

Unparalleled 491

Chapter 491: Chu Kuangren's Arrival, Still The Greatest Obstacle

"Those who bow before me shall prosper, while those that resist shall perish!"

"From this day onward, I shall be the master of the Firmament Star!"

The Demon Emperor's proud voice echoed throughout the entire Firmament Star and plunged countless cultivators who heard it into despair.

At that moment, a cold thunder-like yell suddenly resounded through the whole area!

"Bullsh*t!"

That was when everyone saw a ten-kilometer-tall ancient Buddha statue suddenly appear above the Purgatory Forest.

Its vast and majestic Buddha Light radiated and shook the realm, cleansing the demonic qi which filled the air.

Within the radiating Buddhist Light, a golden Buddhist palm that contained incomparably terrifying energy slammed through the air and towards the Demon Emperor!

"Eh?"

The Demon Emperor's expression slightly changed as he lifted his arm to channel his demonic qi to launch a palm attack in return. With that, his demonic qi formed a gigantic palm in the void before it struck out.

The moment the two incredible forces collided, great streaks of white lines appeared in the void. As if destruction was its sole purpose, the strength qi from the impact swept out and destroyed Purgatory Forest like never before. With smoke and dust filling more than half of the land, the scene looked like it was the end of the world.

The Boundary Emperors at that time were forced back hundreds of kilometers away. Even the Demon Emperor was pushed back several steps too.

The crowd of demonic cultivators' pupils shrunk in horror.

'The Demon Emperor was pushed back by a palm attack!!'

'Who the h*ll is that?!'

"Invasion from the Demonic Realm? Ruling over the Firmament Star? You'll have to get my permission first!"

The cold voice was accompanied by an incomparably domineering aura that spread everywhere.

A young man in white robes and black hair then slowly walked out from the void. Donned in a wide-sleeved robe, he had a gorgeous ancient sword strapped to his waist. His handsome appearance, otherworldly demeanor, and arrogant poise was the most unforgettable image the crowd had ever seen.

It was no other than Chu Kuangren, the best cultivator in the world!

“Chu Kuangren is here!”

“So he’s the Supreme Sage? He has such a powerful aura.”

A glimmer of hope lit up in the crowd of Boundary Emperor’s solemn eyes.

Upon seeing Chu Kuangren, the Demon Emperor’s expression instantly turned grim. “It’s you again!”

Everyone was surprised by those words.

It was as if the Demon Emperor knew Chu Kuangren.

Chu Kuangren was also slightly surprised. Hence, he activated his Eye of Revelation to find out the Demon Emperor’s information.

“Demon Emperor Pride, one of the seven Emperors of the Demonic Realm...”

“Current status – a clone of himself...”

Once Chu Kuangren read the information, he could not help but exclaim, “Oh, it’s you again.”

Long ago, Chu Kuangren had fought this Demon Emperor at the Winged Human Tribe. Back then, his opponent was also a clone, but the clone that Chu Kuangren faced now was much more powerful than the one he last fought with. Its power level was incredibly close to an Emperor Realm cultivator.

“I didn’t think you’d still be my greatest obstacle when I descend upon this realm again. You’ve really progressed a lot in the past few years.”

Deep down, Demon Emperor Pride was incredibly shocked.

His talents were already among the best in the history of the whole Demonic Realm. Yet, even he could not dare imagine how someone, who was not even an Honorable, could become stronger than most Boundary Emperors within a short few years. This was just unbelievable.

“There are much more you can’t think of. For instance, I will kill your clone today!”

As soon as Chu Kuangren uttered, a massive surge of Daoist Rhyme erupted from his body and spread everywhere, clashing head-on with the Demon Emperor’s aura.

“Although you are formidable, you will still fall before an Emperor’s might!”

The Demon Emperor said coldly as his Emperor’s Aura spread outward.

The Boundary Emperors, who sensed that surge of Emperor’s Aura, could immediately feel their Daoist Rhymes suppressed. They could not even exert their power at all.

The Emperor Suppressing All Ability!

The Emperor’s Dao possessed absolute suppression towards any Dao that was below its level!

In other words, cultivators below an Emperor’s level have absolutely no way to fight or resist against one.

The Demon Emperor Pride before them may only be a clone, but it could still channel the power of the Emperor's Dao. This was something the Boundary Emperors at the scene could never contend with.

"Emperor's Dao? I wonder if you can deal with the Heavenly Dao instead?"

Chu Kuangren let out a low cry, and the Daoist Rhyme on him suddenly changed into a vast surge of Heavenly Might.

Dark clouds started to gather in the sky as thunder rumbled.

It was as if the Heavens were enraged!

At that moment, Chu Kuangren had seemingly become the manifestation of the Heavens itself, and his majestic Heavenly Might stunned everyone at the scene.

The Heavenly Punishment Daoist Rhyme was not affected by the Emperor's Aura at all. Even in the face of an Emperor's Dao, Chu Kuangren could still unleash his full strength!

"How can someone use the power of Heavenly Dao in this world?"

Demon Emperor Pride was stunned by Chu Kuangren once again.

Following that, a chilling killing intent shot out from his gaze. "Since there are currently no Emperors in the Firmament Star, this will be the best opportunity for my Demonic Realm to conquer this realm. Even an outlier like you will never be able to stop the Demonic Realm's invasion no matter how hard you try! You shall perish once and for all today!"

"Come and bring it on then!"

Chu Kuangren sneered as his Descendant Self Sword instantly unsheathed itself.

Without another word, the sword struck out and unleashed a brilliant purple sword ray that was accompanied by a strong wind.

"Show me how much you've improved over these years!"

Demon Emperor Pride snorted while unleashing a fist technique.

When the sword and fist attack collided, both Chu Kuangren and Demon Emperor Pride were forced back.

However, with his Supreme Sage's physique, Chu Kuangren was not afraid of the impact produced by collision at all. Instead, he immediately lifted his sword and struck out another sword attack.

After that, Emperor Techniques like the Tathagata Rebirth Mantra, Raging Gods Fist, and Heart Piercing Finger were unleashed successively. Demon Emperor Pride could not help but feel terrified upon seeing that.

"How does he know so many Emperor Techniques?!"

Zhan Hongying and Toubu, who were nearby, were shocked to see Chu Kuangren's heated battle with the Demon Emperor as well.

Chu Kuangren, a Soaring Dragon Leaderboard sky-pride like them, could already go head to head with a Demon Emperor.

Meanwhile, they were still battling ordinary Sages.

The gap in strength was just tremendous.

“D*mn. I’m not sure whether my senses are right, but why does it seem like that guy has gotten stronger?”

Zhan Hongying remarked with an unsettling gaze.

Even her underworld demonic wolf, Lil Pip, whimpered as if it was agreeing with her.

“He has definitely gotten stronger!”

The crowd of Boundary Emperors had noticed Chu Kuangren’s difference as well.

This made all of them extremely terrified.

Chu Kuangren had only unlocked his Heavenly Punishment Seal not long ago, yet he had already made such rapid improvements.

For cultivators like them who had reached their current state, every step of progress they made was incredibly difficult. Sometimes, they might even get stuck along the way, and stagnation for thousands of years was possible as well. That was why Chu Kuangren’s rapid progress within such a short time was demoralizing.

It seemed only the Boundary Emperors from the Nether Abyss Valley had figured it out.

“Brother Chu must have found his own way of Dao. That’s why he has improved so much.”

“That’s right. He’s affirming his own Dao right now.”

Finding their own Dao was the most crucial step in a cultivator’s journey.

Once they succeed, they would experience rapid progress in their path of cultivation.

“Pride Demonic Scripture, Strike of Pride!”

Demon Emperor Pride raised his arm to gather demonic qi, which eventually formed a black demonic saber that struck out. Then, an overwhelming aura that undermined every being in the world emanated and shocked the whole world.

Having enveloped the whole sky, the black saber ray then shot towards Chu Kuangren.

Chapter 492: Three Emperor Weapons, Suppressing Demon Emperor Pride

“Pride Demonic Scripture, Strike of Pride!”

As the saber struck out, boundless surges of demonic qi gathered to form an extremely frightening saber ray, which lit up the whole sky as it shot towards Chu Kuangren.

In the face of that saber ray, a rare stern look appeared in Chu Kuangren’s eyes.

“Oh, is this the power closest to an Emperor’s?”

He tightened the grip on the Descendant Self Sword and channeled the Heavenly Punishment Daoist Rhyme to its limit. The Heavenly Might that surged around him made everyone tremble.

All of a sudden, a blood-red flame started to burn on his body.

Nine Deaths Blazing Blood Art!

The Nine Deaths Blazing Blood Art may not provide as much increase in power to him now, but he still had to put up a hundred and twenty percent effort against the Demon Emperor Pride’s current attack.

Then, a set of black armor covered his body. It was the Emperor Weapon, Innate Ferocious Armor!

At the same time, countless surges of Daoist Rhyme were swirling around him to form a powerful Transcendental Might, which unleashed bursts of ferocious qi and battle intent.

His Three Great Daoist Physiques were activated at once.

With that, he struck out his sword, unleashing sword qi that was imbued with ferocious qi, Transcendental Might, and the Heavenly Punishment Daoist Rhyme. This attack was so powerful that the void rumbled, and multiple white lines started to spread. Eventually, the void gave way, and the fabric of space was torn open.

The sword qi and saber ray clashed before everyone’s eyes. The instant explosion of energy and powerful strength qi swept out in all directions, causing the already damaged Purgatory Forest to suffer more destruction.

