

Unparalleled 681

Chapter 681: Prepare to Deal With the Religious Orthodoxies, Where Is Your God Now?

“Brother Chu, I’ll be busy dealing with the Gods that have broken free, and the remaining Emperors have to stand guard over the Gods that are sealed. In that case, I’ll need you to handle those religious orthodoxies for now,” said the Seventh Tormentor to Chu Kuangren frustratingly over the communication compass.

Chu Kuangren frowned a little when he heard that.

“Me? Alone?”

“What’s the matter, Brother Chu? Are you afraid?”

“Oh, are you trying to prod me into action with this sarcasm? Heavenly Tormentor,” Chu Kuangren asked lightly.

“Don’t you worry, Brother Chu. I won’t ask you to do this without giving you something in return. If you’re able to get rid of the religious orthodoxies, I shall offer you anything you want.”

The Seventh Tormentor said with a chuckle.

“Deal.”

Chu Kuangren accepted that troublesome task. He was planning to head to Barren Cloud Prefecture and find out what the religious orthodoxies were up to anyway.

Full Moon Kingdom, inside the White Lotus School

A battle of religious beliefs was currently being fought.

The School of White Lotus cultivators were surrounded by many religious cultivators wearing blue, red, and white robes.

“Fire God Cult, Water God Cult, Ice God Cult, I can’t believe these cults that only rose a few months ago can push my School of White Lotus to this point.” The White Lotus School Leader laughed bitterly.

A man in red robes before her said, “That’s because you guys are not worshipping a true God! How can the White Lotus Sage Ruler, a mere cultivator who’s not even an Emperor, be worthy of the people’s worship?”

Even the Immemorial Sage, who was beside the White Lotus School Leader, gritted her teeth. However, she was speechless because their White Lotus Sage Ruler was indeed no match for the Gods behind these cults. He was not even a match for their elders.

The White Lotus Sage Ruler was only a Sage.

Nevertheless, it was no longer the era where the Sages held dominion in the world.

Before the likes of those Emperors and Gods, the School of White Lotus’s faith was just too weak and not worth mentioning.

“Today, the School of White Lotus will be no more.”

“From this day onwards, the Full Moon Kingdom and all the other kingdoms in the south, as well as the entire Barren Cloud Prefecture shall worship the true God!” the red-robed man said.

After that, he raised his hand and began channeling his spiritual power.

He then unleashed a palm attack, and its terrifying Daoist Rhyme immediately locked onto the School of White Lotus cultivators.

The power of that palm attack was far beyond the level of a Boundary Emperor, let alone a Sage Ruler. There was no way the White Lotus School Leader and others could survive this.

At this moment, everyone was filled with despair.

The School of White Lotus was about to be destroyed...

Everyone closed their eyes in silence as they awaited their impending death.

However, the suffering they expected to hit them did not come through at all, so some of them slowly opened their eyes.

Out of nowhere, a white figure has appeared in front of them.

That person was dressed in spotless white robes and had a slender figure akin to a long sword. As he stood with his back against everyone, they felt a sense of greatness from him.

Upon seeing him, the White Lotus School Leader and others felt that the person was distinctly familiar.

“It’s... It’s the Supreme Elder!!”

The Immemorial Sage was incredibly delighted.

The other cultivators, too, became hopeful again.

“It’s the Supreme Elder. It’s our Supreme Elder.”

“I can’t believe the Supreme Elder is here. This is wonderful! With him around, we’ll certainly be safe.”

While the White Lotus School cultivators were very excited, the disciples of the religious orthodoxies could not help but frown as they looked at Chu Kuangren.

This was especially so for the red-robed man from the Fire God Cult, who had no idea why Chu Kuangren was here.

Besides that, his attack had also disappeared without a trace the moment Chu Kuangren arrived. Such power was truly unbelievable.

“Who the hell are you?”

The red-robed man looked at Chu Kuangren, who had suddenly appeared, and asked.

At the same time, the powerful cultivators beside him were on high alert.

"It looks like you guys are the ones who have been rapidly spreading your so-called religion these days. Who are the Gods that you worship?"

Chu Kuangren looked at the red-robed man and others.

"Hmph, I'm a true believer of the God of Fire."

"I'm a faithful servant of the God of Water. If you know who you're messing with here, I suggest you leave right now."

"I'm a believer in the God of Ice, my child. These heretics who believe in false Gods are beyond unforgivable, so you better leave as soon as you can."

The powerful cultivators of the three religious orthodoxies looked at Chu Kuangren and warned him.

They could tell that he was not someone to be messed with. Hence, they decided to scare him using the name of their Gods.

However, Chu Kuangren frowned after hearing what they had to say. He then asked, "So you're saying that the School of White Lotus has been worshipping a false God? Then how are the Gods you're worshipping true Gods?"

"That's obvious. The Gods we worship have existed ever since this world was created. As for the White Lotus Sage Ruler, whom the School of White Lotus worship, he's only a tiny Sage Ruler and has no right to call himself a God. That's why he's a false God!"

"Oh, I see. About tens of thousands of years ago, when a three-headed hound from the Underworld was wreaking havoc here, it was the White Lotus Sage Ruler who took action and saved millions of civilians from their destruction. Now, allow me to ask, where were your Gods during that time?!"

Chu Kuangren chuckled, his gaze turning cold. An immeasurably terrifying aura emanated from his body. The powerful cultivators at the scene were so scared that their expressions shifted, and some were even forced to kneel on the spot!

It was his Emperor's Aura!

"It seems like the rumors are true. Our Supreme Elder has indeed become an Emperor."

The White Lotus School Leader, Immemorial Sage, and others were overjoyed.

To them, an Emperor was a supreme being on a higher level of existence.

"Now that I'm going to kill all of you, where is your God?"

Chu Kuangren uttered lightly.

He mobilized his Emperor Thought, and an invisible wave of mind power instantly enveloped the surroundings. One by one, mists of blood exploded in the air like blooming devilish flowers.

"Almighty God of Fire, give us strength!"

"Almighty God of Water, help me slay my enemy!"

“Almighty God of Ice, allow me to kill this heretic before you...”

The Boundary Emperors, the ones with the highest cultivation level among the crowd, suddenly erupted with power. In the dark, a surge of energy suddenly gave them an increase in power.

A sky full of flames, vast currents of water, and attacks of endless ice power instantly unleashed towards Chu Kuangren, causing the void to tremble violently.

Chu Kuangren remained expressionless. “Is this the best your so-called Gods can offer? Such a petty amount of power.”

He allowed the three different energies to crash mercilessly onto his body. However, he remained still. Not a single hair on his body was affected.

Those energies could not even hurt his Emperor body.

Everyone was completely astounded by this.

“Retreat!”

“Let’s run. We’re not a match for this Emperor.”

The followers of those religious orthodoxies wanted to escape.

However, Chu Kuangren’s Emperor Thoughts surged forth in his command and trapped them in an invisible force field. All of a sudden, they could not move.

“Now, die.”

Chu Kuangren said lightly.

Poof, poof, poof...

Countless blood mists exploded in the sky, forming a bloodbath.

It took a while for the School of White Lotus cultivators to return to their senses. Everyone looked at Chu Kuangren with a passionate and admiring gaze.

In their eyes, Chu Kuangren looked like a God at this moment!

When Chu Kuangren noticed this scene, he pondered before coming to the Immemorial Sage and the others.

“Greetings, great Emperor!”

The Immemorial Sage and White Lotus School Leader hurriedly bowed.

“Greetings, it’s good to see all of you again. I’ve come this time to learn about these religious orthodoxies, I hope you can tell me everything you know about them.”

“I see. Very well, great Emperor, please come with us.”

“Heh, there’s no need to be so formal around me. I’m still the White Lotus School’s Supreme Elder after all.” Chu Kuangren chuckled.

After that, they entered the School of White Lotus's inner hall, where the White Lotus School Leader told him everything that had been happening in Barren Cloud Prefecture.

Chapter 682: Every Being But Me Are False Gods, the One True God

"The Fire God Cult, Water God Cult, Ice God Cult started rising a few months ago. Ever since then, their numbers have increased so rapidly that an unimaginable number of elites have joined their ranks."

"Within just these few months, these religious orthodoxies have gained a ton of followers from more than half of Barren Cloud Prefecture. Even the Full Moon Kingdom, who believed in the White Lotus Sage Ruler most, was greatly affected."

"Right now, most of the citizens have gone over and joined those three religious orthodoxies, choosing to believe in their God instead."

Upon mentioning this, the White Lotus School Leader and the Immemorial Sage looked saddened. They were clearly frustrated to lose so many followers.

However, there was nothing they could do about it.

As much as they hated to admit it, the Gods that the Fire God Cult and other religious orthodoxies worshipped were more powerful than their White Lotus Sage Ruler.

They were the true Gods, after all.

Besides, it would be easy for them to create a few "miracles" due to the number of elites they had on their side. The other cultivators might know what was going on behind the scenes, but the ordinary citizens would still worship them in droves.

"At first, we didn't care who the citizens and common folk chose to place their faith in. But as far as we know, the Fire God Cult has been secretly causing a series of disasters just to set the stage for them to save the day and win the people's hearts. However, it has resulted in the deaths of many."

"Previously, I met a few of those from the Fire God Cult who poisoned a city's water supply, causing the people living there to suffer from disease and illness. Nearly a million people died because of that. In the end, the cultists from the Fire God Cult appeared as their savior with an antidote, telling them that it was a blessing from their God instead."

