“I should also mention Huo Poyun, the Flame God Realm King of the Eastern Divine Region. This young man was one of the very few people who was blessed with a divine inheritance from an ancient spirit, and his future is limitless. He can be useful since he also holds a deep grudge against Yun Che...”

.....

Meanwhile, the six outsiders were trying desperately to keep themselves from laughing at Yun Che's antics.

The corners of Nan Zhaoming's lips were twitching uncontrollably. He felt like he was watching an ant he could crush at any moment squeaking incomprehensible threats through its mandibles and making hostile gestures with its cute little limbs. It was amusing to say the least.

How pitiful and laughable, lowly and foolish, ignorant and insufferable could a scum be? It appeared that they had found their answer today.

It took Nan Zhaoming three whole breaths before he trusted himself not to burst out laughing like an idiot and let out a chuckle.

“Ha. Hahaha.” The man slow-clapped with half-lidded eyes as if he was praising the clownish performance of an interesting monkey. “I gotta admit, the ruler of this world is an eye opener if nothing else.”

“Hahahahahahaha!” Nan Zhaoguang did not have his restraint. The man had been laughing non-stop since three breaths ago.

“I can hardly believe it, but I'm actually starting to pity this tiny, godless world.” Nan Zhaoming turned his body sideways so Yun Che would only appear at the edge of his vision. And why was he doing this? It was because this so-called “emperor” did not deserve the full weight of his gaze, of course. “Do you know who you're talking to, pitiful reptile?”

Chiang!

There was a flash of demonic light, and the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor Sword appeared in Yun Che's hand. He casually pointed the tip of its blade at his enemy, its invisible yet all-encompassing pressure soundlessly enveloping everything in this region.

He did not bother probing them for their background or their objective. There was only the heavy, solemn promise of retribution.

“That’s a good laugh.” Yun Che said slowly and indifferently, “As the emperor of this world, I grant your three breaths to laugh however you like, lest my people criticize me for my lack of courtesy or hospitality.”

“When those three breaths are over though...” Yun Che’s tone hadn’t changed, but everyone could tell his words were infused with soul-chilling cold somehow. “You won’t ever have the chance to laugh again in your lives. You will spend every second, every instant regretting your choice to invade my world even after you have fallen into the underworld and burn in the eternal hell!”

“...” Nan Zhaoguang’s gaze shifted a few centimeters more to the side. By now, he couldn’t even bring himself to laugh in disdain. He let out a sigh full of pity and said, “My ancestors did not lie when they say that a human’s stupidity is boundless.”

“Three.” Yun Che began counting. As promised, they would have exactly three breaths to say their last words.

“I could scarcely believe that this world would elect a fool like him to be their emperor. Perhaps we have arrived too soon. Had we waited a bit longer, I’m sure this world would’ve collapsed into nothingness on its own,” Nan Zhaoguang snorted.

“Two.”

“Hehe. You don’t actually believe he’s the emperor of this world, do you?” Nan Zhaoming side-eyed Yun Che through the gaps between his fingers. “I’m pretty sure he’s just a crazy guy who lost all semblance of his mind when he sensed us.”

“One.”

Yun Che slowly raised his head and looked to the front. The light in his eyes slowly faded away to reveal a pair of infinite, pitch black abysses.

“Get back!”

Chi Wuyao abruptly waved her sleeves and pulled everyone away from Yun Che with her powers.

“Heh. Here we go again,” Nan Zhaoming commented while raising his hand, but a ray of golden light stabbed into his eyes before he could unleash his power.

A golden orb glowing with a peculiar golden gleam was floating in front of Yun che’s chest. It was none other than the divine origin artifact of the destroyed Southern Sea Realm, the Southern Sea Divine Pearl.

Once upon a time, Yun Che had many artifacts of divine origin and devil origin in his possession. After he became the emperor of everything, he had returned the Star God Wheel to Caizhi, the Burning Moon Exquisite Devil Jade to Fen Daoqi, and the Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron to Yan Wu. He only had the Southern Sea Divine Pearl now.

Twenty two different lights were currently circulating soundlessly in the Southern Sea God Pearl. It meant that the Southern Sea bloodline once commanded a total of twenty two unique divine origin powers.

Before Yun Che showed up, these divine origin powers could only be controlled by a member of the Southern Sea bloodline, and only partially. With the Laws of Nothingness though, Yun Che was able to command them to fly into his body without any resistance whatsoever. They shone like a thousand suns right after.

Everything around Yun Che became dyed in brilliant gold. However, his eyes remained as empty as a black hole.

Nan Zhaoming and Nan Zhaoguang's smiles stiffened at the same time. It was because they suddenly found themselves staring at Yun Che as if their gazes had been pulled by an invisible force. At the same time, a deep sense of unease appeared in their hearts all of a sudden.

"What is... that?" Shui Meiyin asked softly.

Chi Wuyao replied while holding a dark barrier in front of everyone, "This is the power he used to annihilate Fen Daojun back then. It is also the power that caused the origin power of Heavenly Chief, Heavenly Poison, Heavenly Origin and Heavenly Strength to vanish permanently from this world."

Her voice softened as she let out a sigh. "He has never needed to use it even when he was facing Long Bai. I never thought I would witness this scene again."

She allowed herself only a moment of sentimentality before ordering in a sharp voice, "Yan One Two Three, create a barrier now!"

The three Yama Ancestors immediately created their own dark barrier with their Yama Devil powers. Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu also created their own divine barriers with their immense Brahma Monarch divine powers.

RUMBLE!

There was the dull sound of an explosion, and Evil Soul, Burning Heart, Purgatory, Rumbling Heaven and Hell Monarch were all unlocked at once. His clothes flapped wildly, and his hair danced behind his back like crazy. His aura had skyrocketed in a way that completely defied common sense.

The blast of profound energy caused all six outsiders to bend backward instinctively. Their expressions had become overwritten by shock. The fool's profound aura was still Divine Sovereign level ten, and yet the pressure they were feeling was that of a level ten Divine Master! How was that possible!?

"Hmm!?"

The exclamation of shock came from Nan Zhaoming.

He could not comprehend what was going on in front of him. It was completely beyond even the common sense of the Abyss.

Nan Zhaoguang was a lot calmer than his comrade, however. He let out a disdainful chuckle before commenting, "This is clearly some sort of self-boosting forbidden art, and I imagine that the price is just

“Ah... ah—”

“How... ugh!”

The scorn, ridicule and pity on Nan Zhaoming and Nan Zhaoguang’s faces had vanished without a trace. It looked as if an invisible hand had forcefully twisted their facial features into abject shock and ever-deepening fear. It was because the power Yun Che unleashed was great enough to cause even their souls to shake in terror!

“AHHHHH—”

Bloodcurdling screams filled their ears. Since the four pages were much weaker than them, the tsunami of energy not only pushed them back uncontrollably, it also left black, bloody scars across their powerful bodies.

Yun Che’s vision turned red and blurry. He felt as if his blood was boiling lava; as if he had been teleported from space to infinite purgatory in an instant.

The four Southern Sea lights in his body also let out piercing, despairing shrills.

Yun Che slowly raised the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor Sword. The dark profound energy slithering across the blade looked as thick as hissing, black lightning.

For the second time of his life, he had activated the sixth gate of the Heretic God Arts, God Ash.

The first time he did it, he was only a level seven Divine Sovereign. His profound energy, physical body, soul and law of nothingness were far weaker than they were now.

As a result, he could not hold it for more than three breaths even at the cost of four Star God divine origin powers.

That was in the past though. Now that he was much stronger than he was before, the load did not feel nearly as unbearable as they used to be. He would be able to remain in this form for longer; long enough to annihilate these six abyssal magots into eternal, devilish ashes!

Chapter 1943 - Nightmarish Half-God

Star regions, space, the heavenly law, the laws, the living and the dead... everything seemed to be shaking beneath Yun Che’s terrifying aura.

The way he was right now, no one would suspect if he claimed that he was an ancient devil god who just stepped out of a bloody purgatory.

A long time ago, Chi Wuyao and Qianye Ying’er had witnessed Yun Che’s in his God Ash form from afar. Now that they were seeing it again, they were absolutely certain that it was even stronger than before.

Its power was greater and stabler than what it used to be.

It made sense. His body and profound strength were greater than what they used to be, and he had cultivated the complete World-Defying Heaven Manual.

The effects of the laws of nothingness were as profound as they were undetectable.

“What... what is going on here?” All ten of Nan Zhaoguang’s fingers were spasming uncontrollably like his face. “Why is there... a Half-God in this world...”

As far as the Abyss was aware, the world on the other side of abyssal dust was a godless world; a world that could never give birth to the power of a god.

In fact, it was the most basic common sense there was. However, there was no mistaking the power clamping down against their entire bodies. It was without a doubt the omnipresent pressure of a Half-God!

That wasn’t even the most shocking thing of it all. Somehow, the pressure was that of a Half-God, but the profound energy was clearly that of a Divine Sovereign’s!

“This can’t be real.” Nan Zhaoming could not believe his eyes. “He... he must have affected us with an illusory aura or something... there’s just no way a mere Divine Sovereign could—”

A storm abruptly split and churned the space in front of him before he could finish. The next thing he knew, the young man covered in eerie devilish patterns was charging toward him. In that moment, it felt like the storm of the entire star region, no, the entire Primal Chaos was pressing toward his head.

“Pull back!”

Nan Zhaoguang shouted as he unleashed his aura and pushed the four pages as far away from Yun Che as possible. At the same time, he circulated his energy at an impossible rate and summoned a deep blue domain that looked something like a tsunami straight at the young man. He then yelled at Nan Zhaoming, “Hit him with everything you got!”

Nan Zhaoming’s shock and confusion hadn’t diminished in the slightest, but it didn’t stop him from cooperating with his fellow squire. He quickly unleashed a blast of dark energy that caused the surrounding space to ripple like waves. However, his body abruptly locked up as Yun Che’s power descended from above. An unnatural fear that seemed to have sprouted from the deepest depth of his soul and spread to every corner of his body in no time. Before he knew it, his soul, his body and even his power were shaking uncontrollably.

He was backing away unconsciously even as he unleashed everything he had against Yun Che. For that matter, he discovered that his attack was at least sixty percent weaker than it should be.

“What are you—” Nan Zhaoguang noticed Nan Zhaoming’s unusual reaction immediately and tried to cry out a question. However, he did not get far before Yun Che’s black and blood red figure reached them and blotted out all the light within their eyes.

BOOM—

Nan Zhaoguang’s upper body bent backward as an irresistible force blew his powerful domain to bits in an instant. The one attack had blown away most of his consciousness, bloodied his face, and caused dozens of holes to erupt across his arms. Blood jetted out of each wound like a fountain.

His condition was nothing compared to Nan Zhaoming’s though. The man screamed in pain and terror as his left arm shattered into pieces, and he was blown away uncontrollably toward the bottom. He looked

like a ruptured blood bag the way blood was spraying out of every natural and unnatural hole in his body.

“Zhaoming!”

Nan Zhaoguang’s eyes widened so much that the edges threatened to split apart. The duo had been praying that none of this was real, that the terrible power screeching against their senses was just a mighty fine illusion. Unfortunately for them, Yun Che had cruelly annihilated that hope in one slash.

It wasn’t an illusion. They really were being threatened by a Half-God who absolutely shouldn’t exist in this world.

Even worse, his power was almost equal to the Abyssal Knight who led them, Mo Beichen!

How was this possible? How could a power that was equal to that of an Abyssal Knight possibly exist in this lowly, godless world!? And what the hell happened to Nan Zhaoming just now?

This was no time to be pursuing answers, however. His fear was stabbing into his rationality and telling him that Yun Che’s power level might very well be equal to Mo Beichen’s. There was no way he and Nan Zhaoming could resist even if they went all out against him.

The four pages? They were only cannon fodder before a Half-God.

“Retreat!!”

It was probably his loudest shout of his life. Despite his panic, he instinctively sensed that Yun Che’s power had a time limit of sorts, so running away was without a doubt the wisest course of action here. However, Yun Che had to sacrifice four divine origin powers just to activate God Ash. There was no way he was going to let them escape after paying such a huge price.

Still seeing the world through blood-drenched lenses, Yun Che swung the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor Sword a second time at a paling Nan Zhaoguang.

RUMBLE!!

The impact sounded like the eruption of ten thousand thunders at the same time. Nan Zhaoming was incapacitated, so Nan Zhaoguang had no choice but to withstand the full might of Yun Che’s power of his own. The attack caused his chest to cave in and a shocking amount of blood to spray through the gaps of his teeth.

“How... are you...” Nan Zhaoguang asked as he held back Yun Che’s power with everything he had. However, his words were unclear because an insane amount of blood would pour out of his throat every time he opened his mouth.

Nan Zhaoguang looked through layers upon layers of blood and locked gaze with the blackest pair of eyes he had ever met in his life. He was hoping for an answer, but all he got was a devastating sword strike that blew away his crumbling protective aura and struck him across the chest.

BUZZ—

All color and sound abruptly vanished from Nan Zhaoguang's world. This time, the attack not only caved in his chest, it shattered his sternum and crushed his internal organs. He left a wide trail of blood, bone and gore as he flew uncontrollably toward the distance.

Three strikes. In just three strikes, Yun Che had defeated the two outsiders who had driven Mu Xuanyin and the Qianyes into a corner. One of them had their morale shattered, and the other was grievously injured.

The storm continued to howl all around Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu. However, the two old men were as silent as statues.

They had spent their whole lives attempting to overcome the absolute wall that stood in their pursuit for power. To that end, they had gone so far as to prolong their lives through unnatural means, even though it meant defying the natural order and withstanding the torment of time. And today, their labor had finally been rewarded. They had finally witnessed a miracle that no one since the beginning of God Realm was able to achieve with their own eyes.

"Long Bai's defeat... is more than well-deserved," Qianye Wugu muttered.

"I genuinely don't have any regrets left for this life," Qianye Bingzhu added.

Chiang!

There was a sharp, metallic shriek, and one of the Southern Sea divine lights perished forever.

Back then, the four Star God divine origin powers had only sustained Yun Che for less than three breaths.

Today, only one Southern See divine origin had shattered after four breaths had passed.

At the back, the four pages looked like they might black out at any moment. The shockwaves alone were almost enough to crush their bodies.

They all wished to fulfill the code of chivalry and fight alongside their fellow squires, but there existed an impassable chasm between Yun Che and them. They weren't able to move even an inch closer to their squires no matter what they tried.

Meanwhile, a hand caught Nan Zhaoguang before he could continue tumbling toward god-knows-where. It belonged to the now one-armed Nan Zhaoming. The second he caught his grievously injured comrade, he immediately blasted off toward the distance. A wise move considering that his fear was overwhelming, and his dark profound energy was fluctuating like it might lose control at any moment.

"Quickly... inform... the knight... ugh!"

Nan Zhaoguang was trying to speak, but his voice suddenly vanished as if an invisible hand had seized his throat.

A pair of dark, demonic dots suddenly appeared in their soul sea. It was as if an ancient devil god had opened its eyes.