Two different surges of Daoist Rhyme continued intertwining and colliding, filling half the sky with its energies.

Both Chu Kuangren and Demon Emperor Pride were forced back again by each other’s power.

This time, Chu Kuangren was affected despite possessing the Supreme Sage’s body and Innate Ferocious Armor. He could feel pressure in his chest and a choking feeling at his throat as if he was going to cough up a mouthful of blood. However, those feelings soon disappeared.

His Immortal Body had activated!

His Immortal Body was now at its fourth state, the blood drop revival.

In other words, as long as a single drop of his blood remained, he could revive and regenerate from that. Hence, it was no surprise that the healing power would be far stronger and faster than the third state.

“I didn’t think you’d have an Emperor Weapon that could withstand my saber attack.”

Even Demon Emperor Pride almost coughed out blood from the impact of their attacks, but he forced that feeling back to maintain his dignity as a Demon Emperor.

He glanced at Chu Kuangren with surprise, especially at that Emperor Weapon.

As a Demon Emperor, he also had an Emperor Weapon. However, it was impossible for a clone to carry an Emperor Weapon.

“An Emperor Weapon, huh? Hmph, I wonder how long you’ll be able to last this time.”

Chu Kuangren raised his hand, and a golden trident instantly appeared in his grasp.

It was the Emperor Weapon, Emphyrean Neptune’s Trident Halberd!

“Two Emperor Weapons! You have two Emperor Weapons on you!” Demon Emperor Pride’s expression shifted.

Of the two Emperor Weapons Chu Kuangren was armed with, one was made for offense while the other was for defense, which would undoubtedly make his combat strength even more terrifying.

“Do you think that’s all I have?”

Chu Kuangren chuckled as he took out the Sacred Emerald Sword Case.

At that moment, all the Boundary Emperors at the scene were stunned.

They could clearly see with their impeccable eyesight that the sword case was an Emperor Weapon as well.

‘Three Emperor Weapons!!’

‘Chu Kuangren has three f*cking Emperor Weapons on him!’

One Emperor Weapon was enough to make a top-notch orthodox drool. Even the previous Heavenly Golden Palace and Great Bottomless Chasm did not have one.

Such a valuable treasure could only be found in the past ancient orthodoxies and archaic orthodoxies that existed in the Nine Heavens and beyond, as they possessed the complete inheritance from the previous Emperors.

As of now, not even a handful of these Emperor Weapons could be found in Firmament Star.

Yet, Chu Kuangren alone possessed three Emperor Weapons!

‘What kind of luck and fortune does he have?!’

Although the Emperor’s Aura emanating from the Sacred Emerald Sword Case was not as powerful as the other two Emperor Weapons, it was still an Emperor Weapon.

In fact, the real power of the Sacred Emerald Sword Case did not lie in its offensive or defensive capabilities.

Chu Kuangren lightly tapped the sword case. In an instant, an incredibly mysterious Daoist Rhyme emanated from the sword case.

The sword case opened, and out flew countless longswords as streaks of powerful sword qi went rampant in the air.

Three hundred and sixty-five swords appeared, and all of them were Sage Weapons!

Quite some swords had even reached the level of a Great Sage Weapon or Sage Ruler Weapon!

Under Chu Kuangren's control, the three hundred and sixty-five Sacred Swords formed into an incredibly terrifying sword formation, trapping Demon Emperor Pride within. Sword qi flew about while an ever-changing surge of natural force brewed within. This was a sword formation that Chu Kuangren had not used for a long time — the Four Seasons Sword Formation!

The appearance of the Four Seasons Sword Formation filled the skies with its countless sword qi, shocking everyone in the vicinity.

Among the Demonic Realm forces, the famed elder, known for breaking through any formation technique, could not help but marvel at the sword formation's splendor. "This sword formation is too magnificent and mysterious. It might be even better than the Purgatory Forest's eighteen layered sealing restrictions. How can he deploy a sword formation of this level?!"

With the sword formation and Emperor Weapons at hand, Chu Kuangren multitasked as he battled Demon Emperor Pride again!

He rushed into the sword formation and utilized a sky full of sword qi with his mental power, mobilizing all of them to attack Demon Emperor Pride.

At the same time, he channeled the Trident Halberd to summon the might of a crashing tsunami towards Demon Emperor Pride.

His opponent lifted his hand to block that attack with his saber.

Even so, he was still forced back several meters by the might of Emperor Weapon, and what followed after was the sword formation's sword qi.

Starting to feel afraid, Demon Emperor Pride channeled his demonic qi to form a defensive layer over his body to block the sword qi. Alas, he could not block them all, and the sword qi tore open his robes.

"This is how far the guy can go?!"

He realized that Chu Kuangren had overpowered his clone!

If this battle continued, his defeat would be inevitable.

That thought made him so enraged that his expression turned grim.

Once again, Chu Kuangren would defeat his clone and stop his plans to conquer the world.

Suffering two consecutive defeats at the hands of the same person, who was his junior, made him feel extremely humiliated.

Nevertheless, Chu Kuangren did not care what Demon Emperor Pride was thinking at all. Since he had the upper hand, he went all out and fully utilized his combat strength, steadily pushing back Demon Emperor Pride.

In a short while, Demon Emperor Pride's body was riddled with injuries and cuts. He looked like a mess.

It would not take a genius to guess Demon Emperor Pride's character by his name.

Having been beaten to such a state before countless Demonic Realm people, he was so enraged that his lungs could explode.

Even Toubu, the Skeleton Boundary Emperor, and others were in disbelief.

“Although it’s just a clone, this is my first time seeing my father in such a mess. That Chu Kuangren is too terrifying of a monster.”

Toubu looked at Chu Kuangren in horror.

Compared to the forces of the Demonic Realm, the Boundary Emperors of the Firmament Star felt very relieved.

They may not be satisfied with Chu Kuangren’s previous actions and behavior, but there was nothing more reassuring than having him as their ally at that moment.

“Let’s leave Demon Emperor Pride to Chu Kuangren for now. We need to reseal that portal first.”

One of the Boundary Emperors said. However, resealing the Demonic Realm Portal with their current power was incredibly difficult. Even going all out made no progress at all.

Just as they were attempting to close the portal, several powerful surges of aura came from the Demonic Realm Portal.

Chapter 493: Clones Of The Seven Great Demonic Emperors, Chu Kuangren Has Fallen?

“Haha, this is the first time I’ve seen you in such a mess, Pride.”

A burst of creepy laughter came from the Demonic Realm Portal.

The head of an extremely huge black snake then protruded out of the Demonic Realm Portal. There was a playful look in its yellow eyes.

An overpowering energy wave erupted from that giant black snake’s body and hit the surrounding Boundary Emperors. Once again, they were all sent flying.

After coming through the Demonic Realm Portal, that gigantic black snake transformed into a short and frail man. His body radiated with a grim presence that evoked an immense fear in people.

Other than the black snake that turned into a skinny man, several figures also emerged from the Demonic Realm Portal.

Those figures had different appearances. Among them were a charming and seductive woman, a fierce three-meter-tall giant, and even a three-headed hound...

Yet, the difference in appearances aside, they all possessed a common characteristic.

All of them emanated a surge of incredibly domineering Emperor’s Aura!!

None of them were any weaker compared to Demon Emperor Pride as well.

Gulp...

The Boundary Emperors could not help but gulp with shock in their eyes.

‘What the hell is going on here?!’

Just Demon Emperor Pride alone was enough to keep their hands full.

However, several more beings on the same level as him had shown up!

‘How can we possibly hope to win in this battle!!’

“Oh, they have brought quite the company.”

Chu Kuangren swept his gaze across the figures that were emanating with dense Emperor’s Aura. One by one, each of their information appeared before him.

“Demon Emperor Sloth, true form – Underworld three-headed hound, current status – clone...”

“Demon Emperor Lust, true form – Demonic Realm succubus, current status – clone...”

“Demon Emperor Greed, true form – Underworld demonic snake, current status – clone...”

“Demon Emperor Wrath...”

“Demon Emperor Envy...”

“Demon Emperor Gluttony...”

The information on the six figures before him appeared, showing that they were all clones.

It was clear that even with the Demonic Realm Portal, descending upon the Firmament Star in their true form was a challenge for these Demon Emperors. Hence, they could only send their clones.

“It seems all the Seven Demon Emperors of the Underworld are here.”

Chu Kuangren chuckled. Despite the current circumstances, he still remained calm.

“You look very calm, boy.” The Demon Emperor Wrath, who possessed a sturdy physique like a small giant, grinned.

He then raised his hand and unleashed a punch towards the sword formation.

As the entire sword formation exploded with a bang, Demon Emperor Pride took the opportunity to launch an attack towards the location targeted by Demon Emperor Wrath. His black saber ray brutally tore an opening in the Four Seasons Sword Formation, enabling him to escape.

“What took you guys so long?” Demon Emperor Pride looked at the other Demon Emperors and questioned unhappily.

“Hehe, if we came too early, how would we have caught the chance to see the high and mighty Demon Emperor Pride beaten and suppressed by a mere human?” Demon Emperor Greed replied with a grin.

“Hmph. The same thing would have happened to all of you if you didn’t have help. This person is no joke!”

Demon Emperor Pride uttered coldly.

Everyone was shocked to hear him say that. They had never thought they would hear such words from the arrogant Demon Emperor Pride's mouth.

The Demon Emperors looked at Chu Kuangren with added caution in their eyes.

"But it doesn't matter now. Now that all seven of our clones are here and there's no Emperor in Firmament Star, the result is already set in stone."

Demon Emperor Envy uttered.