"How could the common folk know? But because of this, everyone has become followers of the Fire God Cult. This is also the main reason why these religious orthodoxies can grow so quickly in such a short time. The way those people do things is simply despicable."

The White Lotus School Leader said.

This was why the School of White Lotus deeply resented those religious orthodoxies. However, after trying to expose their heinous acts, they were branded as a heretical cult instead, which led to the heated confrontation today.

"Heh. It seems like they're using the same old tricks, huh?"

Chu Kuangren sneered.

The methods the religious orthodoxies used to spread their faith were exactly the same as what he heard from the Chaos Daoist Celestial inside the Slumbering Emperor Coffin.

During the archaic ancient times, after witnessing the human race's rise to power, the Gods caused a series of disasters to continue gaining the Power of Faith from them.

They would always swoop in and take advantage of when the humans were weak and vulnerable.

"So how are you going to deal with these religious orthodoxies, Supreme Elder?"

The Immemorial Sage asked curiously.

Chu Kuangren's fingers drummed on the armrest of his chair unintentionally before he got up.

"Immemorial Sage, can you go out on a walk with me?"

The Immemorial Sage was taken aback. However, she nodded. "Alright."

The two of them walked out from the White Lotus School.

...

Inside the Full Moon Kingdom.

The gazes of the once energetic citizens of this city were depressed and hollowed. Their expressions were blank as they walked.

They were no different from the living dead right now.

Although these people were alive, it looked as if they had lost the will to live.

Chu Kuangren and the Immemorial Sage arrived at a public square.

There stood several statues, which were erected by the followers of the Fire God Cult. Beside them, a broken statue was on the ground. It was a statue of Chu Kuangren.

Previously, when the three-headed-hound broke free from its seal in the Full Moon Kingdom and wreaked havoc with its demonic qi that leaked everywhere, it was Chu Kuangren who arrived and helped purify it. That was how he gained the gratitude of the city's citizens, who erected a statue in honor of his deeds.

Now, no one even cared that his statue was lying on the ground.

Chu Kuangren brought that statue back up again using his mind power and spoke calmly, "The citizens of this city have changed a lot."

"When the White Lotus Sage Ruler they had been worshipping for so long was revealed to be no more than a false god, the impact caused by their shattered faith was just too great. Anyone would be greatly disheartened if the same thing happened to them." The Immemorial Sage sighed.

"Losing friends and family to a disaster will often create a huge void in the hearts of those people who survived. They can either let time slowly mend the void or let something in to fill it up instead, like... faith! The followers of the Fire God Cult know this as well. That's why they took advantage of this to increase their number of followers."

"I understand." The Immemorial Sage nodded.

She, too, was the same when she was younger. Having lost her family and friends because of a disaster, a great void appeared inside her. It was as if she had lost her sense of living and no motivation to do anything at all.

Later, she joined the School of White Lotus and believed in the White Lotus Sage Ruler. Only then was the void inside her filled.

"I understand that your intentions to expose the Fire God Cult is for the good of the people, but your method of doing this is just too direct. The common people have just been through a disaster, and a new faith has filled the voids in them. Exposing the Fire God Cult to them is no different than simply emptying their hearts again!"

"That's why the common people will resist this change subconsciously. Even if what you said is true, choosing such a moment to do so will certainly make you appear less credible. Sometimes, it is not that people don't believe you. They just simply choose not to."

Chu Kuangren explained.

The Immemorial Sage frowned a little when she heard this. When she recalled the time she exposed the Fire God Cult for what they did, the common folk did indeed seem lost and in a panic. It was as if they had lost a pillar of support.

With just a few words, the Fire God Cult and other religious orthodoxies managed to twist the narrative and turn the School of White Lotus, who were exposing their evil schemes, into the villains. In turn, they were cursed and yelled at by the people. It was unbelievable.

"Supreme Elder, do you mean you're going to deceive and have them believe the ones who are bringing harm to them?"

The Immemorial Sage felt that this was just too ridiculous.

Then again, she had been with the School of White Lotus for so many years. She fully understood the human heart and knew that even such ridiculous things could happen.

"Obviously, no. If we want to change this situation, there's still another way, such as... Giving them something new to put their faith in!"

Chu Kuangren looked at his statue and said.

Upon hearing this, the Immemorial Sage was shocked, but she seemingly understood what he meant. A look of disbelief appeared in her eyes. "Supreme Elder, do you know who you're going up against if you choose to do this?"

"Of course I do."

"The ones you're going up against are the Gods. Not just one, not just two, but all the Gods in existence since the archaic and even immemorial times!"

The Immemorial Sage knew that Chu Kuangren had become an Emperor.

However, he was only a human.

‘Can he really stand up against the high and mighty Gods?’

“The Gods?”

“Heh, from this day onwards, every being but me are false Gods!”

Chu Kuangren turned and waved his sleeves, bringing up a gust of wind that shattered all the other Gods’ statues into pieces! Only his statue remained standing!

“Let’s head back. It’s time we prepare a head-on confrontation for those false Gods. Those who incur the true God’s wrath will have to pay.”

Chu Kuangren said as he walked towards the School of White Lotus.

Some of the religious orthodoxy followers were incredibly enraged after seeing Chu Kuangren destroying the statues of their Gods. So, they walked towards him and tried to find out why.

However, every step Chu Kuangren took left white lotuses on the ground. Soon, he was surrounded by countless white lotuses that sent the several religious orthodoxy followers, who tried to approach him, flying.

Seeing Chu Kuangren radiating with holiness and the white lotuses that appeared with every step he took, the people who were originally believers of the White Lotus School started to look hopeful.

“Is he the Bachelor Sage?”

“It’s the Bachelor Sage. He has returned...”

Behind him, the Immemorial Sage looked at Chu Kuangren’s back and took a deep breath. “The one true God in this world, huh? That’s something to look forward to indeed...”

Chapter 683: Omniscient Spirit, Can’t Even Answer My Questions? Nice to Meet You Lil Ai

Inside the School of White Lotus.

Chu Kuangren was discussing with the White Lotus School Leader and the Immemorial Sage on how to deal with the Fire God Cult and other religious orthodoxies. However, Chu Kuangren’s ambitions did not stop there. Not only did he want to defeat these religious orthodoxies but their Gods too!

He wanted to destroy the Gods’ plan of gathering the people’s Power of Faith!

The easiest way for him to do that was to become everyone’s symbol of faith. This way, the Gods would not have any chance to gain the people’s Power of Faith.

“Very well, it’s decided then.”

“We shall do it tomorrow.”

Chu Kuangren said to everyone.

However, he seemingly thought of something when he was about to leave, so he turned around and asked. “If I were to be a God, I’d got to have a symbolic name, right?”

The Immemorial Sage and White Lotus School Leader looked at each other.

"It seems so. Having a good name will enable it to be deeply rooted in the people's heart."

"How about the True Black Heaven God? Does it sound good?"

Chu Kuangren said while touching his chin.

Then, he went with that decision right away. "Let's go with True Black Heaven God then."

Since he came from the Black Heaven Sect, he should be known as the True Black Heaven God.

"If that's the case, let's change our orthodoxy's name to Black Heaven School then." The Immemorial Sage proposed. "The School of White Lotus's reputation has already been dragged into the mud by now. We've lost countless followers and disciples because of that. Since we're building a new religion, we might as well start from the ground up. What do you think, Supreme Elder?"

The White Lotus School Leader wanted to speak but stopped after Chu Kuangren did not reject the Immemorial Sage's decision. "Sure, of course."

"Let's go ahead with this for now."

Chu Kuangren turned around and left. After leaving the great hall, he looked into the full moon in the sky and could not help getting a little emotional. "To think I used to push all the responsibilities and tasks to everyone else just not to become the Black Heaven Sect Leader. Yet now, I've gone and volunteered myself to become some True Black Heaven God. Wow. I've changed too much ever since, too much indeed."

Although he thought that the role was troublesome, he was willing to take it on.

Sometimes, people were destined to do certain things.

However, since no one could do these things, he would do it!

"I hope you won't disappoint, fellow Gods."

Chu Kuangren looked into the distance and murmured.

...

Inside the great hall.

The White Lotus School Leader looked a little troubled.

However, the Immemorial Sage beside her seemed to know what she was thinking and said, "Are you unhappy with my decision to change the School of White Lotus's name?"

The White Lotus School Leader shook her head and replied, "I wouldn't dare. It's just that... By changing the School of White Lotus to the Black Heaven School, our beliefs and faiths will be completely gone."

"As I said earlier, the School of White Lotus School is only a name. However, the teachings of the School of White Lotus can be passed on and taught in another way through the Black Heaven School. That was why I decided to change it."

“Besides, you’ve seen how powerful our Supreme Elder is. If we truly want to survive in such a perilous era, we’ll need to stick with him.” Said the Immemorial Sage slowly.

The White Lotus School Leader nodded slightly. “I understand now.”

After going back to his room, Chu Kuangren was resting with his eyes closed.

Suddenly, a voice appeared in his mind.

“Greetings, Master.”

He could not tell whether that was a man’s or a woman’s voice.

Chu Kuangren quickly opened his eyes. “Who are you?”

“I’m the upgraded Eye of Revelation’s divine power. You can refer to me as the Omniscient Spirit.” That mysterious voice continued speaking.

“Oh.” Chu Kuangren’s interest was piqued. “The Eye of Revelation has gained a will of its own after the upgrade. This is quite a surprise.”

“All of this was bestowed by you, Master.”

Chu Kuangren said no more.

