

Unparalleled 481

Chapter 481: Do You Think I Can Be Pushed Around? Battling The Nether Abyss Valley Lord

Chu Kuangren and the Godly Phoenix descended upon the Nether Abyss Valley, bringing with them a typhoon of oppressive aura that swept across the region.

The Boundary Emperors of the Nether Abyss Valley were surprised, to say the least.

As Chu Kuangren set his eyes upon Bai Liyin's last spiritual body, a black chain appeared in his hands. It was none other than the Soul Retriever — a tool Chu Kuangren had not used for a while.

The Soul Retriever was launched outward at lightning speed, which instantly ensnared Bai Liyin's spiritual body before Chu Kuangren pulled the chain towards him. Like a dog with a leash around its neck, the Boundary Emperor had no means of escaping.

It was then when the Nether Abyss Valley Lord finally appeared.

He stared at Chu Kuangren and said, "Brother Chu, what has the Nether Abyss Valley ever done to you? Why are you always against us?"

Chu Kuangren was surprised to hear the Nether Abyss Valley Lord's voice. As such, he chuckled lightly and said, "I recognize your voice. You're the person who stopped me from killing Boundary Emperor Wuyue at the Heavenly Golden Palace. It looks like I've come to the right place."

"Valley Lord, save me. Save me!" Bai Liyin screamed desperately when he saw the Nether Abyss Valley Lord, who was Bai Liyin's last chance at survival.

Chu Kuangren immediately pulled onto the chain, releasing a burst of unbearably chilling energy that made Bai Liyin, a Boundary Emperor, tremble uncontrollably.

The other observing Boundary Emperors began to worry.

"Although the chain is only a Sage Ruler Weapon, it's designed specifically to target the soul. This makes it a frightening weapon."

"Seeing that Bai Liyin is now nothing but a soul, he's indefensible against the chain."

The Nether Abyss Valley Lord grimaced as he witnessed Bai Liyin's miserable state. "Chu Kuangren, what exactly do you want?!"

"What do I want?"

Chu Kuangren frowned before he sneered. "That's a question I ought to pose to the Nether Abyss Valley. First, Boundary Emperor Wuyue tried to stop me from destroying the Heavenly Golden Palace, and now this bastard tried to steal my Godly Phoenix while she was in Nirvana. You dare ask me what I want?!"

"The real question is what does the Nether Abyss Valley want? Do you think that I, Chu Kuangren, can just be pushed around like that?!"

Chu Kuangren's tone was devoid of any semblance of warmth and friendliness. As his aura rose its maximum intensity, the sky above him darkened, covered by layers of thunderclouds. Just like that, a swarm of terrifying Heavenly Might engulfed the entire Nether Abyss Valley.

It was as if Chu Kuangren's anger had incurred the wrath of the heavens!

Such a technique would make even a Boundary Emperor uneasy.

"You..." The Nether Abyss Valley Lord was speechless.

"What? You have nothing to say now?"

Chu Kuangren said faintly. After that, he mobilized his spiritual energies into the chain to channel the Soul Retriever's power to its limit. A surge of freezing cold energy swallowed Bai Liyin whole. It was not long before his spiritual body began to break and shattered into pieces.

As a large amount of soul energies released into the surrounding, Chu Kuangren absorbed it all with his Universal Cauldron Physique.

The Nether Abyss Valley Lord turned red from witnessing the scene.

It happened again!

Chu Kuangren had murdered yet another Boundary Emperor of the Nether Abyss Valley before his eyes!

"Chu Kuangren, you leave me no choice!" The Nether Abyss Valley Lord snapped, and his Daoist Rhymes rose with each passing moment. The Valley Lord was one of the world's most formidable entities. Even within the Nine Heavens, very few apart from the Emperors could rival his power.

Even so, the Valley Lord had his limits, and Chu Kuangren's repeated humiliation had driven the Valley Lord to his boiling point.

He had long abandoned his thoughts on avoiding confronting Chu Kuangren at all cost.

After all, Chu Kuangren was already knocking on his door.

"I've warned you when you tried to stop me from killing Boundary Emperor Wuyue, that if you wish to stay alive, you better not let me find out where you are! Or else, I'll come and kill you!"

Chu Kuangren chuckled. "I'm a man of my words. Look at me. I'm here now!"

"If that's the case, then be my guest!"

The Nether Abyss Valley Lord roared, unleashing a raging tirade of his Boundary Emperor Daoist Rhymes that swarmed towards Chu Kuangren like a violent torrent.

Instead of retreating, Chu Kuangren retaliated with his own Daoist Rhymes!

It was the Heavenly Punishment Daoist Rhymes!

No Daoist Rhymes in this world could overpower it.

"The Valley Lord has attacked. It's been years since I last saw him in a battle."

“He’s a Supreme Sage? I wonder how capable he is now...”

The Boundary Emperors of the Nether Abyss Valley conversed.

However, none of them participated in the battle.

Despite the Nether Abyss Valley Lord’s title, his status was not significantly superior to the other Boundary Emperors.

Strictly speaking, he was just the owner of the Nether Abyss Valley, but he did not rule over the other Boundary Emperors.

One could compare the Nether Abyss Valley Lord to a hotelier, and the Boundary Emperors who resided in this region to his guests.

In return, the Boundary Emperors would contribute many resources to the Valley Lord for the tenure.

As the owner of this land, the Nether Abyss Valley Lord would certainly be enraged if his guests were murdered. However, he was not sincere in avenging their deaths. This was just the Valley Lord’s outlet of redeeming himself from the humiliation he suffered.

Since he was aware of Chu Kuangren’s unprecedented abilities, the Nether Abyss Valley Lord knew that he must tread lightly and not treat Chu Kuangren as just another ordinary Sage. He withdrew a dark crimson longsword. Its blade was coated with a layer of delicate etches that resembled a body of dragon scales.

The sword emitted a surge of rage qi that was almost tangible.

“This is the Bloodtinge Dragonscale Sword, once stained with the blood of a true dragon. A long time ago, I slew multiple formidable opponents with this sword and infused their rage qi into this weapon. So although it’s only a Boundary Emperor Weapon, my contribution has made it a weapon that’s even more powerful than a true Emperor Weapon.”

The Nether Abyss Valley Lord said proudly as he wielded the Bloodtinge Bloodscale Sword.

“Well, have you seen a true Emperor Weapon?”

Chu Kuangren said faintly as he put away the Soul Retriever. With a lift of his hand, a golden trident appeared in the air and unleashed a surge of magnificent Emperor Daoist Rhymes.

The Emperor Weapon, Emyrean Neptune’s Trident Halberd, had reappeared!

Chu Kuangren’s current cultivation level could now allow him to draw an even greater power from the Emyrean Neptune’s Trident Halberd. With the halberd in hand, Chu Kuangren was seemingly transformed into an Emperor who had control over the seas. Suddenly, a large amount of torrential force swarmed the Nether Abyss Valley.

The observers could almost hear the sound of a tsunami.

No.

It was not ‘almost’.

They could actually see a boundless amount of torrential force appearing out of thin air!

Up in the sky, thunder roared before a storm poured.

In a split second, the heavy shower flooded almost half of the Nether Abyss Valley, turning many of its caves into a sunken kingdom!

“Come, I shall let you witness the true power of an Emperor Weapon!”

Chu Kuangren gripped onto the Emyrean Neptune’s Trident Halberd tightly and slammed it into the ground.

The deafening roar of a tsunami unfolded as its boundless torrential force surrounded the weapon. It was as if Chu Kuangren had launched an entire ocean toward the Nether Abyss Valley Lord.

Startled, the Nether Abyss Valley Lord immediately blocked Chu Kuangren’s attack with his sword!

The Emyrean Neptune’s Trident Halberd and the Bloodtinge Dragonscale Sword let out a blaring explosion, unleashing a frightening amount of strength qi.

All the Nether Abyss Valley Lord could feel was the weight of an unstoppable force crushing on him. The sheer force of Chu Kuangren’s attack had almost torn off his arm, and his Bloodtinge Dragonscale Sword was close to slipping away from his hand.

Just one halberd attack was almost enough for the Nether Abyss Valley Lord to succumb to defeat.

Chapter 482: The Nether Abyss Valley Lord Flees Frantically, How Quickly He Changed

The trident attack blasted the Nether Abyss Valley Lord several hundred meters away.

The Bloodtinge Dragonscale Sword rang incessantly and only stabilized after its owner channeled his spiritual energy into it.

“Emperor Weapon! That’s an Emperor Weapon!”

“He’s able to draw such an enormous amount of power from the Emperor Weapon. No wonder he’s a Supreme Sage.”

The Nether Abyss Valley Lord exclaimed within. Then, he activated his Daoist Rhymes to release a sword technique that sent a flash of crimson sword ray towards Chu Kuangren.

The crimson sword ray glowed brightly as it dyed everywhere it passed through in vivid crimson color. At the same time, its gurgling rage qi spread virally, creating an effect that disturbed one’s spirit.

This was the Nether Abyss Valley Lord’s ultimate technique. It was a Boundary Emperor Technique that he had delicately forged out of his Daoist knowledge. By activating this technique, the Nether Abyss Valley Lord could amplify his combat strength to its limit, making it a far more useful strategy than if he were to use an Emperor Technique that was invented by others.

It was one of the most important cultivation aspects in the Boundary Emperor Realm — to discover one’s path of Dao!

Judging by his display of technique, the Nether Abyss Valley Lord seemed to have taken a huge step in walking his path!

It was this ability alone that would distinguish the Nether Abyss Valley Lord from most Boundary Emperors.

Unfortunately for him, the Nether Abyss Valley Lord's opponent was Chu Kuangren, who had an Emperor Weapon in his hand. Unfazed by the incoming crimson sword ray, Chu Kuangren swiftly retaliated with his halberd, not at all affected by the rage qi.

Since Chu Kuangren's Daoist core was at the same level as that of the ancient Emperors, this amount of rage qi could do him no harm at all.

As the torrential force of his halberd crashed into the sword ray, the sword ray instantly shattered with a bang. However, Chu Kuangren's attack did not stop as it continued to swarm towards the Valley Lord like a tsunami. Even after the crimson ray had reduced its powers by half, its remaining energy was still enough to wreak terror.