"That's right. No matter how strong this boy is, he won't be able to do anything before our line-up."

"He will definitely lose this battle."

The remaining Firmament Star Boundary Emperors and Ashura Tribe members felt hopeless.

Even an Emperor would not be able to stop all Seven Great Demon Emperors at once. As the Demon Emperor Envy said, the final result had been determined!

"Oh, the results have been set in stone? I won't be able to do anything? I'm truly curious as to where you guys got the confidence to say such a thing before my face."

Chu Kuangren remarked.

"Little boy, why don't you open your eyes and take a look around. All Seven Great Demon Emperors are here. No matter how strong you are, you're only but one person. How can you possibly stop us?!"

"There's no point in talking to him. This little kid is nothing but a nuisance in our plans if kept alive. Let us deal with him first."

Demon Emperor Greed took the lead and let out a palm attack. His overbearing demonic qi gathered and formed a gigantic snake head that attacked Chu Kuangren. With its mouth opened, a surge of incredible absorption energy erupted and dragged Chu Kuangren's body towards it.

Demon Emperor Wrath, Demon Emperor Gluttony, and Demon Emperor Envy attacked at that exact moment too.

With the Emyrean Neptune's Trident Halberd in his hand, Chu Kuangren dispelled the several horrifying surges that swept out at him. As a consequence, he was sent flying several meters away before he eventually smashed into a rock wall. He may have been able to gain the upper hand when battling Demon Emperor Pride alone, but now that he was facing a few of them at once, it was difficult for him to hold his own.

Upon the horrifying impact, the rock wall instantly shattered into specks of dust and gravel.

"Even he is no match for them?"

"It seems that the Firmament Star cannot escape from this catastrophe this time."

The group of Boundary Emperors felt even more hopeless.

On the other hand, Toubu and the forces of the Demonic Realm breathed a sigh of relief. The scene of Chu Kuangren suppressing Demon Emperor Pride earlier was truly traumatizing to them.

It even made them doubt whether the invasion of the Demonic Realm would succeed.

However, everyone soon regained their confidence with the arrival of the other Demon Emperors.

“It looks like this person is not invincible after all.”

Touba thought to himself before he smiled and shook his head. How could anyone be invincible in this world?!

It seemed he had heard too many stories about Chu Kuangren while he was on Firmament Star. Like others, he almost believed that his opponent was truly invincible.

“Hmph. I expected him to be more powerful than that, but it turns out he’s just bragging weakling.”

Demon Emperor Greed could not help but snort at the sight of Chu Kuangren smashing into that rock wall.

After that, he looked at the Boundary Emperors and said, “Alright. Let’s deal with this bunch of people next.”

“Don’t be so hasty. Our fight has just begun.”

At this moment, an indifferent voice came from the rubble.

All they saw was Chu Kuangren walking out from the clouds of dust. As the jade crown that held his hair up had fallen off, his black hair fluttered with the wind and made him look more like a lunatic.

Not only was he not injured from the several Demon Emperors’ attacks, but his aura before them now was much stronger than it was before.

“How is this possible? Even if he has an Emperor Weapon as protection, how can he be unharmed after receiving an attack of that magnitude?”

“Good lord. I’m starting to understand why Demon Emperor Pride fell before that guy. This person is truly extraordinary. I can’t believe the Firmament Star has produced a Sage like him.”

The Demon Emperors’ expression turned grim.

Just when they had decided to continue attacking Chu Kuangren, the latter raised his hand and carved out multiple silver-white lines in the void. An incredibly large Spatial Cessation Rune then formed before it suddenly descended from the skies.

The Spatial Cessation Rune’s presence slowed down the few Demon Emperors’ movements for a split second.

Following that, a red light appeared on Chu Kuangren’s hand.

It was the Nine Profound Heavens Fire Forcefield, an item that was meant for trapping people.

Chu Kuangren tossed that item over to the Demon Emperors.

“What a joke. Do you think a mere Boundary Emperor Weapon can trap us?”

“Oh, trapping you guys for a few moments is enough for me.”

Chapter 494: Borrowing All The World's Swords To Fight The Demon Emperors, Suppressing The Demonic Realm With The Sealing Sword Formation

The Demon Emperors were enveloped by the Nine Profound Heavens Fire Forcefield. Although the power and strength of the Demon Emperors were absolute, it was only their clones that had arrived. Owing to that, Chu Kuangren was able to trap them for a few moments by summoning the full might of the Spatial Cessation Rune and the Nine Profound Heavens Fire Forcefield.

Everyone became extremely confused upon hearing what Chu Kuangren had said. Even if he could trap the Demon Emperors for a few moments, he still would not be able to injure them. When the Demon Emperors eventually broke free later, the situation would remain unchanged.

"Hmph, your efforts are futile. Do you think you can reseal the Demonic Realm portal and then defeat us later within those few moments?"

Demon Emperor Greed sneered.

"Perhaps."

Chu Kuangren chuckled as a soaring surge of sword qi erupted from his body while waves of sword-based Daoist Rhyme swirled around him. A Sword of The Heavens was eventually formed.

In that instant, every sword within the Firmament Star rose into the air as if they were all being summoned.

Throughout the Firmament Star, the strong sword cultivators tried desperately to hold back their swords, attempting to suppress their movements.

However, they suddenly had the gut instinct to look in the direction of the Purgatory Forest.

"It's Chu Kuangren, he's trying to borrow our swords right now. Is he going to use these swords to fight against the Demonic Realm invasion?!"

"If that's the case, then what's the problem if I lend my sword for a few moments?"

"Hah, borrowing all the swords in the world to battle the Demonic Realm! I suppose only someone as crazy as Chu Kuangren is capable of pulling off something like this."

"We shall lend you a hand then, Chu Kuangren."

At that point, every sword cultivator released their grip on their swords. Some even channeled spiritual power into their sword and tossed them into the air right after, hoping that it would be of help to Chu Kuangren.

As their sword qi soared, all the swords in the world rose into the air and headed toward the Purgatory Forest.

In the Purgatory Forest, the Boundary Emperors at the scene looked at Chu Kuangren in shock.

During this time, Chu Kuangren's spiritual thoughts spread and reached throughout the whole of the Firmament Star. He activated his Spatial Conveyor Skill, further increasing the traveling speed of the

swords. Within a few moments, countless swords were seen darting towards the Purgatory Forest from all directions.

“Look, over there!!”

Someone suddenly exclaimed within the crowd.

A large shadow suddenly appeared soon after, blocking the sun. Upon closer look, it was a dense cloud formed by a sea of swords that were hastily heading toward Chu Kuangren. The swords were also competing to see which one among them could reach him first, causing a large cacophony of clangs to be heard as they clashed and barged against each other. The sea of sword qi was like a gigantic dragon soaring through the skies!

The countless number of swords hovered around Chu Kuangren as if he was the god of swords.

Standing among the millions of swords, Chu Kuangren now held control over all the sword qi in the world. The power he possessed seemed boundless and everlasting!

“Bring it down!”

Demon Emperor Greed, Demon Emperor Envy, and the others started to break through the Nine Profound Heavens Fire Forcefield.

They had extremely unpleasant expressions on their faces as they faced the millions of swords hovering before them. Even they were shocked by the countless number of swords that had appeared.

“Today, I shall use all the swords of the Firmament Star to defeat your Demonic Realm!!”

Chu Kuangren proudly announced as the countless number of swords revolved around him in the air.

After that, he then made a sword hand sign. Appearing to listen to his command, the swords around him all unleashed streaks upon streaks of sword qi towards the Demonic Realm portal in the air.

A tremendous surge of sealing energy emerged from those swords at the same time too.

It was the Legendary Grade Formation Technique that Chu Kuangren obtained in the past, the Sealing Sword Formation!

With his Exquisite Nine Orifices Sword Heart, the Sealing Sword Formation that he unleashed using all the swords in the Firmament Star was extremely terrifying. Not even a handful of beings could stand a chance against that technique’s power.

Chu Kuangren suspected that even an Emperor would be held in place by the restraining power of the formation, let alone a few Demonic Emperor clones.

“This is bad, he’s trying to use all the world’s sword qi to seal the Demonic Realm portal. This power... We must not let him succeed!”

Demon Emperor Pride’s expression changed.

Before this, he thought that only an Emperor level cultivator could personally seal the Demonic Realm portal. However, now that Chu Kuangren had come up with such a terrifying sword formation that

possessed an extremely frightening sealing power, he could potentially seal the Demonic Realm portal himself without the need of an Emperor cultivator appearing!

The Demon Emperors could no longer stand still after this. All of them wanted to stop Chu Kuangren immediately.

“You better stop this, kid!”

Demon Emperor Wrath attacked first with a punch towards Chu Kuangren that erupted with dense surges of Emperor’s Aura.

However, Chu Kuangren did not even bat an eyelid towards him.

He was no longer relying on his own strength by then, but on the combined might of every sword Dao in the Firmament Star!

How powerful could such a force possibly be?

Unless an Emperor personally interfered, no one would be able to stop Chu Kuangren.

“Now, crumble!” Chu Kuangren let out a low cry.

An overwhelming surge of sword qi burst through the air, shattering the Demon Emperor Wrath’s demonic qi and Daoist Rhyme within an instant.

Not only that, Demon Emperor Wrath was sent flying by that attack as well.

“What a horrifying sword qi, this power does not come from him alone!”

“Of course not, this is the might of the Firmament Star’s sword Dao!”

