

## Timescape 891

Chapter 891: This Path Does Not Lead to Death

The bits of the eyeball fell down into the starry sky.

Xu Qing's voice echoed coldly through the void. His facial expression hadn't changed much during this entire incident, and even now, he was just looking calmly at the huge, decaying tree wrapped around the eyeless corpse of Hellfei.

"What's the meaning of this, young friend?" the Greenwood said in a weak, ancient voice. It seemed confused.

The only answer it got from Xu Qing was a black spear surrounded by a sea of flames. It shot through the starry sky like a fireball, heading right toward the huge tree.

A rumbling boom rang out as the battlefield the Greenwood and Hellfei had been fighting on suddenly superimposed with itself. It was as if... it was actually a bubble created by an illusion. The spear pierced right into it, causing the bubble to start collapsing. An aura of rot and death immediately emerged and spread through the starry sky.

At the same time, the eye that Xu Qing had slashed apart collapsed into strands of black smoke, filled with poison and filth, which swept back toward Hellfei and turned back into an eye.

It glared at Xu Qing.

"How'd you figure it out?" said a deep voice that resonated with resentment.

Xu Qing was right. Everything he had seen was an act.

It was trickery that could be considered Hellfei's last resort. It really was incredibly weak. And it was true that during the catastrophe of the gods many years ago, it gave birth to the rancorous energy of this immortal world. In a critical moment, it had indeed entered the Northyear Heaven to devour the Greenwood heavenly dao. From that point on, this place was its resting spot.

Where the story deviated from reality was the part about Hellfei being locked in combat with the Greenwood. That battle had actually ended countless years ago.

The Greenwood had used a trump card to end that fight in mutual destruction, although in the end, it died, while Hellfei survived, albeit with a serious injury.

As the guardian of Northyear, the Greenwood had been given a mission by the immortal emperor, and therefore, it was only natural that it was extraordinary in various ways. The trump card it used was extremely formidable, and though it didn't successfully pull off mutual destruction, it inflicted an injury that sealed Hellfei and would make it very difficult to recover.

In fact, that wound would never fully heal, and would get worse over time. Because of the sealing, Hellfei was essentially imprisoned for all eternity.

Later, when the world became a god domain, that prison became even more of a prison, and led Hellfei into further depths of despair. There was no life force here. There were no visitors. There was no nourishment in this dead world. And thus, Hellfei just got weaker and closer to death.

It wasn't willing to just give in, though. It wanted to be free, and to return to its previous peak. But as countless years passed, it just weakened further and began to wither up.

At the very end, as its last sparks of life were about to vanish, Xu Qing arrived. His arrival brought hope to Hellfei. It envied his physical body, except that it was so weak it couldn't easily possess him.

And that was what led to the trickery.

The moment Xu Qing showed up, it created an illusion that showed Xu Qing what it wanted him to see. Then it sent him into the world of that decaying leaf.

There, it communicated to Xu Qing in the guise of the Greenwood, telling him things that were half true and half fiction. Its goal was to get Xu Qing to trust it.

Although the Hellfei dao forms that Xu Qing slayed in that illusion weren't real, they did contain some real poison. It hoped that, as Xu Qing fought those forms, he would unwittingly end up infected by the poison. If the ploy worked, then Hellfei could use that poison to possess Xu Qing's fleshly body, then finally gain freedom.

How could it have guessed that this opponent would actually have a way to deal with its poison? In fact, in a shocking development, this opponent used Hellfei for research purposes! He even wanted to study its soul!

Fearful of being exposed, Hellfei put everything on the line by using Five Filths of the Gods. It was another attempt to possess Xu Qing, except it also failed. He dealt with Five Filths of the Gods as well.

Its trickery wasn't limited to those things, though. Its final plan was to let Xu Qing think he had succeeded, then give its eyeball as a reward.

If Xu Qing simply absorbed that eyeball, Hellfei could possess him.

Unfortunately... Xu Qing's quick action with the saber ended everything.

"When did you realize the truth?" Hellfei asked.

Xu Qing didn't reply. He lifted his right hand like before. The black spear swept forth, surrounded by fire, sending fluctuations rolling out into the starry sky.

The bubble illusion collapsed. The truth was revealed. There was no starry sky. It was nothing but a void.

A spherical planet hovered in the void. It was shockingly large, and if you looked closely at it, you would see that it was made up of countless dead and rotting branches. They were all intertwined to create a massive, planet-sized... wooden cage!

Inside of the wooden cage was Hellfei's true body!

Hellfei was stabbed through and through by countless branches. It was withered to the point of looking like a corpse, even its head. The armor that had once covered it had turned into innumerable resentful souls that constantly devoured Hellfei both inside and out.

The only thing about it that remained intact was its solitary eye. It looked at Xu Qing with pain and despair. There was no vigor left in it. Its spirit was fading and was about to disappear forever.

“How’d you figure it out...?” it said again, determined to know the answer.

“I’m not a trusting person,” Xu Qing replied. He strode forward. It took only a step to bring him to the wooden cage. There, his taboo poison god trove thrummed with boundless longing as he reached out with his right hand toward the solitary eye. All of the taboo poison within him erupted, and all sense of life in the eye faded. It turned gray, floated out of Hellfei’s corpse, and became a stream of mist that flowed into Xu Qing’s taboo poison god trove.

The trove pulsed slightly, and then erupted with the aura of a heavenly dao. At the same time... the second trove gate opened! A terrifying mightiness exploded out.

On the other side of the trove gate was a huge eye. Six ancient sealing marks swirled around it, imparting a mysterious sensation that seemed full of hatred for gods.

The eye was a heavenly dao. The six sealing marks were the Six Filths of the Gods. Without that eye, Hellfei’s corpse collapsed into ash. The planet-sized wooden cage collapsed along with the corpse. Together, they turned into a vortex in the middle of the vast void.

That was the path out. The fate of Hellfei and the Greenwood was sealed. Karma had been consummated. They were both destroyed in body and soul.

The only thing left behind were a few echoing words that were all that remained of Hellfei’s determination.

“How’d you figure it out...?”

The words echoed in Xu Qing’s mind and heart as he stepped through the exit vortex. Speaking softly, he said, “I’ve seen sacrificial dances before.”

Compared to the sacrificial dance for a god, which could completely change perceptions and cognition, Hellfei’s trickery didn’t count for much.

Xu Qing stepped through the portal and vanished. The seventh path didn’t lead to death. It led to life.

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The tomb of the ancestral emperor, which could also be called the immortal emperor’s tomb, did not have a complicated structure. The periphery was made of the labyrinth. Next came the five paths of life and four paths of death. Finally there was the emperor’s mausoleum. That was where the immortal emperor’s corpse rested.

The mausoleum was so massive it formed its own dimension. It was like a major world hanging in the vast expanse. There was a heaven. There was an earth. Visible in the sky were 108 sealed planets. They hung there in the starry sky over the emperor’s mausoleum. The planets were all very greenish as they cast starlight down constantly. [1]

Behind them, there was a terrifying face. A voice full of anguish and grief chanted, the sound of it spreading through the emperor’s mausoleum like a funeral dirge.

Looking closely, it was possible to see that within the starlight coming from the 108 planets were several figures seated cross-legged. They included Sir Firedark, Tuo Shishan, Sir Heavenink, and Fan Shishuang.... All of them were seated cross-legged on different planets, looking down at the emperor's mausoleum with expressions of vigilance. They were waiting for something. Clearly, the clans and organizations that backed them had provided them with plenty of resources to get them here.

The Captain was also present. Compared to the others, he looked very anxious, and was shifting his attention between the unoccupied stars and the emperor's mausoleum.

As everyone looked on, the starlight spilled down and converged into the form of nine dragons. Though made of starlight, they were extremely lifelike as they twisted and turned.

There were two additional heavenly bodies above that were brighter than the others. They were the sun and moon that had been sealed here, and they moved on a specific orbital track. When the sun came around, it emanated the golden power of a sun, which was incomparably hot. When the moon came around, it emanated the silver power of the moon, which was endlessly frigid.

In between the lands below and the sun and moon above, there was an enormous, seven-colored umbrella canopy that covered more than half of the ground! Crystal bells hung from the umbrella. As the umbrella slowly rotated, the bells chimed, a sound like the chanting of immortals. Combined with the anguished chanting that filled the starry sky, it created something very holy.

There were also banners, bells, and gongs. All were massive as they floated in midair. They were burial items.

The nine starlight dragons swirled among the burial items, guarding over them.

The lands below weren't made of soil. Instead, it was a patchwork of skin, which included pieces from humans and nonhumans alike. Countless patches of skin made up all of the terrain features. There were bones piled together to make mountains and rivers that were pure blood. What was more, there were rows upon rows of armored soldiers and warhorses, all of them pulsing with murderous auras. There seemed no end to them.[2]

In the middle of these terrifying lands, right underneath the huge umbrella, was a massive altar! Atop the altar was a golden coffin! It was carved with worshipful throngs and the geography of an entire nation. It was the coffin of the immortal emperor.

High above the emperor's mausoleum, one of the 108 planets that was currently unoccupied suddenly trembled. Then... a figure stepped out onto it. It was none other than Xu Qing. The moment he appeared, he saw the emperor's mausoleum as well as the familiar faces on the other planets. He got the feeling he'd arrived a bit late.

Numerous eyes shifted to look at him, and many strange expressions could be seen.

As for the Captain, as soon as he spotted Xu Qing, his anxious expression vanished. Eyebrows dancing up and down, he waved enthusiastically and sent a message via divine will.

*"You're finally here, little Junior Brother! I was really starting to think you'd croaked!"*

Chapter 892: It's Not Too Late; I'm Here

The Captain's words reached Xu Qing mind.

Xu Qing smiled. Apparently he hadn't arrived too late.

That said, though it was no surprise to see Sir Firedark and the Captain here, he hadn't expected to see Sir Heavenink, Tuo Shishan, or Fan Shishuang. After all, this wasn't the first time the Firemoon Darkheavens opened this god domain. And it was a given that the top five chosen from the Firemoon echelon would have impressive backing. They would surely have been preparing for this event for a long time.

The fact that these people were all here went to show... that this spot was where the best good fortune and destined opportunities were in this god domain! And it also proved that the Captain really had a nose for sniffing out big jobs.

After nodding in response to the Captain, Xu Qing looked around at everyone else. Sir Firedark snorted coldly, Sir Heavenink looked surprised, Tuo Shishan looked annoyed, and Fan Shishuang averted his gaze.

No one spoke. Apparently, Xu Qing's arrival wasn't an unexpected turn of events to them. In fact, it was almost as if they had expected to see him, and would have found it unusual if he *didn't* show up.

Looking around, Xu Qing already had a sense of how this place worked. For example, the 108 planets in the starry sky above the mausoleum all had invisible barriers surrounding them. They couldn't be seen with the naked eye, but touching them with divine sense imparted a sense of incredible might. They were like sealing marks that prevented anyone from leaving the planets.

Though the divine abilities built into those barriers could keep people like Sir Heavenink restrained, Xu Qing could sense that both the Captain and Sir Firedark could break through without much effort. And yet... both of those two were still waiting on the planets.

They don't want to move? Or has the right time not arrived yet?

He soon got an explanation.

Beneath the planets were the much larger sun and moon, endlessly orbiting on their tracks. The moon was just now shifting away while the sun was approaching. The canopy of heaven was in motion.

Scorching, domineering, and wild power emanated out, filled with terrifying mightiness. The incoming sun was like a burning ball of fire that cast glittering light into the starry sky. The closer it got, the more intense its power. The barriers around the other planets filtered the terrifying heat, converting it into pure sun power that passed through the barrier.

Sir Heavenink, Tuo Shishan, and Sir Firedark shivered as they absorbed the sun power to refine their fleshly bodies and souls. As they did, their auras climbed.

This was why Sir Firedark hadn't broken through the barrier! And this was why everyone was seated cross-legged on one of the planets. The barriers sealed them in, but were also a defense for them. They made the planets like dao altars, where it was possible to safely absorb the power.

*"This is supreme yang power!"* the Captain said to Xu Qing via divine will projection. *"When the moon comes, it will emanate supreme yin power. Like I said to you before, little Junior Brother, there's treasure in this emperor's tomb. You didn't believe me,*

*so you risked your life for those statues outside. But look. Don't you agree there's far more supreme yin power here?"*

The Captain shook his head, sighed, and looked at Xu Qing with great pity.

Xu Qing looked over at the moon. Because the sun was approaching, he couldn't sense much about the moon. But given the level of supreme yang power coming off the sun, he got the feeling the Captain was right. It really did seem like that fight with the statues was essentially meaningless.

The Captain seemed very pleased at Xu Qing's reaction, and was about to continue the conversation.

