

Apocalypse 271

Chapter 271: The Tone Is Gradually Changing...

Early the next morning.

Lin Yuan staggered out of Jian Bing's apartment, clutching the wall—for last night, Jian Bing played all four roles by himself.

Then, he fought Lin Yuan as each of these four personas.

One moment he was the Fox Lady, next he was the sultry housewife, then the girl-next-door, and finally himself, true to character.

That wild battle—howls and wails filled the air, heaven and earth plunged into chaos.

If we're counting casualties, there'd easily be a few billion dead, maybe tens of billions.

In the end, it wrapped up with Jian Bing begging for mercy after a miserable defeat.

Stepping outside the apartment, Lin Yuan activated the ability of his Yellow Springs Road Tattoo—the "No Distance" rule snapped into effect.

Next second, Lin Yuan was already standing in Peng City.

After the director engraved Meng Po's tattoo onto his soul, Lin Yuan stayed in Emperor Dragon City. For now, there wasn't much left for him to do there.

With Meng Po's tattoo now burned into his soul, the next soul-mark he needed was from one of the Ten Yama Kings.

To engrave a Ten Yama King tattoo on his soul, he had to hunt a Tier Four Evil Spirit for ink.

Right now, there aren't any Tier Four Evil Spirits in the Real World. So, to hunt one, he'd have to travel to the Mysterious World.

To enter the Mysterious World, he'd need the director to finish replicating Liu Family's Teleportation Gate.

That's naturally going to take a few days.

While waiting, Lin Yuan returned to Peng City—truth is, he had his own agenda.

He was planning to test out Meng Po's tattoo.

Lin Yuan knew that the ability of Meng Po's tattoo was to erase and modify memories.

But he hadn't actually used it before.

As the saying goes—whether it's a mule or a horse, you gotta take it out for a walk.

Whether the power's any good, you only find out by actually using it.

Just so happens, Lin Yuan had the perfect opportunity to use it right now.

Day Traveler.

That's right—Day Traveler.

For that psycho who toyed with his feelings, Lin Yuan decided to just rewrite her memory.

Strangely, for some reason, Lin Yuan just couldn't bring himself to kill Day Traveler.

If he'd wanted her dead, hell, he could've killed her the moment she tried to assassinate him.

Since he wasn't going to kill her, he might as well just mess with her memories.

He already knew exactly how.

Day Traveler was head-over-heels for Night Traveler. Willing to do anything, give up anything for him, right?

Fine!

Perfect!

Then, he'd just swap every single Night Traveler memory in Day Traveler's head—for himself.

Now, Day Traveler would give up everything... but for him instead.

Killing Day Traveler would be letting her off easy.

Messing up her memory, making her forget Night Traveler completely, then watching her pour all those feelings onto him—that was the true cruelty.

You played games with me, Lin Yuan? I'll pay you back a thousand times, a hundredfold.

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Peng City.

The villa where Day Traveler was locked up.

Last couple days, Zhuge Ming had been tormented.

Sure, he was smart, sharp as hell.

But faced with an insane psycho? He had absolutely no tricks left.

Lin Yuan handed Day Traveler to him for safekeeping, with clear orders—no matter what, Day Traveler cannot die.

That task—simple, and yet not simple at all!

To stop Day Traveler from offing herself, Zhuge Ming ordered her tied to the bed.

But just keeping her physically restrained wasn't enough. She kept coming up with other ways to kill herself.

For example: biting off her tongue.

Day Traveler tried to do exactly that—luckily, Zhuge Ming's men caught her in time. So Zhuge Ming had to gag her too.

Once gagged, Day Traveler just refused to eat or drink, determined to starve herself to death.

"Boss, this chick is totally bonkers!"

"The second we take the gag off, she goes for her tongue."

"Two days, hasn't eaten a single grain, not a drop of water—there's really nothing we can do!" said the guy in charge of feeding her, frustration in his voice.

This kind of mess would stump anyone.

Right now, Zhuge Ming was tangled up in confusion.

He was genuinely curious: what the hell went down between Lin Yuan and Day Traveler?

How did Day Traveler turn into... this?

Zhuge Ming had crossed paths with Day Traveler before.

She'd always been crazy, sure—but at least she wasn't suicidally obsessed back then.

"If we can't get her to eat, we'll have to start IV nutrition."

"Before that, hit her with a sedative."

"Bottom line, no matter what, she cannot die!" Zhuge Ming reminded them.

Right then, Lin Yuan appeared before him.

"Boss!"

"You're back?" Zhuge Ming's face lit up when he saw Lin Yuan.

With Lin Yuan back, that hot potato Day Traveler could finally be handed over.

"How's she doing?" Lin Yuan got straight to the point, asking about Day Traveler's condition.

Zhuge Ming quickly answered: "Alive, but... not in good shape!"

"Mentally and physically, she's just not doing good."

Zhuge Ming was clever. Even though he was dying to know what happened between Lin Yuan and Day Traveler, he kept his questions in check—what he shouldn't ask, he didn't.

Still alive!

That's all that mattered.

This time, Lin Yuan was here to finally put an end to the Day Traveler problem.

Once her memories were rewritten, that'd be it.

From now on, Day Traveler would be his toy to play with.

Her body, her mind—all at his mercy.

Thinking about it, Lin Yuan had to admit his ideas were starting to get twisted.

But on second thought, after everything that happened, it wasn't his fault.

After the Deceitful King Faction collapsed, Day Traveler had every chance to leave—pick a place where no one knew her and live a quiet life.

Or hell, just stay in Peng City. As long as she didn't mess with him, he wouldn't mess with her.

But no—she had to seduce him. And right when he was ready to open up, she tried to assassinate him.

Serves her right!

This whole mess—she brought it on herself!

"You all can leave now." Lin Yuan ordered Zhuge Ming and the others.

When Zhuge Ming left, Lin Yuan went into the room.

Inside, Day Traveler lay strapped to the bed, dead-eyed, motionless, just waiting to starve to death.

She just wanted to wait in silence, until her body finally gave out.

But seeing Lin Yuan, her emotions exploded.

In an instant, she burst into tears, her whole body trembling, thrashing violently.

"Mmmph!"

"Mmmph-mm-mmmph!"

Day Traveler thrashed, making muffled noises through her gag.

Lin Yuan stepped forward and removed whatever was gagging her mouth.

"Lin Yuan, you'll die a wretched death!"

"Just kill me, kill me already."

"Even as an evil spirit, I'll hunt you down!"

...

...

Day Traveler started cussing him out, trying to goad Lin Yuan into killing her.

Just thinking about what Lin Yuan did to her at Night Traveler's grave—Day Traveler could only feel crushing shame.

She figured, even in death, she couldn't face Night Traveler in the Underworld.

Lin Yuan stepped up, stroked her face—his tone unexpectedly gentle: "No, I won't kill you."

"You want to die? If you die, you'll be able to meet Night Traveler in the Underworld!"

"How could I possibly kill you? Killing you would just let you two be reunited."

Here, Lin Yuan's tone twisted: "They say the dead watch from above. If Night Traveler's watching, what do you think he saw at his grave that day?"

"If he saw it all, even if I killed you and sent you down there with him, you think he'd still want you in Hell?"

"You know, when I came here today, I saw Night Traveler's grave covered in bright green grass. Sprung up in just a night."

"It looked... it looked just like a green hat."

"Exactly—a green hat!"

Hearing Lin Yuan's words, Day Traveler's spirit was shredded.

"Ah!"

"Ah! Ah!"

"Lin Yuan, may you die a miserable death!"

"You're a demon—a demon!" Day Traveler sobbed, screaming.

Lin Yuan thought maybe spending so much time around Day Traveler was making his own head go a little screwy.

Seems like, little by little, he's starting to lose it...

Chapter 272: From Today On, Only Sweetheart Day Traveler

Unclear why.

Every time I see Day Traveler seeking death for that Night Traveler who has already turned to ashes, Lin Yuan inexplicably feels anger.

Though reluctant to admit it, the truth is laid bare before him.

He just can't compare to a single hair of that dead person.

Day Traveler is the first woman he has some feelings for but cannot obtain through normal means.

Unable to get her by normal means, he simply decides to modify her memory.

After all, what he wants is the final result.

Lin Yuan stretches out his hand, and a stone bowl appears in his hand, containing a dim yellow liquid unknown to all.

Day Traveler does not know what this dingy liquid is, but Lin Yuan knows very well.

This is none other than the legendary Meng Po Soup.

Lin Yuan holds the stone bowl, ready to pour the Meng Po Soup into Day Traveler's mouth.

At this moment, Day Traveler is engulfed by Lin Yuan's spiritual power, powerless to resist him.

Just as the Meng Po Soup is about to be poured into Day Traveler's mouth, Lin Yuan halts.

"Do you know what this is?" Lin Yuan suddenly asks.

Day Traveler stares at the unknown yellow liquid, gritting her teeth and says, "I hope it's poison that kills instantly!"

"Poison that kills instantly, you wish!"

"Is this Meng Po Soup?" Lin Yuan says, and Day Traveler's expression turns incredulous.

Lin Yuan notices her expression, pauses, and seriously says, "You've realized it, right!"

"Exactly, this is the Meng Po Soup you've imagined."

"Drinking it, you will forget everything from before."

"No, not just forget, I will modify your memories. I will alter the image of Night Traveler to be me."

"All your love and passion for Night Traveler will transform into feelings for me!"

"Wouldn't you say this would be quite entertaining!"

Emotionless killing!

Lin Yuan could clearly modify her memory without Day Traveler knowing a thing.

Yet he insists on telling her everything, and then savoring her despair.

This seems like a twisted desire, whether mentally or physically, the revenge on Day Traveler gives him a strange thrill.