He subconsciously activated his Eye of Revelation. However, an introduction about the Omniscient Spirit appeared in his mind instead.

Omniscient Spirit, transcendent divine power.

That divine power could connect to the consciousness of the universe, gain all the information within it, and help the user analyze everything there was in the universe.

Chu Kuangren stroked his chin in suspicion.

‘Obtain every piece of information from the universe?’

‘Analyze every being in the universe?’

‘Why does it sound so mysterious?’

“Omniscient Spirit, analyze the Fantasy Roulette for me.”

“Apologies, Master. That item is beyond the scope of this universe’s laws.”

“Then, do you know what an Immortal is?”

“Apologies, Master, I do not know.”

“What about the Gods? Do you know how many of them there are?”

“Apologies, Master, I do not know.”

Chu Kuangren was speechless.

'Refund!'

'I demand a refund now!'

"You can't even answer what I asked you, and you call yourself the Omniscient Spirit?"

"Here's a reminder, Master. A specific target or object is required when using the Omniscient Spirit for analysis. Because a specific target or object was not established, I could not conduct my analysis."

The Omniscient Spirit explained.

"I see."

Chu Kuangren turned silent for a while. He then opened his palm, where an incredibly mysterious Heavenly Punishment Daoist Pattern could be seen swirling on it.

"Analyze the Heavenly Punishment Daoist Pattern!"

"Omniscient Spirit, activated... Connecting to the universe's consciousness... Connection established. Beginning analysis on target object..."

Suddenly, the Firmament Star's Heavenly Dao trembled for a moment.

Having sensed something, all of the great ones in the Firmament Star sent forth their Emperor Thoughts to find out. However, after searching the whole Firmament Star, they could not find anything out of the ordinary.

All of them were puzzled for a while.

Meanwhile, inside the School of White Lotus.

Chu Kuangren had no idea what kind of commotion he had caused by using the Omniscient Spirit to analyze the Heavenly Punishment Daoist Pattern.

The moment he started analyzing the Heavenly Punishment Daoist Pattern, an ocean of information flooded his mind, and all of it was related to the Heavenly Punishment Daoist Pattern. These were very helpful for him to study the subject.

A while later.

His understanding of the Heavenly Punishment Daoist Pattern was increased to another level.

"Alright, let's stop here for now."

Chu Kuangren disconnected the Omniscient Spirit's connection to the universe's consciousness.

There was just too much information about the Heavenly Punishment Daoist Pattern. This included the other beings who had control over the same Heavenly Punishment Daoist Pattern in other planets, what the Heavenly Punishment Daoist Pattern should be used for, which Heavenly Dao it came from, and more.

Chu Kuangren could almost explode due to the sheer amount of information that was pouring into him. He reckoned that he would need a few days at least to digest what he had learned so far.

“In other words, this Omniscient Spirit is quite useful.”

Chu Kuangren murmured.

“Thanks for the praise, Master.”

The Omniscient Spirit answered calmly in a non-binary voice.

“Um, can you change your voice?”

“Do you have any specific requests, Master?”

“Just change it, and I’ll decide whether I like it or not.”

“Yes, of course, Master. Does this voice sound okay to you?”

The Omniscient Spirit replied in a loli(TN: A “Loli” refers to young and usually underage girls with a childlike appearance, also a type of Japanese media and subculture in and of itself.)-like voice.

“Ahem... This voice is fine, but let’s change to another and see.”

“What about this?”

It replied in a cold, robotic male voice this time.

“Sounds too cold, so no. Change to another one.”

“Then, what about this, Master?”

This time, it replied in a mature lady’s voice, which sounded deep and husky.

Chu Kuangren’s eyes lit up. “Alright, I’ll go with this. Also, why don’t I give you a name as well? Let’s call you... Lil Ai (TN: “Ai” is a reference to AI, short for artificial intelligence, since Chu Kuangren’s divine power had a mind of its own, like Friday from Ironman but more powerful and broken.).”

The Omniscient Spirit did not know what to reply.

The next day.

Inside a city in the Barren Cloud Prefecture.

In the Fire God Cult’s holy temple.

A group of devout followers was gathered there for prayer.

“Our Fire God Cult worships the Venerable God of Fire. As you all know, the discovery of fire marks the true beginning of our civilization. The God of Fire is one of the strongest Gods in this world, with a thousand six hundred and sixty-one Subordinate Gods serving beneath him...”

“By putting our faith in the God of Fire, our souls shall be cleansed by the divine fire. When the time comes for us to depart from this world, our souls shall not fall into the cycle of rebirth. Instead, we’ll arrive at the Sacred Kingdom of Fire to be with our God once and for all...”

An elderly man in red robes holding a fiery red scepter was preaching the benefits of joining the Fire God to his followers, causing many of them to yearn for what he said.

“How can a mere false God who can’t even protect himself prevent his followers from falling into the cycle of rebirth?! What a joke!”

Chapter 684: Killing the Three Godly Apparitions, All the False Gods Shall Perish

As the words “false god” echoed in the sky, Chu Kuangren descended from the skies with his boundless and domineering Emperor’s Might. Wearing a robe as white as snow, his figure was shrouded with a dazzling divine light as his black hair flew in the air. It was as if his every movement carried the might of the world.

Chu Kuangren’s appearance could be seen by every cultivator in the city!

Countless people could not help but feel shocked when they saw him.

“You heretic! How dare you slander the name of our God!”

A great roar soon came from within the holy temple.

A figure in long red robes holding a scepter flew out. His body was emanating powerful surges of Emperor’s Aura.

“Oh, an unfamiliar Emperor’s Aura. Analyze him, Lil Ai.” Chu Kuangren grinned as he summoned the Omniscient Spirit in his mind.

“Connecting to the universe’s consciousness...”

“Hold on a minute.”

Chu Kuangren suddenly interrupted the Omniscient Spirit in his mind. “There’s no need to announce those unnecessary things like you did yesterday.”

“Then what are your requests, Master?”

“Be a little more realistic, and only give me the information that matters.”

“Aren’t you making things a little hard for me?”

The Omniscient Spirit said in frustration.

The information contained in the universe’s consciousness was so incredibly vast. Even a piece of rock would contain quite a large amount of information.

Not to mention a living Emperor who had lived for thousands of years, the information relating to him was incomparably huge.

“What’s the matter? You can’t do it?” Chu Kuangren teased.

“I’ll have you know that I’m the almighty Omniscient Spirit! Establishing connection with the universe’s consciousness... Connection established, commencing analysis on target right now...”

All of that Emperor’s information instantly appeared in his mind.

“He’s the God Worshipping Cult’s Emperor, alright.”

Chu Kuangren glanced at the Emperor in front of him. Without saying another word, he lifted his hand and pressed it lightly in the air. In an instant, an invisible surge of energy surrounded that Emperor and brutally slammed him into the ground.

“Senior Elder!”

“Senior Elder! How is this possible?”

The expressions of Countless Fire God Cult followers changed.

That Senior Elder had a very high status among the countless followers, and he could use the Divine Might too. However, he was defeated by Chu Kuangren with one slap!

Everyone’s faith was greatly shaken by his actions.

“Who the hell are you?!”

The Senior Elder glared at Chu Kuangren with disbelief.

He was still an Emperor no matter what, yet he did not even have a chance to fight back before the likes of Chu Kuangren.

“I am your God!”

Chu Kuangren said.

“Nonsense! How dare you impersonate the Gods!”

A middle-aged man in lavish robes and with a crown on his head slowly walked out from the temple with a red crystal in his hand.

His Emperor’s Aura was far stronger than the Senior Elder just now.

That person was a Rank Eight Initial Emperor.

At this time, huge bursts of energy erupted from two other parts of the city respectively. One of them was a surging torrential force, while the other was a creeping freezing qi that could freeze anything in the world.

A woman in long blue robes holding a scepter and a white-haired elder approached him through the air. The Emperor’s Aura coming from their body was almost as powerful as the middle-aged man in red. They, too, were Rank Eight Initial Emperors.

“It’s the Cult Leaders.”

“It’s the Fire God Cult Leader, Water God Cult Leader, and Ice God Cult Leader... That’s great. Now that they’re here, this heretic will certainly be disposed of!”

“The Cult Leaders are basically messengers of the Gods who can use their God’s Divine Might. They can surely defeat this heretic.”

Everyone was looking at the three Cult Leaders excitedly.

However, as the Fire God Cult Leader looked at Chu Kuangren and felt the latter's might, a solemn look flashed in his eyes.

Following that, an incredibly powerful aura erupted from his body. Within his Emperor's Aura was mixed with a magnificent surge of Divine Might.

Countless followers could not help but kneel and worship the Divine Might's appearance.

"Heretic, feel the power of the Gods!"

The Fire God Cult Leader yelled, and a huge figure shrouded in flames suddenly appeared behind him. It was the Venerable God of Fire!

"Almighty God of Ice, give me the strength to vanquish my enemy!"

The white-haired elder who was the Ice God Cult Leader uttered with a pious expression. The vast surges of Divine Might and Emperor qi on him soon formed a snow-shrouded figure behind him.

It was the Venerable God of Ice!

The Water God Cult Leader channeled her energy and invoked the God of Water's power.

The powers of the three Gods emerged within that moment, appearing in the form of three gigantic Godly Apparitions that were glaring at Chu Kuangren with murderous intent.

Three of those Venerable Gods were still sealed at the moment. Only their Subordinate Gods had escaped and were currently gathering the Power of Faith for them to break from their seal faster. Anyone that stood in their way during this was automatically assumed to be their enemy.

