

Necropolis 1681

Chapter 1681: Sun, Moon, and Star

The Sun Sovereign King looked blankly at Lu Yun. Nodding, the young man looked resolutely back at him.

“You should have more faith in yourself, you are the Sun Sovereign King. You won’t die that easily!”

Sun Sovereign King:

He didn’t say anything in response, but he knew full well that he’d died just now. His soul had scattered and his true spirit crumbled. There’d been only an empty shell left of him; he’d really died in a far more thorough manner than the Quiet Sovereign King.

And now, he was alive again.

Everything had happened in a split second. Even Jian Bu’er didn’t detect anything out of the ordinary, to say nothing of the beings surrounding Mount Astronomia. The Sun Sovereign King’s presence had recovered the moment it declined. Only he knew the truth of what had taken place.

“...that healing talisman is remarkable! My injuries were incredibly severe, but it instantly returned me to perfect health!” The Sun Sovereign King stood up with a stream of praises as the sun over his head flared with brilliance once more, illuminating the entire mountain.

Naturally, he did this on purpose. If anyone found out that Lu Yun had the ability to resurrect the dead, then the insurmountable heavyweights hidden in the fourth realm and old monsters alive for countless eons would stir to wakefulness and come for the young man.

“But of course. A talisman from the original emperor naturally defies the heavens,” Lu Yun chuckled.

“Gimme one of those if they’re that useful!” Jian Bu’er suddenly yelled. “Holy shit, there’s a big one here! It’s at least a fifteenth level sequence expert. Come on come on, gimme one of the talismans or I’m doomed!”

He wanted to cry, but couldn’t find the tears to. He was an eleventh level sequence expert, but the scarlet eyes lurking in the shadows belonged to the Ghost Bat King and had accessed fifteen levels of sequence.

This kind of heavyweight didn’t even exist in Fairylands—their strongest resident was the Sea Lord at twelve levels. Fifteen was enough to turn the fourth realm upside down!

“Retreat!” Lu Yun shouted. “The orders of the fourth realm are a natural restriction against things like that. They cannot enter the Boundless Planes, so seal away your cultivation and come into the sunlight!”

Where the Sun Sovereign King’s sun graced demarcated the borders of the fourth realm. If the Ghost Bat King dared set foot into the light, it would be attacked by order.

However, the Ghost Bat King represented more than just itself. It was here on behalf of the land of darkness. A deep gloom accompanied the king, shifting with its every move. It encroached on the land of light inch by inch, rebuffing the Sun Sovereign King’s illumination bit by bit.

The sovereign king stared gravely at the darkness while an unnatural pallor developed on his face.

“How many times can that talisman be used?” he suddenly transmitted to Lu Yun.

“What do you want to do?” The young man jumped with surprise.

“If I enter the darkness and light the great sun there, I might be able to defeat that large bat!” The sovereign king frowned tightly.

“Theoretically speaking, it will work as long as I’m alive. But marvelous things flourish within existence and there’s bound to be something that can counter it.” Lu Yun shook his head in warning. “No worries, I have a way to suppress it.”

A pristine moon rose as soon as he finished speaking. It called out to the celestial body over the Sun Sovereign King’s head. Moon and sun light together kept the darkness at bay.

Draped in moonlit splendor, Yueyi walked out of the void.

“Actually, you can release an appropriate amount of these bats. Let the people know what the Luminaries fight against.” Ah Zhi was close behind her. She frowned disapprovingly at the crowds besieging the mountain. An enormous star hovered over her head—an image of the World Star.

The brilliance of sun, moon, and star intersected over Mount Astronomia and released unparalleled power that beat back the gloom.

“Star Sovereign King, so you’ve debased yourself to run with the Luminaries and seek to enslave the Boundless Realm!” rose a frosty voice. The Kun Sovereign King appeared on the scene in his true form—a matchless giant as large as a plane.

He was a seventh level sequence expert and caused an immediate uproar with his words. The Star Sect had always refrained from getting involved in secular affairs and stayed free of any conflict in the realm, despite having the ability to determine the outcome. Everyone had witnessed the Great Brahma be repelled by a mysterious powerhouse when he attacked the World Star.

Given that, the general public had thought that the Star Sect would join the front against the Luminaries in this conflict. But to think that their leader—the Star Sovereign King—was inside Mount Astronomia and helping the Luminaries!

“Kun Sovereign King, the Curse King and Poison King are on the other side. Do you think there’s any room for you to talk here?” Ah Zhi snorted when she saw the man, killing intent dancing in her eyes.

“Jian Bu’er, help me kill him. I’ll owe you one!” She suddenly turned around and smiled beautifully at the recovering Jian Bu’er.

Interlaced radiance from the sun, moon, and star fully warded off the darkness. The Ghost Bat King didn’t dare make any rash moves, instead fixating on Lu Yun’s figure in the light. It wasn’t here to topple Mount Astronomia; that tiny mountain didn’t require its personal attention. The young human called Lu Yun was the true threat.

Once immortal dao traversed the fourth realm and became its pillar of support, the world of darkness would fall. All creatures that lived in the gloom would die.

This wasn't a fight between good and evil, but one of perspective and survival. There was no room for maneuvering or negotiation. However, no one had ever thought that there'd be life in the disordered darkness.

Lu Yun also sensed a harrowing gaze upon him, but he didn't look at the Ghost Bat King. That was an expert who'd accessed fifteen levels of sequence. It would be child's play for it to control a puny Nihil World Sovereign through a simple look.

Jian Bu'er's eyes lit up when he heard Ah Zhi and he barrelled out of the mountain with his rusty sword.

"Stay right there, kid! Let this grandpa take a swing at you. If one swing doesn't do you in, I'll take another!"

Swoosh!

Jian Bu'er struck with his sword as soon as he left Mount Astronomia and landed the blow on the Kun Sovereign King. The latter shrieked with dismay. He hadn't expected this slovenly fellow to circumvent conventional behavior and attack him in public!

An eleventh level sequence expert?!

"Why aren't you two helping me yet?!" The Kun Sovereign King shrank himself down and turned to flee.

Unfortunately for him, Jian Bu'er's sword light was too fast. It pierced through the sovereign king's head as soon as he turned around.

Chapter 1682: Execution

The Kun Sovereign King, a seventh level sequence expert and supreme genius who viewed the Luminaries as his enemy, was dead from one slash?

No one expected this turn of events, least of all the Poison King or Curse King. In killing the Kun Sovereign King, Jian Bu'er had set himself against the entire fourth realm!

Thanks to their extreme notoriety, the Luminaries were public enemy number one in the Boundless Planes. They were the direct demise of innumerable daos and the blood could not be washed from their hands.

Most of the factions in the realm had concentrated their forces at Mount Astronomia to erase the Luminaries once and for all. The Kun Sovereign King occupied the moral high ground and stood on the side of righteous good—whoever made an enemy out of him now was to make enemies out of the entire fourth realm.

No one fathomed that he would unceremoniously die from one stroke right after his noble declaration!

In the Boundless Planes, strength was far more important than morality.

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"Jian Bu'er!" The Curse King had to show himself at this point in time. He collected the Kun Sovereign King's body with a wave of his hand and roared, "Are you intent on being an enemy of the entire fourth realm?!"

“Heh.” Jian Bu’er swept a frosty look over him. “An enemy of the entire fourth realm? What, you rotten fish and stinking shrimp represent everyone in the Boundless Planes? Haven’t the Luminaries always been at odds with you?”

He roared with laughter. “Come on then, Curse King, let’s have another grand ole fight. If you win this time, I’ll gift you another mouthful of spit. How about it?”

