

## **Starlit Path 491**

Chapter 491: Everything Is Getting Better

Rumble!

Terrifying pressure blanketed the outer void battlefield. Countless spatial cracks webbed across the sky like a massive spider's net—eerie and bone-chilling.

Endless thunder coalesced into a colossal thunder palm, carrying world-ending might.

Lu Julian stared at the descending strike. The tribulation had transformed into this horrifying palm—for a moment, he felt suffocated.

If it were the earlier penalties, he wouldn't fear them. Confident he could withstand.

After all, with river-like fortune and Mysterious Immortal power rivaling saint realm, handling saint ascension tribulation would be easy.

But...

Ever since Zhulong spoke those words to the tribulation...

It changed.

This palm—not just blockable; even the Cloud Saint Ancestor would perish under it.

Lu Jiulian was momentarily speechless.

Could he take back his earlier words?

He didn't refuse to struggle—strength simply didn't allow it.

Boom!

The strike caused massive stones in the battlefield to crumble.

Fortunately, few beings here—otherwise, spillover would claim countless innocent lives.

Zhulong kept eyes closed, lashes trembling.

Dimples like deep whirlpools.

Of course, she wouldn't let Lu Jiulian face it. His strength was good, but blocking this—impossible.

Even for her—it'd cost scales and dragon blood.

His reaction amused her greatly.

Father—so mischievous!

She smiled.

Then tossed the Stealing Heaven Tower.

Warm as jade, pure white like sculpted snow—flawless.

It soared toward the heavens.

Lu Jiulian leaned on his sword, tattered robes fluttering.

Boom!

Thunder palm smashed down—clashing the jade tower.

Heaven-shaking explosion; ripples spread like gale over a pond.

Lu Jiulian felt immense suppression—staring skyward.

Hum...

Tower floated, emanating strange rhythm. Sainly might impacts vanished eerily.

Palm crumbled; thunder scattered. Supporting dao reserves stripped—whirling like tornadoes around it.

Finally...

Absorbed like dragon drinking water.

Terrifying penalty—gone.

Tribulation clouds dispersed; all calm.

Lu Jiulian watched it end.

His saint tribulation... just like that.

Tower descended; Zhulong swiftly caught it—still eyes closed, stroking once—then sped away.

He gazed at her vanishing back—emotions complex.

Leaning on sword atop cratered stone—momentarily lost.

...

Lu took the tower from Zhulong—sensing another ten thousand dao reserves—smiled satisfied.

Placed on wheelchair armrest; looked at her.

Now Mysterious Immortal—auras vastly stronger. As candle dragon among heavenly dragons...

Her combat power—terrifying. Ordinary saint ancestors no match.

Five Phoenix finally had guardians.

Gently patted her head.

"Go consolidate your cultivation..."

He said.

"Temper yourself more with the Heavenly Dao. Five Phoenix's Dao... will be yours to control in the future."

Eyes closed, lashes trembling—she nodded solemnly.

Done, Lu stretched on the Thousand Bladed Chair.

Zhulong and Lu Jiulian both Mysterious Immortal—two saint-level guardians. Five Phoenix now had voice in Nine Heavens.

Two saint clans destroyed—worries cleared.

Vengeance for his ruined sword settled.

Not pettiness.

Just tying karma.

"Time to return."

He smiled.

With Zhulong, streaked away as light.

...

Rumble!

Vast energy glowed; array runes wove.

In void, ancient warships emerged—Dao migration fleet. Sensing peril, bloodied-returning Primordial Unity elder activated the plan.

Aboard, Dao survivors stood in anguish.

Ancestor dead; clan defeated.

Million-year legacy—crumbled.

Grief surged.

But sorrow useless. Leading Primordial Unity endured—guiding warships through void.

These beings—Dao's continuation. Must survive.

"Don't worry. Cloud colluded with Five Phoenix—they'll meet bad ends. Before falling, our ancestor contacted seven great clans. Their experts return to mobilize imperial weapons—joint assault on void heaven's Five Phoenix."

"Cloud's collusion—doomed with Five Phoenix."

The leader consoled remnants.

Warships traversed void.

Suddenly...

In chaotic currents and storms...

A graceful figure emerged slowly.

Surrounded by strange power; saintly might vast—stilling raging flows.

Skin crystalline, exuding dao reserves.

Water seemed to flow around.

Hm?

Dao survivors encountered her.

Aboard, rising Primordial Unity experts wary.

This figure—from chaos.

Terrifying, trembling aura.

Leading Dao Primordial Unity stunned—then joyous.

"Fourth heaven saint clan... Water Saint Ancestor?!"

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Another terrifying aura; scorching heat approached from depths.

Dao experts trembled—nearly collapsing. Another saint ancestor.

"Fire Saint Ancestor?!"

Their arrival—like resonance—attracted more.

Figures tore through.

Void cracked under auras.

"Earth, Thunder, Wood Saint Ancestors!"

Plus two saint realm (not ancestors)—auras no weaker.

Terrifying interweave.

Dao warships shook.

Five saint ancestors, two saint realm—arrived together.

The seven Dao Ancestor contacted.

Seven saint-level—each with imperial weapon; auras horrific.

Dao Primordial Unity sweated coldly.

Seven hovered aloof—indifferently scanning.

"These Dao beings lost reserves... Dao Ancestor fallen."

Water Saint Ancestor swayed in radiance—glancing warships.

"Indeed dead—his aura gone..."

Water flows coiled.

Seizing the Primordial Unity.

"Speak. What happened?"

Dao Primordial Unity eyes reddened—no concealment.

"Five Phoenix... void heaven's Five Phoenix allied Cloud—attacked Dao. We couldn't hold; ancestor slain..."

Words stunned Water Saint Ancestor.

"Void heaven's Five Phoenix? Invaded upper fifth continent?"

"Message leaked? Preemptive strike?"

Others grave.

"Avenge Dao!"

Primordial Unity pleaded, eyes red.

Suddenly...

Chill gripped him.

Seven saints gazed... strangely.

Heart sank—cold from soles upward.

"Dao—one of ten great saint clans, with Heavenly Evolution Mirror."

Water Saint Ancestor said slowly.

"Pity..."

"Now erased from upper Nine Heavens."

Words fell.

Bad premonition.

"Your ancestor dead... why waste Nine Heavens resources, hogging reserves?"

"Join him—don't let him be lonely."

She said.

With faint smile.

Hand raised.

Warships enveloped in massive water orbs.

"No..."

Primordial Unity suffocated.

Despair spread.

Saint clans... none good!

Cloud was—others too.

With ancestor alive, these were polite, friendly.

Now dead—cold indifference chilling.

Tree falls, monkeys scatter—true despair.

Water Saint Ancestor graceful in mist—veiled beauty alluring.

Smiling sweetly.

Hand clenched.

Pop! Pop! Pop!

Orbs muffled—internal twisting force.

Warships distorted, collapsed.

Soon, blood sprayed.

Dao survivors... silenced instantly—exterminated.

Primordial Unity trembled—world's cruelty unfair.

Staring Water Saint Ancestor.

"Why? Dao already ruined!"

"Why no chance to live?"

Gritted teeth.

Her slender finger touched his brow.

Smiled.

"Not saint realm—what do you know?"

"Heavenly Dao limited. One more saint clan—one more share. Dao lost ancestor and weapon—why exist, taking share?"

"Better divide Dao reserves among us."

"You think we came with weapons to punish Five Phoenix? Wrong... weaponless Dao and Cloud—our targets."

Laughter echoed.

Primordial Unity wailed—shaking.

Glancing—others indifferent.

Boom!

Bitter laugh; immortal qi surged—desperate strike.

But...

Finger erupted terror.

Water arrow pierced brow—annihilating primordial spirit.

Unwilling, aggrieved—he fell lifeless.

Elders' migration plan—aborted at start.

Now he understood ancestor's disdain for it.

Though not stopped—never cared.