Modifying her memory.

Lin Yuan will use his own image to replace Night Traveler's.

She will forget everything with Night Traveler.

Listening to Lin Yuan's narration, shock in Day Traveler's eyes transforms into despair.

Forget Night Traveler, she'd rather die than forget him!

"No, Lin Yuan, don't!"

"I beg you, don't!"

"I was wrong, I shouldn't have tried to assassinate you!"

"Please be forgiving, spare me!"

"I will give you whatever you want, my body, I will give it to you, I will certainly serve you well. Please, don't make me forget him, I beg you!"

...

...

Day Traveler babbles incoherently, pleading desperately.

However, the more she begs, the more excited Lin Yuan becomes.

Lin Yuan ignores her desperate pleas and pours the Meng Po Soup into Day Traveler's mouth.

As the Meng Po Soup flows down her throat to her abdomen.

Soon, images emerge in Day Traveler's mind like an unfolding scroll.

These are the memories that make up Day Traveler's history.

Lin Yuan can feel that he just needs a thought to modify her memory.

No need to modify the earlier memories, the focus is on the moment Day Traveler and Night Traveler met.

Day Traveler and Night Traveler are half-siblings from different parents, their family was reconstituted.

Day Traveler's mother brought Day Traveler, Night Traveler's father brought Night Traveler.

Emotions began to sprout from that moment they met.

Modification is simple, just exchange Night Traveler's image for his, and change the name to his.

Throughout the memory alteration process, Lin Yuan intentionally keeps Day Traveler awake, letting her watch her own memories being altered.

Yet, she is powerless.

As memory fragments are altered, Day Traveler's mind becomes increasingly chaotic.

Lin Yuan and Night Traveler are clearly two entirely different people, yet as Lin Yuan modifies her memories.

The two distinct images begin to overlap.

When looking at Lin Yuan, Day Traveler's heart simultaneously sprouts two conflicting emotions of hatred and love.

Very contradictory.

As she gazes at Lin Yuan, Day Traveler's feelings grow increasingly conflicted.

However, as Lin Yuan modifies more memories, Day Traveler's hatred towards him gradually fades, and her love intensifies.

Towards the end of memory alteration, Lin Yuan deliberately adds the memories of Bai Ling'Er, the little sister-in-law, Wen Yingying, Jian Bing, and others.

In Day Traveler's memory, they all are Lin Yuan's women and get along harmoniously.

After completing all the memory modifications, Lin Yuan re-inserts the scroll of memories.

The vast modified memory is packed into her mind, causing Day Traveler to fall briefly unconscious.

After untying the ropes binding Day Traveler, Lin Yuan temporarily leaves.

He knows when Day Traveler awakens, she will be thoroughly transformed.

Stepping outside, Lin Yuan instructs Zhuge Ming: "Prepare some food, something light!"

Zhuge Ming: "??????"

"She's willing to eat now?" Zhuge Ming asks, surprised.

Zhuge Ming could hardly believe that in such a short time, Lin Yuan managed to persuade that madwoman to eat.

"Just a little disagreement, after some persuasive words from me, she recognizes her mistake now!"

"It's fine now, go prepare the food!" Lin Yuan responds earnestly.

Zhuge Ming clearly does not believe Lin Yuan's answer.

Zhuge Ming is no fool, a little disagreement can't possibly be what went on before.

However, he does not ask further, instead follows Lin Yuan's orders to prepare the meal.

Some light vegetables, a bowl of preserved egg and lean meat porridge, and a few buns.

"Having not eaten for two days, don't eat too much at once!" Zhuge Ming advises.

Lin Yuan nods, takes the food inside.

Inside the room, Day Traveler has already awakened.

Initially, upon awakening, she looks around her surroundings, her eyes full of confusion.

Upon seeing Lin Yuan enter, her gaze becomes suddenly clear.

"Brother Lin Yuan!" Day Traveler smiles sweetly at Lin Yuan.

Hearing this call, Lin Yuan is momentarily stunned, then swiftly returns to normal, sitting beside the bed and handing over the food.

"You got hurt during the operation to destroy the Deceitful King Faction."

"Luckily, you've woken up; I've been worried sick these days!" Lin Yuan utters softly.

This is the revised memory Lin Yuan gave Day Traveler, as soon as the bizarre invasion began, they've been living in Peng City.

This time, participated in the official plan to destroy the Deceitful King Faction, during which Day Traveler was injured and fell unconscious.

"I'm sorry for worrying Brother Lin Yuan!" Day Traveler apologizes softly, hugging Lin Yuan around the waist.

"Have some food!" Lin Yuan speaks softly.

Day Traveler eats while continually gazing at Lin Yuan.

She smiles sweetly, her dimples charming, her eyes filled completely with love.

Witnessing Day Traveler like this, Lin Yuan knows that the former mad Day Traveler is gone.

From now on, only this sweet and smiling young lady Day Traveler remains.

As for Night Traveler?

He's someone who never existed; in Day Traveler's heart, there has been, and always will be only her Brother Lin Yuan.

Looking at this Day Traveler before him, and reflecting on the former Day Traveler, Lin Yuan feels an overwhelming sense of dread.

The memory-altering ability of Meng Po's tattoo is truly terrifying!

This is not merely modifying memories; it is evidently creating an entirely new personality.

The current Day Traveler, even if someone tells her the previous events, she definitely won't believe it.

Because her current memories are flawless, without any loopholes.

Faced with anyone, she will trust her own memories over others' unverified words.

Post-meal, Day Traveler clings to Lin Yuan's waist unwilling to let go, eyes filled with yearning she whispers, "Brother Lin Yuan, I want to..."

The room's door closes, shortly, amid her cries of Brother Lin Yuan, Lin Yuan embarks on battle, fighting relentlessly....

Chapter 273: Return to the Mysterious World

Under the pitch-black sky, turbulent waves crashed against the shore.

The surroundings were exceptionally familiar.

This place, Lin Yuan had been here before.

This was precisely the place he came to when he broke through to Tier Four last time.

Silent Sea of the Mysterious World.

The only difference from last time, the sister-in-law was not here.

In the battle to annihilate the Deceitful King Faction, she stood forth without hesitation to help Lin Yuan block an attack from World Honored Buddha's Hand.

After blocking Buddha's Hand last time, she suffered significant injuries and has been healing ever since.

Moreover, even if she intended to follow Lin Yuan to the Mysterious World, he wouldn't allow her to come.

After killing the Ghost Leader, Lin Yuan completely offended World Honored.

Being too deeply involved with him, especially in the Mysterious World, was not a good thing.

It was already dangerous for Lin Yuan to venture into the Mysterious World alone. There was no need to drag the sister-in-law along to share the danger.

However, Lin Yuan was not entirely alone this time.

He also brought a guide, the guide being Liuyu Heaven transformed into a giant octopus.

Before venturing into the Mysterious World, Lin Yuan specifically went to the sister-in-law and took Liuyu Heaven out of the fish tank to serve as his guide.

As a native of the Mysterious World, Liuyu Heaven had far more understanding of it than the sister-in-law.

The sister-in-law's knowledge mostly came from the inherited information left by the previous Rebirth Saint Mother.

Whereas Liuyu Heaven actually lived in the Mysterious World, all his information was firsthand and current.

After reaching Tier Four, Lin Yuan could now use the power of the demonized Zhong Kui without any qualms.

The appearance after using Zhong Kui's incarnation, enveloped in demonic flames, made him seem entirely unlike a human.

More like a demon from the Mysterious World, it was precisely due to the concealment provided by the demonized Zhong Kui's incarnation that Lin Yuan could move freely in this strange world.

"Lin Yuan, you're far too cocky!"

"You've offended World Honored, yet you dare come to the Mysterious World. If World Honored discovers your traces, I assure you, he'll crush you!"

"If you have any sense, you'll release me back to Silent Sea. That way, when World Honored decides to kill you, I could barely try to plead for mercy." Liuyu Heaven grumbled from the fish tank.

Since being defeated by Lin Yuan last time, he's been kept like a common pet in the fish tank.

Now, upon seeing Silent Sea again, Liuyu Heaven's yearning for freedom had reached its peak.

Liuyu Heaven was evidently locked up in the fish tank for too long, already somewhat witless from confinement.

In this environment, he still dared to threaten Lin Yuan.

"Whether World Honored can crush me, I do not know yet."

"But, I can assure you, once World Honored discovers my whereabouts, I'll be the first to crush you!" Lin Yuan said, eyeing Liuyu Heaven.

"You..."

"Lin Yuan, don't push it too far!" Liuyu Heaven seemed somewhat intimidated.

Ultimately, it's about power!

When you lack strength, your threats are nothing but jokes.

Similarly, Liuyu Heaven's threats to Lin Yuan were taken as jokes.

While Lin Yuan's threats to Liuyu Heaven indeed gave him a downright eerie feeling.

Hit with a slap, reward with a sweet date.

Now that Lin Yuan still had places where he needed Liuyu Heaven, he couldn't only rely on threats and intimidation.

"Help me find ten Tier Four masters, and once I successfully hunt them, I can release you to Silent Sea."
Lin Yuan made a promise to Liuyu Heaven.

Liuyu Heaven: "?????"

Find ten Tier Four masters and hunt them?

Liuyu Heaven thought, Lin Yuan was just bragging.

This was no different from a fairy tale, wasn't it?

Lin Yuan, himself, was only a Tier Four.

To hunt one Tier Four master was somewhat possible.

But hunting ten Tier Four masters would mean ten battles to the death, achieving victory in each.

In battles among champions of the same tier, who could confidently guarantee success?

In Liuyu Heaven's view, not to mention hunting ten Tier Four masters, with a bit of bad luck, Lin Yuan could face dire consequences on the first target, if he hit a brick wall.

