

Necropolis 1011

Chapter 1011: Three Thousand Demon Gods

It now appeared that Qiang Liang's decision had been correct.

All of the connate demon gods that'd allied with the humans had ultimately perished; there was no trace of them to be found anywhere in the world. Instead, the ones that Qiang Liang had led into the chaos, the final vestiges of the celestial court's fortunes, had avoided disaster and were still alive.

Though the little fox was quite irritated by his rejection, she didn't take him to task for it. Everyone had the right to make their own decisions, connate demon gods included.

"What are you doing here, Qiang Liang?" She jumped back onto Qing Yu's shoulder and addressed the demon god with visible annoyance. She normally took her usual form of a nine-tailed fox and very rarely maintained her human form.

"Ah..." Qiang Liang looked at Lu Yun and heaved a sigh. "The chaos creatures have come."

"What?!" Lu Yun and Qing Yu looked at each other in alarm. They both thought of what Tianqi was guarding in the chaos. Had the creatures come to claim that treasure?

"The chaos creatures have come?" Hongjun and Fuxi were also taken aback. The chaos creatures had existed for far longer than this realm. If one of their kind could evade the power of a realm and slip inside, they would be able to destroy everything of the known world.

Even though Hongjun was a creator, he was still insufficient to fight against these heavyweights. They were simply too strong, the true overlords of space.

"They've obtained the third connate chaos treasure and the one to do so was the most legendary and terrifying existence among them—the chaos dragon!" Qiang Liang elaborated solemnly.

Expressions froze and struggled to maintain themselves on everyone's faces. Those present were the only ones who knew the truth of the matter, apart from the demon god addressing them. Even though Lu Yun had already used Quietus a few times and even employed it to hack apart a dao palace once, very few people knew of its existence. Anyone who saw it thought it simply to be a powerful connate treasure.

Up until now, very few knew that a third treasure had been born in the chaos.

The chaos dragon that their visitor dreaded was the unusual phenomena and form that Lu Yun took after calling upon the Dragonquake Scripture. After the demon god that'd wanted to take the treasure saw it, word had gotten around the connate demon gods in the chaos.

Failing to take note of the group's expressions, Qiang Liang continued, "If the chaos creatures really force their way inside, their first targets will be us. Therefore, returning to the realm is our only hope for survival."

"Ahem!" Lu Yun coughed softly. He didn't intend on enlightening Qiang Liang about the true nature of things. This demon god had absolutely rivaled Leize back in the day and had surely improved by leaps

and bounds after so many years. There were no weaklings among anyone who could survive in the chaos.

“You’ve endured a difficult life all these years, yet none of you defected to the chaos creatures,” Lu Yun smiled easily. Though his personal cultivation was currently lacking, his status and identity were incontrovertible. Many connate demon gods still turned jittery at the mention of the Flame Emperor.

“The Flame Emperor jests.” Qiang Liang reddened before continuing haltingly, “To be honest, more than half of the demon gods who departed from the realm have sworn allegiance to the chaos creatures. The remaining three thousand refuse to turn traitor because we all owe great debts of gratitude to the celestial emperor.”

Lu Yun rubbed his nose and didn’t have a response.

“Three thousand connate demon gods? Three thousand chaos realm masters wish to return to the world?” Qing Yu frowned, easily speculating what the consequences of this action would be.

Though the world of immortals had improved in spades, its greatest powerhouse was but one or two chaos realm masters. They wouldn’t be able to keep three thousand demon gods in check, so allowing this group to enter the realm... would be injecting a force with the power to rewrite the world.

Although the demon gods possessed enormous battle strength, it was far from promising that they’d decided to return at this crucial moment. Most of them were fiercely proud and unyielding to authority. When they had fallen short against the human race, they’d rather exile themselves to the chaos than bend the knee.

Would they keep to their place when they faced immortals weaker than them?

“Of course, not right now!” Qiang Liang quickly added when he noted Qing Yu’s hesitation. “Forty years later when the World Gates open... that’s when we’ll return to the realm and help the world of immortals defend against the yin spirits.”

He was aware of Qing Yu’s identity—the first person in all of history to grasp the great dao!

Whether it was the primitive great dao or human dao, or the current immortal dao, no living being had ever held it within their hands. Qing Yu was the only one to ever do so. Though she was very weak at present, her potential was enormous and it was only a matter of time before she became a creator.

“That could work...” Qing Yu sat down cross legged and quietly called upon the formula dao. “We can have them enter the Dao Academy and create three thousand more great daos. They’ll be the deans of the three thousand schools!”

Her eyes shot open and she looked at Qiang Liang. “We can start with you. You’ll be the first dean of the three thousand daos!”

Once the demon gods reentered the world, they would become living beings beneath the immortal dao. Since each of them grasped their own great dao, those would be required to assimilate into the immortal dao.

“Ah...” Qiang Liang frowned slightly. They’d entered the chaos in pursuit of freedom and an unwillingness to have anything to do with the humans. Who would’ve thought that interacting with the

humans would be required after the chaos creatures forced them back to the realm? What made things worse was that they had to liaise with the Flame Emperor, the culprit behind destroying their foundations!

“Don’t bother coming back if you aren’t willing to do this. You can wander the chaos or swear loyalty to the chaos creatures. Do whatever you want other than set foot back in the realm again!” said Lu Yun. “There will be those who take care of you if you dare come back.”

Qiang Liang raised an eyebrow, ire setting in. He was a connate demon god of the great wilderness and the leader of three thousand demon gods! He possessed his own dignity and self respect.

“Have you two already become the masters of the world?” his tone took an unfriendly edge.

“Not yet, but just about,” responded the little fox. She looked meaningfully at Qiang Liang. “Three thousand connate demon gods means three thousand chaos realm masters. We can’t take the risk. You said so yourself as well that more than half have turned traitor. Who knows how many spies exist in the remaining three thousand?”

His brow rightly furrowed, Qiang Liang didn’t say anything.

Off to the side, Hongjun and Fuxi abstained from the conversation. Keeping strictly to themselves, none of the proceedings had anything to do with them.

“If we don’t agree to this... who is it that will meet us in battle? Hongjun, or Fuxi?” Qiang Liang suddenly smiled and looked at the two standing apart from the group.

“Daoist Hongjun and Holy Emperor Fuxi safeguard Mount Buzhou. They naturally don’t have time to spare for inconsequential matters like these.” Lu Yun nodded. “Fellow daoists, I let some stragglers survive on that fateful day due to a fleeting thought of mercy. If they dare cause any trouble, I would request that you exterminate this threat for me.”

“But of course,” responded a resonant voice in the air.

“If they dare enter the realm, I will completely eradicate the connate demon god bloodline,” swiftly followed a second voice.

“Pangu! God! You’re still alive!” Qiang Liang jumped with shock.

Chapter 1012: Turn Into Them

In the eyes of all living beings in the great wilderness, Pangu and God were dead. Completely dead.

Thus, the sudden reappearance of their aura on Mount Buzhou scared the wits out of Qiang Liang. These two were the mightiest masters of the great wilderness—they were two creators!

Though Pangu and God had revealed themselves before, that instance had to do with the immortal dao and so everything about it had been obscured. None of the demon gods in the chaos had known what was happening, but neither had they been particularly interested at that time.

Pangu and God’s abrupt materialization stunned Qiang Liang senseless; he didn’t doubt for a single second that these two creators really did exist among the living. As a celestial king of Taiyi’s court, he’d

seen them before and knew these familiar presences to be genuine. When he broke out of his shock, tremors of fear quickly descended instead.

The two creators vanished just as swiftly as they'd appeared, but cold sweat beaded the demon god's forehead after that brief interlude.