Chu Kuangren drew out his Descendant Self Sword and slashed the air, unleashing an overbearing purple sword beam that erupted forth like a world-ending tide. Demon Emperor Wrath’s expression drastically changed upon seeing that and attempted to block it using his demonic qi. However, a silver-white rune fell onto his body the moment he wanted to move. It was the Spatial Cessation Rune.

Boom!

Demon Emperor Wrath’s body was engulfed within the sword qi attack, exploding into a mist of blood right after.

The other Demonic Emperors also rushed to the Demonic Realm portal, seeking to block the Sealing Sword Formation from activating.

“Erosion of Greed!”

“Strike of Pride”

“Leer of Envy!”

Several powerful Emperor Techniques accompanied by surges of demonic qi erupted. However, the power of Chu Kuangren’s sword qi torrent was just too terrifying.

The frightening sealing energy froze the surrounding void around them, causing the attacks from the Demon Emperors to disperse immediately. The ocean of sword qi that filled the whole sky turned into a horrendous sword qi dragon which devoured the Demon Emperor's body whole.

In the blink of an eye, the Demon Emperor clones were destroyed, gone, and turned to dust.

All the Boundary Emperors were dumbfounded by what they saw.

The Demon Emperor clones that dozens of them could not handle were defeated by Chu Kuangren just like that?!

That kind of power was just too horrifying!

Inside the Demonic Realm.

Within a few palaces, several figures suddenly rose into the air.

Multiple horrifying surges of Emperor's Aura spread forth everywhere instantly. A sense of rage was contained within them, causing every being inside the Demonic Realm to shudder in fear.

"That b*st*rd, how dare he destroy my clone!!"

"F*ck. This is already the second time!!"

"D*mn it, the invasion from the Demonic realm has been thwarted just like that!!"

The Seven Demon Emperors of the Demonic Realm were greatly enraged, their hatred towards Chu Kuangren was now even stronger.

Having incurred the wrath of the Demonic Realm's Seven Emperors, Chu Kuangren had become the number one enemy of the whole Demonic Realm.

Outside the Demonic Realm, at the Purgatory Forest.

Millions upon millions of swords were intertwined as their sword qi reflected and resonated with each other one by one, forming a humongous sword qi dragon that flew through the Demonic Realm portal. The moment it did, a tremendous surge of sealing energy erupted, causing the boundless demonic qi to recede as they were sealed within the Demonic Realm once again.

Meanwhile, the millions of swords were integrated within the void one by one, forming the Sealing Sword Formation that spanned a five hundred kilometer circumference.

The gigantic dark Demonic Realm portal in the sky started closing due to the sealing energy from the sword formation, eventually disappearing soon after that.

The remaining forces from the Demonic Realm were full of despair as they witnessed what had happened, especially Single-horned Dragon Demon and others.

They had initially expected to be deemed as heroes of the Demonic Realm after the invasion when they helped open the Demonic Realm portal.

Unexpectedly, things had quickly taken a wrong turn!

Following Chu Kuangren's arrival, their dreams were now completely shattered.

Chapter 495: Crisis Averted, There's A Few People Who Wanted To Thank You Too

"Let's get out of here!!"

"We'll die if we stay here any longer."

The Single-horned Dragon Demon and the people from the Demonic Realm looked at each other, then quickly escaped in all directions.

"Don't you think it's a little too late to leave now?" Said an apathetic voice.

A huge surge of sword-based Daoist Rhyme emerged from Chu Kuangren's body, instantly locking onto every demonic cultivator at the scene.

Following that, countless runic swords appeared from the void and one by one, they were launched in every direction.

None of the demonic cultivators were left alive.

Chu Kuangren had seemingly turned the tide of the whole battle by himself, averting the impending crisis!

The other cultivators looked at Chu Kuangren, shocked.

Chu Kuangren had become their savior!

"Thanks a lot, brother Chu. If it weren't for you, we wouldn't be able to survive this catastrophe."

"That's right. Brother Chu truly deserves to be the number one cultivator in this world."

The Boundary Emperors walked toward Chu Kuangren and bowed to him respectfully.

No matter what he did in the past or what he would do in the future, at this moment, everyone fully admired Chu Kuangren from the bottom of their hearts.

"Besides me, you'll have to thank all the other sword cultivators who were willing to lend me their swords to deal with this crisis. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be able to deploy the Sealing Sword Formation, which meant I wouldn't have sealed the Demonic Realm portal." Chu Kuangren said gratefully while glancing at the seal.

"Ha, Chu Kuangren, you're being too humble."

After settling their matters, Chu Kuangren and the others departed from the Ashura Tribe. Although the Demonic Realm portal was sealed, the effects of their destruction still lingered.

The demonic objects which broke the seal in the first place were still not dealt with and there were a great number of them.

Then again, with the Boundary Emperors' and Chu Kuangren's help, that did not appear to be a problem. The matter was eventually solved within a day.

...

Upon returning to the Black Heaven Sect, Chu Kuangren started to tally up the damages that were inflicted by the invasion of the Demonic Realm. Although the Demonic Realm invasion was not long, the destruction it caused was still immense.

Several prefectures under the Black Heaven Sect's jurisdiction had already suffered millions of deaths, and this was accounting for the Black Heaven Sect coming to their rescue in time.

Otherwise, the number of deaths would surely be even higher.

"Fortunately, it's all over now."

"That's right."

Chu Kuangren nodded.

Following that, his expression changed slightly upon sensing the arrival of a few people at the Black Heaven Sect's mountain entrance. A surge of demonic qi could be detected amongst them.

"Could it be the remnant of the Demonic Realm forces?" Chu Kuangren thought.

Soon after, he discovered that the ones who came were Zhan Hongying of the Ashura Tribe, her demonic wolf, and also the Ashura Tribe's Leader.

Outside the Black Heaven Sect mountain entrance, several disciples were watching Zhan Hongying cautiously, especially the demonic wolf beside her. It frightened them.

They had just survived a demonic catastrophe. Now, another powerful demonic being appeared right before their eyes again.

Anyone would be extremely cautious and be on guard upon seeing it.

"Let them in."

Chu Kuangren's voice could be heard.

Everyone looked at each other.

"It's the Sect Leader."

The disciples then allowed the visitors to enter.

Zhan Hongying and the Ashura Tribe Leader entered the Black Heaven Sect under the guidance of one of the disciples. They soon arrived at the Black Heaven Sect's Longevity Hall.

"Greetings, brother Chu."

The Ashura Tribe Leader greeted immediately.

"Please take a seat. What brings you here?" Chu Kuangren said.

"Allow me to explain. Now that the Demonic Real Portal has been sealed by brother Chu's sword formation, I'd like to know whether my Ashura Tribe should continue guarding the portal? If so, how should we guard it?"

That was the purpose of the Ashura Tribe Leader's visit to Chu Kuangren.

The Ashura Tribe has guarded the Demonic Realm portal for several thousand years as it was a duty entrusted to them by the Great Acheron Emperor.

However, as of now, Chu Kuangren has sealed the Demonic Realm.

Hence, they needed to discuss with Chu Kuangren to find out anything that they should take note of regarding the Sealing Sword Formation that he used, and if there are any weak points in the formation.

"The Ashura Tribe has been living in the Purgatory Forest all this while. If you don't mind, I hope that you can continue to guard the Demonic Realm Portal."

Chu Kuangren uttered sternly.

A trace of respect and admiration could be found in his words toward the Ashura Tribe.

After all, not anyone could pledge and devote the efforts of their whole tribe to guard the Demonic Realm portal, saving the common folk from disaster.

"Naturally."

The Ashura Tribe Leader nodded.

Having been entrusted the duty by the Great Acheron Emperor, the Ashura Tribe would naturally agree to it. All this while, they had already settled their roots deep within the Purgatory Forest. The tribe would have nowhere to go if Chu Kuangren were to chase them away.

Following that, both parties continued their discussion about the Sealing Sword Formation. Chu Kuangren told them what they should watch out for and then proceeded to take out a unique piece of tablet.

It was the Acheron Stele.

"This is the Acheron Stele that I've found in the Acheron Manor, I think it's time for this item to return to its rightful owner," Chu Kuangren said. During these past few days, he had understood all the wonders and mystery contained within it.

The Ashura Tribe Leader had a conflicting look upon seeing the Acheron Stele. "If it wasn't for that internal conflict we had in the past that affected the Great Acheron Formation, this Acheron Stele wouldn't even be lost in the first place."

"If only we could find it back sooner, then perhaps the invasion of the Demonic Realm might not have happened."

The Ashura Tribe Leader learned from Zhan Hongying long ago, that the Acheron Stele was in Chu Kuangren's hands.

However, they did not blame Chu Kuangren for not returning it in time. After all, nobody expected the scheme from Touba and the others would allow the Ashura Tribe to be infiltrated that soon.

Besides, Chu Kuangren was not aware of the situation within the Ashura Tribe, so it was unlikely for him to return that item just because of a few words from Zhan Hongying.

“Huh?”

The Ashura Tribe Leader’s expression changed when he suddenly noticed something. He then said, “The Great Acheron Emperor’s power contained within this Acheron Stele is gone?”

Chu Kuangren frowned slightly. “Ever since I took possession of that item, it had always been like that. There was never any power of the Great Emperor inside it to begin with.”

“This Acheron Stele forms the core of the Great Acheron Formation, there should be some Great Emperor power within it... I understand now, it’s because of the Acheron Manor.”

The Ashura Tribe Leader had a look of astonishment on his face. “Having been stolen from us for so many years, I suppose the Great Emperor energy contained within the Acheron Stele must have been stolen as well and was used up by the ones from the Acheron Manor. No wonder they were able to develop and progress so quickly within these few thousand years.”