But then, Tuo Shishan shivered, and a bright light appeared near his dantian region. It looked almost like the glow of a planet. As that planet appeared, a host of dao lineaments became visible around it... The dao lineaments rapidly turned into a bubble that grew larger and larger, until it was like an illusory major world. The starlight coming from his dantian region formed an illusory major world, and then that major world started to seem true and real. It was as if it had life force filling it up.

Next, an astonishing aura spread out that shook everything in a way that surpassed the Void-Returning level. It was... a Smoldering God aura.

Tuo Shishan was using the supreme yang power to complete his dao, illuminate his path, and form his own major world. If he succeeded, he would be a Smoldering God!

This was his true reason for coming to this god domain. As a top chosen among the Firemoon Darkheaven people, the Void-Returning level wasn't the end of the line for him. He had long since planned out things beyond that. He knew that he wasn't on the same level as everyone else, and therefore, instead of trying to vie with them for equality, he sought to push himself to his own limit.

Now, he had reached that limit, and therefore... it was without hesitation that he proceeded with the breakthrough! And there was no better place than here to illuminate a major world. Supreme yang power represented life and limitless possibility. What was more, he knew that this sun in this emperor's tomb... was actually the original sun in this world! It was the origin of everything, the supreme yang, and though it was weaker than the ancestral sun of Revered Ancient, its personhood was the same type.

Tuo Shishan wasn't the only one who chose this path.

Sir Heavenink did the same. As a second flare of starlight appeared on Tuo Shishan, the planet upon which Sir Heavenink sat also flared with light, and a terrifying aura and mightiness spread out from it. He was also rising to a higher level.

In the blink of an eye, both of those planets were rumbling loudly.

As Xu Qing realized what was happening, he looked over at Sir Firedark.

Sir Firedark wasn't a Smoldering God, but Xu Qing had personally experienced how strong she was. The fact that Tuo Shishan and Sir Heavenink were the first to achieve their dao didn't mean that they were the strongest. Rather, it was because they had limited potential. Among the Firemoon Darkheaven chosen, the only one who seemed to have nearly limitless potential was Sir Firedark. That was why she needed much more supreme yang power.

Almost exactly as Xu Qing looked over, rumbling sounds echoed out from Sir Firedark's head as five extremely ancient but luxurious trove gates appeared. All five were open, and they exerted immense gravitational forces. Massive amounts of supreme yang power flowed into Sir Firedark, entering the five gates. Almost immediately, dao lineaments, bubbles, and void soil appeared.

The dao lineaments expanded constantly. The bubble got larger. And the void soil... accumulated rapidly, and surpassed the limitations of the major world. It was starting to form a supersized major world! Although there was a limit to the extent of the lands in the supersized major world, its corresponding heaven... couldn't quite cover it all.

However... if a heaven appeared that corresponded perfectly to the lands in the major world, then in the moment of Sir Firedark's breakthrough to the first stage of Smoldering God, she would reach the peak instantly. That was because her world surpassed all others by far. It was something rarely seen even in ancient times. All of this went to show how talented and determined she was.

Seeing these three Firemoon chosen heading toward breakthroughs suddenly made Xu Qing think back to something someone once said to him in Seven Blood Eyes.

*"An era of great struggle is coming in which chosen proliferate. And it might be the last chance for the heavenly daos of Revered Ancient to save themselves."* [1]

Xu Qing's eyes glittered.

An instant later, the sun passed and the moon began its return. Supreme yin power drove away the supreme yang power.

Fan Shishuang looked up, determination in his eyes and firmness in his heart. After watching Xu Qing kill Master Stillwinter, he had come to realize he wasn't a match for Xu Qing, much less Sir Firedark. But that was the past. He was firmly convinced that a wonderful, eternal future awaited him. There was nothing guaranteeing who would be strong and who would be weak in the future! With that conviction bolstering him, he went crazy absorbing as much supreme yin power as possible. As moonlight gathered on his forehead, it turned into a planet that spread light in all directions. He was also starting to break through.

The other person absorbing supreme yin power was the Captain, who was actually a bit more domineering than Fan Shishuang. It was as if he wanted to surpass Sir Firedark's absorption style. A moment later, a swath of mist appeared above the Captain's head. The mist seethed as the head of a huge dog emerged from it, which also started to absorb the supreme yin power.

It was... the immortal skill named Heavenly Dog. And it could devour heaven and earth. In an instant, massive amounts of supreme yin power flowed toward the Captain, which he ravenously devoured.

Fan Shishuang shivered, and as he realized he wasn't going to be able to proceed, his expression turned very grim.

The Captain, meanwhile, looked very pleased with himself, as if to say 'if I can't do it, who can?' He cast a derisive look at Sir Firedark, then sent a very smug message to Xu Qing via divine will.

*"Little Junior Brother, all you have to do is ask me very, very nicely, and also give me a thousand promissory notes, and I'll save twenty percent for you. What do you say?"*

Xu Qing ignored the message and focused on the approaching moon. Inside of himself, he could sense the same gravitational force that had been attracted to the statues outside, causing his third trove gate to crack open. On the other side of that trove gate was a power that had the same origin as this moon. It also had supreme yin power, and it was also an ancestral moon!

Intense longing rushed into Xu Qing's mind. Who said that fight outside the tomb was pointless? He had acquired something during that fight. A seed! Looking at this incoming moon, Xu Qing understood it all. Standing, he took a step forward. As he did, his second trove gate emitted a deafening sound.

Inside of it was Hellfei's eye. It opened, and the Six Filths of the Gods erupted from Xu Qing's eyes and slammed into the barrier.

The Six Filths of the Gods could taint gods! Almost instantly, the barrier began to decay. The invisible obstacle became visible, and then it exploded like a balloon that had been inflated too much.

Xu Qing's foot landed, and he disappeared from the planet to appear outside in the starry sky.

Power from the emperor's mausoleum rushed in from all directions, crushing down onto Xu Qing. However, his facial expression was the same as ever as he unleashed the power of Ninedawns and his god states. The six filths grew more intense.

As everyone looked on in surprise, he moved in the direction of the approaching moon. Then he stepped onto its surface... and sat down cross-legged. The violet moon trove gate within him burst open, and unleashed an unheard-of gravitational force.

#### Chapter 893: Fierce Competition

The violet moon trove gate trembled, and the bit of power that was the seed of that trove gate, the supreme yin netherglimmer, vied with the glory of the moon. His violet moon authority, which was born out of the red moon, but now belonged to Xu Qing, provided a linking element. Therefore, though the two moons weren't the same, because of all the related factors, what he was doing seemed completely and utterly logical.

The instant he sat down and the violet moon trove gate slammed open, all of the supreme yin power from the local moon rushed toward him. There was some brief discomfort, but after that, it was all his!

Whether in terms of absorption method or quantity, Sir Heavenink, Tuo Shishan, and Fan Shishuang were hardly consequential. Even Sir Firedark and the Captain only had the five opened gates and Heavenly Dog. Were there nothing to compare to, it might not have been a big deal. But now it was obvious who was superior and who was inferior.

Xu Qing was seated atop a moon, as if he were the lord of that moon!

Next... both Tuo Shishan and Sir Heavenink began to pay attention with divine will, despite being in the middle of breakthroughs. Fan Shishuang was also absorbing the supreme yin power, but now he was struggling to breathe steadily as Xu Qing's actions filled him with both alarm and helplessness.

Even the Captain was getting anxious. For one thing, he really needed that supreme yin power. What was more, he was increasingly getting the sensation that his little Junior Brother was stealing



the limelight on this big job.... He'd had this same feeling before in the past.... It really felt like a huge challenge to his dignity as the Eldest Brother.

Therefore, he shouted, "Little Junior Brother! My dear, beloved little Junior Brother.... Can you leave a bit for me?"

Even with the Heavenly Dog, the Captain wasn't able to absorb any of the supreme yin power now. Upon realizing that yelling at Xu Qing wasn't going to be enough, he gritted his teeth, stood, and raced toward the barrier. As he neared, he began spitting out so much blood it hardly seemed like his own. As it splashed on the barrier, it stained it red and also froze it.

The Heavenly Dog also lunged forward and snapped at the barrier. A crashing sound rang out as the barrier collapsed. The Captain immediately leaped toward the moon.

That said, his original plans hadn't included this action, and his lack of preparation meant that he was hit with a force of rejection. No matter how many times he got close, he was always pushed away as if by violent storm winds.

"Little Junior Brother...." he yelled.

Xu Qing's eyes remained closed as he focused on absorbing the supreme yin power. However, he did wave his hand in the Captain's direction.

It was as if the Captain was an anchor, with an invisible cord linking the two of them. With that help, the Captain struggled against the force of rejection. Flapping like a kite in the wind, he stayed in place and started absorbing supreme yin power. What was more, in the hopes of restoring some of his dignity as the Eldest Brother, he started explaining some things to Xu Qing.

"You listen to me, little Ah Qing. Out of all the people here today, I was the first to get to the emperor's mausoleum. And I finished setting some things up even before the others arrived. This supreme yin power is nothing. An appetizer, really. When the moment comes, you'll understand why your Eldest Brother actually came here. The main course is still on the way!"

Xu Qing nodded as his violet moon trove gate kept absorbing the supreme yin power, which caused the heavenly dao aura to grow stronger. As the third trove gate cracked open even more, the power of frigid coldness seethed inside. The embryonic netherglimmer heavenly dao also became clearer and clearer. At the same time, Xu Qing's aura grew stronger!

As he and the Captain shared the moon, it continued on its path, and the sun began to approach again.

As a result of their efforts, Fan Shishuang wasn't accomplishing anything. Finally, he gritted his teeth, performed an incantation gesture, and summoned a host of illusory flying swords. The swords slammed into the planet's invisible barriers. All of them focused on the same spot. He wasn't trying to break down the barrier, just punch a small hole in it! That would keep him safe but would give him the ability to more easily absorb supreme yin power from outside. Although... it wouldn't be much. The upside was that Xu Qing got late enough a start that Fan Shishuang had already absorbed nearly the amount he needed.

In contrast, Sir Heavenink and Tuo Shishan were feeling quite relieved. After all, they needed supreme yang power, not supreme yin power....

However, their relief didn't last for very long. Sir Firedark frowned and snorted coldly as she stepped to the barrier, lifted her right hand, and used the Undying Emperor's Fist to unleash a blow. The entire barrier shattered into countless pieces. There was no limit to how domineering that fist strike could be. She stepped off the planet in the direction of the incoming sun. However, similar to the Captain, she hadn't actually come prepared to do something like this.

As a result, the rejection power of the sun pushed her away from it.

But Sir Firedark was Sir Firedark. Despite being pushed away, when she looked at the two people she hated most, she refused to believe that she couldn't match up to them. Despite the terrifying nature of the rejection force, she advanced with each step she took and each blow she launched. Her fist was both undying and domineering. That was her dao. Advance courageously. Tolerate no resistance!

Deafening booms rang out as, to the shock of Sir Heavenink and Tuo Shishan, she got closer and closer to the sun. Next, she unveiled her five trove gates and her void soil. As her major world appeared, she used the pressure they created... to sit down on the sun.

The Captain looked over with a sour feeling in his heart.

This Sir Firedark is really impressive. Not quite on the same level as me. But maybe the same as little Junior Brother.

Sir Firedark's actions led to some other developments.

Sir Heavenink wasn't willing to be outdone, so he took out a bottle made of white jade, opened it, and blew onto the mouth of the bottle. A stream of starlight emerged from the bottle. It wasn't like the other starlight in the surrounding world. As soon as Sir Heavenink blew on it, the starlight shot toward the barrier. It pierced the barrier, creating a vortex that sucked in any nearby supreme yang power. He was doing the same thing as Tuo Shishan.

They couldn't do anything about the competition between Xu Qing and Sir Firedark, nor did they want to cause trouble for either of them. Therefore, their best option was to try to get whatever extra scraps of power were floating around.

After all, both had the same goal: to become a Smoldering God.

It would only be possible to continue exploring the emperor's tomb if they first rose to a higher level. That was what they were all apparently waiting for.

Sir Heavenink, Tuo Shishan, and Fan Shishuang all wanted to become Smoldering Gods. Therefore, they had to wait for the right opportunity to transcend. They had to wait to break open the void soil, make illusion reality, and illuminate their major worlds.

And the Captain was waiting for the opportunity he had mentioned. No one knew exactly what his goal was. However, Xu Qing had been on enough big jobs with the Captain to be able to speculate what it might be.

Sir Firedark was also waiting. There was no way her goal was simply to become a Smoldering God. What the other Firemoon cultivators would consider a destined opportunity in the emperor's tomb, Sir Firedark wouldn't consider very important.