Ancestor knew: his death—destroyers not Five Phoenix, but other saints.

Saint clan rivalry—so brutal.

Seven hovered.

Void bloody thick.

Unconcerned.

"Dao breached by Five Phoenix? Million-year reserves... to them?"

One saint in hazy light—feared even by five ancestors.

"Unlikely... no imperial weapon—how claim reserves it suppressed?"

Water Saint Ancestor said.

"Why focus void heaven? Ancient emperor buried—wandering imperial weapons... their emergence—we claim reserves to bolster."

"Ancestor dead—can't let reserves scatter. We 'manage' it. And Cloud... colluded, persecuted saints—unforgivable, exterminate."

Rumble!

Seven moved—step tearing space, crossing vast distances.

...

War ended.

Dao Ancestor dead; remnants fled upper fifth continent via arrays.

Cloud Ancestor fallen—resistance gone, despairing.

Hiding in temple with imperial might against Five Phoenix celestials and lower heavens ancestors—but faith lost.

Lu Jiulian ascended—returned from outer void, tribulated successfully.

River-like fortune; appeared outside temple—one sword slash.

Imperial might tore—defense gone.

Cloud beings panicked—surrendered.

Ancestor dead—how fight?

Five Phoenix had new saint Lu Jiulian—no match.

Cloud cultivators yielded.

Temple breached; million-year treasures seized.

Beings captured—cultivation sealed, imprisoned in ancestral ground.

Upper continent—now Five Phoenix and lower heavens territory.

But sensing—interest waned. Stacked fourth-level high-martials forming third-level—many beings, but Dao/Cloud dominated.

Environment weaker than ascension grounds.

Lower heavens ancestors left uninterested.

Five Phoenix celestials even more so.

After treasures—returned home. With rulers gone...

Upper continent's fifth/sixth-level forces warred for dominance—flames everywhere.

...

Void heaven.

Lu on Thousand Bladed Chair—white robes flowing.

Dao/Cloud destroyed—karma resolved.

Gazing at magnificent Five Phoenix—filling nearly a third of void heaven—satisfied smile.

All his creation.

Five Phoenix strengthening—absorbing Dao imperial reserves.

People cultivated fortune—essentially reserves. Cultivation aided Heavenly Dao engraving—increasing reserves endlessly.

Now with saint-level.

By power: Primordial Unity—fourth-level high-martial; saint—third-level!

One day, Five Phoenix might grow vast—void heaven too small.

Then...

One Five Phoenix world—one heaven.

"Hm?"

Suddenly eyes bright.

Looked at world under vast Five Phoenix.

Once top mid-martial... now leaped to high-martial!

Like seedling breaking desert soil.

Weakest ninth-level.

But void heaven once birthed none.

Now, led by Five Phoenix—limits broken.

Second high-martial born—soon third, fourth, fifth...

Future ruined void heaven—restore to Pingyang, Blood Evil, Yuan Magnetic levels.

Even surpass—reach upper fifth, higher.

"Everything is getting better."

Lu smiled, eyes gleaming.

"Dao/Cloud issues resolved. Five Phoenix peaceful—no threats soon. Good development period."

"Steady progress—immortal martial foundation laid. Build on it—ultimately immortal martial!"

"This young master can finally... pursue Qi Refinement hundred layers properly!"

Chapter 492: Draining the Imperial Weapons Dry—Gu Mangran Truly Perplexed

The affairs of the Dao Clan and Cloud Clan were finally settled.

With the fall of their saint ancestors, the blades hanging over Five Phoenix had vanished.

The resources of both clans were fully claimed by Five Phoenix and transported back to the continent.

Mineral veins, spiritual tools and artifacts, cultivation techniques, spiritual herbs, divine medicines...

The haul was immense—after all, these were the accumulations of two clans over a million years. How could it not be vast?

In truth, the celestials of Five Phoenix only emptied the Dao ancestral ground. They left the other resources on the upper continent untouched.

After all, the upper realm wasn't solely Dao and Cloud territory.

Even so, the resources brought back were staggering.

With them, Five Phoenix's foundation grew even deeper.

Lu Julian, Overlord, Sima Qingshan, and others sorted and distributed these riches.

Some scattered them across the world, benefiting the masses—and reaping fortune in return.

In this war, Five Phoenix's human and true immortals, along with the Netherworld's yin messengers, displayed overwhelming dominance. Cultivating karma and fortune had filled them with confidence.

They couldn't help but marvel: worthy of ancient transmitted methods.

The Great Luo Immortal Scripture and Six Paths Reclamation Visualization granted strength boosts that even the upper realm couldn't match.

This inspired Five Phoenix's cultivators to train even harder.

The Netherworld sealed once more as Dan Taixuan returned. They took few resources—useless for the Netherworld. But in the war's deaths, Dan Taixuan seized over half the souls from Nine Heavens Dao's grasp.

Such boldness—far from their former timidity before it.

With karma nearing river-like, Dan Taixuan had the capital for audacity.

Most resources poured into Five Phoenix, aiding its cultivators.

A grand era unfolded like a vast scroll.

With the immortals' triumphant return, cultivators and mortals alike buzzed with excitement.

The Human Emperor of Great Xuan personally sacrificed at Mount Tai to welcome them.

A resounding victory—exhilarating. The world boiled.

Even tensions between demon clan court and Great Xuan eased slightly.

Of course, temporary—deep scars and rifts wouldn't vanish easily.

Vast Ocean.

Lake heart island.

Lu returned, white robes flowing.

Stroking the Stealing Heaven Tower—mood excellent. Another twenty thousand dao reserves gained. Plus Dao Clan's million-year accumulation—all converted to Five Phoenix Dao—its Heavenly Dao would strengthen vastly.

Not rivaling Nine Heavens yet... but growing.

Ning Zhao, Yi Yue, and Ni Yu appeared to greet him.

Their eyes resentful—they'd missed the fiery battle.

Lu seemed to recall something.

Beckoned the three maids.

They approached puzzled.

"You know the Great Luo Immortal Scripture?"

"Unearthed in ascension grounds—an immortal method for ancient immortals, specializing in fortune. You can try it."

He said.

The maids looked confused.

Lu smiled.

No explanation.

Raised hand—tapping their brows. The scripture's outline transmitted to their minds.

"Henceforth, I won't restrict you. Leave the island if you wish, stay and cultivate if preferred... or enter the mortal world—experience red dust; great for tempering the heart."

"But I hope—when I emerge from seclusion—your cultivation has leaped greatly."

He smiled.

The three fell dazed.

The scripture's vastness overwhelmed.

Long before recovering.

"Yes."

They bowed.

Lu chuckled lightly—vanishing to White Jade Capital pavilion.

Entering the world.

The three pondered his words.

For Ning Zhao—bottlenecked long—perhaps vital.

She didn't stay—leaving the island.

Yi Yue too—time beside Young Master showed her weakness.

He... needed no guarding.

Ni Yu—pure whimsy. With Little Yinglong, plunged into red dust.

The island quieted suddenly.

Only wind rustling purple bamboo.

Peach petals scattering softly.

Lu sat in White Jade Capital pavilion—white robes drifting, bronze cup in hand. Watching departing maids—smiled.

Set cup down; mind entered origin space.

Five Phoenix Heavenly Dao blazed like a sun—vast energy palpitating.

But his creation—absolute control.

Hand raised.

Three dao origins floated.

Special rewards—not fused yet.

Fusion might invite catastrophe—Nine Heavens Dao's world-ending wrath.

Without certainty—no rush.

"Better bolster with reserves."

Eyes gleamed. Stealing Heaven Tower appeared—twenty thousand reserves infused.

Heavenly Dao shone brighter; phoenix within cried excitedly.

Soon interwoven.

Lu toured origin space on Thousand Bladed Chair—then returned to reality.

Rumble...

Five Phoenix transformed subtly.

Spiritual qi denser; land harder, stronger—even gravity rising slowly.

