

F.D Emperor 571

Chapter 571 The Upper Seeded Players

Wang Wei no longer said anything to Liang Shixian regarding his ideals and goals. He took out the book about the Soul Path and reread it with greater focus.

Liang Shixian did a lot of research on the soul beforehand. He studied incense, different cultivation systems, and spirits; he even traveled to the Ghost Immortal World, which was a world that focused on cultivating the soul to the point of entirely abandoning the body.

From the book, Wang Wei saw that the latter included many studies in the Soul Path, even suggesting that all God Kings abandoned their bodies to achieve an Immortal Soul.

Other methods included fusing Immortal Qi or some other forms of energy with the soul, using a massive amount of incense, cultivating an immortal body before sacrificing it to nourish the soul and turning it into an Immortal Soul, and finally, using other resources like the law to elevate the soul to another level.

After reading everything carefully, Wang Wei frowned: "Why don't you try modeling the soul after an Emperor? If a soul has the quality and quantity of an Emperor, it will become an Immortal Soul."

"I know the easiest way for the Soul Path to become a reality is to have a Great Emperor use their Grand Dao Source to temper a mortal soul. But, as I said, I don't want my path to have anything to do with them."

"And as I said, you will have to rely on them."

"Yes, but I can reduce the amount of influence they have on my path."

"Fine," said Wang Wei as he contemplated. He activated all his spirit particles, acting like a super-computer as he analyzed many things.

"I think I may have a way that used incense," he said a few minutes later.

"Really? What is it?"

Wang Wei did not immediately respond: he took out a highly binding contract before inscribing it with his Divine Sense. Liang Shixian looked at the contract and hesitated.

"Since I come to see you, I'll put my faith in your character. There is no need for the contract."

"I admire your nobility. But, we should never mix business with personal beliefs. The contract is for both our peace of mind."

Liang Shixian thought it would help their future cooperation, so he agreed. However, after reading the contract, he frowned: "Why are all the rules about secrecy? They seem a little too harsh."

He could not reveal any information, and the rules even involved his memories and soul; the contract would prevent anyone from getting information from him—even if it meant killing him.

"The method I came with involved some secrets I do not want to get out before I prove the Dao, hence the harshness. If you want to remove these clauses, it's fine. But, I won't share the method I came up with you until I prove the Dao."

Liang Shixian shook his head as he did not want this; he did not want to wait that long. So, he decided to accept the clause and continued reading. Once finished, he added a few clauses as well:

Wang Wei had to use other means not involved with the Emperor's Path, and the final division of merit would be decided based on the ingenuity method he thought of.

So, after a few debates and back and forth, the two signed the contract with their souls before taking an oath to their Dao. Finally, Wang Wei told him the method he thought of for the Soul Path.

The required secrecy was because this method involved another one of his plans after becoming Emperor that would affect the entire Endless Void. He did not want the information to leak and cause trouble.

With his mouth slightly opened, Liang Shixian looked at him: "You're crazy and ambitious. But I'm glad I chose you."

He had eyes on both Wang Wei and Chu Luo as his partner and chose the former after close observation. Chu Luo had an unapproachable vibe that kept most people at a distance.

"If your plan works, shouldn't there be no need for a Great Emperor?"

"That's possible but very unlikely."

"I figured."

Afterward, the two discussed the plan's possible success and the division of merit. Once everyone was satisfied with the outcome, Liang Shixian left; he had accomplished his primary goal of coming here.

He did not want to leave yet since he still hoped to get his hands on the inheritance despite knowing it was improbable. So, he decided to watch to the end to see if there was an opportunity.

Time passed, and it was time for the combat aspect of the trial. Wang Wei flew to the plaza and saw two podiums facing each other, with six seats. The one on the left with his name on the second seat had the words "Lower Seeded Player," while the other had the title 'Upper Seeded Player.'

Wang Wei shook his head as he could tell Lord Spirit used these titles to raise contradiction and fighting between these two groups. Without saying much, he sat in his position.

Not long afterward, everyone arrived. Chu Luo sat on the first seat, Wang Wei on the second, Ji Langfang on the third, Tong Ruobing on the fourth, Shi Qian on the fifth, and Jingwu Hua on the last.

As for the other participants, they sat on the side of the two podiums.

Lord Spirit manifested with her eerie smile.

"I know many of you have been anticipating this moment for some time. As such, I won't waste your time. Let's begin."

She pointed her finger to the first seat on the other podium.

"The number one seeded player from the upper dimension is Xiao Tiandi, owner of what is considered the best physique for cultivation—the Innate Dao Source Physique."

A light beam came from the sky, descending on the first seat. Then, a young man dressed in ordinary, almost shabby clothes appeared. He glanced at the other group for a moment before closing his eyes, laying on the chair as if he did not care for anything.

Everyone could see dirt and plant leaves on his hair, but he did not seem to mind. These Heaven Chosen were speechless, wondering if this man was naturally arrogant or if he genuinely did not care for anything—even his personal appearance.

Lord Spirit ignored these people's confusion before continuing.

"The second seeded player is Shi Ruolan; she was born with an Emperor Bones, meaning after she reached the peak of the Mortal Realm in cultivation, all she has to do is activate her bone, and Heavenly Dao will lower a [Heaven Will] for her to prove the Dao.

"Moreover, the Heaven Will is specially created as only she can use it, and give her a 10% chance higher than normal to become an Eternal Emperor."

The participants looked at Lord Spirit, their eyes asking if she was joking, but the silence indicated otherwise. Then, one participant stomped his feet on the ground before flying back to his mansion. A few people followed him.

The words "this is unfair" could be heard from them—even from a distance.

Meanwhile, a young woman appeared in the second seat. She had a blue hanfu and short hair—which was quite surprising to many since only monks or nuns cut their hair. And after Buddhism's destruction, the practice has become less prominent—except in a few martial worlds where it is more common for women to cut their hair.

But even then, it is still not as commonly seen.

Shi Ruolan looked at the opposite team and waved her hand in enthusiasm. However, she quickly realized something and stopped. Instead, she became serious and cupped her hands before bowing slightly to them.

The others returned the salute.

"The third place goes to Ao Tianyi," said Lord Spirit. "One of the most talented younger generation of the Primordial Dragon race. For those who don't know, Primordial Dragons are Chaos Lifeforms born from pure or Orderly Chaos Qi; they are a race that does not exist in the Endless Void."

A young man dressed in tight white martial clothes appeared, with two horns on his head. He looked at the opposing team with disdain before looking at the people next to him.

"I understand not being first, but how could I lose to her?"

"Didn't I slap you around the last time we met?" said Shi Ruolan with a gentle smile.

"I had just shed my scale and was still in a vulnerable state; how does that count."

"You dragons always have an excuse for your defeat," replied Shi Ruolan while shaking her head; she decided not to engage with this prideful idiot.

"The fourth place goes to Xi Shangyan, a member of the Celestial Race," Lord Spirit announced. However, everyone was confused—including Wang Wei—since they'd never heard of such a race.

Ao Tianyi sneered even more after seeing these people's reactions.

"The Celestials are a unique race born in the Source Qi Space from Immortal Qi gaining sentience and condensing a body, similar to the spirit race. As such, they have an unparalleled talent for the Immortal Path.

"All Celestial races are born with an inactive Immortal Mansion in their bodies; they do not need anyone's help to become Immortal Venerables. On top of it all, 80% of them who decide to become Immortal Venerables are Insurgents.

"And that's because their unique Immortal Mansion can give birth to four types of unique Immortal Qi: Yellow, Profound, Earth, and Heaven. Yellow Immortal Qi grants them battle prowess on par with Third-Class Emperors, Profound Immortal Qi corresponds to Second Class, Earth to First Class, and the potent Heavenly Immortal Qi grants battle prowess on par with Eternal Emperors."

The participants looked at a beautiful woman with black hair and a long golden robe; her beauty was unparalleled, on par, if not surpassing Xu Shi. Not to mention, she had a cold and natural noble aura emanating from her body.

Most people did not care about her beauty as they were still shocked at the fact such a powerful race existed. These Heaven Chosens always knew that Heaven and Earth were unfair, but they did not think it was to this point.

Chapter 572 Longevity Resources

Xi Shangyan looked at the shocked expression on these people's faces and mentally shook her head. Although it looked like the Celestial Race was powerful beyond reason, it was not.

In the Eternal Ascension World, the number of Great Emperor's battle force a faction had did not matter. What dictated the authority of any faction was the number of Paragons or Tier 12 Cultivators they had.

And in this regard, the Celestial Race's innate talent did not help because of the fundamental flaw of the Immortal Path: just because someone was an Insurgent in Tier 10, it did not mean they could become one in Tier 11 or above.

For example, the clan members who cultivated Heavenly Immortal Qi had less than a 5% chance of sublimating it to Golden Immortal Qi on par with regular Emphyreans. If they wanted to continue becoming Insurgents, they had to be like everyone else and search for rare and unique Qis in the Source Qi Space—an inherently dangerous place for them despite being born there.

Throughout the history of the Celestial Race, many geniuses have tried to elevate the Immortal Path to a higher level. And it was not just the Celestial Race but also many other cultivators.

There was a brief period of history where a movement to weaken the Emperor Path took place. During that time, many Heaven Defying geniuses of the Immortal Path took place.

And a few noteworthy people are still remembered to this day: the Myriad Qi Immortal Sovereign, for example. He created a method for his body to hold more than one Immortal Mansion.

His goal was to create 3800 Immortal Mansions, a number that symbolized the number of Primary Daos in all existence. In each mansion, he refined a unique and powerful Insurgent Qi.

The Myriad Qi Immortal Sovereign was an unparalleled genius regarding understanding and controlling energy. So, after using countless Yuan Epochs and an incalculable amount of resources, he built more than 2000 Immortal Mansions with unique Qi, becoming an Insurgent Immortal Sovereign capable of killing Everlasting Emphyreans: not defeat, but kill.

Although he could not erase their existence, he could force them to enter Limbo and revive them. However, in one of his battle against an Emphyrean, the latter caught him off guard and destroyed hundreds of the Immortal Mansions inside his body.

Although he defeated his enemy, Myriad Qi realized the weakness or frailty of the Immortal and Dao Path. The Immortal Mansion or Inner World was an apparent weakness for them. Meanwhile, the Imprint of the Emperor Path could only be removed by Dao Wills and some unique treasures.

So, Myriad Qi sacrificed all his Immortal Mansions and Qis to temper his body, eventually opening the Gate of Power and walking on the Body Path.