As a result, Xu Qing came to the conclusion that everyone else here could be categorized into three levels.

As for him, he was also waiting. He was waiting for his violet moon god trove's heavenly dao to complete. He was waiting for the same thing to happen to his Emperor's Sword trove. He wanted all five trove gates to open so he could step into Void Returning. He was also waiting to see what happened with the Captain.

In that manner, time passed.

As the sun and moon orbited, the auras of Sir Heavenink, Tuo Shishan, and Fan Shishuang grew more majestic, and the might of a Smoldering God built up on them. The Captain's eyes gleamed with mysterious light as something truly crazy grew within him.

Sir Firedark opened her eyes as she sat there on the sun. She wasn't looking up, but rather, at the planet beneath her.

As for Xu Qing... his violet moon god trove finally emitted a deafening rumbling sound as the violet moon trove gate completely opened! On the other side of the gate was the supreme yin netherglimmer, with a frigid energy that could freeze time itself. Of his five gates, three were open!

Xu Qing's aura skyrocketed, surpassing anything from before. At the same time, coldness spread to fill him from head to toe, making it seem like he was connected to the moon.

But then...!

Something happened below. There, where the immortal emperor's coffin rested on an altar in the middle of a patchwork of skin, surrounded by an umbrella, bells, and nine huge starlight dragons... The sound of a heartbeat rang out.

Thump-thump!

It was louder than thunder, such that even the expression 'heaven-rending, earth-crushing' couldn't quite describe it. It was because heaven had already been filled with the filth of gods, and the lands had degenerated into a kingdom of gods. As a result, this heartbeat sounded like a god. If an immortal domain is filled with filth, then the corpse of the emperor... would have nowhere to run to.

The sound shook the emperor's mausoleum, filling the tomb, spreading out across the planet, and eventually echoing the length and breadth of the god domain. This... was what Sir Firedark and the others had been waiting for!

Without the slightest hesitation, Sir Firedark shot off of the sun and toward... the gigantic, luxurious, and holy golden umbrella that covered more than half of the lands below! That umbrella was the precious treasure of an immortal emperor. And she wanted it... to be the heaven of her major world! She wanted something to surpass anything and everything from history. She wanted to have a supersized major world!

In a world with lands made from void soil, it would normally be difficult to find a corresponding heaven. This was Sir Firedark's goal.

She even managed to suppress her hatred and killing intent for the Captain. Screaming forth, she unleashed the Undying Emperor's Fist to blast herself past one of the starlight dragons that charged toward her. The starlight dragon exploded. Sir Firedark coughed up blood. But that didn't slow her down. In the blink of an eye, she landed on the umbrella.

The moment she sat down, her five trove gates appeared, void soil descended, and she started assimilating the umbrella. It would serve as her Smoldering God canopy, and would allow her to step right to the peak. Her daring ambition completely surpassed that of Sir Heavenink and the other Firemoons. And there was no one to stop her. It took very little time for her to start fusing with the seven-colored umbrella. Her aura immediately began to rise.

From a distance, it was like a flower of the gods blooming in the emperor's mausoleum. The flower contained the sun and moon plus 108 planets. Beneath the flower were seven-colored roots... which connected to the coffin, where the heartbeat was coming from!

It was impossible to say whose handiwork had produced the god in that coffin. It was impossible to say who had placed it there as a backup option, or to gain new life....

Right now, Sir Firedark wanted to reach the peak. And that didn't mean Smoldering God... it meant actual god!

Chapter 894: Get Over Here!

This type of boldness was befitting of the Firemoons' number one chosen. This type of domineering attitude was perfectly suited to the chosen whose daoist name harkened to the name of the species itself: Sir Firedark.

She didn't want to be a Smoldering God. She wanted to be... an actual god! By using the immortal emperor's body as nutritional materials, she could ignite her godfire! She wanted to reach godly ascension in one smooth step!

That thoroughly surpassed anything that Sir Heavenink or the other Firemoons would think of doing. And it formed the most eye-catching thing in the entire emperor's mausoleum at the moment. And for multiple reasons, it quashed any thoughts the other three chosen had about trying to vie for supremacy in the future. With a person like this, it didn't matter how you tried to compete with them, how you tried to gain victory, or how you tried to fight them.

Sir Heavenink sighed. Tuo Shishan bowed his head. Fan Shishuang looked on bitterly. None of them wanted to just give up. Although Sir Firedark's goal was something beyond them, they still had their own paths to follow, and their own breakthroughs to achieve. Now, they wanted all that more than ever!

Meanwhile, Xu Qing opened his eyes and looked at Sir Firedark.

Even working together, he and the Captain couldn't defeat Sir Firedark in combat. They could only pin her down. She was one of the rare chosen Xu Qing had met who could be considered beyond exceptional.

Back in the imperial palace of humankind, when Fifth Prince came back from his border campaign, he had brought some shocking news with him. The Firemoon Darkheavens were apparently trying to... establish a fourth god for themselves. Xu Qing had originally assumed it was Master

Stillwinter. After all, Master Stillwinter's soul had more than ninety god monuments in it, which seemed like a ceremony of godly ascension.

That was why he had killed Master Stillwinter and thrown him into his mage trove to use as kindling. Only after killing him did Xu Qing come to realize that Master Stillwinter was not the fourth god the Firemoons had been grooming. Put most precisely, Master Stillwinter was an unfinished product. Perhaps he could even be considered a failed tool.

Now that Xu Qing could see what Sir Firedark was doing, it seemed... that she was the fourth god the Firemoons were grooming.

But... is it really her?

He suddenly felt inclined to look at the Captain.

The Captain was surrounded by freezing flames. His eyes had a crazy look in him that made it seem like he had been starving for tens upon tens of thousands of years, and was about to do some binge eating.

The opportunity Sir Firedark had been waiting for... was the same opportunity the Captain had been waiting for!

"Finally... the time is here!" the Captain said, licking his lips. Suddenly looking quite mad, he threw his head back and laughed. "Little Ah Qing, look over at that crappy Tuo Shishan and the others. They're like wimpy little sparrows, nothing more! All they want is some supreme yin and supreme yang. They just want to be solid Smoldering Gods. Talk about lacking ambition!

"On the other hand, Little Swallow has really got some guts. She's using the umbrella as heaven, the corpse of a god as fuel, all to reach godly ascension in a single step. But even she only counts as a medium-sized sparrow. Who the hell goes around ignoring food that's right in front of you?

"As for this big job, little Junior Brother, we're going way past the sparrow level... to the eagle level!" At that point, the Captain loosened his hold on the rope connecting him to Xu Qing. Taking advantage of the rejection power of the moon, he grinned wildly and pointed at one of the 108 heavenly bodies. "Hey you... get over here!!"

The emperor's mausoleum trembled due to the sounds coming from the starry sky above. It came from... behind the 108 planets!

They had one part facing the lands below, and that was their planetary surface. But on the other side... each of them had a bitter, anguished face! In the past, the 108 faces had nothing occupying their foreheads. But as the Captain performed an incantation gesture, light flickered dramatically as... a pearl appeared on the forehead of each face! Those pearls were the very same items the Captain had taken from the shell-eagles. There were 108 of them! That was one of the first steps the Captain had taken to prepare for this moment.

The pearls erupted, one after another, releasing spectacular energy. The entire starry sky rippled, and the river of stars passing through it grew dim! And thanks to the pearls and the Captain's strange methods, the detonations caused the 108 planets... to start moving.

Deafening rumbling sounds echoed out as the 108 planets, including those occupied by Sir Heavenink, Tuo Shishan, and Fan Shishuang, turned around to reveal their faces! They looked down at the emperor's mausoleum, their wails of grief growing explosively loud.

Thanks to the stimulation of the pearls, it caused the faces' screams to turn piercing. Their cries joined together into one unified cry, and the explosive sound locked the sun in place but sped up the moon. It was capable of shaking the starlight dragons, crushing the sacrificial objects, and shaking everything under heaven! The dramatic development caused looks of surprise to appear on the faces of everyone present.

Without any hesitation, Xu Qing shot off the moon and appeared next to the Captain, his eyes glittering from the starlight, but his expression neutral as ever. This development fell roughly in line with what he had expected would happen. That was especially true of how the terrifying sound of the faces' wailing caused the sun to lock in place but the moon to speed up...

Next is step two of the Captain's plan. I bet he wants the sun and moon to collide!

As Xu Qing pondered that, he watched the moon accelerate rapidly. As it got closer and closer to the motionless sun, a tideflow power built up, completely changing the structure of the emperor's mausoleum.

The Captain laughed madly. "Little Junior Brother, I bet you've been curious all along about what this big job is. I couldn't say anything before, because this place and everything around it is connected to a god.

"Saying a single word could have caused unpredictable variables. But now that everything is in motion... nothing anybody says can change how this job will turn out! Little Junior Brother, my target here is the fleshly body of the ancestral emperor in that coffin on the altar!"

The Captain pointed at the altar and licked his lips. "Or perhaps it's best to use the term 'lord of this god domain.' You see, that body down there was prepared as a new body by the spider god that was sealed countless years ago by the three gods of the Firemoon people.

"I want that fleshly body! If I suppress it and fuse with it, then I can get the approval of this god domain! Get it? I'm going to take advantage of this opportunity to make myself the ruler of the god domain!

"As for you, your target is going to be the emperor's soul, which is also the soul of a god. I take the fleshly body, you take the god soul to be a heavenly dao. If you succeed, then you'll get the same benefit as me. You can be one of the rulers of this god domain. With authority of the god domain, the two of us will reach a much more profound level together!

“I’ve been preparing for this for a long time! I can’t succeed alone because the god soul will interfere. And that’s why I need your help, little Junior Brother!”

As the Captain’s voice echoed out, the intense sound of the faces’ wailing was so intense it overwhelmed everything else. And yet, Sir Heavenink and the other chosen heard him, and the details of his plot left them completely taken aback. They were plotting to become Smoldering Gods. Sir Firedark was plotting to reach godly ascension. But these two humans... were plotting to become the rulers of an entire god domain! This was the Great Hunt of the Firemoon Darkheaven people, sanctioned by their three gods. In fact... those three gods were obviously plotting the same thing!

The chosen considered interfering, if not for their species then for their own sake. If things went on like this, it could have a huge negative effect on their own breakthroughs.

The umbrella that Sir Firedark sat on was also releasing a deafening wail. As it shook back and forth, Sir Firedark’s eyes opened wide and pulsed with killing intent.

Only Xu Qing seemed unsurprised by all this. After all, there were two idioms that perfectly encapsulated the Captain’s style. The first was *snatching food from the tiger’s mouth* and the second was *dancing on a knife’s edge*. Based on how well Xu Qing knew the Captain, from the moment they arrived in the god domain, he had speculated that something like this would happen.

Given all that, it probably wasn’t best to say this was a ‘crazy’ thing to do. Instead, it was a very ‘Erniu’ thing to do. It wasn’t something that could be stopped easily, not even by the other cultivators present in the emperor’s mausoleum.

With the sun locked in place, the orbit of the sun and moon had been altered. And there was no way to stop the momentum of the moon. Terrifying and boundless coldness raced right toward the sun.

108 planets wailed, their screams spreading in all directions as the sun and moon collided! Heaven and earth shattered. The starry sky shook violently. Space collapsed. Fire and ice smashed into each other, and a dark, terrifying light of destruction began to spread. The sun shattered. The moon collapsed. Countless chunks of ice and burning sparks sprayed in all directions. Fire rained down in the emperor’s mausoleum. So did ice and even stars.

The only safe spot was where Xu Qing and the Captain stood.

Everywhere else, the mausoleum shook dramatically! The entire surrounding planet trembled! The whole god domain was shaken violently! A massive wind swept out that was the result of ice and fire destroying each other, or yin and yang joining together in formlessness. It was the direct result of the sun and moon colliding. It was... a tempest of primal-chaos that descended on the entire mausoleum. The starlight dragons went dim and collapsed within the wind. The bells tolled, sounding out a dirge of death. The drums and gongs resonated as they woke the souls of the deceased. And the wind caused the gigantic umbrella to shift, revealing... the holy coffin on the altar below it!

Surrounding the altar were the lands made of the skin patchwork. Among those patches of skin was one in particular that had a pair of eyes. The eyes opened, and in response, all of the soldiers and chariots arrayed in the mausoleum woke up one after another! However, that didn’t matter, as the path had already been cleared!

As the wind blew, the entire starry sky seemed to tilt onto its side as if to impede Sir Heavenink, Tuo Shishan, and Fan Shishuang. It was already impossible to stop events from playing out, so the main thing to do now was worry about self-preservation.

But Sir Firedark, whose breakthrough had been interrupted thanks to the Captain, felt that old hatred rising up again in her. She took a step forward.