Signs of growth.

Now truly third-level high-martial.

White Jade Capital pavilion.

Spiritual Pressure Chessboard floated. Sleeve rolled, piece placed—arranging game.

Each move—mind sublimating.

Lu sensed... nearing breakthrough.

Qi Refinement eighth to ninth layer.

Not overly excited—natural flow kept him calm.

Still time needed.

But with cultivators' practice purifying qi—he'd reach ninth eventually.

"As layers rise, extracted qi pickier. Ordinary Qi Condensation, Body Storage, Heaven Lock no longer suffice—only geniuses' pure qi works..."

White robes flowing—piece down.

Pondering.

Minor impact—cultivator numbers growing with world level.

Those realms now mere entry.

"Indeed—strengthen Five Phoenix the goal."

"Immortal martial foundation laid—path correct."

Smiling—piece slammed.

Reserves needed—vast to stack Heavenly Dao levels.

Where most?

Fingers on piece—head up, eyes gleaming toward Nine Prisons secret realm.

Imperial weapons, naturally.

Cloud defeated—weapon his, Lu Ping'an's.

Hand raised—tearing void.

Silver-gray spatial profound surged.

Entered Netherworld—appearing deep in abyss.

Silent—no detection, even from karma-rich Dan Taixuan.

Supreme Furnace trapped. Lu squinted—void heaven rift's light had felled both weapons.

One at Heavenly Gate, one here.

Still wary—what lurked in the rift?

Seeming to watch Five Phoenix.

Purpose?

Fingers tapping armrest—squinted.

But not now.

No preaching platform deduction this time.

Directly—Stealing Heaven Tower out.

With it—simpler.

"Hope my guess correct."

Tossed toward trapped furnace.

Dong!

Innate treasure vs imperial—deafening roar.

Netherworld undead wailed in terror—imperial might could shred fragile souls.

Undead cities.

Dan Taixuan and nine lords opened eyes.

Ten black lights—karma surging—appeared at abyss edge.

Gazing down—inverted breaths.

Abyss crisscrossed horrific imperial might.

Dao and principles clashed.

Might spread—furious, resisting.

Rumble!

Even Dan Taixuan palpitated.

Entering now—torn to shreds by raging might!

"What happened?"

Dan Taixuan grave.

Gazing dark depths—oppressed.

Weapon aided greatly against Dao army—but Cloud's: double-edged sword.

Trapped in Netherworld—like blade at throat.

Misstep—Netherworld collapse.

Abyss bottom.

Lu unaware of Dan Taixuan's thoughts.

Face odd—watching scene.

Plain Stealing Heaven Tower—like boat in imperial storm.

Furnace unleashed pressure—repelling repeatedly.

Yet tower—like eagle against wind—closing relentlessly.

Closer—might fiercer...

Like woman shrieking at approaching creep.

Lu twitched—style off somehow.

Boom!

Roar; tower glowed faintly.

Next—furnace reserves emerged.

Vast like surging river.

Cloud's million years—sixth among ten greats (by weapon strength; first heaven's first-level aside).

Reserves nearly matched Dao's Heavenly Evolution Mirror.

Lu's eyes lit—like endless coins beckoning.

"Rich again..."

Smacked lips.

Cloud controlled stacked fourth-levels to third—over fifty thousand reserves per third-level; million years at peak.

Nearly hundred thousand.

Tower devoured madly—stripping from furnace.

Like bandit—Lu winced.

He, benevolent—how such thieving treasure?

Rumble!

Suddenly—formless roar: lesser emperor will.

Like ancient emperor strand in dismantled mirror.

Lu grave—chessboard emerged; piece down.

Pressure beam crashed.

Emerging will—crushed.

Now—million-fold pressure; board-amplified to ten million. Qi Refinement eighth's ten million-fold.

Even saint ancestor caught off-guard—suffer greatly.

Hum...

Weapon trembled—but tower swallowed all reserves.

Endless flames... snuffed.

Aura dropped a tier.

Not destroyed—just lost vast reserves, some divinity.

Still imperial.

Lu's primordial spirit entered—fully mastering Supreme Furnace.

Mood soared.

Left it in abyss—making it hellish wonder for Netherworld.

Took satiated tower—left.

Nearly hundred thousand plus prior mirror outflow.

Full absorption—second-level high-martial at least!

But vast—even with Great Luo converting to fortune for aid—difficult.

Tower with hundred thousand—mightier; surrounding void cracking, heavy as collapsing heavens.

Hundred thousand equivalent—swinging third-level high-martial as weapon.

Lu brightened—if million—first-level each swing?

"Too few imperial weapons."

Regretful shake—million reserves: how many weapons?

...

Upper vast continent.

Void tore—seven hazy figures descended abruptly.

Terrifying auras interwoven.

Dao ancestral ground—invited by ancestor.

But emptied—faces stern.

Dao truly fallen.

Cloud-Five Phoenix alliance destroyed them?

"Someone."

One saint spoke—hand grasping.

Figure tumbled over.

Disheveled, reeking, eyes mad—cackling.

"Hahaha..."

Ye Bei—driven insane by peerless killing array.

Dao dead; madness saved him.

"Dao's former prodigy, Ye Bei."

Saint calm—confirmed insanity—sighed.

Shock—Ye Bei flung away; crawled up, still mad.

"Pitiful Dao."

"Ancestor slain, prodigy mad—great saint clan to dust."

Water Saint Ancestor swayed waist—lamented.

Then vast saintly might spread.

"Dao weapon trapped in void heaven's Five Phoenix Heavenly Gate. To inherit million-year reserves—retrieve Heavenly Evolution Mirror; divide with imperial might."

Water Saint Ancestor said.

Saints exchanged glances—streaked away.

Dao gone—target Cloud.

Cloud allied Five Phoenix—avenge as heaven's will.

Five Phoenix no weakling—even seven saints plus weapons—wary of void heaven. Cloud first.

Cloud ancestral ground.

Seven arrived—terrifying auras.

Scavengers in ground panicked.

Boom!

Saintly might spread.

Scavengers exploded to mince.

"What?"

"Dao said Cloud-Five Phoenix allied? Why Cloud ground fallen too?"

"Blood qi soaring—many dead, fierce battle."

"Cloud Ancestor aura gone... dead too."

One saint said.

Seven exchanged—inhaled sharply.

"Cloud allied Five Phoenix—destroyed Dao. Then Five Phoenix turned—destroyed Cloud..."

"What a Five Phoenix—scheming, vicious!"

Breaths quickened soon.

Two upper saint clans—toyed by Five Phoenix.

"Fate without imperial weapon..."

One saint sighed.

Both destroyed—million-year reserves: hot commodity.

Retrieve weapons from Heavenly Gate/Netherworld—theirs.

Seven gazed void heaven direction.

Terrifying auras emanated.

...

Five Phoenix, Vast Ocean.

Ancient tomb.

Sensing seven saints' killing intent approaching.

Gu Mangran jolted awake in coffin.

Suddenly alarmed.

Sensed two sun-like auras.

Looked.

Great Xuan Academy depths—Lu Jiulian looked up, smiled, nodded lightly.

Lu Jiulian saint realm?!

Shocked—another at Buzhou Peak: that witch.

Deep breath—sunken sockets excited.

"Five Phoenix two more saints—greater certainty invading Cloud/Dao!"

Murmured.

Academy—Lu Jiulian paused.

Smiled.

"General, no worry—rest. Under Young Master Lu's lead—we've already razed Cloud and Dao."

Transmitted.

Gu Mangran stunned.

Next—truly perplexed.

Woke up...

Cloud and Dao already gone?!

Wait!

His rest and buildup...

Lu's promised joint attack?

And promised Vermilion Bird divine medicine—just forgotten?

Chapter 493: I, Lu Ping'an, Am Always Kind to Others

Origin Lake, lake heart island.

Atop the White Jade Capital pavilion, Lu sat calmly.