"Remember our words. Now get out of here and get out of our sight," harrumphed the little fox as she swept a dismissive glance over Qiang Liang.

"No, no, I agree now!" he hastily protested. "I agree on behalf of the three thousand demon gods in the chaos. We will join the Dao Academy and become the deans of three thousand great daos!"

Lu Yun and Qing Yu looked at each other, then shook their heads in unison.

"That offer was made only once. It is no longer available once you've passed it by," responded Lu Yun. "Go back and don't ever think of returning to the realm. That will never happen unless... unless the immortal dao is broken, the world of immortals is destroyed, and we are all dead. You can do whatever you'd like then."

"The academy doesn't need three thousand new deans, that was just something to keep you in check," continued Qing Yu. "Since you declined the proposal once, you'll refuse the authority of the immortal dao if you truly did join the Dao Academy. In that case, just stay in the chaos and don't think of returning home anymore."

Flabbergasted, Qiang Liang turned around to look at Fuxi and Hongjun.

"Ai," sighed Hongjun. "Qiang Liang, you remember what the Flame Emperor's style was like back in the great wilderness."

His words were the final death knell of devastation. Qiang Liang had no idea how he managed to rise or return to the chaos. A dim emptiness of complete despair was the only thing that remained in his eyes.

"Are you really not planning on accepting those demon gods?" Fuxi frowned slightly. He may not be a connate demon god, but he was the son of one. Although he'd wanted to kill them all in the age of the great wilderness, his burning desire for vengeance had long since been quenched.

"Why would he accept them?" the little fox answered him. "It's just a misunderstanding that they think the chaos creatures have come. They won't really die if they stay in the chaos."

Fuxi chuckled wryly, understanding Lu Yun's intentions.

"Besides, they'll be a good warning bell if they stay in the chaos. When they beg and plead to come home no matter what, that's probably when the chaos creatures have truly come. We'll be able to make preparations beforehand and avoid being caught off guard." Lu Yun continued frowning. Qiang Liang's visit gave rise to many unpleasant possibilities in his mind.

They'd previously encountered the three-eyed man in the form of Fuxi—he could enter the realm as he would. So, too, could the ghost ancestor, and now three thousand connate demon gods had reappeared on the scene.

Chaos creatures were unable to enter the world, but connate demon gods weren't similarly restricted. Who knew how many contingencies they'd left behind in the world of immortals and lower realms?

Lu Yun hadn't planned on accepting them to begin with. Even if Qiang Liang had agreed just now, Lu Yun would've found an excuse to think better of the proposal or raise even more stringent conditions.

He couldn't be sure of how many spies there were among the three thousand. Since it was a matter of everyone's survival, he dared not be less than cautious when making this decision. Not to mention, these demon gods had survived to the present only because he'd once shown them mercy. Though this now appeared to be the correct decision, they still posed too great a threat to the realm's current level of strength.

Lu Yun wouldn't make the same mistake twice.

Everyone had the right to make their own decisions and the connate demon gods had made theirs. At the same time, Lu Yun exercised his right to choose. These connate demon gods were weaker than Pangu and God, so they could only sit quietly in the chaos and be his advance troops.

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"Are you headed into the chaos?" Hongjun smiled at Qing Yu. Though his three disciples had founded the immortal dao, its true founder was Hongjun. He knew that in order for Qing Yu to continue her cultivation progress, she had to enter the chaos and take in its energy.

Now that the immortal dao was Qing Yu's, she wouldn't be able to achieve any further improvement by constantly spinning in place.

"Mhmm." Qing Yu nodded.

"You should indeed take a look out there, it's so much bigger than our realm. Perhaps you'll have some different thoughts of your own when you return," Hongjun replied out of the blue.

Startled, Lu Yun, Qing Yu, and the little fox looked quizzically at him, but he didn't clarify his words.

"Many different perspectives exist among the chaos creatures as well, they're not blindly bent on our destruction. Some of them have also been working toward coexisting with the realms all along," Fuxi mentioned.

"Eh?" Lu Yun started, then nodded.

"Alright, go on then. Remember, though there's no sense of time in the chaos, it exists for you," Fuxi said solemnly. "The thirty-three layers of the world of immortals will settle into place in the ninetyeth year of the Xuanhuang calendar. You must return before then or you'll miss these festivities."

"We will, we understand." Lu Yun affirmed with a solemn nod. It wasn't until now that he suddenly realized that entering the chaos didn't seem as simple as he'd previously thought.

It was currently the fifty-ninth year of the Xuanhuang calendar. They needed to complete everything they needed to do within thirty years, such as greatly improving Qing Yu's cultivation and locating Lu Yun's sixth dao palace. As for the little fox... she was just along for the ride.

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Within the chaos.

They were still within the boundaries of a realm, where the energy of a realm radiated into the chaos. Lu Yun wasn't in a rush to depart as they still had certain things to discuss.

"We need to turn into them if we want to enter their territory," he whispered.

He'd set up a formation here to completely isolate themselves from the outside world. Since they were so close to the edges of the realm, connate demon gods wouldn't normally approach this zone.

"Your Shapeshifting Talisman?" asked Qing Yu.

"We can't, the basis of that talisman is a combat art, which means there will be flaws. The cultivation methods of the chaos creatures are more advanced than ours, so the talisman might not pull the wool over their eyes," answered Lu Yun. "If we want to deceive them, we need to actually become them."

Qing Yu and the little fox waited to see what Lu Yun had in mind.

"I'll teach you my strongest cultivation method, the Dragonquake Scripture!"

Chapter 1013: Purple Light and Purple Qi

When he operated the Dragonquake Scripture, Lu Yun could turn his body into a chaos dragon. It wasn't an outward effect from a combat art, but a true transformation. Although he felt that the Shapeshifting death art could achieve the same result when it reached its ultimate form, he wasn't quite there yet.

Instead of being a combat art, the Dragonquake Scripture was a dao method, the first in the chaos. Even the terrifyingly strong three-eyed man had ardently wanted to lay hands on it—a testament to its great might.

Still within the boundaries of the realm, the three returned to hell. They would reemerge in the same spot without attracting any attention. Operating the Dragonquake Scripture out in the open was the last thing they wanted to do as the ensuing ripples of energy would be too noticeable, and they'd easily attract unwanted attention.

Once they utilized the dao method to become chaos dragons, they wouldn't be able to take their own forms again before returning to their world.

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Within hell.

Utilizing the Tome of Life and Death, Lu Yun forcefully instilled knowledge of the Dragonquake Scripture into Qing Yu and the little fox.

The method was too complex. Even though Qing Yu had previously learned the Dragonsearch Invocation, Dragonshift Method, and Dragonspike Litany, she wasn't able to call upon the Dragonquake Scripture without first fully mastering the other three.

Lu Yun had to shove the method into the minds of the other two through the power of the Tome of Life and Death.

He hadn't taught it to them before entering the chaos because they didn't possess a treasure like the book to conceal its presence. Since the three-eyed man also practiced the Dragonquake Scripture, he would've immediately sensed that they knew it too. But after one transformed into a chaos dragon, the unique presence of the method faded away entirely.

A full five thousand years passed in hell before Qing Yu and the little fox gradually digested the method and took shape as perfect chaos dragons.

Five thousand years!

Both Qing Yu and the little fox were true powerhouses of the realm. Even then, it still took five thousand years and consuming several hundred karmic fruits before they truly grasped the method.

Chaos dragons possessed three heads, three tails, and twelve feet—as if three dragons shared the same body. The three dragons represented the three methods embodied by the Dragonquake Scripture—Dragonsearch, Dragonshift, and Dragonspike.