"Impossible, you absolutely cannot achieve that."

"Hunting ten champions of the same tier consecutively, not even World Honored, at the Tier Four level, could achieve that."

"Lin Yuan, to me, this is clearly seeking your own doom!" Liuyu Heaven warned.

Lin Yuan glanced at Liuyu Heaven in the fish tank, irritably saying: "World Honored?"

"What's World Honored anyway. To me, World Honored is just an old fart born thousands of years before me."

"Once I become stronger, the first one I'll send reincarnating is World Honored."

Though Lin Yuan couldn't defeat World Honored now, finding some comfort in words was still possible.

"You..."

"Have respect for World Honored!" Liuyu Heaven furiously retorted.

World Honored was Liuyu Heaven's faith; he couldn't tolerate Lin Yuan's insults.

"I wonder how World Honored trained you all; you're more filial than World Honored's own son!" Glancing at Liuyu Heaven, Lin Yuan continued, "Whether or not I can achieve it doesn't concern you. Just know, this is your one chance."

"Help me find ten Tier Four Evil Spirits, and once I successfully hunt them, I'll release you."

"If you're unwilling to help, then you'll be stuck in this tiny fish tank forever."

"Moreover, you should understand, I am not solely dependent on you. These nearby Evil Spirits, I can capture them as guides as well."

"The reason for choosing you is simply because we've been together for so long, I might prefer to trust you."

After Lin Yuan finished speaking, Liuyu Heaven fell into thought.

Lin Yuan was now Tier Four; in the Mysterious World, Tier Five already counted as medium-high level combat power.

The quantity of Tier Four was not significant, at least, within roughly a thousand miles of Silent Sea, there was no Tier Four combat power.

This meant, nearby Tier Five Evil Spirits, Lin Yuan had the confidence to subdue and use them as guides.

As Lin Yuan mentioned, he wasn't solely dependent on Liuyu Heaven.

Furthermore, Liuyu Heaven reconsidered; perhaps being Lin Yuan's guide wasn't all bad.

If Lin Yuan truly succeeded in hunting ten Tier Four Evil Spirits, he would release him.

If Lin Yuan died during the hunt, then he could reveal his identity and see if, for World Honored's sake, these Tier Four champions wouldn't make things difficult for him.

After all, World Honored's reputation in the Mysterious World held significant influence.

As a subordinate of World Honored, it was unlikely anyone would deliberately kill him to provoke a feud with World Honored.

In any case, he could regain freedom.

Now, the only worry was whether Lin Yuan would keep his promise.

If he helped Lin Yuan locate ten Tier Four Evil Spirits and Lin Yuan didn't set him free after the successful hunt, he would be entirely helpless.

"How can I be sure you'll keep your promise?" Liuyu Heaven asked Lin Yuan, hesitantly.

"Aside from trusting me, do you have any other choices?" Lin Yuan slowly responded, "Weaklings have no right to choose, and I have no need to deceive you."

"To me, you're as insignificant as an ant. Would you deceive an ant?"

Although Lin Yuan's words were harsh, the difference between Tier Four and Tier Five was just that.

A Tier Four killing a Tier Five wasn't much more effort than a normal person crushing an ant.

Chapter 274: Iron Back Mountain, Iron-Back Daoist

Besides trusting Lin Yuan, Liuyu Heaven has no other choice.

Suddenly, a thought popped into Liuyu Heaven's mind.

Why should he wait until Lin Yuan successfully hunts ten Tier Four evil spirits, and then have Lin Yuan let him go?

If he remembers correctly, Lin Yuan should have only recently broken through to Tier Four.

No matter how talented he is, his strength should be limited.

There is a qualitative leap between Tier Four and Tier Three.

Tier Three represents the top power in this world, able to establish schools and be called the Daoist Ancestor.

Therefore, in this Mysterious World, there is no shortage of Tier Four experts who have broken through tens or even hundreds of years ago.

Some old monsters have been stuck at Tier Four for hundreds or even thousands of years.

Liuyu Heaven doesn't believe Lin Yuan can compete with these old monsters.

He just needs to pick a strong one among the Tier Four and bring Lin Yuan to challenge him.

If Lin Yuan dies, he can immediately claim the title of World Honored, and naturally regain his freedom.

Seeing Liuyu Heaven fall silent, Lin Yuan asked, "What are you thinking?"

With a plan formed in his mind, Liuyu Heaven quickly replied, "I'm thinking about which Tier Four experts are nearby."

The number of Tier Four experts in the Mysterious World isn't very high, but they certainly exist.

After some careful consideration, Liuyu Heaven had already selected a suitable candidate.

"Three thousand six hundred miles east, there is a mountain called Iron Back Mountain."

"On this mountain, there is a Daoist temple, with a master named the Iron-Back Daoist. His strength is not very strong among Tier Four; I think you can handle him!" Liuyu Heaven told Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan: "?????"

Not very strong?

Can handle him?

Lin Yuan looked at Liuyu Heaven skeptically, not believing he was being so considerate.

Not only did he guide Lin Yuan to find Tier Four evil spirits, he even recommended one that's supposedly easy to handle?

Logically, Liuyu Heaven should be eager for Lin Yuan to die as soon as possible.

Liuyu Heaven was now desperate to kill Lin Yuan, and fearing Lin Yuan's suspicion, he quickly swore while pointing to the sky: "I, Liuyu Heaven, swear by the name of World Honored that this Iron-Back Daoist has only been at Tier Four for ten years, and is definitely not strong among Tier Four."

"If I speak a single false word, may I be struck by lightning and die under the Five Thunders."

Swearing by World Honored?

Hearing Liuyu Heaven swear by World Honored, Lin Yuan thought, "Could what Liuyu Heaven said be true?"

After all, World Honored is Liuyu Heaven's belief. If he was lying, he wouldn't swear by World Honored.

If this Iron-Back Daoist has only broken through for ten years, he's indeed not strong.

It's important to know this is a Mysterious World, inhabited by demon fiends, ghosts, and entities.

These demon fiends, ghosts, and entities typically have lifespans lasting hundreds to thousands of years. Ten years is nothing to them.

Indeed, Liuyu Heaven's words were true.

Liuyu Heaven carefully schemed to trap Lin Yuan.

He spoke truthfully, but only half of it.

The Iron-Back Daoist has indeed only been Tier Four for ten years, and his combat power isn't strong among Tier Four.

However, his methods are extremely bizarre.

Because he uses poison.

This Iron-Back Daoist is an evolved iron-back centipede, expert in using poison.

A Tier Four poison demon's toxins aren't ordinary.

If one isn't careful, even Tier Four Peak experts can be caught.

As a faithful follower of World Honored, Liuyu Heaven knows the dreadfulness of this poison demon.

It's said, a poison demon with a scorpion body once breached World Honored's defenses, stinging a large bump on World Honored's hand.

Liuyu Heaven figured that since both Lin Yuan and the Iron-Back Daoist had recently broken through to Tier Four, the Iron-Back Daoist should be able to poison Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan wasn't familiar with the Mysterious World, and now, has no choice but to trust Liuyu Heaven.

However, out of caution, Lin Yuan warned Liuyu Heaven, "If you dare to trap me, I will kill you before I die."

Liuyu Heaven was indifferent to Lin Yuan's threats.

After all, in combat at the same level, it's hard to be distracted; distraction could lead to injury or defeat.

When Lin Yuan fights the Iron-Back Daoist, he won't have the luxury of worrying about Liuyu Heaven.

"The Iron-Back Daoist is already among the weakest of Tier Four. If you can't deal with him at all, I suggest you return to your world early!"

"With your strength, ruling and domineering in your world wouldn't be better than coming to this world to find death!" In his words, Liuyu Heaven used a form of provocation against Lin Yuan.

Such a simple provocation was easy for Lin Yuan to spot.

Actually, as long as Liuyu Heaven guides Lin Yuan to a Tier Four evil spirit, Lin Yuan is not afraid.

His strength, if encountering particularly strong Tier Four evil spirits, even if he can't defeat them, he should be able to escape.

What he's truly afraid of is Liuyu Heaven's tricks, fearing he'll be led to a Tier Three evil spirit.

Facing a Tier Three evil spirit, Lin Yuan might not even manage to escape.

In that scenario, it would be truly a heaven with no way, and earth with no door.

However, on second thought, Lin Yuan figured this possibility wasn't high.

Liuyu Heaven's peak strength is Tier Five.

There's a gulf between Tier Four and Tier Five.

And even more so for Tier Three.

Tier Three, in the Mysterious World, is a leader of its forces.

In terms of status, though not quite equal to World Honored, they are only slightly below.

Liuyu Heaven is merely a dog of World Honored; he has no contact with Tier Three experts.

Knowing the whereabouts of Tier Four experts is already considerable.

To put it simply, Liuyu Heaven meets Tier Four experts with flattery, flattering them a little.

The Tier Three experts, he simply can't meet, only occasionally hears about them.

Lin Yuan ceased further thoughts and proceeded in the general direction provided by Liuyu Heaven, using Yellow Springs Road, heading towards Iron Back Mountain.

His decision to hunt evil spirits in the Mysterious World was already a highly risky endeavor.

Since he's already here, there's no need to be hesitant, fearing wolves in the front and tigers in the back.

Utilizing the Yellow Springs Road Tattoo ability, the 'No Distance' rule manifested, Lin Yuan crossed the 3600-mile distance, arriving near Iron Back Mountain.

Around him was an endlessly sprawling forest.

Lin Yuan jumped up and stood on the tallest peak, scanning his surroundings.

Iron Back Mountain should be nearby.

Standing high gives a far view, and Lin Yuan quickly set sights on a mountain that wasn't too tall.

