

## Read Beyond the Timescape Chapter 906: I Want More!

*Chapter 906: I Want More!*

The area high above the cloud canopy of Revered Ancient had been empty for aeons. But after Ancient Emperor Dark Serenity left and the gods came, something came to exist at the peak of the Revered Ancient sky. It was a godwarding. It was like a hex, invisible and undetectable, but as functional as a lid that made it impossible to get in or out of the world.

Only someone like Li Zihua, who was an Altar God, could surpass it. There were no other exceptions. After Dark Serenity and the emperors of other species left to establish the holy lands, people who reached the Altar God level were so rare as to be nonexistent.

Even Flawless Gods could only long to reach that level. Although they didn't have to deal with tribulations that came from beyond their omniscience, the requirements to succeed were still staggering.

In these circumstances, the only way to succeed at Altar God would be to wage war on other gods and devour the losers.

Wars between gods weren't things that happened casually. Gods didn't start wars lightly, and unlike cultivators, were not used to dealing with suffering.

But to the living beings of Revered Ancient, their home was, just as the Church of Departure taught, like a prison cage. And the godwarding was the cage door. It cut off freedom and made it impossible to be unrestrained. The living beings had no choice but to wait until the day Revered Ancient was completely devoured. Death was the only way to escape from the sea of bitterness. There was no fighting back. There was no escaping.

That was Revered Ancient's fate, as decided by the broken face of the god. Hē devoured heavenly daos, surpassing all else. Hē was like the will of heaven to Revered Ancient, and the decider of fate. Who could possibly defy the will of heaven itself?

But today there was an exception. Someone had turned the impossible into the possible. In an outrageous and daring act, they borrowed power from an upgrading god domain as well as karma from Crimson Mother, to burrow through the sky, defy heaven, and escape from within the prison cage! It was essentially a jailbreak!

When the emperor's corpse, which was under the control of Xu Qing and the Captain, appeared in front of the broken face, there were powerful experts from many species on Revered Ancient who couldn't stop shocked looks from appearing on their faces. Many of them emerged from their secluded meditation facilities and flew up into the air looking

flabbergasted. They were shocked first by the jailbreak, second by the recklessness on display, and third by the entire scenario.

Some cultivators cried out in astonishment.

“Someone got out!”

“This....”

“What a waste! An opportunity like this is unheard-of. If we got a chance like this we would definitely escape this cage!”

“What a pity. What a real pity! This will probably never happen again!”

The three gods all had different facial expressions. Sunfire looked grim, with cold eyes. Moonfire’s face flashed back and forth between different expressions. Only Starfire had a thoughtful expression.

The focus of all those gazes and streams of divine will, the emperor’s corpse, was being guided by the Captain and Xu Qing right toward one of the drops of blood. They didn’t waste any time. In the blink of an eye, they closed in, one full of craziness and greed, the other full of excitement and hunger.

When the corpse entered the blood, an immense force of resistance sprang up along with terrifying pressure. A will that could wipe out all else erupted wildly. The terrifying power didn’t just come from the sea of blood. It also came from the holy broken face so close by. This spot was so close to the broken face that no living being had ever been here before. Naturally, the broken face’s aura was horrifying. Even if the three gods were here, they would only last for a certain amount of time before they were destroyed in body and soul.

The Captain had come fully prepared, yet he was already showing signs of physical collapse.

Given the limited time, the Captain and Xu Qing were going all out. They could sense the extreme danger around them, yet their course had already been set.

It took one breath of time to enter the sea of blood. By the time the second breath of time arrived, the Captain had already opened his mouth wide to start madly devouring whatever was on the outside.

However, after only one mouthful, the Captain exploded. He formed anew in an instant. Looking pale and a bit taken aback, he opened his mouth again. But this time, it seemed he was preparing to use a different method rather than direct absorption. At the same time, he looked like he was ready to risk being smashed to death as long as he could absorb enough of what he wanted.

Xu Qing was also going crazy. After taking in one mouthful, his void soil went wild, and his cultivation base rose dramatically. Most shocking of all was that over a hundred lineaments of godly authority appeared in his void soil. Up to this point, he'd only built up four lineaments. Yet one mouthful of blood provided over a hundred! It just went to show how terrifying the blood was!

Unfortunately, the lineaments of godly authority were faint. In fact, they weren't even material. They were faint projections that would require enlightenment to fully manifest. Even still, they were exceptional!

Xu Qing had been prepared for something amazing, but this was such a shock he couldn't have been more excited. His hunger was already gone! In fact, he was now feeling full!

Now, all of this takes a bit of time to describe, but the reality is that it happened in an instant. Gritting his teeth, Xu Qing ignored the fact that he was full and continued to put everything on the line. There was no way he would be satisfied with only one bite. After the second breath of time ended, the third began, and he opened his mouth and took another big mouthful.

At the same time, he fully tapped into the violet crystal. If there was anything that could sustain the personhood of the broken face, it was the violet crystal! If the violet crystal couldn't do it, then Xu Qing would feel regret, but wouldn't have any other options.

Violet light flared around Xu Qing, and then blood started rushing toward him. It was a success!

Full of excitement, Xu Qing kept working hard. Unfortunately, time was extremely limited.

Although this entire situation seemed like it was taking a long time, so far, only three breaths of time had passed. When the fourth breath of time arrived, the Wordless words that were keeping them concealed... collapsed. Though they were extraordinary, and had received multiple ensorcellments, they had their limits.

Without the concealment of the Wordless words, the only defense left was the emperor's corpse. Xu Qing and the Captain were startled, but they didn't stop devouring the sea of blood. Thanks to their ravenous devouring, they had already reduced the sea of blood by about thirty percent.

Unfortunately, the emperor's corpse was constantly crumbling into ash. This corpse was extraordinary. It was hard to say exactly how strong his cultivation base had been in life, but it seemed that it was at least in the Grand Emperor level. Add in the authority over the god domain, and it was definitely a powerful defense for Xu Qing and the Captain. But the emperor had ultimately perished, and was only a corpse. It was like a tree with no roots, and thus, the aura of the broken face was breaking it down rapidly.

The aura of the broken face could exterminate anything and kill everything. The emperor's corpse was slowing it down, and from how fast it was happening, it was obvious that without the corpse, Xu Qing and the Captain probably wouldn't be able to last for a single breath of time.

As the sixth breath of time arrived, the deadly crisis was reaching a climax. Death was on nigh. Forty percent of the blood sea still remained.

*"Got any other tricks up your sleeve?"* Xu Qing asked via divine will, suppressing his greed. *"If not, we should get out of here!"*

*"I do!"* the Captain replied. *"I've got one more strategy!"* Instead of taking out a hair to teleport away, the Captain madly projected a message via divine will. *"Master, if you don't show your face right now, you won't have any apprentices left!!"*

Xu Qing's eyes lit up.