Despite everything that was happening, Xu Qing still didn't look surprised. Things really weren't very much different than he'd expected. And he also knew that his Eldest Brother probably had more tricks up his sleeve. As for what trick was coming next, Xu Qing was fairly certain he knew. After all, he had loaned something to the Captain that the Captain hadn't returned yet. Therefore, Xu Qing didn't do a thing as Sir Firedark closed in.

Next to him, the Captain laughed madly. He had set up this entire situation in a previous life, so seeing it play out in front of him was very gratifying. And of course, how could he not be prepared to deal with Sir Firedark?

As Sir Firedark closed in, the Captain looked up proudly, then threw his right hand out with a flourish.

When Sir Firedark saw what was in that hand, her face fell.

"You're crazy!" she blurted, reversing course and racing backward at top speed.

The Captain was holding something in his hand that almost looked like a pearl. It was an ancient sun, also called a Dawning Sun, which was a domain treasure of humankind!

"Get over here!" the Captain said to the retreating Sir Firedark. Laughing maniacally, he hurled the Dawning Sun toward the altar below!

#### Chapter 895: Dawning Light Rends the Seal

The Dawning Suns of humankind made their debut to the countless species of Revered Ancient when the Nightshades invaded human territory several years ago.

During that war, the Nightshades and other nonhuman species surrounded the humans and brought flames of destruction to their lands. They even advanced as far as the Imperial Region. Humans had been teetering on the verge of annihilation. In fact, most species had come to the conclusion that humans had no hope of surviving that war. Most assumed that humans wouldn't end up wiped out as a species, but would probably lose half or more of their Imperial Region. As for the smaller administrative districts, the seven counties, they would just have to accept what fate had in store.

Who could ever have guessed that, in the most critical moment, the Dawning Suns would devastate heaven and earth, and shake Revered Ancient with their terrifying might?

The other species looked on silently as the Nightshades were driven into retreat. The species allied with the Nightshades to join the siege were shaken to the core.

That was the war in which everyone in Revered Ancient heard about the Dawning Suns. As a result, even powerful species such as the Firemoon Darkheaven people became deeply interested in the Dawning Suns. And they all started doing research to figure out how to deal with them.



As the number one chosen among the Firemoon Darkheavens, it was no surprise that Sir Firedark knew a bit about the Dawning Suns. Therefore, when she saw the Captain pull one out, she instantly knew what it was. Her pupils constricted, and her mind and heart shook with an intense sensation of deadly crisis. Without the slightest hesitation, she fell back.

If a domain treasure like that detonated, the effects would be very widespread. Although the emperor's mausoleum seemed like it existed in its own reality, the truth was that it had specific borders. If a Dawning Sun was detonated here, the blast would cover everything. The mausoleum was inherently built in a superior way, and had its own immense pressure weighing down everywhere, so it was possible it might be able to contain the detonation. But every flesh-and-blood being inside would definitely be in unprecedented danger.

Sir Firedark wasn't the only one to react in that way. Sir Heavenink, Tuo Shishan, and Fan Shishuang were deeply shocked. Their hair stood on end, and every inch of flesh and bone within them began to quiver as a sense of immeasurable danger filled them.

Danger. Danger!

Without the slightest hesitation, they interrupted their breakthroughs and used various defensive strategies to flee and seek a way to escape. The situation in the mausoleum had changed dramatically.

The Dawning Sun fell past the starlight dragons that had been knocked to the side by the sound waves. Then it dropped past the umbrella. Because of the explosive sound wave from before, the altar was now clearly visible, and there was nothing blocking the way to it.

Thus, the Dawning Sun dropped right onto the golden coffin!

It immediately released blinding light. That ancient sun had been crafted in the manner of a Dawning Sun, but it was far mightier than average. That was especially true considering that Xu Qing had put some of Crimson Mother's flesh into it.

Considering the terrifying might in the Dawning Sun, it could definitely be considered a trump card for Xu Qing and the Captain. That said, because it could only be used once, it usually worked best when used as a threat.

As of now, it could no longer be used as a threat, as it had been truly activated! Boundless and terrifying might erupted, so dramatic it was difficult to put into words. Blinding light spread out in all directions, bringing raging heat that illuminated the starry sky and spread out over the surrounding lands.

The dome of heaven began to turn crimson. The lands heaved. The wailing of the 108 faces suddenly ceased. The faces' expressions became pained, and as the light and heat swept over them, they were reduced to ashes. It wasn't just the faces that were wiped out. The 108 planets weren't able to hold on for long before they were wiped out of existence by the light and heat.

What was more, the detonation of the Dawning Sun had just begun. A sea of light spread out to cover everything. That included the bells, gongs, umbrella, and starlight dragons. Also affected were the altar, the terrain, the horses and soldiers, and everything else. Everything was turning crimson as the heat waves and sea of light sought to wipe everything out.

It was easy to imagine how, if nothing happened to stop it, the entire emperor's mausoleum would be reduced to ashes. In fact, the planet that housed the mausoleum would likely also be affected.

Everyone inside the mausoleum felt themselves hovering on the brink of death. Sir Firedark's hair was disheveled, and she kept coughing up blood. Howling, she released fist strike after fist strike to block the light and heat as she tumbled in the opposite direction. Clearly, not even she would last very long before she ended up dead.

It almost wasn't necessary to mention Fan Shishuang and the other two. The three of them were already severely injured, with their souls on the verge of being wiped away. It was with complete madness, and a host of varied techniques, that they tried to save themselves. Nothing seemed to work.

There was no doubt that the Captain had done something extremely ruthless. And he didn't just treat others ruthlessly. He also treated himself that way.

He and Xu Qing were both within the range of the Dawning Sun. Both of them were instantly overwhelmed with a sensation of deadly crisis.

However, advanced preparations ensured that the Captain was able to hold out longer than average. As the Dawning Sun detonated, he opened his mouth and looked at Xu Qing.

There was no need for communication. Xu Qing knew exactly what to do. Without any hesitation, he turned into a stream of light that shot into the Captain's mouth. Once inside the Captain, Xu Qing unleashed his cultivation base, sending out defensive power as well as supreme yin power. He used every item and divine ability he could think of.

The Captain did the same. Faces appeared in his pupils, and a vortex sprang up in his chest. At the same time, four blue arms burst out from inside of him, rapidly performing incantation gestures. Their power combined with Xu Qing's to form into a block of protective ice.

Meanwhile, the Captain's eyes filled with a crazy look as he took out large masses of human skin. They were, in fact, pieces of his own skin, which he threw over his shoulders like a cape. Then he took out a green jade slip, which he crushed between his fingers. A blast of time power erupted from the jade slip.

"Little Junior Brother!" the Captain shouted. Inside of him, Xu Qing unleashed his sundial to bolster the time abilities of the jade slip. Together the two of them bolstered each other defensively.

And yet, the explosion of the Dawning Sun shattered the block of ice. The time power rippled and distorted, and the Captain's skin burst into flame. Bloody wounds opened up all over him, and the four blue arms collapsed.

Xu Qing suffered similarly. Cracks spread out over his sundial, and his cultivation base trembled. None of the defenses seemed enough to dispel the crisis at hand; they only seemed capable of buying time.

But Xu Qing trusted the Captain. The Captain acted crazily sometimes, and often courted death. But every time... he survived! He didn't actually have a death wish. And that was the case this time as well!

As the Dawning Sun detonated and threatened to destroy the emperor's mausoleum and everything else... the mausoleum finally fought back!

This was the tomb of an immortal emperor, and the mausoleum of an ancestral emperor. Though it couldn't compare to Revered Ancient, on a personhood level, the entity buried here couldn't have been more noble and majestic. That wasn't even to mention that everything here had been set up by a god.

The bells, which were crimson from the heat, began to ring. The burning altar shivered and started to pulse in unison with the drums. The starlight dragons emitted deafening howls as they charged forth. From a distance, it looked like eight huge fingers! The bells were the fingernails. The drums were the white crescents on the nails. And the dragons' bodies formed the fingers.

The lands below were made of patches of skin that were currently burning. All of a sudden, eyes opened up on all of the patches of skin. The gazes that exploded out caused the fingers to be covered with skin!

The countless soldiers and horses, which were also burning now, began to move. Energy surged as they rose up into the air and turned into the palm of the hand.

One palm. Eight fingers! Mountains, rivers, and other terrain features rose up, becoming the prints on the palm and fingers! Most shocking of all was that the altar emitted black light that represented destruction. It infected the heat and light spreading from the Dawning Sun, and also poured into the palm itself, turning the entire hand pitch black.

As all of that happened, it was again possible to hear a heartbeat from inside the coffin.

Thump-thump. Thump-thump!

The heartbeat seemed to awaken the huge hand that had formed overhead, as it lurched toward the Dawning Sun. As of this moment, the light was covered up! As of this instant, the heat was cut off!

The enormous black hand covered everything. But the Dawning Sun was a domain treasure, and this was an extraordinary version. Not even a counterattack by the personhood of the emperor's mausoleum was enough to wipe it out.

Next, as the black hand contacted the heat of the Dawning Sun, an intense conflict erupted. Shortly after, a thunderous boom rang out that rocked the entire mausoleum.

The black hand vanished, and the Dawning Sun faded. The terror from the Dawning Sun had ultimately been driven away.

Up in the air, Sir Firedark looked to be in very bad shape, and was splattered with blood. Sir Heavenink, Tuo Shishan, and Fan Shishuang were all in one piece, but they were incredibly weak and were still filled with lingering fear. All of them had come very, very close to dying.

The Captain was similarly bedraggled. He had used every trick he had, yet was still on the verge of collapsing. When he saw that Sir Firedark and the others had all survived, he seemed a bit disappointed. But then his eyes glittered as he looked down.

Xu Qing flew out from inside him, looking weak and exhausted. He also looked down.

The emperor's mausoleum looked very different. The bells, drums, soldiers, horses, and terrain features... were gone. The altar was cracked and crumbling, and even the coffin was damaged. In

fact, the coffin had split in two, and each piece had rolled off to the side. Visible inside the coffin was a withered corpse wearing a burial suit of gold and jade! The body was completely withered, but it had an imperial crown, and the gold and jade burial garment was actually shaped like an imperial robe.

The raiment imparted a sense of majesty, but not as much as this person would have commanded in life. And that was because there was a spider on his face. It had fused with the corpse so that they were inseparable.

That spider's face had become the corpse's face.

“A soundwave to break the barrier. Dawning light to rend open the seal. Finally... the coffin of this world's ancestral emperor is open! Let's go, little Junior Brother!”

The craziness began to build again in the Captain's eyes as he shot down toward the corpse. Xu Qing viciously gritted his teeth. Given that things were reaching a climax, there was no way he was going to give up right now. Eyes looking similarly crazy, he shot toward the corpse.

Sir Heavenink, Tuo Shishan, and Fan Shishuang were powerless to do anything. Seeing what Xu Qing and the Captain were doing caused their hearts to pound. They quickly backed up. They were scared and tired.

As for Sir Firedark, her hatred had completely erupted, and thus, she raced after the Captain. It didn't matter what he did. She had one plan: kill the bastard!

As the three of them got close to the corpse, the spider face of the corpse suddenly opened its eyes! They were golden eyes. They were the eyes of a god!

Chapter 896: A Promise from Within Time

The only thing to be seen in the god's eyes was apathy. It was as if to it, all experiences in life were devoid of both joy and sorrow. Life was fine. Death was also fine. Everything was just part of the simple cycle of reincarnation. When to awaken. When to return. It could 'see' everything.

Fate itself was like a host of particles that formed a river, and every single wave and ripple on its surface was something it was aware of. Therefore, to the eyes of a god, calmness was the most unchangeable factor of time. It was as if from the moment it gained consciousness, its gaze never faltered. It was that way when it fought the human antemage, and it was also that way when it was suppressed by the three gods.

And it was the same today, when it used the corpse of the emperor to awaken within the god domain and get a chance to change the situation in the Mountain and Sea Region. It didn't matter that it was extremely weak right now. Whether the result was success or failure, it would all bring valuable experience.

And thus, it looked around at the area in which it had awoken. The canopy of heaven was shattered. The planets had become dust and joined the tempest. Time in this place had stopped moving. All of the natural and magical laws had lost their essence.

Even the air seemed still and unmoving. There was little need to mention... the ants charging toward it.

Xu Qing. The Captain. Sir Firedark.

When it gazed at them, it was as if they weren't even moving. It was like they were paper cutouts standing motionless in time. Both flesh and soul withered. Fate and karma dimmed. The gaze of a god could wipe out all such things.