This mountain, though not high, was extremely peculiar.

The surrounding peaks were lush and green, covered with various trees. Occasionally, some weaker bird-like demon fiends would take flight.

Except for that mountain, which was barren, nothing but rocks.

Faintly, it seemed there were wisps of smoke rising from the peak.

The birds and demon fiends in the mountains distanced themselves from this mountain during flight.

Without a doubt, this is a poison mountain!

Lin Yuan looked at the distant Iron Back Mountain, asking Liuyu Heaven, "That Iron-Back Daoist is an evolved poison insect, right?"

"A centipede?"

"Correct!"

"It's an iron-back centipede!"

"What, are you scared? If afraid, you should return to your world!" Liuyu Heaven replied.

Lin Yuan glanced at Liuyu Heaven and said, "Don't use such clumsy provocations repetitively!"

With those words, Lin Yuan strode towards Iron Back Mountain.

Chapter 275: Whatever You Do, Don't Knock Over His Wine Jar

Ironback Mountain, amidst the continuous forests, is not tall, squat, winding, just like its name, resembling a giant ironback centipede sprawled across the forest.

As soon as Lin Yuan ascended the mountain, he began to perceive the surroundings.

Within his perception range, there was no sign of life on the mountain.

It seemed as if there was no living creature atop Ironback Mountain.

Looking across the mountain, all visible areas were shrouded in varying densities of a layer of bluish-green poison mist.

Likely, all living creatures on the mountain had been killed by this poison mist.

Upon sensing briefly, although the poison mist was potent, it couldn't harm Lin Yuan in the slightest.

These dissipated poison mist could affect those below Tier Five, while those above Tier Five could generally resist it.

Moreover, Lin Yuan was at Tier Four.

For a fellow Tier Four, to poison Lin Yuan would require Iron-Back Daoist's primal toxin.

As Lin Yuan walked on the winding mountain path, suddenly, a small circular pool with a diameter of over ten meters appeared ahead.

Inside the pool was filled with lush green liquid, more akin to some poison liquid rather than water.

"Formed from condensed mist?" Lin Yuan muttered to himself, observing the green pool.

It's discernible that the liquid in the green pool is essentially the same as the bluish-green mist drifting around.

When the poison mist is excessively dense, it condenses into water, gathering in these pits to form pools.

The toxicity of the green water in the pool is far more concentrated than that of the mist, Lin Yuan roughly estimates that it could easily poison an average Tier Five.

"Once Iron-Back Daoist is dealt with, I can collect the poison water from this mountain," Lin Yuan concluded in his mind.

While poison mist is challenging to collect, these poison waters are relatively easy to gather.

Poisons capable of affecting Tier Fives are of little use to Lin Yuan.

After all, killing Tier Fives is as simple as crushing an ant to him.

However, remember, Lin Yuan isn't alone!

Behind him lies Peng City, and even the entire Dragon City awaiting his support.

These poisons from a Tier Four strong being, Iron-Back Daoist, are of significant research value.

Handed to the dean for examination, it could even be developed into a sinister invasion version of a biological weapon, potentially becoming a magical treasure in Dragon Country's battle against evil spirits.

Suddenly, Lin Yuan's pupils sharply contracted.

"Splash!"

Something darted out from the water, rushing toward Lin Yuan.

Without thinking, Lin Yuan countered with a backhand palm strike.

Massive energy waves emerged, striking the thing darting from the water, sending it flying several meters away from Lin Yuan.

"Squeak squeak!"

"Squeak squeak squeak!"

The thing slammed heavily onto the ground, emitting a creaky sound akin to a dull scythe slicing through grass.

That sound was its wailing.

Lin Yuan focused his gaze forward, seeing clearly the appearance of the creature.

It was a centipede approximately two meters long, entirely dark, with a solemn luster emanating from its back shell.

Its abdomen was densely covered with dozens of legs resembling iron hooks, and in its mouth was a pair of sharp fang-like blades.

The ironback centipede's strength wasn't even Tier Five; Lin Yuan killed it with a casual strike.

At this point, it was essentially dead, but its body still twisted, with cries still emanating from its mouth.

Its nerves hadn't fully died, driving instinctive struggles.

In folk tales, such an image is called a "hundred-footed insect dies but doesn't stiffen."

"Damn it!"

"I really hate things without legs, and those with too many legs!" grumbled Liuyu Heaven from the fishbowl.

Lin Yuan: "?????"

"Don't you ever look in a mirror?" Lin Yuan said with a frown, expressing his disdain.

An octopus talking about a centipede's many legs?

Isn't that like a crow despising a pig for being black?

"I..."

"I have far fewer legs than it, alright!" Liuyu Heaven protested.

Liuyu Heaven now had only eight octopus legs left, much fewer than the dozens of the ironback centipede.

Lin Yuan was too lazy to bother with Liuyu Heaven, instead fixating on the ground's ironback centipede as if pondering something.

The ironback centipede possesses remarkable stealth abilities!

This ironback centipede wasn't even Tier Five, yet hidden in the poison water, even Lin Yuan couldn't detect it.

Only when it sprang out from the poison water did Lin Yuan notice its presence.

The ironback centipedes seem to have the ability to merge with poison water.

A Tier Five ironback centipede can possess such strong concealment abilities; wouldn't a Tier Four ironback daoist have even more potent stealth capabilities?

Considering this, Lin Yuan cautiously scanned his surroundings, fearing Iron-Back Daoist might silently approach for an attack.

Strategically, Lin Yuan looks down on the enemy, but tactically he respects them.

Being cautious when necessary is essential.

Increasing his vigilance, Lin Yuan continued ascending the mountain.

The higher he climbed, the denser the poison mist became.

Simultaneously, pools formed from liquefied poison mist appeared more frequently.

Along the way, ironback centipedes occasionally surged from pools to ambush Lin Yuan, but he easily dispatched them.

Ironback Mountain isn't tall; after about ten minutes of walking, Lin Yuan reached the summit.

Atop the mountain, amidst the faint glimpses, he saw a dilapidated temple.

In front of the temple, trees stood, but they had long withered.

Two dead but standing old locust trees guarded either side of the temple like deities.

The temple was in disrepair, noticeable holes in the roof and a partially collapsed wall.

On the roof sat a slender, stick-like figure garbed in green robes.

The figure looked very thin, skin wrapped around bones, his robe fluttering in the wind, seeming hollow inside.

Even in the cheeks, there wasn't an ounce of flesh.

Undoubtedly, this was the Ironback Centipede transformed into Iron-Back Daoist.

Iron-Back Daoist's disposition seemed extremely reclusive; he lounged drinking on the roof, not reacting when Lin Yuan arrived, seemingly disinterested.

Despite Lin Yuan appearing in Zhong Kui's transformed image, resembling a Tier Four demon head.

Iron-Back Daoist being a demon daoist, Lin Yuan a demon head.

Logically, upon seeing him, Iron-Back Daoist ought to greet him.

Alternatively, he should violently drive away this uninvited guest.

"Iron-Back Daoist, I am Liuyu Heaven under the World Honored, ordered by the World Honored to take your life. Using your remnant to refine medicine!" Lin Yuan shouted toward the Iron-Back Daoist on the roof.

Liuyu Heaven: "?????"

Right then, Liuyu Heaven's mood was akin to the speechless father of Cao Pi's wife, Zhen Ji.

He never expected that at such a time, Lin Yuan still wouldn't refrain from slandering the World Honored.

The key was, he even mentioned Liuyu Heaven's name.

Right then, Liuyu Heaven mentally cursed Lin Yuan's ancestors eight generations over, in incredibly harsh terms.

Yet, after Lin Yuan declared his identity and intent,

Iron-Back Daoist on the temple roof continued drinking, completely ignoring Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan looked toward Liuyu Heaven in the fishbowl, asking, "Is he blind or deaf?"

Regarding Iron-Back Daoist, Liuyu Heaven's knowledge was heard, thus not extensive.

However, logically, a Tier Four strong being shouldn't be blind or deaf.

Even if truly blind and deaf, other senses, like consciousness, should be highly acute, it was impossible not to sense Lin Yuan's arrival.

"Is it possible he's simply ignoring you?" Liuyu Heaven tentatively asked.

Iron-Back Daoist disinclined to acknowledge Lin Yuan, should Lin Yuan just attack, it might be a bit awkward.

After brief contemplation, Lin Yuan again asked Liuyu Heaven, "Is there any way to make him speak?"

Liuyu Heaven suddenly remembered Iron-Back Daoist's reputed alcohol addiction, and now he was drinking.

It seemed the rumors were accurate.

"Try knocking over his wine jug!" Liuyu Heaven suggested.

Chapter 276: Battle Against Iron-Back Daoist

The Iron-Back Daoist was drinking atop the Taoist temple roof, with dozens of jars of alcohol placed in front of the temple.

Upon hearing the suggestion from Liuyu Heaven, Lin Yuan slapped the jar with a backhanded palm.

A massive energy fluctuation erupted, and the next moment, the sounds of "bang" "bang" "bang" rang out continuously in succession.

The dozens of alcohol jars in front of the Taoist temple exploded one after another, spilling the liquor all over the ground.

The alcohol that the Iron-Back Daoist drank was different from what ordinary people drank.

What he drank was greenish, seemingly brewed from the poisonous water on Iron Back Mountain.

For someone who loved alcohol as much as life itself, toppling his jars of alcohol was equivalent to defecating on his head and then asking him for toilet paper.

You have to admit, Liuyu Heaven's suggestion was indeed very effective.

After Lin Yuan toppled the jars of alcohol in front of the temple, the Iron-Back Daoist on the roof was furious on the spot.