The Spiritual Pressure Chessboard glowed faintly, black and white pieces scattered like stars.

Elbow on the wheelchair armrest, chin in palm—one hand idly holding a piece, bored.

Eyes on the system panel.

Host: Lu

Title: Qi Refiner (Permanent)

Qi Refinement Layers: 8

Spiritual Qi Reserves: 9.9/10 (billion) strands

Primordial Spirit Power: 9527 (units)

Chaos Force: 54609 (Ha)

World Rating: Five Phoenix Small World [High-Martial (Immortal Martial Foundation)]

Vaguely, Lu felt breakthrough nearing.

This time—no bottleneck likely. Intuition.

After returning to mortal, his mind transformed—insights sustaining long. Short-term, no obstacles.

He needed time.

Though tempted to accelerate the time array around Five Phoenix... conditions forbade.

Current ratio: 100:1 external.

Limit for Five Phoenix beings.

Faster—mortals' bodies rupture; cultivators' realms and foundations collapse.

Disrupt balance.

Lu desired top high-martial, even immortal martial.

But... not overnight.

"Great Luo Immortal Scripture's emergence elevated all cultivators' strength."

"Next—accumulation over time, fortune buildup, steady development: best path."

"But solely that—insufficient."

Lu frowned, placing a piece.

"Ease erodes will, devours essence..."

"Thus, matching tribulations needed."

"Dao and Cloud Clans destroyed—tribulations lessened. But cannot stop; ease breeds laziness."

He smiled.

Eyes gleaming—idea forming.

...

Ancient tomb.

Gu Mangran sank into deep doubt.

Withdrew primordial spirit—no more contact with Lu Jiulian. Expression lost.

"Dao and Cloud Clans... truly destroyed?"

Million-year legacies, third-level high-martial forces—wiped by Five Phoenix?

Unknowingly, Five Phoenix grown so?

"Development swift... time flow one factor; frequent opportunities another."

"Netherworld, Heavenly Gate plus Five Phoenix—qualitative change."

"Truly ancient emperor scheming?"

Gu Mangran sat in coffin.

Tomb eerie, silent—once four kings gone.

But heart burned.

Suddenly—saw thriving vigor in Five Phoenix!

Given time—first-level high-martial, restoring void heaven's glory!

"If emperor returns—seeing today's void heaven, surely pleased."

Eyes joyful.

"No... must confirm Dao and Cloud truly fallen."

"Young Master Lu too youthful—potential oversights hinder growth."

Boom!

Vast Ocean exploded.

Gu Mangran emerged—streaking across sea.

Soon beyond Five Phoenix.

Hovered outside—gazing time-array-shrouded continent. Sighed deeply.

"Five Phoenix's rise—inseparable from Young Master Lu... this array—none but him sustains such efficiency."

Gu Mangran strong—but couldn't fathom Lu.

Cultivation... or combat.

But no probing.

Believed Lu's devotion to Five Phoenix—heart and soul.

Left—streaking beyond void heaven.

Suddenly...

Mind trembled.

Familiar feeling—waking jolt!

Hm?

Gazed outward—Pingyang Heaven. Void tore; figures emerged.

Terrifying auras—annihilating nearby ninth/eighth-level worlds.

"Saint realm!"

Instant certainty.

Yes!

Vast saintly might—saints.

Dao/Cloud ancestors alive?

Lu Jiulian lied?

No...

Not their auras.

Gu Mangran's gaunt face—eyes narrowed. Certain.

Fought Cloud Ancestor—aura different.

Then...

Pupils contracted.

Other ten great saint clans?

Body tensed—immense pressure. Grave.

If true—Five Phoenix faces unprecedented crisis!

Rumble!

In void heaven.

Gu Mangran sat coffin afloat.

Staring Pingyang.

They noticed him.

"Hm... Blood-Clothed General Gu Mangran aura."

Surprise echoed.

Then—hazy figures in saintly might emerged.

Hovered in Pingyang—not entering void heaven. Knew ancient emperor rules lingered.

"Oh, it's you lot."

Gu Mangran rose slowly from coffin—hands on sides. Calm gaze.

Steady demeanor, unflinching.

Grave for the seven in Pingyang.

Blood-Clothed fame... deterrent.

Gu Mangran half-smiled—calm.

Though inwardly panicking.

No weakness shown.

Foe unmoved—I unmoved.

"Ten great saint clans... seven here. Truly honor Five Phoenix. Why no Dao or Cloud?"

Words fell.

Seven froze.

Bold Gu Mangran!

Threatening?

Dao/Cloud destroyed by Five Phoenix.

With what?

Only Blood-Clothed—ancient emperor's top general.

Heard Cloud Ancestor blocked ascension to deny divine medicines.

Yet medicines flowed.

With them—life energy restored saint power.

Not peak—but desperate fight: slaying Dao/Cloud ancestors feasible.

"Heh... Blood-Clothed General, dormant hundreds of thousands years—might undimmed."

"Dao/Cloud fallen—your unmatched feats. No need dragging corpses."

"We merely passing... heard void heaven birthed new high-martial. Curious glance."

Saints spoke.

Gu Mangran stunned.

Dao/Cloud... truly his doing?

But no time—seven posed crisis.

Crisis meant...

Seven imperial weapons!

Seven weapons plus saints—Five Phoenix doom easy!

"Heh? Passing."

"Slept hundreds of thousands—not idiot."

"Come in void heaven? Chat properly?"

Leaned back like comfy sofa—arms wide. Casual.

Seven exchanged—grave.

Words implied—knew their weapons.

"General jests. Void heaven holds ancient emperor rules. Emperor gone hundreds of thousands—might lingers. How dare we trespass?"

Smiled.

But terrifying auras released—Pingyang beings wailing.

Gu Mangran smiled.

Drew chrysanthemum-like divine medicine from coffin.

No Vermilion Bird from Lu—borrowed chrysanthemum from Lu Changkong.

Placed on coffin.

Petals trembled—vast life energy.

Pingyang seven exchanged—grave.

He had medicines!

Cloud/Dao died by his hand!

Displaying now—threat: enter—he swallows, revives, fights to death.

Your fate—theirs!

Atmosphere heavy.

But seven unwilling—exchanged glances.

Dao/Cloud weapons trapped—million-year reserves. Divide—closer to first heaven.

Thus...

Unwilling miss.

"General, no offense to void heaven. New high-martial birth—life's miracle. We no sinners erasing it."

"But Dao/Cloud weapons upper realm's. Purpose: retrieve."

"Ten imperial weapons—upper foundation. Even if we don't—first heaven won't ignore."

"With Five Phoenix strength—holding them disaster."

"We... come dispel calamity for Five Phoenix."

Smiling.

Words changed Gu Mangran's face.

Thought acting scare them off.

But target—weapons.

Bitter inwardly.

Should've known.

Saints ruthless—clans fallen, ownerless weapons with reserves: supreme treasures—even ancestors covet.

No camaraderie—suspicion, confrontation.

Without weapons deterring—long warring.

Swallowing you—saves million years. Why not?

Gu Mangran leaned in coffin.

Sunken sockets deep as void.

Dry lips curled—half-smile.

"So for Dao/Cloud weapons..."

Laughed easily—mocking.

"Know why trapped?"

"Think I capable? Overestimate."

Slow, mocking tone.

Calm—unnerved seven.

Indeed—their greatest fear.

Otherwise—weapons swung, invaded long ago.

Why trapped?

Two imperial weapons—wielded by ancestors, partial might.

Unless ancient emperor—no fall.

Worried void heaven emperor remnants.

For two weapons—risk clan ones? Regret eternal.

Upper Nine Heavens—storm.

Silence.

Seven mute in Pingyang—auras terrifying beings.

Little Thunder Sound's Great Senior—fortune vast, but ant to saints.

Seven in Pingyang—catastrophe.

Dared not move.

...

Five Phoenix continent.

