

Apocalypse 491

Chapter 491 The World Honored Adjudicates

Since the true self cannot manifest, then the World Honored is left with only one option, to use a manifestation to handle this thorny issue.

However, the World Honored's manifestation is simply not a match for the Peacock Great Ming King.

Therefore, if the World Honored wishes to resolve this thorny issue, he can only attempt persuasion rather than resort to violence.

In the grand hall, five Buddhas engaged in a fierce battle against the Peacock Great Ming King, evenly matched.

In terms of strength, each of these five Buddhas under the World Honored is slightly stronger than those ancient souls from the Ten Thousand Mountains.

Additionally, due to the last battle at the Ten Thousand Mountains, the Peacock Great Ming King's injuries have yet to fully mend.

Thus, in the short term, the Peacock Great Ming King finds it difficult to claim victory.

Witnessing this scene, Lady Ming King grits her teeth in anger but is left helpless.

Up to now, only the Lushana Buddha and Treasure-Born Buddha have appeared, implying that, in all likelihood, no other Buddhas will interfere.

Yet, relying merely on the five Buddhas present is insufficient to suppress the Peacock Great Ming King.

Today, Lady Ming King has spared no expense, yet if the Peacock Great Ming King cannot be subdued, all her previous efforts are wasted.

Her reputation lost, and even worse, she becomes entangled in an endless feud with the Peacock Great Ming King.

As the battle rages on, suddenly, golden light floods the grand hall, a Buddha's shadow manifests within the light.

Subsequently, the shadow becomes increasingly tangible, and a manifestation of the World Honored steps out from the golden light.

Witnessing this scene, the followers in the grand hall are astounded.

It's known that the World Honored's manifestations seldom reveal themselves to ordinary followers, typically viewed only by sect leadership.

This battle, surprisingly, has alarmed the World Honored.

"Greetings, World Honored!"

"Greetings, World Honored!"

In the grand hall, ordinary followers kneel and bow towards the World Honored.

The five engaged in combat notice the World Honored's arrival, yet amidst the heated battle, none dares to be the first to halt.

After all, stopping first doesn't guarantee others won't strike you.

Seeing that his manifestation has arrived, and they are still fighting, the World Honored's expression darkens, his brow furrows.

"Cease your combat!" the World Honored's commanding voice echoes through the grand hall.

As his voice resonates, strands of Buddha's Radiance press upon the five combatants, temporarily isolating the warring sides.

With the World Honored's presence, naturally, everyone gives way, ceasing their battle in unison.

Upon halting, the Medicine King Buddha promptly bows to the World Honored, saying, "World Honored, the Peacock Great Ming King disregards the rules, seeking fraternal conflict."

"We implored with reason, but he wouldn't heed us, even resorting to violence against us."

"Moreover, he disrupted your sacred reincarnation ceremony, a most egregious sin."

The Medicine King Buddha's words effectively place the blame for today's battle entirely on the Peacock Great Ming King.

After the Medicine King Buddha finishes, Dingguang Buddha, Infinite Buddha, Lushana Buddha, and Treasure-Born Buddha all agree, saying, "We ask the World Honored to punish the Peacock Great Ming King."

After hearing their statements, the World Honored remains silent, instead looking towards the Peacock Great Ming King.

The World Honored's gaze seems to say, "Provide me an explanation!"

However, the Peacock Great Ming King shows no intention of explaining.

"I want the lives of Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird!" the Peacock Great Ming King's tone is quite calm.

The World Honored knows that although the Peacock Great Ming King is arrogant and domineering, he is never unreasonable.

For the matter to escalate to this level, there must be other causes.

"Why were Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird enshrined as Buddhas?"

"Without my permission, who allowed such presumptuous actions!" the World Honored sternly reprimands.

The World Honored directs his rebuke not towards Lady Ming King but the Medicine King Buddha.

Lady Ming King, merely a Tier Four, by norms, lacks the capacity and qualification to manage such a grand sect.

The Medicine King Buddha, who aids Lady Ming King, must bear primary responsibility for this affair.

Lady Ming King, a mere Tier Four, lacking foresight, unaware of the consequences enshrining Bai Ze and the others as Buddhas would entail.

But you, Medicine King Buddha, being a Tier Two Peak Powerhouse, could you be ignorant?

Given the knowledge, the situation reaching this stage leaves only one possibility: the Medicine King Buddha intended it deliberately.

Once an attendant to the World Honored, the Medicine King Buddha intimately knows the World Honored's disposition.

The more crucial the moment, the less one can deceive the World Honored.

The Medicine King Buddha kneels directly, repeatedly apologizing, "I deserve death ten thousand times over for failing to properly assist Lady Ming King, please forgive me, World Honored."

The Medicine King Buddha directly pleads for mercy, at this time, Lady Ming King also joins, recounting the Ten Thousand Mountains affair and the events leading Bai Ze and the others to seek refuge.

Then, she speaks to the World Honored, "You were in seclusion, father, and I dared not disturb your cultivation. Therefore, after consulting with the Medicine King Buddha, presumptively decided to use your Dharma Scroll to enshrine Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird."

After finishing, Lady Ming King then targets the Peacock Great Ming King, coldly stating, "The Peacock Great Ming King, being one of our sect, yet inexplicably teamed up with that old turtle, that cunning fox to wipe out the Ten Thousand Mountains."

"Today, he even dared to disrupt the sect, truly harboring ill intentions."

Lady Ming King loathes the Peacock Great Ming King, without hesitation, accuses him first.

Facing Lady Ming King's accusations, the Peacock Great Ming King is disinterested in providing explanations.

"Hmph!" the Peacock Great Ming King snorts coldly, disdainfully saying, "You junior, I can't be bothered to argue with you."

"Whether or not the Ten Thousand Mountains were wiped out unjustly, have Bai Ze confront me."

Lady Ming King, unconvinced, looks to the World Honored and says, "Father, Bai Ze and the others explained it to me as such."

The World Honored neither favors the statements of either side, calmly saying, "I will discern truth from falsehood."

After these words, the World Honored waves his hand, slicing a rift through the Void with his robe, revealing a mountain on the other side, where Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird are recovering from their injuries.

The World Honored extends his hand through the Void, grasping towards the mountain, bringing Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird into his hand.

In the next moment, the World Honored retracts his hand, waving it to place Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird into the grand hall.

The entire process is exceptionally swift, leaving Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird bewildered as they suddenly appear in the grand hall.

The first person they see upon raising their eyes is, conspicuously, the World Honored.

"Greetings, World Honored."

"Greetings, World Honored."

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Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird kneel, performing a prostrate position, exuding humility and respect.

In the future, they still rely on the World Honored's protection, so in this first meeting, they naturally strive to leave a devout impression.

The World Honored looks at the prostrating Bai Ze trio, straightforwardly asking, "Tell me about the events at the Ten Thousand Mountains."

"Why did you clash with the Great Ming King, escalating to such a relentless degree?"

Chapter 492: The Peacock Great Ming King's Defection

Upon hearing these words from the World Honored, Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird all trembled.

The question was difficult to answer!

If they answered truthfully, they would have to admit that they were the ones who first attacked the daughter of the Peacock Great Ming King, and thus they were in the wrong.

Moreover, when they sought refuge, they lied to persuade Lady Ming King to take them in.

If they didn't speak the truth, did they dare continue to deceive the World Honored with lies?

Their clumsy lie might have fooled the foolish Lady Ming King, but deceiving the World Honored was utterly impossible.

To lie in front of the World Honored was akin to seeking death.

Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird exchanged glances but none of them dared to speak.

Even Bai Ze, known for his eloquence, was rendered speechless this time.

Seeing the three remain silent for so long, the World Honored snorted coldly, and a powerful aura like a prison emanated towards Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird.

It was clear that if they continued to remain silent, he would take action against them.