Both squires looked up. Behind Yun Che stood a massive wolf with a height of over thirty thousand meters, a maw that looked like it was drowning in blood, a pair of eyes that looked like devilish abysses, and an unspeakable aura that promised infinite horror and death. There was enough hatred and brutality in its killing intent to fill up a thousand-level hell.

“Dark Heavenly Wolf...” Caizhi murmured to herself as she stared at the creature.

Yun Che raised the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor Sword one more time, and the image of a massive, pitch black sword appeared above the heavens.

It was impossible to maintain God Ash for long, and attempting to wield the Heavenly Wolf's Sixth Sword Style in this state was definitely going to end poorly for him.

So what? They had hurt Mu Xuanyin. For that offense, he would annihilate them so thoroughly that not a hair of them would be left in this world!

“Die.”

That was all he said before dropping the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor Sword on them. The dark wolf let out a deafening, abyssal howl before pouncing toward the shell-shocked outsiders, the absolute darkness promising a dark purgatory of infinite despair.

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Western Divine Region, the Qilin Realm.

“I have shown you my mercy, and I have granted you my trust.”

Mo Beichen said while looking down at the Qilins, “Remember, you only have five years to complete your mission.”

“If five years have passed, and this so-called God Realm is not as tame as I expect it to be, then all the patience I afforded you today... will transform into anger.”

His gaze wasn't cold, but it was enough to send icy chills up their spines anyway. “And I promise you would not like to see me angry.”

Qi Tianli sucked in a deep breath before making a solemn vow, “Do not worry, Venerable One. Yun Che hasn't had the time to solidify his rule so much that it would be too difficult to remove his influence. Right now, the world fears Yun Che far more than they are loyal to him. This old one swears on the future of his race that we will present you with the ideal outcome in five—no, three years at most.”

Not counting the three Yama Ancestors, Qi Tianli was the man with the highest seniority after the death of Long Bai and the nine Dragon Gods.

That was why he was familiar with the big picture of God Realm more than anyone else in the universe.

“Very good.”

Mo Beichen's reply consisted of two words only, but it was literally the highest praise he could give a denizen of this lowly world.

It loosened the Qilin Emperor's nerve enough that he finally dared to let out a concealed sigh of relief.

He wasn't done yet, however. After struggling with his hesitancy and fear for a moment, the Qilin Emperor finally mustered enough courage to raise an arm and said, "We, the Qilin Race, value peace and security above all else. Since the Venerable One has promised us that, of course we will devote our hearts and souls to serve the Venerable One and the supreme Abyssal Monarch. It's just... may I ask you for another favor, Venerable One?"

"Speak."

Mo Beichen replied indifferently.

Qi Tianli knew full well that weaklings had no right to make requests. He had to try for a certain someone's sake though, and Mo Beichen's answer was better than anything he could've hoped for. Deep gratitude welled inside of him even as he lowered his head to the ground and began in fear and trepidation,

"There is a Blue Dragon Race that resides in the Western Divine Region, and their ideology is similar to my Qilin Race. That is why our races have been friends for generations. The latest Blue Dragon Emperor in particular is extremely close to this old one, so close that I practically view her as my daughter."

"This old one is certain she and the Blue Dragon Race could be convinced to submit to the Abyss easily."

"It's just... back when the world was Yun Che's, the Blue Dragon Emperor was forced to become his imperial consort to preserve the peace. However, this old one swears that it was the only choice she had at the time, and that there is no love lost between the Blue Dragon Emperor and Yun Che. In fact, they had never even consummated their relationship! This is an open secret in all of the God Realm."

"So, if I may be so bold to ask..."

"You wish for me to leave the imperial consort and her people alive?" Mo Beichen interrupted coldly.

"That is correct, Venerable One!" Qi Tianli begged with all his heart. "Please..."

"Hmph!" Mo Beichen interrupted Qi Tianli again before continuing, "The loyal will live, and the defiant will die. When everyone in the world is an ant, an imperial consort is no different from a mere chicken or a dog, is she?"

His words were unbelievably scathing, but Qi Tianli picked up his meaning and broke into a wide grin. He immediately bowed deeply and thanked the man from the bottom of his heart. "Qi Tianli... thanks the Venerable One for his great mercy."

At first, the Qilin Emperor held only abject shock and terror toward Mo Beichen. That was no longer quite the case.

Although Mo Beichen looked down on everything in this universe, he did not treat them as such. In fact, he had shown them a level of kind and tolerance that was, frankly, completely unexpected from a superior being like him.

Mo Beichen had claimed that it is an Abyssal Knight's eternal responsibility to bear their souls with nobility, and Qi Tianli was starting to realize that it might not be a false claim after all.

The Abyss... the Abyssal Monarch...

Perhaps the future might be less scary than he imagined.

“Now,” Mo Beichen continued, “Take me to—”

Suddenly, the man stopped talking and abruptly turned sideways. Every Qilin within the vicinity abruptly ceased breathing as his aura spiked, and his cold, dead eyes became fixed to the east.

“Ve... Venerable One?” Qi Tianli looked up in confusion.

“...” Mo Beichen did not answer him. His complexion grew darker and darker until finally, he muttered, “This aura...”

The man had unleashed his consciousness in full and spread it toward the distant star region.

It was so powerful that it spread across half of Primal Chaos in just a short time.

Suddenly, his pupils contracted violently.

“Half... God!?” The words were spoken with bone-chilling emotion behind them.

Boom!!

The man abruptly blasted off the ground and shot toward the east. The shockwave was so sudden and powerful that the Qilins were sent tumbling away like rag dolls. However, the man reappeared in front of Qi Tianli and gripped his shoulder with an icy cold hand the next instant.

“Tell me the fastest way to get to the east.”

Despite his confusion and shock, Qi Tianli pointed in a certain direction and responded immediately, “There is a formation in the city that connects to the center of the Eastern Divine Region.”

“Guide me there now!”

The Qilin Emperor just barely had the time to comprehend Mo Beichen’s urgent order before he found himself being dragged in that direction at a speed that should be impossible.

Shui Meiyin had used the World Piercer to construct this great teleportation formation that connected the Eastern Divine Region and the Western Divine Region together.

Since the Qilin Realm was the new core of the Western Divine Region, it made sense to build the teleportation formation there.

She did not know that the innocuous decision would become her worst nightmare.

Chapter 1944 - Claw of Nightmare

The Eastern Divine Region was still trembling all over. The howling Heavenly Wolf and the pitch black sword annihilated the space of an entire star region as they traveled toward the outsiders. From the perspective of the distant star regions and star realms, they looked like a pitch black star on the verge of undergoing a supernova.

CHIBOOM!

The first casualty of the battle was a page. The sword image had sliced through his waist before crushing his body so thoroughly that all that was left of him was a shower of blood.

Just an instant later, the second and third page were cruelly dismembered before their body parts were scattered across the catastrophic storm. They had dissolved into dust so quickly it was as if their impossibly tough bodies were nothing but smoke. They never even got the chance to scream their last.

The last page won the “honor” of being devoured by the Heavenly Wolf itself and buried in ten thousand swords. By the time the sword image had passed through his location, not a trace of him could be seen anywhere.

All four pages were dead in just the span of two breaths; their hopes, dreams and supreme glory they thought would last throughout history vanishing eternally in a world that did not belong to them.

Chiang!

Chiang!

The second and third Southern Sea divine origin crumbled at the same time.

The Immortal Slaying Sword Formation was incredibly powerful, but it also put a huge burden and rebound on the user.

Yun Che’s body was starting to shiver a little, and his vision several times redder and blurrier than it was at the beginning. The only thing that hadn’t changed was his fiendish aura. It remained terrible enough to freeze all the souls in Primal Chaos.

By now, the dark Heavenly Wolf and the nightmarish sword were slowly fading away into nothing. However, the damage they left behind was not. An innumerable amount of spatial cracks and black holes were scattered across the star region, and it did not look like they were going to heal anytime soon.

Right now, the space of Primal Chaos was simply too weak to bear the power of a Half-God.

“Hnn... hng...”

The painful groans sounded terribly frail and pitiful amidst a backdrop of groaning space.

They came from the two squires, of course.

They had survived the Immortal Slaying Sword Formation thanks to their exceptionally powerful physiques, but it wasn’t a boon. Not even close. They would’ve been far better off dead than they were alive.

There were holes all across Nan Zhaoguang and Nan Zhaoming’s bodies, and their heads, their torsos and their limbs were nothing more than withered husks. They looked like a pair of ragged dolls who had most of their stuffing cruelly torn out of their bodies.

Even now, the remnant dark profound energy was consuming their tattered bodies like billions and billions of bone-consuming demon worms.

Had they been unconscious, they would not have been able to feel the horrible sensation. Had they been less intuitive, they might have been able to fool themselves into thinking this was just a dream. Ironically, their strength had led to them experiencing the worst torture of their lives.

The one constant throughout this nightmare was his eyes.

Their consciousness was fading, their vision was blurry, and yet those dark, ruthless eyes remained as clear as ever.

After putting away the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor Sword, Yun Che grabbed toward Nan Zhaoming and Nan Zhaoguang's solar plexuses.

There was a reason why people cared so much about karma. The emperor of Primal Chaos was making sure that they repay every bit of arrogance in suffering. However, they were the squires of the Abyss. They could never bow their heads to a member of this lowly world.

Nan Zhaoguang forced himself to summon some steeliness in his eyes before threatening hoarsely, "When the Abyss arrives... you will all... be... uh... uaaaaaaaaaaaaahhh!"

His threat abruptly dissolved into a bone-chilling scream.

A pair of pitch black flames had ignited on Nan Zhaoming and Nan Zhaoguang's solar plexuses at the same time.

The flames easily entered their bodies through the solar plexus, spread to every corner through the meridian and the veins, and began cooking them from the inside.

The Devil Flame of Eternal Calamity was a special flame only Yun Che could use, and burning someone alive with it was the cruelest torture a person could be subjected to bar none. In fact, it was a torture that not even an ancient True God could have endured.

The second the flame had made contact with their internal organs, Nan Zhaoming and Nan Zhaoguang immediately fell into a nightmarish purgatory they could never imagine.

It was eerie how silent the black flames burned especially considering how loudly the two men were screaming. It was like a scene straight out of the lowest depths of hell.

Yun Che's expression didn't change in the slightest though. There wasn't a shred of pity or even emotion on his face.

He had said that he would make them regret their choice to invade his world, and he was making good on that promise.

"You... aaaaaaaAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!"

"AAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHH—" Slowly and soundlessly, devilish flames poured out of their orifices and devoured their ears, their noses, their broken teeth, and their eyes. It burned away their sight, smell, taste and hearing, but not their touch. On the contrary, their sense of touch felt sharper than ever before. Of course, it only plunged their souls into greater despair.

"Uh... uh... ah..."

Nan Zhaoming and Nan Zhaoguang's screams had died down considerably at this point, but the hacking coughs and involuntary moans only made things scarier. Their tattered bodies spasmed violently under Yun Che's control like dying larvae that had been nailed to a wall of thorns.

These two had overcome many stringent tests and exams to become squires. They had been one step away from breaking through their final bottleneck and becoming true Abyssal Knights; a loyal subject of the Abyssal Monarch.

The fact that they managed to enter this world before anyone else and become the pioneers of the Abyss had fueled their imaginations even more. They had believed that supreme glory was within their grasps, and their names would be remembered for all of history.

This was supposed to be the best day of their lives, and yet... they had fallen into the purgatory below the purgatory before half a day had passed.

"Kill..."

Nan Zhaoming didn't have any lips or teeth left in his mouth at this point. His voice sounded anything but human.

It had taken the man every ounce of willpower he had left to say the words, and he would never speak again once the flames had burned through his throat. And yet, his final words in this life were, "Kill me... kill me... kill me..."

His hearing had been completely destroyed a while ago. He would never hear an answer even if Yun Che decided to say yes.

For as long as the Abyss had existed, no Abyssal Knight or knight-to-be had ever been subjected to such torture.

To think they would meet such an end in the last place they could possibly imagine.

All of their belief and willpower had been burned into nothing, leaving behind only the mad, all-encompassing desire for death.

The last Southern Sea divine origin began to blink rapidly.

Although Yun Che was much stronger than he was before, activating God Ash by force was always going to put an overwhelming amount of stress on his body. Already, an innumerable amount of cracks had spread throughout his body, and he was bleeding like a blood fountain.

At least forty percent of his meridians and bones had broken during the time, and yet his expression remained shockingly dark and frigid. It was almost as if he couldn't feel any pain whatsoever.

Logically speaking, he should've ended this way sooner and saved himself much pain and recovery time down the line, but the Devil Flame of Eternal Calamity continued to burn at a leisurely pace. He was going to draw out the nightmare that would not be forgotten even after a thousand life cycles for as long as possible until he finally burned them down into wicked dust.

He hadn't been this angry for a very, very long time.

He had endured many cruel and despairing tribulations to make it to this point. Xia Qingyue had literally sacrificed her own fate, flesh and blood to make him the supreme emperor of this universe. However, someone still managed to harm one of the most important people in his life in spite of all that.

The spatial tremors and the wails of the heavenly were weakening. The oppressing pressure no longer felt quite as suffocating as before. It was clear that Yun Che's God Ash was about to reach its end.

"So this is the power of a True God... I had no idea it was this powerful," Qianye Wugu commented with a deep sigh.

He was one of the highest existences in this world, and yet he wasn't able to defeat one Nan Zhaoming even with Qianye Bingzhu, Qianye Ying'er and Mu Xuanyin's aid.

That same person had been utterly brutalized by Yun Che with almost no resistance at all.

To say that the power gap exceeded everything he knew would be the understatement of the century. However, Chi Wuyao said, "No. Emperor Yun has not yet achieved the realm of True Gods. In fact, he is far, far away from it."

"The power he is displaying right now is but the halfway point to True God Realm. He is what the ancient used to call a Half-God."

Chi Wuyao's Nirvana Devil Emperor Soul carried some of its past memories, so she had a basic understanding of the power level of the realm of gods.

"Half... God?"

It was a shocking and frightening revelation to say the least.

If a Half-God was already this powerful, then how much more powerful would a True God be?

More importantly, were there True Gods in that world known as the Abyss?

This was not the time for idle conversation, however. Chi Wuyao shot Yun Che's flickering aura a glance before saying, "Prepare to teleport us away, Meiyin. I'm fairly sure the battle has alerted Mo Beichen, and we need to leave as soon as possible."

Shui Meiyin, Caizhi and her had all seen Mo Beichen in Jun Xilei's memories. If Nan Zhaoming and Nan Zhaoguang were scary, then that man was a titan none of them could possibly defeat.

Judging from the way Nan Zhaoming and Nan Zhaoguang had tiptoed around Mo Beichen, there was a high chance the man was also a Half-God.

Worst case scenario, he was at least as strong as Yun Che in God Ash form, if not stronger.

Moreover, Yun Che's power came at the cost of precious divine origins, and the rebound was severe enough that he had to spend a considerable amount of time to recover. As if that wasn't bad enough, he could only maintain that form for a very short time.

That was why they could not run into Mo Beichen no matter what.

If it wasn't to save Mu Xuanyin and Qianye Ying'er, she wouldn't even expose Yun Che to Nan Zhaoming and Nan Zhaoguang.