The nature of the relationship between chaos dragons and the Dragonquake Scripture remained out of Lu Yun's reach. He only knew that this was the form the wielder took when they operated the method to its maximum.

"Are you headed into the chaos?" Violetgrave's voice suddenly sounded out.

Lu Yun jumped in startlement. Since he'd returned to hell, time was frozen in the outside world. Even Hongjun wouldn't be able to enter the netherworld at this time. Yet somehow, here was the incomparably mysterious Violetgrave.

"Yes, I am." He calmed himself and nodded, returning back to human form.

"Not like this though. Chaos creatures also have their true forms, they just very rarely show it to anyone else." Violetgrave looked at the three of them with a half smile.

"They appear to be whatever the beholder is?" Lu Yun blinked.

Violetgrave shook her head. "Observe what I am."

"...human?" Lu Yun responded subconsciously.

"Correct. Chaos creatures also look like humans." She nodded.

"There's humans in the chaos?" The little fox also reverted to her true form and jumped onto Lu Yun's head.

"You've already met her in the fourth realm, haven't you?" Instead of answering the little fox, Violetgrave turned to Lu Yun and Qing Yu.

Taken aback, they both thought of the strange little girl in a red dress. She... did indeed appear in human form. Based on Qing Yu's deductions, the little girl's third realm and the fourth realm that they wanted to explore were both bigger than the chaos.

"I see... but surely there are differences between the humans of our realm and the humans of the chaos?" Lu Yun frowned.

"Operate the Dragonquake Scripture to turn into chaos dragons, then use that as a foundation to transform into humans," Violetgrave chuckled. "Don't make the chaos creatures out to be more complicated than they actually are. They're just the same as you—completely ordinary life forms. They are born, grow old, get sick, and die. They feel emotions as well. You are all the same."

Neither Lu Yun nor Qing Yu noticed that Violetgrave had just used "you".

"To turn into chaos dragons and then into humans... That probably requires complete mastery of the Dragonquake Scripture to do so. We... will probably need to practice it for another hundred thousand years before we can do so," Qing Yu chuckled ruefully.

Although time wasn't an issue for them since they could make use of hell, a hundred thousand years was still a staggering number. It came down upon them with a stifling weight.

"There's no need for that. You can solve all of your problems by refining this." Violetgrave waved a hand and sent three beams of hazy purple light into their bodies.

Suddenly mentally refreshed, the three spontaneously understood all of the true meaning within the Dragonquake Scripture. Astounded, they stared at Violetgrave.

"Well, I'll be off now." With that, she was gone.

"Were those three beams what Tianqi is guarding?!" The little fox stretched out a hand and called out a ball of something that seemed to be both light and qi into her palm.

This was the purple qi that Tianqi had given to the little fox. Upon making no headway after years of study, Qing Yu had returned it to Tushan.

"There's still a bit of a difference... the purple light just now was purer." Qing Yu hummed in contemplation. "We can't let the chaos creatures obtain it no matter what!"

That beam of purple light had been too astounding. A single second had cancelled out a hundred thousand years worth of hard labor! In fact, their understanding of the scripture might not have reached these heights even after that many years of deep study.

Apart from that, the purple light further reinforced their foundations and brought marvelous changes to their body, nascent spirit, and true spirit. Those remained yet undiscovered since their current cultivation realms were insufficient to detect the changes.

Though the purple qi was of a lower grade compared to the purple light, it would absolutely enable the chaos creatures to defy the energy of a realm.

"Let's go pay Tianqi a visit." Lu Yun looked at Quietus in his hand, suddenly feeling that giving this sword to his disciple was the best decision.

With that, the three turned into chaos dragons and then utilized Shapeshifting to turn back into humans. After some thought, the little fox split the purple qi into three and gave a strand to each of them.

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When the three returned to the chaos, the little fox took a moment to sense where the Bell of Chaos was before the three streaked in the treasure's direction.

Chapter 1014: Someone Else

There was no time in the chaos, but living beings had time.

There was no sense of direction in the chaos, but living beings had direction.

Just like the great dao of the realms, heaven and earth itself were objective. There was no such thing as an inherent great dao, just objective laws and rules. But once living beings were born and developed subjective will, the laws and rules gathered together to become the great dao that they knew, supporting the world.

Such was the same in the chaos.

Indistinct and undefined, it slowly incorporated time and direction after living beings set foot in it. However, it was much bigger than a world and thus its own great dao hadn't formed yet.

The chaos irradiated by the energy of a realm and the chaos outside of it were extremely different. A noticeable border existed between the two different zones of existence, within which a cloud of hazy purple qi sparkled. Violent thunder and lightning enveloped the ball, making it appear to be a purple pool of sizzling electricity from the distance.

The shadow of an enormous bell hovered in the void over the pool, clamped down over it.

The Bell of Chaos!

The treasure that the little fox had lent to Tianqi was fully deployed and continuously expanding as it absorbed the energy of the chaos around it. If its current form was transported back to the world of immortals... it probably wouldn't fit into Nephrite Major.

A small figure sat outside the pool—Tianqi. Still presenting as a youth, increased majestic dignity now colored his face. Dressed in a long black robe, he exuded undeniable authority.

Some other figures were also seated within the intersection of the two zones. They'd been halfway through their probe of the area when the Bell of Chaos blasted them back. Since Tianqi now thoroughly eclipsed Leize of old and was infinitely close to the realm of creator, he could deploy the bell to even greater heights than the little fox.

"Master." A sudden notion struck him and he firmly suppressed the urge to turn around.

He could feel three strong chaos creatures approach from behind. These pure creatures of the chaos were stronger than the ones sitting in front of him, not just in terms of strength, but in core essence and status. However, he could still recognize that one of them was his master!

Sharp-witted and quick on the uptake, Tianqi naturally understood Lu Yun's intentions in traveling here under disguise. He would never jeopardize anything by blowing his master's cover.

“Who goes there?!” He jumped out and ignited two pillars of black flame in his eyes. Since Lu Yun had come here, Tianqi had to play along with his master’s act.

In the form of a snow-white little dragon, the little fox curled quietly in Qing Yu’s arms. Qing Yu and Lu Yun walked side by side with a purple haze sparkling around them that seemed to shove the energy of the realm away from their bodies.

Although Tianqi was putting on an act, the chaos creatures sitting across from him were deeply frightened. They could easily identify the presence from these three creatures—chaos dragons!

The sacred race of the chaos creatures!

There were extraordinarily few of their kind and rumor said that they could all be counted on two hands. But three of them had appeared at the same time in this place!

And they seemed to be juvenile chaos dragons.

“How is this possible...? A venerated chaos dragon has just returned to the sacred palace, so how are there three more all of a sudden?” a mighty existence murmured quietly to himself.

The venerated one he spoke of was the three-eyed man who’d mastered the Dragonquake Scripture and turned into a chaos dragon.

However, his mumblings enabled Lu Yun and Qing Yu to clearly discern the language of the chaos creatures. Qing Yu surreptitiously activated formula dao while Lu Yun called upon the Tome of Life and Death. The two began to deduce the full language of the chaos creatures and, in turn, theorize about their civilization.

This was similar to when Lu Yun had seen writings from the ancient divine court in the sword barrow, then used those writings and the power of the Tome of Life and Death to derive the particulars of the ancient court’s civilization.

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“They’re juvenile chaos dragons,” one of the chaos creatures suddenly said. “The chaos dragon bloodline is powerful and every part of their bodies is a treasure. If we eat them...

“The chaos dragons of the sacred palace are brutal and savage. The one who just returned ate countless numbers of our tribe along the way.” Viciousness crept into the unidentifiable chaos creature’s tones. “Kill them and eat them all! We’ll be able to cultivate into advanced life forms then. Though we still may not be able to destroy the realm, we’ll be able to escape the chaos and not be attacked by the energy of a realm!”