"It's the Gods. The Gods have descended upon us!"

"Oh mighty God, ruler of the Firmament Star..."

The countless followers were elated to see the Godly Apparitions. Some of them had even knelt on the ground with a devoted and fanatical expression.

"Die, heretic!"

The three great Godly Apparitions attacked at once, sending forth an eruption of torrential force, fire energy, and ice energy towards Chu Kuangren.

Each of the three energies contained the power of a Rank Nine Initial Emperor. When they erupted all at once, they almost destroyed the surrounding landscape.

"You guys are the ones who shall be killed for being false gods!"

Chu Kuangren said lightly.

He lifted his hand, and the power of his Almighty Avatar erupted!

The three Divine Might's were immediately shattered with a single punch. The terrifying energy of the impact swept out and caused the whole city to quake.

The Fire God Cult's holy temple crumbled into ruins beneath their feet. Countless God statues fell on the ground and were trampled crazily by the panicking crowd.

"False god, you call yourself the God of Fire, but do you even know what the true divine fire looks like?" Chu Kuangren said to the God of Fire's Godly Apparition while slowly lifting his hand, where red scorching Phoenix Flames immediately spewed out.

The Phoenix's Flames was the Essence of All Flames.

Even the Venerable God of Fire's divine fire could not even compare to it, let alone the God of Fire who was only a Godly Apparition before Chu Kuangren now.

Although the power it displayed was at the level of a Rank Nine Initial Emperor, there was still a difference in the user's Emperor Core and Emperor Dao quality.

In the blink of an eye, the surging Phoenix Flame instantly enveloped the Venerable God of Fire, burning away his Divine Might into nothing.

This stunned the countless followers.

'The Venerable God of Fire has been burnt to death by someone else's flame?!'

That scene was too traumatizing to the countless believers who worshipped the Venerable God of Fire. Even the people from the Fire God Cult were dumbfounded by this.

'Burning the Venerable God of Fire to death?'

'Is there anything more unbelievable in this world?!'

"This is the might of the true divine fire!"

Chu Kuangren uttered with his hands crossed.

With Phoenix Flames swirling all over his body and the Almighty Avatar behind him, every movement he made was filled with an unshakeable Heavenly Might!

"It's your turn now, false gods."

Chu Kuangren said as he looked at the God of Ice and God of Water's Godly Apparitions. A mysterious surge of Heavenly Punishment Daoist Pattern started swirling in the palm of his hand.

"That's the Heavenly Punishment energy!"

"How could this be? You're a Heavenly Tormentor!"

The Venerable God of Ice and God of Water's gaze narrowed.

The Heavenly Tormentors were sworn enemies of the Gods!

"Wrong. This is my Godly Punishment!"

After Chu Kuangren said that, two gigantic blue runes suddenly appeared above the God of Ice and God of Water respectively.

Those were Emperor-grade Lightning Runes!

With the Heavenly Punishment Daoist Pattern's help, the Lightning Runes' power skyrocketed. Now, its lethality against the Gods was even more unimaginable.

Two bolts of lightning descended from the skies with a boom, shattering the two Godly Apparitions and sending the two Cult Leaders flying out of the area!

Chu Kuangren was left standing with his robes fluttering in the wind. He then announced loudly, "I am the True Black Heaven God, the only true God in this world!"

"Wherever I go, all the false gods shall perish!"

Chapter 685: If the People Needed Something to Believe In, Then I Shall Be the One They Put Their Faith In

"Wherever I go, all the false gods shall perish!"

Chu Kuangren stood in the air. His body radiated with divine light while surge after surge of his powerful aura spread forth everywhere.

He had easily shattered the three Godly Apparitions with power so terrifying and more powerful than that of a deity, shocking countless people.

"Foolish mortals, it is I who am the one true God! Those who worship me shall be saved from the cycle of rebirth!" Chu Kuangren's gaze swept through the crowd.

He then gently lifted his hand and cast the Spring Breeze Healing Technique. The spiritual qi from his surroundings was gathered and transformed into a majestic rain that descended upon the whole area.

Countless living beings in the rain could feel every single cell inside their body jump with delight, and those with injuries or hidden illnesses were completely healed.

Various flowers, trees, and plant life grew in abundance.

Every living being rejoiced as if it were a celebration of life!

This occurrence was undoubtedly a miracle to everyone!

"A God. This is the true God!" Upon seeing such miracles, some of them kneeled on the ground and called out the name of their true God.

"I see. So the God of Fire and others earlier were false Gods. He is, without a doubt, the one true God! Oh, almighty God, please forgive us for our stupidity and ignorance."

"That's right. If that was the real God of Fire, why was he burned to death by someone else's fire? They must certainly be false Gods. This, right here, is the real God."

"The true God's appearance shall bless all beings with happiness. Whatever we see now is the best proof of this. Oh, True Black Heaven God, please accept our worship."

Some of the followers from the School of White Lotus— no, Black Heaven School that were among the crowd, as planned, took the opportunity to rile up the crowd and praise the True Black Heaven God.

Upon seeing this, the others also knelt on the ground.

“Almighty True Black Heaven God...”

“Almighty True Black Heaven God...”

Everyone was chanting the name of the True Black Heaven God.

“Stand up now, everyone. He’s not the True Black Heaven God. He’s a liar. Do not be fooled by him.”

Feeling anxious, the Fire God Cult Leader and others said loudly.

Chu Kuangren’s gaze landed on them, and he spoke in an apathetic tone, “If you guys kneel and repent for insulting the true God, perhaps I shall forgive you.”

“You liar, there’s no way we’ll submit to you. The day when the Gods break free from their seals will be the day your real identity as a false God is revealed.”

The Fire God Cult Leader said with a ferocious expression.

“So you’re refusing to awake from your delusions.”

Hence, Chu Kuangren raised his arm. The Almighty Avatar behind him immediately reached out and grabbed both the Water God Cult Leader and the Fire God Cult Leader in its hand.

The might of his Almighty Avatar erupted!

With a bang, two veils of blood mists burst out in the air.

Both the Cult Leaders were dead!

At that, the only remaining Ice God Cult Leader’s figure flashed, preparing to flee. However, an attack from the Divine Four Mystical Elements Sword immediately reduced him to a pile of flesh.

“If heretical followers like you continue to worship the false Gods, you shall be trapped in the endless pits of hell!” An invisible surge of Daoist fluctuation appeared from Chu Kuangren’s hand and enveloped the followers of the three religious orthodoxies.

It was the Immortal Technique, Phantasmal Seven Emotions Tune!

The followers from the religious orthodoxies immediately knelt on the ground crying while admitting to the wrongs they had committed.

“It’s all our fault. We shouldn’t have poisoned the villagers’ well and saved them after just to make them believe in the God of Fire.”

“Sobs... Sobs... Those bandits in the past were actually our people.”

“This is all a mistake...”

The followers of the religious orthodoxies cried their eyes out.

Upon seeing this, the common folk were dumbfounded and angered at the same time. There was a boiling rage seeping out from their eyes.

“You b*stards. It was you guys all along.”

“If it weren’t for the true God’s appearance, who knows how long you guys would keep us in the dark? Every one of you deserves to die.”

“Kill them. Kill them...”

At this point, no one doubted Chu Kuangren’s identity as a true God anymore.

Killing three great Godly Apparitions easily, creating miracles, freeing the people of the truth, and making all of the three religious orthodoxy followers cry and confess with just one sentence, were these not the actions of a true God?

On top of the despicable methods those religious orthodoxies used to grow their followers and worshippers, no one would believe them now that their actions had been exposed.

“Seeing the sufferings of every being in this disaster-riddled world, I have created a school, called the Black Heaven School. From this day onwards, those who join this school shall be under my protection.”

“With my presence, the school shall flourish while my followers shall live in peace and prosperity. You shall not fall into the cycle of rebirth after death.” Chu Kuangren stood in the air, his voice echoing throughout the whole prefecture.

Divine illumination radiated from his body, and his Almighty Avatar stood proudly in the air.

Countless people knelt on the ground one after another while chanting the name of their God.

“Almighty True Black Heaven God.”

“Almighty True Black Heaven God...”

After he was done with all of this, Chu Kuangren disappeared.

The Immemorial Sage and others would take care of the rest.

Having been in charge of the School of White Lotus in the past, they were very familiar with how to grow a religious orthodoxy. With Chu Kuangren, a living breathing “True God” around, they were immediately flooded by countless new followers who joined their school.

After that battle, the three religious orthodoxies in Barren Cloud Prefecture crumbled not long after. The common folk who believed in the God of Fire and God of Water turned and chose to believe in the True Black Heaven God instead. This time, they were even more devoted and loyal than before.

In the meantime, an Emperor, who was checking out the situation in Barren Cloud Prefecture, secretly gulped in shock. “I can’t believe the Heavenly Tormentor would use such a tactic to deal with the God Worshipping Cult. This is simply remarkable.”

“But is it really okay for him to be doing something like this?”

He was a little worried.

By doing this, Chu Kuangren was no different from the Gods who increased their followers to gather the Power of Faith.

The Great Panhuman Revolt that broke out in the past was to destroy the people's faith in the Gods.

However, Chu Kuangren had gone and started another new religious orthodoxy.

'Is this really alright?'

After much pondering, that Emperor reported this to the Heavenly Imperials.

...

Inside the School of White Lotus.

Chu Kuangren, the Immemorial Sage, the White Lotus School Leader, and others were discussing their next move and how to grow the Black Heaven School.