But to its omniscient gaze, it was the same whether any of those things happened or not. Therefore, its gaze did not focus on the three pieces of paper. Instead, it looked outside of the mausoleum to something that its omniscience revealed to be a different fate. It was its only option. In its omniscience, it understood that there actually was no true and absolute omniscience in the universe. Some of it was relative, and some of it only covered certain areas or levels.

Thus, it had long since come to be engaged in a fight with those three gods from a later generation. And it was a godly fight that spanned time. That fight could be considered god karma. And that was its enemy.

Now, as it woke up here, it could give up on the godsource of its true self in the Mountain and Sea Region. If it could recapture its status as the lord of this god domain, then it could achieve victory in the battle. It could crush the three gods and devour the god karma they turned into.[1]

That experience could be used to develop a god altar, which it could ascend to reach a higher level as a god. As it recreated everything, and as time changed because of it all, it returned to the time it fought the antemage years ago, in order to sever the unfavorable fate from the past. The only fate left behind after that would be the god altar.

This was its path of godhood. Cross time. Sever contrary fate. In that manner, it could go from the Godfire level to the Altar God level! In its omniscience, it understood that to gods, the god altar was a necessary obstacle.[2]

When it 'looked' at fate, it was only natural that it saw the obstacle formed by the three mysterious gods. That was why it had long decided to pick this god domain as the battleground. That way, it could inextricably link itself to them, and thus... form god karma together.

Except... as it knew, the omniscience of gods wasn't absolute. It was relative. Therefore, it looked out of the mausoleum at something that existed outside of the fate and time that its omniscience could see. It was something unexpected hidden within the fate and time that it could see.[3]

It came when its gaze passed through the ants. It came from the Captain's and Xu Qing's time. Perhaps the most accurate way to put it is that it came from another area or level of time that existed outside of its omniscience.

Long ago in the Moonrite Region, Xu Qing had asked the Captain a question.

*"Eldest Brother, during the battle with the godchild, you were responsible for a time period in which Li Zihua was alive. So... did you actually run into him there?"*

As the Captain had explained, he made a deal with the Li Zihua of the past. [4]

Back then, Xu Qing had assumed it was all related to Crimson Mother. But now he realized that since the deal was made in the past, it had to occur in the past.

And now, Li Zihua was coming. This coming was the deal he had made with the Captain. It was a finger that emerged from Xu Qing and the Captain's time. It was a finger that had seemingly always been there. When first looking at the seemingly indescribable finger, it looked to be formed from

fate, or the stars, or the will convergence of the universe. It contained all light, all power, and all knowledge.

The entire mausoleum became irrelevant and dispensable. The entire planet became an insignificant decoration. The entire god domain transformed into a forgettable backdrop.

Nothing could match up to this glory. Upon second glance, it looked ordinary, like any other finger. It was neither too refined nor too rough. It had prints on it, and seemed simplistic in nature. It appeared within the gaze of the god, and then... it touched the spider on the face.

It was a light touch, but the spider shivered violently, and the eternally apathetic look in its eyes collapsed. The never-ending calm there shattered. This god actually did have emotions!

Apathy transformed into stupefaction. Calmness became confusion.

As of this moment, it understood that the obstacle to becoming an Altar God wasn't the three gods. Rather, it came from... this finger, which came completely unexpectedly.

"So, it's a springboard."

Unsurprisingly, the spider shattered into pieces that collapsed into dust. Unsurprisingly, the emperor's corpse didn't fight back at all. The altar turned into an abyss, and the corpse fell down into the depths!

The remaining soul couldn't do anything, and was crushed! Its world became black.

It wasn't just here that everything went dark. It was also in the Mountain and Sea Region....

Its world went dark, but in the mausoleum, Xu Qing and the Captain saw bright colors. The paper vanished, and they became flesh and blood again. For once, the Captain hadn't disappointed Xu Qing.

"The sound wave destroyed the barrier. The dawning light destroyed the seal. A finger from time crushed the god. Little Junior Brother... our time has arrived!"

Laughing heartily, the Captain became a streak of light that shot toward the corpse of the emperor that Li Zihua's finger had crushed.

Xu Qing's heart was pounding. It was the first time it happened since he came to the god domain. He and the Captain had done so many big jobs together that to a certain degree, Xu Qing was inoculated to surprise. But right now, he was deeply shaken. And without any hesitation, he burst into motion along with the captain.

One went to the dantian region. The other went to the forehead!

Of course, there was a third party closing in at top speed. It was none other than Sir Firedark.

From beginning to end, she had been hit with shock after shock. All she'd been able to do was staunchly stick to her convictions. And it didn't matter whether she ended up stopping the Captain or robbing him, she wasn't going to let this opportunity pass by. She was just on the verge of entering the corpse along with Xu Qing and the Captain.

That was when the Captain performed an incantation gesture and pointed off into the distance. Outside of the mausoleum, in the crumbled labyrinth, a pearl appeared. Dazzling light flowed on its surface, light that could solidify yin and yang. There was an ancient aura within it, and a life source

origin that made it clear it was a precious treasure. But at the same time, it looked like a fish that had been taken far from water, and was starting to dry out.... It started to crack, to crumble, and to die. In fact, if that fish wasn't returned to the water soon, it would cease to exist.

Instantly, Sir Firedark, who had been just about to enter the emperor's corpse, shivered from head to toe. She could sense the aura of that pearl, and knew that it was her life essence pearl. That was why she hated the Captain so much. There was nothing more important to her than that pearl. From that it could be seen why she hated him so dearly.

And thus, she had to make a snap decision. Would she... continue into the corpse, or give up and try to retrieve her pearl?

That was exactly the position the Captain had intended to put her in.

Sir Firedark really had no options. Eyes turning crimson, she turned and raced off in the direction of her life essence pearl.

As she left, Xu Qing and the Captain and dropped down and entered the corpse.

Then the corpse disappeared into the abyss below. Above, the emperor's mausoleum collapsed into rubble. It wasn't just limited to the mausoleum. The entire planet that had contained the tomb collapsed.

As for Sir Heavenink, Tuo Shishan, and Fan Shishuang, they teleported away in their fear.

After everyone was gone, the spot in the center of the god domain that had once held a planet now became home to a black hole. As it spun noiselessly, it exerted a tug on the entire god domain. Beyond the borders of the black hole, the three chosen looked back wordlessly.

Three gods also appeared above the black hole in the god domain. Their auras spread out, and their godlight shone brightly in all directions.

"The opportunity has arrived," Sunfire said coolly.

Sir Heavenink, Tuo Shishan, and Fan Shishuang bowed their heads. All were conflicted inwardly. Earlier, they had all been wondering why... the three gods hadn't shown up. Now there didn't seem to be any question about that.

Sir Firedark appeared, having retrieved her pearl. She looked on silently. As of now, she understood that both she and the other Firemoon chosen had been nothing more than game pieces in this god domain.

So who's going to play the next game piece?

She looked down into the black hole. Its reflection slowly filled her eyes as it grew larger, and it contained nothing but darkness.

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In the depths of the Ninedawns Forbidden Lands in the Mountain and Sea Region, a pair of eyes opened up in the darkness. They quickly began to suck all of the darkness into them, as if they were whirlpools.

"Has the opportunity arrived?" he said in a raspy voice. It was like a voice that blew out of an ancient abyss, waking to fulfill a promise of godly ascension from within

time. He slowly stood up. Then he made his way toward the god shrine above him, which suppressed Ninedawns.

Inside the shrine was the withered spider god, which was starting to rot into nothing.... The connections of fate ensured that he grew clearer and clearer as he neared. He was absorbing everything about the spider god.

Chapter 897: Take the Stage!

A drama was playing out in the god domain as Sunfire's voice swept through the withered world like turbulent waves.

A tempest formed, reaching every corner of the god domain, purging the lingering spiderwebs and driving away the dust that had built up over the years. Then, in one particular location, in the spot of a ruined planet, an ancient stone stele appeared. It was mostly intact, although the words carved on the surface weren't completely legible. In fact, there were only four words that could be read using divine will.

North Immortal Emperor World.

That was the name of this world, which had long since been lost in the sands of time. It had its glory days. And given that it existed in a universe that also contained gods, it was no surprise that it had stories related to gods. Naturally, there were names associated with its rise to prominence.

Now, though, all that remained were desolate ruins, the lonely tomb of the emperor, the depressing devastation, and the mindless godly entities. This world fundamentally didn't have anything to do with the Revered Ancient mainland. In fact, taking in the starry sky as a whole, this world was actually immeasurably far away from Revered Ancient.

It was only after the immortal emperor died that the spider god invaded the place and infected its aura. At that point, this immortal world of the north turned into a god domain. And then, because the broken face came... the North Immortal Emperor World appeared in the rifts of Revered Ancient. It came to be a game board that various players conspired over. You could also say it was an embodiment of god karma.

As the stone stele floated in the dust and rubble, a hand of moonlight reached down from the starry sky to fish it up and pull it to the very center of the god domain, to the black hole, where the three gods were.

The three gods looked at it silently.

What happened next was possibly because of how Xu Qing and the Captain had entered the emperor's corpse, or perhaps it was because of the power of their godly might. Either way, their gazes contained a special energy that cleansed the stele.

As that happened, the illegible words were restored to their ancient form.

"When the emperor knew his longevity neared its end, and the Arbiter of Destiny was about to perish, he realized that catastrophe was imminent. In order to leave a way out, on the day of his death, he violated the commands of the ancestors. He consumed the god karma and refined sun, moon, and star into three souls. He took the initiative to deal with his own soul.



“Using his body as the joss flame, he sent the three souls into reincarnation, severed providence, and concealed karma. Afterwards... people were people, immortals were immortals, gods were gods. The emperor perished... and his soul departed.” [1]

The ancient text recounted a secret history. Before Sir Firedark and the other Firemoon chosen could read the text with their divine will, it vanished again.

The stone stele was the same stone stele from before. The history it represented was now truly buried in time. However, the beauty of the moment, and the karma buried within, had returned silently into the fates of the three gods.

And thus, in that moment, authority over the god domain was split into five parts. One went to Sunfire. One went to Moonfire. One went to Starfire.

As for the other two, one part went into the Mountain and Sea Region, while the other went... into the emperor’s corpse.

“The portion that went into the emperor’s corpse is locked,” Sunfire said coolly. “But the lock is opening.”

“Do they have enough time?” Starfire asked.

“The opportunity has arrived,” Moonfire replied calmly, “so it’s not important. We can start.”

Starfire smiled faintly. “Our big sister is still wrapped up in hatred. But I have the feeling... they have enough time.”

The three gods had been waiting for an opportunity.

Beneath the surface of the Mountain and Sea Region, the grand steward, who had stabbed Ninedawns in the back and taken complete control of the Darkheaven Archmages, had been waiting for that promise from within time.

Now, the moment had come that they had all been waiting for. A curtain that had remained in place for countless years was now being opened. The stage was being revealed. The play was about to begin.

In a corner that the curtain still obscured were others who were ready to play the game. Or perhaps it was better to say that they had no choice but to play. They were Xu Qing and the Captain, and they were making their move. That said, the true game was being played between the three gods and the grand steward. As such, they wouldn’t disturb the opportunity, but neither would they sit around and just wait for it to pass.

Therefore....

The stage was there. The strategy was in place. Whether the other players had time to make their move and take the stage... would depend on their own fate.

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“Fate is complete nonsense!”

It was a dark, red world in which the sky was crumbling.

Atop a blood sea, the Captain threw his head back and laughed maniacally. He was currently glowing with bright blue light. Protruding from his chest were several vicious-looking blue arms, stretching out to hold up the sky. The arms became huge pillars of ice that rose up constantly from within the Captain. The pillars of ice climbed higher and higher in their attempt to prop up the sky. In fact, they were proliferating so rapidly it seemed they wanted to freeze the dome of heaven. There were also innumerable blue worms that spilled off the Captain, spreading into the sea of blood, which they devoured ravenously.

However, the world was crumbling, and it didn't seem possible to stop it from happening. As the sky fell, the sea howled. The pillars shattered, and the worms collapsed.

But then another ice pillar appeared, and more worms came out. One who could prop up the sky could be called an ancestor. One who overturned the sea could be called a lord. By propping up flesh and overturning blood, one could enter the corpse of an immortal emperor.

However, there were two particularly difficult elements.

The first was that he wanted to subjugate this world. The second was that he wanted to subjugate even more worlds.

The crumbling world was an abstract representation of the fleshly body of the emperor's corpse. As for the sea of blood, it was only one drop of the blood that existed in the emperor's corpse. And the falling sky was only a tiny portion of the total flesh.

Li Zihua's finger reduced the difficulty of the second task, as it could transform the sea of blood in this world from being one drop of the corpse's blood into all of it. And it could transform the falling sky from one portion of flesh into all of it. By subjugating one world, it was possible to subjugate all of them.