The World Honored had come today to be the judge of this matter.

He offered them a chance to explain, and if they didn't take it, they could blame no one else.

Seeing the World Honored's anger, Chongming Bird and Xiang Liu both urged, "Bai Ze, quickly speak up!"

"We are clumsy with words and not good at explaining, so hurry up and explain."

Bai Ze: "?????"

Bai Ze was exasperated, thinking, you two only think of me when there's trouble, not when there's good to be had!

However, at this point, Bai Ze had no choice but to step up.

If no one did, they would only await death.

Bai Ze hurriedly knelt on the ground, prostrating himself fully, "World Honored, I dare not hide the truth. The events transpired as follows..."

Bai Ze recounted how Tanlang and four other demons acted against the daughter of the Peacock Great Ming King, provoking his retaliation, explaining everything in detail.

After speaking, Bai Ze added somewhat aggrievedly, "At this moment, not all the blame lies with us, as the main culprits have been dealt with, yet the Peacock Great Ming King continues to seek our extermination."

"We cannot just sit and wait for death, hence we sought refuge with you, World Honored!"

Bai Ze humbly positioned himself, his words full of reverence and devotion.

The World Honored glanced at Bai Ze, recognizing that at this point, they dared not lie.

Having understood the gist of the matter, the World Honored turned to the Peacock Great Ming King and asked, "Now, how can this be resolved peacefully?"

Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird were already subdued, ready to agree to any solution proposed by the World Honored.

Hence, whether it could be resolved now depended on the thoughts of the Peacock Great Ming King.

The Peacock Great Ming King calmly stated, "I have said, I want the lives of those three."

World Honored: "???"

Seeing the Peacock Great Ming King still so obstinate, the World Honored's expression turned particularly grim.

The World Honored understood that the current solution was definitely not to kill Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird.

These three were just sealed as Buddhas with his Dharma Scroll, effectively declared to the world.

If the World Honored killed Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird now, there would certainly be consequences.

At this moment, the World Honored was a step away from enlightenment and dared not be entangled with any karma.

"Your crimes do not warrant death, yet by lying, you deceived Lady Ming King and the Medicine King Buddha, leading to a misjudgment."

"The death penalty can be avoided, but live punishment cannot." With these words, the World Honored struck their chests with three consecutive blows.

Facing their master's punishment, the three dared not resist.

"Pfft!"

"Pfft! Pfft!"

Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird all spat out blood, clearly suffering internal injuries.

After striking them, the World Honored turned to the Peacock Great Ming King, suggesting, "How about this minor punishment as a major warning?"

"We can discuss it further when the time is right. The sect's rules forbid internecine strife; I certainly cannot watch you act against them."

The World Honored had already acted by injuring Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird, essentially siding with the Peacock Great Ming King.

Moreover, the World Honored had clearly indicated to discuss it further when there's a chance.

This hinted to the Peacock Great Ming King that within the sect, his status was higher than theirs, ensuring future opportunities to eliminate them—why rush now?

Indeed, he could even assign them an almost impossible task, and if they failed to comply, it would be insubordination. If they attempted it, they might be doomed in the long run.

Had it been anyone else, they might have accepted the World Honored's suggestion.

However, before the World Honored stood the Peacock Great Ming King.

The Peacock Great Ming King, a resolute man, knew nothing of subtlety.

"If in the sect, internecine strife is prohibited, very well. Today, I, the Peacock Great Ming King, swear to the heavens, I am withdrawing from the sect and am no longer part of it!" The Peacock Great Ming King declared mightily.

The declaration of the Peacock Great Ming King's withdrawal startled the World Honored, his face darkening instantly.

The words of the Peacock Great Ming King were spoken too quickly for him to intervene.

This vow of withdrawal from the sect struck a significant blow against the World Honored.

At this critical juncture of his enlightenment, he could not forcibly stop the Peacock Great Ming King.

The World Honored estimated achieving enlightenment in three to five years, or as soon as five months.

Any unforeseen event now could delay the World Honored's enlightenment.

This was why the World Honored had personally come to mediate.

Unexpectedly, his arrival worsened the situation.

In the sect, the only one the World Honored held in some regard was the Peacock Great Ming King, who now was resigning.

"Great Ming King, resigning from the sect is no trifling matter—retract your vow!" The World Honored sternly urged, his gaze fixed on the Peacock Great Ming King.

Undaunted by the World Honored, the Peacock Great Ming King retorted, "You cannot revoke your Dharma Scroll; why should my vow be retracted?"

This was truly a taste of his own medicine.

To the Peacock Great Ming King, the sect was a shackle.

He had always wanted to leave the sect, lacking only the chance. Today, the discussion reached here, prompting him to promptly declare his exit.

It could be said that the chaotic maneuvers of Lady Ming King expedited the Peacock Great Ming King's resignation.

Meanwhile, Medicine King Buddha was secretly delighted, as this was what he most desired—the Peacock Great Ming King's resignation.

With the Peacock Great Ming King's departure, that position was his.

"Must it really be this way!"

"After today, we may be enemies," the World Honored coldly questioned.

"Hahaha!" The Peacock Great Ming King laughed loudly, "In that battle of years past, I lost, but who's to say I won't win another?"

"Since I, Kong Xuan, have made this decision, I shall never regret it."

Chapter 493: World Honored's Compromise

The betrayal of the Peacock Great Ming King has placed the World Honored under intense pressure.

At this moment, the World Honored is faced with a dilemma.

The Medicine King Buddha looked at the Peacock Great Ming King, then at the World Honored, and roared, "Peacock Great Ming King, how dare you betray the sect? I urge the World Honored to execute him."

"I urge the World Honored, to kill this beast."

"Please, World Honored, execute the Peacock Great Ming King!" Infinite Buddha, Dingguang Buddha, and others echoed.

Since even the Peacock Great Ming King intends to betray the sect, these people naturally won't be polite; they want to utterly destroy the Peacock Great Ming King.

"From today onwards, there is no longer a Peacock Great Ming King, only Kong Xuan!" declared the Peacock Great Ming King proudly. "You think you can detain me? It won't be possible with just your strength."

The World Honored looked at the scene before him with great helplessness.

Should the Peacock Great Ming King be detained?

According to the current situation, if he utilizes the full power of the sect, even if he doesn't personally intervene, there's still a certain hope of capturing the Peacock Great Ming King.

Of course, it's only a possibility.

Because the restless factors like Elder Bai have to be considered.

Once these factors are mixed in, the odds of success become difficult to measure.

If Elder Bai and others intervene, it would mean that the final showdown arrives early, which is not what the World Honored wanted.

The World Honored has realized that the Peacock Great Ming King probably had intentions of betrayal for a long time, but today, he happened to find a reason for his betrayal.

The World Honored closed his eyes. After pondering for a moment, he said to the Peacock Great Ming King, "Go ahead!"

"Father, you must not release the tiger back to the mountain!" Upon hearing this, Lady Ming King immediately intervened.

The World Honored glared fiercely at Lady Ming King, and she instantly fell silent, not daring to say another word.

Now that things have developed to this point, Lady Ming King, this fool, has to bear the brunt.

Luckily, she is the World Honored's daughter; otherwise, given her status, it would've been more than just a glare—she might've directly faced dire consequences.

The Peacock Great Ming King also knew that since the World Honored had appeared, it was impossible to kill Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, Chongming Bird today.

Without a word, the Peacock Great Ming King transformed into five-colored light and left the scene.

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After the Peacock Great Ming King left, the atmosphere at the scene became extremely awkward.

The World Honored stood there with a steely expression, remaining silent, and with the World Honored silent, the others dared not speak either.

For a moment, the entire hall was so quiet that the drop of a needle could be heard.

However, it wasn't a solution for this stalemate to continue.

After a long time, Lady Ming King approached cautiously and asked, "Father, should the reincarnation ceremony continue?"