"Got it!" Shui Meiyin nodded and crossed the World Piercer in front of her. The Heavenly Profound Treasure began to shine weakly.

"Your Majesty," Chi Wuyao said formally, "These two are already dead. Let us not waste anymore time and—"

RUMBLE—

Suddenly, her soul twitched without warning.

It was the Nirvana Devil Emperor Soul warning her of an impending danger!

Not only that, it was followed by a vague yet impossibly dull rumble that she couldn't describe. It sounded like it came from the furthest space and the deepest part of her soul at the same time.

Her shock only lasted for an instant. She exclaimed in panic, "Teleport us now, Meiyin!"

Shui Meiyin's tiny hand shook. Everyone else instinctively looked at Chi Wuyao.

No one had ever seen the Devil Queen like this. She had been calm and collected even when Long Bai had descended upon the Southern Sea Realm with the full might of the Western Divine Region.

They had never seen her this panicked.

Shui Meiyin acted as quickly as she could after recovering from her brief daze. The crimson light of the World Piercer grew stronger and enveloped the Devil Queen, Mu Xuanyin, the Qianyes and the Yama Ancestors in an instant.

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM!

It wasn't a hallucination. The rumblings that sounded so far away grew deafening in just an instant. It was like a world-ending thunderclap had erupted right beside their ears.

Then, before anyone could react, a terrible storm swept across everyone.

"Ah!!"

Cries of surprise broke out among the group. The storm had appeared so quickly and out of nowhere that even the powerful Yama Ancestors and Brahma Ancestors were blown back a couple of kilometers.

Mu Xuanyin especially let out a painful groan as she was flung away without resistance. She stopped only after Caizhi had caught her.

Shui Meiyin was even less prepared than the others because she was busy channeling the World Piercer's spatial divine powers. She had nearly lost her grip on the artifact.

Before she could even take a moment to think about what just happened, Chi Wuyao's urgent cry entered her mind, "MEIYIN!!"

Shui Meiyin was the bearer of the Divine Stainless Soul, so she was able to clear her soul sea even before she caught herself. She released the spatial divine powers of the World Piercer once more, sent it toward Yun Che's location and—

—Froze. The energy suddenly paused in mid-movement, and all the blood in her face drained away into nothing.

Chi Wuyao's eyebrows had also sunk to the bottom. She felt as if her entire body was dunked in ice.

A new figure had appeared in front of Yun Che seemingly out of nowhere. He was a huge man clad in silver armor. They could only see his back from where they were, but he looked as if he was the center of the universe. The world itself was trembling in fear and submission toward him.

He had one hand locked firmly around Yun Che's neck, long fingers sinking deeply into his flesh. He lifted the emperor of Primal Chaos into the air as if it took no effort at all.

Chiang!

The last Southern Sea divine origin died as Yun Che attempted to break the man's hold with one final burst of power. However, it failed to budge the man even a millimeter.

The blackness in Yun Che's pupils faded away into grayish white as he stared at the face in front of him.

He was the man in Jun Xilei's memory, the terrifying man who was known as the Abyssal Knight...

Mo Beichen!

The situation couldn't be any worse. God Ash had faded away since the death of the last Southern Sea divine origin. The rebound for activating a forbidden power beyond his current ability to endure had erupted in full force. He was at his weakest right now... and his greatest enemy had him in his grip.

An unprecedented chill pierced through Chi Wuyao's spine and into her soul.

Everything was happening too quickly and suddenly.

The perception of a Half-God, the speed of a Half-God... they just knew too little about the power of a Half-God.

That wasn't the scariest thing about him though, not to Chi Wuyao at least.

It was the way he acted.

He did not lose his head to arrogance despite facing a world that was far inferior to him in terms of power. He did not attempt to belittle them through his words or his actions. He did not even spare a moment to check out the dying Nan Zhaoguang and Nan Zhaoming.

He had gone straight for Yun Che and captured him with minimal movement, not giving them even the tiniest bit of chance to turn this around.

Clearly, the power Yun Che displayed earlier had alarmed the Abyssal Knight, and his response could only be described as lightning quick and horrifying.

Chapter 1945 - Death and Life (1)

“Release our master!”

Three people broke the silence first after the sudden attack.

To the three Yama Ancestors, it felt like being stabbed in the eyes to watch Yun Che being grabbed by the neck. It instantly sparked both their mania and their rage.

Their Yama powers erupted like boiling, pitch black lava. Not even bothering to right themselves after the spatial storm from earlier, they charged toward Mo Beichen and screeched like vicious wraiths that had gone mad.

“Yun Che!”

The Yama Ancestors weren't the only ones who had lost their minds. Despite her rather serious injuries, despite knowing that the action she was about to take was completely irrational, Mu Xuanyin still broke through her limits and escaped Caizhi's grasp in an instant. After the Snow Princess Sword reappeared in her grasp, she stabbed toward Mo Beichen with the coldest, cruelest light in the world.

Caizhi wasn't able to stop Mu Xuanyin not because she was incapable, but because she had summoned her Heavenly Wolf divine power at nearly the same instant. The Heavenly Wolf Sacred Sword had followed right behind the cold image of the Ice Phoenix.

In a different direction, an utterly bloodless Qianye Ying'er forcefully twisted her body in mid-air and attempted to follow the others to battle as well. However, she wasn't able to muster her full strength before two immensely powerful energies locked her in place.

They belonged to Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu, of course.

“Stay away from him!” Chi Wuyao infused her voice with the power of the Nirvana Devil Emperor Soul and shouted.

Unfortunately, the three Yama Ancestors, Mu Xuanyin and Caizhi had acted out of pure instinct. There was just no way she could've stopped them in time.

Meanwhile, Mo Beichen was staring at captured Yun Che. His gaze was utterly cold and emotionless.

Yun Che's eyes kept growing wider and wider. God Ash's rebound had bloodied his whole body, but the pain and injury were nothing compared to the pale helplessness he was feeling right now.

He was at his weakest after using God Ash, and he had fallen into the hands of his enemy during this time. Worse, it was an enemy whose power surpassed anything he had ever seen before. It was literally the worst case scenario.

His body was completely stiff except for his pupils. He couldn't even move his finger by a millimeter.

Every hair, every drop of blood, every cell was still as if it was sat on by a million mountains. It felt so heavy that all he could feel was infinite despair.

That's right, despair.

Despair was a feeling he was most familiar with, but never had he encountered a despair that was so overwhelming that not a hint of hope could be found anywhere.

In the past, no matter how desperate the situation was, no matter how powerful the enemy he encountered, he was never disheartened or tempted to back down. He had soldiered on even when he faced down the Netherworld Udumbara Flower as a mortal soul, or the entire Star God Realm as a Divine King.

This was the second time since the destruction of “Blue Pole Star” that he was filled with absolute despair and powerlessness.

He was throwing all of his willpower and energy into breaking Mo Beichen’s grip right now, but he was unable to summon even the tiniest gust of energy.

The shrill cries of the three Yama Ancestors entered his ears. The trio were powerful enough to send chills down the spine of even the greatest God Emperor of Primal Chaos, but not Mo Beichen. The only change in the man’s expression was the imperceptible upturn of the corner of his mouth.

His silver armor bulged a little. The Abyssal Knight had released his forcefield.

RUMBLE!

Even the people living at the borders of the Eastern Divine Region could hear a dull rumble when he did this.

The space tens of kilometers around Mo Beichen distorted violently in that instant. It was as if a small portion of the Primal Chaos world had been carved out.

Tens of kilometers away, the three Yama Ancestors felt as if a colorless, invisible, yet impenetrable wall had struck them with the force of a hundred stars. The collision immediately transformed the distorted space next to the Yama Ancestors into three black vortexes, and their maddened screeches into howls of pain. Over half of the devilish force fields surrounding them had crumbled away like nothing, and their bodies were twisted like broken branches. Not only that, they were thrown back several times faster than they were charging earlier.

It seemed unbelievable that the powerful Yama Ancestors would be unable to pierce even the forcefield of an Abyssal Knight, but reality cared nothing for one’s disbelief.

CHIANG—

The Snow Princess Sword stabbed into the forcefield and let out a cry shrill enough to shatter one’s soul. At the same time, Mu Xuanyin’s icy eyes shone with the most brilliant blue to date.

Unfortunately, even if she wasn’t seriously injured to begin with, there existed an impassable gulf between her and Mo Beichen. Just like the Yama Ancestors, she was unable to get closer by even a centimeter despite unleashing all of her Ice Phoenix divine powers.

The explosive rebound caused the Snow Princess Sword to bend violently, and the brilliant power to shatter into nothing. Mu Xuanyin was immediately thrown back like a butterfly who had lost control of her wings.

Caizhi was right behind her, but she had no time to catch her right now. Brow furrowed, she dropped the Heavenly Wolf Sacred Sword like a warhammer.

RUMBLE!

For the first time, a depression appeared on Mo Beichen's forcefield. That was all her full-powered attack managed to do though. The forcefield recovered almost immediately and slammed into her like a mountain.

The Heavenly Wolf Sacred Sword was knocked away so violently that Caizhi nearly lost her grip on the weapon. She herself was sent flying into the distance, and her complexion had turned deathly white for a moment. However, her aura quickly turned even darker and more bloodthirsty than before.

Devilish light bloomed in her eyes as the pitch black, utterly devilized Heavenly Wolf appeared behind her tiny body.

The devilish wolf let out a howl that shook the world before pouncing toward Mo Beichen, hatred overflowing. When the Heavenly Wolf divine power reached its peak, both Caizhi and her massive sword merged into one with the wolf.

Mo Beichen cast the little girl who dared to challenge an Abyssal Knight a sidelong glance before voicing his mockery,

"How pitiful."

His long hair suddenly floated behind his back, and a bit of silver gleamed within his eyes.

POBOOM!!

Caizhi felt as if a massive world just exploded in front of her. There was enough energy to destroy a galaxy.

The howling wolf was stopped in the first instant, twisted in the second, and destroyed in the third...

The Heavenly Wolf Sacred Sword was thrown to god-knows-where, and its master's eyes were completely unfocused. She plunged toward the bottom, unconscious.

Everything had happened so quickly.

The three Yama Ancestors, Mu Xuanyin, Caizhi... they were all representatives of the pinnacle strength of this plane, and yet Mo Beichen had defeated all of them in just the blink of an eye...

"Meiyin," Chi Wuyao's cold voice rang beside Shui Meiyin's ears, "Teleport them back to us, now!"

Out of everyone present, Shui Meiyin was the only one besides Chi Wuyao who did not lose herself to panic and launch herself into a suicide attack. It was because Divine Stainless Soul alleviated much of the soul pressure of a Half-God.

Although the spatial storm was still blowing all around her, Shui Meiyin released the World Piercer's spatial divine power without hesitation and teleported the three Yama Ancestors, Mu Xuanyin and Caizhi back to her side very quickly.

Unfortunately, there was absolutely nothing she could do to the one person they wanted to help the most, Yun Che.

“Get lost!”

Meanwhile, Qianye Ying'er had been struggling to break free of her retainers' hold all this time. Suddenly, she whipped out the Divine Oracle and sliced the space between herself and the two Brahma Ancestors.

After their hold on her was gone, she immediately charged toward Mo Beichen in a straight line. Then—

“Get back here, Yun Qianying!”

The devilish command pierced through Qianye Ying'er's agitation like a thousand icy needles. Her charge gradually slowed to a temporary halt. Turning around, she was going to say something when her eyes met Chi Wuyao's countenance, and her words died in her lips. It was only then she finally ceased her mad desire to launch a suicide attack against Mo Beichen.

It was because she saw the Devil Queen's dark eyes, her calm expression... and the blood slowly trickling down the corner of her lips.

Anyone in this situation could afford to be impulsive or emotional, but not her.

The reason was very simple. Back when Long Bai had descended upon the Southern Sea God Realm with the World Dragon City, the pressure she felt had almost been oppressive to drive her into despair. But even that battle wasn't a millionth as desperate as this one.

That was why she must remain calm and collected. The worse the situation was, the cooler her head must be. Otherwise, there really would be no hope.

“You, Yun Che?”

Mo Beichen said while examining Yun Che's features indifferently. No one else deserved even a sideways look from him.

Although it was phrased as a question, Mo Beichen knew full well that Yun Che wouldn't be able to answer him. He didn't need his reply anyway.

Crack... crack crack!

His fingers tightened, and Yun Che's neck bones started breaking one by one. He still wasn't able to produce any noise though. Whatever blood remaining on his face swiftly faded away.

“Your bones are impressively tough,” Mo Beichen praised—or more accurately, exclaimed in amazement. There was barely suppressed excitement in his eyes. “The blood of the ancient Dragon God definitely runs in your veins, and its purity... it's not far behind even those so-called Ancestral Dragons, tsk tsk.”

“...” Yun Che still couldn't say a single word or move a finger. His vision was rapidly fading as well.

Chi Wuyao's gaze grew even darker. She was aware at this point that Yun Che was the sole object of Mo Beichen's interest. Not only that, he wasn't planning to kill him.

Yun Che would already be dead if that was his wish.

If she had to guess, it must be because he found out that the Heretic God and the Devil Emperor's powers ran through Yun Che's veins. Perhaps he even knew about the Heavenly Profound Treasures.

This meant that he would not take Yun Che's life until he had found a way to rob him of his inheritances and Heavenly Profound Treasures.

"Yan One Two Three, do not act until I've given you a command!" Chi Wuyao ordered in a tone that would brook no rebuke.

Mu Xuanyin was seriously injured to begin with, and her aura had become positively feeble after that rebound. The only reason she hadn't lost consciousness yet was because of her desire to save Yun Che.

Caizhi wasn't faring much better than her either.

"Save... him..."

Even in her current state, Mu Xuanyin was still struggling to right herself. Each word was uttered as if they were drenched in blood.

"Do not worry. He will be fine," Chi Wuyao whispered to both women before a flash passed through her pupils. The Nirvana Devil Emperor Soul slipped into Mu Xuanyin and Caizhi's soul sea without any resistance.

They were weakened and unguarded against Chi Wuyao. Naturally, the Devil Queen had no problem robbing them of their consciousness and putting them to sleep.

After turning her palm over and enveloping the unconscious Mu Xuanyin and Caizhi in a blurry ball of protective energy, she returned her gaze to the front and said, "There is only one way to save him now."

"!!"

Qianye Ying'er blanked out for a moment. The next instant, she appeared in front of Chi Wuyao, grabbed her shoulders, and just barely managed to keep her voice down as she uttered, "Tell me!"

"Ugh... ughhhhhh..."

On an unrelated note, groans of pain were mixed amidst the trembling space.

They weren't Yun Che's because he couldn't even make a sound right now. It was Nan Zhaoming and Nan Zhaoguang trying to reach out to Mo Beichen after picking up his aura with their spiritual perception.

They weren't asking to be saved. All they asked of him was to be released from this life immediately.

After all, not even the worst punishment of the lowest level of hell could possibly inflict the level of pain they were experiencing.

Unfortunately for them, Mo Beichen ignored their cries for death completely.