The Curse King’s face was darker than the gloom around the Ghost Bat King. Jian Bu’er maintained fine control over his power at peak ninth level sequence. His terrifying aura pressed down on everyone present like a towering mountain range.

Who was being enemies with who?

Set themselves against a ninth level sequence expert? Were they crazy?

If it wasn’t for the rumors that the Sky Sovereign King was long dead, and that Moon and Sun were also close to death, no one would’ve dared come to Mount Astronomia!

Plus, they were only surrounding the mountain so they could watch the show. They wouldn’t actually attack Mount Astronomia. Oh no, not them!

Not unless someone else led the charge...

Well, the person who’d led the charge—the Kun Sovereign King—had just been killed with one blow from an eleventh level sequence expert.

“Or do you guys want to be enemies with me?” Jian Bu’er waved his sword with a loud roar of laughter. “I, Jian Bu’er, beholder of sword dao in Fairylands, do hereby represent my world today and form an alliance with the Luminaries. Of course, the Star Sect is also allied with the Luminaries, so we also partner with them.

“Here we stand, defending the organization. I’ll take on whoever wants to attack!”

The void trembled. Fairylands?!

What kind of place was that? The name had never been heard before, but a single powerhouse from that world was an eleventh level sequence expert. This kind of heavyweight was a first in the Boundless Planes!

If it could produce one Jian Bu’er, then it could produce many more similar powerhouses. Just Jian Bu’er alone was the apex of existence in the fourth realm. Who dared make enemies out of the Luminaries? They didn’t have a death wish!

No one was blind to what’d just happened to the Kun Sovereign King!

The Curse King’s expression was forebodingly ominous. He was also constrained in the fourth realm and couldn’t call upon his full strength. This particular replica of his was only a seventh level sequence expert and couldn’t even fight Yueyi, to say nothing of Jian Bu’er.

After a pause, the Poison King and Curse King smiled at the same time when they looked at each other.

“Jian Bu’er, so what if we decide to be enemies with you and the Luminaries? Take a look at Mount Astronomia,” the Curse King sneered expressionlessly.

Jian Bu’er halted and whipped his head around. The Ghost Bat King had revealed itself at some point and wrapped its enormous bat wings around the mountain. The brilliant sun, moon, and star were so dim that they were on the verge of going out.

A terrifying darkness was upon them once more.

“The Ghost Bat King has made its move. There is no hope of survival for the Luminaries and Lu Yun. Let’s go,” the Poison King laughed heartily and vanished on the spot. He had no desire to be cut down by a single stroke from Jian Bu’er.

The Curse King left as well.

“What is that thing?!” Pandemonium engulfed the foot of the mountain as the darkness swept around Mount Astronomia and attacked the lands of order in the fourth realm.

It expanded so quickly that those who were closest to the mountain were devoured whole by the gloom. Others further away were pursued by hordes of ghost bats.

Out of the hundreds of millions of souls on Mount Astronomia and hundreds of millions of experts, only a few million were left after the continued barrage from the ghost bats. As the bats rushed out, the foot of the mountains was instantly dyed red with blood. Even sequence experts scrambled to meet the unexpected assault.

“Now do you know what the Luminaries have been doing on Mount Astronomia?” Jian Bu’er declared coldly as he watched carnage play out in the void. “If they hadn’t held down the fort, the vast Boundless Planes would’ve been overrun by darkness and devoured by these ghost bats long ago.”

While his voice wasn’t loud, it echoed in the depths of everyone’s heart. Whether one was busy fleeing for their lives or fighting back, they could all hear him clearly. It felt like a bucket of ice cold water had been dumped over their heads and everyone shuddered with dread.

“The previous Curse King, Poison King, and Kun Sovereign King of Kunpeng Ocean were all manifestations of creatures from the darkness. They came to the known expanses solely to destroy the Luminaries and break the mountain’s defenses.

“It looks like they’ve succeeded.” Jian Bu’er didn’t plan on taking action anymore. His home—the World of Swords—was constantly besieged by the darkness. He knew full well what this kind of invasion meant.

The known expanses of the Boundless Planes were the safest place in the entire fourth realm. Their denizens didn’t know about the land of darkness and didn’t have to face constant raids that could end their homes at any time.

The worlds outside the known expanses were broken. Their rules were incomplete, their orders dilapidated, and they were formed by the fragments of Major Cycle Worlds that were supposed to support the fourth realm. Their denizens constantly struggled against the darkness and faced death at every second.

Life, as it was known in the known expanses, was too easy and comfortable. It was time for that to come to an end.

When Jian Bu'er entered the world of sequence in fine fettle, he'd possessed the proud ambitions of building a world of sword dao sequence. He'd ultimately failed because everything had been a lie, but now he wanted to build his own faction in the known expanses so he could counterattack the darkness!

Such were the same thoughts of the dao beholders in Fairylands.

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Mount Astronomia crumbled inch by inch.

The Sun Sovereign King, Yueyi, and Ah Zhi regarded the situation solemnly. They were overshadowed by the bat king's wings and their sun, moon, and star becoming ever darker.

Rumble!!

A loud explosion rang out as the void shattered. Two beams of light blasted out and rammed into the Ghost Bat King.

Chapter 1683: Lu Qing Arrives

"You!! What a pestilence that won't leave well alone!" The Ghost Bat King shrieked with outrage when it saw the pillars of gold and silver light and furled its wings, protecting the darkness around it.

Bam!

Bam!

The two pillars ruthlessly blasted its wings; the gloom in this part of the void crumbled away. Around the outskirts of the mountain, the hordes of ghost bats spooked and hastily streamed back to their king, taking shelter under its wings.

A dot of faint purple light slowly rose beneath the two beams of radiant splendor. Dressed in purple, a young man wielding a sword paced out of the unknown. A sun and a moon floated over his head—the chaos sun and moon of the second realm.

The Ghost Bat King's scarlet eyes fixed on the newcomer that'd abruptly appeared. Strange noises gurgled from its throat and its razor-sharp teeth clenched tight, grinding down on themselves.

"Greetings, father." The purple-clad youth raised a cupped fist salute to Lu Yun—he was Lu Qing, son of Lu Yun and the little fox. "We meet again, my good disciple." He turned and nodded at Yueyi.

"This... this disciple greets the master." Yueyi woodenly made her gesture. Her mind was a mess of thoughts and she couldn't make sense of things. Her venerable master, Purple King Lu Qing, should be a Hongmeng true king. He'd at most be a potentate, so how had he brought the huge bat to heel as soon as he appeared?

According to Jian Bu'er's words, the bat was at least a fifteenth level sequence expert! Even if its strength couldn't be fully deployed in the lands of order, its presence alone was enough to crush a Hongmeng potentate.

However, the giant bat and the little ones around it were plainly afraid of Lu Qing. In fact, they were so afraid that they seemed traumatized by the mere sight of him. The bats retreated into the darkness as soon as he appeared, leaving behind gory wreckage and horrific casualties.

Fourth realm cultivators took advantage of the respite to run; there were only a few Nihil World Sovereigns and sequence experts left within the blink of an eye. They'd realized the gravity of the situation and stayed to see things through to the end.

Mount Astronomia stood at the edge of the known expanses; the border was an impoverished region without many residents. The consequences would be unimaginable if the bats made it to the heartland of the Boundless Planes.

By now, everyone understood the purpose behind the Luminaries. If it wasn't for the faction, the lands of order would've long been punctured by a thousand boils and a hundred holes, falling into utter mayhem.