Speaking in hushed tones, there were three chaos creatures standing in front of them. Lu Yun couldn’t hear the sounds of their discussion. Even if he could, their language was so complex that unless they injected their words with their consciousness, he still wouldn’t understand what he heard.

He and Qing Yu were still quietly deriving their language.

Tianqi stood up and rang the bell outward, sending ringing peals of power throughout the chaos. It forced the three chaos creatures back a few steps, away from the boundaries of the realm.

“Master, they’re discussing whether or not they should eat you!” Tianqi’s voice transmitted into Lu Yun’s mind. “Be careful, they’re all creators. They have the strength to seize the purple qi, but are unwilling to come close for some reason.”

The pool of purple qi happened to reside precisely where the energy of the realm radiated into the chaos. Half of it was within the confines of the realm, the other half wasn’t. With Tianqi’s current strength, he was no match for a creator and wouldn’t be able to hold out for long in an offensive.

However, the three creators simply remained on the scene, not claiming the purple qi but also not leaving.

“Take this sword.” Lu Yun sent Quietus to his disciple with a swift thought. “There are traitors among the connate demon gods. If the chaos creatures really did want this purple qi, they would’ve obtained it long ago.”

He’d thought that this was the chaos creatures’ most urgent goal, so that they could enter the realm and destroy it. But it now seemed that this wasn’t the case.

There are pitiable few inhabitants of the chaos, and they always ensured an escape plan for themselves.

They still want to use their old methods to destroy our realm... but stay here to keep an eye on the purple qi because they don’t want Tianqi or anyone to take it, Lu Yun mused. Tianqi isn’t a creator and won’t affect their plans in our world much. There should be someone else here!

Chapter 1015: Literally Scared to Death

Lu Yun and Qing Yu both caught wind of something out of the ordinary at the same time.

Perhaps this locale was very important to the chaos creatures, but it wasn’t as important as it came across. The chaos creatures were here not to obtain the purple qi, but to put on an act and entice others to come guard it.

Perhaps both Tianqi and the other unknown existence knew that the chaos creatures wouldn’t take the purple qi, but they weren’t willing to bet on it.

As for the other...

Lu Yun carefully scanned the premises, but saw no sign of anyone else. After giving Quietus to Tianqi with none the wiser, he brushed expressionlessly past Tianqi, seeming to think absolutely nothing of him.

The sword appeared in Tianqi’s nascent spirit without forewarning. Tianqi’s Karmic Tree sapling had taken root in his nascent spirit and was one with it. Or rather, his nascent spirit was now in the shape of the Karmic Tree.

“Thirty years,” Lu Yun’s voice echoed in Tianqi’s mind. “When I return in thirty years, you will return to home with me.”

“Understood!” Tianqi almost trembled from excitement. Though no expression crossed his face, his blood thrummed with emotion.

Lu Yun didn't ask about his disciple's reaction as he didn't want to overly interact with Tianqi. This excursion to the chaos was a risky decision in itself and he couldn't afford to be distracted for a single second.

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Lu Yun didn't continue probing the secrets of the purple qi as this wasn't his ultimate goal. The moment the three left that area, a pristine air current flooded into their bodies through their heads. The sensation was so comfortable that they almost moaned in unison.

Is this also the chaos? Lu Yun frowned slightly and didn't say anything. The environment here was very strange. Though it was as empty as the zone enveloped by the energy of the realm, there were none of the gray chaos currents to be found.

In fact, it rather seemed like the fourth realm that Lu Yun and Qing Yu had once visited, just not as open or spacious. An uncommonly refreshing presence suffused the area, filling the void and omnipresent like it was air.

"This is a chaos current," Qing Yu whispered quietly. "The turbulent currents we're familiar with and this clear one are both chaos currents, just that the clear ones turn hazy when they encounter the energy of a realm."

The gray currents were heavy and muddled, unable to be absorbed by any life form. It was here that the two understood why chaos creatures were unable to survive in the realms. The energy that flowed through their bodies was most likely these clean currents, and these clean currents turned into turgid gray currents upon encountering a world's energy.

Lu Yun and Qing Yu couldn't determine what would happen to the chaos creatures after they were exposed to the energy of the realms. The only experience they had to go off of was when Lu Yun split open the first dao palace and seen the chaos creatures flayed alive.

Qing Yu's pores opened to their fullest amid the current and she dedicated her attention to absorbing it. Her nascent spirit and cultivation began to grow rapidly under this nourishment.

Humm—

An enormous palm suddenly appeared in the void and smashed down on Lu Yun's three heads. The clear currents in the area were swiftly dispersed, replaced by a stifling sensation that locked the three in place.

"It's those creators!" Wrath built in Lu Yun's heart. How dare they actually make a move against him!

However, he heaved a sigh of relief as well. That these three creators had been assigned to this locale meant they were important among their kind. Chaos dragons were a sacred race of the chaos creatures, but these creators still dared attack a noble sacred race! It would seem that the chaos creatures weren't all firmly united either.

Boom!

Space shook violently when the palm landed and an enormous stone bridge broke through the void, crushing the three creators to dust with tremendous force.

The three creators didn't even know how they'd died. Everything had happened so suddenly.

The stone bridge vanished just as swiftly as it'd appeared, gone within a thousandth second of an eye blink.

"Let's go." Lu Yun took Qing Yu's hand and vanished into the void.

In an even deeper part of the chaos, five figures slowly materialized from the depths.

"Those three idiots dared think about attacking the sacred clan! They well deserve their deaths!" a girl with inky-green hair slowly breathed out in relief. She looked very similar to a human, but her eyes and skin were green and she wore a long inky-green robe. From a distance, she rather resembled a green shadow.

"How would young masters and ladies of a sacred race not have any defensive treasures with them on a jaunt to the outside? And those three mere creators wanted to harm them!" This speaker was another young girl, but she was cerulean blue from head to toe—blue hair, clothes, eyes, and skin.

The other three were likewise three young girls in similar garb. One was a fiery red, another golden in color, and the last was yellowish-brown. The power of the five elements flowed through their bodies, an indicator that they cultivated the five elements.

"But why has the sacred clan come to this polluted area? Though they have the purple qi protecting them, that polluted patch..." The five girls looked disdainfully at where the energy of the realm affected the chaos.

"We should go before we run into those disgusting chaos beasts again. The sacred clan is eccentric, how would we minor characters possibly guess what they're thinking?" The five faded into the void as they spoke.

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"That's a chaos beast?!" Lu Yun, Qing Yu, and the little fox heard loud hisses when they took a few steps out.

An enormous nine-headed snake was ahead of them and attacking something in the void. Its strength and presence were identical to the chaos beasts that Lu Yun had seen in the dao palaces. This one was peak grand pure realm and its body was several tens of thousands of kilometers long. Nine mouths upon its nine heads opened in unison and spewed forth terrifying light pillars to attack a floating continent.

The continent wasn't all that big, more than a hundred times smaller than the snake in fact, but Lu Yun saw life on it—human life.

These were ordinary humans. Apart from a very select few, most were completely mundane with no hint of cultivation.

"I want to eat snake stew. Go take out that nine-headed snake." Lu Yun fished out the little fox from Qing Yu's embrace and flung her at the snake.

“Why is it always me?” grumbled the little fox. She was about to bring out the Scroll of Shepherding Immortals, but quickly stopped in her tracks. “I can’t use a treasure of the immortal dao here... There’s combat arts of the chaos dragons in the Dragonquake Scripture? Alright then.