"I heard that some so-called Thunder God Cult has recently emerged in the Dark Tiger Prefecture. Let's eradicate them next."

Chu Kuangren yawned as he said.

Since there were many types of Gods, this meant that there would be many branches and factions within the God Worshipping Cult. Now that those factions were here at Firmament Star, they had begun to spread their faith, building up the number of their followers to gather their Power of Faith.

In the future, various factions and religious orthodoxies would appear without a doubt. Hence, Black Heaven School would have many opponents to deal with.

At this moment, the communication compass on Chu Kuangren's waist suddenly vibrated.

It was a call from the Seventh Tormentor, one of the Heavenly Tormentors.

"Oh, can you give me a moment?"

Chu Kuangren said to the Immemorial Sage and others.

Everyone nodded and left after that.

Chu Kuangren opened his communication compass, and a light projection of a figure appeared from it. It was the Seventh Tormentor, who was currently looking at Chu Kuangren with a complicated and doubtful gaze. "I heard you've created a religious orthodoxy in Barren Cloud Prefecture and announced yourself to the people as some so-called True Black Heaven God. What are you planning to do?"

"Get in the way of the Gods and stop them from gathering the Power of Faith."

Chu Kuangren replied.

"During the Great Panhuman Revolt, we fought against the Gods to break the humans free from their control, enabling them to live in freedom by shining a light on the Gods' heinous acts. But whatever you're doing now is no different than the Gods back then. You'd better stop this at once."

The Seventh Tormentor said seriously.

"I disagree, I believe that by doing this, we're eliminating the possible threats that could happen in the future! Not every human being can be wise and rational. If you want proof, just look at the situation

now. Since you've sealed away the Gods, why are there still so many people who choose to worship them?"

"Not everyone can be as powerful as us, to stand up to the Gods. In this world, the weak occupy an overwhelming majority of the whole population, and with the newly-found faith, it can make them fearless and make their hearts stronger!"

"If the people need something to believe in, then I shall be the person they put their faith in!" Chu Kuangren said with confidence.

Chapter 686: Power of Faith, Thunder God Cult, Bring Out The God Flesh

"The people need something to believe in, so let them place their faith in me!" Chu Kuangren exclaimed justly.

The Seventh Tormentor went silent. He could only stare blankly at Chu Kuangren while his mind flashed back to a particular person.

"Mankind needs a king to lead them into victory, so let me be their king!"

That person in his memory had said something similar.

Similar words, spoken with the same heroism and triumph.

The Seventh Tormentor felt that the resemblance was becoming stronger.

"Well, I hope you know what you're doing. You've now become the core of their beliefs. If such beliefs were to be shattered, there would only be calamity ahead."

The Seventh Tormentor inhaled deeply and trusted Chu Kuangren, just like how he once chose to trust the figure in his past.

"I know, which is why I'll never fail."

Chu Kuangren said faintly.

After his conversation with the Seventh Tormentor, Chu Kuangren continued his discussion with Immemorial Sage and the rest. He then informed the Black Heaven Sect to settle its internal affairs for a while longer as his return would not be soon.

Late at night in the Black Heaven School.

Chu Kuangren was concentrating on his cultivation. After a few days of development, the students of the White Lotus School were beginning to convert into followers of the Black Heaven School.

The Black Heaven School was also expanding massively.

On top of that, Chu Kuangren had made another interesting observation. He noticed a new form of peculiar energy that was radiating from his body.

The energy was almost ethereal in nature. Unlike spiritual powers and Emperor qi, it was formless and invisible.

Nonetheless, Chu Kuangren knew the energy existed.

He just had no clue of how to harness it.

“Lil Ai, analyze this energy that’s around me.”

“Affirmative. Connecting to the universe’s consciousness... Completed. Analyzing the target... Completed. This is the Power of Faith, a form of soul energy. Its functions are...”

Chu Kuangren received the arrays of information in his mind.

The Power of Faith.

Chu Kuangren’s eyes lit up. It was the power that was needed by the gods.

“Can I absorb it?”

“The Power of Faith is a form of soul energy. Although your Universal Cauldron Physique can absorb all forms of strange energies that exist in the realm, the Power of Faith is not created from such a realm. You will require a special technique in order to absorb it,” said the Omniscient Spirit.

“The Gods must have a way of harnessing these energies. Looks like I must pay closer attention to them next time,” Chu Kuangren muttered.

If Chu Kuangren was to become the Black Heaven True God and be worshipped by billions of living entities, he must not miss out on such a massive opportunity.

...

On the other side.

At the God Worshipping Cult’s outpost, more than a dozen Emperors were congregating to discuss the demise of the religions.

“I didn’t think Chu Kuangren would resort to such a means. He’s one pesky person.”

A cloaked lady ground her teeth and said.

Counting the incident of Chu Kuangren halting the invasion of the Demonic Realm, this was the second time Chu Kuangren had ruined the God Worshipping Cult’s plan.

“Let’s find a way to rid this person. As long as he’s alive, it would be difficult for us to spread our gospel in Firmament Star.”

One of the Emperors suggested.

“Get rid of him? I wish it were that simple. Not only does Chu Kuangren possess the Heavenly Punishment energy, but his cultivation progress is simply incomprehensible. He’s already a Rank Nine Initial Emperor. Unless the cultivators of the Heavenly Imperial Realm or the Gods interfere, there’s no way we can rid that b*stard.”

“We’ve freed one Lesser God and one Intermediate God. There are also the two Greater Gods that reside in the ocean. But all of them are too busy fending off the Heavenly Tormentors and Heavenly Imperials for now. The only way is to free another God and tip the balance to our favor.”

“Unfortunately, we’ve reached the limits of our ability when we freed those Lower Gods. The only way we can do it within a short amount of time is to unearth the necessary treasures from the Godly Secret Realms.”

“Godly Secret Realms? I heard that the Thunder God Cult has recently uncovered such a realm and is currently exploring it. Perhaps they would discover some useful treasures, such as a godly weapon.”

The Emperors of the God Worshipping Cult muttered.

The cloaked lady heaved a deep sigh and interrupted. “We can’t place all of our bets on the Godly Secret Realm. The God Worshipping Cult has been growing in size for countless years. We can’t possibly be helpless against Chu Kuangren. It’s time to bring out... the God Flesh!”

The Emperors were appalled.

“Divine Maiden, you must think twice. We’ve only brought that many God Flesh to Firmament Star. These were meant to be our last resort against the Heavenly Imperials. Are you sure about it?”

“Indeed. Is it worth using it against Chu Kuangren? Why don’t we just gank up on him? I’m sure we can take him down.”

The cloaked lady uttered faintly, “The God Flesh will be deployed sooner or later anyway. There’s no better time to use it against Chu Kuangren.”

“If you insist.”

The other Emperors did not wish to challenge the Divine Maiden’s insistence. After all, they were not sure they could defeat Chu Kuangren either.

...

The Black Heaven School was developing at a rapid pace.

The foundations of the Fire God Cult, Water God Cult, and Frost God Cult had been uprooted in Barren Cloud Prefecture; all of their resources fallen into the Black Heaven School’s control.

Chu Kuangren now had a new target in mind.

The Dark Tiger Prefecture.

This place was overseen by an Emperor of a bestial tribe.

One of the religions had also been rapidly gaining traction within the prefecture, and it was called the Thunder God Cult.

The Thunder God Cult was Chu Kuangren’s next target.

“Master Tormentor, you have to be wary of the Thunder God Cult. There are three Emperors residing within the cult. Each of them is powerful and capable of harnessing the powers of their God. You must be careful when dealing with them.”

A dark-skinned brute said to Chu Kuangren.

The brute appeared to be one with a muscular physique and ruthless demeanor. He possessed a pair of faint yellowish bestial eyes that would instill an overwhelming sense of unease within whoever it stared at. He was none other than the Emperor who was in charge of the Dark Tiger Prefecture, the Dark Tiger Emperor.

The Dark Tiger Emperor was a ferocious ancient wild beast that once ruled over an era. However, he was nothing but tamed and respectful before Chu Kuangren.

As strong as the tiger may be, how could it compare itself against a Heavenly Tormentor?

“Thunder God, one of the thirty-three Venerable Gods to exist. I’ve heard that he’s also not the weakest amongst the Venerable Gods,” said Chu Kuangren with excitement.

The Gods could be categorized into Lesser Gods, Intermediate Gods, Greater Gods, and Venerable Gods.

There were a total of thirty-three Venerable Gods in Firmament Star, each of them commanding an army of minor Gods. The God Worshipping Cult was founded to worship the thirty-three Venerable Gods and their minor gods.

However, the Venerable Gods were not equal in power.

The Fire God, Water God, and Frost God were some of the weakest amongst the Venerable Gods. They were much weaker than the Thunder God.

From mankind’s very own archives, it was said that the Thunder God was at least the tenth most powerful Venerable God.

Chapter 687: Do They Deserve Your Prayers? The Thunder God Cult’s Godly Secret Realm

The Thunder God Cult.

Within a glamorous holy chapel sat more than a dozen statues.

Countless cult followers prayed before these statues while the more devoted ones were kneeling in submission.

On this day, the statues abruptly shuddered in succession, which surprised the followers.

“W-what’s going on?”

“Why are the statues moving on their own?”

The Thunder God Cult followers thought it to be a prank pulled by someone, so they immediately ordered an investigation.

However, none of them discovered anything strange.