What was happening in the dome of heaven was an absolute shock to any cultivators who could see it. The jailbreak itself was astonishing enough, but what was even more gasp-inducing was how greedy Xu Qing and the Captain were. In fact, that greed couldn't even be described with the word 'crazy' at this point. It was such an over-the-top situation that it was definitely worthy of being recorded in the histories of Revered Ancient. Whether gods, cultivators from elite species, or other powerful experts, people throughout the mainland felt overwhelmed by tempests of astonishment. It was shocking to a river-drying, sea-draining, rock-smashing, heaven-startling level!

Living God Eminent Desolation, whose spine was wrapped around the Revered Ancient mainland, and who existed as half of a face, had always been incomparably holy, whether in the past or the present. In hīs glory days, hīs name was known in thirty-six star rings in the universe, as well as countless planetary systems. Being half a step into Living God, he was very close to the peak of being a god. Myriads of worlds offered hīm worship, and living beings could have their fate determined by hīs mere thoughts.

Though hē ultimately met with failure, and collapsed because of an unimaginable backlash, hē was still an entity that no one would dare to offend. When a whale dies, it can provide a foundation for countless living things to flourish. The same principle applied to someone with personhood like hīs.

After hē fell, countless years passed in which numerous gods arose. In fact, wherever hē went, gods followed.

That was why hē was respectfully called Father God. From that it could be seen how paramount hīs personhood was. That was why, from ancient times until now, though many people had coveted hīs flesh and blood, not one person had ever dared to try to get it.

Cultivators couldn't get past the godwarding, so obviously they couldn't get any of that flesh and blood. Besides, gods were so revered that no one would try. In the past, taking a bite out of hīm was literally impossible. That wasn't even to mention that the broken face's aura was enough to wipe out countless living beings.

Today, under the eyes of many onlookers, two people were going completely crazy. Not only did they go out to the broken face, but they went right into one of the sea-sized drops of blood. It wasn't really appropriate to describe the actions of Xu Qing and the Captain with the idiom *snakes devouring mammoths*. A more accurate way to put it was *ants devouring dragons*. Most important, it seemed as if... even if they succeeded, they would still be killed.

As of this moment, everyone was watching closely. How crazy! How rash! How suicidal.... That was exactly the way to describe it. All streams of divine will and all gazes were watching closely, and waiting for them to die.

But right then....

A huge golden hand appeared outside of the godwarding, high in the canopy of heaven! It was a majestic hand that, as soon as it appeared, unhesitatingly swept the area clear.

It grabbed a huge chunk of flesh from the broken face, then snatched the drop of blood that held Xu Qing and the Captain. Next, it grabbed another chunk of flesh!

All the gods who were watching this event were astonished! The three gods in particular were taken aback. The broken face's eyelashes twitched.

All of a sudden, the huge hand collapsed. Golden blood sprayed everywhere. But clearly, this gigantic hand was a font of greed. After collapsing, it clumped back together into a huge mouth that took a vicious bite of flesh before fleeing.

The price to be paid was huge, though, as the hand collapsed again. The fingers shattered, and the only thing left behind was a bit of golden light that swept up Xu Qing and the Captain and then sped away in retreat.

Unfortunately, it wasn't fast enough. That golden light was also wiped out of existence. As it did, Xu Qing and the Captain heard someone shouting into their minds.

*"What are you two suicidal brats lounging around for? I can't hold on much longer, you dolts!!"*

Even as those words exploded into their minds, a hair activated in the emperor's corpse, which was still inside the sea of blood, only one-tenth of which remained. Thanks to the protection of the golden light, the power of teleportation flared. Within the dazzling light, Xu Qing excitedly directed the emperor's corpse to check the golden light. The golden light faded away.

Relieved, Xu Qing was about to look away when, all of a sudden, his gaze sharpened.

Far off in the distance in the starry sky, he could see hundreds of stars on the move. They were like shooting stars, and they were getting closer!

They were so far away that Xu Qing couldn't tell what they were. He would have examined them closer if he could, but there wasn't time.

The next instant, the corpse he was in vanished as it teleported away!

### *Chapter 907: The Final Trump Card!*

The dome of heaven was quiet. The dazzling light of teleportation winked out above the clouds. The broken face's eyelashes had twitched thanks to the actions of Xu Qing, the Captain, and Master Seventh, but for some unknown reason, the eyes never opened. After the emperor's corpse vanished along with Xu Qing and the Captain, and the golden hand faded into nothing, everything went back to normal. It almost seemed like nothing happened at all just now.

However, the powerful experts and gods who had been watching the events play out would never possibly forget what they had just seen.

What was more, the golden hand that appeared in the end clearly had a close connection to the two audacious individuals in question. Perhaps the background of the players involved would eventually be revealed, but regardless, that huge hand's actions were something all the onlookers refused to take lightly.

Although the person behind the hand hadn't personally broken through the godwarding, but rather, had been hidden on the person of one of the two crazy cultivators, the hand had made it obvious it possessed astonishing battle prowess.

"It was like a cultivator, but not a cultivator. And like a god, but not a god."

"It was a combination of immortal and god. An amalgamation formed by some unique magic used by this unknown player."

"Although this unknown expert is strong, his level of greed is too excessive. All three obviously suffered serious injuries. That said, that level of greed did get them some of the Father God's flesh and blood. As for how much... only time will tell."

"I wonder if that was the same mysterious cultivator that appeared earlier??"

"The unknown expert and the mysterious cultivator who helped the three gods definitely aren't the same person!"

Different parties had different takes on what happened based on their perspective. No one agreed on all the details, and few people would be debating their viewpoint with others.

“See yourself out, ladies and gentlemen,” Sunfire said coldly to the surrounding streams of divine sense, in a voice that boomed like thunder.

The gazes and streams of divine will scattered. Both the mysterious cultivator and the unknown expert were obviously daring and rash, and also very thought-provoking.

Considering that the three gods had succeeded in thēir effort, there was no need for anyone to keep observing. That was especially true considering... that with the three gods having become Flawless Gods, the political structure of Revered Ancient was almost certainly going to change. It was time to make preparations for that.

The area emptied of auras. No one was hiding and looking on. At that point, Sunfire turned to look at Moonfire and Starfire, and was even about to speak. But then, hēr gaze shifted to a spot off in the distance. Shē blurred and disappeared.

Moonfire noticed the same thing. Face completely expressionless, shē also disappeared.

Meanwhile, Starfire smiled faintly. “You’ve got some guts to teleport back here. Ah, whatever. You do owe me some primal yang, after all.”

Suddenly looking ethereal and charming, Starfire a step forward, hēr garment swirling around hēr as shē vanished into thin air.

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Some 5,000 kilometers away, but still in one of the Firemoon Darkheavens’ regions, the light of teleportation exploded in a desolate mountain range. A dazzlingly bright ring expanded out with tempestuous force. It spread for 3,000 meters in every direction, flattening mountains, wiping away plants and vegetation, and leaving the lands scorched and barren. The source was a mangled corpse. The moment it appeared was also the last moment the corpse could remain intact. It collapsed, and two figures shot out from the remains.