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"Master, you..." Yueyi didn't know what to say to Lu Qing.

"I stood guard in the chaos sea and protected the second realm's sun and moon for countless eons, suppressing this exact bat." Lu Qing tilted his head up to the Ghost Bat King. "It comes from the land of darkness and brings unending gloom and bats with it, wishing to invade the Hongmeng through the chaos sea. Destroying the chaos sun and moon is another one of its goals.

"These two celestial bodies are the source of light for the entire fourth realm. Darkness will make its way inside unobstructed if they are extinguished."

Mount Astronomia was the rise and fall of the fourth realm's sun and moon. The latter two were projections of the ones in the second realm, and together, they illuminated the entire fourth realm.

If the sun and moon in the chaos were no more, then their projections in the fourth realm would also burn out. Darkness would surround the Boundless Planes and reduce it to complete disarray.

"How can a minor Hongmeng potentate like you suppress a monstrous fiend of fifteen levels of sequence?" Cold laughter suddenly echoed in the void. It came from a man with a long aquiline nose and a piercing gaze stabbing out of narrow eyes. He looked like some kind of avian creature.

The Peng Sovereign King.

In the Kunpeng Ocean, there was a Peng Sovereign King and a Kun Sovereign King. After the latter's demise, it was time for the Peng Sovereign King to step forward.

His words cut straight to the point and immediately raised the suspicions of the Nihil World Sovereigns and sequence experts still around. Indeed, how could a Hongmeng potentate keep a fifteenth level sequence expert in check? It was too far-fetched even for the wildest tale! Things weren't as they seemed!

Whoosh!

Brilliant sword splendor cut through the void and landed on the Peng Sovereign King. He was promptly sliced into two. Jian Bu'er followed his sword light like he was a ghost and snuffed out the Peng Sovereign King's fleeing nascent spirit with his palm.

"You're such an odd fellow. I let your nascent spirit survive when I killed you earlier, but you courted death and came back as someone else. Do you really think I don't dare kill you?" Jian Bu'er sneered.

The sequence experts and world sovereigns gasped sharply. They'd all thought that the Kun Sovereign King and Peng Sovereign King were two different seventh level sequence experts. But they were one and the same?

The crowd failed to grasp Jian Bu'er's deeper meaning—both sovereign kings had had their bodies stolen by the same person and had been refined into replicas.

"I can't be bothered with the rest of you." Jian Bu'er scanned the surroundings. There were more than ten thousand Nihil World Sovereigns still present, but just a dozen sequence experts. While this crowd appeared to be a large number of powerhouses, it was a drop in the ocean compared to the talent in the known expanses.

"The Luminaries guard Mount Astronomia to suppress the land of darkness and prevent its vile spawn from defiling the lands of light," Jian Bu'er addressed the Ghost Bat King and its bats.

The king shrieked with outrage that this lowly creature dared talk to it; ghost bats spewed forth from the gloom. But with the chaos sun and moon, as well as the World Star itself now on the scene, they didn't dare do anything.

Lu Qing had imprisoned them for countless eons. With him here, they wouldn't take any action.

"The Luminaries are dead in all but name. Therefore, the Formula Dao Academy of Fairylands will be established on this spot to teach formula dao and suppress the darkness!

"If any of you possess sufficient courage, you will attend to learn formula dao. If not, piss off to where the sun doesn't shine!"

There was no one else in the fourth realm more persuasive or commanded more attention than Jian Bu'er at the moment. He was an eleventh level sequence expert, the strongest in the Boundless Planes!

Chapter 1684: Establishment of the Formula Academy

Lu Qing's sudden appearance intimidated the Ghost Bat King even though he didn't join the battlefield. Despite the arrival of its long term captor, the bat king didn't retreat. It decided to stay put the moment Lu Qing entered the Boundless Planes with the chaos sun and moon.

The Ghost Bat King's true goal was to destroy this particular sun and moon. Since they'd left the second realm, there was no point in staying further. In its eyes, the chaos was far more dangerous than the fourth realm.

Although the bat king had regrouped further away, darkness still enveloped Mount Astronomia. The three ultimate treasures of the chaos sun, chaos moon, and World Star together supported a patch of illumination. As they cast light upon the entire fourth realm, they also cowed the darkness.

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Just as Jian Bu'er had said, the Formula Dao Academy did indeed appear on the mountain. However, it went by the name of Formula Academy rather than incorporate "dao" in its title.

Lu Yun's original plans had been to first establish the Formula Academy in the world of formula dao in Fairylands, then open a door to the fourth realm. But with the invasion of the darkness and the presence of ghost bats at Mount Astronomia, he changed his plans completely.

Establishing the Formula Academy on the mountain was a more effective manner to fight the gloom and withstand the lands of darkness. Although there was a door from Fairylands to the Boundless Planes, the world of formula dao in the former was just reinforcement for the Formula Academy—a place for more intensive cultivation.

Meanwhile, the yin and dead spirits in the world of immortals also originated from the darkness. They weren't regular spirits, but ghosts and other undead entities born from the land of darkness.

As immortal dao developed, so did the world of immortals advance. It was gradually replacing the Hongmeng to become the strongest world in the first three realms. Thus, it was high past time for it to strike back against the yin spirits.

Modern-day developments saw a constant stream of immortals charge out of the World Gates to fully stand their ground against the endless yin spirits in the cosmos. The chaos was inundated with the power of the worlds—a power that no longer threatened chaos creatures. Added to that the absence of chaos tribulations in the future, these perfect conditions made for a renaissance in the second realm.

The chaos was developing back to the point when the six supreme gods ruled the lands and the second realm as a whole was on even footing with the Hongmeng!

In present day, the world of immortals had almost completely assimilated the chaos. All of its denizens cultivated immortal dao and when chaos sovereigns broke through, they entered immortal dao directly to become immortals. There was no need for them to ascend to the third realm to become a Hongmeng denizen.

In contrast, the third realm continuously faced rigorous challenges from the ghost race!

The ghost race came from the land of darkness, just as the yin spirits in the world of immortals did. They threatened the Hongmeng from every corner, both within and without. And with the immortal dao seeping through the realm these days, though Lu Yun had said that he didn't seek to conquer the Hongmeng and be its master, people were still jittery and panicky.

Various schemes peppered by the Curse King and Poison King also took effect, upending the third realm into a morass of unrest and confusion.

Lu Yun ignored all of this. He couldn't stop or affect everything, some things had to be allowed to run their course. Those who understood would make the right decision, and those who didn't would fail to understand, even with a blade on their neck.

All the same, the little fox returned to the Hongmeng. Since she'd refined the tower and replaced Mo Yi as the realm's mistress, she had to protect it. This was her responsibility to bear now.

Qing Yu returned to the world of immortals to resume her mantle as the Dao Sovereign and oversee the situation. The great army of yin spirits was showing signs of life lately, so she firmly squashed any hints of strength.

At the same time, she was trying to devise a method to save Violetgrave. The spatial node that the latter sat on led to the land of darkness. It was a new passage that the endarkened creatures had created. Violetgrave sat there to keep it plugged.

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The nine hundred and ninety-ninth year of the Xuanhuang calendar.

Although timekeeping had long collapsed in the fourth realm and there was a likewise lack of it in the chaos and Hongmeng, the Formula Academy was officially established on a certain day in the nine hundred and ninety-ninth year of the Xuanhuang calendar.