Another genius of that era was the Heaven Will Immortal King. After acquiring the Heaven Will, he did not become an Emperor but spent years analyzing it to fuse it with his Immortal Mansion and create a unique Qi.

The concept of Heaven Will Qi existed long ago, but few people dared to try it. And the ones that did fail. But, to everyone's surprise, Heaven Will Immortal King succeeded.

The Heaven Will Qi was one of the few Qis that allowed an individual to become an Insurgent from Tier 10 to Tier 12. The only downside was cultivation took almost as much time as the Emperor Path.

The Heaven Will Immortal King could fight and defeat Paragons at his peak. Regrettably, he became dissolute with the Immortal Path because it did not grant him [Eternal] attributes like the Emperor Path.

If an Immortal King or a Dao Ruler died, that's it for them. But an ordinary Great Emperor, Empyrean, and Paragons had so many ways they could revive themselves, not to mention these freaks Eternals, Everlasting, and Boundless.

After voicing his frustration with the Immortal Path and his regrets about not using the Heaven Will correctly, the Heaven Will Immortal King left the world to enter Primordial Chaos and was never seen again.

Many people believe he went to find a way for the Immortal Path to acquire [Eternal Attributes], but most people think he went to prove the Dao in another Source Chaos World.

Xi Shangyan has read the stories of many geniuses similar to these two during the booming era of the Immortal Path. However, the ending of most of them was not satisfactory.

The booming era ended with the conclusion that the Immortal Path had no future; there was no way for it to rise. However, some people did not give up and went to search for the Source Qi—an energy believed to exist at the core of the Source Qi Space.

Source Qi was theorized to be the only form of energy capable of creating an Insurgent on par with a Peak Boundless Paragon. Regrettably, to this day, only rumors of it appearing in some other Chaos Worlds are known.

As Xi Shangyan thought of that period, she could only sigh to herself. That booming period did a lot to raise the status of the Immortal Path, but it also ruined it.

The Emperor Path would not just stay by and watch as the Immortal Path flourished; they counter-attacked. Many Great Emperors from Third to First Class began exploring the Source Qi Space to discover Insurgent Qi and grant them battle prowess above their class.

Meanwhile, Eternal Emperors would also find Insurgent Qi similar to the Heaven Immortal Qi; they would understand it and absorb it into their Dao Body to become immune to it.

As such, an Insurgent Immortal Venerable might defeat an Eternal Emperor. But, in the subsequent encounter, he realized his Qi was useless to the latter, rendering him powerless.

This tactic has been normalized now in the Eternal Ascension World, thus further weakening the Immortal Path.

Because of these hard truths, the Celestial race has long focused on the Emperor Path. Although some factions are die-hard supporters of the Immortal Path, they no longer have much power.

"Our next contestant is the Taoist Priest, Zhang Yucheng," Lord Spirit said. "He is the owner of the 22nd Heavenly Physique, the Myriad Sword Soul Physique, and the 5th Heavenly Physique, the Wuji Tao Body."

The face of the participants was neutral; they were done with being surprised. Furthermore, a few people have been born with two physiques, albeit rare, but it was acceptable.

The only thing noticeable about this upcoming person was how high his physique ranked and how powerful the physiques in the upper world were.

The Lord Spirit shook his head. "You ignorant people. In the upper dimension, having two physiques means you can absorb two Heaven Wills and instantly reach cultivation of 40% Grand Dao Source.

"Of course, there is also the possibility for someone only to achieve 10%."

Wang Wei's lips twitched, and he was not the only one. Many people did not know how to react. So, more people just flew away back to their mansions. Things were getting even more ridiculous.

A young Taoist with a very youthful face appeared. He politely bowed to the Lower Seeded Players before bowing to the others and sitting down, not uttering a word. And everyone immediately returned the salute—including the previously arrogant Ao Tianyi.

Even Xiao Tiandi opened his eyes and nodded before going to sleep.

Wang Wei and the others took notice of this behavior, thus placing even more emphasis on this young Taoist. Wang Wei could even see Lord Spirit looking at the young Taoist with even more respect than the others.

"The final seeded player is Monk Wuzhu, born with the Nine Nirvana Heart: a Longevity Physique."

Lord Spirit paused as he realized these people probably didn't know what he was saying.

"Let me explain. Longevity Resources are one of the most precious resources in the upper dimension. They can appear in the form of spiritual herbs, cultivation techniques, physiques, pills, etc. Their purpose is to grant immortal cultivators one chance at revival without any cost.

"For example, once an Emperor is killed, they must spend countless Yuan Epochs reviving themselves. However, if they had consumed a Longevity Herb, they could instantly resurrect without any resources or time needed.

"So, Monk Wuzhu will have nine unlimited revivals in his life after proving the Dao."

Lord Spirit simplified the incredible power of Longevity Resources since their classification is too many. For example, some only work for a certain Tier. As such, after an Emperor becomes an Emptyrean or Paragon, they no longer have the previous revival.

Some longevity resources can work for a cultivator from Tier 10 to Tier 12; those are extremely rare. Some can only work for lower tiers. For example, a Paragon cannot take a longevity resource that only works for Tier 10 and 11.

Nevertheless, no matter the restriction on the Longevity Resources, any of them are precious enough to enact wars with thousands of Emperors, Emptyreans, and Paragons.

Monk Wuzhi's Nine Nirvana Heart will work for him even after he becomes a Paragon.

At this point, even Wang Wei wanted to curse out loud; he always believed that fate was unfair, and today, he has the final proof.

A young man with no hair and six dots on his head and forehead appeared before the last seat. Like the young Taoist, he saluted the other sides before saluting his former comrades. And he received the same respect as the Taoist priest.

However, Monk Wuzhi did not appear for long before the sky suddenly changed. Then, lightning began to fall on him.

'Absolute Beginning Magic,' thought Wang Wei with squinted eyes, observing how the situation would play out.

A mysterious power came from Monk Wuzhi's body and blocked the lightning as he watched everything calmly. Meanwhile, Zhang Yucheng seemed to hesitate about something but did not act in the end.

A few minutes later, the lightning stopped falling, and Monk Wuzhi smiled at everyone: "Sorry for the disturbance." Then, he calmly took his seat.

'Damn it,' thought Wang Wei as he noticed something that made him unhappy. He could already predict that things would get messy, and he would be dragged into something he did not want to.

Chapter 573 Lower Seeded Players

Wang Wei could see both Zhang Yucheng and Monk Wuzhi glancing in Feng Heng's direction. Although brief, they could not escape his eyes. And immediately, he knew he would get dragged into the fight between Taoism and Buddhism. And since he had the Future Buddha Scroll, he had already chosen sides.

Countless thoughts flashed across his mind as he pondered how to deal with the situation appropriately. If he did not play his card correctly, he might be used as a pawn before being discarded.

"Now, for the introduction of the Lower Seeded Player," Lord Spirit said. "First is Chu Luo, the Emperor Child that wields the Outlaw Dao of Creation. He is a man who has tempered his Will and Dao Heart through reincarnation itself."

Xiao Tiandi kept his eyes closed, a listless aura emanating from his body. The others, however, looked at Chu Luo. They did not care for his Emperor Child status. In the upper dimension, Blessed Children are too common.

Although it is a statistical anomaly for Immortal creatures to reproduce, there are so many of them, and they have lived for so long that it has become somewhat common.

What they cared about was the fact of his Outlaw Dao and the implications of tempering his mind through reincarnation.

"The second player is the heir of the Dao Opening Sect, Young Master Wang Wei. He is a Dao Overlord, creator of his own Heavenly Physique, and a person of unquantifiable Willpower.

"The man's accomplishment could write a legendary tale. However, his most important quality is his intelligence and ingenuity. I can say without a doubt that he is more intelligent and cunning than all of you here combined. And I mean all of you."

Wang Wei's lips twitched as he sensed the eyes full of killing intent on him. He sighed before taking out a cup of freshly brewed tea and casually drinking it, ignoring everyone else.

The upper-seeded players looked at him with squinted eyes. They knew what it took to be a Dao Overlord. In the Eternal Ascension World, Outlaws would summon a special area to go through their trial. Cultivators must do so before comprehending and using the Outlaw Laws. Otherwise, they won't even be able to enter any cultivation stage that requires understanding and using laws.

In the summoned area, Heavenly Dao will place them under a perfect illusion that recreates their lives. Then, it will use the person's life to scheme against them, and they must find ways to pass the test.

If a cultivator failed, the person would not be able to control an Outlaw Dao.

The main reason for this method was due to how complicated a Karmic Trial could become. In a world full of Emperors, Emphyreans, and Paragons, if Heavenly Dao started to scheme against these people, firstly, no one would pass, and these powerful individuals would never allow such a thing.

The trial is of some similar difficulty in both dimensions, so there are a few people who hold the title of Overlord. However, many people wielded Outlaws Dao similar to Chu Luo; they usually had to pay the price to control their Daos and have some limits.

When it comes to the Overlord Title, even a Paragon could not help someone else acquire it. As for creating a Heavenly Physique, some people have succeeded in doing the same in the upper dimension.

But their rarity also makes it a great accomplishment.

'Interesting,' thought Shi Ruolan. Everyone knew Dao Overlords were extremely powerful, cunning, and tactically minded. But to say this person was more intelligent than all of them combined, she did not believe it.

Of course, she also knew that Lord Spirit was just saying these words to rile them up and ensure they fought to their full capability for this trial.

'What's the point of being intelligent? Strength is all that matters,' thought Ao Tianyi. Despite his thoughts, he decided to keep a watch on Wang Wei; he did not want to be schemed against.

Xi Shangyan only glanced at him but did not have any reaction. Zhang Yucheng also only politely looked at him with a neutral face. Monk Wuzhi gave him a smiling nod, and Wang Wei pretended he did not see anything.

Meanwhile, the lower seeded-players had different reactions. Most of them did not know what a Dao Overlord was. However, the intelligent comment got to them, igniting their fighting spirit and desire to prove otherwise.

A few intelligent individuals suddenly began to piece some things together. Recently, news of the essential destruction of the demon race from the Demon Supremacy World has spread throughout other World Communities.

By calculating the time frame of the incident, they realized it was soon after Ye Tuizhi had a conflict with the player from the Myriad Emperor World. And by considering Lord Spirit's insinuation, a few people concluded Wang Wei might have something to do with the downfall of the Demon Supremacy World.