“Awoo!” She took the form of a chaos dragon and let rip with a long croon.

That domineering nine-headed snake stiffened all over when it heard the croon. All nine of its heads drooped at the same time as it’d been... literally scared to death.

Chapter 1016: Reappearance

“Huh??” The little fox was stunned herself.

She’d only cleared her throat and hadn’t even had the chance to deploy a real chaos dragon combat art before the snake had... keeled over from fright.

Lu Yun and Qing Yu looked upon the scene with spasming expressions as well.

“Chaos beasts are probably the lowliest beings in the chaos. Right now we’re... hmm, kings of the chaos creatures. That’s why you scared it to death with a quick cough.” Lu Yun laughed when he saw the little fox’s expression.

Tushan was empyrean realm and thus far stronger than the nine-headed snake. The snake had been unable to withstand the little fox’s holy croon, and thus was terrified right out of the world of the living.

The little fox quirked her lips and slowly changed her form into a charming seventeen year old young lady.

“Why have you taken human form?” Lu Yun and Qing Yu blinked.

“Because I want to, what can you guys do about it?” she harrumphed and habitually wanted to burrow back into Qing Yu’s embrace. However, her current form was inconvenient to do so, a realization that drew a swift blush to her face.

“I’m a, I’m the dean of a great dao, aren’t I? I can’t be a fur ball day in and day out,” she said weakly.

Qing Yu smiled without a word while Lu Yun coughed dryly. “Alright, let’s take a look at that continent. We still don’t know anything about this second realm.”

In the world of immortals, they called this place the chaos. But in the fourth realm, Qing Yu had deduced the structure of the four realms, so Lu Yun referred to this place as the second realm.

The world of immortals was the first, the chaos the second, and where the little girl in a red dress was the third.

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A continent roughly a thousand kilometers across floated in the void. The humans on it fell to their knees when they saw the three and called out loudly in a foreign language, but Lu Yun and Qing Yu could understand them.

“Shall we go take a closer look?” The little fox used the language of the chaos creatures.

“No need.” Lu Yun shook his head.

Staring at the humans on the continent, Qing Yu activated her formula dao to gain a better understanding of the second realm through the inhabitants of this continent.

“Let’s go.” She paled and frowned in consternation.

Lu Yun and the little fox didn’t understand her reaction, but they departed without another word. The little fox made sure to retrieve the snake carcass on the way out. After all, Lu Yun had mentioned snake stew.

“What is it?” Lu Yun asked when they were far away from the continent.

“It was a trap!” Qing Yu heaved a long sigh of relief. “The nine-headed snake was the puppet and that continent the true threat.”

She turned and looked back where they’d come from, her heart still racing. “That was a chaos realm chaos beast. We would’ve been eaten if we’d set foot on the continent.

“The chaos beasts in the chaos are stronger than the ones in the palaces!”

The chaos beasts in the dao palaces were domesticated beings born in the zone irradiated by the energy of the realm. The ones in the chaos were full of feral savagery and much stronger because they could partake in the clean currents here.

Though the little fox’s dragon howl had scared the nine-headed snake to death, it hadn’t elicited an answering response from the unknown chaos beast. It was waiting to eat them so it could become a creator.

Thankfully, it was subject to its own natural limitations. It wouldn’t be able to move before it became a creator, so it had to pose as a continent and wait for its prey to approach.

There were numerous existences like it in the second realm.

This was a place far more dangerous than the border of the chaos. A single moment of inattention could cause one to become food for others.

Though Lu Yun had destroyed three creators with the Bridge of Forgetfulness, there were many entities in this realm that wouldn’t even give him time to summon the bridge. The group wouldn’t even know they’d died. That unknown chaos beast had been but one small glimpse.

The humans residing upon the chaos beast were as if parasites. They couldn’t leave after latching onto the beast. Thus, generation upon generation had to remain as bait.

“We don’t need to understand everything about this place. We’ll just do whatever needs to be done. We’re not trying to settle down here, we’re just here to rob the place!” Qing Yu suddenly declared venomously.

The little fox nodded solemnly and turned to Lu Yun. “When do we eat snake stew?”

Lu Yun:

Qing Yu:

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There was no issue with Qing Yu and the little fox remaining here. Not only could Qing Yu cultivate here, but so could the little fox.

Going by the clock of the world of immortals, Qing Yu ascended from High Immortal of the Great Firmament to Golden Immortal of Grand Unity in only a few days, while the little fox took one step closer to the chaos realm.

At the same time, Lu Yun and Qing Yu bent their efforts to calculating the whereabouts of the sixth dao palace. Since they were in the chaos, they could use formula dao to calculate everything about the realm.

"It's too far." Fine beads of sweat dotted Qing Yu's forehead and she looked at Lu Yun hopelessly. "Even if we push ourselves to the limit, it'll take thirty years of travel before we reach that location!"

She'd determined where the sixth dao palace was and that they'd be able to reach it in a short period of time if they were creators. But for now, even the strongest among them—the little fox—didn't possess the ability to travel there quickly.

"No worries, focus on cultivating first." Lu Yun opened his eyes with a smile. "With the Bridge of Forgetfulness, we don't need to fear not being able to get there."

"The Bridge of Forgetfulness..." Qing Yu nodded gently when she thought of the bridge. She wasn't actually willing to use it much since it was an item of the human dao hell. The experts among the chaos creatures would certainly recognize it.

Though the bridge's strength had reached unfathomable heights, it couldn't be certain that there weren't any similar existences among the chaos. The three of them were also mere ants scrabbling for existence in the dirt.

"Cultivate for twenty years first, I only need ten," continued Lu Yun. However, a pair of purple eyes opened in the void as soon as he finished his words. Two beams of hazy light lit up the premises as if they were twin pillars of purple flames.

"It's you!" Lu Yun shot to his feet and peered at the eyes. He'd seen them in Pangu's tomb before, guarding the truth of Pangu's death.

"Are you the being who made the first transaction with Violetgrave and obtained netherfire?" Lu Yun asked the eyes.

"I am," admitted the owner of the eyes. It'd been him who'd utterly destroyed the human dao hell.

Chapter 1017: Ladder

"What are you doing here?" Lu Yun was in close communication with the Bridge of Forgetfulness and it would materialize as soon as the newcomer made a move.

While the eyes didn't seem to be poised for action, Lu Yun could deeply sense just how terrifying the entity was. It was unquestionably stronger than a creator!

"I'm... just here to take a look." Only two eyes hovered in the void, its owner didn't materialize with them. They looked down quietly upon Lu Yun, Qing Yu, and the little fox.

Lu Yun frowned and didn't say anything to that.

"Are you also a fox?" The little fox suddenly lifted her head and looked at the eyes. "I smell the scent of my kind from your presence. But a purple fox? We don't seem to have any purple foxes among our kind."

Pausing, the eyes faded away and vanished without a trace.

"What, why'd he leave?" The little fox looked around blankly in the void.

"Have you deduced anything?" Lu Yun looked at Qing Yu.

"He somehow has something to do with you... but he's too strong, so I couldn't figure out anything else. He shouldn't mean us any harm," Qing Yu concluded after a bit of thought.

"What's this?" The little fox bounded over to where the eyes had appeared and picked up something in the void. It was a ladder the size of a palm, one that shimmered gently of purple light.

"A ladder?" Still confused, the little fox looked at Lu Yun.

"It's an ultimate treasure of the chaos creatures!" Qing Yu's eyes lit up when she saw the ladder. "This ladder can travel through space! We don't have to waste time here anymore, we can immediately head to the sixth dao palace!"