Continue?

Continue for what?

Following today's chaos caused by the Peacock Great Ming King, the World Honored's mind was in turmoil.

"It's over!"

"Everyone disperse!" The World Honored slowly uttered.

Upon hearing the World Honored's words, the sect members below the hall felt like a heavy burden was lifted.

This matter was irrelevant to them; they were merely spectators. The oppressive atmosphere earlier was extremely uncomfortable.

After the sect members dispersed below, the Medicine King Buddha mingled with the crowd, wanting to sneak away.

As the saying goes, a clear conscience leads to no fear of ghosts knocking at the door.

The key point is, the Medicine King Buddha had indeed done something he wasn't proud of, so he naturally feared the consequences.

The Medicine King Buddha knew that remaining any longer would bring misfortune.

At this moment, escape was the best strategy, to flee quickly.

If the Medicine King Buddha wants to escape, it depends on whether the World Honored will allow it!

"Medicine King Buddha, stay."

The World Honored's voice sounded in the Medicine King Buddha's ear, causing his body to freeze.

Being singled out?

No way to escape now!

Helplessly, the Medicine King Buddha could only stay with a mournful expression.

Lady Ming King cast a sympathetic glance at Medicine King Buddha, then quietly withdrew.

The World Honored did not ask Lady Ming King to stay; he let her leave.

Just as Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird were about to leave, the World Honored spoke again, "Great Wisdom Buddha, Great Auspicious Buddha, Pingjiang Dinghai Buddha, you three stay as well."

Upon hearing this, Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird's hearts skipped a beat.

Since the World Honored injured them with a single palm strike, they no longer hoped to enter the World Honored's Eight Treasures Reincarnation Pool to repair their damaged foundation.

They only hoped the World Honored would spare their lives.

Once everyone else left, only the World Honored, Medicine King Buddha, Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird remained in the hall.

"Smack!"

The World Honored dealt a hard slap to Medicine King Buddha's face, angrily scolding, "Lady Ming King is ignorant, and you are too?"

"Peacock Great Ming King's betrayal today suits your intentions."

As soon as the World Honored spoke, Medicine King Buddha fell to his knees with a thud, repeatedly pleading, "I know my mistake, I know my mistake!"

In fact, sheltering Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird was Medicine King Buddha's move to disgust and sideline Peacock Great Ming King.

Medicine King Buddha originally only wanted to squeeze the Peacock Great Ming King out of the sect's power center to directly replace him.

However, Medicine King Buddha hadn't anticipated such a strong reaction from the Peacock Great Ming King.

He actually directly betrayed the sect?

This betrayal from the Peacock Great Ming King was like overdosing on medicine.

Looking at the kneeling and begging Medicine King Buddha, the World Honored restrained himself from excessive punishment.

With the situation having reached this point, even killing Medicine King Buddha wouldn't change anything.

"This mistake is noted for now; if there's a next time, I'll make sure you cannot live nor die!" The World Honored said coldly.

After reprimanding Medicine King Buddha, the World Honored turned his gaze to Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird.

Under his sharp gaze, Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird could not help but shiver.

The entire Mysterious World knows that the World Honored is ruthless.

They come to rely on the World Honored, aiming to divert trouble and provoke conflict.

No one knew if the World Honored would end their lives because of this.

However, after staring at Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird for a while, the World Honored slowly asked, "Would you three join my sect? In the future, you must give your all for the sect; in times of difficulty for the sect, there is no refusal."

Upon hearing this, Bai Ze couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

The tone of the World Honored's words implies no intention of taking action against them.

Their previous initiation ceremony was conducted by Lady Ming King.

Today, after hearing the World Honored's words, it was considered a tacit approval of their inclusion in the sect.

For the World Honored, since the Peacock Great Ming King has betrayed the sect, gaining three Tier Two Peak Combat Power is quite a gain.

"Please rest assured, World Honored, we will surely give all our efforts for the benefit of the sect!" Bai Ze sincerely promised.

After Bai Ze's promise, Xiang Liu and Chongming Bird also repeatedly echoed, expressing their agreement.

In Bai Ze's view, whether they can fulfill it in the future can be discussed later, but for now, they certainly need to agree.

Chapter 494: The Hidden Dangers of the Gourmands

The World Honored nodded and raised his hand, revealing a rift in the space ahead.

Beyond the rift, there was a pool shining with golden light.

The water in the pool was crystal clear, with a layer of gold, agate, pearls, and glaze covering the bottom...

When Bai Ze saw this pool, his eyes couldn't help but light up.

Without a doubt, the pool before them was the legendary Eight Treasures Rebirth Pool.

Buddha does not bless those without fate.

These monks are indeed cunning and wealthy!

"Enter the pool, and I will help you restore your foundation!" The World Honored waved his hand and a golden light carried Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird into the Eight Treasures Rebirth Pool.

Even after entering the Eight Treasures Rebirth Pool, Bai Ze and the others' heads were still buzzing!

A pleasant surprise.

This was purely a pleasant surprise!

Originally, today's ordeal had made them abandon their thoughts of entering the Eight Treasures Rebirth Pool.

They didn't even dare mention it to the World Honored.

Who knew, before they could bring it up, the World Honored proactively sent them into the Eight Treasures Rebirth Pool.

Once inside the Eight Treasures Rebirth Pool, Bai Ze and the others felt a surge of energy pouring into their bodies.

Their injuries were recovering at a visibly fast pace.

Even their nearly irreparable foundations were slowly being restored.

The World Honored allowed Bai Ze and the others to use the Eight Treasures Rebirth Pool to win them over and make them wholeheartedly work for him.

As it turned out, this was very effective.

Previously, the World Honored had struck the three of them, which was like hitting them with a stick.

Now, allowing them to enter the Eight Treasures Rebirth Pool was like giving them a sweet date.

This method of combining authority with kindness made Bai Ze and the others both respectful and fearful of the World Honored.

When Bai Ze, Xiang Liu, and Chongming Bird emerged from the Eight Treasures Rebirth Pool, the World Honored silently turned and left.

Today, the defection of Peacock Great Ming King had intensified the World Honored's urgency for enlightenment.

He must quickly attain enlightenment, for only then can he fully suppress this world.

To suppress, as one must with unruly individuals like the Peacock Great Ming King.

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On the other side, the Peacock Great Ming King had just returned to his domain.

He received a message from Elder Bai and others, asking him to quickly go to the East Sea.

The Peacock Great Ming King did not hesitate and went directly to the East Sea.

"Fellow Daoist Kong Xuan's defection today has caused quite a stir!" Elder Bai said with a smile upon seeing Kong Xuan.

The Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder also agreed beside him, "The World Honored did not forcibly act to keep Fellow Daoist Kong Xuan, and the outside rumors that the World Honored is strong on the outside but soft on the inside, not as strong as imagined."

"Indeed, you are a true hero of our Bird Race," the Golden-Winged Roc did not hold back his praise.

However, the Peacock Great Ming King didn't care for these praises. What he cared about was why Elder Bai called him here.

"I wonder, why did Fellow Daoist Bai ask me to come here at this time?" the Peacock Great Ming King inquired.

"Alas!" Elder Bai sighed heavily, looking up at the sky, "The World Honored's enlightenment is imminent."

Upon seeing this, everyone's complexion changed dramatically.

Obviously, Elder Bai hadn't shared this insight with the Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder, nor the Golden-Winged Roc.

"How did Fellow Daoist Bai come to know?" the Peacock Great Ming King eagerly asked.

Elder Bai pondered for a moment and replied, "Just a guess!"

"By rights, given your defection today, the World Honored would surely have intervened to stop you. Despite being in the Sect's headquarters, if the World Honored were determined to stop you, you would be unable to escape."

"He has the power to take you down; it comes down to what price he would pay."