Chu Luo and Tong Ruobing gave Wang Wei an odd look after coming to this conclusion. Ji Lanfang had a powerful intuition as a swordsman, so he felt Wang Wei was definitely involved in what happened in the Demon Supremacy World.

However, Wang Wei ignored them and continued drinking his tea as if he were the only person present. He did not know what these people thought; even if he knew, he would never admit it.

"The third seat goes to Ji Lanfang, a pure swordsman with a flawless Dao Heart who has entered the realm of [One Sword Breaks Myriad Laws]."

"These so-called geniuses might not be as bad as I believe," thought Ao Tianyi. All pure swordsmen pursue the realm of [One Swords Breaks Myriad Laws]; it is the state where a swordsman can overwhelm all laws or concepts with their swords.

Many people believe that someone could be referred to as a swordsman by entering this realm before proving the Dao. Otherwise, they are sword users, not swordsmen.

Zhang Yucheng looked at Ji Langfang with a slight fighting spirit in his eyes. He also practiced the Dao of the Sword, so he would love to battle a fellow swordsman.

"Fourth place goes to Tong Ruobing, a Master of Talisman Making; she has created an acquired version of the 27th Heavenly Physique, the Source Rune Physique."

The upper-seeded players finally began to pay attention as they realized their competitors might not be as simple as they previously believed. The Source Rune Physique is considered the best talent for professions like Alchemy, Talisman, Pill Refining, and Arrays.

Any genius with that physique is expected to become a peak powerhouse in these professions, and they could even become masters in all fours. Even if Tong Ruobing has an acquired version of this physique that only worked for Talisman, she was a person with a bright future ahead of her, not to mention a worthy opponent.

"Don't look at me. I did not create the method for this physique. He did," she said, pointing at Wang Wei. "I'm only using his idea."

"You're stealing, not using," replied Wang Wei.

"Wu Ming offered it to me as a gift," she added.

"I'm sure that was voluntary."

"Is something wrong with a lady using her charms to get what she wants? In this patriarchal society, we—weak women—have to do anything necessary to get ahead," said Tong Ruobing with a gentle smile.

Wang Wei rolled his eyes as he learned something new about her: shameless. Meanwhile, these seeded players once again looked at Wang Wei with raised eyebrows.

All they could think was he might become a problem.

"Moving on," said Lord Spirit. "In fifth place, we have Shi Qian, an Immortal Child from the Light Race."

Everyone waited for Lord Spirit to continue, but she did not say anything else. She only shrugged her shoulder as there was nothing she could do. In the grand scheme of things, there was nothing remarkable about Shi Qian.

Her status as an Immortal Child was worthless in the eyes of these upper dimension's Heaven Chosens. Her status as the Light Race is valuable since they have a natural affinity for Karma, an Outlaw Daos. However, this affinity or control of Karma had its limits.

Lord Spirit believed some other people would be better in that spot: Xu Shi or even Liang Shixian, for example. However, he could not arbitrarily change the ranking as he saw fit.

"Our final seeded player is Miss Jingwu Hua: an Emperor Offspring and three-legged golden crow that has once suffered a defeat in a previous Heaven Will Battle at the hands of an Eternal Emperor.

"However, she sealed herself for countless generations, tempering her Willpower in the process to try again. On top of it all, her father left a special reward to ensure she succeeded on the second try."

Jingwu Hua looked at Lord Spirit angrily; she did not expect him to bring out her pain and display it to the public. Moreover, she wanted to know how he knew so much.

The upper-seeded players paid some attention to Jingwu Hua. They understood how scary some Immortals could be once they decided to leave trump cards to their descendants.

In the Eternal Ascension World, it's normal for some mortal who has not started cultivating to suddenly take out a talisman capable of wounding an Emphyrean or Dao Monarch. It all depends on how pampered their influential parents are.

'She lost to an Eternal Emperor? Could it have been the Heaven Devour Emperor? That would make much sense timing-wise,' thought Wang Wei. At the same time, he also thought Lord's Spirit seemed to know too much, which could be an issue.

"Lord Spirit, I have some questions," Wang Wei suddenly said, making Lord Spirit's heart jump; she felt things were about to get complicated.

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"Young master Wang Wei, what is your question?" Lord Spirit said.

"What is your purpose in bringing these geniuses from the Upper Dimension?"

Lord Spirit frowned. "Of course, to test all the participants and choose the best person to inherit the master's mantle."

"That's what I thought. So, what are you doing to deal with the political ramification of these upper-dimension geniuses' existence and ensure we can do our best for this trial?"

"I'm not following."

"Alright, let me direct. These people's backgrounds are a problem. How do we know they would not retaliate against us after we defeat them? How are we supposed to fight to the fullest of our abilities if we have to worry about the possible revenge from the upper dimension?"

The participants looked Lord Spirit, their eyes saying that this was a valid concern. Suddenly, Ao Tianyi snorted coldly: "You people think too highly of yourself."

Wang Wei glanced at him before looking back at Lord Spirit. "See. If it were not for his background, I would have long used his scale for armor, his muscle for bows, consumed his blood for its vitality, and his flesh for the taste. But now, what I can I do."

Wang Wei felt an intense killing intent locking him; he ignored him before feigning a shocked look on his face. "Oh my god; how stupid of me; I've already offended him. What am I going to do?"

"You should indeed be scared. Do you think the Dao Opening Sect is what it used to be? Our dragon race can easily slaughter it."

"You and I both know as long as the name of our two Boundless Paragon exists, nothing will happen to the Dao Opening Sect," Wang Wei replied casually, making Ao Tianyi red in embarrassment; he did not think the latter knew so much about the upper dimension.

'Interesting,' thought Wang Wei. He noticed four of the upper seeded player react once he mentioned the Boundless Paragon of the Dao Opening Sect. However, Zhang Yucheng and Monk Wuzhi seemed not to care, as if these titles held no weight against them, no, against their factions. So, he took note of this reaction.

Wang Wei then looked directly at Lord Spirit. "See? All I had to is use a little spiritual hint to make him angry, and he began to threaten me with his background. So, how am I supposed to fight them fairly, knowing they might retaliate?"

"Although the Deceiving Heaven Longevity Art is an Insurgent technique, and most definitely a Longevity Scripture, it is not worth risking my life and the possible destruction of my faction."

The lower-seeded players and other participants quickly analyzed much information. It made sense that this scripture was a Longevity Resource, hence why even the upper-dimension geniuses were interested.

Subsequently, the possibility of retaliation was a genuine problem. Logically, it made no sense to risk their life for this trial.

"You don't have to worry about retaliation," said Xi Shangyan. "We have our own pride, and so do the factions behind us."

"But how do I know of this?" replied Wang Wei. "I've only met you today."

"Young Master Wang Wei, you can be reassured regarding this," said Monk Wuzhi. "You have my words, and the words of Buddhism, that no one will retaliate against you and the others."

"Monk Wuzhi, I'm sure Buddhism's reputation is enough to guarantee our protection. But this is the lower dimension; Buddhism has no reputation as a basis for us to judge. And we cannot just go by your words."

Monk Wuzhi frowned, along with the others next to him. Xiao Tiandi still had his eyes closed, while Ao Tianyi was trying extremely hard to control his anger. At the same time, he tried to detect how he was so easily spiritually influenced without noticing.

"So, what exactly do you want?" said Lord Spirit with slight anger.

"Dao Oath. I want them to swear an Oath not to Heavenly Dao but to Grand Dao itself that their faction will not retaliate against us—directly and indirectly. I don't want any loopholes."

"Nonsense," roared Ao Tianyi. Grand Dao Oath was the most restrictive oath; it was one not even Paragons could break.

"Who are you to demand such a thing of us?" said Zhang Yucheng with a sneer.

"Young Master Wei, it appears your request was too much."

Wang Wei sipped his tea calmly. "By your response, it seems all of you already planned to get this inheritance by any means—even fouls one."

"This has nothing to do with retaliation," said Shi Ruolan. "No cultivator likes to be restricted. And taking an oath for such a trivial matter, it's even worse."

"Sound like excuses to me."

"And what will happen if they don't swear?" asked Lord Spirit, staring straight at Wang Wei.

"Nothing will happen. I won't participate in this trial, but I'm only one inconsequential individual."

Lord Spirit had veins appear on his forehead as he already knew what the latter was planning. And as expected.

"I will also forfeit," said Chu Luo.

"Count me in," added Ji Lanfang, who was drinking from his gourd after seeing Wang Wei casually drinking his tea.

"I will support my fellow countrymen," said Tong Ruobing. Shi Qian hesitated as she did not want to bring trouble to her parents by offending these upper dimensions big shots. However, she agreed reluctantly, thinking how she would become enemies with her fellow lower-dimension peers if she did not pick their side.

Of course, Jingwu Hua also agreed, followed by the other participants like Xu Shi, Feng Heng, Liang Shixian, Huo Fenghuang, etc.

"See, Lord Spirit. With all of us forfeiting, you can choose one of them as an inheritor. Well, they are a better fit if you consider their talents and birthplace."

Lord Spirit became quiet.

'My divination was correct,' thought Wang Wei. 'Gu Xuan does not want to give his inheritance to people of the upper dimension for some reason.'

A few minutes of silence then ensued. Then, Lord Spirit said: "You can all dismiss. I will contact you after negotiating the logistic of the current problem."

Everyone quietly packed their things before flying to their mansions. As soon as Wang Wei arrived, Wang Wucheng appeared before him.

"What you did there was dangerous. And you also revealed yourself to these faction's eyes."

"It's not as bad as you think. They already noticed me because of the Dao Overlord Title. All I did was revealed my intelligence as an [Overlord]."

"What about your soul? You've revealed yourself with that spiritual hint."

"I don't believe for a moment that Lord Spirit or Gu Xuan could hide the result of these trials from these people. And even the lower-dimension participants who were on my side would gladly sell my information."

On top of everything, Wang Wei did not think these people would come along. So, they must send people or have other methods to investigate his information back in the Myriad Emperor World. As such, they will know his soul is unique.

"Did you observe anything from them?"

"Zhang Yucheng has displayed some hostility towards me—even though he tried very well to hide it. He and Monk Wuzhi are definitely here because of Feng Heng, and I will probably get dragged into their confrontation.

"As for the others, they appeared to also be here for another mission besides getting the inheritance. And that mission seemed to involve observing us."

"Now that you mention it, they seem not to be happy once all you forfeit."

"Yes. They reacted as if they wanted us to display our strengths and abilities. It appears they want to assess us, but the real question is why?"