They were none other than Xu Qing and the Captain.

Xu Qing staggered a bit. Blood oozed out of the corners of his mouth, and his face was pale white. He had a mass of wounds all over him, and yet he kept his cool and used divine will to scan the surroundings. After confirming from the local aura that he was still in Firemoon Darkheaven territory, his expression darkened.

“Something must have gone wrong with Master!” he said in a hoarse voice. That much seemed obvious. If Master Seventh had been in good shape, he surely would have adjusted the teleportation to take them away from the Firemoon Darkheavens.

The Captain was in no better shape than Xu Qing. He had gaping wounds all over him, and at the moment, was just laying on the ground gasping for breath. However, he did manage to wave his hand dismissively and chuckle roguishly. “It’s fine. If something went wrong with the old man, for instance him dying or something, then as the Eldest Brother, I’ll just take over as the new Master Seventh!”

Upon hearing such disgraceful and offensive language, Xu Qing instinctively looked around to see if they were alone.

The Captain’s eyes darted back and forth as he did the same. After a few breaths of time passed, he blinked a few times, sighed, and said, “Seems that the old man really isn’t around. But seriously, it’s fine. He’s amazing enough that we don’t need to worry about him. There’s no way he took action without backup plans in place. Don’t worry. He’s gone on many more big jobs than either of us. He won’t die.”

Xu Qing decided that what the Captain said made sense. He nodded.

The Captain struggled to his feet and threw his arm over Xu Qing’s shoulders. Eyes glittering complacently, he said, “Well, what do you think, little Junior Brother? Was this job worth it?”

Xu Qing took a deep breath and checked his void soil. There were over a hundred very faint lineaments, each of which was made from godly authority.

He needed to gain enlightenment of them one by one before they could become material. But considering he was walking a path of cultivation that was without parallel in history, it seemed good to consider that just a first step in the right direction. It couldn’t be called anything other than good fortune.

Of course, his battle prowess had increased dramatically. What was more, he still had some of the god domain upgrade power in the form of the god talisman. It could also be considered a precious treasure, and contained terrifying might. If Xu Qing reached a bottleneck in Void Returning, it could be used like a god pill to make his cultivation path much smoother.

Or, if he waited until he was at the peak of Smoldering God to consume it, he might be able to do what other cultivators could only do if they had a bloodline legacy or a lot of destiny aura: he could break the shackles to become an Imperial Sovereign!

And yet, that couldn’t be considered the best way to use it. The best would be for Xu Qing to wait until the day that he was in the Imperial Sovereign level, and consume the talisman. At that point, he could have the chance... to use that terrifying power to force



his way into the quasi-Immortal level, also known as Grand Emperor. Though the chance of the latter succeeding was slim, if he added in the blood of the broken face....

Xu Qing's heart raced as he checked the violet crystal and confirmed that it had a drop of golden blood sealed inside! God blood was usually gold. But comparing this drop to others he had seen, it was clear that the others were impure. Only this drop could be considered golden blood of the highest level of purity. Looking at it was like looking at the universe itself, and it caused Xu Qing's mind to reel. Then, that 'universe' blurred and transformed into an enormous broken face.

That broken face was, of course, the Living God from the dome of heaven over Revered Ancient. Though his eyes were closed, there was still profound karma connecting to Xu Qing.

That sensation of karma provided Xu Qing with some enlightenment. He could tell that absorbing the god blood of the broken face could be considered a peak level of god blood, but at the same time, contained astonishing calamity and tribulation. The broken face's eyes would occasionally open. However, that didn't mean the face woke up. It was just an instinct.

If he actually did wake up one day, then anyone connected to him by karma would be the first ones taken to be nutrients. To Xu Qing, though, that didn't matter. All living beings in the Revered Ancient mainland were locked in a cage, and were all fundamentally already nutrients for the broken face.

Xu Qing took a deep breath. "It was worth it!"

Hearing that, the Captain laughed heartily. Then he took out an exquisite phoenix hairpin clearly designed for a woman. He handed it to Xu Qing. Before he could say anything else, the dome of heaven turned dark, and terrifying pressure spread out, cutting the area off from time and everything else.

The spot occupied by Xu Qing and the Captain was like a lone rowboat in a violent storm.

The three gods had arrived.

Xu Qing's heart sank. Looking very serious, he turned to the canopy of heaven and bowed in greeting. "Well met, three gods."

He wasn't exactly panicking. He knew that devouring that blood created karma between him and the broken face. He also knew that this good fortune could also be considered something taboo!

The Captain was also aware of that reality. Apparently, the Captain had also prepared for this moment, as he cleared his throat, and not looking alarmed at all, waved cheerily to the three gods and opened his mouth to call out a greeting.

Before he could, Sunfire glared down at him and Xu Qing.

Both Xu Qing and the Captain shivered from head to toe as a sensation of extermination filled them, and their life force showed signs of withering up. Apparently, resistance or refusal would not be tolerated.

But then, a terrifying personhood power rose up within them, causing the will of extermination to pause. Although it wasn't very strong, considering they had both consumed the blood of the broken face, which had a paramount level of personhood, it was correct to say that, in comparison, Sunfire was like some ordinary water compared to a 10,000-year-old glacier. Unfortunately, that glacier was just too small, while the water was as vast as an endless sea.

At that moment of crisis, when Sunfire was just about to take action, the Captain shouted something absolutely astonishing.

“Moonie! Sweetheart! My wife!”

Those words caused wild colors to flash in heaven and earth.

Starfire blinked a few times. Sunfire's eyes burned with rarely-seen anger, as well as deadly extermination. But then... Moonfire unexpectedly took a step forward. Along with that step came a burst of godly might that blocked the power of Sunfire.

Face completely expressionless, Moonfire looked at the Captain.

Xu Qing, meanwhile, was reeling. He had expected the Captain to do something, but could never have guessed it would be this....

The Captain wasn't done shouting. “Sweetheart, Niuniu was in the wrong....”

Xu Qing's expression turned even stranger upon hearing the Captain call himself Niuniu.

The Captain didn't seem to care about that. Looking completely intoxicated, even in love, he continued, “Do you know what, sweetheart? Everything I've done in this life was so that, just like in that past life, I could be close to you!

“I risked death, acted crazily, and held nothing back, all because of my love for you. I'm still that same little Niuniu who gave up everything for love! In that past life, I didn't know how to cherish things. But in this life, it doesn't matter whether or not God will give me an opportunity, I'm going to fight for the right to stand next to your true form!

“For that purpose, I used 10,000-year-old black gold, plus an eternal gem, as well as strength from my Junior Brother, to form two phoenix hairpins, each of which is a perfect gift for one’s true love. All I want to say to you today, Moonie, is... please accept my hairpin. And please... let’s make up!”

With that, the Captain took out a hairpin that looked almost exactly like the one he had given to Xu Qing. Hands trembling, he held it up to the dome of heaven. At the same time, he bowed his head nervously, as if he didn’t dare to look Moonfire directly in the eyes. Apparently, he feared seeing anything like rejection or cold apathy.