“It seems that the Firmament Star was fated to face a catastrophe like this,” lamented the Ashura Tribe Leader.

With the power of the Acheron Stele gone, the Great Acheron could never be fully restored even if the Acheron Manor returned it to them.

The invasion of the Demonic Realm was inevitable.

Fortunately, it was dealt with by Chu Kuangren.

The Ashura Tribe Leader and Zhan Hongying left after finishing their discussion with Chu Kuangren about guarding the Demonic Realm portal.

Not long after, someone else arrived to visit the Black Heaven Sect.

This time, it was a familiar person.

“Oh, it’s you, Mister Predictor.”

Chu Kuangren was entertaining another guest in the Longevity Hall.

His current guest was the Divine Predictor, one of the most mysterious beings in the whole Firmament Star.

“Brother Chu, for sealing the Demonic Realm and saving the whole world, please accept this bow from me.” Upon meeting him, the Divine Predictor immediately bowed to Chu Kuangren.

Chu Kuangren hurriedly held him back up. “It’s nothing much, Mister Predictor. I’m still one of the people living here after all.”

“Ha. Besides me, brother Chu, there are also a few others who wanted to thank you as well.” The Divine Predictor chuckled.

Chapter 496: The Emperors Pay Their Respects, The Road To Emperor's Realm Is Opening, Soaring Reputation In The Nine Heavens

"There's more?"

Chu Kuangren was confused by the divine predictor's statement.

He could sense that the people referenced by the divine predictor were of unordinary stature.

The divine predictor retrieved a bronze mirror and tossed it into the air. The room was illuminated by a majestic display of lights before a boundless Emperor's Aura erupted and engulfed the space.

Several apparitions manifested amid the illumination.

Each of these apparitions was seething with fierce Emperor's Aura.

Those were all Emperors!

The emergence of multiple Emperors' Aura had surprised many cultivators, and many mobilized their spiritual thoughts to peep into the Black Heaven Sect. When the cultivators saw the Emperors in the orthodoxy, they were dumbfounded, to say the least.

Although technically, they were just apparitions, each of those represented the presence of a true, living Emperor!

It had been years since an Emperor appeared in Firmament Star.

"What's going on? Why are there so many Emperors?"

"Besides, that's the predictor. What's he doing in the Black Heaven Sect?"

"I've once heard a rumor that the divine predictor has always stayed in touch with the Emperors. Could it be true?"

"Did the divine predictor invite these Emperors?"

"He probably did."

The observers gasped in shock as they continued monitoring the situation.

What happened next shocked them even further.

The Emperors' apparitions began to bow towards Chu Kuangren!

The Emperors were paying their respect!

The cultivators felt a sense of disbelief they had never experienced before.

Those were Emperors!

The Emperors were a group of cultivators who were hailed as being superior to most of humanity!

Yet, they were all paying their respects to one person!

Just how glorious was that?!

Even Chu Kuangren was shocked to witness it. He did not expect the Emperors to put on such a grand gesture.

“Brother Chu, we were unable to descend upon the Firmament Star, but thank the heavens that there was you to stop the massacre from happening. Please accept our gratitude.”

A white-haired elder who was one of the Emperors smiled and said.

“Emperor, you’re too kind.”

“Heh, Brother, we await your arrival above Firmament Star.”

The elder chuckled gently.

Then, the apparitions began to vanish one after another.

Then, their Emperors’ Aura disappeared.

However, the Emperors’ gestures towards Chu Kuangren were such an unforgettable scene for many Firmament Star’s cultivators that their admiration and fear towards Chu Kuangren grew stronger.

“Mister Predictor, did you come all the way here just for me to see the Emperors?”

Chu Kuangren smiled and said.

“Ah, apart from that, I do have another issue that I wish to let you know,” said the divine predictor as he stroked his chin.

“What’s the matter?”

“The road to Emperor’s Realm... shall soon be opened!”

Chu Kuangren’s eyes immediately burned with passion.

The road to Emperor’s Realm was opening?!

“In other words, the finale to the Era of Great Battles has finally arrived.” Chu Kuangren was glimmering with excitement.

“That’s right.”

“When will the road be opened?”

“In approximately a year. The sky-prides of the Nine Heavens have returned to their orthodoxy to prepare after receiving the news.”

“I see. Thank you for informing me, Mister Predictor.”

“Not a problem. Also, it’s been one hundred and fifty thousand years since this road last opened. So this time, the road to Emperor’s Realm will pass through the Underworld Demonic Realm, Firmament Star, and the Nine Heavens, aligning all three worlds together.”

“There may also be more than one Emperor’s Throne this time.”

The more the divine predictor talked, the vaguer he sounded.

Even with the divine predictor's inductive skills, he was unable to decipher the Emperor Dao clearly. It was all just a blur for now.

"In short, now that the road to the Emperor's Realm is about to open, and the fight for the Emperor's Throne is about to reach its climax, you should make the necessary preparations."

"For sure." Chu Kuangren nodded.

"Oh, and please keep this item with you. It may be of some use to your journey to the Emperor's Realm."

The divine predictor took out a jade scroll.

Once Chu Kuangren received the item, he took a peek at it. The jade scroll contained information about the powerful entities and sky-prides hailed from the Nine Heavens and Underworld Demonic Realm.

Chu Kuangren contemplated for a moment before he put the jade scroll away.

"Thank you."

After Chu Kuangren had a brief conversation with the divine predictor, the mysterious freak left and continued wandering around the world.

Knowing now that the road to Emperor's Realm was about to be opened in a year, Chu Kuangren felt the need to do something.

Hence, he went to look for Nangong Huang, Murong Xuan, Shang Qingxue, and the other Daoists.

...

"It's been a very long time since I've last arranged some training for all of you, right?"

Chu Kuangren's opening remark had already caught the Daoists off guard as flashbacks of some rather unpleasant memories immediately came to them.

"Sect Leader, do you mean..."

Nangong Huang asked ever so cautiously with an uneasy feeling.

"Yep, it's exactly what you think it is."

"Sect Leader, why the sudden training sessions?"

"The road to the Emperor's Realm is about to be opened."

Chu Kuangren revealed.

The Daoists were shocked at what they heard.

Just a few words alone were enough to make them understand the gravity of the situation.

"We understand now."

Nangong Huang nodded solemnly.

In the coming days, the Daoists soon occupied themselves with the training regimes that Chu Kuangren had arranged for them.

Not only that but the countless resources of the Black Heaven Sect were also made available for them.

While Chu Kuangren was busy training the Daoists, the sky-prides of the Nine Heavens had returned to their orthodoxies from the lower realm.

Their return had caused quite a commotion in the Nine Heavens, and many of the Nine Heaven's orthodoxies were able to learn a great deal about Chu Kuangren.

Soon, most of the Nine Heavens cultivators had familiarized themselves with the stories of the Supreme Sage, Chu Kuangren.

Nine Heavens, Bai clan, the archaic orthodoxy!

The Bai Clan Leader was having a discussion with Xiao Jingchen. Several thousands of years ago, Xiao Jingchen had joined the Bai clan as the head's son-in-law.

Xiao Jingchen's remarkable talent had made him a key member of the Bai clan.

The clan had even gone to the lower realm searching for all sorts of Emperor's Opportunities of Fortune for Xiao Jingchen.

Upon his return, Xiao Jingchen shared many of Firmament Star's news with the clan. One of the topics that were covered included Chu Kuangren.

"You mean he lifted the Heavenly Punishment Seal and went on to become a Supreme Sage? I didn't know such a person could exist in the lower realm."

The Bai Clan Leader went silent for a moment before he continued, "What are the odds of you winning in a battle against him if you're armed with an Emperor's Weapon?"

"At most... twenty percent."

"Only twenty percent?!"

The Bai Clan Leader exclaimed in shock.

Xiao Jingchen nodded helplessly. Deep down, he knew he would not even stand a ten percent chance against Chu Kuangren.

He only said that to avoid embarrassing himself too much.

"In that case, what about Hongyu?"

Bai Hongyu was the Bai clan's outlawed sky-pride.

Bai Hongyu's combat strengths were unmatchable and were far superior to that of Xiao Jingchen.

"Not more than fifty percent," said Xiao Jingchen.

"Hmm, alright, I understand now. You may head out first."

Xiao Jingchen nodded and left the room.

“Chu Kuangren...”

“Perhaps he’s the biggest obstacle on the road to the Emperor’s Realm.”

Apart from the Bai clan.

The other orthodoxies of Nine Heaven, such as the Wang clan, Heavenly Fox Tribe, and the Nine-Headed Snakelet Tribe, were keeping a close watch on Chu Kuangren.

Many saw him as a legitimate threat.

There were also some who thought he was overrated and that Chu Kuangren was not as strong as the stories depicted him to be.

Nonetheless, Chu Kuangren’s reputation was soaring in the Nine Heavens.

Chapter 497: One Year, The Emperor Road Opens, Misty Ocean

As time flew by, a year had passed.

In a mountain range within the Black Heaven Sect’s territory.

The Daoists were training diligently.

They were now fighting Chu Kuangren, or more precisely, they were fighting Chu Kuangren’s sword qi clone.

It was the same method as the previous brutal training regime.

The Daoists had suffered through the familiar routine for a year now.

Although it was gruesome, they had seen significant improvements in their abilities.

Each of the Daoists was now formidable warriors of their own, capable of defending themselves against a Sage Ruler opponent. With the help of some treasure, perhaps they could even defend themselves from a Boundary Emperor.