"I can't think of anything, but I'm sure you will figure it out," said Wang Wucheng. "By the way, what did you mean by what you said about our founding fathers?"

"Didn't I tell you about their disappearance and possible death?"

"No. I think I would have remembered if you had said such an important thing."

Wang Wei then remembered he told Wang Wucheng about his encounter with Empyrean Black Heart during his Outlaw Trial. But, he was not detailed in his encounter, so he did not mention he learned of the founders' disappearance.

"Well, now you know."

"Don't take something so important so lightly," replied Wang Wucheng with a serious face.

"It's as I said. Our founders have reached the pinnacle of cultivation. And two of them can revive themselves as long as their names remain in the annals of history. So, it is only a matter of time before they revive themselves."

"Even so, I think this the kind of information that the others should know."

After saying that, Wang Wucheng left to see Origin One. Wang Wei shook his head as he also headed back to the sect. He wanted to learn more about Gu Xuan as he felt the latter was not simple. He hoped he could gather more information about him and know better how to deal with the upcoming storm.

The night of this event, two shadows secretly entered different mansions habited by the upper seeded-players. Meanwhile, Ao Tianyi activated a formation in a secret room inside his mansion.

Chapter 575 Worldwide Changes

"Tian'er, how are things going?" said a deep voice from the formation. Immediately, Ao Tianyi's arrogant demeanor changed into a more respectful one.

"Father, this is what happened."

Ao Tianyi told everything that had occurred since he arrived. The participant's reactions, what everybody said, what he said, and even some basic analysis of the situation.

"I guess this should be expected of a Dao Overlord. *Sigh* The Wang Clan is truly blessed," replied Ao Jing. He could not help but reminisce about what he read of the Wang Clan's achievement in the Eternal Ascension World.

And if the clan did not break up and even fought in the upper dimension, their accomplishment might have been even higher.

"Father, what do you think I should do?"

"You might not have a choice but to swear."

"What! Why?"

"You must accomplish both your missionsâ€“especially bringing back the Deceiving Heaven Longevity Art."

"Isn't it just a lowly Insurgent technique?" Ao Tanyi then remembered something.

"Even if it was a Longevity technique, is there a need to go through all this troubleâ€“especially since it's probably of the lowest level? Couldn't our dragon race take it from Gu Xuan's hand?"

Ao Jing paused for a moment before sighing. His son was the future leader of the Primordial Dragon Race, so he should start learning the world's secrets and how to deal with them. So, he said:

"You are correct that this scripture is of the lowest level. However, it has tremendous potential. So, the Patriarch wants it."

Ao Tinayi squinted his eyes. The dragon race's patriarch was one of the Seven Ruling Paragons of the Eternal Ascension. So, he knew it was a big deal for the latter to want something.

"So, why didn't the patriarch take it from Gu Xuan? Isn't he just a Dao Monarch?"

"Gu Xuan has disappeared from the face of the world. He is most likely hiding inside the Lawless Zone, and he's been using a proxy to communicate with us for this trial.

"On top of everything, he appears not to want anyone in the upper dimension to get their hands on the scripture. So, you must get it no matter what."

Ao Tianyi frowned even deeper. "Father, why does it seem this mission is not as simple as it seems? Why do I have to observe these Heaven Chosens?"

He did not understand why he had to gather information on the lower dimension's Heaven Chosens, focusing on the Myriad Emperor World.

"*Sigh* I guess there is no point hiding things from you since you are now involved. Great changes are about to take place in the Eternal Ascension World. There are rumors of the end of the Two Suns Seven Moons Era is approaching, and the return of the old era."

"These rumors have existed ever since the era began. Why would that matter now?"

"Yes, normally, these would just be rumors of a bunch of unsatisfied individuals. However, some changes have taken place recently that have alerted the rulers."

"What changes?"

"Heavenly Dao has begun to move. It has seal access to the lower dimension. Currently, Emphyreans cannot even send in a projection. And with each day, the sealing is becoming more powerful."

"According to calculation, it's only a matter of time before the seven rulers can not only interfere in the lower dimension, they might not even be able to see anything from there."

Ao Jing did not tell his son that even the two supreme rulers might become blind to the ongoing of the lower dimension.

"Is this why the patriarch sent me on this mission?"

"Yes. The patriarch calculated that the rise of the Myriad Emperor World might be the cause of Heavenly Dao's actions. So, he wants you to gather information on the Heaven Chosens to detect the people responsible for leading this new era."

"As for the Deceiving Heaven Longevity Art, the patriarch deduced the changes of the Myriad Emperor World might be the prelude to something else. So, he wanted another Longevity Scripture as insurance for the future."

"I see."

"So, if Gu Xuan wants you to swear the oath, do so."

"I will," replied Ao Tianyi with slightly gritted teeth. "What about Zhang Yuchen and Monk Wuzhi?"

"Don't get involved in their conflict. They probably have no desire for the inheritance. So, as long as you stay out of their way, there should be no problem."

"As you wish, father."

"Alright, do your best."

Ao Tianyi closed the communication array before heading to rest. But before he reached his destination, he sensed someone outside his mansion. He used his Divine Sense to determine who it was.

'Her? Interesting.'

Then, he went to open the door.

Zhang Yucheng's Mansion:

"Master, this all that happened," he said to an array.

"This Wang Wei will be a problem as I expected," said a cold and indifferent voice. "You know your mission?"

"Yes, eliminate Feng Heng and prevent him from spreading Buddhism."

"Act fast, as you do not have much time."

"Is something wrong?"

"Heavenly Dao has begun to revolt against my suppression. And it will not let you stay long in the lower dimension," replied Daoist Supreme Unity.

"Master, are you alright?"

"Don't worry about me. Just finish your mission," Daoist Supreme Unity replied in his eternal indifferent voice. Then, he disconnected the communication.

Zhang Yucheng did not mind since he knew his master was always this direct and cold; he was used to it by now. Nevertheless, he was determined to succeed in his mission.

He knew his master was in a deadlock with Maitreya Mother Buddha. But if Feng Heng successfully spread Buddhism in the lower dimension, the luck and incense gathered by the Maitreya Buddha might be enough for her to surpass his master.

'Feng Heng must die. And if that Wang Wei gets in my way, I will also annihilate him.' After making a resolution, Zhang Yucheng went to rest.

Monk Wuzhi's Mansion:

"You know what to do?" said a melodious voice.

"Yes, Great Buddha."

"Remember to use a friendly approach; don't rush or force things. And if things don't work out, it's okay to let it go."

"I will," replied Monk Wuzhi.

"I know I can count on you."

After the communication ended, Monk Wuzhi bowed to the formation before going to cultivate.

Shi Ruolan's Mansion:

She opened the door for someone outside.

"I did not expect to be receiving guess today."

"I'm sorry for the late intrusion."

"No problem. Come in, Miss Xu Shi, right?"

"That's right."

Shi Ruolan led her to the dining room and had her maid serve tea.

"So, to what do I owe this visit?"

"I wanted to know something and figured I had the highest chance of succeeding by asking you."

"Oh, and why would I help you?" Shi Ruolan asked with a smile.

"You can ask me whatever you want."

"Anything?"

"Yes."

"It seems that desperation has clouded your judgment," commented Shi Ruolan. "Very well. Let's see what you want to know first."

"I want to know how to revive someone that had their [Existence] injured?"

"Did that person die as a mortal?"

"Does that matter?"

"Of course."

"Yes."

Shi Ruolan thought for a moment. "Existence wounds are severe even for Emperors. However, most Eternal Emperors can heal their [Existence Injuries] by themselves, a few talented ones can heal others, and some extremely talented individuals can even use [Existence Reconstruction].

"That's when they recreate a person's [Existence] and revive them even after being completely erased from reality. However, such a talent has not appeared in a...."

Shi Ruolan suddenly remembered that peerless Empress that incurred fear in the seven rulers.

'She might be capable of this.'

"Whoever you want to revive might require only healing their existence. However, since they are mortals and will probably be dead for a long period by the time you prove the Dao, you might need the ability of [Existence Reconstruction]."

"I see," replied Xu Shi, deep in thought. She knew she had no choice but to prove the Dao in this generation because the longer she took, the less chance she had to revive her husband.

Furthermore, she must be an Eternal Emperor.

"Now, for my payment," said Shi Ruolan with a mesmerizing smile.

Eternal Ascension World, Dragon Nest:

A long dragon with beautiful and noble purple scales suddenly opened his eyes.

'Should I report things now to the Patriarch?'

Ao Jing did not want to, but he knew he had no choice. The current era was simply terrible. No Tier 12 powerhouses of any path were allowed to exist, forcing him to stay in the Empyrean Realm for too long.

On top of it all, he was not happy with the situation of the dragon clan. In ancient times, there were many tribes of dragons: Azure Dragons, Primordial Dragons, Fiend Dragons, and so many more. The dragon clan was united yet independent, with each tribe having its own autonomy.

But now, all dragons had to obey the Patriarch: a blood dragon. If anyone disobeyed him, they would be annihilated.

And this is not the only reason Ao Jing did not like the current era. He was born near the very end of the Golden Age and remembered how prosperous the Eternal Ascension World used to be.

But now, with the seven rulers promoting Heaven Will Emperors instead of Dao Emperors, the Eternal Ascension World was weak both regarding its high-end power and low-end ones.

If he were not for the two supreme rulers, the world would have long been invaded by foreign forces.

After thinking about these things, Ao Jing shook his head before heading to report to the patriarch. He also removed his idea of downplaying some of the information he received; he did not dare to lie to a Paragon.

Chapter 576 Heaven Will Emperor

Xi Shangyan's Mansion:

She also stood before an array and reported the events that occurred in today's events.

"This is all that happened, patriarch."

Then, for a few seconds, there was no response from the other end.

"Patriarch, you don't have to worry. I will do my best to get the scripture for the ruler; I won't disappoint the effort of the clan."

Xi Shangyan knew the importance of this mission simply by the selection process. One of the rulers held a large-scale competition with all the factions underneath her.

And Xi Shangyan was the final winner, an act that brought great honor to the Celestial Clan as they had the opportunity to display their loyalties to the ruler.

"You don't need to care about the mission," said the Celestial Patriarch after half a minute of silence.

"What do you mean?"

"Our clan has decided to revolt against the ruler. We will hide inside the Source Qi Space and use some of our foundations to prevent her from finding us."

"What? Patriarch, what do you mean by this?"