A massive complex of palaces suddenly appeared on Mount Astronomia. Dazzling and resplendent, it cast the entire mountain in golden hues. Its radiance forced the Ghost Bat King's land of darkness to retreat fifteen hundred kilometers! That wasn't a large distance, but to compel a fifteenth level sequence expert to fall back was a monumental feat!

Lu Qing sat cross-legged in the void outside Mount Astronomia, following the light by shifting toward the darkness. Even his father didn't understand why a Hongmeng potentate could withstand the darkness, to the point where even an entity like the Ghost Bat King feared him.

Lu Yun employed formula dao on his son again and again, but found nothing of particular note. In the past thirty-three loops, he brought misfortune to his son without fail and caused his death. Lu Yun never discovered anything out of the ordinary in those loops either.

The main body of the Formula Academy lay in the Hongmeng—the six dao palaces that'd appeared all those years ago. They represented the six orders of inception, ethos, burgeon, creation, opposition, and nirvana.

Together, they formed a complete system on Mount Astronomia, forming the power of the Six Royals to beat back the gloom. A golden avenue paved the road to the mountain; images flickered by its side. They detailed everything that the Luminaries had done over these endless eons to defy the darkness.

The sights were brutal and gruesome to the extreme. Every painting scroll was drenched with blood—reflections of true images recorded in Mount Astronomia. Anyone who entered the Formula Academy had to be first baptized by the golden avenue. They needed to understand why the academy was established here.

The Luminaries were no more, replaced by the Formula Academy. The new institution stood at the borders of the fourth realm to suppress the dark. Its headmaster was a mysterious powerhouse and its senior council was formed by Jian Bu'er, the Sun, Moon, and Star Sovereign Kings.

Such was the strength displayed by the Formula Academy.

What'd previously taken place at the mountain became common knowledge in the known expanses. Thanks to concerted effort from vested interests, everyone was aware of the meaning behind the Luminaries, unknown expanses, and invasion from the darkness.

Naturally, there were some other voices that appeared to denounce the invasion as a sham, that the Formula Academy was the true conspiracy. The Luminaries had ever sought to be the rulers of the Boundless Planes, so the mysterious headmaster of the new academy was just the one who'd established the now defunct Luminaries.

It was up to personal judgment as to which version was true, but disciples began to fill the halls of the Formula Academy.

Chapter 1685: Entering the Dark

Troubles, large and small, came to call after the Formula Academy was established. Although the general public now knew the truth of the situation, that the known expanses constantly faced the gloom in the unknown expanses, people were still afraid.

They were afraid that the Formula Academy would become a second original Hongmeng. After all, Luminary survivors—including the Sun and Moon Sovereign King—were the first batch of disciples at the academy.

Thus, trouble often found its way to the Formula Academy in its early days. It was just minor irritants that made themselves known, since Nihil World Sovereigns and sequence experts wouldn't lower themselves to such an immature level.

That, however, didn't prevent their juniors from issuing challenges.

Formula dao had perpetuated through the fourth realm for two hundred years. Many proud practitioners of formula dao had appeared in the Boundless Planes during this time, ones with marvelous achievements in this great dao. They were the ones to throw down the gauntlet and crow that they would defeat the academy's disciples one by one.

The academy's disciples didn't take this colossal provocation lying down. Though it hadn't been long since the institution's establishment, veteran formula dao cultivators from Fairylands began transferring to the academy on Mount Astronomia.

Lu Yun's fifth disciple, Qi Fengyun, was one of the first transfer students.

His cultivation level was humble as it barely reached the standards for the fourth realm. But such an ant as he routed thousands of would-be challengers without breaking a sweat. His reputation grew throughout the Boundless Planes as he proved to be unmatched by anyone in formula dao.

Qi Fengyun gradually became the titular person of the Formula Academy and its head disciple. Other fourth realm cultivators visited the mountain to gaze upon this immensely accomplished person and later joined the academy out of admiration for him.

But when they enrolled, they discovered that this faction was vastly different from the sects and clans they were familiar with. Students had to graduate and leave the academy when they mastered their craft?

What kind of system was this?

Almost every new disciple was stunned by this overarching rule when they noted it.

The academy's senior council later clarified that the Formula Academy was a school, not a sect. It was a place for all Boundless Planes denizens to cultivate formula dao. The academy's mission was to benefit the common people, nothing else.

Naturally, no one believed this bullshit. Although many joined the Dao Academy, few were those who truly felt a sense of belonging to it. Most were here to probe what the land of darkness on the other side of Mount Astronomia was like.

Two years after the founding of the Formula Academy, a second academy was established in the planes that were the Central Cluster.

The Star Sect Formula Academy!

Then a third, fourth, and fifth... Numerous academies sprang up around the fourth realm like bamboo shoots after the rain, shifting the landscape of the various planes. With these academies as the focal point, intermediate and elementary academies appeared as well, recruiting the mundane beings of the fourth realm.

These academies differed from the one on Mount Astronomia in that they took the name of the faction that sponsored them, such as the Star Sect, rather than be known as simply the Formula Academy.

Placed on the edges of the fourth realm, Mount Astronomia was a very remote locale. Apart from Nihil World Sovereigns and sequence experts, it was extremely difficult for even Void World Kings to reach the mountain. Thus, Lu Yun set up academies in other parts of the realm for easy access.

At the same time, the other academies raised the profile of the one at Mount Astronomia to the level of a formula dao sacred land. But it was only the beginning for formula dao's golden age; its true, terrifying capabilities were yet to be revealed. Hence, quite a significant portion of the realm didn't think much of this fashionably popular path.

It didn't matter that a new dao had been born and was blossoming in the fourth realm. The only matter that everyone was focused on was that the Formula Academy had inherited everything from the Luminaries and was in charge of suppressing the land of darkness.

The academy's teachers were of uniformly low cultivation levels—most of them were Void World Kings, so they didn't elicit attention or spark wariness.

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Fairylands.

"Are you going to the unknown expanses?" Mo Yi frowned at a Lu Yun who'd suddenly appeared.

Since he'd set the Formula Academy at Mount Astronomia, she could no longer be a teacher there. But that didn't leave her with nothing to do—there were many inhabitants in this world, so she became a dao beholder and taught her knowledge to those who lived in Fairylands.

She was rather taken aback at hearing Lu Yun wished to head to the unknown expanses. One must be a sequence expert to travel that area. Otherwise, even a Nihil World Sovereign who could fly through the darkness would be brutally attacked and struggle for their life.

A heavyweight of the darkness already had their eyes set on Lu Yun. If he brashly ventured in now and traveled through it, he would likely be attacked by the Curse King and Poison King's primary bodies.

The safest way to travel was to access sequence, wrap its power around oneself for protection, and infiltrate the darkness to find a world of order in the unknown expanses. Sequence differed from order in that sequence was formed by the collection of countless orders. It seemed to exist for the purpose of deceiving the dark and to fight against it.

"Nah, the land of darkness isn't a threat to me because I cultivate hell dao." Lu Yun shook his head and continued gravely, "I can feel that mysterious power creeping into Fairylands and growing stronger by the day. I won't be able to hold it off for long."

Once the unknown power seeped through his defenses, it would influence Mo Yi again and force her into the unknown expanses. She would be compelled to search for the Imperial Seal and die with the thing inside. In that case, it was better for Lu Yun to take the initiative and find the seal first.

He'd refined it thirty-three times and left thirty-three marks in it. If he wanted to, he could quickly locate it again.

"I won't express disapproval since you've made up your mind," Mo Yi nodded. "But I want a life imprint from you. Once you die in the darkness or a world of order in the unknown expanses, I will trade my life for yours. I won't let you go if you don't agree to this."