Xu Qing had already reached the point where he didn’t want to hear anything further. However, it was a dangerous situation. So he just watched to see what the Captain would do. However, only a moment later, he realized that the Captain was looking at him meaningfully out of the corner of his eye. freewebnovel.com

Xu Qing, being so familiar with the Captain, almost instantly knew what that look meant. Then he thought about the hairpin.

On any other occasion, he would refuse to go along with the Captain’s idea. But today....

Sighing inwardly, Xu Qing looked at Starfire, braced himself, and said, “High God Starfire, on the way here, I prepared a gift for you....”

#### *Chapter 908: Abandoned Wasteland*

An incense stick of time passed. Xu Qing and the Captain were just barely visible making their way toward the edge of the thousands of meters of barren land that had been carved out by the power of teleportation.

The three gods silently watched them leave. Thēy knew that the flesh and blood of the broken face could be considered a precious treasure, and would be very useful to thēm. But thēy also came to the same conclusion as Xu Qing that it would come with catastrophic karma. It was good fortune, but also something taboo.

Considering thēy had just succeeded at becoming Flawless Gods, and now had hope of reaching the Altar God level, thēy didn’t want to stain themselves with such karma. All in all, thēy were gods. The Revered Ancient mainland was nutrients for the broken face, and everyone there was doomed to be devoured. But not thēm.

What was more, when thēir last connection to North Emperor was severed, thēy truly became gods. Even after Revered Ancient disappeared, thēy could continue on as subservient gods to the broken face.

Of course, there had been other options for them. For instance... thēy could have killed Xu Qing and the Captain. Or thēy could have taken the Father God's blood and offered it back as a sacrifice.

Thus, as Xu Qing and the Captain made their way off into the distance, Sunfire's expression remained icy and grim. Hēr killing intent was still there.

"What do you two think of that crazy ox?" Sunfire asked coolly, looking over at Starfire and Moonfire, but primarily Moonfire.

Moonfire said nothing, making it impossible to tell what shē was thinking. Shē hardly seemed to have even looked at the phoenix hairpin floating in front of hēr.

In contrast, Starfire was already fiddling with the other hairpin. Shē smiled. "In the end, the two of them helped us a lot. What's more, though their arrival was within the scope of our omniscience, we can't see what happens later, thanks to that crazy ox. I think it's all very interesting. Why not allow some good karma to be sown with them?"

Sunfire frowned. "I can deal with Moonfire's attitude. But as for you, Starfire, you and that idiot asshole are—"

Before shē could finish speaking, Starfire's eyes turned cold, and shē interrupted in a sharp tone. "His name is Xu Qing. He's not an idiot and he's not an asshole!"

Sunfire's eyes narrowed, but before shē could say anything else, Moonfire spoke up. "Cut the crap. If you want to kill the scumbag, then do it. Given your omniscience, you know what could happen if you do."

Having said that, Moonfire vanished into thin air. The hairpin vanished as well.

Seeing that, Sunfire held back from speaking. Given her omniscience, shē *could* see what might happen. But there were too many variables in that result. Moonfire and Sunfire were involved, and shē couldn't see thēm with hēr omniscience. What was more, the golden hand that had shown up earlier was also unclear in hēr omniscience, as if it were being blocked by some mysterious shielding screen. Because of that, shē wasn't completely sure of what would happen.

Meanwhile, Starfire was looking deeply at the reticent Sunfire. "Weren't things decided once *that* person came to help? Besides, that person's Master is on the way." With that, Starfire faded away, leaving behind a few words as shē did. "By the way, I'm going to say it one more time. He's not an idiot, and he's not an asshole. His name is Xu Qing."

Now Sunfire was left alone. After a moment passed, shē shook hēr head. "Gods are supposed to be emotionless. But you two...."

Shē sighed. As shē well knew, though the three of thēm were walking the way of the gods, the reality was that thēy hadn't started out as natural-born gods. As a result, thēy were very nearly as emotional as Crimson Mother.

"Omniscience. Is there anyone that can truly have omniscience?" Sunfire closed hēr eyes and faded into thin air.

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Some 30,000 meters away, Xu Qing and the Captain were hurrying away at top speed. They raced along as blurs of light for three days before stopping at a low-lying mountain.

Xu Qing immediately scanned the area, then looked up into the sky. The anxiety within him was only just starting to loosen.

Although the broken face's blood came with karma, he was confident that his Master hadn't just thrown them into enemy territory for no reason. Besides, he and the Captain had already done everything they could do in terms of Moonfire and Starfire. There were still a lot of unknowns, but by now, he was fairly certain the three gods had actually let them go.

"I'm sure he's fine," the Captain said with a sigh. "It was really irresponsible for the old man to toss us here. Thanks to my innate skills, plus your relationship with the slutty fox, we actually made it out fine!" The Captain was actually worried inside, but he wasn't showing it. Sticking his chin up proudly, he continued, "What do you think, little Junior Brother? Am I right, or am I right?"

"By the way, I need to give you some constructive criticism. Your wording when you offered that phoenix hairpin was simply too blunt. Especially how you addressed hēr. You sounded like a lump on a log! I guess you just need some more practice. You need to put some emotion into your words! Make sure shē knows you're a hot-blooded young man who'll travel to the ends of the earth for the sake of love!

"Come on, I'll teach you. You need to say something like, 'Oh little Starry, my true love and soulmate....' Come on, say it with me a few times so you'll have it ready to go next time."

Xu Qing couldn't help but think back to how the Captain had called himself Niuniu. An odd expression appeared on his face, and he felt like he was going to get goosebumps.

The Captain wasn't very pleased to see Xu Qing refusing to cooperate. "Little Ah Qing! You're still just too inexperienced, sort of like me back in the day when I was dealing with your sister-in-law. I called hēr Little Moonie, and shē called me hēr precious Niuniu. Ah, good times. Good times...."

Xu Qing cleared his throat. He really, really wasn't interested in continuing this line of conversation, and seeing that the Captain was probably going to keep going, he decided to interrupt. "Eldest Brother, it looked to me like Master got two chunks of the broken face's flesh...."

The way Xu Qing changed topics worked well on the Captain. The Captain suddenly seemed to wake up. Eyes shining, he said, "That's right. I noticed the same thing. We can't stand for it! We need to get back to human territory immediately, track down the old man, and throw a tantrum until he agrees to share."

Xu Qing blinked a few times. "I doubt throwing a tantrum will do much good. It would be better to suck up to him."

The Captain had to admit it made sense. After some thought, he started thinking of ways to suck up to Master Seventh.

Seeing that the Captain was back to normal, Xu Qing finally started to feel calm. Looking off in the direction of human territory, he thought about Plumdark and everyone else he knew back in the Imperial Region.

"We need to get back," he murmured. He and the Captain hadn't been gone for very long, but a lot had happened during that time. Now that everything was over, he wanted to get back more than ever.