From the start, his soul and his power had been focused on Yun Che and Yun Che alone. Having witnessed the Divine Sovereign unleashing the power of a Half-God with his own eyes, he no longer had any doubt that Qi Tianli was telling him the truth.

He could not even imagine what kind of merit he would be awarded when he delivered this man to the Abyssal Monarch, the man with both the Creation God and the Devil Emperor's inheritances in his body. Since everyone else was dead, he didn't even need to split the credit with anyone else.

"The emperor of this world? Heh!" His eyes grew increasingly heated even as he sneered. "Be thankful. You should've been the first to die, but now, you will live even if you don't want to."

"You will live long enough to become the Abyssal Monarch's tribute. It will be the greatest meaning and glory ever in your life."

Suddenly, his brow furrowed a little. "I remember that old Qilin warning me never to underestimate or relax my ground around you because you are a man who has defied the odds again and again."

"In that case... what if I do this?"

There was a weak flash of profound energy, and...

PRAK PRAK PRAK CRACK CRACK CRACK CRACK...

Yun Che's impossibly tough draconic bones and his meridians started shattering at the same time. It sounded like a thousand lightning bolts striking the ground continuously.

"We will separate that man from Yun Che!"

Despite the disturbing noise, Chi Wuyao remained perfectly calm and collected. She gave her answer in the calmest and succinct manner possible.

Her answer extinguished the ray of light in Qianye Ying'er's heart immediately. The woman moaned painfully, "How could we do that when we couldn't even get close to them...?"

"It's an impossible feat with our powers, yes." Chi Wuyao slowly turned her head. "But not impossible for the World Piercer!"

Shui Meiyin and Qianye Ying'er's eyes lit up at the same time.

Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu also turned around with looks of realization on their faces.

Chi Wuyao wasn't looking at Shui Meiyin, however. She was looking at the three Yama Ancestors."

"Yan One, Yan Two, Yan Three. You always said you would give your lives to keep your master safe, didn't you?" she gave the cruelest order in the calmest voice she had ever used in her life, "The time has come. I need you to give up your lives for your master."

Chapter 1946 - Death and Life (2)

Chi Wuyao's order for the three Yama Ancestors to commit suicide for Yun Che... was not met with resistance or fear, but mad excitement and fervor.

"Forget giving my life, I'll scatter my own ashes if it can save my master!" Yan One roared.

Yan Two breathed heavily. "Our lives are meant to be used for our master's sake, and there is no greater honor than to die for our master!"

Yan Three literally dropped to his knees before the Devil Queen. He was quaking violently not because he was afraid to die, but because his master was in grave danger. "Tell us already, Devil Queen! How exactly do we save the master? If we wait any longer, then master will—master will—"

Yan Wanchi, Yan Wanhun, and Yan Wangui.

They were the progenitors of the Yama Realm and the oldest beings to ever live in the God Realm.

They were some of the most exalted people in the universe even after they had been subverted with the slave imprint, and they were so used to being called Yan One, Yan Two, and Yan Three that even they had begun to forget their original names, much less everyone else.

And yet, they did not hesitate for even an instant when the Devil Queen had demanded they give up eight hundred thousand years of existence just like that.

Their loyalty was artificial. But Chi Wuyao still could not help but be moved by their devotion.

"Very good." The Devil Queen nodded lightly. "This is the plan. Meiyin will use the World Piercer to teleport you right next to your master. What you need to do is to break your master away from that man before your bodies are torn apart, no matter the cost! Do you understand?"

As long they could break the Abyssal Knight's hold on Yun Che, Shui Meiyin would be able to teleport him away to safety.

"Understood! We understand!!" All three Yama Ancestors nodded in unison. Their black auras surged restlessly as the savage, twisting image of a Yama Devil manifested behind their backs. Their eyes burned with impatience and frenzy.

"I'll go too!" Qianye Ying'er declared in a cold and ruthless voice. "They might not be enough to finish the job!"

However, Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu's voices rang behind her right after she said this. "No, we'll go."

"The Devil Queen must not risk herself for the future of Emperor Yun and the God Realm." Qianye Bingzhu explained, "Just the same, you must preserve yourself for the future of the Qianyes, God Emperor."

Qianye Wugu added, "Remember how those two acted when we unleashed the golden light of Brahma? With luck, we may be able to catch him by surprise as well."

The two Brahma Ancestors hadn't forgotten how Nan Zhaoming and Nan Zhaoguang had behaved after they unleashed their Brahma Monarch divine power.

Chi Wuyao: "...!"

Assuming that their prediction was true, their chance of success just went up considerably.

"We beseech you to let us go in peace, God Emperor."

Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu said at the same time, their voices as ancient as their gazes.

Although they knew full well that they would not survive this endeavor, they were as terrified of dying as the three Yama Ancestors were. There was only deep sincerity in their voices.

"..." Qianye Ying'er's lips parted, but she was unable to find the words to speak.

Chi Wuyao grabbed Qianye Ying'er's hand before nodding toward the two Brahma Ancestors. "Then we will count on you, seniors."

Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu nodded at her before standing next to the three Yama Ancestors. They then placed their palms over their chest to muster every ounce of Brahma Monarch divine power in their bodies. A moment later, the deepest part of their profound veins lit up with the brightest Brahma Monarch light they had ever conjured in their lives.

"We are ready," Qianye Wugu said indifferently after the preparations were complete.

"Meiyin..."

Chi Wuyao spoke as she cast her gaze across Yan One, Yan Two, Yan Three, Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu. She knew that this was the last time she would be seeing them. In the next moment, they would be delivered to the jaws of death by her own orders.

Losing the five ancestors was a huge loss not just to Yun Che, but also the entire God Realm.

There was no other choice though.

She would bury the God Realm itself if it would improve their chances of saving Yun Che.

"Wait!"

Chi Wuyao was about to give the order when Qianye Ying'er spoke up all of a sudden. Staring at Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu's back, she said in a trembling voice, "Great grandfather, grandfather... if I am somehow alive by the end of this tribulation, in the name of Qianye Ying'er, I swear... that I will restore the Qianye dynasty to its former glory."

For many years, she had been Yun Qianying and Yun Qianying only. No one expected her to bring up her old name of her own accord.

Previously, she had ruled the Brahma Monarch God Realm only because Yun Che needed her to. But today, she had finally accepted her original name and lineage once more.

Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu's backs shivered a little as if they were touched by a chilly breeze.

They closed their eyes at the same time, but not fast enough to keep a tear from falling.

They had ruled for a time and spent the rest of their lifetimes pursuing immortality. They had experienced so much that even death held no sway over them anymore. And yet... the cry of a loved one had shot right through their indifference like it was nothing.

They smiled. They did not fear death to begin with, but now? They felt lighter than they had ever been in a lifetime.

Crack crack crack crack crack!

Meanwhile, the sound of shattering bones had finally come to a stop.

Every meridian in Yun Che's body had been shattered. There wasn't a single intact bone left in him either.

"The cultivation of a Divine Sovereign, but the power of Divine Extinction Realm," Mo Beichen said slowly while stabbing Yun Che's body in and out with his energy. He was hoping to discover the divine marks left behind by the Creation God and the Devil Emperor. "Show me, boy. Reveal the rest of pleasant surprises you have in store for me."

"..." Yun Che's pupils had stopped contracting at this point. Mo Beichen was nothing more but a blurry, grayish outline in his vision now.

"Teleport, Meiyin!"

Realizing that there was no time left, Chi Wuyao barked out the order while unleashing a stream of pitch black light from her eyes.

When the Nirvana Devil Emperor Soul had emerged in full force, it cut right through the Half-God's forcefield and continued toward Mo Beichen at high speed.

The World Piercer's spatial power was unleashed in that moment. The crimson divine light wrapped around the five ancestors and teleported them away in the blink of an eye.

Meanwhile, the unnatural soul fluctuation of the Nirvana Devil Emperor Soul alarmed Mo Beichen and caused him to spin toward Chi Wuyao immediately. He released his own soul energy in an attempt to respond to her attack, but doing so caused him to miss the crimson flash right above his head—not that he would've noticed it even if he wasn't distracted.

The World Piercer affects nothing and leaves absolutely no trace behind when carrying out a teleportation. Not even Mo Beichen could detect or guard himself against it.

Five figures descended seemingly out of nowhere.

Mo Beichen hadn't withdrawn his forcefield this whole time, so to say that the space around him was deadly even to a God Emperor would be an understatement.

The moment the three Yama Ancestors and the two Brahma Ancestors appeared above Mo Beichen, the Half-God's power immediately stabbed into their bodies like a million blades. It felt as if their bodies and internal organs were being torn into a million pieces.

That was fine though, because surviving this wasn't their objective. Everyone unleashed the power they had been gathering in that instant.

Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu transformed into a pair of golden suns as they fell toward Mo Beichen.

It was of course the Brahma Monarch's unique skill, the Brahma Soul Ashes.

The two former Brahma Heaven God Emperors had injected their life, their Brahma soul and all of their divine power into this suicide attack. The Half-God's forcefield was immensely powerful, but even that wasn't enough to stop them detonating and leaving behind a pair of golden suns that illuminated everything within hundreds of thousands of kilometers of the star region.

They had used the suicide skill immediately after they appeared not because they were hoping to defeat Mo Beichen—they wouldn't be in this situation if that was possible—but to increase their chances of rescuing Yun Che even if only a little.

The sudden attack and the Brahma Ancestors' golden auras had caught Mo Beichen by surprise exactly as they had predicted. When the Brahma Soul Ashes descended toward his head, his pupils had contracted in shock, and the disdain and arrogance that seemed like a permanent fixture of his eyes had temporarily given way to utter shock and awe.

His body shivered violently, and even the forcefield that was more terrifying than ten thousand nightmares largely crumbled.

BOOM—

Stunned and confused, the two suns struck Mo Beichen squarely in the head before he could react. Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu possessed the greatest Brahma Monarch divine power in the Primal Chaos bar none, not to mention that they had injected absolutely everything they had into the attack. Naturally, it was a terrible blow even for a profound practitioner as powerful as Mo Beichen.

On a side note, Yun Che only took minimal damage because he wasn't the focus of their attack.

The two explosions threw Mo Beichen's head back so violently that his neck became heavily misaligned. Not only that, his balance was thrown completely off because he was falling rapidly with his upper body leaning back way more than he would've preferred.

"..." The golden suns dyed Qianye Ying'er's eyes to the pure gold they were many years ago.

This was the end of the two former Brahma Heaven God Emperors, Qianye Wugu and Qianye Fantian. They were great men who had sacrificed life and power to leave behind two golden seeds of hope in their final moments.

"JIEHA!!"

The rescue effort was just beginning, however. Amidst a backdrop of golden light, Yan One, Yan Two, and Yan Three let out the most ear-piercing screech of their lives and pounced toward Mo Beichen like rabid dogs.

Their devilish eyes were overflowing with savagery, and the Yama Devil image behind their backs looked unstable enough to disintegrate on its own at any moment. At the same time, the rampaging energy around their hands took the form of the ugliest, scariest talons of hell.

Stunned in more ways than one, Mo Beichen simply couldn't react in time to stop the Yama Ancestors from pouncing on him.

Yan One had wrapped himself around Mo Beichen's right arm and bit down on his wrist with blackish, withered teeth. Yan Two had clung to Mo Beichen's right shoulder, locked his arms around the arm bone in a death grip, and unleashed all of his power at once.

They did this because Mo Beichen was holding Yun Che with his right hand!

As for Yan Three, the Yama Ancestor had jumped on top of Mo Beichen's face and wrapped his thin and frail-looking arms around his bent neck. He stretched his blackened, ghoulish mouth to a comically wide degree before biting down on the Half-God's head. At the same time, he unleashed all of his Yama Devil powers in an attempt to pierce the man's skull.

Mo Beichen was stunned, off balance, and not at full strength. Not only that, the three Yama Ancestors were able to unleash their full power at melee range. A hundred black explosions erupted around the Half God's right arm in an instant, twisting it unnaturally and weakening his grip on Yun Che's throat a little.

Mo Beichen was an Abyssal Knight however, a Half-God, and a man of formidable character. His grip had retightened before anyone could take advantage of it, and although Mo Beichen still hadn't turned his head around, a bit of brutality had returned to his trembling eyes. At the same time, his forcefield had ceased its crumbling and regained a bit of strength.

It must be said that Mo Beichen had been caught completely and utterly off guard, and his soul was still shaking after witnessing the golden light of Brahma Monarch. What this meant was that his reaction hadn't been a conscious thing. It was his body instinctively trying to wrestle back some measure of control after being caught by surprise; the uncanny instinct of a Half-God.

This was bad news for the Yama Ancestors because less than ten percent of a Half-God's power was still a lot of power, not to mention that they were clinging to his body.

"SHAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!"

The three Yama Ancestors screamed on top of their lungs. Their bodies suddenly twisted like wrung cloths, scattering blood, bone and gore all over the place.

Yan One and Yan Two's arms shattered into a million pieces in an instant, but they forcefully stitched the flesh and bone with their power and maintained their hold, not giving Mo Beichen even an inch of ground. Even their shattered teeth were still stuck in Mo Beichen's flesh.

The first instinct of any living being when attacked was to protect their head.

A Half-God was no exception.

Since Yan Three had chosen to attack Mo Beichen's head, it meant he was enduring twice as much energy as Yan One and Yan Two.

For a moment, his withered body warped and trembled like water ripples. Then, with a heart-wrenching howl, his body literally ripped in half as he was sent flying away from Mo Beichen's head.

"OLD GHOST!!!"

Yan One and Yan Two wailed on top of their lungs. The three Yama Ancestors had lived together for eight hundred thousand years, and to watch Yan Three being torn in half was like being torn in half themselves.

"AAAAAAAAAAAAAH... SAVE... MASTER!" Yan Three screamed on top of his lungs.

The ancestor's Yama Devil powers should've faded the moment his body was ripped apart, and his death was all but certain. Perhaps it was because his resolve was too great, but not only did he manage to hold onto his power, it actually surpassed his greatest limits in an instant. It was a miracle.

Bringing his final strength to bear, Yan Three turned his upper torso around and threw himself at Mo Beichen's head once more.

He summoned a Yama claw, screamed like a banshee, and stabbed it right through Mo Beichen's eyes.

Some things did not change no matter what power level you were. Even for a Half-God, the eyes were still the most vulnerable part of their body.

The Yama claw was infused with the full power of Yan Three's faith and despair. For the first time since Mo Beichen set foot in this world, he let out a bloodcurdling scream.

This was the moment Chi Wuyao had been waiting for. Her dark eyes flashed black in an instant.

The five ancestors were formidable, but quantity usually fell short of quality when it came to realm levels, even if they were aiming to bridge the chasm for only a moment. However, they had one trump card that was even higher than Mo Beichen's power—her Nirvana Devil Emperor Soul!

There was no better timing than this.

The Nirvana Devil Emperor Soul stabbed into Mo Beichen's soul sea with every ounce of power Chi Wuyao could muster.

At this stage, Mo Beichen had been discombobulated by the Brahma Ancestors' final flash, struck in the head, weakened, put off balance, attacked by dark energy, stabbed in the eye...

And finally, invaded by the Devil Queen's Nirvana Devil Emperor Soul!