"Fine then," Lu Yun nodded as well. He condensed a life imprint out of himself and gave it to Mo Yi. Lu Yun snorted when he saw the Dao King shrug off to the side, "I know that if we have to use the imprint, it'll be the Dao King who swaps for me."

Mo Yi's expression froze. Lu Yun grinned and left Fairylands. After he bid farewell to Qing Yu and the little fox, he came to Mount Astronomia.

"Dad." Lu Qing stood up to greet his father.

"It's so strange, why can't I calculate you?" Lu Yun looked at his son with a slight frown. Lu Qing was still only a Hongmeng potentate, but he could use the third realm's strength to keep the gloom in check.

"Perhaps my cultivation level is the strength of the third realm to ordinary people, but in the eyes of the darkness, it's the original Hongmeng," Lu Qing chuckled.

Lu Yun thought for a moment; this seemed to be the only possible explanation.

"Are you sure you don't need me to go with you?" Jian Bu'er appeared behind Lu Yun and asked with hesitation.

"Don't worry about it, you should stay here to protect this world. Formula dao has flowered and immortal dao spreads through the fourth realm. Those sleeping monsters will certainly wake up at some point in time. We'll need you to take care of them then." Lu Yun waved a hand and plunged into the darkness in front of them.

Chapter 1686: Foundations of Dao

“How does it feel?” A voice rang in Lu Yun’s ear as soon as he set foot into the gloom. A smiling Sea Lord Haidong Lin suddenly appeared next to the young man.

Lu Yun had taken only one step into the darkness, but the light behind him had completely gone out. There was no order here; all of the laws and rules were a tangled disarray. Or rather, it could be better said that rules and law without order were no longer rules and laws, but another existence entirely.

“I feel like I’m drowning,” Lu Yun carefully observed his body. “It’s the sensation of someone who lives on land venturing into water. No matter how comfortable around water I may be, only despair can be found in a world that is solely water.

“All things in existence have their counterpart. Where there is order, there is also disorder. Light is accompanied by the dark—such is what is decreed by the order of opposition. This isn’t a world that lacks order, it shows the other side of order. This follows the laws of opposition.” Two beams of black light radiated from Lu Yun’s eyes and concentrated the Disordered Hell’s strength onto his body, removing the perception of him drowning.

The Disordered Hell within the six paths of hell dao was one that could both suppress disorder and become it. Hell dao was a path of the darkness to begin with. Since Lu Yun cultivated it, he could naturally walk freely in the gloom.

Of course, he wasn’t fool enough to really explore the darkness by himself. The Sea Lord was one of the strongest powerhouses in Fairylands and he dearly wished to return home. Thus, Lu Yun traveled with him to navigate through the darkness and locate an unknown land of order on the other side.

The labels of known and unknown expanses were names used by creatures on this side of the darkness. From the other side, they called where Lu Yun was from the primary worlds. Worlds where the Sea Lord and Jian Bu’er hailed from were formed from the fragments of broken Major Cycle Worlds. Thus, they called themselves secondary worlds.

The lands of darkness separated the primary from the secondary worlds.

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“Do you mean that it’s reasonable for the darkness to exist?” The Sea Lord paused and frowned slightly at Lu Yun’s elaboration, disagreeing with what he heard.

“No, their existence is not rational.” Lu Yun shook his head. “Light and dark, order and disorder should face off against each other in an equal balance of power.” His brows furrowed in thought and he drew a Taiji diagram. “They should oppose each other like this.”

Although they were in a land of darkness, neither the Sea Lord nor Lu Yun was affected by the gloom. Their consciousness could clearly observe each other and their surroundings.

There was only darkness here, nothing else.

“Um...” the Sea Lord blinked.

“It’s very illogical that the darkness has invaded the light, and that disorder has crept into order.” Lu Yun shook his head with resignation. “Anyhow, everything about this world is wrong, so who cares about all that.”

What he meant by “everything” was how this part of existence kept repeating the same things in an endless loop.

“I don’t know the way, so take me to the other side,” he said to Haidong Lin.

“Very well.” Haidong Lin was left baffled by Lu Yun’s words, but he didn’t pursue things further. He took Lu Yun with him via a wave of his hand and vanished on the spot.

Since there was no order here, all laws and rules were in disarray. They couldn’t make use of outside forces and had to rely on themselves—ergo, the power of sequence. Since sequence experts had access to a world of sequence, so they could draw upon the power of their world.

Although Nihil World Sovereigns could also travel through the darkness, they had no hope of surviving once they were inside the murk.

“So there is indeed life inside the dark.” Lu Yun could send out his mind without reservation when under Haidong Lin’s protection. At the same time, his hell dao began absorbing power from the darkness around them.

It was also a form of power. Only in the gloom would everything become disorderly and without order.

“Can those things actually be called life?” Haidong Lin laughed ruefully.

“This darkness is definitely formed from the order of opposition. There is always life under an order.” Lu Yun suddenly thought of Azure Dragon Lake in the Hongmeng. A terrifying destructive force had appeared in the lake due to the order of opposition. The same situation existed in the darkness and set it against the light.

“That’s right!” Lu Yun’s eyes lit up and his mental state transcended its current limits to undergo a metamorphosis. His cultivation advanced rapidly as well. He could now see the existence of sequence!

“I know now!” He couldn’t help but shriek and caper wildly with laughter. This was spontaneous enlightenment, and he’d obtained it right after entering the darkness!

“Quiet! Do you want to die?!” Haidong Lin jumped with shock and slapped his hand over Lu Yun’s mouth. His jaw dropped when he realized that the young man had experienced spontaneous enlightenment.

“What, what, what did you just perceive?” Haidong Lin couldn’t understand what kind of perverse genius this human was.

Lu Yun had been a World Manifest when they first met, but he’d risen to Nihil World Sovereign in a scant hundred years and now comprehended the existence of sequence.

What a monster!

“The so-called darkness and disorder isn’t what existed before the creation of order.” Lu Yun took a deep breath of air that didn’t exist and explained slowly, “This gloom and the order here are also part of the Boundless Planes. They should’ve existed around the planes, but something’s moved them here!

“The darkness is order and so is the disorder. It’s just a counter-order according to the principles of opposition!

“After cultivating hell dao, I should aim to construct an actual hell. I’ve been pondering where to build it, but now that I’m here, I know! This is where the hell should be!

“The land of darkness is the foundation for my dao. I’m going to build a real hell here and combine the six hells into one, into a true hell!”

“You...” Haidong Lin swallowed hard and murmured, “So do we still go to the secondary worlds then?”

“Of course!” Lu Yun scratched his head. “This is just a thought, a plan. With my current level of strength, I’ll be eaten by whatever’s behind the Curse King, Poison King, Kun and Peng Sovereign Kings.

“Plus, the most critical thing to tackle right now is to find the Imperial Seal.”

“Why do you trust me so much that you’d have me follow you to the secondary worlds?” Haidong Lin finally couldn’t contain his curiosity.

“I don’t, Lin Mo does,” Lu Yun was blunt. “She told me to take you with me.”

Chapter 1687: Paradise for the Strong, Hell for the Weak

“Lin Mo... Mazu? She’s alive again?” Haidong Lin’s eyes widened and he quickly shut his mouth, saying no more.

Mazu was the divine spirit of a realm greater than these planes. Her very existence was taboo in this part of the world. She was also the faith of Haidong Lin’s homeland—that vast World of Sea. Prior to him mastering his dao, he’d fervently believed in her.

“Is there a way to kill that big bat?” Lu Yun asked.