"Where did this wild boy come from, daring to cause trouble for me, the Daoist!" The Iron-Back Daoist roared, leaping down from the rooftop, and slapped toward Lin Yuan with his palm.

As the Iron-Back Daoist's palm struck, the surroundings filled with toxic mist, and the palm power transformed into a gigantic phantom of an iron-backed centipede, lunging towards Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan did not retreat but advanced instead, his entire body surging with demonic flames, which transformed into a fiery dragon, rushing to meet the Iron-Back Daoist.

"Sizzle."

"Sizzle, sizzle!"

The demonic flames burned through the toxic mist with an ear-piercing sound.

In this probing move, Lin Yuan gained the upper hand.

The Iron-Back Daoist was forced back by the demonic flames, retreating more than a dozen steps to barely avoid them.

After evading the flames, the Iron-Back Daoist looked at Lin Yuan with hesitant eyes and a puzzled expression, asking, "Are you Liuyu Heaven?"

"Are you one of the World Honored's people?"

"I don't know you at all, nor have I ever had enmity with the World Honored. Why do you come here to insult me?"

Clearly, this Iron-Back Daoist wasn't very bright.

Perhaps it was because he drank the poisonous liquor all day, making himself foolish.

Lin Yuan had just reported Liuyu Heaven's name, splashing dirty water on the World Honored, and unexpectedly, the Iron-Back Daoist actually believed it.

"He's not...." Inside the fish tank, Liuyu Heaven was about to explain.

But before he could finish his words, Lin Yuan directly sealed Liuyu Heaven's mouth, not giving him any chance to speak.

Then, Lin Yuan raised his head arrogantly, looking at the Iron-Back Daoist through his nostrils, and said, "The World Honored wants to refine a pill that just happens to need a centipede as a medicinal guide. Coincidentally, the World Honored fancies you, and sent me to take your life for the World Honored's pill refining."

Speaking of this, Lin Yuan let out a cold snort, "Hm!"

"In this world, the World Honored kills whoever he wishes. Not to mention a mere iron-backed little demon like you, even that Grand Elder of Qingqiu Mountain, the World Honored kills if he wishes to!"

Lin Yuan's attitude was extremely arrogant and overbearing, looking down on people through his nostrils!

Even a clay figure has some fire.

Moreover, the Iron-Back Daoist was at least a Tier Four powerhouse.

"Bullshit!"

"Even if he is the World Honored, he can't humiliate us loose cultivators like this. How can we, the loose cultivators, allow the World Honored to slaughter us?" The Iron-Back Daoist said through gritted teeth.

Clearly, he was furious to the extreme.

Inside the fish tank, Liuyu Heaven was crying without tears, unable to speak or explain himself.

Liuyu Heaven thought to himself, Lin Yuan, this bastard, was truly dirty.

Suddenly, Liuyu Heaven regretted leading the way for Lin Yuan.

One must know, these Tier Four evil spirits have lived for countless years.

Even an unaffiliated cultivator like the Iron-Back Daoist with no influence would have many friends and relatives.

If Lin Yuan continued like this, unwittingly, the World Honored would have many enemies.

At this point, seeing that the Iron-Back Daoist already believed him to be sent by the World Honored, Lin Yuan knew the time was about ripe.

Immediately, he summoned the Zhong Kui's Ghost-Slaying Sword into his hand, pointing it at the Iron-Back Daoist, saying, "Iron-backed little demon, time is almost up, I have to take your life to refine pills for the World Honored."

"Your worthless life, delaying the World Honored's pill refining, now that would be a significant issue."

Hearing Lin Yuan's words, the Iron-Back Daoist was frustrated to the extreme, his body filled with fury!

"Ah!"

"Ah! Ah!" The Iron-Back Daoist cried out strangely, roaring, "The World Honored bullies me too much, the World Honored bullies me too much."

With the roars, waves of poisonous creatures emerged from the Iron-Back Daoist's body.

Among the blue-green toxins, the Iron-Back Daoist, dressed in his thin and dry Daoist robe, was rapidly expanding.

"Creak."

"Creak, creak."

As the Iron-Back Daoist's body rapidly expanded, it produced creaking sounds.

Moments later, the scrawny Daoist appearance of the Iron-Back Daoist vanished, replaced by a massive iron-backed centipede nearly a hundred meters long and over ten meters high in the toxic mist.

This iron-backed centipede had thousands of pairs of legs like iron hooks on its abdomen. Its mouthparts were terrifyingly grotesque, seemingly capable of swallowing a mountain.

The Iron-Back Daoist's transformation into the iron-backed centipede was truly excessively large.

Lin Yuan's demonized Zhong Kui form also stood several meters tall.

However, beside this gigantic iron-backed centipede, he was completely dwarfed.

This iron-backed centipede was akin to a prehistoric exotic beast from the Classic of Mountains and Seas, the sheer size alone giving off an immense sense of oppression.

From a distance, this didn't look like an iron-backed centipede, but rather a train!

"Eat him!"

"Poison him to death!"

"Eat him, poison him to death!" Inside the fish tank, Liuyu Heaven shouted inwardly.

Now he only hoped Lin Yuan would die at the hands of the Iron-Back Daoist.

Wait, suddenly, Liuyu Heaven realized something seemed off.

Just now, Lin Yuan had impersonated his name, claiming to kill the Iron-Back Daoist to refine pills on the command of the World Honored.

The most crucial point was that the Iron-Back Daoist seemed to have believed it.

Now, the Iron-Back Daoist hated the World Honored to the core.

If Lin Yuan got killed by the Iron-Back Daoist, and then the Iron-Back Daoist reported to the World Honored, not only would it not guarantee his life, he'd die even quicker.

For a moment, Liuyu Heaven was very conflicted.

It seemed that regardless of who won, Lin Yuan or the Iron-Back Daoist, it was not a good thing for him!

In the instant Liuyu Heaven was absorbed in his chaotic thoughts, the battle between Lin Yuan and the Iron-Back Daoist had already commenced.

Lin Yuan exerted force and tossed out the fish tank containing Liuyu Heaven, which landed steadily on the branch of a withered old pagoda tree in front of the Taoist temple.

Subsequently, Lin Yuan's body also expanded massively, only stopping when he reached a height of twenty to thirty meters.

Meanwhile, the Zhong Kui's Ghost-Slaying Sword in his hand also grew larger with his body.

Above Zhong Kui's Ghost-Slaying Sword, blood-red scorching demonic flames burst forth several meters.

Where the demonic flames passed, the toxins of the Iron-Back Daoist were burned, melted, and turned to nothingness.

At this moment, Lin Yuan was engaged in battle with the gigantic iron-backed centipede.

The iron-backed centipede was so immense that with every move, it stirred raging winds, with toxic mist swirling in the gusts.

Liuyu Heaven had plotted well, knowing this Iron-Back Daoist excelled at using poison.

He thought the Iron-Back Daoist, unexpectedly using poison, might directly poison Lin Yuan.

However, he underestimated Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan's Zhong Kui's transformation had innate demonic flames that naturally suppressed any poison.

The poisons didn't have a chance to get close and were already being evaporated and melted by the demonic flames.

The Zhong Kui's Ghost-Slaying Sword in Lin Yuan's hand was extremely sharp. With one slash, it could create a significant gash in the hardened carapace on the back of the iron-backed centipede.

Poison was the Iron-Back Daoist's greatest reliance, and at the start of the battle, it was restrained by the demonic flames.

Thus, Lin Yuan effortlessly gained the upper hand.

Chapter 277: Iron-Back Daoist Self-Detonates

In the dilapidated Taoist temple, Lin Yuan and the Iron-Back Daoist were locked in battle.

Both were Tier Four, yet Lin Yuan steadily held the upper hand.

Zhong Kui's Demon-Slaying Sword swung out with a fierce whoosh, slashing onto the carapace of the colossal centipede that the Iron-Back Daoist had transformed into.

"Clang!"

"Clang! Clang!"

Each sword strike sent scarlet sword energy, mingled with demonic flames, sweeping across the centipede's shell, shattering it to pieces, sending flesh flying in all directions.

It didn't take long, just about ten-odd minutes, for Lin Yuan to leave countless ghastly wounds on the giant centipede.

The lantern-sized eyes of the centipede were filled with disbelief. It never imagined that at the same Tier Four, it would perform so poorly.

Anger seemed to become a catalyst for the Iron-Back Daoist's power.

His demonic power, enveloped in toxins, fearlessly launched an assault towards Lin Yuan.

The centipede's venomous fangs snapped towards Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan swung Zhong Kui's Demon-Slaying Sword to parry, and with a "Clang," a resonant metallic crash sounded.

Along with the intense metallic clash came a huge rebound force.

"Humph!"

Lin Yuan grunted, and the massive Zhong Kui form of twenty to thirty meters was sent flying backwards, landing on the ground, Lin Yuan staggered, almost toppling over.

Meanwhile, the giant centipede, transformed by the Iron-Back Daoist, was rolling on the ground, letting out ear-piercing roars.

Its hundred-meter-long body kept rolling, crushing the temple behind it into dust.

Lin Yuan focused his gaze, only to discover that about tens of meters from the giant centipede lay half of a mouthpart several meters long.

Just now, when Lin Yuan's Zhong Kui's Demon-Slaying Sword collided with the centipede's mouthpart, it had directly severed it.

No wonder the giant centipede, transformed by the Iron-Back Daoist, was in such agony!

It turned out its mouthpart was cut off by Lin Yuan.

You should know, that mouthpart was the hardest part of the Iron-Back Daoist's entire body.

The damage from its mouthpart being severed far exceeded that of the carapace.

Take advantage when the enemy is weak to take their life.

While the Iron-Back Daoist was unguarded due to severe pain, Lin Yuan naturally would not miss this fleeting opportunity.