There were few things in the Primal Chaos that could threaten a Half-God's soul, and it so happened that an ancient Devil Emperor's soul—even if it was barely a shade of its former self—was one of them. A devilish scream resounded in Mo Beichen's soul sea, and—

"GAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!"

The man's soul sea crumbled instantly. It only lasted for a few moments, but his clarity of mind and sanity were utterly destroyed in that moment.

When the mind was taken out of the equation, and instinct was all the body had left to rely on, the first thing it would do after being stabbed in the eye and attacked inside the head, was to cover up these sensitive body parts with its hands.

Mo Beichen was not an exception.

Finally, after all the sacrifices they had made up until this point, he let go of Yun Che's neck to protect his eyes in a panic.

Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu were already stardust at this point. Yan One and Yan Two's internal organs were a pile of goo, and Yan Three was literally ripped in half. They were dead men walking, and the moment they completed their mission was most likely the moment they passed on to the other world.

The five ancestors had given their all for this very moment.

When Yan One saw through his blood-drenched eyes that Mo Beichen had let go of Yun Che, he immediately let out a ghastly screech, grabbed his master with his broken hand, and pushed him far, far away from the Half-God.

Shui Meiyin had never been so focused and clear-headed in her life. She hadn't even made a sound since the rescue began.

This whole time, the World Piercer had been shining the purest crimson between her fingers.

The moment Yun Che escaped Mo Beichen's grip, the crimson glow immediately surged toward his location before teleporting him away from the Half-God's forcefield.

There was another crimson flash, and he reappeared right next to her.

Qianye Ying'er immediately threw her arms around Yun Che and hugged him with everything she got. She couldn't stop trembling the entire time.

This time, she had been less than a hair away from losing him forever.

It was a kind of fear she never, ever, ever wished to relive again.

Yun Che wasn't moving at all. His meridians and bones were completely broken, and his body was cracked all over the place. It seemed like he was conscious because his eyes were half-open, but in reality he had passed out a moment ago.

Any other Divine Sovereign would've died from this level of injuries already.

"Go!" Chi Wuyao withdrew her soul and uttered in a pained voice.

The crimson light reappeared and enveloped Shui Meiyin, Chi Wuyao, Qianye Ying'er, Mu Xuanyin, Caizhi and Yun Che.

Then they were gone, away from this space of nightmare and despair, away from the dying suns of the Brahma, and away from the howls that seemed to hail from purgatory itself.

Chapter 1947 - The Darkest Night

Mo Beichen had blanked out for less than a breath.

He rapidly regained the faculties of his mind after the Nirvana Devil Emperor Soul had pulled out.

The panic he had succumbed to after witnessing the golden light of Brahma had disappeared as well.

Now, he was angry. Angrier than he had ever been since coming to this universe.

He grew even angrier when he realized that he could not detect Yun Che!

BOOM—

The entire star region crumbled violently at his outburst. The three Yama Ancestors who were still clinging to his body up until that point were sent flying in a splatter of blood and gore.

Mo Beichen did not even glance at them. He dashed toward Chi Wuyao and Shui Meiyin's location in an attempt to track them down, but he was unable to detect even the slightest spatial trace.

Somehow, it was even more undetectable than when Jun Xilei had vanished right before his eyes.

His facial features grew more and more distorted as he soundlessly gritted his teeth.

BOOM!

He made a grab with his hand, and the space in front of him was torn to shreds like tattered cloth. However, the action did nothing to vent the fury in his heart.

More than fury, he felt humiliated by his enemy's success.

He was a Half-God and an Abyssal Knight, and this lowly universe somehow managed to...

He abruptly turned around and looked at the blurry shadows floating away in space.

If Yan One, Yan Two, and Yan Three weren't dead before, Mo Beichen's final attack had guaranteed their fate. Their bodies were more or less annihilated by the outburst. However, the three Yama Ancestors were ancient monsters who had lived for eight hundred thousand years until this point. They were ridiculously tenacious if nothing else. Their internal organs were missing, and their bodies had been cut into many tiny pieces. Even so, their devilish eyes were wide open, and rich devilish energy was still circulating around their bodies somehow.

"Heh... hehehe..." Yan One was chuckling because their final mission was a success. He had seen Yun Che being rescued with his own eyes.

"The fuck... you laughing about?" The devilish light surrounding Yan Three's body was the weakest, but he refused to lower his volume even a little. "I'm the one... who contributed the most just now!"

"We've been alive for more than enough time. This is enough." Yan Two was smiling as well. To them, there was no better way to depart this world than this. "You must be safe... master..."

Mo Beichen's twitching abruptly stopped. It was because he realized that losing his cool for even a moment was a form of humiliation in this universe.

So, he concentrated all of his fury in his eyes, faced toward the Yama Ancestors, and lashed out with his fingers.

BOOM—

Fifty thousand kilometers of space collapsed into countless space fragments, then from fragments into space dust. The disintegration didn't stop until all that was left was a fifty thousand kilometer-wide black hole.

The Yama Ancestors, Qianye Wugu and Qianye Bingzhu's final light, and even Nan Zhaoming and Nan Zhaoguang were all destroyed and returned to the most primitive form of existence: nothing.

When the deed was done, Mo Beichen released his divine perception in full and scanned the star region again and again.

A brief moment later, he withdrew his divine perception and released his energy. He rushed to the east for a short time before making a grabbing motion with his hand again. An old man shot over from the distance before stopping in front of him.

It was none other than Qi Tianli. Mo Beichen had brought the Qilin Emperor with him when he teleported over to the Eastern Divine Region.

Although the old Qilin wasn't anywhere close to the battlefield when it happened, the distant explosions and spatial storms still frightened him to no end. They also complicated his feelings a lot.

A chill ran through Qi Tianli's heart when he noticed that Mo Beichen was hiding a seething fury behind his usual mask of indifference.

"Yun Che, has escaped."

Qi Tianli dipped his head deeply, too afraid to respond to the comment at all.

"Why is that their spatial teleportation leaves no traces behind," Mo Beichen asked in a cool tone. "You should know the answer."

"It's... it's because they're using the World Piercer!" Qi Tianli dared not hide anything before the Half-God.

For obvious reasons, the fact that Shui Meiyin possessed the Heavenly Profound Treasure, World Piercer was not publicized. Only a handful of people were made aware of this.

Unfortunately, the Qilin Emperor was one of Emperor Yun's hands and the most important person in the Western Divine Region. He was made privy to this as a matter of course.

"World... Piercer!?" Mo Beichen's voice rose an octave higher.

The seven Heavenly Profound Treasures were so famous that even the Abyss recognized and recorded them in their books.

Qi Tianli hurriedly added, "It's the truth. One of the seven ancient Heavenly Profound Treasures, the World Piercer resurfaced in Primal Chaos a couple of years ago, and its current master is none other than one of Yun Che's imperial consorts."

“If they are able to escape despite your divine might, then it can only be because of the World Piercer—
hmm!”

A pale hand abruptly seized Qi Tianli’s collar and pulled him upward. Mo Beichen questioned while freezing the old Qilin under his murderous stare, “Why didn’t you tell me this sooner?”

A pale-faced Qi Tianli stuttered through shaky lips, “Things were happening without warning... and this old one... just didn’t have the time to... forgive me, Venerable One...”

“But with your strength... this old one is certain... that they can not escape forever... Venerable One...”

Bang!

Mo Beichen flung Qi Tianli into the distance. The old Qilin bent his knees and coughed non-stop after he caught himself.

The Half-God narrowed his eyes, but the coldness in his eyes was slowly melting away into rich excitement.

His divine perception could cover far more distance in Primal Chaos than the Abyss, and Yun Che was easily the man with the strongest aura in this world.

Qi Tianli was right. Even if the young man managed to escape his clutches for now, it was only a matter of time before he was captured. It wouldn’t even take long. Moreover, he was now aware of the World Piercer and could prepare accordingly. The next time they met, Yun Che would not be able to escape.

Looking from this perspective, today was overall a good day even though Yun Che was temporarily out of his reach.

The Abyssal Monarch would be very happy to receive not just the inheritances of the Creation God and the Devil Emperor, but also a Heavenly Profound Treasure. It would be yet another great achievement under his belt.

“What else have you neglected to tell me? Speak only the important things.”

Mo Beichen’s low, heavy voice pressed down on Qi Tianli like heavenly law.

This was the day the dark clouds of the Abyss descended on the God Realm that had just settled down from a calamity a few years ago.

.....

Drip...

The sound of water droplets.

Rustle...

The sound of the wind scattering the leaves.

And...

A ubiquitous and terrible pain.

Pain...

I'm not... dead?

His consciousness felt so heavy that he didn't even have the desire to struggle awake.

A million times heavier than his consciousness were the scenes swimming in his head between bouts of wakefulness.

Mo Beichen...

Divine Extinction Realm...

The Abyss...

That level of power should've been long gone... Why does it still exist, and why must it invade the world I fought so hard to defang?

It's all so... ridiculous.

Suddenly, a faint sensation entered his body from somewhere. It was cold and icy, but also strangely comforting for some reason. It soothed the seemingly never-ending spasms of his soul.

"I'm leaving, Yun Che."

"Live a good life, Yun Che. That is my final wish to you. I have no doubt that it will be a difficult wish to complete, but do it anyway for my sake."

It was Mu Xuanyin's voice. It sounded so close yet so far.

There was a solemn finality in her tone that felt... like she was giving her final goodbye.

His silent consciousness began to throb fiercely. He began to struggle to wake up.

It was at this moment he heard another voice in his head.

"Yun Che," Qianye Ying'er's voice rang with a tinge of rare, rare sorrow, "I want nothing more than to die by your side, but I want you to live even more than that."

"I have done countless wrongs and committed countless sins in my life, but I will never regret the debt, the sorrow, the happiness, the pain, the sadness, the glory and the shame; everything that led to our meeting. Never."

"..." Yun Che tried everything he could to catch the hand of the woman who had said those words.

"Brother-in-law..."

It was Caizhi calling out to him. Her voice sounded soft and fluffy, and he could not detect a single trace of the low and dignified voice she had adopted in recent years. It was almost as if she had returned to that pure girl who invoked his desire to protect from the moment he laid eyes on her.

"I'm going to meet big sis now. I've missed her so, so much in these recent years, so you don't need to be sad for me, okay? All I ask of you... is to remember me from time to time."

“Big sis and I will watch over you from the other world, so you must do your best to live no matter what, okay? I’m sure you won’t want to disappoint the two of us, right?”

.....

Are these dreams, or...

Why does it sound like everyone’s saying goodbye...

What am I...

“Yun Che!”

This time, it was Chi Wuyao who spoke to him. Unlike the others, it felt so heavy it was as if the words were engraving themselves to his soul.

“You were always destined to live an extraordinary and perilous life.”

“Unfortunately, the latest disaster came so quickly and cruelly that even as arrogant as I... must admit that I am powerless.”

“The last thing I can do for you... is to stay away from you.”

“You must live. You must live no matter the cost just like how you hid yourself in the Northern Divine Region and plotted your revenge back then.”

“You can do it for us, right?”

.....

His soul twitched, and his consciousness struggled with all its might. He desperately wanted to wake up to reality, but every moment was accompanied by a terrible pain that felt like a million blades were piercing his soul.

The pain kept mounting and mounting, but that only made him struggle even harder.

The pain was growing because he was growing conscious. So if he kept struggling...

“Ah!”

A surprised cry resounded inside his soul sea. He immediately identified it as He Ling’s voice. “Have you woken up, master? Uu... uu!”

She sounded like she was about to break into a sob at the end, but she managed to stifle it between her lips.

A ray of light slammed into his eyes in the next moment.

The instantaneous, stabbing pain informed him that he hadn’t opened his eyes for a very, very long time.

After he got used to the light, the first thing he saw was an azure blue sky.

As his hearing slowly returned to normal, he recognized the sound of flowing water and blowing wind.

Consciousness linking up with his body, he attempted to lift a finger. The movement immediately triggered bone-wrenching pain.

“Ah!”

He heard another girl’s surprised cry, followed by a series of rapid footsteps. A second later, he was greeted by a tear-stained smile.

“Big brother Yun Che...” Her tears were pouring by the time she said his name. “You finally woke up... you finally... Uu... uuuuuu....”

“Mei... Yin...”

His voice came out dry and raspy as he said her name. With great difficulty and pain, he slowly raised his arm until it entered his vision.

His body was powerful beyond the imagination of this universe. It had mended his broken bones and meridians in the period he was unconscious. However, his injuries were simply far too severe, and the rebound of God Ash had left him perilously weak and fragile. Otherwise, he would’ve healed much, much faster than this.

Shui Meiyin hurriedly and gently held Yun Che’s palm between her own.

Yun Che stared blankly at her while attempting to sort out his disjointed memories. The spreading wetness between his palm and the bone-wrenching pain all informed him that he had returned to reality, that he was no longer stuck in a dream.

The fact that Shui Meiyin was next to him also meant that he wasn’t in danger right now, wherever he was. However, he clearly remembered Mo Beichen holding him by the throat before he lost consciousness.

It was a level of power that did not even allow him to wallow in despair, much less struggle...

So how on earth had he escaped that fatal situation?

He recalled the voices ringing in his soul sea, and it was as if the lid on his anxiety was suddenly removed. Too bothered to care even for his pathetic state, he spread his weak spiritual perception as far as he could manage.

He couldn’t sense Chi Wuyao, Qianye Ying’er, Caizhi or Mu Xuanyin...

He couldn’t even sense the three Yama Ancestors who he knew would never leave his side unless expressly ordered by him.

There was no one else here besides him and Shui Meiyin.

“How long... have I slept?”

He was Yun Che after all. In the short minute he was awake, his vision had returned to normal, and his voice sounded a lot clearer than before.

“Sixteen days,” Shui Meiyin answered while doing her best to wipe away the tears from her face and eyes.

She was the only one left who could accompany Yun Che now. She was the only one who could bear the future with him. That was why she couldn’t show weakness no matter what.

Sixteen days...

Yun Che was stunned to say the least.

He could hardly believe that he, of all people, had fallen unconscious for so long.

It just showed how weakened and injured he was that day.

Wait a second...

Sixteen days!?

That Mo Beichen has had sixteen days to do whatever the hell he wanted!?

His heart skipped a beat, and his pupils contracted violently as he struggled to right himself. He asked in an urgent voice, “How... how are Wuyao and the others? How is Wuxin?”

“...” Shui Meiyin bit her lip instinctively, but she let go in an instant and wore a casual smile on her face. “What else? They’re fine. You’re awake now, so of course they’re fine.”

“But let’s not think about other things for the moment, okay? Your injuries are still very severe, and you need every bit of rest you can get to return to full health. I’ll tell them that you’ve woken up right after this. I promise you’ll see them the next time you wake up from your sleep, okay?”

Shui Meiyin’s expression and voice were as natural as it could be. Her pure smile felt as soothing as a cool breeze.

Unfortunately, the one person she couldn’t fool in this world, was Yun Che.

It was because she didn’t even dare to meet his eyes when she said those words.

A few years ago, she had told him the lies of Xia Qingyue.

Today, she was once again forced to lie to him. Who else could do it if not her?