"Die!"

The Nether Abyss Valley Lord parried with his longsword, splitting the torrential force into two, which proceeded to pass him by.

He then swung his sword around, but this time, an even more powerful form of Daoist Rhymes concentrated on his blade. Just as the Valley Lord was about to unleash his attack, a series of silver runes manifested and formed into a giant rune. It was Chu Kuangren's Spatial Cessation Rune!

The appearance of the cessation rule imposed a freezing effect over the surrounding void.

Even with the Nether Abyss Valley Lord's ability, his attacks seemed to have slowed down.

At that stage, a slight difference in speed was enough to determine the outcome of the battle.

"It looks like the Nether Abyss Valley will need a new lord today."

By then, Chu Kuangren's halberd had already swung toward the Nether Abyss Valley Lord.

As the enormous torrential force crashed onto the Nether Abyss Valley Lord, a surge of terrifying spatial energy suddenly erupted from him. The Valley Lord had managed to break through the spatial rune's effect at the last second and surrounded himself in a white force shield.

"A Great Shift Talisman." Chu Kuangren was surprised.

The Nether Abyss Valley Lord was decisive enough to flee the battlefield after recognizing that he was no match for Chu Kuangren and the Emyrean Neptune's Trident Halberd.

Although this particular Great Shift Talisman had quite a powerful spatial energy to have broken the effects of Chu Kuangren's Spatial Cessation Rune, the Valley Lord was still a moment too late.

Chu Kuangren's halberd managed to connect its attack.

With a loud wail, Chu Kuangren's formidable torrential force had managed to slice off the Nether Abyss Valley Lord's right limb before he vanished into thin air.

Chu Kuangren mobilized his spiritual thoughts, yet he was unable to locate him throughout all of Firmament Star.

However, this did not surprise Chu Kuangren. As a Boundary Emperor, it would not be shocking if the Valley Lord had known of a way to conceal himself from Chu Kuangren's spiritual thought detection.

He simply went to retrieve the Bloodtinge Dragonscale Sword and the Yin and Yang Ring from the severed limb. When Chu Kuangren looked into the Yin and Yang Ring with his spiritual thought, he was greeted by a glorious array of treasures. "Woah, this Nether Abyss Valley Lord is surely loaded! There's so much great stuff in here."

Within the Yin and Yang Ring, there were more than thirty Boundary Emperor-grade items and even several Emperor-grade items. However, all the Emperor-grade treasures were healing items. Most of the items useful for cultivation had long been used by the Nether Abyss Valley Lord.

These did not pose much use to Chu Kuangren. After all, Chu Kuangren possessed the Immortal Body, but it would definitely be a useful addition to the Black Heaven Sect's resources.

"Now, does anyone still have issues about me killing Boundary Emperor Wuyue and Bai Liyin?" Having kept everything, Chu Kuangren stared down at the Nether Abyss Valley below and said. He was aware that there were several Boundary Emperors who were watching him.

He was greeted only by silence.

Chu Kuangren was armed with an Emperor Weapon and had managed to defeat the Nether Abyss Valley Lord within a few moves. Such combat strengths had placed Chu Kuangren above any of the Boundary Emperors in a one-on-one battle.

The Boundary Emperors did not plan on ganking up on Chu Kuangren either. After all, they did not harbor any hatred for Chu Kuangren, nor did they need to make an enemy for the sake of Boundary Emperor Wuyue and Bai Liyin. These Boundary Emperors had lived a long time, yet they cherished their own lives, so none dared to tread lightly.

"If there's none, then I don't mind making a few more friends either. If you may, can you please show yourselves?" Chu Kuangren said. During his battle with the Nether Abyss Valley Lord, he had more or less understood his opponent's relationship with these Boundary Emperors.

The Valley Lord did not rule over them, nor were they friends. The residents here were just a group of strangers who had congregated together without many interactions throughout their stay.

Since they were not his enemy, Chu Kuangren did not mind a brief exchange with these Boundary Emperors.

Even if Chu Kuangren did not manage to befriend them, it would do no harm for him to get familiar with these people.

After all, these were amongst the strongest cultivators in Firmament Star.

The Boundary Emperors were surprised to hear Chu Kuangren's proposal. For a moment, they could not figure out the intentions behind Chu Kuangren's invitation.

However, they were not stupid as well. On closer thought, the Boundary Emperors could make an educated guess.

"It looks like this person isn't just a naive brute."

"He possesses a remarkable talent that transcends anything we've seen in history. It's not a bad thing if we can make his acquaintance."

"If that's the case, let's show ourselves."

Soon, the figures of the Nether Abyss Valley began to appear in the open.

These were the Boundary Emperors of the current generation.

Chu Kuangren activated his Eye of Revelation, and soon, information about the Boundary Emperors was displayed before him.

"Boundary Emperor Fang Yun, trained in the Blackwater Corruption Technique, skilled in Water-based Dao..."

"Boundary Emperor Shadow Demon, originally a Shadow Serpent, possesses the Remarkable Divine Shadow Clone..."

"Boundary Emperor Tian Xue, possesses the Deep Freeze Physique, trained in the Nine-Freeze Heavenly Sword Technique, skilled in Ice-based Dao..."

Chu Kuangren began to memorize the Boundary Emperors' information by heart.

After all, knowing one's strength and the enemy's strength was an important element of securing a victory. Chu Kuangren may one day battle these cultivators, so it would do no harm for him to understand his potential opponents well.

"My name's Chu Kuangren, the Sect Leader of the Black Heaven Sect. Greetings, my fellow Daoist brothers and sisters." Chu Kuangren put on a warm and affectionate smile. When coupled with his already extraordinary appearance, it was difficult for someone not to be fond of him.

The Boundary Emperors were at a loss for words.

Was this otherworldly-like person in front of them the same lunatic who had just busted into the Nether Abyss Valley looking for trouble?

How quickly he had changed!

"Greetings, Brother Chu."

"Brother Chu, although we have resided in this location for a long time, we've heard about your stories. You're one of the few in history who has managed to ascend into a Supreme Sage. What an admirable feat."

"Indeed, what a remarkable sky-pride."

The Boundary Emperors may be a little cautious, but they made sure that their interactions with Chu Kuangren were polite

Chapter 483: Chu Kuangren's Dao, Victorious Over The World, Undefeated By Every Cultivator

After causing some troubles and even chasing the Nether Abyss Valley Lord out of his own territory, Chu Kuangren somehow became a distinguished guest of the Nether Abyss Valley.

As such, he ventured deep into the region and arrived at a cavern.

Chu Kuangren was not afraid of the Boundary Emperors. Although he was no match for all of them combined, he was still capable of protecting himself. However, to guarantee the safety of his Godly Phoenix, Chu Kuangren had teleported the Godly Phoenix back to Black Heaven Sect with his Spatial Conveyor Skill.

Deep within the Nether Abyss Valley, Chu Kuangren gathered with the Boundary Emperors.

They conversed over a large range of topics, and Chu Kuangren had many questions that he wanted to understand from them.

One of the questions was if entities like them existed in the other Forbidden Areas.

Indeed, there were many others like them.

Apart from the Ancient Battlefield and Misty Ocean, ancient warriors like them had found shelter in the remaining eight Great Forbidden Areas.

"Now that everyone's together, why don't we spar for a moment?"

One of the Boundary Emperors suggested.

"Hmm, that seems like a good suggestion. Most of us have either been in deep slumber or self-isolation, so this does seem like a rare opportunity for us to host a meaningful sparring session. It's a good way to find out if our cultivation level has dwindled after all these years."

"Indeed, and besides, Brother Chu is here as well. I'm curious to see how far he is in his Daoist Techniques Realm."

Chu Kuangren smiled and said, "I don't mind either."

He was also curious how strong his Daoist Techniques Realm had become.

The group gathered closer. Apart from Chu Kuangren, every participant there was a Boundary Emperor, and there were more than a dozen of them.

As the sparring commenced, Boundary Emperor Tian Xue was the first to display her Daoist Rhymes. Since she was skilled in Ice-based Dao, the release of her Daoist Rhymes seemed to lower the surrounding temperature to a freezing point before an ice sword formed above her.

The other Boundary Emperors began to unleash theirs too. There were displays of Fire-based Dao, Water-based Dao, Five Ways Dao, and more...

As the various forms of Daoist Rhymes intersected in the air, it converged and formed into a majestic Daoist painting.

The Nether Abyss Valley shook in its presence.

Chu Kuangren pondered deeply as he stared into the display. Then, he proceeded to unleash his own form of Daoist Rhyme. It was a remarkably sharp Dao that seemed capable of tearing the realm apart!

Once Chu Kuangren's Daoist Rhymes were included in the 'painting', the entire canvas seemed like it was about to be ripped apart.

"What a remarkable Sword-based Daoist Rhyme."

"How deserving of a Supreme Sage. Your ability has far surpassed any ordinary Sages."

"I couldn't even reach one-tenth of his strength when I was a Sage."

The Boundary Emperors gasped in shock.

As the sparring continued, the Boundary Emperors each showed off their unique interpretation of the Dao.

Chu Kuangren's technique stood out the most amongst the rest. He was skilled in many moves, including Emperor Techniques. His first technique was the Heaven-Slaying Sword Drawing Technique. From the Heaven-Slaying Sword Drawing Technique that he had first learned to the sword qi clone technique, Raging Gods Fist, Heart Piercing Finger, Palms of Sorrow, and Tathagata Rebirth Mantra — many different Daoist Rhymes were manifesting from his body.

His glorious display of techniques alone had outshone all of the other Boundary Emperors.

The Boundary Emperors were so shocked that they now saw Chu Kuangren as a strange creature.

At the end of the spar, the Boundary Emperors were deeply impressed by Chu Kuangren's mastery over his Daoist techniques. However, Chu Kuangren was dwelling within his own thoughts. There were no signs of joy written over his face.

"Brother Chu, your insights into the Dao are indeed impressive and unprecedented. Perhaps even we old hags are no match for you. However, the Dao you have learned is still someone else's rather than your own Dao."

One of the elderly Boundary Emperors said calmly. Apart from the Nether Abyss Valley Lord, he was the strongest Boundary Emperors in the group.