“You mean the Ghost Bat King? It’s a fifteenth level sequence expert, I’m only at twelve. I’m far, far beneath it.” Haidong Lin rapidly shook his head. Only three levels of sequence separated them, but that meant the bat king could crush him like swatting a stink bug. They wouldn’t have the chance to resist once it discovered them.

“Is there really no way?” Lu Yun’s brows furrowed deep. The Ghost Bat King towered at the edge of Mount Astronomia; he’d chosen to enter the darkness at a spot very far away to prevent discovery.

However, the giant bat remained an enormous threat.

Although Lu Qing used an unknown method to suppress the darkness and Ghost Bat King, that wasn’t a permanent solution. Lu Qing was an unparalleled genius and his cultivation remained stagnant when he corralled the dark. It was taking up too much of his time.

Ever since he returned to the chaos from the mythological realm, he’d spent his time suppressing the chaos sea. His cultivation likely would’ve already reached the fourth realm, and higher, if not for that.

Being Lu Yun's son, Lu Yun had great hopes and expectations for him.

"I'm no match for the Ghost Bat King, but perhaps you can try!" the Sea Lord hummed in thought. "You can try to lure it to Fairylands and borrow the Dao King and mistress' strength to kill it!"

"...forget it, let's just go to a secondary world." Lu Yun shook his head.

Haidong Lin chuckled ruefully and waved them forward.

The darkness seemed to be without end and was filled with life; they loved the dark and disorder. Lu Yun discovered through the Karmic Tree that they were full of violence. Barely any provocation was needed to incite a fight and they never spoke of reason.

Despite himself, Lu Yun was reminded of the fur seals that once existed in the world of immortals. That race had been able to cultivate and possessed their own culture, but they were completely uncivilized. They had no morals or ethics to speak of, and certainly no standards of behavior. The old bitch Ge Yanxia had copulated with her own children to use them as cannon fodder in order to break the Exalted Divine Tomb.

It appeared that Lu Yun had found their origins; they were likely the descendants of creatures in the dark. What seemed to be perfectly normal behavior to them was base and abhorrent to creatures in the light.

"Do we use our codes of conduct to judge those who live in the dark?" Lu Yun frowned and murmured to himself, "Perhaps our actions are equally inexplicable to them. It's just a matter of perspective... there is no good or evil at the heart of things."

Haidong Lin slightly curled his lip when he heard Lu Yun; he didn't agree at all.

"We're here!" he suddenly said softly. Lu Yun snapped to attention and saw a sliver of illumination ahead. It was like a sharp blade had cut through the gloom to create space for a hint of radiance to peek through.

Though it was a feeble ray of light, it was unlimited hope to Lu Yun and immediately raised his spirits.

"Are we at a secondary world?"

"Not yet," Haidong Lin shook his head. "This is a world destroyed by the darkness. This light is all that's left of it."

Secondary worlds were also illuminated by the sun and moon of the primary worlds. Even if a world was destroyed, the illumination could still reach through the darkness. The sliver of light that Lu Yun had seen was reflected off of the last fragment of the world.

"But we're very close to the secondary worlds now that world fragments are appearing. You need to be careful and stay quiet no matter what. The darkness has never given up on attacking the secondary worlds, so the battlefields here are much more grisly than Mount Astronomia of the primary worlds. There will be more than one existence on par with the Ghost Bat King," Haidong Lin transmitted to Lu Yun. "Since the orders here are fractured due to that encroachment, there will be things here that are not possible in the primary worlds—such as experts beyond ninth level sequence."

When he traveled to Ruina, the original Hongmeng had still existed. The primary worlds were even more prosperous than they were now and powerhouses abounded. Their strongest representative, emperor of the original Hongmeng, was an eighteenth level sequence expert. Everything had changed beyond recognition now. With the demise of the Hongmeng, order could no longer be kept under control. This changed the sequences of the primary worlds so that there were no longer any experts beyond ninth level.

In fact, anyone who displayed strength over ninth level would be attacked by sequence.

That wouldn't happen in the secondary worlds, despite the orders being the same. Since they were splintered and incredibly weak, they couldn't stop beings from accessing the tenth level of sequence. Neither could they eliminate beings above ninth level.

In other words, while the secondary worlds were under constant threat, they were also a sacred land of cultivation. There was no order to restrain them and they could constantly hone themselves in horrific battles. This was a paradise for the strong and hell for the weak.

Jian Bu'er also felt that the primary worlds were too safe.

Lu Yun nodded. That tiny flicker of light was the smallest fragment the size of a palm, but it was precisely this fragment that could capture light from the primary world. He moved over to the fragment and carefully put it away.

"What do you want it for?" Haidong Lin transmitted.

"To remain undestroyed in the darkness and emit light from the sun and moon means that this fragment should be the essence of a world. I can refine a world-level treasure from it." Lu Yun looked to where a second flicker of light was.

Haidong Lin started. He was used to world fragments drifting in the darkness and had never thought of them that way.

"ROAR!!" came a howl as the dense scent of gore burrowed into Lu Yun's nose. A massive maw opened in the gloom and bit down on him.

"Fuck off!" Lu Yun sent out a flare of hellfire with a casual backhand before Haidong Lin could respond.

The thing in the dark yelped and ran off.

Chapter 1688: Fishing

"We need to go!" Haidong Lin grabbed Lu Yun and the two vanished where they stood. An enormous roar split the void the second they left, drowning the spot they were just in.

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Haidong Lin didn't stop for a very, very long time. If there'd been any light to be found in their surroundings, Lu Yun would've seen that his face was ashen and sweat pouring from his brow. Lu Yun's own clothes were drenched in sweat too.

"Did, did you take something else as well just now?" Haidong Lin asked in a trembling voice.

Lu Yun opened his hand; his consciousness traced the outline of a black flower glowing with a black hue that bloomed delicately in the dark. Haidong Lin could naturally see it with his mind as well—he reflexively raised a thumbs up to the young man.

“Who would’ve thought that there’d be treasures in the darkness? What a pity that I haven’t determined what it can be used for yet.” Lu Yun put the flower away. “It was growing on the world fragment and absorbing its energy. But, it seems that someone put it there to purposefully draw attention.”

He paused after that musing, suddenly understanding something.

Haidong Lin heaved an immense sigh. “We were damned lucky to escape from that creature’s trap.”

“Trap?” Lu Yun’s eyes widened.

“Yes, that was a trap set by a creature of the dark,” Haidong Lin chuckled ruefully. “Many connate treasures can be found in the gloom. These treasures aren’t limited by order and cannot be produced by a world of order. Thus, they are highly attractive to us cultivators.

“Countless heavyweights of the secondary worlds enter the darkness in search of these treasures. At the same time, the powerhouses of the darkness aren’t idiots. They possess their own orders just like us, so they use these valuables as bait. Whoever comes in search of one will always meet with a grisly end.

“They sometimes even connect the treasures to the darkness and throw them into the secondary worlds. If someone can’t withstand temptation and tries to claim one, they’ll be instantly put under control by the treasure and dragged into the murk.”

“.....” Lu Yun stood stock still for a very long moment. “They’re... fishing?”

“Precisely correct,” Haidong Lin affirmed with trepidation. “That world fragment was likely placed there to lure us over. We usually can’t resist heading for the light when it appears in the darkness.”

“.....” Lu Yun smiled ruefully. “It looks like we really were lucky.”

“Let’s go. Since we came across a trap, that means we’re not far from a secondary world.” Haidong Lin proceeded ever more cautiously. They’d switched back to spoken speech since both denizens of the dark and secondary worlds were present in the premises. The creatures of the darkness didn’t dare attack en masse.