“...” Yun Che watched her eyes for a while before exhaling. He then said, “Lift me up.”

Meiyin’s first instinct was to tell him to stay put, but when she saw the sudden surge of darkness in his eyes, she had no choice but to agree. “Mm.”

After he was lifted to a sitting position, Yun Che leaned against Shui Meiyin’s soft chest and looked ahead.

It was a pocket world he had never seen before. There were a couple of fresh, intertwining streams not far away from him. Fish could be seen leaping out of the waters from time to time. The sky was as blue as the water.

Although his spiritual perception was far from fully recovered, he could tell he was at a lower realm planet with incredibly poor spirit energy, but an abundant amount of nature.

It was ordinary, but it was far away from the God Realm.

“Yan Three.”

He suddenly called out.

There was a cool breeze, but no reply whatsoever.

“Big brother Yun Che,” Shui Meiyin said quietly. She didn’t want to reveal certain things so soon after he awoke, but it was clear that Yun Che had noticed a couple of things already.

“Yan Three and the others, they... they’re already...”

“It was they who sacrificed themselves and rescued you from that terrible person.”

“...” Yun Che stayed quiet for a moment before exhaling soundlessly. “Is that so?”

“The Devil Queen, Xuanyin... where are they?” he asked. “I wish to hear the truth.”

His voice was as calm as his expression, but he knew he was anything but calm. His heart beat painfully in his chest with every word he spoke.

Shui Meiyin shook her head and pressed a soft hand against his chest. “Later. I’ll tell you when you’re stronger, okay?”

It was at this moment the Glazed Light Water Jade hanging in front of her chest blinked a little. Like a woman who had just been handed a lifeline, she rushed, “It’s a sound transmission from big sis! She’s been sending me messages from the Eastern Divine Region for the past couple days, and she never forgets to mention that Wuxin is safe and sound. Let’s hear it together!”

Without waiting for an answer, she willed the Glazed Light Water Jade to activate its profound sound transmission formation. However, contrary to Shui Meiyin’s expectations, Shui Yingyue’s voice was tinged with deep urgency and panic. “Meiyin! Cang Shitian has kidnapped Wuxin! She was taken to the God Realm of Absolute Beginning, and he’s about to give her to Mo Beichen as a gift of loyalty! You’re the only one who can save her now!”

Chapter 1948 - Glimmer

BOOM—

Shui Meiyin turned deathly pale in an instant. A million thunder bolts resounded inside Yun Che’s head.

Shui Meiyin hurriedly put away the profound sound transmission formation, but it was too late. If she wasn’t panicking before, now she was experiencing a full-blown panic attack.

To say that it was extraordinarily bad luck would be an understatement. Of all the times Shui Yingyue could’ve sent her bad news, it just had to be when Yun Che was awake and right next to her. Worse, it was the one bad news that Yun Che could never accept.

“You’re the only one who can save her” ... her sister was right. Assuming that Yun Wuxin hadn’t fallen into Mo Beichen’s hands, and that her current location could be identified before then, then yes, she could most likely rescue the girl with the World Piercer.

There was a huge problem though. The World Piercer was dangerously low on spatial divine power already.

Every time the World Piercer carries out a teleportation, Yun Che would be in greater danger.

She hadn’t forgotten Chi Wuyao’s final instruction before she left: the World Piercer’s final spatial divine power must be saved only for life-threatening emergencies or Yun Che himself.

Yun Che was their only hope. As long as he was alive, there was always the chance they could turn this around. To that end, anything could be abandoned. Anything.

Unfortunately, Shui Meiyin had no choice but to break this rule now. It was because Yun Che had heard the sound transmission.

If she did not rescue Yun Wuxi now, there was no way he could recuperate in peace. In fact, there was an extremely high chance he would...

“Don’t worry, big brother Yun Che.” Shui Meiyin didn’t brood for long since there was only one course of action she could take. She forced herself to calm down and said in the calmest voice she could muster, “I’ll confirm her location and bring her back right away.”

The World Piercer appeared in her palm, but something caught her wrist gently but firmly before she could do anything. To her surprise, it was Yun Che.

“The World Piercer doesn’t have much power left, does it?”

Yun Che sounded so calm it was scary.

Shui Meiyin stared at him in disbelief for a moment before nodding.

Yun Che did not let go. He... was actually stopping her from teleporting away and rescuing Yun Wuxin. He actually didn’t push her to rescue Yun Wuxin as quickly as possible, no matter the cost.

Replaying the voices he had heard while he was unconscious in his head again and again, Yun Che continued in a calm voice, “The Devil Queen, Xuanyin, Qianying, Caizhi... they just left not long ago, didn’t they? I heard their voices while I was unconscious.”

“... yes.” Shui Meiyin nodded again, but she could not stop a tear from sliding down her cheeks anymore. “They... they’ve gone to the God Realm of Absolute Beginning.”

She had told herself repeatedly that she must conceal the truth from Yun Che without fail this time, but she had failed practically from the moment he awoke.

“Where is Mo Beichen?” Yun Che closed his eyes. His breathing had accelerated uncontrollably at first, but now it was slowing little by little.

Shui Yingyue had mentioned that Cang Shitian was taking Yun Wuxin to the God Realm of Absolute Beginning to give her to Mo Beichen, but why was the man in the God Realm of Beginning to begin with?

“Mn.”

It was pointless to try and hide anything anymore, so Shui Meiyin simply revealed the whole truth. “Mo Beichen’s perception is too powerful. He’s found us seven times in the past sixteen days, and we’ve had to use the World Piercer to escape each time.”

The girls must have been incredibly stressed out while he was unconscious. With a hunter like Mo Beichen, they literally couldn’t relax for even an instant.

The range of Mo Beichen’s perception was just too great. Every time they were detected, they had to teleport an incredible distance just to avoid being detected again. Naturally, the teleportation used up much of the World Piercer’s already low reserves.

“After the last escape, sister Devil Queen said that the reason Mo Beichen was able to detect us again and again is because our auras are too strong. She said that we’re actually increasing the risk of you being caught by staying by your side.”

“Moreover, teleporting six people at once uses up far more energy than just two.”

“That is why... they...” Shui Meiyin barely stifled a sob before she continued, “They unanimously decided to leave your side to keep you safe. Also, something special will be happening today, so they’ve decided to seek out Mo Beichen of their own accord.”

Yun Che closed his eyes and fell silent. Strangely, he did not ask anything else for a very long time.

Both his gaze and expression were so still that they were comparable to the running waters and soothing breeze around them.

It was such an unusual reaction from Yun Che that Shui Meiyin actually didn’t know what to do for a moment.

He Ling was the only one who knew that his heart and soul were in danger of shattering into a million pieces at any moment.

“He Ling,” Yun Che’s soul voice rang with surprising coolness and clarity considering the dangerous amount of cracks inside his soul space, “How much power has the Sky Poison Pearl regenerated for the past few years? Is there a chance... if even a miniscule chance... it might be able to poison Mo Beichen to death?”

He had run through every possibility in his head, and he came to the conclusion that the Sky Poison Pearl... was the only weapon in his possession that might be capable of killing the terrifying Abyssal Knight.

One breath, two breaths, three breaths...

A long time passed, but still He Ling didn’t give him a response.

Finally, Yun Che let out a self-derisive chuckle and murmured, “Never mind. I should’ve known that it was just a fantasy.”

“No.” However, He Ling’s reply came right after he said that. “The Sky Poison Pearl... has regenerated enough power to kill Mo Beichen!”

Yun Che’s soul sea immediately groaned alarmingly. “He Ling, are you... certain?”

“I am.” He Ling’s soul image appeared, and he saw an unprecedented amount of determination in her emerald green eyes and gentle voice. “Mo Beichen is powerful, but neither his power nor his body was superior to the Sky Poison Pearl. Not even close.”

“There is a critical prerequisite we must fulfill before we can kill him, however. The poison energy must be detonated inside his body where the life vein is.”

He Ling continued with eyes as clear as water, and a voice that seemed to resonate inside his heart. “If you can stab him with your sword—preferably through the torso—then it will be enough!”

He Ling was asking him to stab Mo Beichen with the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor Sword; to skewer the body of a Half-God.

To say it was difficult to achieve would be an understatement. It was impossible enough to drive even the most optimistic person in Primal Chaos to utter despair. But to Yun Che, it was a ray of hope in what should’ve been the longest, darkest night.

His soul sea shook harder than ever before, but this time it was out of excitement, not despair.

“I need you to give me an honest answer, He Ling. If I can skewer Mo Beichen with the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor Sword, how confident are you in killing him with the Sky Poison?”

He Ling looked up and declared without hesitation, “One hundred percent!”

The rumblings in his soul sea came to a complete stop.

He Ling had never lied to him, and she never would.

Although he was the master of the Sky Poison Pearl, his knowledge of its power was far weaker than He Ling’s, the Sky Poison Spirit.

He Ling’s answer was short, but it was enough to strengthen that ray of hope into a miraculous star.

All I need to do... is to stab Mo Beichen through the chest!

Bathump!

Bathump!

Bathump—

Yun Che could hear his own heartbeat clearly.

He was still seriously injured, and his mind felt like it was coated in a layer of confusion. However, this good news rapidly cooled his head until all of the disturbances in his soul sea had disappeared completely.

A long time later, he said, "I need thirty days, He Ling. Assuming we use up everything the Eternal Heaven Pearl has regenerated up until this point, what is the minimum amount of real time you can give me?"

She replied seriously after giving it some thought, "One hour."

What she meant was she could compress one month in the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm to just one hour in the real world. That was nearly a thousand times the time difference!

Assuming that they went forth with the plan, this would unquestionably be the farthest He Ling had ever pushed the Eternal Heaven Pearl since she had taken control of the Heavenly Profound Treasure. The time he and Shui Meiyin had entered the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm before the final battle against the Western Divine Region was nothing compared to this.

"Very well! Please do that right away. There... is no need to hold back any longer."

He opened his eyes and grabbed Shui Meiyin's wrist again. He then said,

"Come with me to the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm, Meiyin!"

He Ling didn't keep him waiting for too long. Dozens of breaths later, an Eternal Heaven Divine Realm containing all of the Eternal Heaven Pearl's energy had been constructed.

Yun Che did not delay for even an instant. He entered the realm with Meiyin the second it was ready.

The world of eternal white wasn't unfamiliar to him. After all, he and Meiyin had stayed here for three years not too long ago.

Yun Che was still leaning against Shui Meiyin since he was too injured to sit up on his own.

A layer of pure white energy was circulating across the surface of his body. He was using whatever energy he could muster to circulate the Divine Miracle of Life.

The first thing he needed to do during these thirty days was to heal himself and regain his power.

There was another equally important matter he had to complete during this time.

Since he was awake, his injuries were healing at a much faster rate. The Divine Miracle of Life also quickly soothed the terrible pain that was wracking his whole body.

"Meiyin," Yun Che closed his eyes once more before asking, "You mentioned that something 'special' is going to happen at the God Realm of Absolute Beginning today. What is it?"

The girl answered, "Mo Beichen hasn't spent all of his energy looking for us for the past sixteen days. In fact, most of it was spent applying pressure on the entire God Realm."

“Sixteen days ago, after we managed to escape from his clutches, Mo Beichen was so angry that he destroyed six hundred star realms across all four divine regions in a single day. That day, every divine region was alerted to his presence as a matter of course.”

“Not long after that, Cang Shitian surrendered to Mo Beichen and used his enforcers to spread the truth of Mo Beichen’s identity and the news of the Abyss’ eventual takeover to every corner of the God Realm.”

“...” Yun Che’s eyebrows twitched dramatically. He could already imagine the kind of panic that was enveloping the God Realm right now.

Cang Shitian...

He was a useful man. Too useful, in fact. It was why Chi Wuyao had bestowed him an extraordinary status and way too much power.

The Enforcers were scattered across every corner of the God Realm. When he was in power, the Chief Enforcer had played a pivotal role in spreading their influence across the entire God Realm in just a short time. However, that plan had backfired since a greater power had emerged. There was nothing stopping his most “faithful” dog from throwing in his lot with Mo Beichen and turning his power against them. Yun Che had no doubt that Mo Beichen valued the Chief Enforcer much more than Qi Tianli.

“However, that was the only time Mo Beichen had acted with tyranny and brutality.” Unaware of his thoughts, Shui Meiyin continued her explanation, “Many of sister devil queen’s predictions were spot on. Mo Beichen might seem nigh invincible to us, but he is most likely just a pawn of the Abyss. He was desperate to take over the God Realm as quickly and thoroughly as possible, but it is clear that he didn’t dare to decide its fate as he pleased. He didn’t even dare to break the current power structure of the God Realm too much.”

“According to sister Devil Queen, Mo Beichen wants to present the Abyssal Monarch with a fully subjugated God Realm when he returns to Primal Chaos. It was his primary objective to complete as a pioneer.”

“From this, we can deduce that the Abyssal Monarch either isn’t a tyrannical ruler, or has given the pioneers strict instructions before sending them into our world. Although Mo Beichen wanted to conquer the God Realm as soon as possible, he never did anything excessive after destroying six hundred star realms and cowering everyone with fear.”

“Unfortunately... he is just too scary. Even if he hadn’t done what he did, I doubt any star realm would’ve been tempted to rebel against him at all. Add to the fact that Qi Tianli and Cang Shitian had already submitted to him, and the fact that most star realms aren’t really that loyal to big brother Yun Che, and...”

It was hardly the most encouraging thing to hear, but Yun Che knew better than Shui Meiyin what the truth was.

Out of the four divine regions, the Northern Divine Region was the only one that was truly loyal to Emperor Yun. Everyone submitted to his rule mostly because of fear and the fact that he was irresistible.

To make things worse, it had only been a few years since he began his rule. The cement was still wet.

It was only logical—no, natural—that they would submit to a stronger ruler, especially since this new ruler was leagues stronger than he was.

“Emperor Yun was easily cornered, and he could only hide all over the place like a rat’... that is what nearly everyone in the God Realm is saying right now. That’s why there’s barely any activity or even a voice of resistance.”

“By the way, Cang Shitian is the reason Mo Beichen is in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning right now. Ten days ago, he gave him the same suggestion sister Devil Queen had given you back then.”

Yun Che’s frown lasted for a second before he exclaimed in realization, “You’re saying... he’s making the upper star realms publicly declare their loyalty to Mo Beichen, and by extension the Abyss!?”

Those who showed up would live, and those who didn’t would die!

Any ember of resistance that could have arisen would be utterly annihilated with this act!

“Mn.” Shui Meiyin nodded. “I heard that it was also Cang Shitian who chose the location. Apparently, it was because the God Realm of Absolute Beginning is the closest location to the Abyss, so having the realm kings swear their fealty there makes ritualistic sense if nothing else.”

“... I understand.” Yun Che exhaled a little. His aura turned completely stable, and his emotions became concealed behind an impenetrable veneer of calmness. He stopped talking after that.

Shui Meiyin wanted to say something, but kept quiet after picking up the changes in Yun Che’s aura.

He didn’t ask her if the star realms that might concern him or her were doing okay. He didn’t ask what Chi Wuyao and the others were planning by heading to the God Realm of Absolute Beginning. He... didn’t ask.