Hence, he could immediately tell what was bothering Chu Kuangren.

Chu Kuangren nodded and said, "You're right, brother."

"Although you will still be strong by doing so, it is only through discovering your own Dao that you'll reach your fullest potential!" the elder continued.

This was the cultivation journey of a Boundary Emperor.

Although the Boundary Emperors had learned countless techniques over the years, they were now determined to walk their path of Dao. After all, as strong as these techniques were, a cultivator would only be chasing after the shadow of another person if they were only focused on imitating their techniques.

Every Emperor was a powerful cultivator who had successfully walked their own path of Dao and remained resilient till the end!

“My own Dao?” Chu Kuangren murmured.

“Brother Chu, your insights into the Dao are not weaker than the inventor of the techniques you’re using. In fact, your ability may very well surpass theirs. You can just pick one of these paths at random and make it yours. It’s not impossible as some Emperors have managed to ascend through this manner.”

“Otherwise, another possibility you can do is pick the path of Transcendent Coalescence, uniting the countless techniques into one. Since you have the Transcendent Coalescence Daoist Physique and the Exquisite Nine Orifices Sword Heart, perhaps the path of the Single Strike Technique may suit you well. It’s one of the most remarkable paths there is.”

Another two Boundary Emperors remarked.

“Watch your words.” The elderly Boundary Emperor glared at the other two Boundary Emperors.

Discovering one’s own Dao was deemed as a sacred decision that should not be influenced by an outsider. It must be discovered by one’s own effort and will.

Knowing that they had crossed the lines, the Boundary Emperors did not comment further.

“Single Strike Technique...” Chu Kuangren pondered deeply. It was the path that he had chosen many years ago and one that he was still pursuing to this day. However, apart from the Single Strike Technique, Chu Kuangren was still well-versed in many other techniques. Was it truly the Dao he needed?

The knowledge that Chu Kuangren had amassed over his life began to flash across his mind. Sword techniques, Buddhist techniques, fist techniques, finger techniques, palm techniques, runic techniques, alchemy...

There were too many of them.

Chu Kuangren knew too much and had even achieved mastery in many of these fields.

However, Chu Kuangren did not feel proud of it at all. In fact, he now struggled over deciding which path was the best for him!

Should he abandon some paths in pursuit of the singular path that suited him most?

As Chu Kuangren pondered further, his memories brought him back to many years in the past, back when he had just stepped into this world.

It was a pleasant, sunny day. Chu Kuangren and Lan Yu were just about to venture beyond the Black Heaven Sect, with Honorable Xuan Qi and the elders sending him off.

Before Chu Kuangren left, he said, "Let them bloom and sprout, for I alone shall stand out." Since then, those words had made him a favorite target amongst many sky-prides.

It was also these words that marked the beginning of his cultivation journey.

Since then, Chu Kuangren had defeated sky-prides, slain formidable enemies, infiltrated secret realms, slaughtered demonic cultivators, and even annihilated entire orthodoxies...

Now, Chu Kuangren was not only an undefeatable cultivator of his generation, but he was also victorious over the entire world!

Ever since he came to this world, Chu Kuangren had not lost a single fight!

That was right!

Not one!

Chu Kuangren was the first in history to have defeated thousands of battles!

His path was one that no one was capable of walking since the dawn of time!

Who in history had dared to claim themselves as undefeatable or as infallible?!

Chu Kuangren did!

The path that Chu Kuangren had chosen was the path of becoming undefeatable!

Victorious over the world, undefeated by every cultivator!

It did not matter what techniques Chu Kuangren had learned, be it sword techniques, fist techniques, and runic techniques!

All of it was just a means to an end.

Once Chu Kuangren became undefeatable, every technique that he unleashed would also become unstoppable!

Chu Kuangren's eyes began to burn with passion, and he unleashed a gush of indescribably terrifying Daoist Rhymes from his body!

Chu Kuangren's aura was now different from what he had previously displayed in the sparring session. It was an aura that contained unwavering confidence, and no one was able to ignore Chu Kuangren's presence. Through his aura, they could feel his keen desire to triumph over the entire world.

With that, all the Boundary Emperors' Daoist Rhymes were overwhelmed by Chu Kuangren's domineering presence.

The expressions on the Boundary Emperors' faces shifted.

"He has discovered his path!"

"What a terrifying aura. It seems like his path is not an easy one to venture."

"Oh my, did he discover his path just like that? That's just too quick! He really is a strange one."

Chapter 484: Hu Meiren's Seduction, Why Did He Deserve To Be Excellent

It was not simple for a cultivator to discover their path of Dao.

After all, the discovery of a cultivator's Dao could mark a conclusion in their cultivation journey. Without knowing what path was most suitable for them to embark on, a cultivator would often suffer from a lifetime of stagnation.

The Boundary Emperors had spent ages experimenting and guessing before they eventually discovered the paths that were meant for them.

However, Chu Kuangren seemed to have discovered it on a whim. Furthermore, the path seemed to resonate deeply with him, with no signs of repudiation. It seemed like a path that was destined for Chu Kuangren.

"Congratulations, Brother Chu."

"Brother Chu, now that you've discovered your own path, what's left is to seal your destiny. We look forward to the day you ascend into an Emperor."

Chu Kuangren smiled brightly and said, "I've gained much from this sparring. I'm thankful for each of you."

"Brother, you're giving us too many credits."

"Haha, Brother Chu, it all boils down to your own destiny."

Chu Kuangren spoke with the Boundary Emperors for a while longer before he made his leave.

Before leaving, Chu Kuangren went to meet Boundary Emperor Tian Xue, who possessed the Deep Freeze Physique. "Boundary Emperor Tian Xue, you're a master in Ice-based Dao, so I'm sure you have a decent amount of ice-based treasures in your possessions. I was wondering if you'd mind exchanging a couple of items with me?"

"Oh, Chu Kuangren, it seems like you're eager to cultivate the Ice-based Dao."

"Well, it's not that. I'm just doing it for a friend."

"I see."

Boundary Emperor Tian Xue nodded and proceeded to take out several of her most valuable ice-based treasures without hesitation. Chu Kuangren proceeded to exchange several items from his possession with Boundary Emperor Tian Xue, including a Boundary Emperor Weapon. Strictly speaking, it seemed like Boundary Emperor Tian Xue was at the winning end of the exchange.

However, Chu Kuangren did not mind at all.

He had reaped a huge reward from this trip to the Nether Abyss Valley. The insights that he had gained were far more valuable than these tangible treasures.

After leaving the Nether Abyss Valley, Chu Kuangren arrived at the volcanic entrance and saw the White-Robed General. The White-Robed General had found a couple more treasures after Chu Kuangren had left the place.

However, the White-Robed General seemed helpless as he stood there.

“What happened? Aren’t you happy with all of these treasures?”

“I remember you once mentioned that Qingxue possessed the Deep Freeze Physique. However, all the treasures that I’ve found from this trip are fire-based items, which contradicts her core element. I can’t gift these to her.”

A clash in elements may cause a cultivator to lose their lives if they did not exercise caution using it, no matter how valuable the items were.

The White-Robed General was unwilling to risk gifting these items to Shang Qingxue.

“I’ve seen this coming. Here, take this.”

Chu Kuangren chuckled and retrieved a few items from his Yin and Yang Ring. A surge of freezing energy emanated, cooling over the once heaty volcanic entrance.

“These are...” The White-Robed General stared at the ice-based treasures with shock.

There was a Daoist robe, an orb, and a sword. The items radiated a powerful chill, and each of them represented a treasure that was much sought after by any ice-based cultivators. Yet, Chu Kuangren was now carrying all three of them at once.

“I’ve made a few acquaintances and have gotten these from them. You can use it as your reunion gift. It seems fitting.”

The White-Robed General hesitated. “But...”

“No ‘buts’. Just take it. If you don’t feel good about it, I don’t mind exchanging it for the treasures you’ve looted from this place. What about that?”

“Alright, then.”

The White-Robed General nodded and handed all the treasures he had looted over to Chu Kuangren. These treasures were of little use to him anyway.

The White-Robed General looked at Chu Kuangren with a hint of gratitude in his eyes. “Thank you so much.”

Chu Kuangren had aided the White-Robed General in locating his descendant. Now, he had even helped the White-Robed General to cement his relationship with his descendant. The White-Robed General could not sufficiently express the gratitude he felt for Chu Kuangren in words.

“You’re one of us now, so there’s no need to mention it.”

Chu Kuangren chuckled, and the duo then planned to leave the place.

Just then, Chu Kuangren felt a breeze of fragrant scent waft over, and an alluring figure appeared before Chu Kuangren.

It was the sky-pride of the Nine Heavens, Hu Meiren.

"Brother Chu, my name is Hu Meiren of the Heavenly Fox Tribe. I've admired you for a long time now. I have a villa nearby and was wondering if you'd be interested in spending some time with me there? We can talk all night," Hu Meiren said affectionately, her adorable eyes begging for Chu Kuangren's attention.

If it were any other cultivator, they would have softened and agreed immediately under her gaze.

However, Chu Kuangren was utterly unaffected.

"Sorry, I'm rushing and short of time."

"Brother Chu, don't you want to think about it? I really adore you a lot."

Hu Meiren approached Chu Kuangren slowly, her bewitching scent permeating even more aggressively now.

Deep within her mischievous eyes were a hint of venereal desires.

Hu Meiren was a tad shorter than Chu Kuangren and was dressed in a cerise low-cut dress. As she slightly bent her waist forward, Hu Meiren revealed her sweet bare cleavage that would make most men dream of burrowing their faces within.

Chu Kuangren glanced at Hu Meiren.

Then, with a clank, his Self-Descendant Sword flew out on its own and pointed its blade at Hu Meiren's neck. Its sharp sword qi scattered around them as if the sword was ready to slice through at any moment.

Hu Meiren gulped, but she was still able to muster a friendly smile. "Brother Chu, what's the meaning of this?"

"I'm sorry. My sword isn't really fond of a stranger getting too close to me."

Chu Kuangren smiled gently. He was especially handsome when he smiled, and it was enough to put Hu Meiren in a daze.

While Hu Meiren was caught in her infatuation for Chu Kuangren, the Self-Descendant Sword emitted a blast of sharp sword qi that forced Hu Meiren to take several steps back.