Lu pondering Five Phoenix tribulations—jolted awake.

Looked beyond.

Primordial spirit surged—capturing seven hazy saints in Pingyang.

Gu Mangran confronting.

Overhearing dialogue.

Eyes lit—weapons? They carry imperial?

Glanced quiet Stealing Heaven Tower on armrest—stroked chin.

Hand raised—tearing spatial rift.

Silver-gray profound surged.

Streaked as thunderlight in.

...

Gu Mangran relaxed—like beach vacation.

Arms wide—side-eyeing seven.

Daring: come on.

Void heaven's mystery deterred—even with weapons, wary.

Unclear Dao/Cloud fall—risk clan weapons?

Outcomes fresh.

Suddenly...

Silver-gray energy.

White-robed youth emerged on wheelchair—youthful, harmless.

"Young Master Lu."

Gu Mangran saw—face twitched. Maintained cool—slight nod.

Lu smiled—cupped hands. Turned to seven.

Saints noticed.

"Five Phoenix legendary Young Master Lu."

"Heard resists saints—tough."

"Five Phoenix pillar—Lu Ping'an?"

Scanned.

Lu gazed eagerly—almost feverish.

Uncomfortable for seven.

Gu Mangran brow raised—Lu's eyes?

So passionate?

Like spotting beauty?

Water Saint Ancestor beauty—but viper heart. Hundreds of thousands years—old maid. Mismatched with tender Lu.

Gu Mangran thought remind later.

"Long admired. Saint clans famed upper—Nine Heavens known. Today—indeed awe-inspiring, majestic."

"Meeting saint friends—deep respect."

Lu on Thousand Bladed Chair—blooming smile, cupped hands.

"Heard for trapped Dao/Cloud weapons? I worried handling them—you timely."

"I, Five Phoenix Lu Ping'an—always kind to others. Enter void heaven quickly—I have million-reserve business to discuss."

Brilliant, sincere smile.

Business—sincerity key.

Gu Mangran stunned.

Not just him—seven too.

Million reserves business?

Tiny Five Phoenix—where million?

First-level accumulation!

Nine Heavens—only first heaven has. Fool who?!

Words fell.

Seven exchanged—first chill.

Gazing smiling youth like blooming flower—terrifying killing intent enveloped.

Yes—killing!

Void heaven crisis—this eager lure—ill intent.

If only Gu Mangran—perhaps bluffing weakness.

But Lu enthusiastic—definite trap.

Dao/Cloud how fallen?

Gu Mangran combat—Lu Ping'an schemed evil plans, mastermind!

Allied Cloud—destroyed Dao. Ruthlessly turned—destroyed Cloud!

Depth of cunning, ruthlessness!

Daunting!

"Trick!"

Exchanged—retreating from void heaven.

Deep chill.

Gu Mangran mouth agape—Lu's few words routed seven clans?

His top general deterrence—less than Lu's?

Youth awesome!

Admired deeply!

Lu saw retreat—anxious.

Expression flowed—acting flawless. Gu Mangran marveled.

Crushed in acting!

But soon—stiffened, chilled.

Lu anxiously rushed out void heaven—to Pingyang.

Hand waving.

"Friends, wait!"

Chapter 494: Friends, We Can Still Talk More

"Friends, please stay!"

Lu's words carried a hint of urgency—even resounding like a thunderclap across Pingyang Heaven, stunning everyone.

Gu Mangran froze.

The holy land ancestors in Pingyang watching this direction—all froze.

Even the seven saint realm experts from the saint clans turned incredulously to stare at Lu.

What... did he say?!

They were leaving... and this Lu Ping'an actually told them not to go?

What was this guy planning?!

Did he truly believe he could detain all seven saint realm experts?

And ones wielding imperial weapons?!

"I come with utmost sincerity, genuinely wishing to discuss a million dao reserve deal with you friends!"

Lu declared.

Lightning arced as he appeared in Pingyang Heaven.

Little Thunder Sound's Great Senior felt chills watching Lu exit void heaven.

Young Master Lu gone mad!

Seven saint realms—from other heavens, armed with imperial weapons. Even peak Gu Mangran would wary—how dare you leave void heaven?

In void heaven—rules protected, mysterious rift power guarded. Safe.

Outside—you're just meat on the chopping block!

Though Lu resisted saint might—with imperial weapons, far beyond weaponless Dao/Cloud ancestors!

But seeing Lu's earnest expression...

Great Senior suddenly felt familiar dread.

No...

From knowing Young Master Lu—he must be prepared, brewing some terrifying plot!

Rumble! Rumble! Rumble!

Pingyang Heaven exploded with pressure.

Seven saints jointly unleashed terrifying saintly might.

"Lu Ping'an... you truly dare exit void heaven? Think we won't capture you?"

Water Saint Ancestor swayed—coldly stated.

"I harm none unprovoked... I, Lu Ping'an, truly sincere—want to talk."

Lu's eyes shone with honesty.

In void heaven.

Gu Mangran speechless—hand already reaching for chrysanthemum medicine on coffin, ready to swallow for power.

Or too late to aid in fight.

"Heh..."

"Tiny Five Phoenix—let alone million, can't even produce hundred thousand reserves. Trap too obvious—lure us into void heaven. Think us saints idiots?"

One saint sneered.

Lu on Thousand Bladed Chair—momentarily speechless.

He treated with true heart—why no belief?

Business... sincerity key to success.

Terrifying auras interwoven—Pingyang beings knelt in terror under saintly might.

"Young Master Lu, return."

Gu Mangran sniffed chrysanthemum—called.

Fighting seven in Pingyang—too disadvantaged.

At least in void heaven—rules hinder imperial weapons.

Glanced at seven turning cautiously—planning retreat, long-term strategy.

Lu shook head regretfully.

Talk failed.

Controlled chair—turning back to void heaven.

Hm?

Seven exchanged—eyes gleaming.

"Lu Ping'an Five Phoenix lord—spiritual leader. Out of void heaven—perfect chance."

"Act! Capture him—use as bargaining chip, force Gu Mangran surrender Dao/Cloud weapons."

"Fraud? Lu Ping'an daring before us seven—prepared?"

Seven exchanged via primordial spirits—lightning-fast.

Some urged action; others hesitant.

Water Saint Ancestor stared at Lu speeding toward void heaven on chair—eyes narrowed.

"Intentional or not—out of void heaven: our opportunity! If even then we dare not—that how claim Dao/Cloud weapons?!"

She declared.

Words fell.

She struck first.

In void heaven—rules attacked.

In Pingyang—no restrictions.

Act!

Boom!

Water Saint Ancestor flashed—closing on Lu.

Rumble!

Pingyang quaked—countless high-martial worlds trembled, continents cracking.

Low/mid-martial protected by Heavenly Dao—no massive destruction, but saintly might oppressed souls and life levels.

Other six narrowed eyes.

No action.

Mere Lu Ping'an—resist saints possible, but Water Saint Ancestor profound, with clan weapon—sufficient.

Wary of Lu's cunning.

In void heaven.

Gu Mangran's expression shifted.

Didn't expect Water Saint Ancestor's boldness—ignoring his threat, striking thunderously!

Indeed, Lu exiting—temptation too great.

Saintly might spread.

Lu sensed—turned, seeing her cold, murderous face.

Killing intent churned void.

His white robes whipped by her might.

"I, Lu Ping'an, merely want business talk—you strike to kill?"

Lu's gaze sharpened.

Facing her—hand grasped Stealing Heaven Tower on armrest.

Innate treasure—no aura, like ordinary ornament.

Lu swung it.

Hurled at charging Water Saint Ancestor.

Tower arced gracefully—toward her.

Water Saint Ancestor blue hair flying—gem-like eyes, flawless body surging saintly might. Tender hand clawed at Lu!

For hurled tower—eyes grave.

Lu Ping'an—Five Phoenix spiritual figure, leader from ninth-level to third-level high-martial.