Time passed by, little by little. Yun Che didn’t move a muscle during this time, and Shui Meiyin accompanied him just as quietly.

Seven days later, Yun Che finally opened his eyes and raised his head. The weakness in his eyes had been completely replaced by a deep, infinite void.

His injuries had healed completely. He had regained over eighty percent of his profound energy as well.

Yun Che raised a hand and summoned the Southern Sea Divine Pearl on his palm. Eighteen different Southern Sea divine lights swam slowly within it.

“Big brother Yun Che?” Shui Meiyin asked softly.

“Previously, controlling four divine origins was my absolute limit.” Yun Che looked down as the reflection of the Southern Sea divine origins swam in his pupils. “My mastery has remained the same during our previous stay in the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm, and after Long Bai was dead, I never tried to control the divine origins anymore.”

It was because there didn’t exist anyone who could force him to sacrifice the divine origins and break through his limits after that.

“However, sixteen days ago, when I sacrificed the four Southern Sea divine origins to kill the outsiders... I suddenly realized that four, may not be my absolute limit anymore.”

Although Yun Che’s cultivation hadn’t improved in the slightest during his short reign, something had changed during this time; something that was completely undetectable to his senses.

It was the World-Defying Heaven Manual Xia Qingyue had given to Shui Meiyin, the piece that had allowed him to cultivate the complete Ancestral Divine Art!

Chapter 1949 - Back Against The Wall

There was no one in all of Primal Chaos who knew how to control and harness the power of divine origins except Yun Che. However, Shui Meiyin didn’t need to understand that to know what he was planning to do.

Her heart skipped a beat as she blurted, “Are you planning to fight against Mo Beichen, big brother Yun Che?”

“It’s the only way,” Yun Che said the most pessimistic thing in the calmest voice. “This world is gigantic to us, but tiny to a person at Mo Beichen’s level. As a man who’s wielded that level of power twice, I know exactly how small this world is to someone like him.”

He gave Shui Meiyin’s hand a squeeze before smiling at her. “I’m sure the girls and especially you know that better than anyone else.”

Shui Meiyin’s pupils trembled. There was nothing to refute there.

Mo Beichen had found them seven times in the past sixteen days, and that was only because he hadn’t invested much effort to find them.

How many more times could they elude capture with the World Piercer almost out of power?

The girls’ departure decreased his chances of being found, but how much did it really considering Mo Beichen’s power? Five percent? One? Even less than that?

“The reason the Devil Queen sought out Mo Beichen of her own accord could only be to protect the Northern Divine Region.”

Yun Che smiled in self-derision. “To think that even a crafty devil like her would be pushed by absolute strength to this extent... she had probably never felt so powerless in her life.”

“But...” Shui Meiyin shook her head strongly. “Mo Beichen is monstrously strong. The chances of you beating him are...”

“I’m aware. There isn’t even the slightest chance I could defeat him,” Yun Che spoke the cruelest truth she couldn’t bear to speak. “However, the power I gain by sacrificing the divine origins may allow me to hold out against him for a short while.”

He had been defeated by Mo Beichen in an instant during their first clash—if you could even call it that—but thanks to the experience, he was able to gauge the strength of the Abyssal Knight’s forcefield.

It might not necessarily be stronger than his while God Ash was active.

“Okay, let’s assume that you were able to resist him for a short while. What then?” Shui Meiyin asked.

“Wait for death to claim me, of course,” Yun Che answered. “However... would you believe me if I said that a miracle will happen before that happens?”

He wasn’t kidding. Only a miracle could save them from their current predicament, and he, the executor of said miracle, must believe it could—no, would happen before anyone else.

If even he didn’t believe that a miracle would happen, then there would truly be no light in this absolute darkness.

Shui Meiyin stared into Yun Che’s eyes without a word. A long time later, she suddenly broke into a smile and nodded strongly. “Mm! Of course I would. You’ve already created countless miracles up until this point. Why would it be any different this time?”

The crisis they were facing was one that left even the Devil Queen desperate and helpless.

Back then, the reason he had chosen to swallow his hatred and escape to the Northern Divine Region was because it was an option. The best option, even. It was the one place where he was safe from his pursuers and where he could gain strength as quickly as possible.

That option wasn’t open to him anymore. The restriction left behind by the Heretic God himself had completely blocked off his growth, and there wasn’t a single place in the entire cosmos that would hide him from Mo Beichen for an indefinite amount of time.

There was no retreat. To fight was his only option.

The eighteen golden lights remaining in the Southern Sea Divine Pearl began to stir restlessly to the soundless power of the laws of nothingness.

Previously, four divine origins was his absolute limit. However, the complete World-Defying Heaven Manual should, theoretically speaking, give him the complete version of the laws of nothingness as well.

He had never been able to make sense of the laws of nothingness, but it didn’t take a genius to figure out that the complete version would be far superior to the incomplete version. Considering that this was the territory of the Ancestral God, the difference between the two might even be cross-dimensional.

In the same vein, it made sense that he could control more than four divine origins.

If he could imbue himself with at least ten divine origins...

He should be able to keep God Ash active for around twenty breaths, if not longer!

This was why he had asked He Ling to activate the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm. One way or another, he must learn how to control at least ten Southern Sea divine origins in one go.

Assuming he succeeded, Primal Chaos would never see the Southern Sea divine origins again. He would never be able to reproduce this power.

It was Yun Che's most desperate gambit yet. If he failed, then he would truly have nothing left to defy the Abyss.

The rebound was guaranteed to be unlike anything he had ever experienced, but it didn't matter. Success or failure, he wouldn't need to worry about it either way.

God Realm of Absolute Beginning.

The grayish white world looked as awful as ever, but it had never felt quite so oppressive until Mo Beichen stood in the sky and surveyed everything beneath his feet like a god.

The God Realm of Absolute Beginning was the birthplace of the Ancestral God herself, so it went without saying that it should be treated with the utmost reverence. However, the beings who lived in this primordial world were just as lowly as everyone else in the God Realm. Forget reverence, Mo Beichen could not even bring himself to treat them as equals.

A couple thousand profound practitioners stood on the ground beneath him. It wasn't a particularly impressive number of people, but every one of them was a prominent figure in the God Realm. They made up the nucleus of every divine region's king realms and upper star realms.

One might think that the atmosphere was clamorous, electric, and exciting since it was like a summit of the loftiest experts of God Realm, but in reality, it was anything but that. Forget clashing auras, the air was so stiff, cold and oppressive that one could barely feel its movement at all.

It was because Mo Beichen's presence was too terrifying. The Divine Masters felt as tiny as a reptile beneath the foot of a titanic beast, as if they could be crushed with nary a thought. Their premonition was spot on.

The humility, shock and fear they were feeling were countless times greater than even the time they faced Emperor Yun himself.

Floating not far below Mo Beichen, Qi Tianli stared at the Divine Masters beneath him while a mixture of indescribable emotions churned inside his chest. Usually, they were so arrogant you could almost believe that they were the king of the world. But today, the aura of a Half-God had them all as silent as death. He felt both incredibly glad yet guilty that he was able to stand where he was right now.

Qi Tianli did not believe that his choice was unwise. He was the first person Mo Beichen had sought out since arriving in this world, and by choosing to submit then and there he was able to become the Abyssal Knight's most trusted subordinate on this side of the world.

When the Abyss truly descended upon the Primal Chaos and took over the God Realm, he was confident that the "status" and "merits" he earned today would place his star realm in a much better position compared to the others.

However...

His feelings were completely different from when he had submitted to Emperor Yun.

Back then, he had submitted to Emperor Yun because that was where the river was headed to, and he was just cruising along its current. But submitting to Mo Beichen... half a month had flown by, and still he could not shake off the deep guilt chewing away at his heart, not to mention that he was the one who had presided over Yun Che's grand coronation ceremony just a few years ago...

He shook off the stray thoughts and scanned his eyes across the crowd for a moment. Then, he gave Mo Beichen a half-bow and said in a respectful tone, "We are an eighth of an hour away from the start of the ceremony, Venerable One. The king realm and upper star realm representatives of the Southern Divine Region and Western Divine Region are all present."

Of course they were present. They had submitted to Emperor Yun back then, and the Half-God floating above their heads was many times scarier than even him. Not only could Mo Beichen annihilate an entire star realm with the snap of a finger, Emperor Yun and the Devil Queen were pushed so hard that neither had made so much as a peep for the past two weeks or so.

As soon as they heard the summons, they had scrambled to the God Realm of Absolute Beginning as quickly as humanly possible. Everyone was terrified that the slightest delay would bring annihilation upon their star realm. You would have to be completely suicidal or insane to ignore this "invitation".

The four Ink Qilins and the Master Qilins were all present at the scene. For obvious reasons, they were a hundred times calmer than the representatives of other star realms.

The Blue Dragon Emperor could be seen standing at her corner in silence. Her long blue robes concealed her liquid figure, but not the cold indifference and dignity etched on her gorgeous features. It was impossible to know what she was feeling right now.

She stood out like a looming water lotus that bloomed at the bottom of an endless cliff on this land of hopelessness and despair. She looked so noble and dignified that no one even dared to look her in the eye, much less approach her.

The southern crowd was made up of the king realm and upper star realm representatives of the Southern Divine Region. They were led by the Deep Sea Realm, Xuanyuan Realm and Purple Micro Realm.

The Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm was located at the center of the king realms, but their auras were easily the most disturbed of all the king realms. Not only that, countless people were shooting Cang Shuhe all sorts of looks.

It was because she was both the Deep Sea God Emperor and Emperor Yun's imperial consort.

The Blue Dragon Emperor was one of Emperor Yun's imperial consorts, but the entire world knew that it was only in name. Forget sleeping together in the same bed, the amount of times Emperor Yun had set foot on the Blue Dragon Realm could be counted on one hand.

Add to that the fact that the Qilin Realm had begged for mercy on their behalf and acted as their "guarantor", no one thought that the Blue Dragon Emperor or the Blue Dragon Realm would be bogged down by the empty title.

On the other hand, Cang Shuhe could hardly claim the same thing. It was true she had started as a mere pawn Emperor Yun used to seize control of the Southern Divine Region, but she had shed the title of consort-in-name a long time ago.

When Yun Che and Yun Wuxin temporarily resided at the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm, Cang Shitian had wished he could proclaim the news to the whole world immediately.

Later, Emperor Yun would pay Cang Shuhe frequent visits at the Deep Sea Imperial Palace after Shui Meiyin had finished creating a large dimensional formation in the Deep Sea Realm. These visits would last anywhere from ten days to a month.

Unfortunately, that was all in the past now. Not only had Cang Shitian thrown in his lot with Mo Beichen at light speed, he spared no effort in performing his duties as perfectly as possible. Considering that Mo Beichen had listened to his suggestion and held this commendation ceremony, one could deduce that the Abyssal Knight was satisfied with his performance thus far.

It might just be enough to keep the Deep Sea Realm and Cang Shuhe safe... or it might not.

As a result of this, the Sea Gods and the Divine Envoys were beyond anxious to say the least, though the one who should be most affected by all this, Cang Shuhe, was the calmest of them all. No one could discern a hint of emotion or thought behind the endless ripples of her eyes.

Rui Yi was also by her side. The attendant had not left her master's side for even a moment this entire time.

"On the Eastern Divine Region's side, the Snow Song Realm and Flame God Realm haven't arrived yet."

"As for the Northern Divine Region..." Qi Tianli paused for a moment and dipped his head unconsciously. "The three kings realms—Soul Stealing, Yama and Burning Moon—are all present, but seventy percent of the upper star realms... have yet to arrive."

The Soul Stealing Realm was led by Jie Xin and Jie Ling. All nine Witches were present as well.

The Yama Realm was led by Yan Wu, and the Burning Moon Realm by Fen Daoqi.

Their auras were also markedly different compared to the other three divine regions. It was much more oppressive and solemn.

They showed no panic or fear despite Qi Tianli's words. Their eyes contained only lightless darkness.

Once again, everyone in the God Realm knew that the Northern Divine Region was absolutely loyal to Yun Che.

"Good."

Mo Beichen shot them a sideways glare. "This ceremony would be too boring otherwise. You can't intimidate the monkeys if you do not have readily available chickens to slaughter after all."

It was at this moment four blazing auras emerged from the east at high speed. The moment they got close, the heat of their auras was immediately annihilated by Mo Beichen, and the flight speed and even altitude were bowed by his infinitely heavy pressure.

They were none other than the Flame God Realm King Huo Poyun, and sect master Yan Wancang, Yan Juehai and Huo Rulie.

Huo Poyun shot Mo Beichen a glance and bowed deeply. "Flame God Realm King of the Eastern Divine Region, Huo Poyun pays his respects to the Venerable One of the Abyss. We were delayed by certain matters, and we humbly beg your forgiveness for nearly arriving late."

Just like the upper realm kings, Huo Poyun's attitude and choice of words were humble to the max. He dared not show even the slightest bit of kingly dignity on his face.

Qi Tianli said, "You're not late, and that's the most important thing. Come in, Flame God Realm King."

Suddenly, Mo Beichen shot Huo Poyun a sideways glance.

Since the first day he arrived in this world, he had heard of the young man's name from Qi Tianli.

He was one of the "useful" people Qi Tianli had advised him to keep an eye on, but what really caught his attention was the extraordinarily rich divine presence that was circulating around his body.

"Huo Poyun," Mo Beichen asked indifferently, "I doubt there are many God Bearers at your level. It is your misfortune to be born in this world."

Mo Beichen's sudden words caused the scene to fall silent immediately.

Earlier, the man had not deigned to say a single word even when he was "welcoming" the God Emperor of a king realm. Qi Tianli was the one who did all the talking for him.

No one expected him to break his silence for Huo Poyun.

To say they were stunned would be an understatement.

Despite being addressed directly by the Half-God, Huo Poyun was able to maintain his composure much better than his peers. He said frankly, "The Venerable One is astute beyond measure. Besides bearing the Golden Crow bloodline, Poyun was also blessed by the remnant spirit of the Golden Crow itself. That is why I was able to reach where I am today."

Huo Poyun was born a middle star realm denizen, but his cultivation was already the equal of former God Children of the Eastern Divine Region such as Jun Xilei or Shui Yingyue. Not only that, his upper limit was destined to be greater than theirs. Even if they ignored his future, no one could deny that Huo Poyun had acquired a number of accomplishments that could be proudly displayed for at least a thousand years to come.

There were only three people in the entire cosmos who could boast to have received the full inheritance of a remnant spirit of the old world. They were Feng Xue'er, Mu Xuanyin and of course, Yun Che.

It was a shame he could never walk out of Yun Che's shadow, a shadow he had imposed upon himself no less.

Still looking at him, Mo Beichen said, "Qi Tianli was right. Your future is limitless. When the way to the Abyss is fully open, you will be able to head there and cultivate without being chained down by the limitations of this world. You may even become an Abyssal Knight like me."

W-what? That Huo Poyun... has the potential to become as scary as Mo Beichen? The man who looks down on all of us like ants?

Nearly every Divine Master at the scene looked like they might faint from shock.