"Is this sword jealous?" Hu Meiren stared at the sword and said puzzledly.

"Who knows?"

Chu Kuangren mobilized his spiritual thought, and the Self Descendant Sword flew back into its scabbard.

"White-Robed General, let's go."

“Okay.”

Chu Kuangren did not give Hu Meiren a second look and left with the White-Robed General.

Hu Meiren stuck her tongue out as she watched Chu Kuangren leave. “I can’t believe there are still men who won’t fall for my seduction.”

“Haha, you sly fox, you should just give up now. I don’t think those tricks are enough to win over that man. Why don’t you consider seducing me instead?”

Wang Tianteng let out a peal of laughter and said.

“You? You’re not even one-tenth of what he’s worth. Seducing you is no fun at all.”

Hu Meiren mocked.

Wang Tianteng frowned unhappily and rebuked, “Although Chu Kuangren is indeed strong, I certainly don’t deserve to be mocked by others.”

“Hu Meiren might be sly, but she does have a point. Pfft, we still have a long way to go if we want to stand a chance against Chu Kuangren.”

Zhan Hongying, who was wearing a metal mask, came over and said.

“If even you agree with that remark, it seems like Chu Kuangren’s appearance is more impressive than his combat strengths.”

Xiao Jingchen said calmly, albeit feeling a little envious.

There were not many female cultivators on the Soaring Dragon Leaderboard. Only two of them managed to rank in the top ten, which were Zhan Hongying and Hu Meiren.

Zhan Hongying was ranked second on the leaderboard, and her performance was a little better than that of Xiao Jingchen. Now, even the two of them looked up so much to Chu Kuangren. Although the ladies were telling the truth, the other cultivators were still unhappy no matter how they thought about it. Just why in this world did Chu Kuangren deserve to be so excellent?

Chapter 485: The Elders Go Into Closed-Door Meditation, Elder Ruyan Is Worried

Chu Kuangren and the White-Robed General returned to the Illusive Mirage.

By then, Shang Qingxue had already awakened and was daydreaming under a hut. She eventually snapped back to reality once she sensed Chu Kuangren’s return.

“Greetings, Sect Leader.” Shang Qingxue came and greeted Chu Kuangren.

“How are you?”

“No big issues now. By the way, Sect Leader, have you unlocked the Heavenly Punishment Seal?”

“Yeah.” Chu Kuangren nodded.

Shang Qingxue was overjoyed. “That’s great!”

Then, she noticed the White-Robed General and became curious. “So, this senior...”

For reasons unknown to her, Shang Qingxue could sense an inexplicable connection to the White-Robed General.

“Qingxue, allow me to introduce him to you. This is the White-Robed General, who is also your ancestor.”

“What?!” Shang Qingxue was stunned.

“Heh. I’ll let him explain how everything came to be.”

Chu Kuangren laughed and left the White-Robed General and Shang Qingxue to their privacy.

After all, it would be too much for anyone to take in if they learned that one of their ancestors was very well alive and was standing before them.

“This is my gift to you.”

White-Robed General did not know what better way to start the conversation than to hand Shang Qingxue his gifts first.

Shang Qingxue could not help but gasp at the ice-based treasures before her. The freezing energy emanating from them made her physique incredibly excited.

“What a wonderful array of treasures. Could this orb be the Deep Sea Freezing Orb? Legend says it possesses the ability to enhance any ice-based cultivator’s cultivation speed. And this sword — it’s at least a Sage Ruler Weapon, or perhaps it can even be classified as a Boundary Weapon...” Shang Qingxue was shocked at the treasures that were laid out before her.

“These are immensely helpful for your cultivation. Please keep it.”

After that, the duo was finally able to break the ice, and they started chattering away.

The White-Robed General recounted the stories of how he had gotten Chu Kuangren’s help in locating Shang Qingxue and how he had recently joined the Black Heaven Sect.

Not far away.

By a flower garden.

Chu Kuangren was grinning. “It looks like they’re getting along just fine.”

With the help of his spiritual thought, nothing on the Illusive Mirage could escape past him. Although he had left the White-Robed General and Shang Qingxue to their privacy, Chu Kuangren was still curious how it would all play out. He just could not control his nosy tendencies.

After a couple of days, the White-Robed General seemed to get along just fine with Shang Qingxue.

Shang Qingxue did not have a reason to distance herself from the White-Robed General anyway. Who would not want a strong ancestor who came bearing so many gifts for them?

Besides, hearing the White-Robed General's love story with the Lou Kingdom's princess moved her so much that she shared a greater affection and admiration for the White-Robed General.

The same went for the White-Robed General.

Reconnecting with his descendants was his wish for countless years. Now that he had fulfilled that wish, the White-Robed General seemed much more at peace. He was no longer the cold and distant person he once was. Although he still wore a mask, Chu Kuangren could still sense his warmth through the general's eyes.

Back at the Black Heaven Sect, while Chu Kuangren was handling the orthodoxy's affairs, he also began researching on how the Acheron Manor had gotten the stone tablet.

At the same time, the Black Heaven Sect was becoming stronger. Having long ascended into the Boundary Sage Realm, Elder Ruyan and the elders were supposed to live in seclusion and focus on building their foundation to ascend into a Sage. However, as Chu Kuangren was bound by the Heavenly Punishment Seal, the elders needed to help him oversee the Black Heaven Sect.

On this day, in the Longevity Hall.

The elders went to see Chu Kuangren.

"What? All of you are planning to go behind closed doors to prepare for Sagehood?"

Chu Kuangren was dumbfounded.

If these elders, with Elder Ruyan included, all went behind closed doors, how could he alone take care of the entire orthodoxy?

Were they kidding around?!

"Rest assured, Sect Leader, we have already decided on the people who would replace us. Besides, with the Black Heaven Sect's resources, it won't take long before we complete our closed-door meditations. At most, we'll be Sages after a little more than ten years," Elder Ruyan said as she submitted a name list to Chu Kuangren.

It was the names of the disciples whom she had elected as the next elders of the orthodoxy. It had already been discussed with Chu Kuangren on a previous occasion.

Even so, Chu Kuangren was reluctant. Although there were candidates who could readily replace the elders, Chu Kuangren had gotten used to working with them. Such a drastic change would surely need some getting used to.

However, Chu Kuangren could not say much. It was a sacred matter that concerned the elders' ascension into Sages, so he could only nod in agreement.

...

Elder Ruyan left and arrived in a small compound within the Black Heaven Sect. It was where her residence was.

The compound only contained a simple wooden abode and a row of gnarly trees.

She laid down some restrictive spells and intended to begin her closed-door meditation.

However, Elder Ruyan was having a hard time finding peace. "Can the Sect Leader manage it? Although we've arranged for some replacements, it would surely be a mess since everything was handed over to the Sect Leader within such short notice."

It was not that Elder Ruyan lacked confidence in Chu Kuangren. She knew he was more than capable of managing the orthodoxy. However, Elder Ruyan could not help but worry.

"Oh, right. I forgot to inform the Sect Leader that the ore veins that are being developed by the Four Seas Firm and Black Heaven Sect are ready. Besides, we also need his approval on the Horizon Wing Sect's request to send a few disciples over for an exchange. Their Sect Leader is still waiting for a reply..."

Elder Ruyan was about to meet Chu Kuangren for these matters.

Suddenly, she halted her footsteps midway and smiled bitterly. "I've already promised myself to isolate myself in peace. Why am I dwelling over these matters?"

As Elder Ruyan was in charge of most matters in the Black Heaven Sect for the past few years, it was difficult for her to get accustomed to loosening up even for just a moment.

"Elder Ruyan, it's me, Lan Yu."

At that moment, Lan Yu's voice came from outside her residence.

"What's the matter?" Elder Ruyan walked out and saw Lan Yu standing below one of the gnarly trees.

"Elder Ruyan, Master has sent me to deliver you some items."

Lan Yu retrieved a small box that contained a batch of tea leaves.

"The Sect Leader is gifting me some tea leaves? What a coincidence. How did he know that I love drinking tea?" Elder Ruyan was surprised.

"Master acknowledges your contribution to the orthodoxy over all these years. He wishes to repay part of the favor with these tea leaves."

"Please let the Sect Leader know that I appreciate his gift."

"Alright. If there's nothing else, I shall take my leave."

"Have a pleasant trip back."

After sending Lan Yu away, Elder Ruyan went into her wooden abode and retrieved a jug of water.

"Since the Sect Leader has taken the trouble to deliver these, I might as well try it."

Elder Ruyan murmured. She proceeded to brew the tea leaves, its fragrance immediately permeating throughout the abode.

Unsure if it was just an illusion, Elder Ruyan could feel her spirit lifted after inhaling the tea's fragrance. That was when she stared into the tea and noticed a mystical form of Daoist Rhymes flowing within. She exclaimed in shock, "How do these tea leaves contain such a mystical form of Daoist Rhymes?!"

She carefully lifted her teacup and took a sip.

A surge of insight suddenly flooded into her mind, amplifying her understanding of the Dao.

As the mystical Daoist Rhymes flowed within her body, it accelerated her ascension into the Sage Realm.

Chapter 486: Chu Kuangren's Little Scheme, The Changes In Purgatory Forest

At the Longevity Hall.

Chu Kuangren was settling some of the sect's affairs. His workload has increased tremendously because Elder Ruyan and the rest were all in closed-door meditation.

Additionally, those disciples who filled in for them were still quite green, so they were not as efficient as Elder Ruyan and the others.

"Horizon Wing Sect intends to send a delegation here for a cultivation insights exchange session. Yes, I know they're just an affiliated force, but back when Black Heaven Sect urgently needed help, they were generous to lend us a hand. Hence, we shall not delay this matter any further. Send Nangong Huang and a few other disciples over to have a proper exchange with them."

"The Thirty-Six Oceanic Islands are rebuilding, and they have invited us to attend their grand reopening ceremony. Are they trying to make peace with us? It's too late for them to make amends now. We're not going."

"There have been strange occurrences of demonic qi spikes in Blackwind Prefecture and Blackwater Prefecture recently. The cause behind it is unknown... It is quite odd, but as we're in the Era of Great Battles, the whole world has rushed forth to join in the fun."