That reduced the level of difficulty. But even still, and even if the Captain succeeded, there were other things to consider. Because... the emperor's corpse had been infected by a god. Or perhaps it was even correct to say that the god had fused the immortal emperor's discarnate soul. A full success would involve both the fleshly body and the soul. The dantian and the forehead.

And thus, while the Captain had to go crazy, Xu Qing also had to put everything on the line. There were also two difficult aspects to suppressing the discarnate soul.

The first was that he needed to take the emperor-god's terrifying soul and absorb it into his Emperor's trove. The second was that, once in the Emperor's trove, he needed to figure out how to actually subjugate it.

Li Zihua's finger proved to be a huge asset, as it crushed the discarnate soul and wiped out much of its terrifying nature. That would make it a lot easier to bring it into the Emperor's trove.

It was, after all, the soul of an emperor-god. Despite being crushed, it also had plenty of deadly aspects.

It wasn't an exaggeration at all to say that Xu Qing was putting everything on the line. In the middle of an immortal palace was a Dragon Throne, atop which was the discarnate soul, which was staring fixedly at him. Using his Gruegloom hand, he forced open the Emperor's Sword trove gate,

revealing it openly and sending it directly toward the discarnate soul with one goal: melt the discarnate soul, send it into the Emperor's trove.

The discarnate soul hadn't been resisting because, in contrast to the fleshly body that the Captain was dealing with, the soul was intelligent. It knew that the true victory or defeat in this matter wouldn't be settled by the fleshly body. It would be settled here. If it could flip things around in the trove gate, then it could possess its attacker. And then... the situation could be turned into a victory.

Upon entering the trove gate, the discarnate soul immediately launched its counterattack. The Emperor's trove trembled, and cracks spread out on the gate. That was the sign that it might not be able to last much longer.

Xu Qing had a decision to make. He closed his physical eyes, while his soul eyes opened. Rising from his sea of consciousness, he rushed aggressively into his Emperor's trove in soul form.

Inside that trove were a sprawling heaven and earth. Thunder crashed in the sky as silver lightning danced. The lands quaked violently. A sword rose from the earth and into the sky. The light of the sword glittered brightly, illuminating everything. It was bronze, and pulsed with the destiny aura of humankind. Normally speaking, the sword would be 4.7 feet long. But in the Emperor's trove, it was 47,000 feet long. [2]

The edge of the blade was oppressive. The sword energy was unstoppable. It could slash heaven, slash earth, and slash man. It could execute anyone who wasn't an Ancient Emperor. It was... The Emperor's Sword.

Next to the sword was a soul clad in an imperial robe and wearing an imperial crown. Its face was completely expressionless. At first glance it looked like an emperor, but at the same time, it resembled a god. It would look like an emperor, then suddenly seem to be a spider. It was currently looking at The Emperor's Sword, eyes full of praise.

"A wonderful sword for an emperor!" It turned to look murderously at Xu Qing. "You want me to serve as the spirit automaton? As the heavenly dao? To be able to control this sword?"

The soul lifted its hand and reached out toward The Emperor's Sword.

"No one can use that sword without my permission," Xu Qing said quietly. The Emperor's Sword trembled, emitting a thrum that caused heaven to dim. Sword light shone out in all directions.

The hand of the emperor's soul stopped moving, then retracted.

"You can't use it either," the soul said, then blurred into motion toward Xu Qing.

A battle of souls was about to take place! The Emperor's trove filled with rumbling sounds that spread out to fill Xu Qing's body. Of course, his body couldn't move, which made the situation very dangerous.

Meanwhile, the Captain was really going crazy. Whether in the fleshly body or the discarnate soul, whether in the dantian region or the forehead, intense violence had broken out.

Xu Qing's childhood experiences taught him to be decisive. His life in Seven Blood Eyes taught him to be deceptive. In Sea-Sealing County, he mastered how to be strategic.

But it was his Eldest Brother that taught him how to fight! Fight heaven. Fight earth. Fight people. Fight gods! And also to fight fate.

And thus, as the emperor's corpse fell through the abyss, a voice echoed in its dantian region.

"Open my seals. Awaken the Nine Serenities. Summer Immortal leaves the world. Everything frosts over!"

A blue ice flower emerged from the dantian region, rapidly spreading to cover the emperor's corpse, from its torso to its limbs.

At the same time, Xu Qing's voice echoed out in the fallen emperor's forehead. "In my swordmage days, I cultivated a certain magic. It's an art that all swordmages learn, which can be cultivated by anyone. But it was in my Emperor's trove that I came to understand its true nature.

"So listen up. The truth is... I *can* use that sword!

"I have a sword....

"Its name is The Emperor's Sword!"

The sword rose up in the trove, disdainfully slashed through the void, piercing into the abyss, unstoppable on its way to the forehead of the emperor's corpse. The forehead caved in, astonishing space-time and slashing the fictional! The emperor's corpse shivered and lurched to a halt. It hovered in the middle of nothing. And as the sword light grew dazzling, the corpse's eyes opened! They did not belong to the immortal emperor, nor to the spider god.

They were the Captain's eyes and Xu Qing's gaze. The void rumbled as a return was declared. The abyss shattered as a new lord was proclaimed. The fifth aspect of the authority over the North Immortal Emperor World, which had turned into a god domain, fell into the fates of Xu Qing and the Captain.

In the Mountain and Sea Region, the person who had been walking forward looked up.

In the god domain, the three gods looked down at the black hole.

"Looks like I was right," Starfire said with a slight smile.

Chapter 898: True Fire, Karma Fire, Tribulation Fire, Flawless

Of the five portions of authority over the god domain, four were already accounted for.

High Gods Sunfire, Moonfire, and Starfire all looked away from the black hole and toward the Mountain and Sea Region. Next, the final bit of authority determined the direction of their gazes. It was the same as how they didn't interfere when the emperor's corpse fell into the abyss. Whether Xu Qing and the Captain succeeded or failed, lived or died, was up to fate. When fighting against fate, one had to accept what fate would bring.

To the three gods, the fight over the emperor's corpse constituted the opportunity they had been waiting for. It was the lock that would allow the curtain to open.

The fight in the Mountain and Sea Region passed through time, connecting the North Immortal Emperor World with the Revered Ancient mainland, by means of karma. The shape and connection had already formed. Therefore, if failure occurred in the Mountains and Sea Region right now, they likewise wouldn't provide assistance.

Regardless of karma or fate, and regardless of the promise from within time, they would need to see if the promisee's providence could be sustained.

If the party from the Mountain and Sea Region had sufficient providence, then they would be happy to keep the promise. They would *add flowers to the brocade* and provide the chance for godly ascension. If that party could not sustain the providence or the karma, then the fifth portion of authority would bless the three gods. The promise would become kindling, to pierce through the fate of tens upon tens of thousands of years, and provide a personal dao of the gods. It could also be considered god karma.

If that happened, the party in the Mountain and Sea Region would have no recourse. There would be no one else to blame except for fate itself. Therefore, there really was no foreordained destiny. There was only... the fact that the spider god would definitely die.

If not in the Mountain and Sea Region, then at the hands of the three gods.

Time passed.

The party in the Mountain and Sea Region had yet to decide. In the god domain, the destiny aura fell into the providence of those with the authority. Thus, the auras of High Gods Sunfire, Moonfire, and Starfire all rose dramatically. In fact, a god shrine vortex appeared, which rapidly became more and more majestic. Their personhood also began to oscillate, and their respective golden godfire burned brightly. Eventually, it reached a peak level in which a hidden black flame opened a sealing mark within the gold.

It was strongest with Sunfire, with Moonfire in the middle and Starfire the weakest.

"Finally. Tribulation fire."

Sunfire's eyes closed. Moonfire said nothing. Starfire waited with anticipation.

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Those with authority included those in the emperor's corpse deep in the abyss.

Thus, destiny slowly converged in the corpse's river of fate. Because his fleshly body was under the Captain's control, while the soul was under Xu Qing's control, the two of them stood at the ends of the river, and could thus control the direction of that fate. As a result, the destiny aura belonged to both of them.

The Captain chose to take the god domain's destiny and turn it into a furnace to burn the words from the Wordless Book of Stone. He also took out two hairs to burn as well. It was a type of forging. This type of forging was extremely rare, to the point where, if word spread, it would shake all of Revered Ancient. All in all, of all the cultivators in Revered Ancient, there were few who could have the good fortune to use an emperor's corpse as the fire and the destiny aura of a god domain as fuel. Forging things in that way was definitely a luxury. And of course, whatever was forged by that process would be extraordinary. Wordless words were like the one thing that escapes notice when practicing divination. The fact that two people were able to rely on such a thing on

such a long journey went to show how extraordinary it was. An item from a teleportation portal that came alive. A wonder of creation, typifying the changes wrought to Revered Ancient. It was fundamentally miraculous. Its hairs were, of course, astonishing. Ordinary materials can be used to forge extraordinary things, so there was little need to mention what could be done with extraordinary materials.[2]

As the Captain forged, a crazy feeling built within him, and he muttered via divine will:

*“Come on, burn! Faster! Work! Oh lovely spirits of heaven and lovely spirits of earth, with the blessing and protection of the Summer Immortals, Dark Serenity, Master, myself, my little Junior Brother... this has to work!”*

Xu Qing picked up on what the Captain was saying via divine will. He didn't want to see or hear what the Captain was doing or saying, but he had no choice. Based on how well he knew the Captain, he had an idea of what was going to happen after the Captain finished.

The Captain's ambitions weren't limited to what was happening here. He had acquired this corpse. He had authority over a god domain. But... the Captain had plainly said that he had a 'super' big job. Clearly, what had happened so far really didn't match up to the craziness you would expect with something like that. All in all, what they had acquired wasn't the complete destiny aura of the god domain.

By now, Xu Qing could sense through the destiny aura that authority over the god domain was split into five parts.

He and the Captain had jointly acquired one of those portions.

Perhaps other people would consider that a shocking destined opportunity or an extreme level of good fortune. But based on what Xu Qing knew, his crazy Eldest Brother definitely wouldn't be satisfied with something like that. Considering the Captain was using the destiny aura to forge something... Xu Qing knew that his speculations were correct.

Yet he wasn't paying very close attention to that. What was most important to him now wasn't his Eldest Brother's crazy actions, but rather, the chance he had for a cultivation base breakthrough.

His life essence trove gate was already open. Within it, the bluegreen dragon was the heavenly dao, swirling about and roaring. His taboo poison trove gate was also open. Hellfei was there with its solitary eye and its Sixth Filths sealing marks. The violet moon trove gate had long since opened, as it had absorbed the supreme yin power and gained the netherglimmer as its heavenly dao. The Emperor trove had also reached the highest level. Thanks to The Emperor's Sword, the discarnate soul inside had become the heavenly dao, as well as a unique spirit automaton for the sword.

Of his five trove gates, four were open. There was only one that had not yet been completely opened. And that was... the gate of his mage trove.

That one didn't need something from the outside to serve as a heavenly dao, as it had an actual Darkheaven Archmage inside to fill that role.

What it needed was a convergence of Darkheaven Archmage power to open the trove gate. And Xu Qing knew that he could substitute the destiny aura of a god domain for that power! It was not a transient solution. Authority over a god domain was something eternal, so all he had to do was

guide it into him to provide the blessing. Next, as the formless destiny aura entered his fate, he directed it with divine will toward the mage trove!

The mage trove rumbled as the form of the antemage filled in, growing taller and larger.

The Ninedawns skulls howled as they entered as well, creating a figure that could prop up heaven and earth, while simultaneously releasing an aura that spanned countless years of ancient time. It loomed like a giant within the mage trove.

RUMBLE!

The half-opened mage trove gate then swung all the way open!

In that instant, the five trove gates erupted with dazzling light that filled Xu Qing's entire sea of consciousness. All five gates were open!

A majestic power flowed out from the five trove gates, filling Xu Qing. His cultivation base began to climb, and his soul flourished. His battle prowess rose without cease, and his personhood became like *the carp that leaped over the dragon gate!*

Above the five gates, the bluegreen dragon threw its head back and roared, the eye of Hellfei looked down with cruel disdain, the netherglimmer ascended on high, the soul of an emperor wielded a sword, and the antemage's eyes shone like the sun and moon! The heavenly daos were all out in full force!

Heaven-shaking, earth-toppling transformations were underway in Xu Qing. With all five heavenly daos out, his five trove gates were like burning furnaces. Rumbling booms became as loud as heavenly thunder. Volcanic ash fell like snow as the five furnaces roared. The volcanic ash was really dust formed from daos and fate. They were the lineaments of everything Xu Qing had experienced in life. It was actually called... void soil!