The light in which they saw Huo Poyun had also changed drastically.

The evaluation had come from someone who belonged to a higher plane than they were. They had zero reason to doubt his words.

In the near future, the Abyss would rule over Primal Chaos, and the God Realm would go from the dominant force of the cosmos to a humble world underneath the Abyss' rule. What Mo Beichen was implying was that most of them would fall from grace... but not Huo Poyun!

Chapter 1950 - Loyalty and Dogs

Huo Poyun was one of the greatest geniuses of the Eastern Divine Region. As the Flame God Realm's first ever upper realm king, he was a living folk tale whom the middle star realms would remember for ages to come.

He would be a lot more famous if he was arrogant, flamboyant, or even a slightly more out-going person than he was.

The most popular stories about Huo Poyun weren't about his genius or achievements, but his extremely complicated history with Emperor Yun. It was why he had lived under the man's shadow to this day.

It was impossible to climb higher than Divine Master Realm in Primal Chaos. It was why no one knew that Huo Poyun's potential was greater than they could possibly imagine.

In a world without any limitations, he wouldn't just surpass the upper realm kings... he would surpass the God Emperors themselves!

Huo Poyun looked like he was completely caught off guard. Naturally, the three Flame God sect masters behind him were even more dumbfounded.

The young man quickly saluted Mo Beichen before exclaiming, "Poyun is beyond fearful and thankful for your words of acknowledgement, Venerable One. If... if the Venerable One would teach me your wisdom and set foot in a greater world, Poyun swears to remember this favor for eternity and repay it with ten thousand deaths!"

"Hmph!" Mo Beichen said coldly, "Save that empty talk for someone else. I acknowledge you because you are worthy. That is all there is to it! If one day you are fortunate enough to serve beneath His Majesty, your eternal allegiance will suffice as remuneration!"

"Yes, Venerable One!" Huo Poyun answered loudly. It was a simple answer, but everyone could sense the ferocious excitement and desire in his voice.

"Good."

Seemingly satisfied with Huo Poyun's answer and excitement, the Abyssal Knight slowly turned around and looked the Flame God Realm King in the eye.

This was the first time he directly looked anyone in the eye today.

"Your cultivation is not up to standard, but your remarkable divine inheritance and potential are worthy of an exception."

Mo Beichen said in a slow yet solemn tone that caused everyone to hold their breaths. "Poyun, I will accept you as a page today. When the day the Abyss takes over this world comes, I will personally introduce you to the Pope. What do you say?"

He did not care that Huo Poyun's origin was "humble". He did not ask about his past or even find out if he was a good or a bad person.

He was special—so special, in fact, that he acted now because he did not want other Abyssal Knights to steal him from under his nose in the future—and that was all Mo Beichen needed to make an exception.

Gulp!

Countless people's throats and hearts twitched violently.

At first, it looked like Huo Poyun couldn't believe his ears. Then, he dropped to his knees, touched his head against the ground and declared loudly, "Thank you so much for fulfilling Poyun's wish, Venerable One! To be able to learn under an incredible soul like you is an honor Poyun dare not even dream to have in a lifetime! From now on, Poyun swears to serve at the Venerable One's side with all his heart! The Venerable One's will is Poyun's command, and—"

"Silence." Mo Beichen interrupted him coldly. "When I teach you how to become a true Abyssal Knight in the future, my first instruction to you will be to cut down on your volume of useless words!"

Finally, the man turned away and said, "Now, come stand by my side. You may not have undergone a ceremony yet, but you are my page now. These commoners no longer deserve to stand on the same ground as you."

"Yes, Venerable One!"

As instructed, Huo Poyun kept his response short and succinct while rising to his feet. Anxious yet beside himself, he took to the air until he was about one-third of a meter away from Mo Beichen. He also made sure that he stood a tad lower than the Abyssal Knight.

Everyone looked up at the sky where Huo Poyun stood.

A moment ago, the Flame God Realm King was still a "youngster" they could instruct as they pleased. Now, he had become an untouchable existence they could only look up to.

The unpredictability of fate was on full display today.

The Abyss' sudden arrival was without a doubt a calamity to everyone in this world. However, there were always exceptions, and for Huo Poyun it turned out to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity instead.

On the ground, the Flame God sect masters finally couldn't maintain their calm any longer. Not only that, everyone was looking at them in a different light.

"It looks like congratulations are in order, Flame God Realm."

Most of the upper realm kings present at the scene were the kind of people who wouldn't deign to meet a Divine Sovereign in the eye. However, these arrogant bastards were now congratulating the three Flame God sect masters like they were their closest family.

"I've always known that the Flame God Realm King would break through the heavens one day, but much of the credit lies on you, sect masters."

"There are countless extraordinary geniuses in the world, but the only one who won the Venerable One's recognition was Realm King Poyun. This is a glorious moment not just for the Flame God Realm, but also the entire God Realm..."

"When the day the Abyss takes over the world comes, the Flame God Realm will most likely become the new head of the Eastern Divine Region. Please have my heartfelt congratulations, sect masters."

.....

The upper realm kings of the Eastern Divine Region were almost fighting one another to be the first to give the three sect masters their congratulations. They were all wearing their best smiles on their faces, and they only wished they had enough time to shower every word of praise they ever knew over the sect masters' heads.

On the other hand, Yan Wancang, Yan Juehai and Huo Rulie were barely able to give the upper realm kings a perfunctory response. They looked dazed and distracted enough to be stuck in an unwakeable dream.

The sect masters' reactions surprised no one. Anyone would've become slack-jawed with shock were they in their position.

The Divine Masters were right about the reaction, but completely wrong about the reason. Prior to coming to the God Realm of Absolute Beginning, Huo Poyun had declared in the harshest voice in his life,

"I, Huo Poyun, did not bow my head even an inch when Yun Che was standing right in front of me, and this foreign hyena thinks he can get me to my knees? Never!"

He had uttered every word through gnashing teeth and with pupils that burned with the heat of the Nine Suns Heaven's Fury.

A while later, the sect masters finally looked up at their realm king and felt his excitement and passion. The terrible fear that had gripped their souls since Huo Poyun had made that statement quickly subsided as well.

What should've been a world-ending calamity has turned into a life-changing opportunity for you, Poyun.

You won't surrender to irrational impulses anymore, right Poyun?

“Hahahaha, congratulations on acquiring a new page, Venerable One!”

Suddenly, a loud, boisterous laugh resonated in the air like a gong. There was only one man in this universe who could laugh this carelessly before Mo Beichen and under these circumstances, and his name was of course...

Cang Shitian!

Once upon a time, he was Emperor Yun’s most loyal dog.

Today, he was the number one minion under Mo Beichen’s feet.

The moment things had fallen sideways, the man had shamelessly turned every status and privilege Emperor Yun and the Devil Queen had afforded him during the past few years into bargaining chips and bought his way into Mo Beichen’s retinue. And he had succeeded.

Every Sea God and Sea Envoy of the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm turned toward the same direction in excitement and joy. No matter what happened to the Deep Sea Realm in the future, they could always trust in Cang Shitian to steer them true.

For the first time, a bit of emotion entered Cang Shuhe’s pupils.

After Cang Shitian had arrived on the scene, he bowed respectfully to Mo Beichen and said, “Your humble subordinate, Cang Shitian greets you, Venerable One. I apologize deeply for my tardiness, but it was to prepare a small gift for you, Venerable One.”

Cang Shitian had not come alone.

Following behind him weren't his usual Enforcers, but a navy blue-colored barrier circulating with pure water energy.

It was none other than the Deep Sea Barrier!

Locked within the veil of bluish light was an unconscious girl.

Clothes white as snow and hair dark as night, the girl was a stunning beauty destined to break hearts no matter where she went. However, the way her exquisite features were scrunched up in a frown strongly suggested that she had gone through a painful struggle before losing consciousness.

There wasn't a single person who lost their composure when they saw the girl. Many of them couldn't hold back a gasp.

It was because the girl was Emperor Yun’s only daughter, the one and only imperial princess of the entire cosmos, Yun Wuxin!

“Wuxin...” Cang Shuhe whispered as she felt Rui Yi’s grip tightening around her arm. She glanced sideways and saw her attendant shaking her head profusely and silently begging her not to succumb to recklessness.

Her husband’s daughter had fallen into Mo Beichen’s hands. Death was the only fate that awaited her.

Worse, the one who brought this tragic fate upon her... was none other than her dearest brother.

“...” Cang Shuhe closed her eyes. She did not succumb to impulse, but her lower lip was rapidly losing color from how hard she bit it.

To the north, a pair of devilish spears appeared in Yan Wu’s pupils. She took a step forward, but—

“You can’t save her, and now is not the time.”

Fen Daoqi’s voice resounded cold and deep in her ears. “It’s not like we intend to leave this place alive, so why not ensure that our deaths will be meaningful?”

“We will leave behind a mark that will never be forgotten even in a world that is completely consumed by the Abyss. We will serve as an eternal reminder that Emperor Yun’s reign, however short it may be, is not one that is only made up of cowardly dogs who balk at the first sign of despair! That he had an entire people who would dye the sky red for him!”

For a long time, Yan Wu stayed where she was like her foot was completely rooted to the ground. In the end though, she heeded Fen Daoqi’s advice and slowly returned to her position.

Everyone knew that the Deep Sea Barrier was the Southern Divine Region’s strongest barrier, but it was even more impressive than usual today. Not only was it created by Cang Shitian himself, it was clear from the overwhelming energy emanating from the shell that he had used all his power to conjure it. It was honestly a bit over-the-top considering that its only prisoner was Yun Wuxin, but at least it guaranteed that she could never escape by her own power.

Mo Beichen side-eyed the unconscious girl for an instant before asking, “You call this a ‘small gift’?”

“Venerable One,” Cang Shitian started obsequiously, “Her cultivation level may be poor, but she is Yun Che’s only daughter.”

“...” Mo Beichen’s expression remained unchanged.

Chang Shitian leaned forward a little before continuing, “His people had taken great pains to hide her, so it took me quite a bit of effort to finally locate and capture her.”

“Yun Che loves her more than his own life. If he knew that she had fallen into your hands, this one is certain that he would surrender to you without a second thought. You wouldn’t even need to lift a finger to capture him then.”

“Brother...” Cang Shuhe whispered as deep helplessness washed over her whole body.

Qi Tianli’s eyebrows twitched dramatically. It was because he knew Cang Shitian had fucked up so hard it wasn’t even funny.

RUMBLE!

Mo Beichen hadn’t moved a muscle, but a terrific shockwave pierced through the air and landed squarely on Cang Shitian’s face.

A loud bang split the sky as Cang Shitian’s cheekbones caved in at the same time. The former Deep Sea God Emperor was sent spinning across the air before he hit the ground with yet another bang. His momentum didn’t stop until he had dug a gorge that was several kilometers long across the ground.

It looked like the man could not believe what just happened. It took him several breaths before he finally climbed back to his feet.

Blood poured profusely out of his nostrils and lips. His complexion was reddish black like dead blood. Right here and now, he was the perfect example of ugliness and wretchedness.

After he climbed to his feet, he seemed to remember his place and dropped to his knees in a hurry, "This one begs your forgiveness and your instructions, Venerable One. I-I don't understand why you are angry. Please enlighten your foolish subordinate."

Everyone else was silent as death as well.

Silver armor gleaming coldly under the grayish sky, Mo Beichen uttered indifferently yet chillingly, "You want to know why I'm punishing you? It's because I only need a finger to take down Yun Che. I hardly need to resort to such despicable tactics."

"By committing such an act using my name, you have placed an irremovable stain upon the Abyssal Knights and my reputation! Do you understand your sin now, fool?"

"That is not my intent, and I would never dare!"

Cang Shitian wailed while trembling like a leaf, too afraid to even remove the spreading bruise and blackish red blood on his face. He hit his head against the ground as quickly as humanly possible before speaking in the sincerest voice he could muster, "I have kidnapped Yun Che's daughter of my own accord. My sin is my own to bear, and I am definitely not trying to challenge your heavenly authority, Venerable One."

"It's just... This one has no doubt you only need a finger to destroy him, but why waste even a finger on an ant-under-heaven like him, Venerable One?"

"Moreover, Yun Che is protected by the Heavenly Profound Treasure, the World Piercer. It is why he is able to make his escape again and again. This one does not believe that Yun Che deserves even a sliver of the time and effort you have spent to hunt him down, which is why I have dared to resort to such a cowardly method."

He looked up. There was fear on his face, but no regret. "Everyone knows that Cang Shitian is, and will always be, a scumbag. There is nothing more he's better at than despicable tactics, and it is a fact that certain obstacles in this world are much easier to overcome with underhanded methods."

"Of course the Venerable One is above such methods, but I'm not! This one can do anything to share some of the burdens on your shoulders, however insignificant they may be."

"Plus, thanks to my existing reputation, any infamy I accrued will fall on my shoulders only. It will not taint your reputation or integrity by even a little."

The corner of Cang Shitian's lips bent upward slightly. "On a related note, this one has spread the news of Yun Wuxin's capture to every corner of the God Realm. This one is certain that Yun Che has heard of this no matter where he's hiding."

A hint of something dark and fierce flashed across his eyes at this moment. "He... will definitely show up!"

“What this means is that the one who led him here is my dirty hands, but the one who captures him... will be your mighty self!”

“...” Mo Beichen’s aura did not change, nor did he try to punish Cang Shitian any further.

Qi Tianli joined in. “Venerable One, Cang Shitian is necessary, be it in terms of understanding the God Realm, controlling it, or carrying out certain things. In fact, that is why Yun Che and the Devil Queen value him so highly. Please, do not hesitate to entrust him with anything you deem beneath your notice.”

“If you wish for the Abyssal Monarch to arrive into a perfectly subjugated cosmos, I must insist that you make use of Cang Shitian to his fullest capacity. It will make the journey much smoother if nothing else.”

“Hmph!” Mo Beichen finally responded in a low tone, “You best make sure that your filth stays where it is!”

It was both a warning and tacit consent. Cang Shitian hurriedly bowed his head and swore, “Do not worry, Venerable One. This one will never go overboard even if I am a million times more courageous than I really am. If there comes a day where I break this rule, I promise you won’t need to punish me again. I will atone with ten thousand deaths myself.”

“Stand down.”

Mo Beichen finally looked away from Cang Shitian after the arrogant instruction. He also did not look at Yun Wuxin anymore.

Cang Shitian hurriedly rose to his feet and took a few tentative steps to the back. After he was sure he had permission to leave, he vanished and reappeared in front of the Ten Directions Deep Sea Realm’s formation immediately.

The Sea Gods and Divine Envoys stirred restlessly the second he got close.

Cang Shuhe looked into the eyes of the man in front of her. He was the man she knew and respected the most in her whole life, but after everything he did today, she did not know how to face him anymore.

“Brother...” She called out while feeling a myriad of indescribable emotions inside of her.

Cang Shitian’s face was still covered in blood and bruises, but the servility he showed his overlord a moment ago had been fully replaced by imperial dignity.

He slowly stretched out his hand and ordered in a cold and commanding tone that would stand no rebuke. “Give me the Deep Sea Divine Pearl, Shuhe.”