She swiftly identified the tiny ladder when she saw it—a tremendous treasure of space. It was stronger than Mount Vastspace, though the mountain was a treasure of the human dao and thus fundamentally different from this ladder.

"Why is he helping us? A fox of the chaos?" The little fox didn't understand what was going on.

"He's always been helping us," Lu Yun said. "He saved me from certain disaster once in Pangu's tomb underneath Mount Buzhou, and he was the one to break apart hell at the end of human dao. Human dao wouldn't have ended if its hell hadn't fallen, and thus immortal dao would've never risen accordingly."

The relationship between human and primitive great dao was one of succession and evolution, but the one between immortal and human dao was one of ruin and opposition.

"Violetgrave... should be on our side. He was the first one to transact with her, which makes him a force on our side too." Lu Yun thought for a moment and summoned the ladder with a gentle beckon of his hand.

When it answered, he was astounded to find that the ladder automatically recognized him as its master.

"What the?" It was his turn to be perplexed. "This treasure accepts me as its master? Do all treasures of the chaos have their own sentience like this?"

When he'd obtained Quietus, it too had automatically acknowledged Lu Yun to be its owner, but not to this degree. With the sword, he could only use his own strength as the foundation upon which to deploy Quietus. But with the ladder, he could call upon its entire strength with a quick shift of his mind and deploy its greatest capabilities. He wouldn't even have to exhaust too much of his own strength.

This was his ultimate ace for self defense!

"Er... that can't be normal, right?" Qing Yu was taken aback as well. This purple ladder seemed to be an ultimate treasure that was much more powerful than a normal connate treasure. It was almost on par with the Bell of Chaos! Would such a treasure so easily recognize a new owner? "Did that person do it? You were able to have Quietus answer to Tianqi too, right?"

Lu Yun inclined his head, but something still felt off. He and Tianqi were master and disciple, two from the same line of succession. Tianqi practiced Lu Yun's Method of Life and Death and also possessed a Karmic Tree sapling. This was how he'd manage to have Quietus fully accept Tianqi.

But what was his relationship to that weird guy with the purple eyes? A fellow victim of once transacting with Violetgrave?

"You and the little fox should go," Qing Yu suddenly said. "I'm just a Golden Immortal of Grand Unity and can't help much. I'll actually make things more difficult for you instead." She operated formula dao a bit more. "My best course of action is to stay here and wait for your return. The only thing I should do now is cultivate quietly in peace. The little fox and your opportunity lies on the other side of the chaos."

Lu Yun opened his mouth, then shut it. He didn't want to leave her here, but he knew to follow the results of her deduction. If she followed them to the other side, she would probably be met with grave disaster.

"Alright, you must be careful here by yourself." He thought for a moment and opened his hand, materializing a palm-sized Bridge of Forgetfulness next to Qing Yu. He bared his teeth at the bridge. "You will protect your mistress well. I'll reduce you to rubble if anything happens to her!!"

Shaking with terror, the bridge couldn't find any words to respond with.

"You..." Lu Yun cut off Qing Yu before she could refuse.

"It's alright. I subdued this bridge, so if I really meet with any danger I can't handle, I'll use all of my trump cards."

Qing Yu finally relaxed when she heard this.

In the fourth realm, Lu Yun had deployed the Size Manipulation death art to its utmost so he could spontaneously ignite hellfire through his body. The Tome of Life and Death had become his nascent spirit, and he'd become so incomparably strong in the fourth realm that he could easily subdue the Bridge of Forgetfulness.

What Qing Yu didn't know was that if Lu Yun did the same in the chaos, he'd burst right out of it!

The chaos accepted the Bridge of Forgetfulness, but a Lu Yun in that state would be outside the limits of its tolerance. Qing Yu wasn't able to calculate this, and neither was Lu Yun about to tell his beloved.

With some thought, the little fox transformed back into a snow-white fox and jumped onto Lu Yun's head.

"What, you don't want to bask in the dignity of the dean of monster spirit dao?" Lu Yun rolled his eyes at his new head ornament.

"I'm observing propriety!" The little fox shook her head. "With Little Yu away from your side, what if you're entranced by my beauty and engage in unseemly behavior?"

Qing Yu burst out in laughter while Lu Yun's face spasmed with annoyance.

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Lu Yun left very much at ease once the Bridge of Forgetfulness protected Qing Yu. She was right, what she needed was quiet cultivation and continuing to increase her strength through seclusion. She might be a great emperor by the time they returned!

The purple ladder stretched across two parts of the void. Though there was no concept of space within the chaos, the enormous ripples of space energy upon this treasure forced the concept onto the chaos.

The little fox and Lu Yun took the ladder to a brand new area, one that seemed much more like a real world compared to the chaos they'd been in before.

Chapter 1018: With Body as Dao Fruit

Lu Yun turned around; he could still see Qing Yu smiling at him from the other side of the ladder. Waving gently at her, he retracted the ladder with reluctance. With the Bridge of Forgetfulness next to her, he'd be able to flash back to her side in an instant if he called upon the Tome of Life and Death.

The void in front of them wasn't a world—it was still empty space. Countless pristine currents floated and drifted through the void, coalescing into marvelous existences.

However, out of all the places they'd visited, this seemed more like a world of life than any other. Verdant plants rooted in empty space, forming a scene of lush vitality. This wasn't where the sixth dao palace was, but an outskirt where chaos creatures gathered.

However, the pure currents here were hundreds and thousands of times more concentrated with energy than anywhere else. Both Lu Yun and the little fox felt great comfort flood their limbs.

"Little fox, would you say that I have to refine a dao fruit?" Lu Yun suddenly asked his companion.

"Eh? Have to refine a dao fruit?" The little fox blinked. "I don't have a dao fruit either." She paused, "I reincarnated beneath the immortal dao and rewalked the path of cultivation, but I really did skip over refining a dao fruit."

"So why do I need one then?" Lu Yun sighed. "Perhaps my path was incorrect to begin with. Maybe someone purposefully put the six dao palaces in front of me so that I would fight for them, seize them, and refine them. Perhaps they planted the sixth one here on purpose to lure me into the chaos."

The little fox blinked and remained quiet.

Lu Yun had thought through a lot of things after entering the chaos, including musing over the six dao palaces. He seemed to have gained five of them through arduous and hard fought difficulty, but he hadn't actually run into that many obstacles in reality. He'd acted whenever his impulses called for it and come back fruitful.

In fact, everything had been too smooth.

The last palace had been moved into the chaos, ensuring that he'd have to venture deep into enemy territory for it. He'd then presumably obtain it without trouble, naturally refining the six greatest laws of order in the chaos as his dao fruit for his final course of action.

But this abnormal smooth sailing was now growing into his biggest mental hurdle. Inexplicable worry beset his mind and he suddenly felt like he was a pawn, taking his steps in accordance with someone else's plan.

That sense of alarm only grew stronger after that unknown existence delivered the purple ladder.

He was also skilled in formula dao, which was why he'd picked up a hint of something out of the ordinary. His understanding of formula dao was different from Qing Yu's.

Her usage derived the complete cause and effect of something, overseeing the situation from an omnipresent view and scanning everything in its entirety.

His grasp melded himself into what he was deriving and made its inferences from the intricacies of the situation.

There was no right or wrong about their methods, just a different emphasis. Qing Yu saw things with greater foresight, but he saw them in greater detail. However, since the matter at hand had to do with himself, he could only pick up a hint that something was wrong, but none of the precise details.

Lu Yun was no fool. He could very well benefit someone else with all of his hard work if he continued on this current track. Everything about him would become someone else's. This was why he'd wanted Qing Yu to stay on the other side and not come with them.

"So what are your plans?" whispered the little fox.