"Everyone knows a new era is coming, and it's time for people to pick a side. And the Celestial clan has chosen the opposite of the rulers."

Xi Shangyan did not know what to do as this news was too great for her; she thought she came here to make her clan proud and increase their status in the upper dimension. But now, things seemed to be getting out of control.

"What about me?" She hurriedly asked, thinking about something horrible.

"You don't need to worry; the clan did not abandon you."

Xi Shangyan sighed in relief. "So, why am I in the lower dimension?"

"A tremendous amount of destiny and Luck is about to gather in the Lower Dimension with the upcoming new era of the Myriad Emperor World. Many believe the person who started this era will lead the changing age of the upper dimension—or, at the very least, play an essential role.

"Your mission is to use that destiny to your advantage. You can try to steal the destiny from that destined person, become that destined individual, become their underling, cooperate with them, or whatever you desire. Use your judgment to determine the best course of action.

"What matter is for the Celestial Clan to have their hands on the new era; the Luck gathered from his event would ensure our prosperity."

Xi Shangyan caressed her temples as she tried to process all the information she had received. She suddenly remembered the grey hair player from the Myriad Emperor World. Somehow, she felt he would play a vital role in this upcoming chaos.

"I know this is a lot to process so suddenly, but we could not tell you anything before you arrived in the Lower Dimension."

"I won't blame you, patriarch. I know you're doing this for the clan's revival."

"I'm glad you understand. I don't have much time, as such, I will be quick. You must prove the Dao in the Lower Dimension, which means you must re-start cultivating. Your space ring includes many resources to help you, including a Time Chaos Treasure to ensure you have enough time to catch up.

"You can choose whether to prove the Dao in the Myriad Emperor World. The Seven Rulers have sent people to infiltrate there to prove the Dao in this generation and delay the arrival of the new generation."

"Delay?"

"They cannot stop the arrival of the new era. But, they can infinitely delay it to prolong their reign or better prepare for a high position in the new upcoming era."

"I see."

"I know this is a lot, so I won't say much more. One last thing, do not become a Heaven Will Emperor. Although it should be impossible to do so in the Lower Dimension, anything is possible in the upcoming changes."

Xi Shangyan nodded her head. Even if the patriarch did not say anything, she would not do so. Since she was young, the clan elders have always warned her about becoming a Heaven Will Emperor because it is an unorthodox method that is nothing but shortcuts.

Heaven Will Emperors created something called Dao Trees, allowing them to absorb more than one Heaven Will. The Dao Tree allowed them to rapidly reach higher realms of cultivation and serve as a way to control the Grand Dao Source.

However, the downside is that a Heaven Will Emperor will fall in cultivation realms once someone destroys the Dao Tree. Meanwhile, Dao Emperors have to comprehend the Grand Dao Source slowly.

Xi Shangyan would never become a Heaven Will Emperor for many reasons. For example, Heaven Will Emperors cannot become Everlasting Emphyreans or Boundless Paragons.

Heaven Will Emphyreans do not have the natural ability of Dao Emphyreans to create life. Heaven Will Paragons do not need Paragon Souls to reach that realm, making them drastically weaker.

The only advantage of Heaven Will Emperors is the rapid cultivation and the ability to sacrifice their Heaven Wills for a drastic increase in battle prowess. And even then, they only used this technique to be on par with Dao Emperors.

"Alright, I've got to go," said the Celestial Patriarch. "It will take a little time for the information of our betrayal to be sent to the lower dimension because of the recent changes."

"Recent changes?"

"There is no time for that. Just know that access to the Lower Dimension has become even harder. Always watch your back no matter which Heaven Will World you decide to prove the Dao; the rulers definitely send some spies to cause chaos in the lower dimension."

After saying that, the patriarch ended the conversation. Xi Shangyan suddenly felt very lonely; it was the first time she did not have her clan as backing. Nevertheless, she quickly reigned in her emotions to decide her next step.

The best course of action would be to run away if the other upper-seeded players decided to eliminate her, the traitor. However, the patriarch told her the information wouldn't reach the trial for some time.

Time she could use to get her hands on the Deceiving Heaven Longevity Art and give her some advantage in the upcoming chaos.

"Let's wait and see," she muttered before resting.

Xiao Tiandi's Mansion:

"You have to do your best," said a beautiful female voice.

"Yes, master," replied Xiao Tiandi with his usual listlessness.

"This is not the time to have your usual uncaring attitude. The rulers might give you a chance if you can bring back the scripture and the necessary information."

"Would they, really? Or would they dispose of me after I'm no longer useful?"

"Don't be so pessimistic. If they wanted to deal with you, they would have done so long ago."

Xiao Tiandi sneered but did not rebuke.

"This might be the only chance you have."

"You and I both know this is not true."

"Maybe previously, but things are changing. The rulers are in desperate need of allies."

"Yes, allies that are not a threat to them."

"Enough!" roared the female voice. "Your mindset is the reason you're in the current state. An opportunity is given to you, but you don't even want to try."

"Do the mission, bring back the scripture. Otherwise, I will disown and kick you out of the sect; this is your last chance." The female voice then ended the communication.

Xiao Tiandi shrugged his shoulder; this was not the first time his master threatened to disown him. And this was not the first time he had disappointed her. Ultimately, she loved and doted on him too much to do it.

So, he yawned before going to bed; he told his servant not to wake up until the day the competition began as he prepared to sleep for a few days straight.

Outside of Shi Ruolan's Mansion:

Xu Shi walked out with slight puzzlement. She did not expect the latter's repayment to be her memories and information of all the Heaven Chosens of the Myriad Emperor World and favor she had to repay later.

Xu Shi was prepared for the conditions to be even worse.

'Well, a favor is usually the hardest thing to repay,' she thought. Although it appeared Shi Ruolan did not ask for much, that was only on the surface.

'It does not matter. I've got the information I wanted. As long I become an Eternal Emperor, I should be able to revive Fan'er. All I have to do now is find a way to preserve his imprint.'

Xu Shi then became momentarily lost as she remembered her husband; memories of their happy times flashed across her mind.

"Fan'er, I will see you again."

Xu Shi returned to her mansion, and as soon as she entered, someone appeared next to him: Daoist Everchanging.

"Why did you go see her?"

Xu Shi frowned before explaining the situation, making Daoist Everchanging sigh out loud.

"Have you not noticed you are becoming too obsessed with reviving Lin Fan?"

"He's my husband, the love of my life."

"Yes, but you should not let any obsession take over your mind."

"What's wrong with obsession?"

"It's a weakness that your enemy can exploit."

Xu Shi quieted down as she knew this was true. "I won't let it become my weakness."

Daoist Everchanging sighed again before disappearing; his blatant display of disappointment made Xu Shi unhappy for the entire night.

Ao Tianyi's Mansion:

"Huo Fenghuang from the Myriad Emperor World, right?" he asked over a tea table.

"That's me."

"So, what brings you to see me?"

Chapter 577 The Ancestors

"I came to make a deal with you," Huo Fenghuang said.

"Oh, I'm listening."

"I want your source blood."

Immediately, a terrifying killing intent emanated from Ao Tianyi's body. All dragons race are highly particular about their source blood because of how precious any dragon bloodline is. However, he quickly calmed down.

"Instinctive reaction," Ao Tianyi explained casually. "You do know how precious true dragon bloodline is. So, what do you want to exchange?"

"You can name your price."

"You can be my woman," said Ao Tianyi with a lascivious smile.

"If you don't want to exchange, I can live."

"What's with the reaction? It would be your honor to become my woman."

"Honor?" replied Huo Fenghuang with a sneer. "I've read about how arrogant you Innate Lifeforms are, but I did not think it was even worse than the scriptures described."

"Innate Lifeforms? You dare compare my noble bloodline with these lowly things?"

"Is there a difference? In the end, the world is ruled by acquired lives. No matter how prideful you are or how much benefit your bloodline gives you, it does not change the fact that acquired lives rule this world.

"I can guarantee many of my ancestors have hunted your kind in the upper dimension."

Ao Tianyi's eyes turned red as he knew she was correct. This truth has been the bane of all races bred by Heaven and Earth. It did not matter they were the first creatures in existence, and it did not matter they were born noble and more powerful—they were no longer the ruler of the world.

Ao Tianyi wanted nothing but to pounce on the person before him. But he remembered where he was and his father's mission. So, he took a deep breath to calm down.

Meanwhile, Huo Fenghuang secretly sighed in relief; she needed to be assertive in other for the negotiation to be relatively fair. She remembered the argument Wang Wei used in the evening and theorized their Ancient Clan still had some backing in the upper dimension in the form of the Heaven Opening Emperor, the Wang Clan's ancestor.

And by Ao Tianyi's restraint, her theory was correct; she had made the correct tactic for this negotiation.

"I hope you take this transaction seriously. Tell me if you don't want to trade so I don't waste my time."

"Fine," responded Ao Tianyi, calming down to ponder whether he would make the deal. A few minutes later, he said:

"I agree, but here are my terms. First, I want all the information you have on the trial's participants and the Heaven Chosens of the Myriad Emperor World. I want the tiniest detail—even something as little as their favorite food."

Huo Fenghuang frowned slightly, but she eventually nodded.

"The second thing I want is a promise."

"What promise? I won't agree to anything if you don't specify," she added.

Ao Tianyi did not immediately answer but took out a mirror, instantly alerting Huo Fenghuang and making her on guard.

"No need to be worried. I just don't want anyone or anything to listen to our conversation."

Then, he activated the mirror to block the room and prevent outside forces from spying. Huo Fenghuang remained on guard during the entire process, ready to call upon her Dao Protector at any moment.

"If you can prove the Dao, I want you to be an inactive Emperor," Ao Tianyi said casually.

"What do you mean?"

"In simple terms, I want you to not accomplish anything as an Emperor. You can preach the Dao to repay karma, but there is no need to do anything more for the world.

"You can say in the Lower Dimension for as long as possible before ascending. And during this time, all you have to do is ensure nothing happens in the Myriad Emperor World."

"I can't do that," she replied immediately.

"Why? I think it's a fair deal."

"I'm carrying the hope of my clan to revive them to the glorious time. Your conditions go against my goal for cultivation."

"Then there is no deal."

"Fine by me," replied Huo Fenghuang.

"Do you think you can easily leave after coming to my home?" Ao Tianyi stood up, fully ready for a confrontation.

"And if you think I came here without being prepared, you're a bigger fool than you appeared during today's introduction."