He urged Zhong Kui's Demon-Slaying Sword in his hand and immediately charged towards the giant centipede formed by the Iron-Back Daoist.

Lin Yuan charged in, slashing one sword after another at the Iron-Back Daoist.

The sword's edge swept past, scarlet sword energy tinged with demonic flames emitted a scorching heat, slashing at the Iron-Back Daoist's carapace.

One sword, two swords, three swords...

All around, the sound of sword cries melded into one; sword energy flew everywhere.

At first, the Iron-Back Daoist could still resist, but as Lin Yuan's assault grew more relentless, the Iron-Back Daoist gradually found it more difficult to withstand.

The Iron-Back Daoist's mood was heavy; he seemed to know that today his prospects were bleak.

Thinking that his body would be taken by that so-called World Honored to refine medicine after his death, the Iron-Back Daoist's anger went straight to his head.

Even if he were to die, he couldn't let this person take his body for refinement.

Such was the Iron-Back Daoist's thought, and with that in mind, he began to mobilize all the demonic power within him.

He even started burning his own flesh and soul.

This Iron-Back Daoist still showed some spirit; he was determined to take a few bites out of Lin Yuan even at the cost of his life.

The Iron-Back Daoist burned his flesh and blood, forcibly supporting himself to stand back up.

The hundred-meter-long giant centipede, with battered carapace, instead became even more fearsome.

The colossal centipede propped itself up with its lower body while its upper body reared up, roaring at Lin Yuan.

A single roar whipped up a massive gale, bringing toxic mist towards Lin Yuan.

The foul-smelling poison mist swept in with the wind, but just as it was about to reach Lin Yuan, demonic flames surged up, incinerating the poison mist completely.

Alas!

As a creature who had become a fiend through poison, his most proud toxin was restrained by Lin Yuan's demonic flames.

After losing this lethal toxin, his power was reduced by at least fifty percent.

On the old locust tree outside the temple, Liuyu Heaven, in the fish tank, watched this scene with a heart as dead as ashes, yet with a hint of clarity.

His little scheme hadn't gone off; this Iron-Back Daoist was completely restrained by Lin Yuan, oppressed from start to finish.

"Just how many trump cards does this Lin Yuan have?"

"He can actually perfectly counteract poison!" Liuyu Heaven thought with helplessness.

By this point, the battle between Lin Yuan and the Iron-Back Daoist had already reached a fever pitch.

The entire temple had been turned into ruins.

All around the temple were remnants and rubble.

Tens of thousands of scarlet sword energies, laden with scorching demonic flames, had enveloped the Iron-Back Daoist.

Sword energy continually slashed against the Iron-Back Daoist, almost as if flaying him alive.

The giant centipede, formed by the Iron-Back Daoist, lunged left and right, but could never break through the range of sword energy.

In contrast, Lin Yuan grew stronger as the Iron-Back Daoist weakened.

Amidst the encompassing ocean of sword energy, the giant centipede formed by the Iron-Back Daoist was being dismembered by scarlet sword energy.

Death had become a foregone conclusion.

The Iron-Back Daoist seemed to have foreseen his end.

At this moment, the Iron-Back Daoist seemed to give up resisting, reverting from his demonified form back to his gaunt Taoist form.

"World Honored has wronged me!"

"World Honored has wronged me! World Honored has wronged me!"

The Iron-Back Daoist roared to the sky three times; these three roars echoed between heaven and earth, audible to the myriad demon fiends and spirits within hundreds of miles.

Just after the Iron-Back Daoist's three shouts, all the demon fiends and spirits within a hundred-mile radius turned their gaze towards Iron Back Mountain.

They knew it was the voice of the Iron-Back Daoist.

Iron-Back Daoist's cry of being wronged by the World Honored, could it be that he was battling someone from the World Honored?

However, the World Honored's reputation was so formidable that, for now, no one dared to spy on the situation.

After shouting three times, the Iron-Back Daoist's eyes displayed a resolute look.

"Since you want me dead, then let's all die together!" the Iron-Back Daoist roared, and then, his body rapidly swelled.

"Self-detonation?"

Lin Yuan's eyes flashed with surprise, then immediately summoned the Four Departments to enshroud him.

Since reaching Tier Four, Lin Yuan rarely used the power of the Four Departments.

The Tier Four combat style somewhat means returning to the basics, with great simplicity in Tao.

There was no longer a need to deliberately use the power of rules in battle; every move he made naturally carried the power of rules.

Usually, he could do without the power of the Four Departments.

But, the Iron-Back Daoist's self-detonation could not be underestimated.

The self-detonation of a Tier Four expert should not be taken lightly.

The Four Departments were formed by the power of rules, and at the moment of the Iron-Back Daoist's self-detonation, Lin Yuan summoned the power of the Four Departments to enshroud himself.

If using a Tier Five analogy, Lin Yuan's one department would be equivalent to a Deceitful Demon.

This was equivalent to being cloaked in four layers of Deceitful Demons.

For the Iron-Back Daoist's self-detonation to harm Lin Yuan, it would first have to break through his four layers of Deceitful Demons.

It was true that Lin Yuan took cover, but left at the mercy of the situation was Liuyu Heaven, stranded on the old locust tree outside the temple.

The self-detonation of the Tier Four Iron-Back Daoist could very well blow the entire Iron Back Mountain to dust.

He was right there on the old locust tree outside the temple.

Even at his peak strength, there would be no escape route.

Now, the only safe place left was beside Lin Yuan.

"Lin Yuan, save me..."

"Save me!" Liuyu Heaven couldn't care about his dignity anymore, quickly pleading for Lin Yuan's help.

Chapter 278: Lin Yuan Tries to Uproot the Old Pagoda Tree, But Can't!

Liuyu Heaven has never exactly been known for backbone.

If he had even a shred of it, a dignified Tier Five powerhouse, turned into an octopus and kept in a fish tank—he'd have offed himself ages ago.

But he'd rather trade banter with Lin Yuan in the fish tank every day than kill himself. Clearly, we're dealing with a complete jellyfish.

Jellyfish types begging their enemy for mercy in the face of death? Honestly, that's just par for the course.

Besides, Lin Yuan isn't just his enemy anymore.

Lin Yuan is now both his enemy and his master.

So begging Lin Yuan for help comes naturally—Liuyu Heaven doesn't even have to think twice about it.

Because Iron-Back Daoist's self-detonation came out of nowhere, Lin Yuan almost forgot about Liuyu Heaven for a moment.

The Four Departments had already enveloped him before Lin Yuan finally heard Liuyu Heaven's pleas for help.

Luckily, even self-detonation needs time to brew.

Taking advantage of Iron-Back Daoist's countdown, Lin Yuan quickly summoned Liuyu Heaven over.

Liuyu Heaven can't die yet—Lin Yuan still needs him for a few things.

Not to mention, Liuyu Heaven did a pretty solid job as navigator this time around.

He led me straight to Iron-Back Daoist—not a very powerful Tier Four if we're being honest.

Perfectly countered by yours truly, didn't even break a sweat dealing with him.

This was nothing like the life-or-death death match I'd imagined.

Sure, it was intense—but nowhere near as deadly as I'd expected.

Lin Yuan needs to hunt down ten Tier Four Evil Spirits, and carve the Ten Yama Kings tattoos on his soul.

For him, that's ten battles to the death.

And for Lin Yuan, the first of those ten battles is always the riskiest.

Why? Because the first fight is when he's at his weakest.

Now, with the first battle won, he can use Iron-Back Daoist's Power of Rules as ink, and carve a Yama King tattoo onto his soul.

Meaning, by round two, his power will have leveled up big time.

And so on—the further he goes, the stronger he gets, and the easier those fights become.

Never thought Liuyu Heaven would manage to deliver such a perfect opponent, helping me get past the hardest fight.

With that in mind, Lin Yuan decides that once he's back in the Real World, he should reward Liuyu Heaven properly.

Like...

Should I upgrade his fish tank?

"Boom!"

Right then, Iron-Back Daoist finished charging up—an earth-shattering blast shook the world.

Even wrapped in the Four Departments, Lin Yuan could feel the monstrous energy.

After the explosion, that wave of energy spread all the way to the Four Departments.

Praise Department collapsed first. Then came Punishment Department.

But with Praise and Punishment Departments having taken the brunt, by the time the blast hit Investigation Department, there wasn't much strength left.

At that moment, Lin Yuan and Liuyu Heaven were sitting cozily in the innermost Yin Law Department.

When that bit of leftover energy reached Yin Law Department, all it did was send a few muddy yellow ripples through the energy fluctuations.

The fight's over. Way easier than Lin Yuan ever dreamed.

Drawing back his power, Lin Yuan once again found himself out in the world.

He looked around—the entire Iron Back Mountain had been blasted into oblivion, leaving only a giant crater where the mountain used to be.

As for the temple—not a trace left, wiped out completely.

What really threw Lin Yuan for a loop: those two ancient, dried-out pagoda trees at the temple gate somehow survived.

Iron Back Mountain was blown away, revealing hundreds of meters of tree roots under those two old pagoda trees.

The mountain's a pit now—those trees are holding themselves up on their roots, still dry but just as stubborn as ever.

"These two old pagoda trees are definitely something special!" Lin Yuan thought to himself.

After all, Iron-Back Daoist was a Tier Four powerhouse.

A Tier Four self-detonation? Just ask any Tier Five, it's insta-death. Even another Tier Four could only survive if they had tricks up their sleeve like Lin Yuan.

These two pagoda trees were smack-in-the-center of that blast's ground zero.

And yet, they weren't touched a bit—still standing proud.

Lin Yuan pocketed Iron-Back Daoist's Power of Rules, and immediately started investigating the two pagoda trees.