"Having the power to capture you and yet not acting, what does this indicate?"

"Firstly, it shows he doesn't want to get involved in cause and effect at this time. Secondly, he's confident he can capture you soon with minimal cost."

"I infer that he's about to attain enlightenment."

The World Honored attaining enlightenment is, in fact, unsurprising.

By all rights, the World Honored should have attained enlightenment long ago.

However, the first opportunity for enlightenment was destroyed by the Rebirth Saint Mother.

The second opportunity for enlightenment was destroyed by Lin Yuan.

This time is the World Honored's third attempt at enlightenment.

Third time's the charm; if the World Honored fails again, he won't have another chance in this lifetime.

After listening to Elder Bai, the Qingqiu Mountain Grand Elder asked solemnly, "When does Elder Bai believe the World Honored will attain enlightenment?"

Elder Bai is not the worm inside the World Honored's stomach, so naturally, he doesn't know the exact timing of enlightenment.

However, Elder Bai still calculated an approximate time, saying, "Three to five years, although it might be sooner."

When the World Honored attains enlightenment, it will be the time of the final battle.

Originally, the Peacock Great Ming King did not intend to involve himself in this battle.

However, things have happened one after another, forcing him into this war.

Now, even if he wishes not to participate, he has no choice.

Given this, he might as well fight.

However, before all this, he needs to settle his daughter, Kong Mengmeng.

After discussions with Elder Bai and the others, Kong Xuan hurried back to his domain and asked Kong Mengmeng to go to the Real World.

Now that he has openly opposed the World Honored, it is unsafe for Kong Mengmeng to remain at the domain.

The Real World is not within the World Honored's sphere of influence, making it indeed the safest place for Kong Mengmeng.

Upon learning her father allowed her to go to the Real World, Kong Mengmeng was overjoyed, hugging Kong Xuan tightly and kissing him twice.

The Real World is Lin Yuan's territory; once there, she can be with Lin Yuan day and night.

Moreover, Kong Mengmeng in the Real World's Five-Colored Lake is close to Lin Yuan's Peng City, enabling frequent visits to see Lin Yuan.

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The Real World.

At this moment, the Real World is not at peace either.

The plague created by the Medicine King Buddha's avatar is intensifying.

Gourmands are insatiable and endlessly multiplying.

Even with daily modifications to the Gourmands and continuously sending them to the World Honored's territory, they are still countless.

The Medicine King Buddha's avatar initially created seven types of plagues, yet the other six hardly manifested.

Only these Gourmands came wave after wave, batch after batch.

If not for the nine Giant Cities in Dragon Country protected by the Anti-Avoidance Pearl, Dragon Country would have suffered by now.

Despite the temporary safety of the nine Giant Cities, Dragon Country's leadership is seeking solutions to eliminate these Gourmands.

With their numbers rising and growing in strength, Dragon Country, although currently secure, is not guaranteed long-term safety.

Relying solely on the Dean's laboratory to modify Gourmands and Lin Yuan to deploy them to the World Honored's territory, is like using a cup of water to hold back a cart of firewood.

Chapter 495: The Gu Cultivation Plan

Emperor Dragon City.

Inside the meeting room.

The Life Pattern Masters of Dragon Country are discussing how to deal with the rampaging Gourmands.

All over the world, Gourmands are wreaking havoc. For now, Dragon Country is the only safe place.

However, the safety of Dragon Country won't last much longer.

According to the latest intelligence, a tide of Gourmands is already moving towards Dragon Country.

Once the Gourmands form a tide similar to a swarm of desert army ants, then Dragon Country will be consumed entirely by the Gourmand tide, leaving not even a trace behind.

Although Dragon Country is very powerful, it cannot easily deal with all the Gourmands.

Representatives from Nine Cities spoke freely, expressing their views on eliminating the Gourmands.

However, they are only making suggestions; no one is making a decision.

Because everyone knows that the final plan will be made by the Dean.

As for whether the Dean will accept their suggestions, that is not something they can decide.

While everyone is engaged in a heated discussion, Jian Bing, Zhi Ming, Ling Guang, and Meng Zhang walk in carrying four briefcases.

Arriving at the meeting room, Meng Zhang doesn't hesitate and says directly: "The Dean's research has made the latest progress. At the same time, the Dean has devised a way to solve the Gourmand problem once and for all."

Saying this, Meng Zhang takes out a stack of maps, distributing them to the Life Pattern Masters present, saying: "These are the latest plans. Our task is to place the contents of the cases at the designated locations as quickly as possible."

Everyone attending this meeting, aside from some high-ranking officials, is a top Life Pattern Master from the Nine Cities.

The Life Pattern Masters in attendance open the maps and find that they are maps of the neighboring Ah San Country.

On the map, numerous red dots are marked.

"We just place the contents of the boxes on the map spots?" a Life Pattern Master asks somewhat confusedly.

Meng Zhang replies: "That's correct. Our task is to place the contents of the boxes at the designated locations; the rest will be handled by others."

Everyone listens to Meng Zhang's words, feeling confused as if in a fog.

At this moment, someone curious asks: "What exactly is in these boxes?"

After this question is raised, all the Life Pattern Masters present focus their attention on the boxes in their hands.

Those who attend the meeting are all insiders.

Since they are insiders, there is nothing to hide.

Meng Zhang naturally opens the boxes, allowing the Life Pattern Masters present to see the contents inside.

They see that the boxes contain a thick, bright red liquid resembling blood.

However, upon closer inspection, these substances faintly emit a rainbow-colored glow.

At this moment, Meng Zhang reveals the answer.

He says: "Each box contains seven vials of lures. These twenty-eight lures are formed by purifying the blood of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon."

"If we compare the Gourmands to zombies, then these twenty-eight lures are the most primitive zombie virus."

"No Gourmand can resist these lures."

"The Dean's plan, called the Gu Breeding Plan, involves dispersing these twenty-eight lures throughout Ah San Country. These lures will attract all the Gourmands to Ah San territory."

"All the Gourmands will devour each other, competing for these lures. In the end, only twenty-eight of the strongest Gourmands will remain after mutual devouring."

"These twenty-eight strongest Gourmands will obtain these twenty-eight lures..."

Meng Zhang's voice abruptly stops at this point.

The Life Pattern Masters in the meeting room are engrossed in listening. Who would have thought Meng Zhang would stop speaking midway?

"And then?" a Life Pattern Master asks urgently.

Meng Zhang shakes his head, replies: "There is no 'then'?"

"These twenty-eight strongest Gourmands, after devouring the lures, will surely become even more powerful."

"At that point, can we handle these twenty-eight most powerful Gourmands?" A Life Pattern Master raises the critical issue.

Being cut by a hundred knives is death, being hit by a cannon is also death; it is just a different way to die.

One cannot solve a small problem by creating a few big problems.

Everyone wants to know the dean's follow-up solution for these twenty-eight strongest Gourmands. Unfortunately, Meng Zhang stops halfway.

In fact, it's not that Meng Zhang doesn't want to say more; he only knows this much.

The dean told Meng Zhang only up to this point, and even Meng Zhang doesn't know the rest of the plan, so naturally, he cannot tell them.

"I only know this. The dean hasn't told me the follow-up plan!"

"However, since the dean has devised such a plan, he surely has a way to deal with the strongest twenty-eight Gourmands."

"We must trust the dean."

After Meng Zhang's words, the Life Pattern Masters, who originally had many questions, suddenly fall silent!

Indeed!

If they don't trust the dean, who can they trust?

"Meng Zhang, when do we act?" a Life Pattern Master asks first.

Meng Zhang immediately responds: "Act immediately, seven people per team, led by the four of us. You may join whichever team you prefer."

"The four teams are responsible for the east, south, west, and north directions, respectively. These red dots cover the entire territory of Ah San Country, with a vast area."