Ao Tianyi clenched his hand as he stared at her. But, after seeing her confidence and thinking about his father's words, he decided to be cautious about the success of this mission. So, he let her leave.

After exiting the mansion, Huo Fenghuang looked back.

'It seems these geniuses want to interfere in the Myriad Emperor World's development.'

After looking for a few seconds, she flew home; she knew things were not over. She wanted that Primordial Dragon's blood and was willing to offend him to get it; she did not care about the consequences since this might be the only chance she had at proving the Dao.

Myriad Emperor World, Dao Opening Sect:

Wang Wei was reading about Gu Xuan's life. He lived during the Middle Emperor Era. The records described him as a cunning and insidious person who feared death and wanted to become immortal.

After failing his Heaven Will Battle, he created the Deceiving Heaven Longevity Art. According to records, Gu Xuan lived over 100 million years before exchanging the scripture with an Emperor for a Dao Seed.

After that, he disappeared, most likely ascending to the upper dimension.

While Wang Wei analyzed the information he had, he suddenly received a communication talisman from Wang Wucheng. Then, he used his sect master token to teleport to a secret realm where Wang Wucheng waited for him.

As soon as he appeared, Wang Wucheng gave him another token.

"This will take you to a special place in the sect. Go immediately."

"What's going on?"

"You were supposed to take a trial once you reached Quasi-Emperor Realm before you could go that place, but now, the situation has changed."

Wang Wei frowned.

"Remember, be respectful." Wang Wucheng then disappeared. Wang Wei looked at the token in his hand for a moment before activating it. He then found himself in a large place with a pool.

In front of the pool were nine phantoms: three in the middle and six behind them.

The first phantom looked like him: young, handsome, with long dark hair and bright eyes. He had a gentle and reassuring smile.

The one to his right was a beautiful woman with a mole on her chin, a serious face, and eyes sharper than a sword.

Wang Wei recognized the one on the right as he saw him in the Battle Tower; he still remembered that sundering battle intent. Then, he glanced at the people at the back.

There was a middle-aged man to the far left; Wang Wei could see his muscle despite being a translucent fantom. Next to the muscular man was another middle-aged man wearing a turtle shell. Wang Wei refused to comment on this person's fashion sense.

The person after that was an older man with long white hair and a beard, dressed in red. Somehow, Wang Wei could smell the scent of medicine from him.

The fourth person was a young man with golden hair; righteousness and cruelty perfectly describe his face and demeanor.

The fifth person on the back was an ordinary-looking young man. The only way to describe that person was ordinary; he had the kind of face that most people would not notice in a crowd—a very forgettable face.

Finally, the sixth person at the back was a lively, beautiful young woman with rainbow-colored eyes.

Wang Wei recognized these people since he had to worship them during Ancestral Worshipping Ceremonies he had attended during his childhood. So, he immediately bowed and said:

"Sect Master Wang Wei has seen the Ancestors."

"There is no need for formalities," said Qi Yuan as he floated next to Wang Wei and helped him. He took a deep look at him.

"A Nine Extremity Foundation? A 4-Root as that? Worthy of my descendant."

"It would have been better if it was a perfect 5-Root Foundation," commented Sword Empress.

"Give the kid some slack. Achieving such a result in the unorthodox path and in such a short time is proof of his talent," added the Battle Maniac.

"According to my calculation, there is a 99% chance he has found a way to push it to perfection," said Miscellaneous.

"What is with the missing one percent?" asked the Rainbow Emperor.

"He is a Fateless. Even as a mortal, I have to consider possible deviation."

"That makes sense."

"I've heard many great things about you," said Qiyuan Emperor to change the subject. "I'm glad you inherited my drive for innovation and progress."

His eyes twinkled.

"I saw how well-developed the mortals in our territories are. Your use of construct, your views on education and knowledge, and the notion of advanced mortal civilization are fascinating; I cannot wait for you to spread your ideas throughout the world."

"Thank you, Ancestor, for your praise."

"I have a few questions I wanted to ask."

"Brother Qishan, we cannot waste time," suddenly said Battle Maniac.

"That's right. Our presence could make the situation worse," added the Sword Empress. "Let's do what we came for and leave."

"Alright," Qiyuan replied with some sadness. He then looked at Wang Wei seriously: "We will all preach the Dao to you: teaching about the Dao and a detailed explanation of cultivation from Tier 1 to Tier 12."

Wang Wei's eyes immediately lit up after hearing this. With this process, not only will his understanding of Law and Dao reach another level, he won't have to worry about finding methods to break through to the Empyrean and Paragon Realm in the future.

"Thank you for your guidance."

"Let's begin," said Qiyuan with a smile.

Chapter 578 Nine Paragons Preaching

"I will be the first," said Qiyuan Emperor. Then, he waved his hand to manifest two cushions: one for him and the other for Wang Wei. The others waited as Qiyuan sat and Wang Wei sat, with the latter closing his eyes.

"All lives are fundamentally divided into Qi, Essence, and Spirit. The cultivation process can begin by developing any of these aspects: it is a journey of self-discovery and transcendence, breaking the limit of the body, mind, and spirit...."

Wang Wei did not hesitate to deploy his Spirit Particles and Future Buddha Self to improve his comprehension. At the same time, he had all his incarnations comprehend the sermon.

Since the incarnations had different lives and experiences, they might understand something he could not. Furthermore, having ten of them comprehending the same sermon was better than just him.

As Wang Wei listened to his Ancestor's preaching about the Dao, he saw the essence of cultivation rapidly laid out in simple terms before him. Then, the Qiyuan Emperor explained the Origin System to him from the Body Tempering Realm to the Quasi-Emperor Realm.

Wang Wei had to admit there was something unique about seeing the system's creator explain things to him. Even though he had entered the Duyi Realm and pushed the Origin System beyond its limit, there were many things he did not know or think about regarding it.

But now, with its creator explaining it to him, he finally understood.

After explaining the Origin System to the Quasi-Emperor Realm, the Qiyuan Emperor then explained his Origin, Dao and his comprehension after proving the Dao.

Once he finished, he explained in detail to Wang Wei how to enter the Empyrean and Paragon Realm.

After an unknown amount of time, Wang Wei opened his eyes, full of awe and respect. His slight pride after achieving his Dao Ancestor's strength was gone as he understood how far he was compared to the pinnacle of the cultivation world. He decided to be more humbled as his journey had just begun, and he had a long way to go.

Then, he checked on the Law Tree inside his Sea of Consciousness; he could see it was slowly turning silver. With a smile, he said: "Thank you, Ancestor."

Qiyuan smiled back before condensing a talisman: "This is my gift to you. These were all my thoughts when I created the Origin System—including some previous drafts that I eliminated. Maybe, it can be beneficial to you."

Wang Wei gladly accepted. Qiyuan stood up from his seat to allow the Sword Empress to take the seat.

"Kid, are you interested in becoming a swordsman? It would be a shame to waste your talent."

"I'm sorry, but I think the swordsmen's path is too extreme."

Wang Wei was a little embarrassed to be so direct, but that's how he felt. However, he could see the Desolate Emperor giving him thumps up in the back.

"I figure as much," she replied before condensing a talisman. "This is for your father: it contained my Sword Dao. Maybe it can help him."

Wang Wei respectfully accepted the gift.

"Although I cannot teach you about my Sword Dao, I can teach you about the concept of attack since swordsmen are the ultimate attackers."

Sword Empress then preached her Sword Dao, whose primary focus was on slashing Heaven and Earth; her entire Dao involved how to properly destroy Heavenly Dao, who is the embodiment of myriad Daos.

However, her sermon also focused on the best way for a person's attack to reach its maximum potential and go beyond the limit. Wang Wei felt this sermon would benefit him throughout his cultivation journey.

Wang Wei opened his eyes, this time full of the sharpness of a swordsman. His Everchanging Dao Heart helped him a lot to better comprehend her sermon.

Sword Empress nodded her head before giving her spot to Battle Maniac.

"Your Dream Combat Technique is ingenious. So, I will use it to help you."

Then, Wang Wei found himself in a vivid dream. And in that dream, he spent eons doing only one thing: fighting. He fought countless races and unique individuals; he learned numerous fighting styles, battle applications, spells, environment analysis, and many other things that could help him increase his odds of winning in battle.

Once he opened his eyes, a terrifying battle intent emanated from his body; he felt like a new man as his Battle IQ and experience drastically improved.

"What a little monster," commented Battle Maniac with a smile. Then, he also condensed a talisman: "This is for Li Jun; he's a fine descendant."

Wang Wei quickly accepted. Then, Ancient Desolate came before him.

"I'm glad I've found a true successor for my scripture. Plus, you've pushed beyond its limit."

He was very happy with the concept of black holes in the Acupoints; this idea perfectly suited his scripture and elevated it to another level.

"I will preach to you about my Dao and the True Power Dao."

Wang Wei closed his eyes before controlling his excitement. He listened attentively, and his Law Tree rapidly turned silver in the process. He controlled himself to not break through in realms and ensure a solid foundation.

Once the sermon finished, Wang Wei were visibly shocked as he learned there was another gate after the Gate of Power called the Gate of Flesh, and Ancient Desolate had opened both of them.

However, his lips twitched after he realized the requirement to open and how difficult it would be to do so in the lower dimension. However, thinking about the reward, he became motivated.

He knew he could succeed since this sermon contained so many tricks or methods to temper the flesh—all from the Ancient Desolate's experience.

"This is my gift to you," said the Ancient Desolate Emperor before handing Wang Wei a ring. "This contains enough Primordial Star Essence to condense the black holes for all your incarnations."

Wang Wei's eyes lit up as he carefully placed the ring away.

"It's my turn," said Turtle Shell. "What I'm going to teach you is the pinnacle of defense. If you can learn a tenth of my ability, a few things in the universe will be able to kill you."

Wang Wei was speechless as he realized another quirk of this Ancestor besides his fashion sense: bragging. Then, he closed his eyes to listen to the sermon and was truly speechless.

Turtle shell was truly the master of defense. His Dao involved pursuing defense to the extreme, similar to swordsmen. Moreover, the latter also knows how to use arrays, talismans, pills, and weapons for defense.

'This guy is the very definition of an unkillable cockroach because of his defense,' thought Wang Wei after opening his eyes.

"You just thought of something insulting, didn't you?"

"Of course not, Ancestor. This disciple would never do such a thing," Wang Wei replied with a righteous face. "I have too much respect to do such a thing."