"I don't know." Lu Yun fell silent. "I don't know how much they know about me or what about my trump cards that they know. If they already know everything about me, I really won't know what to do next."

"I don't think they know about your real trump cards," mused the little fox. "Violetgrave! The only thing they know about you is human dao hell and Violetgrave! Think about it, the three-eyed man was also afraid of Violetgrave."

Lu Yun still didn't know what exactly the Tome of Life and Death was or what level treasure it was. But when it turned into his nascent spirit, he could bring the Bridge of Forgetfulness to heel. The bridge was an advanced life form in the fourth realm! Therefore... it seemed logical to say that the creatures of the second realm wouldn't be able to probe its existence.

"Let's skip the sixth dao palace for now. Let's cultivate and you can give me pointers on how I can progress without refining a dao fruit. You should also try becoming a creator within thirty years. If you can, then it won't matter if I break through or not," Lu Yun proposed.

“Alright!” the little fox nodded. “When I reincarnated in the world of immortals, though I’d lost my sense of self and my memories of the great wilderness, I still knew that the Dao Tree was a massive trap. That was why I didn’t go pluck my dao fruits, but used another method... Well, I can’t say that I didn’t refine a dao fruit, just that I substituted it with something else.”

Lu Yun listened silently without interrupting her.

“With body as dao fruit!” the little fox said. “When God, Ah Zhi, Fuxi, and I were lost in the wheel of reincarnation, the subtle ties of destiny still connected us as the four celestial masters of the primordial immortal court. All of us used our own bodies as our dao fruits and refined it accordingly.

“No matter what cultivation method or great dao you train, it all stems from your own being. Your own body is the container, and you yourself is the source of everything,” the little fox said solemnly. “Us four utilized our own bodies as our dao fruits, so while I recovered my original empyrean realm under the primitive great dao when we went back to the great wilderness, I was still a being under the immortal dao. That’s how I became an anomaly, and now I’ll teach you how to do the same.”

She took human form as she spoke and tapped between Lu Yun’s brows, imparting her cultivation method to him.

His forehead relaxed and he sank into deep thought, opening his eyes after a very long time. “I’m sure the chaos creatures are aware that I’ve come though, so we need a change of plans.”

He tapped at empty air and sent thirty-six golden soybeans sparkling through space. They transformed into thirty-six youths that looked just like him.

Gritting his teeth, he used the Tome of Life and Death to sever the connection between him and the purple ladder, splitting it into thirty-six copies and sending it into his clones.

His mastery over the death arts had reached astounding heights, so he was able to bestow the Dragonquake Scripture onto each of the thirty-six golden warriors. They took shape as chaos dragons and then transformed back into humans.

Armed with the purple ladder, there was no telling who was the real copy among them. Lu Yun was betting that the chaos creatures didn’t know about the Tome of Life and Death, so that treasure was the only one he could rely on now.

Chapter 1019: Chaos Tribulation

The Tome of Life and Death was a marvelous treasure that, in the very beginning, Lu Yun didn’t even wield a hundred millionth of its capabilities.

It was only after the book transformed into his nascent spirit that Lu Yun’s understanding of the treasure took a step forward. This was how he was able to use it to separate the ladder—a treasure that rivaled the Bell of Chaos—into thirty-six copies and dissemble them among his thirty-six clones.

The thirty-six golden armored warriors perfectly imitated his form, presence, and life ripples. Clones created by the Tome of Life and Death, they all vanished in the next second, entering the world of the chaos creatures through different directions.

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“Honestly, you just needed to make one additional you.” The little fox stared wordlessly at where the thirty-six Lu Yun’s had stood.

“I wouldn’t need to make so many clones if I could also replicate you. But I don’t have the ability to perfectly copy you at the moment, so I can only use this to confuse them.” Lu Yun didn’t know whether the giver of the ladder was friend or foe, but he was certain that the entity could sense the ladder’s existence. However, he likely didn’t know that Lu Yun could undo the ladder accepting him as its owner.

The little fox blushed with embarrassment when she heard this. She’d become a burden once again. In fact, all she was good for right now was to drag Lu Yun down.

“Don’t think too much.” Lu Yun reached out to tousle the little fox’s head, but awkwardly retracted his hand when he realized she was in human shape. “All you need to do is to focus on cultivating and try to break through to creator realm. If you can do that in a short period of time, you’d be able to safeguard the world of immortals when we return, to say nothing of being able to hold your own in the chaos.”

Creators were called thus because they could create something out of nothing and craft all life itself. They were stunning personages even within the chaos.

Tushan had experienced reincarnation, traveled through space and time, and been enlightened by Hongjun. All of this convinced Lu Yun that Fuxi and the others had made the little fox part of their plans—what with how much care and effort they’d poured into her. She absolutely had the potential to become a creator during their journey to the chaos.

The little fox nodded placidly.

The pristine currents here were much purer and higher quality than the immortal qi in the world of immortals. Though there was no immortal dao or great daos here, their absence also meant limitless possibility.

Weaker life forms required the guidance of a great dao to walk the immortal dao, but true experts needed to break free of that mold and detach themselves from the immortal dao. One had to at least reach the creator realm first for this to happen.

Though Lu Yun and the little fox weren’t creators, they were also no ordinary life forms. They absolutely had the right to cultivate in the second realm.

The two of them approached an enormous tree, drilled a hole in its trunk, and made themselves at home. It was an ordinary tree with no ripples of thought or tangible strength to it, just ordinary flora like the most mundane plant in the world of immortals.

However, it was so mammoth that its crown spanned several hundred thousand kilometers. It was bigger than Dusk Province! But here, it was only a regular tree in the chaos.

“Little Yu can cultivate here as well.” The little fox swallowed hard as she looked at a pot of snake stew bubbling over a campfire.

“The disturbance from Little Yu breaking through will be too great. She’ll attract a lot of hostile attention if she comes and might even die here,” Lu Yun sighed. “She’s the dao sovereign of the immortal dao and can’t hide the presence of immortal dao on her even when she’s a chaos dragon. It’s fine enough when

she stays on the outskirts, but if she comes to a place where chaos creatures live... the risk of her exposing herself is too high."

Though Qing Yu's formula dao couldn't forecast her own future, she could overlook the entire situation and see the warnings ahead.

"I want to learn formula dao too." The little fox brought out a jade bowl and served herself a bowl of snake stew.

"Don't you already know it?" Lu Yun grinned. The little fox had learned everything there was to learn about formula dao, but her mastery of it paled far in comparison to Lu Yun and Qing Yu's.

As the rankings currently stood, Qing Yu was first beneath the heavens when it came to formula dao, second was Lu Yun, and third was Meng Wang.

Though the former immortal emperor was still in a Hell Flower and yet to fully reform his true spirit, his thoughts and consciousness were complete. Since he had nothing else better to spend his days on, he turned his thoughts to cultivating formula dao and deriving the future of the multiverse.

Meng Wang was the resident sage of the Dao Academy, whereas the little fox's grasp of formula dao stopped at deriving and breaking cultivation methods and combat arts. She couldn't speculate on destiny or the future.

"Eh?!" the little fox yelped. "Not good!"

"What...?" Before Lu Yun could react, the little fox suddenly sprang into her true form as a chaos dragon and howled a piercing dragon croon.

Boom!

The enormous tree split open as the little fox grew explosively, transforming into a crystalline chaos dragon three hundred meters long. Her presence expanded rapidly as she spontaneously reached chaos realm from empyrean realm.

After reaching chaos realm, the cultivation ranks between beings of the realms and the chaos were the same. Prior to that, the empyrean and great emperors realms of the worlds were different to that of the chaos creatures.