The statues were not tainted by traces of spiritual powers. If their behaviors were not caused by another person, why did the statues move?

The Thunder God Cult followers were puzzled. At the height of their confusion, they slowly descended into a commotion.

“Why are the statues behaving so strangely?”

“Is it because we aren’t sincere enough in our prayers? But I’ve sacrificed all of my monthly offerings e.”

“Me too. Is it not enough to express our devotion? Must we sacrifice our lives instead?”

“What’s God trying to tell us?”

“Oh, God, what is your message?”

Disturbed by the shake in the followers’ faith, a Thunder God Cult cultivator immediately stepped forward and announced, “Everyone, please stay calm. Our God must have chosen to manifest Himself to answer your prayers because he has been moved by your devotion. Please join me in worshipping the Thunder God.”

The followers stared at each other for a brief moment and felt it made perfect sense. Hence, they immediately knelt before the statues.

“The Thunder God has manifested. The Thunder God has manifested...”

Amidst the followers’ devoted chants and prayers, the statues began to shudder more intensely.

“The false Gods do not deserve your prayers!”

A loud voice echoed through the chambers of the chapel.

Under the frightening gaze of the followers, the statues began to shatter one after another, like a string of firecrackers.

A surge of formless, terrifying energy enveloped the entire chapel.

The Thunder God Cult cultivators rushed into the scene.

Above the holy chapel, a white-clothed figure with black hair descended.

Their newly-arrived guest possessed a slim demeanor and extraordinary aura. He floated ever so gently in the air as he leaped forward, only to create a terrifying impact that shook the earth as soon as he landed. A large fissure clawed spread out like a cobweb as the Thunder God Palace began to collapse.

The followers began to flee in panic as they stared at the white-clothed figure in terror.

“Who are you to cause a ruckus at the Thunder God Cult? How dare you insult our God with that filthy mouth of yours!”

A Thunder God Cult cultivator stared at Chu Kuangren. His utmost devotion to the Thunder God had caused him to neglect the sheer gap in power between him and his guest.

Chu Kuangren glared at the cultivator as a swarm of formless energies ravaged towards the cultivator, turning him into a cloud of blood mist before he could even react.

“The heretic false Gods must be destroyed!”

Chu Kuangren uttered as he pushed his palm forward, summoning a surge of frightening energies that charged towards another Thunder God Palace nearby.

In an instant, the entire palace was reduced into dust that filled the sky!

“How presumptuous of you!”

An elder emerged furiously from the Thunder God Cult. “You must be eager for death to insult our God like that. Oh, almighty Thunder God, lend me your strengths!”

The elder was one of the Emperors of the Thunder God Cult. He could sense that Chu Kuangren was no ordinary person, so he immediately triggered both his Emperor Qi and the Thunder God’s power.

The sky began to darken as dark clouds covered the firmament. Copious amounts of lightning energies formed in the atmosphere as the deafening roar of the thunder reverberated through a ten thousand kilometers radius.

The elder glowed in the same brightness as a thunderbolt, as if he was possessed by the Thunder God.

“This is the Thunder God’s power.”

“No wonder the great elder was the Thunder God’s chosen one. What a magnificent individual.”

“The blasphemous heretic will surely be punished for his sin.”

The Thunder God Cult’s followers and cultivators could feel their faith intensifying at the sight of the elder’s display of power.

“Allow me to show you the power of the Thunder God!” The elder grunted as the surrounding lightning energies began to flock towards him.

The elder lifted his hand, concentrating a fury of explosive lightning energy, and swung it into Chu Kuangren from above.

However, Chu Kuangren stood still with his palm facing upwards. He activated his Invincible Technique, the Empyrean Maelstrom, which effortlessly absorbed and disintegrated the elder’s attack.

The elder was appalled. “How’s that possible?!”

The observers were dumbfounded as well.

How did the Thunder God’s power get parried so easily?!

“You tried to hurt me with the power of your false God? Hilarious.”

Chu Kuangren said faintly. With a leap forward, he summoned the Almighty Avatar whose height soared through the sky. Chu Kuangren’s magnificent Emperor Aura engulfed the entire battlefield.

“D*mn it!”

The elder immediately channeled his lightning energy to its maximum intensity.

A blue figure was conjured in the realm. It was seething with a boundless amount of lightning energy as it glared unforgivingly at Chu Kuangren.

It was a thought clone of the Thunder God himself.

“Attack!”

The Thunder God punched forward, sending a wave of thunder energy that would likely destroy most Rank Nine Initial Emperors.

At this moment, strings of Heavenly Punishment Daoist Patterns appeared around Chu Kuangren and flowed towards the Almighty Avatar. At the same time, Chu Kuangren’s Prominent-grade Emperor’s Core and Epic Emperor Dao were activated all at once!

The Almighty Avatar punched forward, sending forth a mighty blast wave that was a fusion of the myriad energies within the avatar. The punch went straight through the Thunder God clone fist and shattered it apart!

The Thunder God Cult’s cultivators and followers watched as Chu Kuangren’s attack pierced through the Thunder God’s clone like a piece of paper, killing off even the elder in the aftermath.

“I’m the one true God of this realm! All false gods shall perish in my power!”

Chu Kuangren rested his hands behind him as his voice resonated clearly into the horizon. The people were astounded by his words.

Chu Kuangren then cast the Phantasmal Seven Emotions Tune.

As the strange Dao fluctuations surrounded the Thunder God Cult’s cultivators, they were overwhelmed with emotions. Suddenly, they knelt on the ground and sobbed before Chu Kuangren, confessing about all the despicable acts they had committed to spreading the gospels of the Thunder God Cult.

The followers were dumbfounded.

Chu Kuangren levitated into the air, his body beaming with an array of light as he performed the Spring Breeze Healing Technique before the crowd.

“God, this is the true God.”

“Oh, thank you, almighty true God...”

The followers knelt and worshipped Chu Kuangren.

Soon, the cultivators of the Black Heaven School arrived and began to spread the gospel of the True Black Heaven God as they absorbed the Thunder God Cult’s followers and resources for their own.

Having learned from his past experience, Chu Kuangren had a rather smooth-sailing journey of dealing with the Thunder God Cult this time. However, Chu Kuangren did notice something strange. The Dark Tiger Emperor had previously shared that there were three Emperors within the Thunder God Cult.

However, he had only killed one so far. The other two Emperors as well as the cult leader himself remained to be seen. There was also an apparent lack of skilled cultivators in the Thunder God Cult. Where did they go?

After interrogating a few influential members of the Thunder God Cult, Chu Kuangren learned that these people had discovered a Godly Secret Realm!

At the time of the event, they were searching through the realm for treasures.

Unparalleled After Ten Consecutive Draws

Chapter 688: Await Their Returns, A Lesser God's Divine Fragment

"Godly Secret Realm? Interesting."

Chu Kuangren once explored an oceanic Godly Secret Realm. Its abundance of treasure was enough to make one go mad.

The Thunder God Cult had uncovered one such realm.

However, Chu Kuangren was in no rush to be there. These people would be back anyway. He decided to remain in the Dark Tiger Prefecture and await their return.

The Black Heaven School was expanding smoothly.

The arrival of the Black Heaven School had effectively curbed the expansion of the Thunder God Cult in the Dark Tiger Prefecture, and more people were converting into the Black Heaven School.

On this day.

The Thunder God Cult Leader and his party had returned.

They soon noticed something strange upon their entrance into the city.

Usually, large groups of followers would rally at the gates to celebrate their returns. This time, not a single person came to greet them.

In fact, some of the citizens were even glaring at their arrival with resentment. It confused the Thunder God Cult Leader to no end.

What... What in the world just happened here?

"Leader, look." A Thunder God Cult's cultivator pointed at a collapsed statue with fear written all over his face.

The Thunder God Cult Leader was equally appalled. The fallen statue was none other than that of their Thunder God, and it was lying gracelessly on the ground.

"Who's responsible for this?!"

The Thunder God Cult Leader felt uneasy. He repositioned the Thunder God statue and scanned the city with his Emperor Thought.

Then, a mighty aura descended from above, followed by the arrival of a majestic white-clothed figure.

The Thunder God Cult Leader noticed the person's extraordinary aura. His arrival was accompanied by a blossoming garden of white lotuses and a fiery carpet in his path, as if marking the arrival of a God.

"The false God does not deserve his legacy to be honored!"

Chu Kuangren descended and touched the statue with the tip of his toe.

Suddenly, the statue imploded and was turned into a cloud of floating dust.

"All hail the True Black Heaven God."

"All hail the True Black Heaven God..."

The citizens knelt in devotion upon witnessing Chu Kuangren's arrival. Such a scene had made the returning cult members grimace in disgust. At the same time, they were also in disbelief.

What has happened in the past few days?

Where did this True Black Heaven God come from?

"You're just a false God. How dare you deceive the mass with these false gospels of yours! You must die!"

The Thunder God Cult Leader glared at Chu Kuangren. Although he had no clue where the True Black Heaven God came from, he had no doubts that Chu Kuangren had offended his belief and the Thunder God Cult's faith.

He concentrated on his Emperor qi and summoned a giant lightning serpent that clawed ferociously towards Chu Kuangren.

To the cult leader's surprise, Chu Kuangren merely lifted his hand, and his purified Emperor qi effortlessly tore through the lightning serpent.

"Heretic, experience this divine punishment for yourself."

Chu Kuangren activated his spiritual thought as strings of runic glyphs were conjured in the air and formed into ten Emperor-grade Lightning Rune!