However, before returning, there was something to take care of. In fact, it was the entire reason he had come to Firemoon Darkheaven territory to begin with. After taking the flesh and blood of the broken face, it had seemed unlikely he would succeed at that. But the attitude of the three gods had given him new hope. With that thought in mind, his eyes shone.

*Grand Darkheaven!*

In the final analysis, he had come here to participate in the Firemoon Darkheaven's Great Hunt. In the first round of moving mountains, Xu Qing took first place. In the second round in the Mountain and Sea Region, he acquired Ninedawns, while simultaneously crushing the other competitors and taking first place. As for the third round, the hunting in the god domain, although things eventually got out of hand... whether it was Sir Heavenink, Tuo Shishan, or Fan Shishuang, it didn't seem likely that any of them would disagree that Xu Qing had taken first place.

The only one who might not be willing to concede to that was Sir Firedark.

*That's fine. If she has a problem, I'll beat her into giving in.*

Xu Qing's eyes glittered coldly. He hadn't really been paying much attention to Sir Firedark, so he wasn't sure if she'd ultimately succeeded at becoming a Smoldering God.

If she wasn't a Smoldering God, then Xu Qing was completely confident that he could crush her. And even if she was a Smoldering God, as long as she only had one world, he was certain that, given his current battle prowess, he would still come out on top.

With that, he explained his plan to the Captain. The Captain thought about it and then gave his wholehearted approval.

What Xu Qing wanted to do was going to be dangerous, but it was necessary. In order to forestall any mistakes, the two of them discussed the plan and prepared some contingencies in case they needed to flee for their lives. That included preparing a few teleportation hairs. Though those hairs hadn't been ensorcelled, given that the two of them had the blood of the broken face, it wasn't hard to give them a big boost. Furthermore, they had the emperor's corpse as a trump card. Although the corpse was completely mangled, it was still the fleshly body of North Emperor!

That said, considering what they had just accomplished, even further preparations weren't going to be enough to completely guarantee their safety.

Luckily, as long as they were in the territory of the Firemoon Darkheaven people, and the three gods didn't want to kill them, then other gods wouldn't dare to get greedy and make a move on them.

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A month passed. During that time, various species in Revered Ancient stayed on guard against the Firemoon Darkheavens. Some prepared for war. Everyone was waiting to see how the status quo would change.

There had already been an announcement regarding the banquet set to mark the end of the Great Hunt. The same thing happened at the end of every Great Hunt. Rewards were given to all cultivators who had earned a place in the rankings. What was more, considering how all three gods had risen to a higher level, the banquet was going to be even more amazing than usual.

It was to be held in Heavenfire City at God Mountain! The three stewards were all coming, as were all the powerful experts among the species. When the banquet started with a display of magical techniques and divine abilities that filled the sky with auspicious colors, Xu Qing and the Captain quietly arrived.

Rumbling booms echoed out like heavenly thunder. The auspicious images in the sky included holy beasts, dazzling flowers, and battle gods. It was truly an amazing sight.

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Little did anyone realize that, at the same time, outside of the godwarding in the starry sky... the hundreds of motes of starlight that Xu Qing had observed were getting very close! They were actually a host of asteroids covered in magical symbols and pulsing with ancient and terrifying auras.

As they neared Revered Ancient, they avoided the broken face. Using various concealment techniques, they prevented their auras from spreading, ensuring that no one could observe them, either with divine sense or the naked eye.

Then they pierced through the godwarding, which was a one-way trip. Without any fanfare, they headed to different locations in Revered Ancient....

One of them crash-landed on a barren mountain that existed roughly in between Firemoon and human territory. The mountain was reduced to ash, and there was nothing left behind other than a gaping crater. Cold energy seeped out of the crater, freezing everything in the area. At the same time, a voice could be heard speaking.

“Finally here. A barren world with hardly any spirit energy. And there are signs of god invasion everywhere.... According to the legends, this is the wasteland we from the holy lands abandoned back in the day.”

#### *Chapter 909: Holy Lands Cultivators*

Fardark County in the Revered Ancient mainland had belonged to humans in ancient times. In fact, it was actually a satellite county to the humans' Imperial Region. It got its name from the fardark fruit, which was widely known to be very helpful when seeking enlightenment of magical laws.

But then the broken face brought catastrophe. The aura of a god invaded heaven and earth, changing everything. The fardark fruits were never seen again after that. What was more, that county sustained a particularly severe invasion, and ended up with mutagen levels many times stronger than in other locations. As a result, it became unsuitable for habitation by intelligent species, and gradually turned into barren wilderness.

That said, because of the mutagen, there were plenty of mutant beasts and grues who lived there. The species who had once called the place home were forced to migrate to bordering locations, where they were constantly harassed by the mutant beasts and grues. It wasn't that such species preferred to stay there. But heaven and earth were so immense that, for small species like them, there wasn't really anywhere to go. After all, places without a lot of mutagen were already occupied by much stronger species.

Besides, though they lived in dangerous circumstances, they could at least stick together and defend themselves against the grues and mutant beasts.



That was especially true considering that the county was in a unique location, positioned as it was between the Firemoon Darkheavens and the humans. It was actually a buffer zone between those two species, which brought some distinct advantages to the minor species who lived there.

In the east of Fardark County, one man and two women were traveling through the unending wilderness. They weren't human, but they were very similar to humans. The main difference was that they had fleshy wings growing from their backs, and they all had a third eye on their forehead.

The person who had spoken earlier was the young man. He wore a black robe with golden embroidery. The gold threads glittered with light that automatically caused rifts to open up in the air nearby. That alone went to show how extraordinary the garment was. Wherever he went, an icy wind blew, making it seem like he was an emissary from a gloomy abyss.

He was taller than the average cultivator, and so well-built he looked like a mountain. Overall, he was intimidating. His facial features were stalwart, with a jaw as sharp as a saber. He looked firm, persistent, and cold. His eyes were as dark as midnight, but within his pupils glittered something cunning, callous, and brutal. It made it hard for most people to look him in the eye.

As he walked along, he toyed with a red eyeball. The eyeball was bloodshot, and struggled against him, emitting a red glow along with piercing howls of grief. Unfortunately, it was completely incapable of escaping the young man's grasp.

If there were locals here to see that eyeball, they would recognize it immediately as a very terrifying monster that lived in the area called a freakeye demon. Freakeye demons were experts at escaping danger, and they were also very hard to track. What was more, they had an innate ability that allowed them to target the souls of their prey. Even a Void Returning cultivator who ran into one would be concerned.

But today... this young man was simply toying with the freakeye demon. In fact, after it howled in anguish a few more times, he finally just squashed it.

The young man didn't seem to be in a very good mood as he coldly said, "This dirty wasteland makes you just want to throw up. I refuse to believe this is where our holy lands originated. Whatever species lives in a place like this must be dirty vermin, no different from mindless wild animals."

But then a cold voice rang out from behind him. "Fellow Daoist Feng, you're being a bit excessive. You know full well this place is like this thanks to Eminent Desolation. The holy lands had no choice but to leave back then. And most of the species here have relatives in the holy lands.