As for Chu Kuangren, his abilities had progressed substantially as well.

For the past year, Chu Kuangren had been visiting the Forbidden Areas of Firmament Star, sparring with the Boundary Emperors that resided within. As such, he had reached a deeper level of understanding towards his Dao.

Chu Kuangren had also acquired a decent amount of items from the daily gacha, in which he reserved part of it for his personal use and dedicated the rest to the Black Heaven Sect.

The Black Heaven Sect was now unparalleled in Firmament Star in terms of the number of strong cultivators and resources.

In fact, Chu Kuangren dared to wager that even the past ancient orthodoxies of the Nine Heavens would not possess a greater amount of resources than the Black Heaven Sect.

All the Black Heaven Sect lacked was an Emperor before it could consider itself an emperor orthodoxy!

“Looks like the Emperor Road is opening any time now.”

Chu Kuangren murmured while standing above an enormous jade ore.

He then casually released a surge of sword qi, which transformed into another clone that joined the Daoists’ battle.

Already overpowered by one sword qi clone, the Daoists whined incessantly as they stared at Chu Kuangren in discontent.

“Sect Leader’s abilities are getting increasingly perverse. Our combined power is supposedly capable of defeating a Seven-Step Sage Ruler, yet we’re defenseless against even one of his sword qi clones. How strong do you think Sect Leader has gotten?”

Nangong Huang said. It was after the training, and the Daoists were sitting cross-knee on the ground.

The rest were just as puzzled.

They had posed the question to Chu Kuangren before as well. However, Chu Kuangren insisted that he was still within the Sage Realm.

The Daoists had always rolled their eyes at that answer.

Even the Boundary Emperors of the Forbidden Area held Chu Kuangren at the highest regard, yet Chu Kuangren insisted that he was merely a Sage?!

Who would believe that?!

“Could it be that he’s an Emperor already?” Shang Qingxue asked curiously.

“Impossible. The Emperor Road isn’t open yet.”

Nangong Huang, Murong Xuan, and the other Daoists were chatting away.

Meanwhile, Chu Kuangren merely smiled as he listened from the side.

He looked upon the sky and muttered, “Is it true that no one can become an Emperor in the Era of Dharma’s End? Is the Emperor Road the only way?”

It was a question that had been bugging him in the past year.

Chu Kuangren did not lie to the Daoists because, strictly speaking, he was indeed just a Sage. However, Chu Kuangren was a Supreme Sage who had found his Dao just like the Boundary Emperors, and his combat abilities were stronger than those of most Boundary Emperors.

Chu Kuangren was one of the very few who had managed to attain such a state in history.

Compared to most cultivators, Chu Kuangren’s cultivation journey was... atypical.

“Never mind. I’ll figure this out along the way.”

Chu Kuangren shook his head and chuckled.

He thought he should prioritize becoming an Emperor first.

A few days later.

A strange ripple of energy unfolded within Firmament Star.

Sensing the abrupt change, the great ones immediately looked for the source of the energy.

Then, a majestic golden pillar shot up from the Misty Ocean — one of the Ten Great Forbidden Areas in Firmament Star — unraveling powerful spatial energy in the region.

“The Emperor Road is open!”

“Is that the Misty Ocean?!”

“Why is it there? That’s one of the Ten Great Forbidden Areas.”

“The Misty Ocean is characterized by its contemptuous and unforgiving torrents and is resided by countless oceanic beasts. A natural force field forbids any cultivator from traveling into the region by air. If the Emperor Road has appeared there, I’m afraid not even a Sage Ruler will have an easy time entering the road, what more for those sky-prides.”

The great ones discussed as they were in great disbelief at where the entrance of the Emperor Road had appeared.

In the Black Heaven Sect.

Chu Kuangren stared in the Misty Ocean’s direction and said, “It’s finally open.”

“Brother, can I please follow you?”

A young teenage girl was staring at Chu Kuangren with reluctance.

She was the Godly Phoenix.

The Godly Phoenix morphed into this form after passing its heavenly tribulation.

Chu Kuangren patted her head and said, “Apart from myself, you’re the strongest being in the Black Heaven Sect now. The Boundary Emperors of the Forbidden Areas may seem trustworthy, but who knows whether they might pull off any trickery once I leave for the Emperor Road? I’m less worried if I know you’re here.”

“Alright then, Brother, I shall stay here and look after the Black Heaven Sect,” Lil Red said.

The Black Heaven Sect was home to Chu Kuangren and the Godly Phoenix. Although it now boasted a rich amount of resources, it still needed a formidable warrior to look after the place.

Apart from Chu Kuangren, the Godly Phoenix was the most qualified to be in this position.

Outside the Longevity Hall.

The Daoists had gathered.

Chu Kuangren and Lan Yu were both approaching the group.

Looking at the well-dressed Daoists before them, Chu Kuangren inhaled deeply and said, "The Emperor Road is open. Apart from the sky-prides of Firmament Star, the others from the Underworld Demonic Realm and the Nine Heavens will also show up. No one knows what we'll encounter during our journey, and we expect danger to abound. If any of you wish to quit, now's the time."

"Sect Leader, haven't we prepared for a year just for this moment?"

"That's right. We've long made our decisions."

None of the sky-prides were willing to forgo this opportunity.

Chu Kuangren had also foreseen their responses. "Very well, then let's get started."

Chu Kuangren lifted his hand and summoned the Illusive Mirage.

The group embarked on the enormous Illusive Mirage before it proceeded to set sail towards the Misty Ocean.

Meanwhile, just outside the Misty Ocean.

Countless cultivators congregated as they stared at the enormous golden pillar with envy.

It was the entrance of the Emperor Road!

Many cultivators could not contain the excitement of witnessing the Emperor Road, which had vanished for more than a hundred thousand years.

"Although the Emperor Road has appeared, how are we supposed to enter into the Misty Ocean?"

"Indeed. Even Sage Rulers would be wary of traversing into the Misty Ocean. Are we doomed to only stare at this opportunity from afar?"

"I don't care. The Emperor Road is just before us. I must give it a shot even if it costs me my life."

Many cultivators began placing their Fairy boats on the water.

The Misty Ocean was covered in a force field that forbade any cultivators from entering through the air, so the only option was to enter with their Fairy boats. However, since it could not be used to glide across air, the Fairy boats were just like any ordinary boat.

As the cultivators entered the Misty Ocean, it was not long before they heard the chilling growls that echoed within the mists.

A ferocious oceanic beast appeared from the ocean, toppling the Fairy boats and forcing the cultivators to jump overboard into the ocean. In split seconds, they were dragged by an unknown force down into the depths, never to be heard again.

The other cultivators gulped in fear as they watched the entire scene unfold from the shore.

Chapter 498: Entering Emperor Road, Wu Clan's Power, Divine Emerald Lamp

Many cultivators gathered outside the Misty Ocean as they stared passionately at the entrance of the Emperor Road. At the same time, they also feared the danger within the Misty Ocean and could not muster the courage to venture forth.

Just then, an enormous black Fairy boat glided across the air and landed on the surface near the Misty Ocean.

Then, the cultivators witnessed the Fairy boat releasing a surge of sword qi onto it.

The terrifying sword qi poured out and caused the mist above the ocean to dissipate, opening a clear, wide path straight into the Emperor Road!

The path and the mist were separated by a boundary that was forged from myriads of sword qi that merged into a barrier.

Chu Kuangren had separated the Misty Ocean with a single ray of sword qi!

"It's him. He's here."

"Chu Kuangren's here. Why wouldn't he be? It's the race to the Emperor Road."

"What an amazing sword qi. It literally just parted the Misty Ocean into two. He really lives up to his name."

"Of course! He has once obliterated the Ancient Battlefield with a single palm technique. What's parting the ocean compared to that?"

Following the parting of the Misty Ocean, the cultivators quickly retrieved their Fairy boats and tailed the Illusive Mirage.

Chu Kuangren stood on board the Illusive Mirage and mobilized his spiritual thought. Nothing on the ocean's surface could escape his sight.

"Misty Ocean, one of the Ten Great Forbidden Areas. According to the ancient tales, the unending mist is the manifestation of the rage qi of an Emperor who has perished in this region. Countless oceanic beasts also reside within these waters. This is the most dangerous location out of all the Forbidden Areas."

Chu Kuangren murmured. His spiritual thought could sense many formidable entities dwelling within the ocean, and some of them were even stronger than a Boundary Emperor. He could even sense that some locations were immune to the detection of his spiritual thoughts. All in all, it was a location filled with mysteries.

If there was any location in Firmament Star that would make Chu Kuangren feel uneasy, the Misty Ocean was one of them.

Fortunately, the entrance to the Emperor Road was near the outer perimeter of the Misty Ocean.

The crowd approached the Emperor Road.

Soon, they arrived before the gigantic pillar.

The glowing pillar shot straight into the sky, radiating a surge of overpowering spatial energy as if it was a fabric that linked all the realms and universes together.

“Let’s go.”

Chu Kuangren said faintly.

With that, they entered the pillar and were soon engulfed by a boundlessly formidable spatial energy.

...

Stone City, Wu clan.

The Wu clan was one of the most influential clans in Stone City, known even by cultivators who lived millions of kilometers away.

The Wu Clan Leader was a formidable Sage Ruler and also one of the strongest experts on the Emperor Road.

Yet on this day, the Wu clan was facing unprecedented turmoil.

“Wu Clan Leader, surrender the Divine Emerald Lamp, or the Wu clan shall perish today.”

Within the Wu clan’s compound, a bare-shouldered brute laughed menacingly and said.