The Lightning Runes erupted all at once!

Rays of lightning came flashing down from the sky with power far more destructive than that displayed by the Thunder God Cult Leader.

Moreover, it was infused with the strengths of the Heavenly Punishment Daoist Runes.

As the lightning struck the party, the cultivators below the Emperor Realm were turned into ashes. The Thunder God Cult Leader himself did not have an easy time either as the lightning ripped his shirt apart and charred his entire body.

"Damn it! Oh, Thunder God, grant me your strength!"

The Thunder God Cult Leader shrieked in anger and triggered the Thunder God's power.

An enormous Thunder God conjuration appeared in the realm.

Chu Kuangren chuckled coldly and summoned the magnificent Almighty Avatar. With its fist launched forward, the Almighty Avatar unleashed a fury of energies and Heavenly Punishment Daoist Runes upon the Thunder God conjuration and tore it apart!

"What?!"

The Thunder God Cult Leader was incredulous.

Then, the Almighty Avatar reached forward and grabbed the Thunder God Cult Leader in its grip. With a tight squeeze, the Thunder God Cult Leader was squashed into pulps!

Chu Kuangren's display of power had shocked everyone.

From the followers' perspective, only a supreme God could summon such power!

After killing the Thunder God Cult Leader, Chu Kuangren took his Yin and Yang Ring for himself and let the Immemorial Sage take care of the rest.

Back at the Black Heaven School, Chu Kuangren retrieved the cult leader's Yin and Yang Ring and unpacked all of the items with his Emperor Thought.

The room was immediately filled with an assorted array of valuable treasures. Amongst it was all sorts of weapons and elixirs.

Its values would have surpassed the combined net worth of a few hundred Emperors. Chu Kuangren was delighted at his findings.

"Oh look, divine ambers."

Chu Kuangren found pieces of divine amber amongst the treasures.

The divine ambers were the size of a football. While its contained energies were not as impressive as Chu Kuangren's previous findings, it was still a decent amount.

These divine ambers were sufficient to lift Chu Kuangren's cultivation to the next level.

Never mind all the other treasures.

Chu Kuangren contemplated as he stared at these treasures.

Apart from the divine ambers, he realized that the rest of the treasures were of little use to him. After all, he was a Rank Nine Initial Emperor who could not be defeated by anyone below the Heavenly Imperial Realm.

"I'll just pick some of it for myself and reserve parts of it for the Black Heaven School. The rest could be sent to the frontline."

Chu Kuangren murmured. The frontline was fighting a crucial battle. He would not let the Emperors who were battling there run out of resources.

Although Chu Kuangren had not been there, he was eager to contribute.

He proceeded to pick out a few items.

A faint blue crystal seemed to attract his attention.

It was a rhombus-shaped crystal that was seething with a godly aura. Layers of intricate Daoist runes surrounded it.

"Lil Ai, analyze this item."

"Affirmative..."

As the Omniscient Spirit scrutinized the item, Chu Kuangren soon learned that this godly object was known as... a divine fragment!

After a God was slain, their remaining energies would be transformed into an indestructible divine fragment.

It was almost impossible to destroy a divine fragment, but it could be refined!

Once a cultivator refined the divine fragment, they would absorb the godly power within as their own to form their godly physique.

However, in doing so, it would be no different than ascending into a God themselves. They would be unable to heighten their cultivation realm and rely solely on the power of faith to increase their strength.

Unless the divine fragment belonged to a powerful deity, cultivators who wished to progress further would not refine such an item.

The divine fragment that Chu Kuangren merely belonged to a Lesser God. Few would consider refining it.

"Any ordinary cultivator would immediately ascend into a God because their initial bodies could not adapt to the godly power. As a result, the godly power would transform them. However, a godly power is just another form of energy that exists in the natural realm."

"Master, you possess the Universal Cauldron Physique, a body that's capable of harnessing all forms of natural energies. You can safely refine this divine fragment without any negative consequences."

The Omniscient Spirit said.

Chu Kuangren smiled in satisfaction. The amount of power contained within this Lesser God's divine fragment was far more than that of the divine amber he previously acquired. If he could use this power for his own...

Chu Kuangren stared greedily at the divine fragment.

Perhaps he would be able to ascend beyond the Initial Emperor Realm!

The realm above would be the Heavenly Imperial Realm!

It was just a few years ago when Chu Kuangren first stepped into the Emperor Realm. If he managed to ascend into the Heavenly Imperial Realm within such a short time span, it would definitely be an unprecedented event in history.

Unparalleled After Ten Consecutive Draws

Chapter 689: Refining The Divine Fragment, Possession Ritual, Five Ways Divine Shadow Army

Chu Kuangren had reaped many benefits in his recent clash with the Thunder God Cult. He tidied the treasures and announced that he would go into a closed-door meditation for a few days.

Thanks to his Universal Cauldron Physique, it did not take many days before Chu Kuangren finished refining all the divine ambers.

His cultivation had strengthened considerably.

However, it was still insufficient to breach into the Heavenly Imperial Realm. Despite refining all the divine ambers, Chu Kuangren could sense he was still far from reaching the Heavenly Imperial Realm.

"Perhaps I need to refine this Lesser God's divine fragment as well." Chu Kuangren murmured.

Without further delay, he began absorbing the divine fragment's power.

While Chu Kuangren was meditating...

The God Worshipping Cult had begun to put their plans into action. They could not just sit by and watch the Black Heaven School grow stronger day after day.

With the Thunder God Cult, Fire God Cult, Water God Cult, and Frost God Cult destroyed, the rest of the cults within the God Worshipping Cult were growing anxious.

If Chu Kuangren was not dealt with swiftly, the rest of the cults would not be able to spread their religion safely in Firmament Star.

The followers of the God Worshipping Cult congregated on a mountain peak.

"By hook or by crook, we must get rid of Chu Kuangren. He's an even peskier vermin compared to the Heavenly Tormentors. At least those Heavenly Tormentors won't form a religion of their own. He's uprooting our entire foundation!"

An Underworld God Worshipper uttered crudely.

"He's right. We can't let Chu Kuangren continue on his current path."

"If this goes on, the entire world will worship the True Black Heaven God or whatever that is. What are we even by then?"

"Agreed, this is no longer a matter of personal vendettas. We're fighting a crusade for the sake of our beliefs!"

"But how can we get rid of Chu Kuangren? He's basically undefeatable by anyone below the Heavenly Imperial Realm."

The members were scratching their heads. As much as they wished to kill Chu Kuangren, they could not deny his extraordinary strengths.

"If one or two of us isn't enough, what about thousands and thousands of us? We have countless followers in our army, so we should be able to outnumber him," said the Underworld God Worshipper.

The rest stared at one another.

"Is it not an excessive sacrifice?"

"My people have long prepared to sacrifice our lives for the Gods. While we're more than willing to do so, we're just afraid our sacrifices will not be enough to defeat him."

Amidst the crowd's worries, the Underworld God Worshipper chuckled. "Rest assured, everyone. I'm an expert in formations. I can first summon a mega formation that traps Chu Kuangren within. By then, if we all attack in unison, we'll be able to slay this blasphemous heretic for good."

"But how do we lure him into the formation?"

"It's simple. We declare war against him in the name of our Gods. If he wishes to maintain his reputation as the True Black Heaven God, he must show up. Otherwise, his reputation as a God will surely be tarnished," said the Underworld God Worshipper with confidence.

The crowd nodded their heads in agreement. After a long discussion of mending out the details, they immediately put their plans into action.

"By the way, is the Divine Maiden participating in our plan?"

A worshipper asked.

"The Divine Maiden is busy occupying herself with the God Flesh. Who knows how long she will need to finish her affairs. Chu Kuangren is growing stronger day by day. If we don't act now, things will only get tougher."

The Underworld God Worshipper said.

The crowd was shocked by the mention of the God Flesh.

"The God Flesh is supposed to be the last resort against the Heavenly Imperials. Who would've thought that it would first be deployed against Chu Kuangren."

"Indeed, what an unexpected twist of events."

"Alright, let's get to work."

...

In another location.

Deep within a mountain cave.

A naked body floated in the air.

It was the male physique that possessed delicate facial features. His body was slim, and his skin fair as jade. The faint flickering of Daoist runes could be seen hiding beneath his skin.

On the ground beneath the body was a cultic sigil marked with blood. There was an array of peculiar offerings arranged around the cave, ranging from candles, skulls, and dark soils.

A cloaked lady stood nearby.

It was the Divine Maiden of the God Worshipping Cult.

She stared delightfully at the body before her. "The black soil, the Underworld God's sigil, demonic corpses, and the strange dark candle that contain the power of the Underworld God... With these mediums, I should be able to call upon the consciousness of the Underworld God to reside within this God Flesh."

The God Flesh was a technique cultivated by the God Worshipping Cult after countless years of research. These bodies, forged using the Power of Faith, resembled an actual Godly Physique rather closely, which was why it was known as the God Flesh.

Despite being sealed, the Gods were able to attach their consciousness to the God Flesh. The power that could be drawn out of these God Flesh was far more formidable than the borrowed power granted to the people of God Worshipping Cult.

"Chu Kuangren, the Underworld God shall personally knock on your door with one of our God Flesh. You should feel honored," the Divine Maiden muttered.

...

In the Black Heaven School.

Chu Kuangren had nearly absorbed all of the power from the Lesser God's divine fragment and could feel his cultivation abilities strengthening tremendously.