“We’re in heaven, while they’re on earth living lonely, challenging lives. And thus, those high and mighty words of yours are pushing things a bit too far.” The person who just spoke was the young woman behind the young man. She was slender, with silver wings and extremely fair skin with a very faint pink sheen to it. She also wore black clothes with golden embroidery, except on her, that clothing seemed like something worn by an immortal in a painting. She had deeply arched eyebrows, eyes like calm, clear water. They were the type of eyes that would cause anyone who looked into them to like her, and at the same time, not dare to lust after her.

It looked like the young man wanted to say something back to her, yet was too nervous to do so. Instead of responding, he just looked up at the broken face high in the sky.

The other young woman laughed softly. “You’re not quite right, Fellow Daoist Yue Dong,” she said to the first young woman. “When the Grand Emperor and emperors of the various species left, all the talented and qualified people went with them. Those left behind were either people with ordinary talent or outright criminals. [1]

“Inferior people will always be inferior. This place has been infected with a godly aura for tens of thousands of years. The fact that they managed to keep reproducing after all these years is interesting. If you feel bad for them, Immortal Fairy Yue Dong, maybe you should find one of the inferior cultivators and do some dual cultivation. You could even leave some descendants here.”

This second young woman was delicately beautiful, with long black hair. Her waist was especially eye-catching, being as slender and supple as a willow tree. Her long, slender legs were just barely visible beneath her dark garment, but that only made her seem more attractive. That said, her words were biting and sarcastic.

The young woman named Yue Dong looked over at her coldly. “Are you looking to die, Lan Yao?” [2]

She pulsed with Smoldering God fluctuations. As for the young woman named Lan Yao, her eyes also glittered with killing intent, and from her cultivation base fluctuations, she was also a Smoldering God!

Strangely, though it seemed like they had come from the same place, there was also something that seemed different about them.

Seeing the two young women glaring at each other, the young man frowned. Looking at Yue Dong, he coldly said, “Fellow Daoist Yue Dong, this is a joint operation backed by multiple holy lands. We need to follow the orders given by the holy lord of my species and set up the homing signals for those coming from the other holy lands. So why are you stirring up trouble? Don’t tell me you have ulterior motives?

“In any case, you can’t say I didn’t warn you. If you insist on continuing to act like this, Fellow Daoist Lan Yao and I will have no choice but to arrest you!”

Frigid yin energy spread out, turning into a host of illusory banners that caused bright colors to flash in the area, and resulted in a divine ability warding spell to appear.

Lan Yao smiled as she made a grasping gesture in front of her. A seven-colored sand swept into existence, turning into a vortex that spun overhead. It spread for thousands of meters, and was clearly ready to drop down at any moment.

Seeing that the two of them were locking her down, Yue Dong's eyes narrowed. "Since we have different daos, let's just focus on the mission. I'll go handle my part."

With that, Yue Dong blurred out of existence, reappeared some distance away, then vanished again.

Noting the direction Yue Dong had taken, the young man surnamed Feng and Lan Yao exchanged a glance.

The young man, whose name was Feng Lintao, chuckled coldly. "She's at least sensible enough to leave on her own. That'll save me some effort. Otherwise, given her personality, she'd definitely cause trouble for us going forward." [3]

"Fellow Daoist Feng," Lan Yao said with a sweet smile, "I helped you get rid of Yue Dong. But I can tell you, if you were lying about what you told me before we came here, I'm not going to play along." Despite her sweet tone, her eyes were as cold as ice.

"Don't worry at all," Feng Lintao said. "If it weren't for that secret I learned from one of the ancient records in my clan, I wouldn't have taken the initiative to join this mission. After all, there are gods in this place." Feng Lintao again looked up at the broken face. Then he looked back at Lan Yao. "Besides, I showed you the evidence. What's more, considering your daoist partner's position back in our holy land, how could I possibly do anything to deceive you?"

Continuing to smile, Lan Yao nodded.

Looking off into the distance, Feng Lintao said, "Alright, let's get moving. Based on the information I got from that weird beast, I learned that there are some lesser species around here. They'll make the blood sacrifice we have to do a lot easier."

"Blood sacrifice? Fellow Daoist, surely you don't look down on the Revered Ancient mainland *that* much. Do you really think there aren't any powerful experts here at all?" Lan Yao smiled enigmatically.

"I'm not that stupid," Feng Lintao replied. "I said all that because of Yue Dong. I'll naturally be cautious. But that weird eye confirmed that these lesser species don't have any Smoldering Gods." Feng Lintao started walking, then stopped and looked over his shoulder. "By the way, if Yue Dong is actually following us and tries to stop us, you know what to do. Right, Fellow Daoist Lan Yao?"

“Of course. I’ll take care of it.” Lan Yao smiled and started walking. Together, the two of them vanished.

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Asteroids fell in many other locations in the Revered Ancient mainland. Cultivators emerged and scattered to handle various missions from the holy lands. Many had their own agendas. But all of them would also do everything necessary to accomplish their missions as quickly as possible. All in all, when it came to leaving.... It was possible to enter the godwarding, but it wasn’t possible to leave it!

Obviously, there was some reason why all these people had willingly come here. As for whether or not there were some species who had known all along that this event would take place, and had prepared to offer assistance, that was impossible to say. Regardless, roughly a hundred asteroids fell, and the cultivators of what seemed almost like a scouting force secretly spread out into Revered Ancient....

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The secret invasion didn’t do anything to affect the grand banquet being carried out at God Mountain in the lands of the Firemoon Darkheavens. Rumbling booms rang out as auspicious signs continued to appear in the sky. God Mountain glittered brightly, and the sounds of bells rang through the lands.

The three stewards hovered in front of the statues of the three gods on God Mountain, emanating profound majesty. The divine likenesses were behind them, and the exuberant Firemoon people were in front of them. They were organized into three camps, and were also structured based on their cultivation base and status. There were nobles and powerful experts in great numbers, which was evidence of how terrifyingly powerful the Firemoons were in Revered Ancient.

Beyond the Firemoons were the subsidiary species, who were all behaving very solemnly but with great power and majesty as well. Beyond them were the random cultivators who didn’t qualify to get any closer, and could only watch the festivities from a distance.

This was a Firemoon ceremony, and there wasn’t anything complicated or luxurious about it. Their species had always been domineering and straightforward. It started with the godpriests offering words of worship. Next, representatives of the nobility did the same. Then the orders of the stewards were issued by the master of ceremonies.

Xu Qing and the Captain were in disguise among the random cultivators, watching from a distance. When they heard the orders issued by the master of ceremonies, they conferred via projection.

*“Did you think it through, little Ah Qing?”*

“Yeah. I need to get the Grand Darkheaven title. No matter what.” Xu Qing had put a lot of thought into it on the road, and he was just about to fly out into the open to try to claim his title when the master of ceremonies’ tone and wording changed.