"The task is heavy, but within three days, we must place all the lures at the designated spots. Is there any problem?"

Upon hearing Meng Zhang's words, the Life Pattern Masters immediately declare that there are no problems.

Soon, a special task force is formed, with Meng Zhang, Jian Bing, Zhi Ming, and Ling Guang as team leaders and the elite Life Pattern Masters from the Nine Cities of Dragon Country as members.

They each carry a box containing their lures and head to their predetermined map locations.

The dean's Gu Breeding Plan turns Ah San Country's land into a cauldron for nurturing Gu.

These Gourmands are being treated as Gu insects, and in their mutual slaughter, a Poisonous Insect King can be born.

However, once the Poisonous Insect King appears, being able to control it is another matter!

Keep in mind that after such prolonged devouring, these Gourmands have developed at an astonishing rate.

The majority of Gourmands are already Tier Four, Tier Five, and some are even at Tier Four Peak.

The reason these powerful Gourmands haven't broken through to Tier Three isn't that they lack the capability.

It's because of the limitations imposed by the world's barriers.

The Real World still doesn't allow breakthroughs to Tier Three.

Not to mention these Gourmands, even someone as talented as Little Sister-in-law, with her extraordinary opportunities, hasn't broken through to Tier Three either.

Chapter 496: Vine-armored Dragon, Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon

What is the most crucial point of the Gu Plan?

It's whether the Poisonous Insect King you raise will obey you.

If you can't control the Poisonous Insect King you raise, it would be equivalent to nurturing a troublemaker.

Everyone present chose the Director.

They believe that the decisions made by the Director will definitely not be wrong.

After thinking about this, Meng Zhang, Jian Bing, Zhi Ming, and Ling Guang swiftly headed to their destinations with their team members.

....

....

But could the Director's choice be wrong?

Of course, the Director's choice won't be wrong.

At the same time the Gu Plan was made, the Director had already thought of a way to control the twenty-eight Poisonous Insect Kings.

The way to control the twenty-eight Poisonous Insect Kings lies in those inducements.

Those inducements are the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon's blood, which is also the Plague Liquid that the Gourmand cannot refuse.

The Gourmand cannot reject this Plague Liquid.

After a round of fighting and devouring, the remaining twenty-eight Poisonous Insect Kings absolutely couldn't refuse this Plague Liquid.

And once these twenty-eight Poisonous Insect Kings devour this Plague Liquid, it's the time when the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon controls them.

By consuming the blood of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon, it's equivalent to forming a blood pact with it, and they must obey its commands.

All of this makes perfect sense.

And at this moment, things began to shift and change.

The Director initially wanted to control twenty-eight Poisonous Insect Kings, but now, only needs to control the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon.

It must be noted that the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon is very powerful, with seven types of plagues within its body.

For the Director, controlling the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon is no easier than controlling twenty-eight Poisonous Insect Kings.

The reason for choosing to control the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon instead of the twenty-eight Poisonous Insect Kings is that the Director's experiment with the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon is nearing its end.

The role of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon is not significant for the Director, so only the matter of utilizing waste remains.

Emperor Dragon City.

Inside the Director's laboratory.

Lin Yuan, invited by the Director, arrived at the deepest part of the laboratory.

Originally, the deepest part of the laboratory was the Director's office.

However, it is clear that during the days Lin Yuan wasn't present, the laboratory had undergone renovation and expansion.

After the expansion, the deepest part of the laboratory was no longer the Director's office.

After passing through the Director's office, he arrived at a newly developed space.

Here, it is an artificially created waterway that mimics rivers, lakes, and seas.

You have to say, the capability of the capital is indeed strong.

Unexpectedly, within just a few days, they opened an area of five hundred square meters within the laboratory.

"That thing there!" The Director pointed at the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon in the water.

Lin Yuan followed the sound and saw at the bottom of the pool, it was indeed the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon he caught.

However, now the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon weakly lay on the water, and some key parts of its body had even sprouted some vines.

These vines wrapped around it, transforming it into a vine-armored dragon.

Lin Yuan's attention was immediately drawn to these vines.

These vines were dark and emitted a sinister aura.

They looked somewhat like the roots of the old locust tree he brought to the Director!

Thinking about this, Lin Yuan instinctively looked at the Director.

The Director seemed to understand what was on Lin Yuan's mind and replied, "Yes, these vines are derived from the branches you brought, based on our research."

"These vines have very strong defensive abilities, whether it's physical, elemental, or psychic attacks, they can all be deflected."

Lin Yuan became increasingly curious as he listened, and he asked the Director, "How did you apply this vine armor to the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon?"

The Director shook his head and smiled slightly, "This vine armor wasn't crafted, it was grown."

Lin Yuan: "???"

After hearing the Director's words, Lin Yuan was completely baffled.

Grown?

To be honest, this truly touched a blind spot in Lin Yuan's knowledge.

He had always heard that farmers sow rice and corn in their fields.

But, to hear that vines were grown on the flesh of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon was a first.

Moreover, the Director didn't plant these vines in the soil!

Instead, they were grown within the flesh and blood of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon.

"Grown?"

"How were they grown?" Thinking of this, Lin Yuan couldn't help but inquire again.

The Director calmly explained to Lin Yuan, "By making small incisions on its body, and then embedding micro fragments of the roots you brought."

"Initially, we intended to use the body of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon to try and grow some peaches or plums, among other things."

"To see if we could cultivate legendary fruits like the Peach of Immortality or the Yellow Middle Plum, even if it's a weakened version!"

"Unfortunately, no matter what we planted, they wouldn't take root and sprout. So finally, we tried planting the roots you brought, and they indeed took root and sprouted."

"However, for some unknown reason, those roots grew into vines. The vines grew rapidly, naturally forming this vine armor within the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon's body."

Lin Yuan: "???"

After hearing the Director's explanation, Lin Yuan was still in a baffled state.

The roots of the old locust tree grew into vines?

Damn it, does this mean the vine cheated or the locust tree strayed?

But all of this is unimportant; listening to the Director talk about the experimental process, it seems the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon went through a lot.

No wonder, now the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon appears half-dead.

Immediately after, the Director began explaining his Gu Plan to Lin Yuan.

The Director spoke slowly, while Lin Yuan listened quietly.

When the Director mentioned that the final twenty-eight Poisonous Insect Kings, after devouring the twenty-eight inducements, could be controlled by the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon, Lin Yuan showed a look of realization.

"I get it!"

"Director, you want to use the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon to control the twenty-eight Poisonous Insect Kings?"

"But controlling this Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon wouldn't be easy, would it?" Lin Yuan asked in confusion.

Lin Yuan had fought against the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon; he knew this Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon was also defiant in nature.

Defeating it, Lin Yuan could certainly do.

But making it obedient is not that easy.

After all, getting someone like Liuyu Heaven as a loyal follower is not easy.

Hearing Ye Tian's words, the Director pointed at Lin Yuan and said, "The key to controlling the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon lies within you."

"Me?" Lin Yuan asked in surprise.

The Director nodded and said, "I can help you refine the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon to make it your avatar."

Lin Yuan thought for a while and hesitantly said, "Perhaps not, I honestly don't want this avatar."

"This thing is like a problematic dog, it hurts whatever it sees?"

Chapter 497: Kamikaze Playstyle

Sure, here is the translation of the provided text:

To be honest, Lin Yuan was indeed quite dismissive of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon.

To know, when Lin Yuan first met the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon, it nearly injured Liuyu Heaven.

Just for that reason, Lin Yuan couldn't possibly turn the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon into his own avatar!

Later, when encountering Liuyu Heaven, it would be quite awkward!

The director glared at Lin Yuan and said, "Since I let you contract it, naturally, the previous situation won't happen."

"This Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon's body has already been modified through experiments, and the seven types of plagues inside it are currently maintaining a strange balance."