After another indeterminate period of time, the shadows receded from their view and a world full of light appeared in front of them.

However, it seemed to be ripped apart by darkness. Light and dark intertwined with each other—there were creatures from both sides on the world and they frequently clashed with each other.

“Is this... another broken world?” Lu Yun frowned slightly at the scene. When he saw two ghost bats tear at a human corpse, he couldn’t help but swat the three-meter-tall bats to death.

“No, this is a complete world. Almost all of the secondary worlds are like this.” Haidong Lin stretched out his arms and sucked in a deep breath of somewhat turbid air. This was the smell of home. Although his

specific home was the World of Sea, any secondary world could be generally considered his home as well.

Lu Yun lifted his head to regard the blue firmament. While it was blue, it was a dusky blue as there was no sun, moon, or stars in this part of the Boundless Planes. A deep void filled the sky and a jagged streak of darkness ripped through it like lightning, threatening to split the world asunder.

The gloom in this secondary world seeped out of the bolt of darkness to further wear away at the world. Endarkened creatures burrowed out of the jagged streak to descend upon the local inhabitants below.

It felt like a bolt of thunder struck Lu Yun when he saw the black lightning.

“What’s wrong?” Haidong Lin asked curiously when he saw the young man’s expression.

“I’ve seen this kind of lightning before,” Lu Yun murmured after a deep breath.

“This isn’t lightning, it’s the power of the darkness!” Haidong Lin corrected.

“After the original Hongmeng perished, its central core became a new Hongmeng. It’s called the Central Hongmeng.” Lu Yun ignored the man and muttered to himself, “There’s a second realm called the chaos in the Hongmeng, and it used to be that chaos tribulations wreaked havoc on a regular basis. Chaos tribulations!”

He stared fixedly at the streak of lightning, finally understanding what the chaos tribulations were. The roving bolts weren’t lightning and thunder, but the power of darkness!

“It looks like the Ghost Bat King didn’t just want to invade the chaos through the chaos sea, but also infuse the power of the darkness into the chaos sun and moon. When that power reached a certain threshold, the two clashed together and ignited a tide of darkness—the so-called chaos tribulations!”

His heart still quailed at the thought of the tribulations. If they’d happened a few more times, the chaos would most likely fall apart. The chaos tribulations weren’t just a pure explosion of darkness either, they tapped into the terrible curse that the Curse King had laid using the Fire Virtue Potentate and six supreme gods of the chaos as sacrifices.

“Um...” Haidong Lin clucked his tongue with amazement. “If the lands of darkness used this method against the secondary worlds, the worlds would’ve been erased from existence a long time ago.”

Lu Yun flicked a sideways glance at him. “If all of the secondary worlds are dead, what will the endarkened creatures use to train their own powerhouses? ...alright, stand guard for me. I’m going to search for the Imperial Seal.”

“The Imperial Seal... is with the emperor of the Hongmeng!” Excitement flashed through Haidong Lin’s face when he mentioned the original emperor. This was someone he venerated and the strongest throughout the Boundless Planes. The emperor was the only one to access eighteen levels of sequence in the primary and secondary worlds.

Lu Yun sat down cross-legged and opened his hands, manifesting an image of the seal over his right hand. It was roughly one third of a meter and a perfect cube. Nine dragons hovered over it, hoisting a pearl over their heads. The characters “As Mandated By Heaven” were carved on it, as well as innumerable glyphs that Lu Yun didn’t recognize.

Thirty-three images appeared over his head—the mark that his future self had left when he journeyed through thirty-three loops. They walked out from his head, each holding a seal and melting into the image of the seal in his hand.

Chapter 1689: The World of Sea

Haidong Lin fully released the aura of a twelfth level sequence expert. An enormous wave rushed from his body and scared off anything in the vicinity.

This wasn't a big world and it didn't contain that many resources. Although the endarkened wished to claim it, they wouldn't send any of their true powerhouses. A first level sequence expert was already a stretch. As Haidong Lin was flaring his full power, anything that dared draw near would be immediately vaporized.

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Under the Sea Lord's protection, Lu Yun extended his senses to their utmost and searched earnestly for the Imperial Seal.

"Found it!" He opened his eyes and turned in a certain direction. When Haidong Lin followed his gaze, his heart skipped a beat and his expression grew stiff.

"What is it? Is something the matter in that area?" Lu Yun frowned when he noticed the man's reaction.

"I hope it's not... there," Haidong Lin chuckled wryly. "There are three thousand worlds in that direction and my home, the World of Sea, is also there. But there is also an abyss at the very end of that orientation."

"An abyss?" Lu Yun blinked. "The Abyssal Hell?"

"Yes, the Abyssal Hell," Haidong Lin nodded.

Apart from Lu Yun's Disordered Hell, there was more than one instance of each of the six hells. The dao of the five hells had always existed; a proper hell dao hadn't formed only because the sixth hell had yet to appear. At the same time, that didn't obstruct the formation of the five hells.

They were not unique entities. More than one of the exact same hell had historically appeared in the known and unknown expanses.

When Lu Yun refined the Disordered Hell, he'd collected the five hells onto himself and used them to create a sixth hell. Thus, it was no surprise that there was an Abyssal Hell in the secondary worlds of the fourth realm. Though he cultivated hell dao, he couldn't control the hells outside of the one he'd established.

Those hells and their dao existed outside of his hell dao to begin with, and were under someone else's control. If this Abyssal Hell was masterless, then Lu Yun could claim it.

Of course, there were always exceptions.

The Netherdark Hell had taken human form and become Violetgrave. So unless she was willing, there was no one who could cultivate that hell dao or build more Netherdark Hells.

“An Abyssal Hell...” Lu Yun frowned. “Are you sure it’s not a Nihil Hell?”

There was a Nihil Hell in the world of immortals that was devouring a Sanguine Hell. The former was connected to a land of darkness—the source of yin spirits in the world of immortals.

“It’s not a Nihil Hell, it really is an Abyssal Hell,” Haidong Lin shook his head. “That abyss is dangerous beyond belief. I can’t count the number of heavyweights that’ve tried to subdue it, but they never come back out after they enter it.

“That Abyssal Hell is a cancerous tumor plaguing the secondary worlds. It swallows both creatures of order and of darkness.”

A sudden thought struck Lu Yun. “Can it be that the original emperor is inside that hell?”

“Maybe... maybe he’s in the World of Sea.” Haidong Lin was plainly unwilling to entertain the thought of entering that hell. Plus, there were several major worlds in the associated direction, including his home.

“Let’s go take a look first. Since I’ve connected to the Imperial Seal, I’ll sense it more clearly the closer we get. Let’s visit your home.”

There must be a reason that the original emperor had come to the unknown expanses. If he really was in the Abyssal Hell, then there must be something special about that hell. The Abyssal Hell might be incredibly dangerous to others, but for a practitioner of hell dao, Lu Yun was wholly unafraid of it.

Haidong Lin trembled with emotion at hearing they would visit his homeland. He itched to teleport back to the World of Sea right this very moment! Although he’d left an uncountable number of years ago and perhaps his friends and family were all dead, that was still his home.

“I was once a divine spirit of the World of Sea—I still have an altar there! If you want, we can go there immediately!” he laughed heartily.

He could already sense his altar. Since there was no worship offered there, it was just a transportation treasure to him. He could instantly return to it if he was in the secondary worlds.

“Let’s go!” Lu Yun nodded.