Chu Kuangren watched as memorials piled up in front of his desk. The sudden increase in workload made him feel extremely helpless.

This made him think of Gu Linglong, who was currently far away in the Royal Azure Dynasty. She had to deal with affairs of the royal dynasty, so she should be much busier than him.

"This is so frustrating. Why not I throw away my responsibilities and go into closed-door meditation too?"

Chu Kuangren complained to Lan Yu beside him as he stretched his body.

"That won't do. If people were to hear the great Sect Leader himself say such a thing, it would surely tarnish your reputation."

Just then, a voice was heard outside Longevity Hall.

Dressed in a white robe, Elder Ruyan elegantly walked in. She stared at Chu Kuangren and rolled her eyes. "I thought you could handle all of this as a Sect Leader. But I didn't expect that you're already considering laying down your responsibilities in just two days after my departure."

Chu Kuangren smiled back at her rather awkwardly. "Elder Ruyan, aren't you supposed to be in closed-door meditation? Why are you back here so soon?"

"I must say, it is all thanks to those tea leaves that you've given me, Sect Leader. In fact, what sort of tea leaves are those? They allowed me to break through into the Sage Realm in just two days and saved me several dozen years of effort." Elder Ruyan was still rather amazed when she remembered the wonders of those tea leaves.

That kind of treasure was way too scarce. It was definitely an Emperor-grade, but it was not just any Emperor-grade treasure.

"Those were Dao Enlightening Tea, a treasure I got my hands on a while back. I had used up some, but there were some extra, so I asked Lan Yu to bring them over to you."

Chu Kuangren smiled gently.

Apart from Fairfrost Sage and the few other Sages, who were currently cultivating with the Dao Enlightening Tea, no other people in the Black Heaven Sect knew of it.

"This is an extraordinary item. It's way too precious, but thank you, Sect Leader."

"Elder Ruyan, you've given so much for our community. You deserved it."

"Now that I've broken through the Sage Realm, I won't need to meditate anymore. Since I have free time, I might as well come back here and help you deal with those minor matters."

"Really? That's incredible news."

"Sect Leader, stop pretending. Isn't this part of your scheme?"

"Heh, whatever it is, having you back in my assistance is something worth celebrating."

Chu Kuangren chuckled. He had indeed arranged for Lan Yu to send those Dao Enlightenment Tea over on purpose. On one hand, it was to return her favor. On the other hand, he secretly wanted Elder Ruyan to break through the Sage Realm quickly, so she could come back here and help him manage the Black Heaven Sect's tremendous workload.

"Sigh, it seems that I'm destined for a hectic work life." Elder Ruyan sighed.

With Elder Ruyan's help, Chu Kuangren finished up the rest of the sect's matters in no time.

He stretched his back and thanked her. "It's great to have you back, Elder Ruyan. You've saved me a huge amount of time. We really have to rely on you from now on."

"I hope I can be of great help in the days to come, Sect Leader."

....

From then on, the Black Heaven Sect developed swiftly in an organized manner.

Besides Elder Ruyan, the few other disciples, who had been selected to replace the elders, had gained astonishing progress too. In just a few months' time, they were able to adapt to their respective duties seamlessly. This made Chu Kuangren extremely relieved and delighted. His days were finally freeing up now that everything was in order.

That was when he recalled the Acheron Stele that he got from Acheron Manor. He wished to go into closed-door meditation, so he could spend some time gaining insight into it.

While Chu Kuangren was in closed-door meditation, gaining insights from the Acheron Stele, the outside world was in chaos.

Purgatory Forest, one of the Ten Great Forbidden Areas.

Purgatory Forest resembled an Ashuran Hell as it had dried corpses scattered all over its land, thus earning it this name.

Today, a group of people suddenly arrived outside Purgatory Forest.

These people all had ominous demonic qi emanating from their bodies. Their leader was a sky-pride on the Soaring Dragon Leaderboard, Touba.

This person may be listed on the Soaring Dragon Leaderboard, but he seldom revealed his power, so his true strength remained a mystery. Nonetheless, the fact that the Soaring Dragon Leaderboard listed this person in the top ten was enough to prove his extraordinary prowess.

“This is Purgatory Forest, a territory of the Ashura Tribe. This view really does fit the characteristics of that group of people.”

A demon, with yellow eyes and a horn on his forehead, grinned and kicked one of the skulls on the ground.

“Young Master, this Purgatory Forest has eighteen levels of prohibitory seals set up. These eighteen seals overlap with each other heavily, so it won’t be easy to get in there.”

A white-robed old man beside Touba said. He was holding a black compass in his hand.

Numerous mysterious light patterns glowed on top of that compass, and it emitted waves after waves of invisible energy fluctuations. It seemed like it was peering into the Purgatory Forest’s landscape and characteristics.

“Of course, I know it’s not easy to get into the Purgatory Forest. Otherwise, this place wouldn’t have been deemed as one of the Ten Great Forbidden Areas. This is also the reason I wanted you here, Elder Luo. You are the most skillful Formation Master in our Demonic Realm. This Black Demon Formation Compass in your hand is said to be able to break thousands of formations in this world. It is even ranked third among the Demonic Realm’s Thirty-Three Sacred Weapons. With you by my side, I don’t think I need to be concerned about these eighteen prohibitory seals.”

Touba smiled at the old man. His tone was full of respect.

The old man, too, seemed like he was carried away with all that compliment. There was a smug look on his face. “Don’t worry, Young Master. You were the one who broke the seal I was cursed with and saved me. I will do everything to open up these eighteen prohibitory seals even if it costs me my life.”

“Appreciate it, Elder Luo.”

“Young Master, seals can be broken, but the Ashura Tribe is still full of powerful elites. They even have a Boundary Emperor garrisoning them. You should formulate an appropriate plan for that, Young Master.”

“Everybody, rest assured that our journey here this time is not to go head to head with the Ashura Tribe. My target is to destroy the Great Acheron Formation. Based on what I’ve gathered, the Great Acheron Formation’s core has been lost for many years. Now, it relies on a few Boundary Emperors to keep it running, so these Boundary Emperors won’t be able to leave their duties and fight with us. Conversely, as long as we can destroy the mega formation, it will not only open up the portal to the Demonic Realm, but it will also deal a massive amount of damage to those few Boundary Emperors. By then, even if they’re not dead, they will be crippled at least.”

“Haha, that’s great news then.”

“Elder Luo, it’s all down to you now.” Toubu glanced at Elder Luo, who was holding the compass, and said.

“For the greater good of the Demonic Realm, an old soul like me will be duly obliged.”

Elder Luo said in a resolute tone, then walked into the eighteen prohibitory seals of Purgatory Forest.

Time passed by quickly.

One half of a day had gone by.

Suddenly, the entire Purgatory Forest began to quake.

The eighteen prohibitory seals were slowly dissipating away. The hellish landscape in front of everyone’s eyes vanished, and in its place stood a mere ordinary forest.

“So all of that earlier was only an illusory realm.”

“We did it. Elder Luo has successfully broken the eighteen prohibitory seals. Folks, let’s get on with our plan.”

Toubu rushed inside Purgatory Forest the moment he finished his sentence.

Chapter 487: The Great Acheron Formation Breaks, Catastrophe On Firmament Star

Outside Purgatory Forest, a black figure was dashing towards the direction of it.

This person was currently ranked second on the Soaring Dragon Leaderboard, Zhan Hongying.

At the same time, she was the Maiden Sage of the Ashura Tribe.

“Recently, demonic qi spikes have been observed in various locations across Firmament Star, and these locations are all seal nodes of those Demonic Realm Sages and even Sage Rulers. It seems that someone is trying to release these guys back to this world. This is an urgent matter, so I must quickly inform the Tribe Leader and the others about this.”

Zhan Hongying thought to herself.

However, just then, an intense energy fluctuation began to emanate from the Purgatory Forest in front of her.

That originally crimson sky slowly reverted to its normal color, and the Purgatory Forest's hellish scene had also started to change.

The dangerous ground that it used to be was slowly turning ordinary.

"It's gone. The eighteen prohibitory seals are gone." Zhan Hongying's expressions changed, feeling incredibly shocked.

Her subconscious told her that the Ashura Tribe would soon be facing grave danger.

Hence, she sped up her traveling speed and rushed towards the inner depths of Purgatory Forest.

At this moment, the Ashura Tribe was currently facing an invasion from Touba and his group of Demonic Realm elites. As the Boundary Emperors were all occupied with maintaining the operation of the formation, they could not join in the battle. Hence the Ashura Tribe Leader was left to fend their enemies off along with a group of elders.

The Ashura Tribe were adept at combat, but this time, there was just way too many Demonic Realm elites to deal with. The Ashura Tribe was barely holding on against them.

Boom!

Ashura Tribe Leader struck out a punch, unleashing a surge of tremendous Ashuran strength qi, and managed to knock a demonic Sage Ruler off his feet.

That demonic Sage Ruler had a horn on his head and was holding a black pike. Demonic qi circulated around his body, forming the shadow of a demonic dragon behind him.

"D*mn it, Single-Horned Dragon Demon Sage Ruler. Weren't you sealed off forty thousand years ago?"

The Ashura Tribe Leader's facial expression changed.

Over the countless years, the Demonic Realm had been eyeing the Firmament Star. As soon as there was an opportunity, the Demonic Realm's elites would seep through and invade the lands here. Some of these elites were killed, but some of them were just too strong. Those of them who could not be killed would be sealed off.

It was just like how the White Lotus Sage Ruler sealed off the underworld's three-headed hound.

This Single-Horned Dragon Demon Sage Ruler before Ashura Tribe Leader now was one of those demons that were sealed off. However, his combat strength was way stronger than that of the three-headed hound.

"Haha, of course, somebody has helped me remove the seal. Ashura Tribe, you guys have safeguarded the Great Acheron Formation for so many years. I reckon you must be really tired. Why don't I do all of you a favor today and help relieve you of this responsibility!" Single-Horned Dragon Demon Sage Ruler laughed out loud. With the pike in his hands, the demonic qi on his body was threatening to tear the realm apart.