"Exactly because of this balance, the various side effects of the plague are neutralized."

After listening to the director's explanation, Lin Yuan felt that since there were no side effects, turning the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon into an avatar wasn't unacceptable.

As for how to face Liuyu Heaven, a loyal subordinate, if they found out.

Lin Yuan thought this was also easy to resolve!

Back then, the one who bit him was the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon, nothing to do with him!

After psychologically accepting the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon as an avatar, Lin Yuan asked the director: "What is the current strength of this Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon?"

At this time, the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon was soaking in the pool water, and the pool water had a similar effect to the Silent Sea, Lin Yuan couldn't investigate the strength of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon.

When the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon fought with Lin Yuan, it was at Tier Four Peak strength, throughout Dragon Country, apart from Lin Yuan, almost no one could rival the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon.

It's unknown whether after being dissected and studied by the director, the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon became stronger or weaker.

Thinking of this, Lin Yuan asked the director: "Director, what's the strength of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon?"

The director replied: "Tier Four Peak."

Tier Four Peak?

Lin Yuan touched his chin, thinking he himself was now Tier Three, if the strength of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon was merely Tier Four Peak, then it wouldn't be of much use to him!

As his strength grows, his enemies become increasingly strong.

The Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon couldn't deal with enemies above Tier Four.

Enemies that the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon could handle, he could easily crush.

In this way, the only use in refining the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon into an avatar is to control the hospital director's plan of nurturing insect kings with it.

Seeing Lin Yuan lost in prolonged silence, the director immediately saw through his thoughts.

So, he spoke, "It is now Tier Four Peak because this world only allows Tier Four Peak strength to exist."

"If it can go to another world, it should be able to easily break through to Tier Three."

"Moreover, with this armor of vines present, the Tier Three Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon will be much stronger than other Tier Three beings."

After hearing the director's words, Lin Yuan's face showed a hint of joy.

If this Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon could advance to Tier Three, it would indeed help him a lot.

After all, he himself is currently at Tier Three.

Thus, the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon as an avatar really became indispensable.

Suddenly, Lin Yuan thought the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon is only one piece of the director's entire plan.

Then, in the director's plan, another important part of it – the twenty-eight insect kings – what realm would they be?

Lin Yuan has always been eager to learn, always asking when he doesn't understand.

He opened his mouth to ask the director: "So director, the twenty-eight insect kings then?"

"What realm will the twenty-eight insect kings be?"

The director thought for a moment and answered: "Tier Four Peak, likely at the world peak."

"Unable to break through the power of the world, destined to be suppressed by the power of the world."

After hearing the director's words, Lin Yuan couldn't help but fall into deep thought.

To break through the power of the world, how difficult it is.

The enlightenment of the World Honored One seems to be breaking through the power of the Mysterious World.

Or trying to be on an equal footing with the power of the Mysterious World.

If the nurtured twenty-eight insect kings are only at Tier Four Peak, then what is the significance of the director's plan to nurture insect kings?

Changing quantities to facilitate slaughter?

No!

Absolutely impossible, the director's thinking cannot be so simple.

Suddenly, Lin Yuan suddenly understood.

"Director, your meaning is to let me first refine the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon into an avatar, this way, I can use the avatar to control the twenty-eight insect kings."

"Then, I will lead these twenty-eight insect kings, along with the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon, into the Mysterious World to create trouble for the World Honored One." Lin Yuan asked.

After hearing Lin Yuan's words, the director's face showed an expression of being able to be taught.

"Exactly, that's the idea."

"You must know, whether it's the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon or the twenty-eight insect kings from my plan, the reason they can only reach Tier Four Peak is because of the world power's constraints."

"Tier Four Peak is the world's limit, not their limit."

Speaking at this moment, the director paused, and continued to speak: "In our Dragon Country, there's an old saying, 'Accumulation leads to a thin breakthrough.'

"Both the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon and the twenty-eight insect kings from my plan have accumulated enormous power inside them, unable to advance."

"Once they leave this world and go to the Mysterious World, the energy within them will erupt like a volcanic explosion."

"They will advance to Tier Three in a very short time."

"After drinking the plague liquid made from the blood of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon, the twenty-eight insect kings have already established some connection with the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon."

"Once the twenty-eight insect kings die in battle, their power will return to the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon, enhancing its strength."

After hearing the director's narration, Lin Yuan couldn't help but be shocked in his heart.

In this way, the feasibility of this matter became very high.

If the twenty-eight insect kings reach the Mysterious World and successfully advance to Tier Three, then there are twenty-eight high-level combat forces.

In the World Honored One sect, only the Tier Two Buddhas can definitely win against the twenty-eight insect kings.

It's important to know that Tier Two Buddhas are few in number and have limited availability.

Under such circumstances, the twenty-eight insect kings can certainly inflict unimaginable damage onto the World Honored One sect.

Most importantly, others carefully use high-level forces, out of caution.

After all, cultivates who reached Tier Two, Tier Three care about self-preservation.

For any benefit, it's hard to find high-level combatants willing to sacrifice for the World Honored One.

Lin Yuan doesn't need to consider all these, he can simply use the twenty-eight insect kings as consumable forces.

As long as the twenty-eight insect kings cause damage to the World Honored One sect, their survival is irrelevant.

After the insect kings perish, strength returns to the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon, nurturing a true behemoth.

Chapter 498: Refining the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon's Clone

Lin Yuan calculated in his mind and had to admit that this strategy was indeed clever.

This is the suicide attack style!

If he truly followed the tactic he envisioned, regardless of whether the World Honored suffered losses, Lin Yuan was sure he'd definitely earn a bloody profit.

After finalizing the strategy in his mind, Lin Yuan continued to ask the principal: "Principal, when all twenty-eight Poisonous Insect Kings have died in battle and their power returns to the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon, how strong will this Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon be?"

After hearing this question, the principal took a rare moment to think for a few seconds, then solemnly replied: "According to my calculations, it should be able to reach Tier Two."

"But, this is just an estimation, whether it can be achieved will depend on luck."

"Even if it reaches Tier Two, it's considered a weak Tier Two."

This answer from the principal was sufficient for Lin Yuan.

What nonsense about weak Tier Two or strong Tier Two.

In Lin Yuan's view, as long as it's Tier Two, it's awesome.

"Alright!"

"I have no more questions. I'll refine this Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon!" Lin Yuan said to the principal.

The principal nodded and solemnly reminded: "Although this Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon is heavily injured, it's not dead."

"You need to be careful when refining it to avoid harming your Divine Soul."

"I'll be watching closely and will intervene if necessary."

The principal's Spiritual Power is invincible; if he were to act, he could easily refine the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon into an extension of himself.

However, this time, it's Lin Yuan who will refine the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon, so Lin Yuan takes the lead while the principal assists.

If the principal directly intervened, the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon's flesh wouldn't become Lin Yuan's extension but his own.

"Don't worry, principal, if I can defeat this thing once, I can defeat it twice."

"In front of me, this thing won't cause any major trouble." Lin Yuan declared confidently.

Lin Yuan is a hands-on type; he acts immediately.

Without any hesitation, he sat cross-legged beside the pool and directly used his consciousness to probe the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon in the pool.

The Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon had been researched like a guinea pig by the principal and others for so long, it was already exhausted.

It was too lazy to even swim in the water, just soaking weakly.

However, as Lin Yuan's consciousness approached, the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon suddenly became alert.

Obviously, the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon also understood that the damage to the flesh was nothing; although temporarily in a sorry state, there was always a chance for repair.

But once its Divine Soul was refined, once its possession was seized, it would be utterly gone.

That's why the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon was resisting particularly fiercely.

"Roar!"

"Roar! Roar!"

It roared loudly as if trying to scare Lin Yuan away.

Even though Lin Yuan was appearing in a form of consciousness, the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon could clearly see his appearance.

The Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon roared, bellowed, trying to intimidate Lin Yuan.

But Lin Yuan wasn't easily scared!

The more the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon tried to intimidate Lin Yuan, the more excited he became.

"Do you like resisting?"

"Little Jiaojiao, the more you resist, the more excited I get!" Lin Yuan thought to himself.

As soon as this thought arose, Lin Yuan's consciousness lunged towards the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon.

His consciousness formed into a little figure similar to him, and with mighty strides as if traversing space, he reached the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon.

The little figure sat astride the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon and then struck its seven heads with clenched fists.

The Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon had been tortured by the principal and others and was too exhausted to mount any strong resistance.

It simply kept shaking its body, trying to fling Lin Yuan off.

However, Lin Yuan was like being welded onto its body, unmoving regardless of how much it shook.

Indeed, he stood like a pine, sat like a bell, stable as Mount Tai.

Though the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon couldn't shake off Lin Yuan, it hid its Divine Soul within its body, making it temporarily impossible for Lin Yuan to refine its Divine Soul.

For the moment, Lin Yuan and the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon seemed to be stuck in a stalemate.

The principal had just mentioned he'd intervene to help Lin Yuan if necessary.

His words were not mere courtesy.

It was the crucial moment when Lin Yuan faced the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon.

If Lin Yuan won, he could successfully refine the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon.

If he lost, it would all be for nothing.

The principal was known for his words being as good as gold; he wouldn't go back on his promises.

He said he'd help in times of need, and now was critical, so he acted.

The principal's Spiritual Power condensed, forming a pig-killing knife in Lin Yuan's right hand, and a butcher's iron hook in his left.

Seeing the objects in his hands, Lin Yuan was utterly baffled.

At this moment, the principal gave guidance: "Slide down at the seven-inch spot, that's where its Divine Soul hides."

"Use the iron hook to pull its Divine Soul out."

Lin Yuan has always trusted the principal completely.

Thus, after hearing the principal's guidance, he didn't hesitate and slashed the pig-killing knife toward the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon's seven-inch spot.

This seven-inch was not a measurement; considering the massive size of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon, calculating seven inches was a difficulty.

In any case, as per a normal snake or flood dragon's seven inches, it's likely the neck area.

The Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon had a layer of thick vine armor on its body, which was why Lin Yuan's previous heavy strikes hadn't harmed it.

The principal's Spiritual Power condensed pig-killing knife didn't sever the vine armor but sliced through it as if it didn't exist.

It was as if the knife and the vine armor were in different dimensions.

The pig-killing knife sliced through the vine armor, passed through the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon's flesh, and accurately found the hidden Divine Soul.

At this time, Lin Yuan realized that the knife wasn't cutting the flood dragon's flesh but the barrier protecting its Divine Soul.

Upon locating the flood dragon's Divine Soul, Lin Yuan recalled the principal's second directive.

Pull it out, use the iron hook to grab its Divine Soul.

With this thought, Lin Yuan didn't hesitate, he swung the iron hook and snagged it, then pulled hard.

Even though the Divine Soul had no physical form, Lin Yuan could feel a resistance with his pull.

On reflection, this made sense.

In a nutshell, he was also in a Divine Soul state, the consciousness form being a variant of Divine Soul.

Including the principal's Spiritual Power condensed pig-killing knife and iron hook, they too were forms of Divine Soul.

Under identical conditions, experiencing resistance was entirely natural.

After overcoming the tremendous resistance, Lin Yuan forcefully drew out the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon's Divine Soul.

Then, the principal's voice once again rang out.

"Swallow it!"

Chapter 499: Matryoshka

The divine soul of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon looks almost identical to its true form.

The only difference is the vine armor that the dean and others grafted onto it.

However, on the divine soul of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon, there is no vine armor, making it appear all bloody and nauseating.

Looking at the bloody divine soul of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon, Lin Yuan found it somewhat hard to swallow.

It's like pulling a bloody eel out of the river, and someone beside you is egging you to swallow it whole.

Aside from those female streamers chasing trends, who would want to swallow this thing!

The divine soul of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon was also exploding with a powerful will to survive, twisting its body as if trying to break free from the iron hook and return to its true form.

Seeing that the divine soul of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon was about to escape, the dean reminded, "Swallow it!"

Lin Yuan saw the situation was dire!

If he hesitated any longer, the divine soul of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon would escape.

After finally capturing it, he definitely couldn't let it escape.

Thinking of this, Lin Yuan gritted his teeth and moved to swallow the divine soul of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon.

It was unclear whether it was a psychological effect or a physical discomfort, but after Lin Yuan's conscious entity swallowed the divine soul of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon, a fishy, bloody smell roiled in his stomach, almost making him vomit.

However, since Lin Yuan was now in a conscious form, he couldn't possibly vomit.

Soon after, it seemed as though the divine soul of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon merged with Lin Yuan's conscious entity.

At this point, the dean spoke again: "Use your conscious entity to enter the body of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon."

Lin Yuan had complete trust in the dean and didn't doubt his words for a moment.

After the dean finished speaking, Lin Yuan's divine soul immediately entered the body of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon through the slaughtering knife.

He then began to control the body of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon with his conscious entity.

Since the divine soul of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon had been swallowed by Lin Yuan, its body was now merely an empty shell.

After Lin Yuan's conscious entity entered it, he didn't feel a hint of resistance.

No, not just no resistance.

The conscious entity within the body of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon felt at home, like a fish in water.

Lin Yuan certainly knew this was because he had devoured the divine soul of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon.

"From today onwards, let this part of your conscious entity stay within the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon," the dean told Lin Yuan.

The conscious entity controlling the body of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon was only a small part of Lin Yuan's divine soul, not affecting his overall strength.

"Alright!" Lin Yuan agreed promptly and then said to the dean, "But I need to familiarize myself with this body of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon thoroughly."

Lin Yuan was a human, walking upright on two legs.

The Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon was a dragon, long and limp.

Lin Yuan made a valid point; because he wasn't accustomed to controlling the body of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon, it was now limp and floppy.

Currently, Lin Yuan's top priority was to make the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon stand up straight.

After numerous attempts, Lin Yuan finally had the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon stand up, able to barely swim through the water and billow through the clouds and mist.

However, for Lin Yuan to exploit the combat power of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon, he would need to keep practicing.

At this moment, Lin Yuan understood why, when watching the Legend of the White Snake as a child, Bai Suzhen and Xiaoqing couldn't walk after transforming.

After all, walking as a human and moving as a serpent or dragon are entirely different concepts.

The dean looked at Lin Yuan and slowly said, "There's no need to rush. The Poisonous Insect King cultivation plan will still take some time to yield twenty-eight Kings."

After hearing the dean's words, the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon spoke human words, sounding exactly like Lin Yuan: "That's perfect. I can use this time to adapt for a few days."

"In the coming days, I will try to adapt to this body. Once the twenty-eight Poisonous Insect Kings are cultivated, the dean can notify me."

Leaving the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon's avatar behind, Lin Yuan's main body departed the lab with the dean.

At that moment, Lin Yuan seemed to think of something and asked the dean, "Dean, you say that after the twenty-eight Poisonous Insect Kings die, their power will return to the body of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon. So, if the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon is controlled by my conscious entity and it dies, would its power return to my body?"

Based on the dean's words, Lin Yuan speculated on the newest nested doll strategy.

If that were true, Lin Yuan might become the biggest beneficiary.

By that time, with the death of both the twenty-eight Poisonous Insect Kings and the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon, their power would all return to Lin Yuan's body.

At that point, Lin Yuan could potentially seize the opportunity to break through to Tier Two successfully.

Upon hearing Lin Yuan's question, the dean smiled warmly at him.

It seemed as though he was saying, "You might not look extraordinary, but your thoughts certainly are creative."