However, the little fox's sudden breakthrough caught Lu Yun off guard. The disturbance was too great, chaos realm was a local titan among the chaos creatures!

Indeed, countless domineering consciousnesses swept the void when she broke through.

"Sacred tribe, chaos dragon!" a ponderous thought tinged with fear rose in space. "Why would chaos dragons come to such a bleak and forsaken place like this?!"

The one breaking through was just a juvenile dragon and hence nothing in the speaker's eyes, but that a juvenile dragon dared break through here meant that there were plenty of chaos dragon experts hiding in the environment, protecting it!

Chaos dragons were by nature ruthless and violent, the most bloodthirsty race among the sacred clan. When their ire was roused, they left not a single blade of grass unturned within a hundred million radius. Everything was destroyed and exterminated.

Hence, all of the chaos creatures here only wished for the juvenile chaos dragon to hurry up and weather its tribulation so it would leave.

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Chaos creatures needed to endure a tribulation when they broke through to chaos realm—specifically the chaos tribulation, the likes of which had once appeared in Witherdew Major. Black tribulation clouds swiftly gathered in the area when the little fox broke through and black lightning howled through the heavy clouds.

The little fox blinked with confusion, taken aback. She hadn't endured any tribulations when she'd broken through to chaos realm the very first time.

Chapter 1020: Playing the Tiger to Scare the Wolf

Though the little fox was flustered, she wasn't a rookie fresh behind the ears.

Having cultivated five thousand years in hell, she was well versed in controlling the chaos dragon body. When the tribulation descended, she swept her tails forward and combined the crystalline lower bodies as one, flinging a great combat art upward and shattering the black lightning.

She then lifted three dragon heads and howled in challenge back at the clouds. Stark-white ripples reverberated through the void and crushed the rest of the lightning before it had time to descend.

In the breathing space she created, the little fox gathered herself and barrelled straight into the heavy bank of tribulation clouds.

Everyone that'd gathered for the show was shocked out of their wits. They all knew about the terrors of a chaos tribulation; it was the threshold that ordinary beings crossed over to become noble and lofty chaos realm masters. A free and unfettered existence awaited one who made the leap. They would never be confined to a tiny part of reality, but those who failed to step over would be blown away as ashes upon the wind.

This was essentially the same as the heavenly tribulations of the world of immortals. However, no one had ever seen an immortal hurtle straight into the tribulation clouds. This was blatantly courting death!

"The sacred clan is indeed something outside of our comprehension..." Several figures had surreptitiously appeared in the area to observe the proceedings. They were all in human form and had reached chaos realm. Every single one of their pores constantly drank in the pristine currents flowing through the locality.

At present, they looked upon the little fox with deep veneration. It was the uncontrollable reaction from a being when they gazed upon a higher life form.

"Look, there's someone over there." An elder pointed at the ruined big tree. A figure in blue stood there, quietly gazing upon the chaos dragon undergoing her tribulation.

“That’s a... mortal being?” The chaos creatures were dumbfounded by what they found.

In the eyes of the chaos creatures, all life forms that had yet to reach chaos realm were mortal beings. They were the lowest on the totem pole in the chaos and didn’t even have the right to live.

Where that mortal being stood was within the zone encompassed by the chaos tribulation. Even chaos realm masters didn’t dare wander within range, to say nothing of mortal beings! So how was that one maintaining perfect composure in the face of this dreadful trial??

“Dammit, that’s no mortal being! That’s a great master who we can’t see through, one that’s ascended beyond creator realm!” A young man with black hair shuddered and pulled his companions away.

Color drained from the faces of the other three beside him. Of course there would be experts from the chaos dragons watching over one of their young endure a chaos tribulation! That person playing the pig to eat the tiger was plainly the guardian in charge of this excursion!

Chaos dragon experts were the ultimate sovereigns of the realm. They were capricious and eccentric. Perhaps the young chaos dragon would celebrate her successful tribulation by razing this area to the ground afterward!

“What should we do?” The elder in gray robes was so terrified that he was almost transparent. He couldn’t hide the colossal fear bubbling up from the depths of his heart. Suddenly, he shrieked and fell to his knees in the void. The young man in blue had turned around and was looking at them!

When the other three noticed Lu Yun’s movement, they quickly revealed themselves and knelt on the ground as well, not daring to look at him.

“What are they doing?” a flabbergasted Lu Yun murmured to himself. He’d noticed some faint ripples from that corner of space and subconsciously glanced in that direction. He was more surprised than anyone to see four chaos creatures fall out of the void!

However, some quick thought pieced together the puzzle for him. He retracted his gaze and refrained from looking at them further.

“It looks like chaos dragons wield more authority in the chaos than I thought.” The corners of his lips curved upward.

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“Look at his vicious gaze! He’s going to kill us all after that young chaos dragon passes its tribulation!” the only girl among the four mumbled hopelessly.

“Shut up!” A young man in black yanked the hem of her shirt. Knowing that she’d made a misstep, the girl quickly shut her mouth.

The four of them lifted their heads at the same time to sneak a glance at Lu Yun, but they happened to meet his gaze instead.

Thump!

Foreheads slamming back onto the ground, they splayed their hands forward in utter surrender, not daring to whisper anything else or sneak further glances at the mighty one.

“Seriously? Isn’t this too much?” Lu Yun’s jaw dropped. “You four, come here.”

“Under... understood!” The four chaos realm masters scrambled up from their positions when they heard Lu Yun’s words and cautiously approached him, but hesitated again when they came close to the edge of the chaos tribulation.

If they dared set a single foot inside, they would die all the same.

Lu Yun finally understood the source of their misunderstanding. He was standing beneath the chaos tribulation, but wasn’t being attacked by it. They couldn’t sense any ripples of energy from him, so they mistook him to be an incredibly strong chaos dragon.

In reality, he could stand beneath the chaos tribulation firstly because he was too weak. He wasn’t even a dao immortal yet, so the tribulation completely passed him over. Secondly, the Tome of Life and Death concealed the ripples of his cultivation so that the tribulation wouldn’t attack him. But he naturally wouldn’t enlighten them about the true facts of the situation, so he casually sauntered out of the tribulation’s zone of effect.

There were three young masters and one elderly master before him, one female and three male. They maintained human form, but they weren’t the strongest to be found within the chaos. They were similar to Huashe who he’d killed in the great wilderness, which placed them on a mediocre level of strength.

“Out with it, what are you four doing here? Scheming against my younger sister, huh?” Lu Yun raked them with a frosty glare that seemed to physically scour their bodies.

“No, never!” The four fell to the ground again. “These humble ones would never dare think about harming the sacred clan, even with all the courage in the realm!”

“The three creators I destroyed earlier didn’t sing the same tune as you,” Lu Yun’s voice grew even more unfriendly.

“Mercy, mercy!” Kowtowing for dear life, the four didn’t know what else they could say other than to beg for mercy.

Three creators he’d killed earlier?

There’d been news in the frontier earlier that someone of the sacred clan had killed the three creators guarding the zone of pollution. Who would’ve thought that that sacred clan member would come here after that?

“Get up. I will overlook this matter if you deliver two chaos beasts to me,” Lu Yun said solemnly. “My sister weathers her tribulation today and formally enters the chaos realm. I do not wish to spill blood.”

“Eh?” The four thought they’d heard wrongly and lifted their heads to stare blankly at Lu Yun.

“Well? Go!” he shouted.

“Yes, understood!” Crashing into each other’s way, the four sped out of the area on their hands and knees.

“Other people play the pig to eat the tiger, but I’m playing the tiger to scare off the wolf?” Lu Yun shrugged. “If those four know that I’m just a pathetic peerless immortal, their first thought would probably be to make dinner out of me.”