Cunning, vicious—deep schemes.

From world tournament—gradually eroded Dao/Cloud, ultimately exterminating clans!

Ruthless—chilling.

Thus, no underestimation of tower.

Let alone... aura unreadable.

Foolish to think mere decoration.

Under saintly might—ordinary ornament long shattered.

Boom!

Water coiled around—like dragon twisting tower aside.

Clash.

Suddenly!

Her expression changed!

Dragon... shattered by tower!

Splashing water—her dragon capable of shifting fifth-level continents—exploded, unmoved tower!

Heavy—tiny tower like third-level high-martial!

"What is this?!"

Chills.

Immediately sacrificed saint ancestor dao weapon—dao reserve interwoven dagger.

Whipped at tower.

Ding!

Saint ancestor weapon vast might—like raging waves.

Clanged crisply against jade tower—melodious.

But...

Her face changed soon.

Weapon cracked—hundreds refined reserves drained instantly!

Crack!

Crisp—weapon snapped, extinguished!

All lightning-fast.

In void heaven—Gu Mangran seeing her strike.

Not yet swallowed medicine—saw this, eyes wide in shock.

Young Master Lu had such tower artifact?!

Hard clash—shattered saint dao weapon?!

What tower?!

Silent—ambush divine!

So... insidious!

"Lu Ping'an! Truly insidious!"

Water Saint Ancestor paled—haze lifted, revealing terrified beauty—and gritted fury.

Lu squinted.

"Some call me petty—fine. But first calling me insidious—you!"

In Pingyang.

Saint dao weapon explosion—energy storm churning void.

But not end.

Tower wobbled—might undiminished, no energy yet—still smashing toward her.

Far off.

Six saints horrified.

Tower clashed her again.

Puchi!

Her tender arm exploded!

Flesh's Dao-tempered energy drained like dragon drinking.

Beautiful face horrified!

What... artifact?!

So vicious!

Saint dao weapon?

Or imperial?!

"Vicious weapon!"

Lu Ping'an prepared—urging stay: to detain!

Million reserves talk—nonsense!

Tower held Cloud furnace's near hundred thousand reserves—might no less. Hundred thousand  
smash—wound saints!

Water Saint Ancestor sensed death!

She... could die!

Smashed by tiny tower!

Thus—no hesitation—unleashed imperial weapon.

Blue long whip.

Clashed tower.

Terrifying boom.

Dong!

Echoes spread; blue whip activated imperial might—rippling outward!

Void shattered—web cracks spanning.

Saint battle—Pingyang void unbearable.

"Imperial weapon?!"

Lu on chair—saw her weapon, eyes lit.

Finally!

Spiritual Pressure Chessboard emerged.

"I wanted fair business—but you bully, call me insidious..."

"Since debut—never such grievance."

Hum...

Sleeve rolled—white robes flowing, hair flying.

Slammed central piece.

Clack!

Crisp—like void cracking.

Boom!

Pressure beam plunged.

"Million-fold spiritual pressure!"

Lu declared brightly.

Void like star chessboard.

Milky beam pierced Pingyang void.

Smashed desiring escape Water Saint Ancestor's body.

Instantly—like thunderstruck, mind blank, trembling—momentary freeze.

Terrifying pressure—like forcing kneel.

But saint—Dao-tempered body. Though quaking violently—gritted teeth, endured!

Puchi!

Stifled groan—porcelain skin pale as snow.

"Lu Ping'an's pressure!"

"His method—cooperating Gu Mangran. Non-saint oppressing saint! Terrifying!"

"No wonder Cloud/Dao ancestors died. Gu Mangran kills—Lu controls. Weaponless saints—inescapable!"

Far off.

Six saints horrified.

In void heaven—Gu Mangran pinching medicine—lips pursed, complex.

Not me—no—don't slander!

I Gu Mangran...

Never struck!

Water Saint Ancestor saint—stirred flesh Dao power—shifted from million-fold oppression.

Instant drop—mind blank moment—lost weapon link. Escaped pressure—primordial spirit control.

No fight.

Lu Ping'an insidious—she learned today!

Five Phoenix with him—future upper calamity!

But...

Soon—stunning face terrified.

Lost... clan weapon link!

Looked afar.

Tower clashed blue whip—unscathed under imperial might!

Lost control—tower suction pulled weapon—dragging toward Lu!

"Lu Ping'an!"

Shriek echoed Pingyang.

Hair disheveled—beautiful face terrified.

"Return my imperial weapon!"

Primordial spirit surged—reconnect.

But...

Lu another piece—pressure beam precise on her body. Stiffened—stifled groan, mind blank again...

New link—severed.

Tower brought weapon to Lu.

On chair—sat.

White elegant—slender fingers placed piece.

Another beam.

Urgent—no full domain, no tenfold amp—but effect met expectations.

Boom!

Hand opened—grasped blue whip.

Tower hovered above.

Water Saint Ancestor trembled void—staring Lu, killing intent boiling.

Spread primordial spirit again—reclaim.

But...

Lu gripped—9527 unit primordial spirit surged.

Fearlessly clashed hers!

Eyes gleaming—dao stele manifested—smashed.

Puchi!

Felt violent impact—nose bled.

In Pingyang—staggered steps back.

Cleared—saw Lu holding blue Water whip.

Understood...

Water clan's weapon—gone!

Truly... trapped!

Lu Ping'an daring exit—insidious plot!

No—not plot. Hard strength.

Mysterious tower rivaling imperial—chessboard pressure—weird primordial spirit...

Absolute confidence in power!

Puchi!

Gaze dimmed—beautiful face tragic.

Shouldn't... lead charge!

Thought foe Gu Mangran.

Didn't expect... this misery!

"You... won't act?!"

Tragic glance at remaining six.

But heart chilled—six gazed... strangely.

Chills.

Saint clans—no kindness.

Lost weapon—no balance against six.

Fallen to them...

Water million years—likely doomed by her!

Their ruthlessness—no less than Lu Ping'an!

Boom!

Mind moved.

Decisively struck.

Exploded void—fled outer battlefield. Endless water coiled body—like surging river—vanished.

Escaped!

Not returning Water ground.

Hide.

Hidden threat—deter others, preserve clan.

Lu watched decisive flight—brows raised oddly.

Far off.

Other six turned to leave.

Lu raised hand—called: "Friends, don't go—we... can still talk more!"

Words fell.

Six directly unleashed imperial weapons.

Lu eyes lit.

Still... chance?

Next moment.

Six used weapons tear void—fled outer battlefield, releasing imperial might.

Streaked—vanished traceless.

Chapter 495: Accidentally Broke Through

Silence fell across the heavens and earth.

When the dust settled, all Lu could see were the six saint realm experts frantically manipulating their imperial weapons, activating their power to flee at top speed—leaving only faint specks of light behind.

Just as hurriedly as they had arrived, they departed.

Lu was momentarily speechless. He wasn't some ferocious beast; he merely wanted a proper chat with them.

The void trembled from the lingering ripples of the imperial weapons' activation.

Terrifying aftershocks spread through Pingyang Heaven, leaving everyone staring blankly at the emptiness.

Six saint realm experts—wielding imperial weapons... had fled?!

Yes, fled in panic, no road unchosen.

Tearing void directly into the outer battlefield—escaping at maximum speed.

They had witnessed the Water Saint Ancestor's fate clearly.

Imperial weapon seized, utterly humiliated.

A saint ancestor—toyed with by Young Master Lu.

His cunning terrified the others.

In Little Thunder Sound Buddhist World of Pingyang Heaven, the Great Senior sighed deeply.

Five Phoenix...

The momentum was set!

No one could halt its growth now. Void heaven's sole high-martial had become a force rivaling upper saint clans.

The Nine Heavens' structure—about to rewrite.

Perhaps only the first heaven's sole first-level high-martial remained superior.

No other force in Nine Heavens could restrain Five Phoenix.