Beside him were a few more cultivators who boasted an equally strong aura. Each of them was a Sage Ruler cultivator.

Before the Sage Rulers was a middle-aged man who had suffered from grave injuries. His aura had dwindled, and his face had turned white. Although he was also a Sage Ruler, the combined attack of several Sage Rulers had left him in a defenseless state. If the man continued fighting, it would no doubt be the end of him.

“Clan Leader, would you rather watch the entire Wu clan die in your hands than surrender the divine lamp?”

A grey-robed elder taunted mischievously.

At that, the Wu Clan Leader’s eyes burned with hatred. “Senior Elder, I didn’t think you’d collude with three other clans to harm your own people! There’s no way I’m letting you get what you want, even if it costs me my life.”

The Wu Clan Leader retrieved an emerald-colored lantern. It was a cubical glass lantern that was carved with delicate patterns on its surface that radiated Daoist Rhymes.

It was none other than the Divine Emerald Lamp that had been passed through multiple generations of the Wu clan.

Legend had it that this was a powerful Emperor Weapon!

However, for many years, no one had seen the Wu clan putting this weapon to use.

Only the Wu Clan Leader knew the price one had to pay by using this Emperor Weapon. Now, for reasons unknown, the cultivators from three major clans were eyeing this weapon. Thanks to the help from the Wu clan's senior elder, it would perhaps mark the end of the Wu clan.

The gullible senior elder had thought his colluders would actually help him become a Clan Leader.

At that thought, the Wu Clan Leader could not help but sneer. "Since the Wu clan is doomed anyway, be prepared to perish with us."

"That's not good. Is he going to use the Divine Emerald Lamp?!"

"Isn't the weapon dysfunctional?!"

The brute was shocked.

The Wu Clan Leader coldly responded, "For many years, no one has seen us use this Emperor Weapon, so all of you assume the weapon to be dysfunctional. Little do you know that the Emperor Weapon is still usable. The only catch is that one must prepare to die!"

Then, the Wu Clan Leader released a large cloud of blood mist into the air that flowed into the Divine Emerald Lamp.

Suddenly, the lantern burned with a glow. Although it was, it radiated a domineering Emperor's Aura.

"It looks like the rumor is true! The Emperor Weapon can be activated by using one's blood essence as its lantern oil!"

The senior elder stared uneasily at the flame that was burning within the Divine Emerald Lamp.

"D*mn it. Why didn't you tell us earlier?!" The brute screamed as he stared furiously at the senior elder.

"I thought it was just a rumor. I didn't think it was real!"

The senior elder panicked. "What should we do now?!"

"It seems like he's pushing his limits with a secret technique to use this Emperor Weapon. He shouldn't be able to last long. Let's not clash directly with him!"

The brute said as he hastily backed away.

At that moment, the Wu Clan Leader let out a roar, and the Divine Emerald Lamp now burned with a luminous flame. The cultivators who were touched by its glow were engulfed by boundlessly terrifying energy before they exploded. It did not matter that they were Sage Rulers.

"Zhang clan, Qian clan, and Bai clan, you shall pay for what you did today!"

The Wu Clan Leader roared as he channeled his spiritual energy into the Emperor Weapon in preparation to destroy the cultivators before him.

Rays of golden light burst from the Divine Emerald Lamp.

The brute's face turned white and immediately revealed a top-notch Sage Ruler armor on his body.

With both his palms pushed forward, he took on the Emperor Weapon's power with all his might!

A huge shockwave ensued with the brute being at the epicenter.

The brute was blasted away as he spat a mouthful of fresh blood. He stared at the Wu Clan Leader palely and said, "That's amazing. Such is the power of an Emperor Weapon!"

Just a single attack was enough to severely wound the brute.

To add insult to injury, the brute was equipped with a Sage Ruler armor. However, the Wu Clan Leader was already in a weakened state.

"Now, die!"

The Wu Clan Leader mobilized his spiritual energy again, and the Divine Emerald Lamp shined brightly as it displayed its divine power.

The senior elder, the brute, and the other Sages were in a state of despair.

On the contrary, the Wu clan's disciples could finally see a glimmer of hope.

Yet, it was at this moment that the Wu Clan Leader was overcome by a sudden change in his expression. He abruptly spat violent mouthfuls of blood as the divine lamp's power was halved.

Having already sustained heavy injuries, the Wu Clan Leader could not last long using his blood essence as the lantern's fuel.

"Now's our chance!"

Overjoyed, the senior elder and the brute swiftly made their moves.

Chapter 499: Who Just Tosses An Emperor Weapon Around? Saving The Wu Clan

"Now's our chance!"

The Sage Rulers noticed the Wu Clan Leader's condition and hastily retaliated.

Their unbounded spiritual energies unfolded, attacking the Wu Clan Leader with various forms of Sage Techniques from all directions.

The Wu Clan Leader could not react in time and soaked up all the damages. Not even his Sage Ruler's physique was capable of saving him. The explosion blasted the Wu Clan Leader away while the Divine Emerald Lamp slipped from his hand and into the air. As such, the flame within the lantern dimmed.

The brute and the senior elder immediately went to reach out for it.

Yet, at that moment, a pillar of light descended from above, discharging a dense amount of spatial energy into the realm.

The sudden event caught everyone off guard.

As the pillar of light dissipated, a young, handsome, black-haired youngster in a set of white clothes was standing right in the middle of the battlefield.

Coincidentally, the Divine Emerald Lamp was above his head. Hence, the youngster intuitively grabbed the lantern and curiously assessed the item.

“Oh, this is an Emperor Weapon! Did I stumble into one of the Emperor Road’s Opportunities of Fortune just like that?”

The youngster, who was none other than Chu Kuangren, was exclaiming with awe.

Upon entering the Emperor Road, he was transported to this location by strong spatial energy.

As for the others, they were probably scattered across various locations within the Emperor Road as well. However, Chu Kuangren had stumbled upon an Emperor Weapon just as soon as he arrived...

Chu Kuangren was impressed by his own luck.

Was the Emperor Road filled with so much treasure that people could afford to simply toss an Emperor Weapon around?

“Who are you?”

One of the Sage Rulers who was attacking the Wu clan said cautiously.

They could not help but exercise caution as Chu Kuangren’s unexpected arrival had happened without any warning.

Could he be part of the Wu clan’s reinforcement?!

The Sage Rulers were anything but friendly towards Chu Kuangren.

While Chu Kuangren was being watched closely by others, he was also monitoring his surroundings. Chu Kuangren mobilized his spiritual thought and cast it over a one hundred thousand kilometers radius.

Was this his limit in the Emperor Road?!

Chu Kuangren frowned slightly. “My spiritual thought has been handicapped. It seems that the Emperor Road works differently compared to the outer realm.”

“Hey, answer me.” The Sage Ruler who posed Chu Kuangren the question was furious now. He stared coldly at Chu Kuangren and the Divine Emerald Lamp in his hand. Meanwhile, the Sage Ruler had been secretly amassing his spiritual energies behind his back.

Chu Kuangren recollected his spiritual thought and channeled his attention to his current situation. “It looks like I’ve been roped into some kind of trouble.”

Boom!

At that moment, the Sage Ruler abruptly unleashed his energy.

A powerful explosion of spiritual energy ensued.

“Who cares where you’re from? You’re dying today anyway.”

“For a petty Sage Ruler, you sure lack some decency.”

Chu Kuangren gently lifted his hand and unfolded a ripple of spiritual energy that was far more devastating than those from a Sage Ruler.

As their attacks collided, the Sage Ruler let out a loud wail as his entire limb was crushed into pulps by the overwhelming energy. The remaining momentum sent the Sage Ruler flying like a broken kite before he eventually crashed into the ground.

“What?!”

“What a formidable technique!”

The other clan members were dumbfounded by Chu Kuangren’s performance.

“He has swiftly defeated the Qian Family Head with one technique. Since when did such a strong cultivator appear in the Stone City?!”

“His origin is unknown, and his ability is unprecedented. We must refrain from engaging with him.”

The Wu clan members were disturbed after witnessing Chu Kuangren’s abilities. Some of them were already planning their escape routes.

“Brother, do you mind telling us your names? At the very least, we deserve to know who we’ll be losing to.”

The brute, who was injured by the Divine Emerald Lamp, said.

“It doesn’t matter who I am. What matters is this Emperor Weapon seems fated to be in my possession. If any of you dare take it from me, I won’t mind killing a couple of people,” Chu Kuangren said coldly.

Now that an Emperor Weapon was in his hands, Chu Kuangren had no reason to give it away.

The Sage Rulers were so petrified that they could only stare at each other because none of them dared charge forward.

“Do you have any idea who’s looking for this Divine Emerald Lamp?”

“Nope,” Chu Kuangren replied nonchalantly.

“Then, I can only pray you won’t regret your action,” the brute Sage Ruler said and gestured to the other cultivators to leave.

“One day, you’ll pay for what you did today,” the senior elder left his harsh remarks before following the brute away.

The other cultivators were prepared to leave too.

“Hold it right there.”

Chu Kuangren interrupted their departure. He stared at the senior elder and uttered calmly, “You, did you just threaten me?”

“I was just telling the truth.”

“In that case, then stay here and be my guest,” Chu Kuangren said. He gently lifted his hand and mobilized his mind power.

Lines of runes manifested around the senior elder and intertwined to unleash an array of colorful lights.

Then, an earth-shattering amount of energy erupted one after another.

The senior elder was blown up so badly that nothing was left of him at the end.