As it piled up in Xu Qing's sea of consciousness, it became void soil filled with dao lineaments. This was the hallmark of the foundation of Void Returning!

Xu Qing's eyes glittered as he realized that there were now no obstacles preventing him from breaking through from Spirit Trove into Void Returning. He could do it with ease. However, given what he knew about how the Captain's big jobs usually went... Xu Qing decided to calm his sea of consciousness and settle the five furnaces. He could now break through at any time, but wasn't in a hurry.

That was around the time he heard the Captain's voice drifting to him.

*"Little Junior Brother..."*

The Captain was actually feeling disappointed. His plan had been to interrupt Xu Qing in the moment of his breakthrough, thus asserting his position as the Eldest Brother. He had even planned exactly what he was going to say, and had worked everything out to be able to use this situation to blackmail Xu Qing later on. How could he ever have guessed that Xu Qing would take the initiative to delay his breakthrough....

It doesn't matter. Maybe he's slowed down, but I still have all the big pieces in place!

With that thought in mind, the Captain cleared his throat. As the two of them absorbed the emperor's body from different positions, he continued communicating via divine will.

*“Little Junior Brother, don’t be anxious to break through. I can see that you have a wondrous physical makeup and a cultivation that can only be considered unique and amazing. As it happens, I have an ancient, spectacular bit of good fortune here. Want it?”*

Xu Qing could tell what the Captain was thinking, so he nodded in agreement.

The Captain looked pleased.

*“Remember what I said earlier, little Junior Brother? Our time has come! Your Void Returning can’t be as simplistic as that! Becoming the lords of a god domain is only the appetizer to the big job I’ve planned. Consider that the mere qualifications to move to the next step....*

*“Just wait a bit. In short order, your sister-in-law on the outside, as well as that little lover of yours, plus that dog-fucking, pig-fucking, bastard-fucking Sunfire, are going to put on a big show, and we can sweep in and benefit from the process! Just remember, this time, your Eldest Brother had been preparing for a really long time, and has paid a huge price. So, you have to promise me that—”*

*“Alright.”* Xu Qing interrupted with a nod.

*“Huh? I didn’t finish saying what I wanted you to promise me....”*

*“Eldest Brother, as far as I’m concerned, as long as I’m capable of doing something, I’ll promise to do it for you.”*

The Captain could sense the determination in Xu Qing’s words, and it filled his heart with unprecedented warmth. All of a sudden, he felt a bit guilty about the blackmail plan he’d come up with earlier. Then he felt his sense of duty and responsibility as the Eldest Brother rising within him.

*“This is going to help you too, Junior Brother. There’s no need to negotiate anything. Your Eldest Brother was just joking around with you! Alright, let’s move on from that.*

*“Let me explain my plan to you.*

*“First, little Junior Brother, you need to understand that you can categorize gods based on godfire. Anything that doesn’t have godfire is nothing more than a godly entity. But once you have godfire, you can properly be called an actual god.*

*“The Godfire level is broken into three levels. They are: true fire, karma fire, and tribulation fire. [1]*

Xu Qing’s heart thumped. This was the first time he had heard any explanation about gods and what happened after igniting godfire.

*“Remember that fish in Forbidden by the Immortal in Sea-Sealing County? That was the true fire level, so you could call that fish a Low God. When true fire turns into karma fire,*



*it's the mark of a High God. Now, 'High God' is actually a very encompassing level. It includes karma fire as well as tribulation fire. If you can push tribulation fire to the great circle, that's the mark of a Flawless God. That brings with it the possibility of forming a god altar. Li Zihua is currently an Altar God."*

Xu Qing was listening very attentively. As he listened to this explanation from the Captain, he felt like he was hearing information from the ancient past.

*"The tribulation fire level involves an unbounded improvement to omniscience. However, it's also incomparably dangerous, as you have to undergo a personal tribulation.*

*"That tribulation exists outside of the omniscience of the god in question. A god that fails to pass the tribulation is wiped out of existence. The path to godhood is over. Everything becomes dust. Only by becoming a Flawless God can you reach the point where you don't have to worry about tribulation, and can then focus fully on breaking through to Altar God.*

*"That spider god is in the third level, and very far along in that level. But the spider god is not a Flawless God, and thus, still has to deal with tribulation.*

*"The three gods, plus you and I, are its tribulation.*

*"Years ago, it was the same with Crimson Mother. Shē was a High God who had reached the highest point of the tribulation fire level. In other words, hēr personhood was the same as that of the spider god. Unfortunately, shē was not quite at the Flawless level.*

*"Back then Li Zihua, you, and I were hēr tribulation. Even further back in Li Zihua's life, Crimson Mother was his tribulation."*

Feeling quite shaken, Xu Qing asked, "What about the three gods?"

*"Based on what I know from past lives, thēy stopped caring about getting stronger once thēy reached the tribulation fire level. They sealed thēir tribulation fire, and thus, despite the fact that thēy are High Gods, thēy were actually weaker than Crimson Mother.*

*"As for right now, I think... that the three gods' ultimate goal is probably to skip the danger of the tribulation fire level and directly become Flawless Gods. By directly opening that path, they could have to hope to become Altar Gods!"*

The Captain was going to continue, but his voice faltered. Xu Qing sensed why. The corpse of the emperor looked up. Within the eyes of the corpse, godlight flickered, piercing through the black hole... to the outside world. Something dramatic was unfolding!

"The wind is coming!" the Captain said madly.

Chapter 899: I Have No Regrets!

That wind came from the Mountain and Sea Region, sweeping through space-time and passing through world borders. It blew from the mortal world into the god domain, from Revered Ancient

into North Immortal, to the three gods. Thunderous rumbling filled the god domain, along with a formless, slashing power. Sustaining tens of thousands of years of karma, and seeking the promise from within time, it revealed an astonishing sharpness that slashed through everything.

A huge rift opened up that was plainly visible to the three gods. It seemed to have no beginning or end, and from a distance, looked almost like an opening eye. There was something very magnificent about it. Wind emerged from the rift, spreading like a blooming flower in front of the cold eyes of the three gods.

They now saw the choice made by the party in the Mountain and Sea Region... and it made everything clear.

On the other side of the rift was the Mountain and Sea Region in Firemoon Darkheaven territory. And in the middle of it all were the Ninedawns Forbidden Lands. The entire area was collapsing, making it possible to see the sealed spider in the shrine in the cave.

However, the glow coming from the shrine was dim, and the spider god was trembling visibly while simultaneously withering. What was withering wasn't just its flesh and blood, but also its karma. Even the time within it was quietly fading. All of it was being taken away by the hand that existed right in front of it.

It was black and withered, and belonged to a person clad in a black, hooded robe. The robe flapped wildly, but concealed the face of the person within it, though they emanated a sense of profound ancientness. As he stood in front of the spider god, his own hand began to fill in with flesh, all while the spider god shriveled up.

It wanted to struggle, but its fate had already been set, and it couldn't do anything to change that.

Around the time the spider god crumbled into ash, the hand had gone from being dead to alive. It had returned from many years in the past, and was now a ruddy, healthy color. Then the wind finally lifted the hood of the cloak, revealing a head of gray hair and an ancient face.

Because of all the years that had passed, the individual looked like both a person and a ghost, but at the same time, resembled neither. After absorbing the spider god, though, his face filled in with flesh. Despite still being covered with wrinkles, it was still possible to see some of the majesty of the statue of him that existed among the Firemoon Darkheaven people.

Tens of thousands of years ago, this person had united the Firemoon Darkheavens, and had been venerated for ages. He was... the grand steward!

As he looked at the lands around him, it was as if he was looking into the history of the countless species that existed. He saw the Firemoons rise to prominence. He saw the wars that raged between the species. He saw the times the Firemoons fought with humans. He saw how the three gods watched over and protected the Firemoons. And he saw where the Firemoons stood now in Revered Ancient.

That gaze took in all of the history from ancient to modern. At the same time, his aura surged, becoming stronger and more intense. It filled the Mountain and Sea Region, spreading out to affect the rest of Firemoon territory, and causing dramatic effects in heaven and earth.

All Firemoon Darkheaven cultivators felt their blood react. That was especially true of the three stewards, who stepped out of their tents, their expressions those of shock. As they looked in the

direction of the Mountain and Sea Region, they could sense that one of their most ancient ancestors had appeared. To the Firemoon Darkheaven people, this grand steward who had once unified their species occupied a place in their hearts that was equivalent to that of a god. All of them instinctively bowed in worship.

As they did, the grand steward looked up into the dome of heaven. Then he took a step, causing him to rise toward the rift in the sky.

He hadn't just absorbed the time and flesh of the spider god. He had also taken... the spider's authority over the god domain.

As he strode forth, that authority swept into his fate, bolstering his providence, and filling in any gaps. Sparks that had been extinguished tens of thousands of years ago were now restored. With each step he took, his personhood and life force both rose. Eventually, he reached the rift, and as the three gods watched, he stepped into the god domain.

Looking at the three gods, he spoke in a raspy voice.

“Sorry to keep you waiting.”

That voice rumbled like thunder out into the god domain, and it soon reached Xu Qing.

Xu Qing didn't react. He recognized who this person was; within his mage trove, he could sense an immense grief that had been there for many years. In Ninedawns' memory, the backstabbing was still very clear.... As of now, the karma of that backstabbing seemed to grow ever clearer.

Outside of the black hole, Sunfire and Moonfire did nothing as the grand steward approached. Starfire, meanwhile, looked at the black hole and coolly said, “We might as well begin.”

The grand steward looked around at the god domain. “There's something I've been wondering about for many years,” he said. “And now I want to ask. Based on what I've heard the three of you say, this god domain was once your home. In that case, the infected godly entities here must have once been your people. Will you... miss them?”

The one to answer was Moonfire. “The North Emperor perished. Karma has been resolved. He is us. We are him.”

The grand steward asked nothing further.

Then Sunfire spoke in a voice full of majesty, which spread through the god domain and pierced into the voice.

“He who commands the Ancient is not empty; he is the Living Desolation. Sleeping until now, but disseminating time.

“All in the star ring are considered children; thus, myriad worlds use the address ‘father.’

“Today, the children of the North World—Sun, Moon, and Star—make five sacrifices to he who commands the ancient, an offering to the Father God!”

Sunfire's voice swept through the god domain, each word provoking violent trembling, which built and built until it seemed all of Revered Ancient was being affected dramatically. Then, a huge sun

rose up. Off to the side, Moonfire's eyes were closed as a bright moon ascended. And Starfire's eyes opened, causing boundless stars to fill the sky in the god domain.

The three gods were going to make a sacrifice to the broken face!

As of now, the wind wasn't coming. The wind... was here!

Below within the black hole, the emperor's corpse also trembled, all while the Captain laughed.

Now Xu Qing understood everything.

The three gods' goal was now plainly visible! They wanted to make a sacrifice to the broken face of the god. When the broken face's eyes opened, they would look at this god domain. When the broken face looked at something, it turned into a forbidden region. When the face looked at a forbidden region, it turned into a forbidden ground. When the face looked at a forbidden ground, it turned into a god domain. But... things were different when that gaze focused on a god domain!

Xu Qing had learned this information back at the red moon. When a god domain rose to a higher level, it became a god world!

Of course, that process would also involve an increase in level to whoever was lord of the god domain!!

Combined with what the Captain had said earlier, Xu Qing now understood that this was the path sought by the three gods. They wanted to use identities as lords of a god domain to subsequently raise the god domain to a higher level, and thus skip the entire tribulation fire level and step right into being Flawless Gods.

That way, they wouldn't have to deal with tribulations like those suffered by Crimson Mother or the spider god. With consummate providence, their path to the Altar God wouldn't have any obstacle on it! As long as they could stockpile enough resources, they would definitely have hope when it came to Altar God!

It was a monumentally shocking level of destined opportunity, but it also came with a terrifying level of danger. After all, Crimson Mother had failed to do the same thing.

That said, there were differences between the three gods and Crimson Mother. In Crimson Mother's case, the situation came without invitation. In the case of the three gods, they were the ones setting up the situation. One involved no preparation at all, while the other involved meticulous preparation.

*How very impressive!* Xu Qing was deeply moved. Back in the Crimson Mother incident, his cultivation base had been too weak, and thus, he had no way to be involved with something of this level. But now... things were different.

Meanwhile, things outside were still developing.

Sunfire's voice echoed in the god domain.

"First sacrifice. Offer all living beings from seven regions!"

Sunfire's shocking words reached Revered Ancient, spread into the seven regions that had ultimately been conquered by the Firemoon Darkheaven people. Secret preparations that had been carried out for years were now coming to fruition.

The seven regions took up a huge area. And now, within those seven regions, royal Firemoon Darkheaven auras surged, changing fate and altering karma.