“Hmph. Back when the Great Acheron Emperor set up this formation to seal off the Demonic Realm Portal, he entrusted us the duty to safeguard it. We will never allow you guys to do whatever you want here!”

“I’d like to see how you can keep this mega formation intact by the end of today.”

A huge turmoil stirred within the Ashura Tribe as the terrifying energy swept through the entire Purgatory Forest.

When Zhan Hongying arrived and saw the countless dead and wounded Ashura Tribe members, an ice-cold glint flashed from her eyes. “I’ll f*cking kill all of you sc*mbags here today!”

Along with that shout, crimson flowers started emerging around Zhang Hongying’s body, and a surge of incredibly terrifying Daoist Rhyme burst out with her as the center.

“Ashuran Bloom... She’s the Maiden Sage of the Ashura Tribe.”

“Pfft, Maiden Sage, you say? We’ll start with her, then.”

A demonic elite smirked as he charged toward Zhan Hongying. He had incredible combat strength and was only one step away from being a Sage Ruler.

However, when he got close to Zhan Hongying, those alluring crimson flowers unleashed their long vines at him. In the blink of an eye, he was firmly strangled and incapacitated in place. On top of that, the crimson flowers also had numerous thorns on them, which poked into his body and frenziedly sucked out his blood.

In just a short period, this demonic elite was reduced to a dried corpse.

“Lil Pip.”

Zhan Hongying called out, and the black mist behind her started to tumble around. A wolf-like hound echoed across the land, and the vicious underworld demonic wolf swooped out at its target in a flash of black light. Wherever it passed, a black maelstrom swirled up, and its two sharp claws shredded any of the demonic elites in its way.

“How powerful!”

“It’s an underworld demonic wolf. Also, don’t look down on this Maiden Sage’s capabilities. Her combat strength can almost rival a Sage Ruler.”

The demonic elites were all alarmed at this point.

Just then, a black gust of air towered up into the sky at a distance away. That was a massive amount of demonic qi.

All the Ashura Tribe members panicked when they saw that.

There was only one place in the entire Ashura Tribe that had demonic qi, and that was the Great Acheron Formation.

However, those demonic qis were all sealed off in the Demonic Realm Portal.

Yet now, demonic qi was rising skyward!

There was only one possibility to this.

“The great formation has been broken!” The Ashura Tribe Leader’s expression looked awful.

Meanwhile, the group of demonic elites was overjoyed.

“Haha, you’ve done it, Young Master.”

“The Demonic Realm is back! Firmament Star shall belong to our territory now. I don’t think there’s a second Great Acheron Emperor here to stop us this time.”

“The renaissance of the Demonic Realm shall begin from this moment.”

Boom, boom, boom...

Surges after surges of demonic qi shot into the clouds, sending shockwaves down the entire realm.

This dreadful demonic qi spread rapidly throughout the entire Firmament Star, with the Purgatory Forest as its source point. All the elites were able to sense this phenomenon.

“This energy... It’s demonic qi!!”

“Oh dear, such a scale of demonic qi has only existed during the demonic onslaught in the past ancient times. But hasn’t the Demonic Realm Portal been blocked off with the Great Acheron Emperor’s great formation back then? Unless the Demonic Realm has breached the seal?!”

“This won’t be any good. That Demonic Realm Portal is the largest known Demonic Well, and it can even allow Emperors to pass through. If Emperors from the other side were to get here, there was no way Firmament Star would be able to hold off, based on our current capacity. Could this spell the end for the human world?”

At this moment, all the cultivators of Firmament Star, even those ancient beings in the Forbidden Areas turned their attention toward the Purgatory Forest.

Compared to the power struggles between the various great forces on Firmament Star, the Demonic Realm was their one true common enemy!

Following the rise of demonic qi from Purgatory Forest to the skies, which then spread to all corners of Firmament Star, the original spiritual qi of the realm was contaminated as well. Some of the cultivators had never experienced living within demonic qi. Hence, when demonic qi infiltrated their bodies and clashed with the spiritual energy inside them, their bodies self-destructed to a certain death!!

If cultivators were met with such fate, then let alone the normal humans. They had totally no means of withstanding the demonic qi from infiltrating their bodies.

Once in contact with demonic qi, the common folks descended into insanity and proceeded to wreak havoc everywhere like demonic beast-like beings.

Pandemonium broke loose within a hundred kilometers radius of Purgatory Forest, turning it into the so-called hell-on-earth!

Meanwhile, demonic qi from Purgatory Forest kept on spreading. If it was not stopped, it would soon envelop the entire Firmament Star. By then, the demonic onslaught of the past ancient times would occur again, and Firmament Star would be turned into a part of the Underworld Demonic Realm.

This was the most unwanted outcome that all cultivators on Firmament Star would like to see.

In a short time, the various great Forbidden Areas' Boundary Emperors all revealed themselves to the world, rushing toward the direction of Purgatory Forest.

Aside from the effects that the demonic qi had brought thus far, those demonic beings that were sealed off on Firmament Star had also sensed the incoming demonic qi. They were all broken free of their respective seals, wringing wanton destruction on various parts of the world.

The whole Firmament Star plunged into a state of chaos.

As every second or minute passed, thousands to millions of people would die.

This was a great catastrophe!

A catastrophe that could wipe out an entire realm!

Chapter 488: Exchange Between Emperors, Demonic Beings Breaking Seals In Succession, Chaos On Firmament Star

While a great catastrophe was brewing on Firmament Star.

Far away in the Nine Heavens.

At a certain corner in space, a middle-aged man abruptly opened his eyes and glanced in Firmament Star's direction. "This is the energy from the Demonic Realm! Has the Demonic Realm broken their seal?!"

At this moment, at the highest part of the Nine Heavens, streams of Empyrean Thoughts appeared.

"The Demonic Realm has broken the seal. Someone has to go down there to stop them."

"No, we can't. Firmament Star has not produced a new Emperor yet, and the Heavenly Dao hasn't fully recovered. It won't be able to bear the energy of an Emperor. If we force it and descend into the realm now, The Great Era that everyone has so painstakingly waited for will be ended prematurely. We won't know how long we'll need to wait for the next one to emerge again."

"But we can't just watch the Demonic Realm take over Firmament Star and do nothing, can we? If so, then what's the point of everything we've done so far?"

"The Heavenly Dao will not allow Emperors from the Demonic Realm to step onto Firmament Star so easily. Hence, those Demon Emperors will send one or two of their clones at most. No one on Firmament Star has yet become an Emperor over the years, but there are still quite a number of Boundary Emperors. I believe they will figure out a way to deal with it. Just trust in them."

"Even if the Heavenly Dao is stopping the Demon Emperors, how long can they be held off? Also, what about that Demonic Realm Portal? How can they close it up again?"

Streams of Empyrean Thoughts exchanged opinions high up in the space above.

Occasionally, when the topic concerned caused a great stir, a strong Emperor Aura would erupt in the void, and an incessant buzzing would echo throughout the whole atmosphere.

Several asteroids glided across the ice-cold space in the silent, dark universe. At the effect of this Emperor Aura, those asteroids all disintegrated into tiny pieces.

The Empyrean Thoughts were debating intensely.

“Contact the Divine Predictor. Check with him and see what he thinks.”

Just then, an ancient Empyrean Thought emerged in the void.

...

Far away at Firmament Star, on top of a mountain.

Divine Predictor was watching one of the forts engulfed by demonic qi, and inside that fort was a state of chaos. Cultivators were getting devoured by demonic qi, which conflicted with the spiritual power inside them and made their bodies implode. Some luckier ones were not infected by too much demonic qi, but it still did affect their minds and disrupted their normal flow of thoughts.

The common folks had it worse. After being infiltrated by demonic qi, many of them descended into madness. Some even transformed into weird menacing demonic beasts.

Flashes of bright light rays glided across the sky, darting towards the source of that demonic qi, which was in the direction of Purgatory Forest.

Those were all Boundary Emperors of various great Forbidden Areas.

“It’s been a long time since I last witnessed such a phenomenon. It seems that this demonic onslaught has forced all these old freaks out of their hiding. Still, what’s the use? This catastrophe is not an easy one to solve even for an Emperor. The Firmament Star... is doomed.” Divine Predictor stared at the gliding light rays across the sky and sighed.

At this moment, a bronze mirror in his embrace started to glow faintly.

He fetched the bronze mirror out, not at all surprised. “I knew it. These old chaps have contacted me.”

“My fellow friends, do you have any idea how long it has been since you last contacted me?” Divine Predictor took out the bronze mirror and said nonchalantly.

An image of the pitch-black universe appeared in the bronze mirror.

“Cut the cr*p, Divine Predictor. Have you calculated the occurrence of this catastrophe?”

An ancient voice came from within the bronze mirror.

“Yes, I guess you can say so.”

“Then why didn’t you stop it?!” That ancient voice sounded rather enraged.

“Due to the imperfection of Heavenly Dao, my deduction technique has been greatly restricted. I may have seen this catastrophe coming, but I do not know the exact details of how it’s going to be. Besides, even if I stretch my own abilities to the limit, I’m still just a Sage. How am I supposed to stop such a catastrophe by myself?”

Divine Predictor lamented helplessly.

“Fine, let’s not dwell on that. Is there any way of overcoming this catastrophe?”

“The effect that this catastrophe has brought is not something that the Firmament Star’s current capabilities can cope with. Unless an Emperor were to interfere...”

“If we could go down there now, why would we need to contact you? Right now, the Firmament Star cannot endure the energy of an Emperor. Besides, those guys outside the firmament have their eyes on us. Once we leave, they will surely not let this opportunity slide. I just wanted to ask if there’s any other way.”

“All we have to do is wait for one person.” Divine Predictor’s profound gaze pierced through the demonic qi, penetrated the layer of clouds and stared into the far side of the world.

“Who?”

“The best in Firmament Star.”

...

Demonic qi continued to spread.

Along with the invasion of demonic qi, some previously sealed Demonic Realm beings had also broken their seals one after another, wreaking havoc across Firmament Star.

These Demonic Realm beings were very powerful. Just the demonic qi that they emitted was enough to wring wanton destruction to a good whole half of a prefecture.

“Roar!!”

At Blackwind Prefecture, a furious growl reverberated throughout the entire land, and one of the mountain ranges erupted with an incredibly terrifying demonic qi.