“Next, we come to the darkheaven category of the Great Hunt! The person who took first place in the first round, that of moving mountains, was the human Xu Qing! The person who took first place in the second round, that held in the Mountain and Sea Region, was the human Xu Qing! The person who took first place in the third round, that held in the god domain, was the human Xu Qing!

“With approval given by the High Gods, he is hereby awarded with the title of Grand Darkheaven! Xu Qing, please approach the podium for a meeting with the three stewards of our species!”

There was an immediate uproar. After all, though everyone already knew how the first two rounds ended, few people were aware of the details of the third round.

Xu Qing blinked a few times.

The Captain chuckled. “Looks like that silver hairpin worked wonders, huh?”

1. Yue Dong: Yue is not a common surname. It’s a sort of fancy word for ‘pearl,’ specifically a kind of legendary magical pearl. Dong means ‘winter.’ It doesn’t come across as a common Chinese name, but at the same time, doesn’t seem like a daoist name. Madam Deathblade says that she initially thought this was a male name. Given that it’s a female name, she says it sounds like a manly girl or a tomboy. ㄟ

2. Lan Yao. Lan is not on the list of 100 common surnames, but it is indeed a surname. It also means ‘orchid.’ Yao is a fancy character that means ‘jade, precious stone, nacre, mother-of-pearl.’ Madam Deathblade says that given the flower and jade, it sounds like a feminine and beautiful name to her. ㄟ

3. Feng Lintao: Feng is not on the list of 100 common surnames, but it is a surname, though slightly rare. It means ‘wind.’ Lin means ‘wood, woods, forest’ and Tao means ‘big wave.’ Madam Deathblade says that the combination of characters related to nature make her think of someone that’s connected to nature somehow. She literally said, “nature man” lol. Quasi-spoilers here! In reality, this character’s name is not introduced in this chapter. We don’t find out his name until later, and until then, he’s just called ‘the young man surnamed Feng.’ There is no reason for his name to be kept a secret, the author just seemed to do it randomly. It’s much easier in Chinese to do that kind of thing. But in English, it makes things very awkward. If it’s once or twice, it’s not a big deal, but whole scenes, including action scenes, which just have ‘the young man surnamed Feng’ are a pain both to translate and read. What’s more, even after introducing his name, the author continues to *mostly* just call him ‘the young man surnamed Feng.’ In Chinese, it’s only one additional character, so it’s not as clunky. In any case, not only am I revealing his name slightly early, both for your sake and mine,

I'm also going to *mostly* refer to him by his actual name, simply for ease of translation and reading. 📖

*Chapter 910: Grand Darkheaven!*

The Captain appeared to be smiling, but inside had felt a very sour feeling.  
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*Look at that High God Starfire! Now that's what I call love!*

The Captain sighed inwardly as he thought back to the life in which he pursued High God Moonfire. Despite expending *the strength of nine bulls and two tigers*, he nearly went crazy in that pursuit. He drained himself mentally and paid an immense price on multiple occasions, including giving so many gifts he lost track of how many and setting up countless romantic scenarios. It was only at that point, after sinking to the depths of shamelessness, that he finally got a return on his investment. It was hard to even think about it nowadays.

Xu Qing, in contrast, hadn't done hardly a single thing this entire time....

*Wait. Could it be that female gods don't like you to take initiative, but at the same time, expect you to not just sit around doing nothing? Could it be that they don't like you to set your targets on them, but at the same time, expect you to have a target? Simply put, they don't like you to pay too much attention to them, but at the same time, you can't just ignore them!*

The Captain shivered as he was struck with sudden enlightenment.

Meanwhile, Xu Qing's eyes glittered. He wasn't paying attention to the Captain's facial expression, and of course had no idea what sort of enlightenment the Captain was experiencing. His attention was focused on the three stewards in the canopy of heaven. He was determined to get the title of Grand Darkheaven, and had done a lot to make sure that happened. Therefore, he was prepared to deal with any obstacles that might block his path.

Contrary to expectation, everything just worked out in his favor. It actually seemed suspicious. That said, he didn't see any need to do any of the things he'd planned to do at this moment. He just struggled to accept the reality that things were going so smoothly. From the time he was small until now, he had very rarely been in situations in which there weren't unexpected twists and turns.

That was especially true after he joined Seven Blood Eyes and got to know his Eldest Brother.... After that, just about everything he did involved toeing the line between life and death.

Xu Qing was actually used to setbacks and obstacles. Without taking risks and endangering his life, it didn't seem possible to acquire anything rewarding. The end result was that experiencing this sudden and smooth victory actually left him feeling somewhat unsettled.

The Captain, having just gained enlightenment of a major dao, looked over and noticed the look on Xu Qing's face. He blinked a few times. He could guess what Xu Qing was thinking, and it reduced the sour feeling in his heart by a bit and replaced it with a pleased sensation.

*Thanks to my leadership, little Junior Brother has finally developed some proper instinctive responses.*

Sounding somewhat lofty, the Captain said, "I'm very proud of you, little Junior Brother. As you know, we cultivators should disdain handouts. Hmmmphh! If we want something, we take it with our two hands. It's all about having that life-risking psyche! That's how you get stuff. Only then can victory truly be sweet!

"If I were you, I would outright refuse to accept this. Then, I would use my carefully planned stratagem to get what I want. The alternative is *to reap without sowing*, and a victory like that isn't going to be sweet at all."

Xu Qing looked at the Captain and could tell what he was thinking. Voice cool, he said, "Maybe it's not sweet. But it still smells good."

The Captain's eyes shot open and he was about to offer a retort. Before he could, the Firemoon master of ceremonies hovering in midair in front of the three stewards tents repeated his words from moments before.

"Xu Qing, please approach the podium for a meeting with the three stewards of our species!"

The second utterance of those words caused all of the Firemoon Darkheavens around God Mountain, plus the subsidiary species, to calm down a bit instead of being so shaken. One by one, they looked up into the canopy of heaven.

Seeing that, Xu Qing's eyes shone with determination as he unhesitatingly flew up into the air, becoming a bright beam of light that shot toward the master of ceremonies.

The moment he appeared, countless gazes and innumerable streams of divine sense locked onto him. Among those who looked on, some had mixed feelings, some were shaken, some were antagonistic, and some felt admiration. Virtually every facial expression imaginable was present, and everyone stirred inwardly.

Grand Prince was present, and he couldn't have been more excited. As the leader of the human diplomatic mission, it was only natural that he was present to witness the

ceremony at the end of the Great Hunt. After meeting with failure in the second round, he hadn't qualified to join the third round in the god domain, and thus, all his hopes had been pinned on Xu Qing.

Although he hadn't been very confident that Xu Qing would succeed, he hadn't given up hope. Now that everything was materializing, he was feeling very stirred up. From ancient times to modern, it was rare for any species other than a Firemoon to win the title of darkheaven general. But... never before had any foreigner become the Grand Darkheaven. After all, it was the greatest honor that any member of the Firemoon Darkheaven species could receive.