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The World of Sea looked remarkably similar to Myriadsea World. It was covered by a boundless ocean and a few floating islands dotted the waters like pearls.

Black lightning zigzagged through the sky, just like the world they’d visited before, but the bolts here were much smaller than that of the previous world’s. There were more endarkened here and they fought the creatures of order at every second, trying to seize territory.

An altar the size of an island floated on the ocean’s surface. Apart from a statue that still stood on it, everything else had been destroyed. Judging from the ruins, this had once been an extremely prosperous world.

“Is this sculpture you?” Lu Yun asked with surprise when he studied the dilapidated sculpture. “You’re a woman?”

The sculpture was that of a shark spirit, but it belonged to a woman. Though its features were too indistinct to make out, the outline of its body was fully preserved.

Haidong Lin scowled darkly at it.

“Some bastard built a sect on my altar,” he explained awkwardly. “That’s not a sculpture of me, it’s probably whoever came after. My altar is nigh indestructible because it’s crafted from an exotic material found in the darkness. Only someone at twelve levels of sequence like me can shake it.

“My worshippers wouldn’t dare build this awful mess on my altar...” his tone turned morose. “The Sea Emperor must be dead. Things wouldn’t be like this if he wasn’t.”

“The Sea Emperor?” Lu Yun blinked.

“The ruler of the World of Sea, a fifteen level sequence expert. I was once Sea Lord Donglin under his command, one of the four great lords. I traveled to the world of sequence under his orders to create a world of sea dao sequence,” the man paused. “Perhaps... the emperor already knew the truth behind that world then and that Mazu existed. He sent me there on purpose to bring sea dao to Mazu and help her defeat the realm monster.”

Chapter 1690: Princess Mu

The passage of countless eons had eroded the rough edges of Haidong Lin’s personality. He finally understood why the Sea Emperor had looked at him with such a meaningful look when he gave his commands.

Haidong Lin was the strongest of the four sea lords; his sea dao had reached unparalleled heights. Only his dao could somewhat help Mazu. The emperor hadn’t gone himself because he needed to protect the World of Sea.

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Lu Yun patted the man’s shoulder when he saw the forlorn look in Haidong Lin’s eyes.

“Since I have come back, I will rebuild the dynasty and revitalize His Imperial Majesty’s glory!” Haidong Lin suddenly roared and sent his voice out as a sound wave, startling everything caught in it.

“How do you know the Sea Emperor’s dead?” Lu Yun sighed. “This world has declined and your altar is deserted, but that doesn’t mean the emperor’s dead.”

Haidong Lin started and realized that the young man was still looking in the direction of the Abyssal Hell.

“Do we need to go further in?” he asked.

“Yes,” Lu Yun nodded. “Perhaps the original emperor brought the Sea Emperor and countless powerhouses of this world to the Abyssal Hell.”

He’d employed formula dao and analyzed the world through the signs around the altar—this was the conclusion he reached. The Sea Emperor wasn’t dead and he wasn’t far from the Imperial Seal.

However, although the emperor wasn’t dead, his dynasty had completely collapsed.

“Impossible...” Haidong Lin gently shook his head. “His Majesty’s life goal was to protect the World of Sea and drive out the darkness. The gloom still lingers in the world, so he wouldn’t have entered the abyss.”

Rumble!

The sea waters around the altar exploded and collected back together as a giant of water.

“Who goes there, how dare you defile the ruins of the Imperial Sea Sect!” The giant slammed a hand down on the two as it spoke.

“The Imperial Sea Sect?!” Haidong Lin flew into a rage and punched back at the hand before it landed.

Scatter!

The giant of water broke apart from a single hit.

“Get your ass out here!” Haidong Lin reached forward and hauled a frail figure out of the ocean. Although he was fuming, he was very careful with his movement. He didn’t harm the main body of the water giant—especially as it looked to be a fifteen-year-old young man.

The young man was only true void realm; he was the bottom of the food chain in a place like the World of Sea. He hefted an orb in his hands and stared dumbly at Haidong Lin, not knowing what to do.

“Heh, a Water Virtue Orb huh? The kid’s only in the true void realm and has yet to reach World Manifest, but he can already control a Water Virtue Orb and release its full power?” Lu Yun’s eyes gleamed. There was a fetus of a Fire Virtue Orb in the Disordered Hell—although it was alive, it hadn’t taken form yet. Lu Yun didn’t know how much time it needed to become a true living being.

But he was in no hurry. The five Virtue Orbs were treasures of order and thus slightly different from connate treasures. They’d formed from the process of living beings mastering the connate five elements. That this young man could call upon the Water Virtue Orb’s complete power and release Nihil-World-Sovereign-level strength was proof of his uniqueness.

“I ask, you answer.” Haidong Lin didn’t look at the Water Virtue Orb. To him, an item of that level was no different from a pebble by the side of the road.

The young man quickly bobbed his head as he’d realized he was in over his head.

“Who is she?!” roared Haidong Lin as he pointed at the massive sculpture. The many buildings that’d been constructed later by the altar had all been destroyed. Only this sculpture remained intact.

“She is the sect master of the Imperial Sea Sect,” the young man answered carefully.

Haidong Lin narrowed his eyes.

“It’s said that the noble sect master was once the guardian spirit of the World of Sea. She was Princess Mu, the youngest daughter of His Imperial Majesty,” the young man hastily added when he saw Haidong Lin’s expression change. “According to the Chronicles of the Sea Emperor, after Sea Lord Donglin and His Imperial Majesty went missing, the mighty dynasty collapsed overnight. Creatures of the dark killed the

other three sea lords. When the tide of darkness ebbed, Her Highness built the Imperial Sea Sect to fight against the dark...”

“What happened afterwards?” Haidong Lin’s expression eased. While he didn’t know who Princess Mu was, he was willing to let things go since she’d raised the emperor’s banner and protected the world.

“Afterwards... Well, things became like this afterwards.” The young man cast a sad glance at the ruins in front of him. “Her Highness perished and the sect fell apart. We drift about aimlessly in the World of Sea since we have no leader. Without someone to champion the charge against the shadows, we are slowly being overtaken.

“Us lowly beings can only build a sculpture for Princess Mu on the ruins of the Imperial Sea Sect and worship her daily, praying that she can revive through the altar.

“This is the Chronicles of the Sea Emperor!” Seeing that this mighty personage wasn’t very satisfied with his explanation, the young man quickly offered up an ancient book.

Haidong Lin didn’t take it. At his cultivation level, all he needed to do was to scan it with his consciousness to finish reading it. The records were what the young man had spoken of.

“So she’s Princess Mu...” Haidong Lin looked at the sculpture again. Its hazy features weren’t a result of erosion, but that the makers hadn’t known what she looked like. They didn’t even know what her figure should resemble.

“This Princess Mu might not be dead either,” Lu Yun chuckled. “She seems to have followed the Sea Emperor into the abyss.”

Haidong Lin raised a brow and suddenly felt extremely irritated by Lu Yun’s smile.

“Don’t be mad,” Lu Yun quickly placated his companion. “Perhaps they found a way to repel the darkness.”

Haidong Lin’s brows knit together.

“Otherwise, how would the Sea Emperor—someone whose ambitions lay in protecting this world—and Princess Mu—someone who also safeguards its denizens—suddenly leave?

“They’re in the abyss and they’re with the original emperor. There’s got to be a way to take care of the darkness once and for all!” The look in Lu Yun’s eyes was resolute. “It’s logical that the dark exists, it’s part of order. But its presence here is irrational. If my guess is right, they’re looking for a way to put it back where it belongs.”