Since his Emperor qi in his body was nourished, his power had surpassed beyond the Rank Nine Initial Emperor Realm. In fact, his Emperor qi was probably no weaker than some in the Heavenly Imperial Realm.

However, he was yet an official Heavenly Imperial.

Chu Kuangren was still lacking one criterion, which was to wield universal energy!

Only Emperors who could control the universal energies and forge a mini-universe were the true testament of becoming a Heavenly Imperial!

This required a deepened understanding of the Dao.

It would not be a difficult feat for Chu Kuangren as his understanding in the way of Dao far surpassed that of an ordinary Emperor. Furthermore, he possessed the Chaos Emperor Scripture, which could be a useful reference.

Chu Kuangren believed he could soon master the universal energy and officially ascend beyond the Initial Emperor Realm into a Heavenly Imperial!

At this point, Chu Kuangren was not even thirty-years-old.

Compared to most Emperors who were easily hundreds of thousands of years old, thirty years old was such an insignificant number.

A thirty-year-old Heavenly Imperial had never existed in history!

Chu Kuangren could sense the drastic change in his bodily energies, and he smiled with delight. Hence, he decided to celebrate the occasion with a lucky draw.

Out came the Fantasy Roulette.

Draw.

"Congratulations, Host. You've acquired a God-tier Five Ways Divine Shadow Army."

Five Ways Divine Shadow Army?!

Chu Kuangren hastily went to the item description.

Five Ways Divine Shadow Army, a God-tier prize.

It was an undead army that was forged out of the Five Ways energy. They possessed undying loyalty for their master and would ruthlessly rule over a battlefield...

"I've got an army! A God-tier one at that!"

Chu Kuangren was overjoyed.

Chu Kuangren retrieved his prize and saw a glowing orb appearing in his palm. This orb acted as a barrack for the Five Ways Divine Shadow Army.

If the army perished on the battlefield, their bodies would be returned into the orb for revival and recovery.

It was the reason why they were also known as an undead army.

Chu Kuangren mobilized his spiritual thought and stored the orb in his spiritual mound. He eagerly looked forward to the occasion when he would put this to great use.

After exiting his closed-door meditation, Chu Kuangren cast his Emperor Thought over Black Heaven School to monitor the Black Heaven School's recent development.

To his surprise, he found the Immemorial Sage, the White Lotus School Leader, and others drowning in worry.

As Chu Kuangren listened closely, he learned that the God Worshipping Cult had recently claimed the True Black Heaven God to be the false God. They would conduct a hearing at the Nether Abyss Valley to decide the appropriate punishment for the True Black Heaven God, and the world shall see it as the false God it was!

"God Worshipping Cult, you've finally declared a war against me."

Chu Kuangren chuckled lightly.

Chapter 690: Are You All That Eager To Die? Descending In Nether Abyss Valley

As Immemorial Sage and the White Lotus School Leader were busy discussing the God Worshipping Cult's recent provocation, Chu Kuangren abruptly made an appearance in the room. He said, "I'll pay them a visit."

"Brother Chu, if the God Worshipping Cult dares to declare a war against you, it must've meant that they've gathered a large army. Isn't it dangerous for you to go alone?" Immemorial Sage asked worryingly.

"What's there to fear about a bunch of false Gods?"

Chu Kuangren answered calmly.

Beside him, Immemorial Sage's mouth twitched. "Brother Chu, aren't you a little too deep into this roleplay?"

They knew Chu Kuangren was no God. He was an extraordinary cultivator, not an omnipotent being.

"Hah, in short, there's no need to worry. I must visit the Nether Abyss Valley regardless, or our followers will begin to doubt their faith. When that happens, everything that we've worked for will be for naught."

Chu Kuangren chuckled.

...

The God Worshipping Cult's declaration of war soon spread throughout Firmament Star. The Emperors, who were keeping watch over the Gods Seal, were paying close attention to this issue.

The Gods, who were freed, were eager to observe Chu Kuangren's abilities too. After all, Firmament Star was in an unprecedented state. The Gods, Heavenly Imperials, and the Heavenly Tormentors were stuck in a deadlock. Perhaps Chu Kuangren might just be the key to breaking that balance.

His death would signify the onward expansion of the God Worshipping Cult in Firmament Star, and the Power of Faith would increase exponentially. With that, the cult could free more Gods. As long as Chu Kuangren was alive, the Gods would remain shackled indefinitely.

"He's just one person, yet his presence has disproportionately tipped the entire balance. I must personally witness his abilities for myself."

A man with aquatic blue hair murmured within a palace. He was one of the Lesser Gods that had been freed.

There were also other Gods around him.

A mirror lay before him, which reflected the image of a large cavern space. It was the Nether Abyss Valley.

The Nether Abyss Valley.

One of the Ten Forbidden Areas of Firmament Star.

However, things had changed. While the Nether Abyss Valley remained a forbidden area for most people, it was no different from an ordinary valley for an Emperor, who could come and go as they wished.

As the Emperors of the God Worshipping Cult intended to fight Chu Kuangren in this area, they had vacated the Boundary Emperors who previously resided within this valley.

Now, the Boundary Emperors remained near the perimeter to observe.

“This will be a battle of the Emperors. We must not miss it.”

“Although I’m disappointed that we’ve been told to leave, it’s a great opportunity to have a front-row seat to this battle.”

“Indeed...”

The Boundary Emperors waited eagerly around the Nether Abyss Valley.

The observers could not wait for the commencement of battle.

Dozens of Emperors from the God Worshipping Cult gathered within the Nether Abyss Valley, waiting for Chu Kuangren’s arrival.

“Is everything ready?”

The Underworld God worshipper said.

“Yep, almost done. Now, all we need to do is wait. If Chu Kuangren dares to show up, he’ll enter a point of no return!”

An Emperor snorted coldly and said.

“Very well.”

The Underworld God worshipper nodded and glared mercilessly ahead. “The descent of the Gods must not be stopped at all cost. Chu Kuangren, I don’t care if you’re a Heavenly Tormentor, but those who stand in the way of the Gods must be greeted with death!”

Time flew, and one day had passed.

“Why isn’t Chu Kuangren here yet?”

The Emperors of the God Worshipping Cult were beginning to feel irritated.

The Boundary Emperors around the Nether Abyss Valley, as well as some observing Emperors, were appalled too. Did Chu Kuangren just chicken out from a fight?

“True Black Heaven God? What a hilarious title. He’s just a false God all along. He’s a failure.”

“Indeed, he’s too timid to even show up.”

“The Gods of the God Worshipping Cult are the true Gods.”

The Emperors muttered.

Some of the Boundary Emperors outside the Nether Abyss Valley also felt their patience wearing thin and were prepared to leave.

“How uninteresting.”

One of the Boundary Emperors pouted his lips and was about to leave.

However, another Boundary Emperor interrupted him. “You must be a Boundary Emperor who’s just recently ascended.”

The Boundary Emperor was caught by surprise. “That’s right. How did you know?”

“Just a hunch. The experienced Boundary Emperors are quite familiar with Chu Kuangren. If there’s anyone who will back out from a fight, it’s definitely not Chu Kuangren!” the other Boundary Emperor said.

The amateur Boundary Emperor, who wanted to leave, was shocked.

He looked at the remaining Boundary Emperors and noticed that the experienced Boundary Emperors were indeed still waiting in their spots. They did not intend to leave at all.

Those who were impatient were the newly ascended Boundary Emperor.

“This Chu Kuangren, is he really that powerful?”

“Hah, you’ll find out soon.”

The experienced Boundary Emperor chuckled.

“He didn’t even have the guts to show up. True Black Heaven God my foot! He’s all talk and no trousers!” One of the Emperors exclaimed.

“That’s right. The self-proclaimed true God is just a ruse.”

“Haha, you call yourself a God?”

The Emperors’ mockery echoed through the realm.

At that moment.

A deafening explosion ensued.

“Are you all that eager to die?”

The dark clouds in the sky converged into a gigantic maelstrom as an indifferent voice resonated through the realm.

The maelstrom spun with the flashings of lightning, and thunder grumbled in succession.

A white-clothed figure descended from the sky, carrying with him a boundless amount of Emperor’s Aura.

Chu Kuangren had arrived!

The observers were riled up by his arrival.

“He’s here. He’s finally here.”

“Although I knew he had ascended into an Emperor, the power of his aura seems to surpass most ordinary Emperors. What realm is he in now?”

“Is this the True Black Heaven God?”

Amidst the crowd’s exasperation, Chu Kuangren landed on a cliff in the Nether Abyss Valley. When his feet touched the ground, he sent forth a wave of devastating explosions around him.

Boom, boom, boom...

The ground shook incessantly and split into fragments!

Almost as if the ground was unable to contain his weight, the surrounding mountains began to crumble. In just mere moments, half of the Nether Abyss Valley had been turned into a barren wasteland.

However, it was only the doings of Chu Kuangren’s aura.

He had yet attacked.

That alone was enough to make everyone go wild.

The Emperors, who were observing from afar, gasped. Chu Kuangren’s aura had aroused a primal fear in them.

“What a terrifying aura. This isn’t something any Rank Nine Initial Emperor can pull off. What realm is he exactly in now?”

“Is he a Heavenly Imperial already?”

“No, I don’t sense any universal energy from his presence. While he has yet to ascend into the Heavenly Imperial realm, his poise has far exceeded that of the Rank Nine Initial Emperor Realm. I’d say he’s a half-step Heavenly Imperial.”

“He has just recently ascended into an Emperor, and look at how much he has grown now. His growth is simply mind-numbing.”