Feeling a bit embarrassed under the dean's gaze, Lin Yuan awkwardly smiled and said, "This is merely a bold and immature speculation on my part. If I guessed wrong, please don't laugh at me, dean."

After hearing Lin Yuan's words, the dean shook his head and slowly said, "It might be, or it might not."

"Even though I can calculate almost everything under the heavens, there's one thing I can't figure out, and that's you."

"Not just me; perhaps no one, including the World Honored One, can calculate what's in store for you."

Lin Yuan had heard this sentiment from Elder Bai as well.

Not only the dean but also Elder Bai couldn't discern his destiny.

Lin Yuan believed that even the World Honored One couldn't understand his path.

If the World Honored One had a flawless strategy against him, Lin Yuan would have perished long ago and not survived to this point.

This suggests that even the dean doesn't know whether the power of the Seven-headed Evil Flood Dragon would return to his body after its death.

In that case, Lin Yuan could only hope that his protagonist's aura would come into play once more.

Allowing himself to seize the opportunity and advance directly to Tier Two.

Bear in mind Human King Di Xin's Bronze Sword said that as soon as he breaks into Tier Two, he would be able to wield the Bronze Sword and Bronze Armor.

By then, with Tier Two strength and leveraging the Bronze Sword and Bronze Armor of Human King Di Xin, he might well be able to battle the World Honored One.

After leaving the dean's lab, since Jian Bing was away in Ah San Country on a mission, Lin Yuan didn't linger in Emperor Dragon City for long.

Thinking it over, he decided to first head to Peng City.

With nothing pressing at the moment, he figured he could stay in Peng City for a few days before the insect cultivation plan succeeded. After that, he'd have to stay long-term in the Mysterious World and wouldn't be returning anytime soon.

With this in mind, Lin Yuan used the ability of the Yellow Springs Road to return to Peng City.

Yang Jing was still lazing about there, killing dogs and cooking meat, yet for some reason, his power seemed to have improved.

This left Lin Yuan puzzled; without any cultivation, could killing dogs and cooking meat also enhance one's strength?

Chapter 500: Elephant Demon Gourmand

Although he didn't know how Yang Jing enhanced his strength, Lin Yuan didn't overly pry into the matter.

Everyone has their own secrets. Being overly curious about other people's secrets can damage friendships.

Lin Yuan habitually ate a pot of dog meat at Yang Jing's stall and had a chat with him.

Then he returned to the Wushan Villa District.

This place was still the same, but it was where Lin Yuan's dream began.

Wen Yingying and Day Traveler could no longer keep up with Lin Yuan's pace. They usually stayed here, hoping Lin Yuan would return for some time.

Seeing Lin Yuan come back, Wen Yingying and Day Traveler were overjoyed and helped him empty the fish roe lucky bag overnight.

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Each leading their team, Meng Zhang, Jian Bing, Zhi Ming, and Ling Guang arrived within the borders of Ah San Country.

Before the mysterious invasion, Ah San Country was also a populous nation.

Now, it's a barren wasteland.

In this desolate wilderness, Gourmands could occasionally be seen wandering.

As for humans and those demon fiends, they were basically unseen, seemingly devoured by the Gourmands.

Even if occasionally there's someone lucky enough to survive until now, they would definitely be hiding in some obscure corner, not revealing themselves.

Indeed, even those demon fiends invading from the Mysterious World must avoid the Gourmands' edge.

Meng Zhang's team was responsible for the east of Ah San Country.

Jian Bing's team was responsible for the west.

Ling Guang's team was responsible for the south.

Zhi Ming's team was responsible for the north.

Their route was planned according to time and distance.

All members of the four teams must simultaneously withdraw from the territory of Ah San Country.

Because once the plague liquid in the boxes is arranged, it will emit a special scent that attracts Gourmands.

If any team fails to withdraw according to schedule from within Ah San Country, they will be involuntarily drawn into this trap plan.

Enveloped by countless Gourmands, the consequences are obvious.

Undoubtedly, they would be devoured with nothing remaining.

On the eastern side of Ah San Country, Jian Bing led the team, tentatively named the White Tiger Squad.

Each team's briefcase contained a total of seven plague liquids. Jian Bing's White Tiger Squad had already placed three at designated spots.

Now, it's time for the fourth.

Upon reaching the approximate location to place the fourth plague liquid, Jian Bing warned, "Everyone, be careful, something's off here."

Seeing Jian Bing so serious, a Life Pattern Master in the team asked, "Captain, why so cautious?"

"We've come all the way without encountering any dangers, haven't we?"

Upon hearing this, Jian Bing solemnly reminded again, "It's precisely because we've come all this way without encountering any dangers that I'm telling you to be cautious."

"It's too quiet here, unnaturally so."

"Think about it. When we went to the previous three locations, we bypassed many Gourmands, but this time we haven't met a single one."

"What does that imply?"

Just as Jian Bing finished speaking, the Life Pattern Master tentatively responded, "There's a more powerful Gourmand here?"

"Correct!" Jian Bing nodded, replying, "Only in a tiger's territory will no other animals exist."

"The same goes for Gourmands. They devour each other too."

"The fact that we haven't encountered other Gourmands here can only mean one thing: they've been devoured by a stronger Gourmand."

Having said this, everyone understood his point.

Thus, everyone grew more cautious.

"Boom!"

At that moment, a sound of something tearing through the air came, resembling a thick whip, sweeping towards Jian Bing.

The attacker from the shadows was clever; he knew Jian Bing was the backbone of the group. Defeat him, and the others would be no threat.

Thus, he chose to ambush Jian Bing.

But Jian Bing, as the dean's disciple, under meticulous guidance, was a Tier Four Peak.

A Tier Four Peak like Jian Bing was not easily conquered.

As the thick whip swept in, Jian Bing bent backward to dodge the attack, and a White Tiger Battle Saber appeared in her hand.

Dodging the attack, Jian Bing countered with a slash towards the thick whip.

"Dang!"

The White Tiger Battle Saber struck the thick whip, revealing its true form.

It turned out to be an elephant trunk.

When the elephant trunk was struck by Jian Bing's saber, it made a sound like clashing metal.

The trunk, apparently hurt, swiftly retracted.

Jian Bing promptly led the team members to prepare for battle, eyes scanning the surroundings, ready for combat at any moment.

Their mission could only succeed, never fail.

Even if every member perished, they had to place the seven plague liquids from the briefcase in their designated spots.

Thus, Jian Bing and the team couldn't retreat; they must defeat whoever ambushed them.

"Who?"

"Show yourself!" Jian Bing shouted to the surroundings.

With Jian Bing's words, the White Tiger Squad members saw clearly what had ambushed them.

It was a creature about three meters tall with a human body and an elephant head.

Its elephant head was white, but it had blood-red tusks and scarlet eyes.

A Gourmand!

Unquestionably, it was another Gourmand.

Gourmands didn't have a unified form.

Humans, demons, ghosts, and monsters—everything, once infected by the Gourmand plague, gained the ability to devour everything and enhance their strength, known as Gourmands.

The Gourmands retained their original forms.

Thus, it was apparent this Gourmand was originally an Elephant Demon?

Tier Four Peak.

The aura emanating from this Elephant Demon Gourmand was undoubtedly Tier Four Peak.

The elephant demon's scarlet eyes stared at the White Tiger Squad members, seemingly eager to swallow them alive.

"It's been so long since I've had such good food!"

"I'm starving; finally, there's food!" the Elephant Demon Gourmand rumbled.

However, as his scarlet gaze moved over the crowd, he was suddenly drawn to Jian Bing's briefcase.

Unable to see through the case, he didn't know what it contained.

Since the appointed time hadn't arrived, the plague liquid hadn't begun emitting a scent that attracts Gourmands.

Yet, the Elephant Demon Gourmand sensed it regardless, realizing something important was inside.