The roots run deep. Even with Iron Back Mountain gone and the ground caving in for hundreds of meters, only the tip of the iceberg of their root system is showing.

"What if..."

"What if I could yank these two pagoda trees out of here, and give them to Headmaster for a proper study—bet there'd be some wild discoveries!" Lin Yuan muttered to himself, eyes glued to the trees.

Now that Lin Yuan's finished his fight with Iron-Back Daoist, with no more energy fluctuations, it won't be long before every Demon Fiend, freak, and ghoul in the area comes sniffing around.

Time's short if Lin Yuan wants to research these trees.

After thinking it over, Lin Yuan settled on one simple, violent solution.

Envelop both pagoda trees in the power of the Four Departments, then go all Lin Yuan Hulk-mode and forcibly uproot them.

No sooner said than done—Lin Yuan wrapped them both in Four Departments' power.

But as soon as he did, he felt something odd in his gut.

The Four Departments only covered the visible part aboveground—those roots in the dirt seemed totally untouched.

Like the roots pierced right through the Four Departments, extending way out past their reach.

Time's ticking—Lin Yuan stops overthinking and goes full brute force, trying to yank one of the trees out.

"One, two, three..."

"Three, two, one..."

Channeling Zhong Kui's avatar, Lin Yuan transforms into a giant dozens of meters tall, and tries to pull up the pagoda tree.

No matter how hard he pulls, the tree doesn't budge.

Forget pulling it out—he couldn't even make it wobble.

"Can't move it at all?" Lin Yuan scowled, deeply puzzled.

Giving up on uprooting the tree, he squatted down to study the roots.

Roots tangled everywhere, exposed in the open—the deeper ones still buried in the earth.

"Wait a sec!" Suddenly, Lin Yuan spotted some finger-thick centipedes wriggling between the roots.

And these centipedes weren't Tier Five or Tier Six Evil Spirits.

Actually, they're not Evil Spirits at all—just plain-jane centipedes, nowhere near even Tier Nine.

Normal centipedes.

And they survived a Tier Four's self-detonation.

This...

Only one explanation.

The pagoda trees blocked the entire blast, so the explosion never touched the centipedes.

Lin Yuan even had a new thought creep up in his mind.

The origins of Iron-Back Daoist.

A bunch of centipedes live in the pagoda trees' roots, and Iron-Back Daoist has been posted up at Iron Back Mountain, watching that shrine, since the day he came into being.

Maybe it wasn't the shrine he was guarding at all, but...

Those same two pagoda trees.

The idea made Lin Yuan even hungrier for answers.

Just what are these things?

Too bad—they couldn't be yanked out. No way to take them with me.

"If I can't take the whole tree, I can at least chop off some branches!" With that, Lin Yuan raised Zhong Kui's Demon-Slaying Sword and slashed at the limbs.

"Clang!"

The sword struck the branch, ringing out like steel on steel—but the branch didn't even twitch.

Even the branches are axe-proof?

Lin Yuan was absolutely dumbfounded.

He took out a Tier Four like Iron-Back Daoist!

And now, he's stumped by two dried-up pagoda trees?

Can't yank 'em; can't trim 'em.

Branches were a bust. Next up: the thinner roots.

If the branches are uncuttable, maybe the roots will slice?

So he brought down his blade on the roots.

This time, instead of steel ringing, it felt like slashing into cotton, or a spring—nothing for the sword to bite into.

Then the root snapped back, springing Lin Yuan halfway across the field.

"Thud!"

Lin Yuan landed hard, eating dirt, face-first.

Climbing up, Lin Yuan stalked back over to the two pagoda trees, stubbornly inspecting them again.

After a while, Lin Yuan suddenly yelled at the trees, "Give me some roots or some branches, or we're gonna have a problem!"

"Axes, saws, fire, flood—whatever it takes, I'll try it all on you."

Getting launched by the pagoda tree gave Lin Yuan the idea these trees might actually be sentient.

Hence the talking—gotta gamble a bit.

Lin Yuan's luck never disappoints. Right after he shouted, one of the pagoda trees snapped off a half-meter chunk of root.

The root floated over, lifted by invisible power, and landed before Lin Yuan.

Sentient for sure—just wanting Lin Yuan to piss off instead of harassing them forever, one pagoda tree lopped off a root as payoff.

Bagging even one pagoda tree root was already a massive win.

Lin Yuan had a hunch this bit of tree root would be worth way more than Iron-Back Daoist's Power of Rules.

Root in hand, Lin Yuan bowed to the pagoda trees, "Many thanks, seniors, for the gift."

The tree that broke a root pointed its dried-out branch at the distance and waved side to side.

It couldn't talk, but Lin Yuan got the gist.

"Scram already."

The tree thought, "Calling it a gift, huh? You think I don't know what game you're playing?"

Lin Yuan wasn't dumb—he got what he came for, so it's time to bounce.

Who knows what these trees really are? What if a minute later they turn into twisted tree demons, angry ents, or whatever, and beat the crap outta me?

Lin Yuan stowed his Deceitful Demon and slipped away—at this point, Demon Fiends and freaks were already crowding Iron Back Mountain to snoop around.

Lin Yuan casually crushed a few Tier Five Evil Spirits. He roared, "I, Liuyu Heaven, act under orders from the World Honored—what makes you think you can snoop?"

"Anyone caught peeking—exterminate on sight!"

Chapter 279: Return to the Real World

Lin Yuan reported the World Honored One's name, and, just for good measure, casually crushed a few Tier Five Evil Spirits lurking nearby.

Immediately, those evil spirits who'd been sneaking peeks were scared off.

Lin Yuan held his head high and puffed out his chest, striding away with swagger and bravado.

After leaving far behind, making sure there were no evil spirits watching him, Lin Yuan opened a teleportation gate and returned to the real world.

Iron Back Mountain.

After walking for a long time and confirming the area was safe, only then did the evil spirits who'd been spying from the shadows finally gather together.

"World Honored One's people are so overbearing—those fellows just glanced a few times and got pinched to death on the spot."

"Iron-Back Daoist never leaves Iron Back Mountain; what grudge could he have with the World Honored One?"

"Iron-Back Daoist is a mighty Tier Four, and yet, just like that, he was killed?"

"The World Honored One is too much—killing as he pleases, treats us as mere ants."

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The gathered evil spirits all denounced the World Honored One's cruelty.

At that moment, a voice trembling with fear and sporting a deer's head reminded, "You all better stop. If the World Honored One finds out we're gossiping about him, I fear we'll end up just like them."

As soon as those words fell, the denouncing voices instantly died off.

The World Honored One was a superpower in the Mysterious World; who knew whether he could overhear these conversations?

If the World Honored One did hear what they were discussing now, he'd probably send minions to slaughter them too.

At this thought, the evil spirits present couldn't help but shudder.

The Iron-Back Daoist, as a Tier Four powerhouse, had been the strongest evil spirit for thousands of miles around.

Even he was killed by the World Honored One's people; if the World Honored One wanted them dead, they'd be utterly powerless to resist.

Some of the braver evil spirits were left only with burning resentment, but didn't dare utter another word.

The more timid ones even started backing away, muttering under their breath, "I went to bed early today, I never came to Iron Back Mountain, never came..."

Before they'd even finished their sentences, those skittish evil spirits had bolted in a flash.

The Iron-Back Daoist was dead, Iron Back Mountain had been blown to dust—nothing left to see here.

Soon, the evil spirits gathered around scattered in all directions.

With their departure, news that the World Honored One's people had slaughtered Iron-Back Daoist for no reason spread across the entire Mysterious World.

The more widely a story spreads, the stranger it becomes.

Countless versions now circulated as to why the World Honored One killed Iron-Back Daoist.

Some said the World Honored One wanted to make Iron-Back Daoist a Mountain Guardian Spirit Beast, but Iron-Back Daoist refused, so the World Honored One had him killed in anger.

Some claimed the World Honored One needed a rare ingredient for alchemy and sent men to kill Iron-Back Daoist to extract his poison sac for a potion.

There were even more far-fetched tales, like the World Honored One wanting to cultivate the Joyous Zen, having taken a fancy to Iron-Back Daoist's woman, so that's why he killed him.

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Those were the three most common versions; besides them, a jumble of other rumors—dozens, messy and scattered—were in circulation.

In short, Lin Yuan had firmly dumped this bucket of filth onto the World Honored One—no way he'd ever wash it clean, not even if he dove into the Yellow River.

But really, whatever rumors were circulating in the Mysterious World had nothing to do with Lin Yuan anymore.

At this point, Lin Yuan was already back in the real world.

He'd successfully hunted the Iron-Back Daoist and obtained the Power of Rules the Daoist commanded.

This Power of Rules could be handed to the Director, who would use it as ink to inscribe one of the Ten Yama Kings onto his soul.

Ever since Bai Ling'Er was taken back to Qingqiu Mountain, Lin Yuan constantly longed to ascend the mountain and bring her back.

So, he was desperate to advance his strength as soon as possible.

After returning to the real world, Lin Yuan didn't even turn back to Peng City, instead heading straight to Emperor Dragon City to look for the Director.

Only by turning Iron-Back Daoist's Power of Rules into a Yama tattoo etched onto his soul could Lin Yuan truly rest easy.

Strength!

Right now, he needed it more than anything!

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Walking down Emperor Dragon City's streets, Lin Yuan spoke to the fish tank in his hand: "Liuyu Heaven, looks like you've finally turned over a new leaf!"

"Who'd have thought you'd actually give me a hand for real? You really dug up the perfect opponent for me."

"That Iron-Back Daoist was Tier Four as well, but I totally countered him. I bet he died feeling absolutely stifled!"

In the fish tank, Liuyu Heaven's eight octopus tentacles simultaneously blocked his own eyes and ears, as if to say: not listening, not listening, like a turtle tuning out a sermon.