Soon after that, a hundred-meter-tall demonic ape charged out of the mountains. Its roars were like thunder, shaking everything in a several kilometers radius.

“Demonic Realm... It’s the energy from the Demonic Realm. Haha, the Demonic Realm is finally here.”

“Haha, I’ve been sealed off for ages. It’s been a long time since I’ve tasted human flesh. I must have a good feast for myself this time around.”

The demonic ape looked toward a fort at the far said, where a crowd was gathering. It leaped several hundred meters into the air.

At another faraway corner, inside a volcano.

A humanoid being with billows of black smoke surrounding its body climbed out. Wherever that black smoke passed by, everything would be reduced to charred debris.

"It's been seventy thousand years!!"

"I'm finally seeing the light of day again after a whopping seventy thousand years. Haha, dear Firmament Star, I, the Black Flame Demon Sage, have returned!"

This humanoid being had two eyes that were scorching like fireballs. He looked toward the far side.

"There are quite a number of cultivators gathered in that direction. It should be an orthodoxy. Since the Demonic Realm has arrived in this world, I don't need to hold myself back any longer. I shall begin my rampage with you guys."

This humanoid being darted into the sky right away and turned into a cloud of black smoke that contained a majestic demonic qi, making his way towards the far side.

Inside the Black Heaven Sect, everybody was busy at this moment.

Many cultivators were traveling all over the world, providing aid and refuge to the common folk, fending off demonic beings that had broken their seals in many places.

Inside Longevity Hall, Elder Ruyan was communicating with all the disciples across the world, coordinating their forces.

"Let the people from Blackwind Prefecture settle down inside the Celestial chalcedony ore vein. That quarry has a mega formation that we have set up, so it can block off the invasion of demonic qi for the time being.

"People from Horizon Wing Sect are providing humanitarian aid everywhere as well. However, one of their teams has encountered a demonic beast while in Bramble City. Nangong Huang, your team is located closest to Bramble City right now. Bring your team there and help them fight off the demonic beast. Remember to stay in contact at all times."

"D*mn it. An oceanic demonic beast has suddenly emerged in Snowstorm Sect's coastal region. Murong Xuan, Qin Wushuang, both of you head there, fast."

"Everyone, please make good use of the time we have. Demonic qi has already spread to the borders of Blackwind Prefecture. For those of you who can't manage to get back here, please make the necessary preventive measures. Be careful. You must not let demonic qi get into your body. Disciples below the Paradise Realm, do not go near the areas that are surrounded with demonic qi."

Elder Ruyan passed on message after message to the disciples. Each Black Heaven Sect disciple was now making full use of every second and every minute, giving their all to help the common folk.

Just then, a powerful energy fluctuation came from a place less than ten kilometers southeast of the Black Heaven Sect.

An enormous demonic ape was heading towards the Black Heaven Sect. Everywhere it passed, mountains would crumble and lands shatter.

"A demonic being is close by. Turn on the Astonishing Sea of Clouds Formation!"

Elder Ruyan shouted.

As soon as the skyful of mist enveloped the Black Heaven Sect, that demonic ape stopped outside the formation, observing its targets rather intriguingly.

Meanwhile, in another direction, a similar billow of black smoke was also approaching the Black Heaven Sect.

There was also an enormous demonic qi, which covered several dozen kilometers, following behind that billow of black smoke. This demonic qi clashed violently onto the Astonishing Cloud of Seas Formation, and to everyone's shock, it interfered with the operation of the whole formation. As such, the entire Black Heaven Sect shook.

Chapter 489: Chu Kuangren Joins In, Ashura Tribe Fights Till Their Last Breath

Tremendous demonic qi swept across the land like a torrent, landing on the Astonishing Sea of Clouds Formation.

The operation of the whole mega formation was affected by the demonic qi. Quite a few parts of the formation had stopped functioning.

As the whole Black Heaven Sect trembled, a ray of golden light suddenly beamed up into the sky.

Following that, a boundless Buddhist Light illuminated the entire sky and manifested into a figure of a tall, golden ancient Buddha.

Buddhist Light shot across the horizon, spreading in all directions like an ocean tide. Wherever the light hit, demonic qi would be dispelled, and the sky that was initially shrouded by demonic qi returned to its normal state.

With the Black Heaven Sect as the center, demonic qi within several thousand kilometers radius was purged. Those cultivators and common folk who were infected by demonic qi slowly regained their sanity too. All of them looked toward the direction of the Black Heaven Sect. Those who worshipped the Buddha even knelt immediately, chanting and thanking the Buddha's divine intervention.

The cultivators, on the other hand, breathed a huge sigh of relief.

"He has finally intervened."

"With his intervention, the few prefectures around here should be guaranteed safety now."

Back inside the Black Heaven Sect, Chu Kuangren slowly walked out of the Towering Heavenly Palace.

He glanced at the sky on the far side, where it was enshrouded in demonic qi. His spiritual thought swiftly scanned through the entire Firmament Star and successfully pinpointed the source of this whole catastrophe.

"Hmm, the Demonic Realm is descending?"

"Over my dead body!"

With a sharp cry, the giant ancient Buddha's Buddhist Light expanded. Echoes of Brahmic Chimes began to reverberate on the horizon.

A huge golden palm lashed out abruptly, aiming directly at the giant demonic ape outside the Astonishing Sea of Clouds Formation. Terrifying domineering aura locked down onto him almost instantaneously.

"What!!"

The giant demonic ape was stunned. Terror was now written all over his face. He mustered every single ounce of demonic qi in his body and attempted to block the light off. However, his strength was just too frail as compared to the strength from the palm. In a split second, he was reduced to pieces.

Not far away, that aggressive billow of black smoke got so frightened that it began to retreat back towards the far side.

"D*mn it. I can't believe such a terrifying existence resides inside this orthodoxy!"

This Demon Sage had already scanned through this orthodoxy earlier and found that most of them were only ordinary Sages. To him, the Black Heaven Sect may be a top-notch orthodoxy, but he was confident of getting a clean sweep through them with his strength.

Yet, he did not expect there would be someone like Chu Kuangren in the orthodoxy.

That guy's strength was superior to his by countless folds.

"Oh, trying to flee? Where else can you go?"

Chu Kuangren let out a chuckle.

With a lift of his arm, the golden ancient Buddha once again stretched out a hand. As the gigantic palm covered the whole land, an incredibly majestic domineering aura locked down onto that Demon Sage.

All the Demon Sage within that black smoke could sense was the space around him suddenly freezing, rendering him no means of escape.

"What the hell! I've only just regained my freedom. I can't die here so soon!"

That Demon Sage yelled furiously and summoned all demonic qi inside him, forming an enormous lava giant. He was trying to take on this incoming palm attack head-on.

His strength was indeed more powerful than that demonic ape earlier, but in face of this huge palm, there was no difference at all.

As soon as the palm landed, demonic qi disintegrated and dissipated. The lava giant, along with that Demon Sage, was reduced to charred debris as well.

"To the disciples inside Black Heaven Sect, obey Elder Ruyan's further instructions."

Chu Kuangren said indifferently, his voice resonating throughout the whole sect.

After that, he leaped forward and vanished into thin air.

...

Back in Purgatory Forest. This place was the location of the Demonic Realm Portal, hence the demonic qi here was the densest. The area within several dozen kilometers' radius from here had almost transformed into a Demonic Realm beings' playground.

Meanwhile, inside the Ashura Tribe's territory, surges of demonic qi rose into the sky, where a colossal demonic qi whirlpool appeared. That whirlpool not only had demonic qi but there was also an incredibly scary spatial fluctuation energy emanating within it. This was what the Ashura Tribe had been keeping sealed for so many years, the Demonic Realm Portal!

Now that the Demonic Realm Portal's seal had been broken, the whole Ashura Tribe was plunged into a perilous danger that they had never experienced before.

Boom!!

A bolt of black lightning beamed out from the demonic qi whirlpool, smashing hard onto the ground.

A figure was seen emerging from the black lightning.

It was a demon in black armor and a lightning pike in hand. Demonic qi coursed around his body, and he looked extremely intimidating.

"This energy... It's a Boundary Emperor!"

The Ashura Tribe Leader's expression changed abruptly.

A Boundary Emperor. The Ashura Tribe had their own Boundary Emperor too, but because the Great Acheron Formation was destroyed, their Boundary Emperors had suffered the repercussions. As such, they could only muster very little combat strength, and this Demon Boundary Emperor before him could very well be just the first of many.

Indeed, just when this thought crossed Ashura Tribe Leader's mind, more figures came out from the Demonic Realm Portal.

The range of their cultivation levels spanned the entire spectrum, from weak to strong. There were a good hundred thousand of them. All kinds of demonic beings began to crowd the Purgatory Forest. Each one of the Ashura Tribe looked extremely solemn right now.

"Haha, human world, we've returned!!" That Demon Boundary Emperor who stepped out first let out an evil peel of laughter. His electrifying gaze scanned through everyone at the scene. When he saw the Ashura Tribe members, a look of hatred appeared in his eyes.

"As I conquer the human world, I shall start off with demolishing you Ashura Tribe people," he said coldly.

"We Ashura Tribe will fight till our last breath!"

The Ashura Tribe Leader replied to him with a resolute tone and determination in his eyes. For several hundred thousand years, they had garrisoned the Demonic Realm Portal, which was a mission that had

been passed down from generation to generation. Even in face of such a perilous situation, they would never give in.

There could only be Ashuras who would fight till their deaths, not Ashurans who flee.

Each Ashura Tribe member had an appalling battle intent in their eyes, showing that they were not fearful of death.

“Haha, very good. You Ashura Tribe people are still your same old selves. Several hundred thousand years of guarding here did not wear down your spirit at all.” That Demon Boundary Emperor may despise the Ashura Tribe, but after witnessing their perseverance, he could not help but feel a sense of respect for them.

“We Ashura Tribe live in battles and die in battles! We’ll fight till our last breath!” The Ashura Tribe Leader let out a fierce battle cry, his battle intent towering into the sky.

“Fight till our deaths! Fight till our deaths! Fight till our deaths!”

The Ashura Tribe people roared out loud. Their overwhelming battle intent struck the hearts of every demon on the scene.