"Hmm, maybe I'm a little too sensitive. Here is my gift to you."

Wang Wei received a book that contained a technique to use his Acupoints as a defensive array; this was the idea he had after seeing Tong Ruobing. He did not ask how Turtle Shell knew what he wanted to do; he now understood the power of these people was unfathomable. He was just happy he did not have to waste time creating the method himself.

"I will teach you about the Five Elements, Professions Dao, Divination, and Yin-Yang Calculations," said Miscellaneous Emperor. He did not waste time before preaching, and Wang Wei listened attentively.

Wang Wei felt his understanding of all the professions deepened.

Then, he learned a lot about divination—which was his specialty. Yin-Yang Calculation was the same as divination but used another system similar to mathematics.

Through a diagram made of symbols, a person can calculate all the secrets or knowledge between Heaven and Earth. Of course, the limitation is based on the user's skills and strengths.

The Miscellaneous Emperor taught him how to use both divination and Yin Yang Calculation to get the information he wanted.

"Thank you, Ancestor," said Wang Wei with a bow.

"No problem. This is my gift to you."

Wang Wei received another talisman which contained a unique formation that could convert Innate Qi into Immortal Qi. It was unfortunate he could only use the formation inside his Divine Sea. Otherwise, it would greatly benefit his future plans.

"This is another gift for that girl Yan Liling," he added before giving him another talisman.

The Hell Judgment took the seat afterward and preached without saying much. In the midst of comprehension, Wang Wei frowned slightly before continuing. He could sense that the Hell Judgment Dao was a unique one that combined Good and Evil, the Soul, and even Yin and Yang, and other things.

After preaching, Hell Judgment asked: "Did you notice?"

"Yes," nodded Wang Wei. He realized a flaw on his cultivation path: his soul. Since he had such a powerful soul and never had to worry about cultivating it, he also barely used it in most of his battles.

As such, his soul was not used to its full potential. The Hell Judgment pointed out this flaw to him and showed him a path on how to use better use his soul.

Wang Wei looked at his Law Tree that had turned silver; he could also sense the Soul Law added in addition to the Five Elements.

Afterward, it was the Shadow Ruler.

"My Dao is not really suited for you. But, hopefully, you can learn something from it."

The latter preached about Shadow Dao. And when Wang Wei opened his eyes, he had some confusion on his face but did not immediately ask.

"This is for you. You are an anomaly, so after proving the Dao, Wang Ju would only inherit 50% of your power. However, she could inherit between 50 to 70% with this method."

Wang Wei took the talisman with respect.

"It's finally my turn," said Rainbow with excitement. "I pursue the pinnacle of speed. I can tell you that although I cannot defeat any of my seniors, none of them can catch me if I want to run away."

The others' lips twitched slightly as they felt slight shame; she was correct.

Wang Wei listened to the sermon with fascination. She taught him to use different methods to increase speed. Whether it was through controlling light, thunder, gravity, bending space-time, or even the concept of the speed of the mind: she used all of them to increase her speed.

After opening his eyes, Wang Wei could not help but ask: "Are you also a Paragon?"

"Of course."

"How? Time-wise, it did not make sense."

He could feel that both Rainbow and Shadow Ruler's Dao were on the same level as the others. But these two proved the Dao after the Devil Era. He did not understand how they had enough time to become Paragon.

Rainbow did not answer but looked at Qiyuan.

"Something happened that we needed more powerful individuals. So, we paid the price to call future Emperors of the sect to summon them from the future," explained Qiyuan.

"These two came and became Paragons in the past."

"Did I come?" asked Wang Wei.

"No," replied Qiyuan with a smile. "We could not summon anyone past the ninth Emperor."

"That's a shame."

"Not really. It's good you don't have to bear the Karma of our failure," replied Qiyuan with a sigh.

"A few more things before you leave. Do not kill all the participants before the Heaven Will Battle. I know you have the strength, but don't do it—even secretly."

"Oh, why?"

Wang Wei never planned to do so since there would be too many complications. But there seems to be something else.

"The Lower Dimension has changed, preventing forces in the upper dimension from intervening—including Paragons. The Myriad Emperor World will become the center of an upcoming change. So, before that, a Son of an Era will be chosen."

"You mean me?"

"Yes. Heavenly Dao will definitely choose you. However, if you kill the other participants, your actions will be seen as an act of weakening the world, thus forfeiting and decreasing your chance of being chosen.

"Now, I understand you might not care about the Title of Son of an Era, but the destiny it provides will benefit you until you become an Emphyrean. Don't waste such an opportunity because of how you feel about Heavenly Dao."

"I see," nodded Wang Wei. Although he did not like Heavenly Dao, he knew the trial was nothing personal. Furthermore, he could control his emotions and do things he did not like for the sake of benefit.

"Thank you for your guidance," said Wang Wei before giving these nine a deep bow. Their help today will benefit him throughout his entire life. Then, Wang Wei left the secret realm.

While alone, the Hell Judgment Emperor said: "Are you sure he's the one we are waiting for? This kid has too many secrets."

"He's right," added Miscellaneous Emperor. "Forget all the taboo aura on him, I can sense the aura from the Prehistoric World from him. And there is a 90% chance he is the reincarnation of the Myriad Devourer."

Chapter 579 Inextinguishable

Quyuan frowned as he remembered some things long ago. The Prehistoric World was a unique, Normal Chaos World floating in Primordial Chaos. The special aspect of it was no individual could enter, no matter who it was. People could leave the world but not enter.

Furthermore, an intense aura of taboo emanated from the Prehistoric World. Many people knew one of the 13 Taboos was inside, but no one knew what it was and why it was a taboo.

As for Myriad Devour? It was also related to the Prehistoric Word. The entire Primordial Chaos was in turmoil during the Second Origin Battle. Then, a significant World Collision occurred; many Source and Normal Chaos Worlds clashed with the Prehistoric World.

This event was an anomaly that many people believed was artificially created. However, no one cared whether that was the truth because of the benefit of this event.

The clash released a large quantity of World Essence, a rare resource for people who wanted to cultivate a Paragon Soul or Tier 12 Soul. Many Paragons and other powerful entities fought for the World's Essence.

Because of this event, many people reached the peak of the Paragon Realm because of the World Essence—including Shadow Ruler and Rainbow.

But not long afterward, a creature that was a massive accumulation of Paragon Soul Quantity and Quality appeared in Primordial Chaos. The creature had immense Willpower and only used it as a form of battle; it did not have laws, Dao, bloodline, or any spells—just pure Willpower and Spiritual power.

The creature would devour anything weaker than it—including some Tier 10 and 11 Fiendgods and even many Normal Chaos Worlds.

Regarding strength, the creature was only on par with some of the weakest Paragons—and barely at that. However, its Willpower granted unimaginable protection. Moreover, a mysterious and mighty power protected the Myriad Devour whenever someone more powerful tried to harm him.

Many people feared the Myriad Devour was an experiment from the Prehistoric World to create the fourteenth taboo. Luckily, the creature disappeared one day, never showing up again.

"His past does not matter," said Qiyuan. "What matters is he might be the one to show us the path forward."

"I agree," said Sword Empress.

"You're only saying that because of his relationship with Wu Hong," commented Battle Maniac.

"So?"

Qiyuan Emperor looked at Miscellaneous. "Go hide all information about him; we don't want these parasites to notice his anomaly and become extreme in their attempt to get rid of him."

Miscellaneous frowned before sighing. He looked at Wang Wei, that was flying toward his mansion. With a wave of his mind, he placed an invisible formation on him to hide his taboo auras, his connection to the Prehistoric and even elevated the formation Wu Hong placed on his soul from an Empyrean level to the peak of the Paragon Realm.

He also left a way for Wang Wei to detect and control the formation once he became a Great Emperor. Once he was done, Miscellaneous' phantom became even more transparent.

"Are you alright?" asked Qiyuan.

"I'll survive."

Qiyuan then looked at Sword Empress.

"How is your situation?"

"I've stabilized my injury. But my strength has dropped to the Emperor Realm, and it's the weakest Third Class."

"Why do you sound so salty?" commented Battle Maniac. "At least you're alive. Look at us." She ignored him.

"I bet she's salty Wu Hong survived with Empyrean strength," said Ancient Desolate with laughter, forcing Sword Empress to stare at him with killing intent.

"Don't look at me. She must likely survive because she was both an Inextinguishable Paragon and a Boundless One. If you had listened to me, tempered your body, and opened both Gate of Power and Flesh, you might have been in a better situation."

Ancient Desolate never understood why these swordsmen refused to temper their bodies. The sword they loved so much was a metal weapon: a solid and hard object. So, wouldn't it make sense for them to temper their bodies to be like a sword—the very thing they admired and pursued with so much passion?

"Don't act up," said Qiyuan, preventing his little sister from throwing a temper tantrum. "Wang Chong is correct. If there is something we've learned in the previous failure, if we want to take that step, we have to ensure our soul, body, and Dao reaches the pinnacle."

The others nodded in agreement with him.

"Does that mean we have to open both Gates?" asked Turtle Shell.

"I don't think we have to go to this extreme. As long as we opened the Gate of Power and tempered our body to withstand Paragon strength, we should be alright," added Miscellaneous Emperor.

"That makes sense."

"How are things going?" Qiyuan continued.

"I've gathered some resources for your revival, but things are going slow."

"What's the issue?"

"Time Eater is hunting me down," she said with clenched teeth. "He even cornered me once."

The room quieted down before Ancient Desolate started laughing uncontrollably.

"That brat you almost killed after he confessed to you is hunting you down? How embarrassing. Hahaha."

Time Eater was a Paragon of their era, fascinated by the Sword Empress. However, she despised and almost killed him with her sword after he tried to pester her after a rejection.

Unfortunately, he did not participate in the Ultimate Taboo and became one of the seven parasites weakening the world today.

"Do you want to die?" said the Sword Empress, but Ancient Desolate did not care nor stop laughing.

'I'll kill him after I return to peak strength,' she thought. Of course, she knew that would not be so easy, not because of a lack of trying. Ancient Desolate was an Inextinguishable Paragon, meaning he had all the life savings of a Boundless Paragon and even methods the latter did not have.

"You wait. I've already taken your advice and started tempering my body. When you revive, I'll take my revenge for all the time you made fun of my weak fleshly body."

Ancient Desolate shrugged his shoulder. He always thought she had wasted her potential by now tempering her body. He thought she would have learned her lesson after losing to Wu Hong by one move because of her fleshly body. But no. Instead, she double-down on cultivating her Sword Dao.