Of course, void heaven's traits—rules limiting strong entrants—provided thick protection.

Otherwise, saint clans mobilizing—Five Phoenix might not withstand.

Plus the great terror in void heaven's mysterious rift—daunted other Nine Heavens forces.

In the void.

Lu held the Water Clan's imperial weapon.

Its imperial might gradually retracted.

Reserves within still fluctuating—this Water weapon seemed weaker than Cloud or Dao's.

Reason Stealing Heaven Tower suppressed it.

Lu estimated: eighty to ninety thousand reserves.

Imperial might prevented storage in Profound Mysterious Ring—risk bursting spatial tool.

Tower suppressing Water weapon, Lu turned—flying back to void heaven.

Cautious indeed.

Though currently calm—imperial power terrifying.

In ancient emperor hands—devastating might.

Saints drew perhaps a tenth—but true power untapped.

Of course, Lu collected for reserves alone.

In his view, imperial weapons ranked similar to innate treasures.

Difference: innate like Stealing Heaven Tower held no Nine Heavens reserves; imperial weapons required them.

Reserve quantity determined power.

In void heaven.

Gu Mangran sat in coffin—expressionless watching returning Lu.

Seeing Water weapon suppressed by tower—felt scarce vitality draining faster. Couldn't take the shock.

"This... imperial weapon?"

Staring tower.

Only imperial could suppress imperial...

Lu shook head—Stealing Heaven Tower innate treasure.

No explanation.

Face regretful.

"Pity only one captured for study. Found... seizing imperial weapons greatly benefits Five Phoenix growth."

"Imperial weapons bear emperor imprints—mishandled, invite horrific calamity..."

Gu Mangran twitched lips.

Lu smiled. "Imperial weapons hold vast reserves—these absorbed: Five Phoenix growth explosive."

Words left Gu Mangran blank.

Imperial reserves...

Understood: ten great clans once emperor-seated, leaving weapons—strategic killers, clan suppressors holding accumulations.

But... convert to Five Phoenix?

Shatter intact weapons?!

Thought emerged—Gu Mangran inhaled sharply.

Perhaps... truly?

"Water Saint Ancestor wounded—won't return clan easily. Not foolish—return means encirclement, clan extinction."

"She'll scheme reclaim weapon... but void heaven rules bar easy entry—stronger, harsher restriction..."

Gu Mangran stopped pondering Lu's reserve extraction—seriously warned severity.

"No issue..."

Lu waved.

Gu Mangran continued: "Plus Cloud/Dao weapons—now Water's. Three trapped in void heaven. Seem six fled—but three weapons' lure: won't rest."

"Young Master Lu prepare early."

Lu shook head.

"They rejected my business—this grudge noted. If return... I, Lu Ping'an, won't be so accommodating."

Words fell—hand raised, spatial profound surging.

Tore void—vanished from void heaven, back to Five Phoenix.

Gu Mangran twitched lips—claims petty Young Master Lu: no defense left.

Leaning coffin wall—tense face relaxed.

"Jiulian, Zhulong... plus Young Master Lu. Swallow medicine—recover saint power..."

"Thus Five Phoenix: four saint-level forces."

"Five Phoenix now voice in Nine Heavens."

"Save first heaven's first-level—fears no second/third. Matches any great saint clan."

Gu Mangran felt chest-clearing exhilaration.

Recalled early revival: void heaven weak—even below ordinary eighth/seventh-level.

Mere Cloud divine child bullied Five Phoenix.

Now—dialogue with saint clans, even consecutively exterminating Cloud/Dao.

"Five Phoenix stronger—ordinary saint clans dare not provoke. Unprovoked: ample development time."

"Netherworld, Heavenly Gate plus human realm... Five Phoenix future—anticipating."

Sunken sockets deep, excited.

Controlled coffin—flew back to Five Phoenix.

...

White Jade Capital pavilion.

Lu returned.

Water imperial whip—fully severed from ancestor—might dissipated.

Tossed ground—like blue water snake.

"Pity—only one."

"If seized remaining six—total reserves over million. All into Five Phoenix: first-level?"

Lu leaned Thousand Bladed Chair—white elegant, fingers tapping armrest.

First-level high-martial... seemed casual.

But six fleeing—plan foiled.

Raised hand—rubbed brow.

"Still too hard..."

Regretful, but unhurried. Five Phoenix Heavenly Dao weak—refining reserves faster than original engraving, but slow relatively.

Vast quantity.

"Imperial weapons—not just reserves, emperor aura."

Once wielded by ancient emperors.

Lu recalled—eyes gleaming.

Perhaps visualize past ancient emperors via weapons.

Simulate auras—to bluff... no, deter others.

Like more forbidden zones beyond Heavenly Gate.

After one lie—to round it, more lies.

Plus pondering: create crises for Five Phoenix cultivators—use these emperor auras.

Let ancient emperors take blame—Lu experienced.

Like ancient emperor "Hao"—back view played masterfully.

Idle breeze blew—robes fluttering.

Lu gazed blue whip—no immediate drain by tower.

Primordial spirit surged in—studying Water imperial, simulating emperor aura.

...

Upper vast continent.

Destroyed Dao ancestral ground.

Six figures appeared—terrifying saint auras crushing surrounding land.

"What a Lu Ping'an—insidious, vicious beyond measure!"

One retracted floating imperial weapon—coldly stated.

Water Saint Ancestor wounded, weapon seized—beyond imagination.

Who thought Five Phoenix Lu Ping'an schemed everything.

"Cloud, Dao now plus Water—tiny Five Phoenix gathered three saint clan imperial weapons..."

Another spoke.

Atmosphere turned eerie.

Three weapons—immense temptation.

Now six allied—but for three, faces could tear anytime.

But pre-breaching Five Phoenix—no rash.

"Water Saint Ancestor wounded—won't return clan easily. Not stupid—return: encirclement."

"She'll scheme reclaim... but void heaven rules bar entry—stronger, stricter..."

"She'll wait. No weapon—can't force rules. Now: hide in dark, await rules dissipate—then chance reclaim."

One analyzed.

"Thus using her breach unrealistic—we plan otherwise."

Six exchanged.

Cautious—Water's fate heightened wariness.

Underestimated Lu—unbearable cost.

Suddenly one squinted: "We... contact first heaven's first-level high-martial."

"Rumor living ancient emperor—perhaps..."

Words out.

Other five grave.

"No!"

"First heaven acts—Dao/Cloud/Water weapons theirs."

"Three fallen there—no reclaim chance."

Proposer squinted.

"Wait Five Phoenix develop steadily? Cloud/Dao fates—forget not!"

"Besides weapons—Five Phoenix itself extreme threat!"

"Can conceal weapon news..."

"Five Phoenix special—not just weapons. Netherworld, Heavenly Gate plus human realm—reshaping mini Nine Heavens prototype, aiming first-level..."

"Inform first heaven—they'll note. Nine Heavens: one first-level suffices."

Words fell.

Six silent.

Only dragon-like heavy breaths surging.

Indeed—tempted.

First heaven acts—void heaven muddied. Muddy waters... fish.

...

Void heaven calmed again.

Not just void—lower three heavens too.

Vanished Water Saint Ancestor—unknown whereabouts. Perhaps hidden outer battlefield.

Or disguised in lower three high-martial.

Saint ancestor concealed—no easy detection without aura leak.

Five Phoenix ever tranquil.

Hundred-fold time—isolated development from outside.

Gu Mangran reclined coffin—restoring vitality, gathering strength.

Five Phoenix immortals strove fortune accumulation.

After Lu Jiulian first river-like Mysterious Immortal—Overlord, Sima Qingshan etc. true immortals pursued his realm.

Five Phoenix cultivation civilization flourished.

Fortune grew—but no new river-like Mysterious Immortal.

Many pillar-like true immortals—after spreading methods—fortune growth slowed. Too many spreaders; limited practitioners—saturation.