The cultivators could only gulp in fear upon witnessing that scene.

First, Chu Kuangren had used his spiritual energy to defeat a Sage Ruler. Then, Chu Kuangren had used his runic powers to obliterate the senior elder, who was by no means weaker than a Sage Ruler!

To them, this sheer power was mind-numbing.

"I don't think even a top-notch Sage Ruler will have the same amount of power as this person does. Could he be a Boundary Emperor?"

They thought to themselves.

"Let's go."

The brute stared fearfully at Chu Kuangren. He did not have the courage to make Chu Kuangren his enemy.

He led the survivors out of the Wu clan's territory.

Once the cultivators left, the Wu clan members could only stare blankly at Chu Kuangren. None of them dared to strike a conversation with him, not even when Chu Kuangren was toying around with the Wu clan's ancestral treasure, the Divine Emerald Lamp.

As Chu Kuangren casually toyed around with the lantern, he asked, "Now that I've helped you kill the traitor and scare off your enemies, don't you have anything to say?"

He had previously investigated the situation using his Eye of Revelation.

The elder that he killed was the Wu clan's senior elder, yet he went head-to-head with the rest of the Wu clan. It was obvious that he was the traitor.

It was also the reason why Chu Kuangren decided to kill him. The senior elder's threat was only part of the equation.

The Wu Clan Leader immediately dragged his injured body before Chu Kuangren and said, "T-Thank you, Brother... for your assistance."

The Wu Clan Leader was still spitting blood as he spoke. His aura was much weakened than ever, as if he could perish at any moment. It made the Wu clan members gravely worried about his condition.

In face of such unprecedented turmoil, the Wu clan could not afford to lose the leader. The lack of leadership at such a crucial moment would spell the demise of the family.

"I can't even hear you clearly." Chu Kuangren shook his head and performed the Spring Breeze Healing Technique.

As the breeze blew past, it nourished the Wu Clan Leader with the life force that allowed him to swiftly recover from his injuries.

The Wu Clan Leader, who was previously at the brink of death, was now rejuvenated and alive. He looked at Chu Kuangren in awe and exclaimed, "W-what technique was that?!"

"None of your business. Now that I've helped the Wu clan to defeat their enemy and saved your life, I need your help on a matter in return."

Chu Kuangren said casually.

There was no harm in asking the Wu clan for a favor in return for his random act of kindness.

Chapter 500: Sword Daoist, Damaged Emperor Weapon, The Nine Heavens Orthodoxies' Strategy

"Brother, feel free to state your requests. The Wu clan will make sure to contribute everything we can within our capacity."

The Wu Clan Leader was quick to agree.

He knew that Chu Kuangren's power was far more terrifying than the other clans.

The Wu clan was probably an insignificant orthodoxy in Chu Kuangren's perspective. If he wanted to, he could obliterate them at any moment.

The power difference was so big that the Wu Clan Leader did not even think of resisting at all.

If that was the case, there was no harm in playing along with Chu Kuangren's demands.

As Chu Kuangren had saved the Wu clan and his life, the Wu Clan Leader felt that this was a great opportunity to turn the situation around.

"It looks like you know how to play your cards well." Chu Kuangren nodded, content with the clan leader's attitude.

"First, I've got a few questions to ask. Is this the Emperor Road?"

The Wu Clan Leader was confused. He did not expect Chu Kuangren to pose such a question. However, the Wu Clan Leader was quick to recall an important fact and hastily answered, "Yes."

"Are you born and raised in the Emperor Road, or did you come from somewhere else?"

"We were born in the Emperor Road and are considered a local institution. However, there are also many powerful entities in the Emperor Road who came from the outside world."

The Wu Clan Leader could gauge Chu Kuangren's origin and did not intend to conceal any matter.

"Very well. Lastly, I require some information about the Emperor Road, including information about the region's power dynamics, sky-prides, and matters relating to the Emperor's Throne."

"Understood."

The Wu Clan Leader nodded and arranged a guest room for Chu Kuangren. He had never once mentioned the Divine Emerald Lamp throughout their conversation.

In the Wu clan's grand hall, several elders were congregating.

“Clan Leader, what should we do next?”

“Let’s just stick to his demands and see what pans out.”

“What about the Divine Emerald Lamp then?”

“If he’s unwilling to return it, do you think we stand a chance in getting it back?” The Wu Clan Leader rolled his eyes and said.

Then, his eyes glimmered with a sense of excitement. “I believe you’ve heard that the Emperor Mountain has undergone a strange transformation. The Emperors’ Thrones are reappearing. This means that the Emperor Road is now connected to the outside world. This person is likely a sky-pride from the outside world, who’s participating in the fight for the Emperor’s Throne. Nay, he must be!”

“Besides, you’ve also witnessed his capability, how he defeated the Sage Rulers with ease. Not even the outlawed sky-prides of the Emperor Road are capable of it. How strong must his orthodoxy be for it to birth such a formidable cultivator? It must be many times stronger than the Wu clan.”

“The Wu clan has been suffering from a severe lack of talent these years. We’re unfated to ascend into the Emperor Throne. We can only benefit from making his acquaintance. If this person manages to ascend into the throne, it’ll mean that we’ve made the acquaintance of an Emperor. This alone will ensure that the Wu clan will prosper.”

The council contemplated deeply at the Wu Clan Leader’s explanation.

Although the likelihood of a person becoming an Emperor was slim, it was still possible.

Besides, there was not much they could do other than avoid getting at Chu Kuangren’s wrong side at all costs.

“We understand now.”

Then, the elders followed Chu Kuangren’s demand and went on to prepare a list of intel about the Emperor Road.

In the Wu clan’s guest room.

Chu Kuangren recollected his spiritual thought. “They’re smart enough to avoid playing tricks on me.”

He needed a local entity to prepare the information for him, and he could not ask for anything better than the Wu clan’s allegiance.

“The Emperor Road’s structure is built differently than the outside world. It looks like I may need some time to get used to it.”

Chu Kuangren noticed that his spiritual thought was not his only ability that got restricted. His Spatial Conveyor Skill was just as affected as well, all because the Emperor Road’s spatial structure significantly differed from the outside world. As such, Chu Kuangren needed some time to adjust himself.

Fortunately, his other combat strength still remained unaffected. This was enough for him to deal with what was about to come.

...

Stone City, Zhang clan.

The Sage Rulers who had just returned from the Wu clan were congregating.

"D*mn it. Our entire plan has been ruined by a person who just appeared out of nowhere. Now that we don't have the Divine Emerald Lamp, I wonder how that entity will punish us."

The Zhang Clan Leader said. At the mention of that entity, a sense of fear flashed in his eyes.

"It is unfortunate that we didn't get the Divine Emerald Lamp, but the youngster was just too strong for all of us. He could easily kill a Sage Ruler. With that level of ability, I'm afraid only the entity has the means to deal with him. This is out of our hands. It's best that we speak honestly with him."

Qian Clan Leader said as he attended to his severed limb.

A brief encounter with Chu Kuangren was enough to leave him traumatized.

"That seems like our only option now."

The Zhang Clan Leader took out a transparent crystal ball, which emitted a glow that manifested into an apparition in the void.

The apparition was blurry, but one could tell that the figure of the apparition was dressed in a majestic golden robe. Despite it being his apparition only, the figure still managed to exert an unbearable aura within the room.

"Greetings, Sword Daoist," the Zhang Clan Leader quickly bowed and greeted the person.

"Is the matter done?"

The entity that was known as the Sword Daoist spoke.

The clan leaders could only look at each other. None of them dared utter a word.

The Sword Daoist could induce the results from their silence and said furiously, "Speak. What happened?!"

"Everything was going as planned at first. However, just when we're about to get our hands on the Divine Emerald Lamp..." The Zhang Clan Leader narrated the entire incident to the Sword Daoist.

The Sword Daoist went silent for a moment before he screamed abruptly, "Useless!"

"Please forgive us, Sword Daoist."

"Hmph, I'm occupied by other matters for now, so I'll send a few swordsmen over to complete the affair tomorrow."

"If the Master Swordsmen will come to assist, then the matter should be considered done," said the Zhang Clan Leader as he quickly bowed.

"If anything funny happens again this time, it'll be the end of all your clans."

With a snort, the Sword Daoist vanished.

The clan leaders could not help but turn white when they heard the Sword Daoist's final remark.

"With the assistance from the Master Swordsmen, this shouldn't be a problem."

"That's right, let's not worry too much about it now."

...

In the Wu clan.

Chu Kuangren was toying around with the Divine Emerald Lamp when he noticed that the Emperor Weapon was damaged.

He noticed that there was no wick in the lantern.

"A damaged Emperor Weapon is of little use to me. If the Wu clan puts up a decent performance, I might just consider returning this to them."

Chu Kuangren murmured.

At that instance, the Wu Clan Leader knocked on the door to his room.

Chu Kuangren stored the Divine Emerald Lamp and said, "Come in."

"Greetings, Brother Chu."

"How's everything going so far?"

"This is the map of the Emperor Road and all the information about its sky-prides and powerful cultivators."

The Wu Clan Leader then took out a jade scroll.

Chu Kuangren activated his spiritual thought and glimpsed through the content. He noticed that there was a significant overlap between the information provided by the Wu Clan Leader and the divine predictor.

He pondered deeply. "It looks like the past ancient and even archaic orthodoxies had established their power foundations throughout the Emperor Road a long time ago. Interesting. So apart from the sky-prides, I'll also have to deal with these orthodoxies in the Emperor Road. No wonder the divine predictor has given me so much information about the Nine Heavens."