Luckily, the recent failures made her realize the truth, and his years of advising her to do made the Sword Empress realize the truth. As for getting beaten once they revived? He did not care since he could take it.

"Anything else to report?" asked Qiyuan, who was used to these two bickerings.

"Supreme Unity found me, but Maitreya stopped him."

"Maitreya? I thought she had joined with the seven parasites?" asked Battle Maniac.

"She's not like that," Sword Empress said. "I don't know why she kept the power balance for so many years, but she must have her reason. I think she's also waiting for someone."

"Or power changed her," added Hell Judgment with a sneer. "Look what happened to Supreme Unity."

"Don't say such a stupid thing. I'm afraid it's only because of her that all of us in Limbo have not been hunted down by Supreme Unity."

No one commented regarding this.

"We already knew the method Supreme Unity got was flawed, so it's not surprising that he changed," added Shadow Ruler. "But what about Maitreya?"

"Before leaving, she told me there might be something wrong with her method, but she was willing to take the chance," said Sword Empress with a frown.

"Do you think we should have settled for a flawed method?" said Rainbow with a slightly lowered voice. "After all, we got nothing in the end, and now, our peers have surpassed us."

The room quieted down for a moment before Qiyuan said: "We made a choice and should live with it."

"You don't have any regret?" asked Turtle Shell.

"No, because I see hope."

"You mean the kid? Do you really think he could show us the way forward?"

Qiyuan was quiet as he looked at Wang Wei in the distance.

"In the Chaos Universe, we know two people have succeeded. And he can be the third. And as long as he succeeds, we can learn from him and succeed as well."

"If he fails?"

"We will start the Third Battle of Origin and try again."

After that, the nine disappeared as if they had never existed. It was rare for them to appear in the lower dimension without being detected by Supreme Unity.

Unfortunately, they also could not stay for long.

Battle Tower:

Wang Wei had just finished fighting a 6-Leaf Immortal Venerable; he lost, but he did not mind. After the sermon, his main body reached peak 4-Leaf strength. With his battle experience, he can survive for dozens of years in a battle with 5-Leaf, and a few days with 6-Leaf.

After checking his strength, he left the tower. Ninety thousand years passed inside that secret room, but only a few hours passed outside. Wang Wei guessed it had something to do with the pool behind his ancestors.

Then, he sent the gifts to Li Jun and Yan Liling before continuing to look for information on Gu Xuan. Regrettably, not long afterward, he received the notice someone had come to see him from the trial.

Chapter 580 Discussion

Wang Wei teleported to his mansion, where he saw a maid waiting for him. She immediately bowed to him before notifying him of the visitor's identity. Wang Wei then frowned before entering the guest room.

He saw a shave-headed monk sitting in the cross-legged position with a pot of tea and vegetable meal before him. Wang Wei walked to the table and waved his hand to make it disappear along with the drink and food.

"Young Master Wei, I'm sorry for the late-night inconvenience," said Monk Wuzhi, not minding the latter's rudeness.

"Monk, I don't care for your flowery words. State your purpose."

"Benefactor, what is the hostility? Have I done anything to harm you? If so, tell me, and I will gladly apologize," said Monk Wuzhi with the utmost sincerity.

"If you were about to be dragged into something you did not want to, you would also feel as I did," replied Wang Wei.

"Benefactor, you should not see it as 'dragging.' Everyone is bound by their actions and decisions, so everyone must pay their karma."

"You're right. But there is a difference between willingly paying it and being forced to do so."

"You have free will, benefactor. So, no one can force you to do anything."

"Do you genuinely believe that?" asked Wang Wei, staring deep into the monk's eyes. "Does your word have weight, or are you just spewing nonsense to get what you want?"

Monk Wuzhi began to sweat secretly after hearing this question. He could see an invisible karmic balance dangling above his head. The balance prevented would determine his fate based on his reaction.

If he lies, he will receive a backlash for lying and allowing his words to have no weight or significance. And if he told the truth, he would enter into a binding agreement where Wang Wei could decide not to intervene in the upcoming conflict and choose when to pay his karma.

As such, Monk Wuzhi felt like a few seconds was like an eternity. After swallowing a gulp of saliva, he recited some scriptures in his mind to calm down: "I mean every word I said."

As soon as he said these words, he sensed the balance disappearing, and the weight of the world vanished from his shoulder.

Monk Wuzhi also learned a valuable lesson from this encounter: always minding his words before a Karma Master. Otherwise, they will be used against you.

"Is that so? In that case, I'm sorry for my rude behavior; it seems I misjudged your character," said Wang Wei, before returning the previously disappearing table, this time with even more food.

"This is one of the specialty dishes I've prepared specially for you; I'd like to think you've never eaten this before, but I could be wrong. So, enjoy."

Monk Wuzhi wanted to reject the offer. After all, as someone from the upper dimension, what great and unique food he had not tested—especially for a man of his status.

However, after smelling the unique fragrance of the meal, he decided not to be rude as a guest. So, he took a bite, and the taste was heavenly; that's the only way he could describe it.

Although the ingredients were not nearly as good as the ones he was used to, the combination, the spices, and the techniques used for the preparation were sublime. Furthermore, he had never tested this recipe before.

Monk Wuzhi then enjoyed himself. The only downgrade to the meal was the tea, as he considered it subpar. However, after taking out his tea, everything was perfect.

Wang Wei had to admit his tea was nothing compared to the upper dimension. So, after exchanging the meal's recipe for some more tea, the two got along as they talked over the dinner.

And when they finished a few hours later, they finally got to business.

"Little Wuzhi, what brings you to see me today?"

The monk was now used to the latter's shamelessness; he did not even care when his seniority was reduced to a younger brother despite being older than the latter by a few hundred thousand years.

"I need your help keeping Feng Heng safe."

"I guess it would be related to him," Wang Wei replied casually. "Does that mean Zhang Yucheng wants to eradicate him?"

"Yes, and I cannot allow that to happen."

"I cannot directly help you," said Wang Wei.

"If you are worried about picking a side, I don't think you have much choice."

"I'm fully aware of this. But there is a difference between active and passive participants."

"So, you can help me but not directly," reiterated Monk Wuzhi. "So, how do you plan to help?"

"I can promise to help spread Buddhism in the lower dimension. And if something happens to Feng Heng, I will officially take his place after proving the Dao. You can give me an honorary Buddha Title or something to help me better lead the faction."

Monk Wuzhi pondered for a moment; he did not mind giving the latter an honorary title to lead the lower dimension Buddhism Sect. He also did not mind the latter being the leader and controlling Buddhism in the lower dimension.

Ultimately, he still had to ascend. And no matter what he did, the genuine leader of Buddhism will always be his master, Maitreya Mother Buddha. He only had one problem:

"Feng Heng cannot die."

"Oh, why is that?"

"He is the key to breaking the Absolute Beginning Magic. Once he dies, everything will go wrong."

"That's not an issue. After I have proven the Dao, I will break the Absolute Beginning Magic."

"It does not matter. Feng Heng cannot die."

Wang Wei squinted his eyes as countless thoughts rushed through his mind. He remembered some of the history lessons from Earth. After Buddhism arrived on the mainland from India, Taoism reinvented itself and included many concepts of Buddhism into its philosophies.

And Buddhism was also reorganized to be more suited to the time and the ancient culture. Now, something similar was occurring in this world.

Feng Heng's neo-Buddhism was deeply ingrained with Taoist ideologies. Furthermore, he connected their Qi Luck, making his new sect extremely precious. Once it spreads throughout the lower and upper dimensions, it will bring a fatal blow to Taoism.

And as the lynchpin of this new faction, Feng Heng's value was incalculable.

'I would not be surprised if the upper dimension prepared an alternative method for him to prove the Dao and become Emperor.'

This idea was not too far-fetched if he could devise alternate methods to make someone a Great Emperor.

After thinking for a moment, he asked: "How powerful are you and Zhang Yancheng?"

Monk Wuzhi did not answer.

"I know this is a sensitive topic, but I need to gauge your level of strength to determine if I'm getting over my head."

After pondering for a moment, the monk decided to be honest. "I have 7-Leaf Immortal Venerable strength, and Zhang Yucheng has peak 7-Leaf to 8-Leaf."

"7-Leaf? The only way to achieve such strength is through the Nine Extremity Foundation. Did you two fail your foundation establishment process?"

Monk Wuzhi smiled wryly: "There were some complications."

Wang Wei could guess what the complications were: these two's masters intervened in their process of setting up the Nine Extremity Foundation, leading to their failures.

"I have another question," asked Wang Wei with squinted eyes. "How do you know I have a Nine Extremity Foundation?"

"What do you mean?"

"The knowledge about Nine Extremity is scarce in the lower dimension. Yet, you were not surprised when I mentioned the name."

Monk Wuzhi became quiet. Wang Wei did not think the latter thought he was simply knowledgeable.

"Did your master tell you about me?"

"That's correct."

"Does that mean Zhang Yucheng also knows?"

"My master has done her best to hide your information. However, there is a high chance he knows or guessed something. But, I'm not sure."

Wang Wei frowned. His ancestors told him about the upper dimension's seven rulers and two supreme rulers. They also hinted that these two might have transcended the Paragon Realm.

The Sword Empress even hinted that he should not be too reliant on Wu Hong since she cannot protect herself from these two—let alone protect him.

'It seems like I owe Maitreya Buddha more karma than I thought,' thought Wang Wei, relieved for the protection and annoyed at being entangled so soon with all these almighty entities.

"What about Xiao Tiandi? How powerful is he? Did he succeed in the Nine Extremity Foundation?"

"Him? From what I know, he did not even try it."

"Why?"

"I do not know," replied the monk. He only knew it was a great sensation when the Innate Dao Source Physique owner did not try to establish the best foundation for cultivation.

"So, you two are stronger than him?"

"Well, not necessarily," replied the monk with slight embarrassment. "Xiao Tiandi only has 6-Leaf strength. However, he has mastered many secrets techniques that could elevate his power to 9-Leaf and beyond."

"I'm sure you two have similar methods."

"It's not the same," replied the monk. "He has mastered so many of them that it's unnatural. Furthermore, those secret techniques usually have a price to pay. But also mastered other secret techniques that negated the price."

The monk smiled wily, lost in thought. "There is also a high chance he knows a secret technique that can nullify his opponent's secret technique. And If he does not, he can analyze and create one during battle."

"Anyway, we have never beaten him in battle."