Taking in the seven regions as a whole, the Firemoon army was like a dark cloud causing sky-obscuring, sun-blocking pressure to weigh down everywhere.

In front of the gathered armed forces were innumerable prisoners of war. Shockingly, each region featured prisoners of war from a different species. Seven species. Seven groups of prisoners. There were no exceptions! The prisoners were on their knees as Sunfire's voice again echoed throughout the seven regions with royal dignity.

“Let the blood sacrifice begin! Execute them!”

That command caused a great massacre to unfold in the seven regions. In the shortest of moments, countless deaths occurred. It wasn't necessarily something unprecedented and unduplicated in all history, but it was definitely something rarely seen even within a period of tens of thousands of years.

Rivers of blood flowed. Deceased souls filled the sky. Some tried to escape. Some tried to fight back. But they couldn't break free. Their fate had been sealed.

What was more, as the event was carried out, it became evident that there was something else special about those specific seven species. Each had a different color blood!

Red. Orange. Yellow. Emerald. Green. Blue. Violet. One color for each region.

In the region where the blood was red, the slaughtered species were not humans. However, it was possible to imagine that, given how domineering the Firemoon Darkheavens were, it was entirely conceivable that they had originally intended to get prisoners from human territories. In hindsight, it now made perfect sense why the Nightshades had originally marshaled their troops.

Had that original war led to the defeat of the humans.... Had the Dawning Suns not been unleashed.... Had Grand Emperor Swordsage's final sword attack not been carried out....

Except, history isn't about possibilities, it's about results.

As the seven types of blood from seven species flowed in seven regions, corpses were piled up and seas of blood spread out. Deceased souls created something like a world of ghosts. That... was the sacrificial offering!

High above Revered Ancient was the most paramount of entities, the one that could crush all cultivators, species, lives, and even all other gods. The broken face. And right now, his eyes were twitching.

Next, another voice rang out from the god domain.

“Second sacrifice. Offer the countless souls that have fallen in battle!”

That voice didn't come from Sunfire, but rather... from the grand steward.

That was because this sacrificial offering was that of the heroic souls of the Firemoon Darkheaven people who had died in battle over the past many tens of thousands of years! The Firemoons also had to make a sacrifice! It was a mark of sincerity. And it was the mark of a true sacrifice!

There was only one person from ancient times until now who could talk of offering souls that had fallen in battle, and that was not one of the three gods. The only one who could conform to that karma was the very first grand steward of the Darkheaven Archmage people, who could only be replaced by one of the current stewards if he truly died.

In an instant, the shrine halls associated with the three stewards trembled as heroic spirits swept out. They were souls that had fallen in battle over tens of thousands of years, and they were all willing to be sacrificial offerings!

Members of the Firemoon species looked on silently. From the stewards to the commoners, they felt grief building within them. However, this was fate!

Their fates were the same as the fate of the grand steward who had stepped out of history. When he made his backstabbing choice, it was partially because of the promise of godly ascension, but also, it was for the long-term good of his people. He knew that the legacy of Ninedawns the antemage wouldn't be enough to kill the spider god. And he didn't want the fate of the Darkheaven Archmage people to rest solely on the mages' ancestral grand spell formation.

"Ninedawns made a choice that could protect our people temporarily. I chose to protect our people from generation to generation in the future! History isn't about possibilities, it's about results! And thus, I have no regrets!"

Chapter 900: What If This Whole Thing Works?

As of this moment, the souls of countless deceased heroes rose up from shrine halls in the lands of various species in Firemoon Darkheaven territory. Converging from all directions, they created a huge river of souls that floated up into the canopy of heaven above Revered Ancient. The higher the river rose, the smaller it got, until it was a black thread approaching the broken face. Then the river disappeared.

There were many locations in Revered Ancient where no one noticed what was happening. The only exceptions were species with extremely powerful experts, plus the gods hidden in various locations.... As those powerful experts looked up to see what was going on, the sacrificial offering continued in the god domain.

"Third sacrifice. Offer the kungpeng heavenly dao!"

Sunfire's voice echoed through the god domain, every word echoing like heavenly thunder, splitting the air, and shaking the 'heaven' of the Firemoons. In this case, that 'heaven' wasn't the starry sky. Instead, it was the source of the innate abilities that existed in the blood of the Firemoon Darkheaven people. That 'heaven' was the very same heaven that forms one of the characters in the word 'innate ability.' [1]

As of this moment, the 'heaven' of the Firemoon Darkheaven people was collapsing. All Firemoon Darkheaven cultivators suddenly felt dazed. As the 'heaven' of their innate abilities collapsed, the instincts that had been placed in their minds, blood, and life force by the three gods were stripped away from their later generations.

And it was because something completely outrageous and unthinkable was happening. Those instincts, those innate abilities... were connected to a heavenly dao!

What appeared above Revered Ancient in that moment was the very same ancient heavenly dao that looked like a kungpeng bird, which the three gods had captured and inserted into the destiny of the Firemoon Darkheavens. A howl of anguish echoed out over Revered Ancient, along with the clinking sound of the pitch black chains covered with magical symbols. After the chains appeared, a massive kungpeng bird appeared, its body covered with countless bloody lacerations.

It howled in grief and anguish as it was dragged slowly up toward the broken face. No matter how much it wanted to struggle, it did no good. No one was going to come to help, and that was because... the broken face had stirred!

The kungpeng heavenly dao could do nothing as the chains dragged it higher and higher. Eventually, it collapsed into death. A final cry rang out across Revered Ancient.

Revered Ancient went silent. As of that moment, anyone who cultivated natural and magical laws related to the kungpeng had eternally lost their dao. The natural and magical laws that had been attached to it were wiped out forever, and they would never be seen again. High overhead, the broken face of the god suddenly blurred.

When it became clear, hē had turned to face in the direction of the Mountain and Sea Region in Firemoon territory! Specifically, it was the spot where there was a connection between the god domain and Revered Ancient.

That was when the fourth sacrifice appeared in the god domain.

“Fourth sacrifice. Offer all the godly entities in the North Emperor god domain!”

All of the godly entities that had been transformed after the god invasion countless years ago were now being sacrificed by the three gods. After offering seven species from seven regions, a host of Firemoon souls, and the kungpeng heavenly dao, it was all the godly entities in the god domain that wailed in despair.

Spiders exploded. Mutant beasts shattered. Trees with faces collapsed into ash. The huge sea in the god domain dried up. Stars vibrated. Death and withering spread everywhere.... In the blink of an eye, the god domain turned into a graveyard! Even the extremely powerful entities Xu Qing had encountered, for instance the tentacled fish, the jellyfish, and whatnot... all died!

Because of that, the eyes of the broken face of the god cracked open.

That was when the three gods made the final sacrifice.

“Fifth sacrifice. Offer the North Emperor god domain!”

The actual god domain was their final sacrifice! They went so far as to sacrifice their people, even though they had already mutated into ravenous godly entities. They sacrificed their homeland, even though it had already been turned into a god domain. Such actions were both insane and decisive!

That was why the grand steward had asked the three gods if they would miss their people.

The three gods had already provided an answer. After reaching godly ascension, people weren't people.

The entire god domain began to tremble violently, and the starry sky vibrated as a formless power descended and ripped the god domain out through the rift in Revered Ancient. It appeared... in the dome of heaven above Revered Ancient, right in front of the broken face. As of that moment,

countless species in Revered Ancient, plus all the powerful experts and gods, could sense what was happening!

The three gods' five sacrifices were over. And the eyes of the broken face were fully open.

However, right then... in the very heart of the god domain, in the abyss into which the emperor's corpse had fallen, the flabbergasted Xu Qing heard the Captain shouting something.

"Sixth sacrifice. Offer the essence of a god!"

As the words left the Captain's mouth, over a hundred marionettes flew out from inside of him. Each looked the same, and each had a different name carved onto its face. The Captain kept control of them as he sent them out of the emperor's corpse. Then he took control of the emperor's hand to reach out toward the marionettes to crush them. That image, plus the Captain's word, formed a very magnificent sight.

However, the marionettes seemed very cheap. What was more... Xu Qing recognized some of the names.

Lord of Forbidden by the Zombie. Crimson Mother. Sunfire....

*"Is your Eldest Brother impressive or what, little Junior Brother? Hahaha! Normally speaking, I wouldn't sacrifice these enemies like this. But this is too good of an opportunity to pass up."*

As the Captain's voice echoed in Xu Qing's mind, Xu Qing looked at the cheap marionettes and couldn't sense even a single godly fluctuation coming from them. They seemed like nothing more than simple puppets with some names carved onto them. That said, the sheer number of them went to show how many enemies the Captain had.

But in the end, Xu Qing didn't see the point of a sacrifice like this.

Apparently the Captain could sense what he was thinking, as he cleared his throat. *"I just want to make sure my name is in the mix. Think about it. What if this whole thing works?"*

After a moment of thought, Xu Qing realized that he agreed with the Captain. What if the whole thing did work out?

"Seventh sacrifice. Offer the Crown Prince of Violet and Cyan!"

It was impossible to say whether or not it had anything to do with the sacrifices offered by Xu Qing and the Captain, but what followed was that the Revered Ancient mainland trembled loudly as the broken face's eyes opened and looked directly at the Mountain and Sea Region. That gaze caused the river of stars to distort and seemed to overturn the entire starry sky. Heaven and earth in Revered Ancient rippled, and cracks spread out everywhere, seemingly without end. The ground quaked, mountains collapsed, and the water of rivers and seas rose up into the air in shocking fashion.

Clouds and wind swept into vicious tempests. The whole world seemed like it was being struck by lightning and thunder.

RUMBLE!



All living beings sensed the dramatic events. This time, the opening of the broken face's eyes was different than anything in the past. And that was because the sound of a heartbeat reached the ears of all living beings.

Thump-thump. Thump-thump!

The broken face's eyes were open! Those huge eyes contained destroyed starry skies, infinite worlds, unending will, never-ending daos, all accumulations, reincarnation, and the beginning of the universe. All life existed therein, along with karma and destiny.

What hē looked at conformed to hīs will. That was... omniscience!

Xu Qing's thoughts seemed to stop. All concepts vanished from his mind, leaving nothing but a blank. It was the same with the Captain. As for the grand steward and the three gods outside of the black hole... all of their life force was put on pause.

And then, something completely inconceivable happened to the god domain! Under the gaze of the broken face, that god domain didn't seem like a three-dimensional space.

Instead, it was like a painting. The planets, the land, the three gods, Xu Qing, and everything else was like ink on the painting. Then the planets made of ink faded and disappeared. The same thing happened to the entire world. Then the painting rose into the sky, getting closer and closer to the broken face. As it neared, it began fading into nothing.

That was when all of the powerful experts in the Revered Ancient mainland, as well as all the gods, regardless of where they were sleeping, awoke and looked up. All of them saw the broken face looking at a god domain that looked like a painting! They were all shocked. That was because the painting-like god domain wasn't just vanishing. It was... rising to a higher level!

A terrifying aura swept out, so strong that it caused even the gods to tremble with fear. Blinding golden light shot out in all directions, surpassing the brilliance of a sun, and in fact, causing all suns and moons in Revered Ancient to go dim in comparison. This new world was what happened when a god domain rose to a higher level. It was... a god world!

And it was completely eye-catching. At the same time, everyone who had some level of authority over that god-domain suddenly found themselves also rising to a higher level!

The spark inside the grand steward exploded, rushing out to create a god body around him. And it spread into his soul with the intention... of turning it into the soul of a god. As that fire erupted, the grand steward's face became a mask of pain. However, his eyes shone with determination, decisiveness, and also anticipation.

He was going through godly ascension!

This was the culmination of tens of thousands of years of planning on the part of the three gods, who had paid an enormous price. Now it was paying off as thēir godsource erupted and thēy ceased to suppress the tribulation fire within them. Thēy were using the rise of a god domain into a god world as thēir opportunity to bypass the extreme danger of the tribulation fire level! Thēy were skipping right past tribulation fire to become Flawless Gods! If thēy succeeded, then the path to the Altar God level would be clear, and they wouldn't have to face any tribulation or calamity.

This was something that all gods dreamed of! For example, not even Crimson Mother had reached this step. Shē had become a guide to the broken face to reach godly ascension and get close to being

a Flawless God, but then shē had been forced to devour other gods in the hopes of building a path to walk. Another example was Li Zihua, who ultimately severed the fire of his godly ascension and instead cultivated the dao of immortals. Then, he hatched a plan that took tens of thousands of years to leap from the ancient past into modern times and prove his dao.

The spider god wasn't as daring as the three gods. Because of how it devoured god karma, it ended up perishing.

From all of this it could be seen how extraordinary the three gods were!