In that moment, Liuyu Heaven thought, "Iron-Back Daoist was stifled?"

"Isn't it possible that I'm the most stifled one here?"

"Please, I beg you, stop talking, just stop...."

Liuyu Heaven felt that his entanglement with Lin Yuan was a truly uncanny karmic tie.

He'd clearly meant for Iron-Back Daoist's poison to finish Lin Yuan off, and yet, by some cruel twist of fate, he'd wound up doing Lin Yuan a huge favor.

Trying to be encouraging, Lin Yuan said, "Me, I always reward merit and punish mistakes."

"Since you've helped me a great deal this time, I plan to reward you properly. What would you like as a prize?"

Before Lin Yuan could even finish, Liuyu Heaven whipped his tentacles away from his ears and said eagerly, "A reward...."

"I don't want anything else—just let me go back to the Silent Sea. You're Tier Four now, I pose no threat to you like this."

"Just treat me like a fart and let me go!"

Liuyu Heaven, suddenly seeing hope for freedom, shed his previous cold shoulder and pleaded desperately.

"Let you go?"

"Definitely not, don't even think about it!" Lin Yuan rejected him mercilessly, then, looking magnanimous, added, "I've decided to reward you with a bigger fish tank."

Liuyu Heaven: "?????"

"Lin Yuan, for fuck's sake, have a little humanity!"

"For a moment there, I honestly couldn't tell which one of us was the real evil spirit!" Liuyu Heaven gritted his teeth.

After sparring verbally with Liuyu Heaven for a bit, Lin Yuan finally made it to the Research Institute.

Research Institute.

The Director, upon seeing Lin Yuan, looked obviously surprised.

Apparently, wise as he was, even the Director hadn't expected Lin Yuan to make it back from the Mysterious World this quickly.

"Your speed's far beyond what I imagined!" The Director smiled as he spoke to Lin Yuan.

Hearing this, Lin Yuan replied modestly, "Just luck, pure luck!"

As he spoke, Lin Yuan took out the Iron-Back Daoist's Power of Rules.

Seeing it, and sensing the energy contained within, the Director couldn't help nodding in appreciation, "Luck is just another aspect of strength."

Chapter 280: The Power of the King Zhuanlun Tattoo

Luck is also a part of one's strength.

You know, Lin Yuan has always been pretty lucky.

Lin Yuan told the dean everything that happened during his recent trip to the Mysterious World, leaving out no detail.

After hearing Lin Yuan's account, the dean grinned and said, "You brat, you really do have that protagonist's halo."

"Liuyu Heaven wasn't trying to help you at all—he was plotting against you, planning to use Iron-Back Daoist to poison you."

"But he never would have guessed that your demonic flame just happened to counter Iron-Back Daoist."

The dean lived up to his title—even just relying on Lin Yuan's account, he'd already deduced Liuyu Heaven's intentions.

Liuyu Heaven! Oh, Liuyu Heaven!

So you little bastard were trying to screw me over all along!

Only now did Lin Yuan come to sudden realization, but he didn't have time to deal with Liuyu Heaven just yet.

No matter what Liuyu Heaven's goal was, in the end, he himself had gained a massive benefit.

The process isn't what matters—the outcome is what's important.

Lin Yuan handed over Iron-Back Daoist's Power of Rules to the dean and asked, "Dean, with this Power of Rules, can you help me engrave a Yama tattoo onto my soul?"

The dean nodded and agreed, "Of course!"

"Everything's already prepared. With this Power of Rules, you can condense the King Zhuanlun tattoo upon your soul."

The Ten Yama Kings are: First Hall – King Qinguang, Second Hall – King Chujiang, Third Hall – King Songdi, Fourth Hall – King Wuguan, Fifth Hall – Yama, Sixth Hall – King Biancheng, Seventh Hall – King Taishan, Eighth Hall – King Dushi, Ninth Hall – King Pingdeng, Tenth Hall – King Zhuanlun.

Even among the Ten Yama Kings, there is a hierarchy—King Qinguang is the eldest, while King Zhuanlun is the youngest.

Engraving the Ten Yama Kings' tattoos onto the soul—the energy needed for King Qinguang is the most, and for King Zhuanlun is the least.

The first one to be engraved should naturally be King Zhuanlun's tattoo.

After King Zhuanlun's tattoo is engraved onto the soul, and once Lin Yuan's strength is enhanced, he can then hunt more powerful evil spirits and engrave stronger tattoos.

This way, Lin Yuan's strength will naturally keep rising.

"Dean, let's not wait any longer!"

"Do it now! Please, help me engrave the King Zhuanlun tattoo on my soul!" Lin Yuan couldn't contain his excitement and pressed the dean eagerly.

I really can't wait any longer!

Right now, Lin Yuan's thirst for power was greater than ever before.

Engraving the Ten Yama Kings tattoos upon his soul—this would be the turning point of Lin Yuan's destiny.

As the saying goes, all beginnings are hard.

Once the King Zhuanlun tattoo was complete, then Dushi King, King Pingdeng, Yama, Qinguang King, and the others would all be within reach.

Lin Yuan had a feeling—in his heart, when the ten Yama tattoos were all engraved on his soul, he would step into the very top echelon.

Not just the greatest in the real world, but also the strongest in the Mysterious World.

With this step, Lin Yuan would truly attain the strength to rival the World Honored.

"Kid, so impatient. You still need some tempering!" The dean smiled as he spoke—not truly reproaching Lin Yuan, of course.

If you don't want to wait, then come with me.

After all, it won't take too much time either way.

With that, the dean led Lin Yuan back to the same laboratory as before.

The surroundings were exactly as they had been previously.

In fact, perhaps this lab had been custom-built just for Lin Yuan.

"Lie down!" The dean pointed at the bed, signaling for Lin Yuan to get on.

With the experience from engraving the Meng Po tattoo last time, everything now felt like second nature.

Lin Yuan lay down on the bed—same procedure as before. The energy dome rose slowly, dim mist wafted out, and Lin Yuan slipped into unconsciousness.

After Lin Yuan lost consciousness, a special machine sounded a soul-calling bell, and his soul separated from his body.

The dean used Iron-Back Daoist's Power of Rules as ink and began to engrave King Zhuanlun's form onto Lin Yuan's soul.

The King Zhuanlun tattoo was placed on the small of Lin Yuan's back, occupying about one-tenth of his soul's waist circumference.

Once King Zhuanlun was tattooed on the back, he could engrave King Pingdeng, King Dushi, and the others in order afterward.

When all ten Yama King tattoos were finished, they would form a belt made of the Ten Yama tattoos around Lin Yuan's soul's waist.

Since the Meng Po tattoo had already been engraved before, Lin Yuan didn't experience any discomfort this time around.

However, tattooing King Zhuanlun this time clearly took much longer than it had for the Meng Po tattoo before.

Last time, the dean was inexperienced, and the Meng Po tattoo took a little over two hours.

This time, even with experience, it still took the dean nearly three hours.

Three hours later, the King Zhuanlun tattoo was complete, and the dean signaled for Lin Yuan's soul to return to his body.

Everything was just like when the Meng Po tattoo was inscribed—the soul and the tattoo on the body perfectly overlapped.

And now, Lin Yuan possessed the powers of King Zhuanlun, as if they had been innate since birth.

King Zhuanlun—the youngest among the Ten Yama Kings.

King Zhuanlun's responsibility was to send the vengeful souls who had served their sentences in the Eighteen Layers of Hell into the mortal world for reincarnation.

Within the Underworld exist the Six Paths of Reincarnation.

Heavenly Path, Human Path, Hell Path, Evil Spirit Path, Asura Path, and Beast Path.

King Zhuanlun governs the Human Path, overseeing the reincarnation of those souls assigned to the human world.

Now that he understood King Zhuanlun's responsibilities, the next step was to comprehend King Zhuanlun's abilities.

His consciousness sank into his sea of awareness—Lin Yuan seemed to see, within his mind, a treasure wheel shining with golden light, spinning gently.

This treasure wheel was King Zhuanlun's Cultivation Treasure, called the Zhuanlun Wheel.

Inside the Zhuanlun Wheel were countless phantoms.

Clad in a black robe with a Xuan-niao motif, holding the Imperial Seal aloft and chanting "Mandated by Heaven, may the mandate endure eternally"—that was the First Emperor.

During the Battle of Changping, clothed in black armor, white cloak, supporting a crimson longsword, the one who buried 400,000 Zhao Army soldiers alive—the Lord Wu'an, Bai Qi.

On a stormy day atop Mangdang Mountain, wielding the Chixiao Sword and beheading the leader of the white-clad rebels—the Han Gaozu, Liu Bang.

Beside the Wu River, ambushed on all sides by ten thousand troops, the Overlord Xiang Yu took his own life by the water.

At eighteen, in glorious armor and astride a snorting horse, at Mount Langjuxu, inscribing his name on the stele—Champion Marquis Huo Qubing.

At the gates of Hulao Pass, locked in endless battle with three heroes—Lü Bu.

In Fengbo Pavilion, dying with defiance and fury—the great general Yue Fei.

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The phantoms within the Zhuanlun Wheel were the heroes and remarkable figures of Huaxia's history.

Suddenly, Lin Yuan was struck with enlightenment.

King Zhuanlun's power was actually to summon those historical heroes of Huaxia to fight a final, ultimate battle.

In this last battle, the heroic souls would experience an unprecedented transcendence.

The mythic First Emperor, mythic Overlord Xiang Yu, mythic Champion Marquis Huo Qubing...

After this gloriously transcendent battle, the heroic soul in the Zhuanlun Wheel would disappear—dust to dust, earth to earth.