Now, as countless people looked on, Xu Qing stopped in front of the master of ceremonies and nodded.

The master of ceremonies looked at Xu Qing curiously for a moment before turning in place.

Xu Qing took a deep breath. During this ceremony, he was essentially in the presence of the full terrifying strength of the Firemoon Darkheaven people. Though the three gods weren't present, and though the Firemoons could be said to have as many powerful experts as the sky had clouds, there was no doubt that they were many, many cultivators. No wonder they could dominate so many other species and occupy such a high position in Revered Ancient.

That was especially true considering that Xu Qing had no way of knowing what percentage of their total number of top experts were present at the ceremony.... What was more, according to historical records, after Ancient Emperor Dark Serenity, humankind wasn't necessarily considered weak, yet had still been dominated by this species. That seemed to indicate that the forces they had on display now didn't constitute the totality of their assets.

Back in the god domain, the three gods had expended massive resources to become Flawless Gods, but Xu Qing got the feeling the species still had a lot more to tap into.

However, now wasn't the time to contemplate all of that. Maintaining a somber facial expression, Xu Qing looked in the direction of the statues of the three gods, and the three grand stewards seated there. Clasping hands, he bowed.

"I, Xu Qing, offer formal greetings to the three stewards."

The three stewards, who represented the apex of royal authority among Firemoon Darkheavens, consisted of an old man, a middle-aged man, and a youngster. All wore imperial robes and were the picture of majesty.

The old man was tall and burly, like a mountain. The terrifying pressure he emanated made it seem like he had endless strength. His expression was one of unswerving



determination and courage, as if no amount of hardship would shake his decisive nature. His eyes were so piercing it seemed they could see into the hearts of all people, and clearly perceive all things in the world.

The middle-aged steward was scholarly and refined, like a gentle spring breeze. His expression was placid, and his eyes seemed to contain boundless wisdom. He seemed as genial as the warmth of the sun in the morning, making him come across as gentle and amiable.

Finally was the youngster, who didn't look anything like the other two. Physically, he looked young, but his expression was mighty and domineering, like a mountain lion prowling down out of the mountains. His eyes were as sharp as sabers, instilling fear into anyone he looked at.

The three stewards, all of whom were very different from each other, simultaneously looked at Xu Qing as he bowed to them.

Their gazes caused Xu Qing to shiver. Those gazes were as sharp as swords and seemed to penetrate into the depths of his being.

But then, four bits of godly authority glimmered within his void soil, and over a hundred illusory bits of godly authority rose up. It was as if they sensed something offensive, and were automatically rushing to resist.

The three stewards' expressions flickered and their gazes dimmed. As of that moment, they could no longer see any of the deep truths in Xu Qing. At the same time, faint exclamations of surprise could be heard in the crowd. Those exclamations came from the various members of the nobility arrayed beneath the tents of the three stewards.

If that were all there were to the situation, it might not have been a big deal. But then Ninedawns manifested outside of Xu Qing. Nine skulls appeared, all of them roaring loudly. The deafening sound echoed out like heavenly thunder. The skulls turned into lamps, which slowly rotated around him. An antemage aura surged.

Below, all Firemoon cultivators felt their bloodline power reacting to varying degrees. It didn't matter the level of cultivation base. It didn't matter if they were a random, ordinary cultivator or one of the stewards. Every single one was affected.

Facial expressions flickered everywhere, and the nobility suddenly looked very serious. The master of ceremonies, who was the closest to Xu Qing, literally gasped out loud. No longer was he looking at Xu Qing curiously. Instead, he seemed bewildered. It was true that something similar to this happened after Xu Qing finished the second round. But the difference between that and this was like the difference between earth and heaven.

The previous occasion resulted in a slight stir to the bloodline. But this time... the Firemoon blood was seething in everyone! That was obviously because the antemage in Xu Qing's fifth trove, the mage trove, had become a heavenly dao, and also because he had broken through from Spirit Trove to Void Returning.

"Ninedawns...."

Complicated expressions could be seen in the eyes of the three stewards. Clearly, they knew the details of the grand steward who had unified their species. In fact, maybe it was possible that they knew about the deal the grand steward had made with the gods. Therefore, a host of thoughts ran through their heads as they looked at Xu Qing. Ultimately, they didn't say anything. They just nodded to him.

Noting the stewards' silent approval, the master of ceremonies once again spoke in a loud voice.

"The human Xu Qing is hereby awarded with the title of Grand Darkheaven of the Firemoons. Let all of the sundry species in Revered Ancient be notified!

"He is awarded with the Grand Darkheaven Armor, making him invincible in heaven and earth!

"He is awarded with fiefdoms in the form of nine counties, to nourish him in cultivation!

"He is awarded with the Spirit-Devouring Dagger, to make him even more incisive!

"He is awarded with the blessing of Starfire, and is thus a general of the Starfire Temple!

"He is awarded with a Darksage medallion, giving him equal standing to the nobility. All Firemoons will support him, and all subsidiary species will kneel to him. No member of any of the countless species will dare to disobey his orders!"

With each statement came a new reward, shaking all of the cultivators present to the core. These rewards really were the highest honor. The Grand Darkheaven Armor was said to be a precious treasure. Although it wouldn't literally make him invincible, once he donned it, even Smoldering Gods would have trouble penetrating it. Fiefdoms in the form of nine counties was equivalent to roughly half of a region. The Spirit-Devouring Dagger was even more shocking. It was such a deadly weapon that merely hearing about it would cause most enemies to go weak at the knees from terror.

And there was little need to mention the blessing of Starfire. Being a general of the Starfire Temple made it obvious that he had the grace of a god. Finally was the Darksage medallion, which made him equal to the nobility among other species.

Even Xu Qing was surprised by these rewards, and it brought mixed emotions to his eyes. He was fully aware that all of this was happening because of High God Starfire. What he didn't understand was why High God Starfire had been helping him from the moment they met. He refused to believe that it had anything to do with his primal yang. And yet, he had no idea what karma or situation could explain it all.

Even as those complicated thoughts went through his mind, a cold voice rang out from the Firemoon Darkheaven people below.

"I request that the stewards honor my petition to fight Grand Darkheaven Xu Qing!"

A figure flew out of the crowd and into the air. He wore a robe as red as fire, and had hair that seemed to be formed from the dao. He had facial features that weren't necessarily flawlessly beautiful, but were still extremely handsome. His slender frame pulsed with a terrifying aura, and above his right shoulder was a ball of white fire. Shockingly, that fire pulsed with the aura of a major world. This person was none other than Sir Firedark, who no longer looked like a woman.

His eyes glittered with the desire to do battle as he looked at Xu Qing. "Grand Darkheaven Xu Qing, do you dare to fight me?"

His words slashed through the area like a blade.

All of the surrounding Firemoon cultivators looked on with serious expressions. The cultivators from the subsidiary species exchanged surprised glances. The three stewards looked thoughtful, and even God Mountain reacted, as it glowed with golden light.