“Then, bring it on!”

The Demon Boundary Emperor took the first strike and thrust out his pike. Immense Lightning-based Daoist Rhymes erupted like a violent torrent.

A few of Ashura Tribe’s Boundary Emperors struck out simultaneously too, deflecting his energy.

As such, the rest of the Ashura Tribe began to engage in a fierce battle with this great demonic army.

At this moment, demonic qi pierced through the clouds, and battle intent reigned order. The whole area within a hundred kilometers radius was sent into a shockwave.

The Ashura Tribe was valiant and masterful in battle. In the same realm, none could match their combat prowess. However, the Demonic Realm Portal had opened this time, so they were battling within demonic qi. On top of that, the Demonic Realm beings kept entering the Firmament Star, making their numbers so great that it was impossible to wipe them all out. The Ashurans were unimaginably outnumbered.

As time went by, the Ashura Tribe slowly descended into the lower hand.

Bam!

Touba lashed out a fist, which collided with Zhan Hongying’s fist. Her astounding punch strength threatened to tear apart Touba’s arm, forcing him back by several hundred meters.

Despite that, Touba did not appear nervous at all. “No wonder you’re ranked second on the Soaring Dragon Leaderboard. Your strength is truly one to be reckoned with. But what a shame, the Demonic Realm’s invasion is unstoppable. It’s only a matter of time before you Ashura Tribe people get wiped into extinction.”

“Even if we die, I’ll drag your sorry *ss up with us,” Zhan Hongying said coldly.

“I’m afraid that you won’t get to.”

Touba stared at the Demonic Realm Portal that was looming in the sky above them, only to see another few figures come out.

Those were four demons — an underworld three-headed hound, a sturdy brawny brute holding a long saber, an alluring female demon with a human head and a serpent body, and lastly a skeleton whose body was full of black hellish flames.

These four demons each had a Boundary Emperor level cultivation, and they all looked extremely petrifying.

Chapter 490: Battle Of The Boundary Emperors, The Demon Emperor Himself Arrives, Nonsense!

Another four Demon Boundary Emperors had arrived. The four of them came to the side of Touba. That skeleton with a body full of Hellfire began speaking, “It’s an honor to meet you, Young Master. As the one who has successfully broken the Great Acheron Formation seal and enabled the Demonic Realm’s invasion, the Demonic Realm is greatly indebted to you.”

A delighted smile etched on Touba’s face as he asked, “My father, is he here as well?”

“The Firmament Star still currently has the Heavenly Dao restriction, so Lord Demon Emperor’s vessel still can’t enter this place so easily. However, he has already sent one of his clones here. By my estimation, he’ll be here real soon. Let us all help Lord Demon Emperor clear up these minor obstacles before he arrives,” Skeleton Boundary Emperor said bluntly.

He looked toward the Ashura Tribe people, his dark, hollow eyes ignited by a spark of cold Hellfire.

Every single person that he stared at could feel the chills creeping into their very core.

“Four Boundary Emperors, and not just that. Four of whom look like elites amongst Boundary Emperors. We’re doomed.”

“D*mn. Is there really no chance for us to pull through this catastrophe now?”

“Hang in there.”

Just then, rays of light glided past the sky.

Intimidating Boundary Emperor energies filled the entire region above Purgatory Forest. Boundary Emperors from the various great Forbidden Areas of Firmament Star had all arrived!

“Hmph. Demonic Realm invasion? They have to get through us first.”

One of the Boundary Emperors scoffed. With the lift of an arm, incredibly majestic spiritual power poured out like a torrent. Almost instantaneously, that magnitude of energy pulverized a big group of Demonic Realm beings into speckles.

“They’re here!”

“These guys really took their own sweet time to get here, huh?”

The nerves of the Ashura Tribe members calmed when they saw the arrival of the few Boundary Emperors.

This Demonic Realm invasion concerned not only the Ashura Tribe but the entire Firmament Star. Hence, they were not alone in this battle.

“Oh, a number of Boundary Emperors have arrived?” Skeleton Boundary Emperor chuckled, seemingly not bothered at all. Once the Demonic Realm Portal was opened, it would take at least an Emperor’s involvement to stop them. No matter how many Boundary Emperors joined in, it would still be of no avail.

This was precisely the reason why Skeleton Boundary Emperor and his group were not concerned at all.

“Demon spawn, die!”

In one part of Firmament Star, a brawny guy lashed out the first strike, and a fist landed from the sky in the blink of an eye. Majestic Daoist Rhyme interweaved and formed a gigantic fist, coming in full speed at Skeleton Boundary Emperor.

Yet, Skeleton Boundary Emperor merely scoffed as massive amounts of Hellfire surged from his body.

That gigantic fist sign instantly disintegrated the moment it came into contact with the Hellfire. It was not able to deal any single damage to Skeleton Boundary Emperor at all.

This shocked every Boundary Emperor who had just arrived.

“Boundary Emperor Lingyi is already one of the strongest amongst all Boundary Emperors. How did his attack get canceled out so easily?!”

“It seems that these few Demonic Realm Boundary Emperors’ combat strengths should not be underestimated.”

“This is an impending catastrophe. Folks, let’s bring out our best and fight them with full force. Firmament Star’s survival depends on us now.”

“Let’s do this.”

The longer this ensued, the vaster the demonic qi’s coverage of the area. The Boundary Emperors ceased the talk and immediately began their demon-slaying operation.

With the reinforcements of the Boundary Emperors, the Ashura Tribe felt as if a huge rock had been lifted off their shoulders.

A battle between Boundary Emperors was not an event where anyone could simply budge in as horrifying Daoist Rhyme fluctuations crisscrossed and clashed at the sky. The energy waves that were emitted were enough to kill off a Sage effortlessly. Nobody dared to get too close to them, and they had no choice but to stay far away from the place.

Right now, the whole Purgatory Forest was split into two separate battlefields. The infinite amount of Demonic Realm beings were being dealt with by cultivators below the Boundary Emperor level, while

the Boundary Emperors fought against each other high up in the sky. The dazzling energy fluctuations almost dyed the whole sky into a multitude of colors.

It was five Boundary Emperors on the Demonic Realm's camp against a combined troop of a dozen or more Boundary Emperors. No matter how strong the Demon Boundary Emperors were, their powers were still largely contained.

Despite that, these few Boundary Emperors were not a tad bit worried.

Their tactics were mainly defensive, clearly trying to buy time, as though they were waiting for something.

"The Demonic Realm Portal is not yet closed. Elites from the Demonic Realm will keep on coming to Firmament Star. The longer we linger here, the worse this situation will become."

Nether Abyss Valley's Boundary Emperor Tian Xue remarked.

Everybody knew of the truth in her words, but none of them could do much about it.

"Stop this pointless struggle of yours. No matter what you do, it will all be futile."

Skeleton Boundary Emperor laughed out loud. Appalling Hellfire burst out from his skeletal body, forcing the group of Boundary Emperors to back away.

Meanwhile, on the other side, that Boundary Emperor with a human head and serpent body spat out huge amounts of black venom.

The venom was extremely toxic. Just the odor that it emitted alone was enough to wilt all flora within several kilometers radius. Even Boundary Emperors would feel paralyzed upon close distance with this venom, so none of them dared to get close.

"It's not going to work out if things keep on this way."

"Let's encircle and trap them first. Then, we figure out a way to block off the Demonic Realm Portal."

One of the Boundary Emperors suggested. Immediately after that, he took out a gold compass. That compass released symbols after symbols of mysterious runes, which transformed into an enormous sphere that trapped the five Demonic Realm Boundary Emperors to their spot, rendering them no means of escape.

After doing all that, the Boundary Emperor's face turned extremely pale. "This compass can only hold them there for about half an hour. Hurry and make good use of this time."

"Alright."

Several Boundary Emperors came to the underside of the demonic qi whirlpool. They summoned their spiritual power, which turned into beams of light that hit the portal in the sky, attempting to close it up.

Nonetheless, the scale of this Demonic Realm Portal was too big. The spatial fluctuations that it emitted were far too immense. Not even Boundary Emperors' powers were able to hinder it a single bit.

"Let us help out too."

“We can do this together.”

As such, all the Boundary Emperors combined their powers and unleashed a terrifying amount of spiritual power toward the Demonic Realm Portal. With the Boundary Emperors’ sheer determination, that colossal demonic qi whirlpool finally began to shrink. Joy appeared on their faces when they saw that.

“There’s hope!”

“Keep it up. I think we can do it.”

Nevertheless, when the demonic qi whirlpool shrunk to a certain size, it just stopped shrinking. No matter how much energy the Boundary Emperors forced in, it was all in vain.

“There’s no use.”

Skeleton Boundary Emperor, who was trapped inside the compass, sneered at them.

At this moment, an incredibly powerful fluctuation came from inside the Demonic Realm Portal. A black ray of light was seen beaming out, and the energy fluctuations that all the Boundary Emperors released earlier were shattered in a matter of seconds. The dozen or more Boundary Emperors could feel the rebound of that power before they were sent flying backward.

Skeleton Boundary Emperor and the others looked overjoyed as they glanced at the Demonic Realm Portal.

A black-haired middle-aged man, dressed in black and with a gaze as profound as the galaxy, slowly walked out from it. He emanated a surge of cosmic Emperor Aura that seemed as if it was about to shatter the void. The entire Purgatory Forest shuddered violently. Even a good half of Firmament Star quivered.

“Such energy... Is it an Emperor?!”

“D*mn. There’s no way we can fend off such a magnitude of power.”

The group of Boundary Emperors was so petrified by this gargantuan Emperor Aura that they could not help but shiver in fear.

“Your Highness, Lord Demon Emperor!”

Skeleton Boundary Emperor and the others knelt down ecstatically, showing respect to that middle-aged man.

The sight of this plunged everyone into despair.

The Demon Emperor himself was here!!

“Puny humans, I’m back!”

The middle-aged man scanned past everyone at the scene. “Those who obey shall prosper, and those who rebel shall die!! From today on, I shall rule over the Firmament Star!” he announced coldly.

His pride-filled voice echoed in the sky like thunder. Almost the entire Firmament Star could hear his bone-curdling declaration.

“Nonsense!!”