Fortune gains dwindled.

Higher immortals—advancement hard.

River-like Mysterious Immortal—harder.

Overlord etc. considered slaying saints—like Lu Jiulian's breakthrough.

But... where so many saints to slay?

Cloud/Dao exterminated.

Thus many shifted from methods—to creating combat arts.

Surprisingly viable.

Geniuses created new arts—gaining silk-like fortune.

Suddenly countless focused—birthing varied combat arts.

Elevating Five Phoenix combat level.

Initial success—but soon saturation, stabilization.

Though birthed many pillar true immortals—no river-like.

Suddenly Five Phoenix immortals felt difficulty. Mysterious Immortal hard—Golden Immortal, Great Luo... how harder!

Perhaps time accumulation.

Ten thousand, hundred thousand, million years—stack fortune to Mysterious Immortal.

But current first Mysterious Immortal Lu Jiulian knew: deeper, not simple.

Beyond fortune—Heavenly Dao insight needed.

Continued thus—future bottleneck inevitable.

...

Origin Lake, lake heart island.

Lu eyes closed.

Bronze cup in hand.

Body enveloped odd dao charm.

Hum...

Body lightly trembling—invisible ripples spreading, shaking void.

Vast Ocean waves rhythmic.

Whale bearing White Jade Capital island—lantern-like eyes wide. Under charm—seemed enlightened.

Gathered pillar fortune.

Whale... broke to true immortal under Lu's influence.

But breakthrough whale dared no loud joy—fear disturbing powerful human atop.

Of course, Lu sensed little.

For now—body intensely quaking, odd transformation.

Overflowing spiritual qi interwoven around—nearly collapsing void.

Primordial spirit emerged—breaking barriers, vast change.

Golden primordial spirit substantive—like blazing sun, boundless, terrifying.

Sweeping—entire Five Phoenix continent seemed under it!

Lu's guess correct.

Post mortal return insights—Qi Refinement bottleneck gone.

Now—broke through.

While drinking—accidentally.

Aura vast.

Natural flow—from Qi Refinement eighth...

To ninth layer.

Chapter 496: Demon Lord, Devil Lord... They're Fighting

"Hm?"

"Breakthrough?"

On the lake heart island, Lu held his wine cup, eyes closed as if savoring the rich liquor lingering in his throat. Slowly, he opened them—surprise flickering within.

Surprise gave way to a gentle, spring-breeze smile.

Natural, serene.

As if this breakthrough were merely a breeze rippling a calm lake surface.

His aura began to steady.

Like boiling water cooling after the fire's removal.

Qi Refinement ninth layer.

Mind stirring, the system panel appeared.

Host: Lu

Title: Qi Refiner (Permanent)

Qi Refinement Layers: 9

Spiritual Qi Reserves: 11/100 (billion) strands

Primordial Spirit Power: 10820 (units)

Chaos Force: 59909 (Ha)

World Rating: Five Phoenix Small World [High-Martial (Immortal Martial Foundation)]

Reserves breached eleven billion—even after entry-level cultivators yielded no extractable qi.

Lu was satisfied.

He knew later layers harder. For steady Qi Refinement, Five Phoenix must strengthen—only then smooth to hundred layers.

"Qi Refinement hundred layers—empower all..."

"Tsk... seems tough."

"Still too weak."

Lu shook head—withdrawing gaze.

With layer cross, system joyfully popped unchanging congratulations.

"Tall towers rise from ground—congratulations host entering Qi Refinement ninth layer..."

"Congratulations rewards: Indestructible Demonic Body ×1, Dao Origin ×1..."

Seeing rewards—Lu paused slightly.

Indestructible Demonic Body and Dao Origin?

This time... rather ordinary.

Lu had lost count of Indestructible Demonic Body acquisitions—nearly every upgrade.

Numb to it.

But undeniable—massive strength boost.

Now standing—demonic qi hard to suppress.

Perhaps ninth layer breakthrough too smooth—rewards mundane.

Exhaling slowly—Lu ceased dwelling.

Stored Dao Origin—now four total.

Fusion enhances Heavenly Dao—accelerates reserve refining.

Lu squinted.

Mind moved—fused this one into Five Phoenix Heavenly Dao.

Rumble...

Primordial spirit spread.

With Dao Origin fusion—Heavenly Dao surged faster, aura leaping.

But Lu watched Nine Heavens Dao—for reaction, ready to counter.

None.

Nine Heavens Dao—unrippled.

Lu's brows raised—tempted to fuse remaining three.

Thought better—abstained.

Intuition: all three—immediate response.

But one more—refining speed much faster.

Plus immortals' fortune cultivation aiding.

Perhaps Heavenly Evolution Mirror's hundred thousand reserves—soon fully refined.

Speaking of immortals' fortune cultivation—Lu frowned.

As guessed—bottleneck hit.

"Indeed—lacking combat, lacking breakthrough passion and opportunity."

"Perhaps... time to research that idea."

Eyes gleamed.

Five Phoenix development—his Qi Refinement foundation. Poured heart into current form.

Immortal martial foundation—he wouldn't invert priorities.

"Perfect... studying imperial weapons—simulate many ancient emperors' auras. Combine with plan."

Smiled—idea clearer.

Fused Indestructible Demonic Body.

Unsure total fusions—each tempered physique.

Body refinement, essentially.

Unknown current strength.

Boom!

Fusing this one...

Even seated on Thousand Bladed Chair—demonic qi barely contained.

Though white robes unchanged—demonic qi surged endlessly.

Hair flying—terrifying aura spreading.

"Congratulations host Indestructible Demonic Body minor completion—custom divine ability opportunity..."

As fusion complete—prompt appeared.

Lu paused.

"Indestructible Demonic Body minor completion?"

Murmured—next, eyes blazing brilliantly.

At least—not endless.

Mind moved—over ten thousand unit primordial spirit entered body—observing every flesh inch.

Flesh brimmed vitality, frenzied energy—each cell explosive. One blood drop—annihilate seventh/eighth-level high-martial.

Strong!

Immensely!

Strength vastly increased—even saint ancestor Dao-tempered body—likely pummeled raw by current him.

"Worthy minor completion Indestructible Demonic Body..."

Lu marveled—strength sublimation.

Physical extreme.

"Custom divine ability?"

Other feature—stunned Lu.

Divine abilities familiar—like Zhulong's yin-yang millstone from innate yin-yang—solid power, foundation for crossing realms.

Now Lu custom...

Even he felt... flashy.

"What ability? Must relate Indestructible Demonic Body..."

Pondered—entered preaching platform, deducing extremes.

Tried many.

Finally recalled Devil Lord debut—that backward glance's oppressive terror.

Thus customized.

"Customize divine ability: Devil Lord Glance?"

System prompted.

Lu lips curled—confirmed.

Deduced via platform—maximizing minor completion power.

Devil Lord might vast—glance: mountains/rivers collapse, sever vitality.

Rumble!

Ability confirmed.

Vast Ocean surged heaven-shaking waves.

Endless demonic qi soared—entire ocean quaking.

Whale bearing immortal island—trembled.

This human growing stronger—waiting him out for freedom: increasingly unrealistic.

But whale unpanicked—long lifespan. Cultivate slowly—to Great Luo Immortal.

Then...

Kill... nah.

Then—free!

Whale thought—spouted water pillar, scattering rainbow—like celebrating freedom path found.

Lu retracted aura—Devil Lord shadow faded.

Unsuppressible demonic qi dispersed gradually.

Seated Thousand Bladed Chair—opened eyes, depths like dying stars.

"Unexpected joy—Indestructible Demonic Body minor breakthrough."

Smiled.

"Minor completion... greater completion too?"

Minor so terrifying—greater: how strong?

Hand raised—slowly clenched. Void pinched—inch by inch exploding.

Strength ever greater.

"Breakthrough done—primordial spirit grown much, essence/spirit/ qi peak. Time arrange plan."

Squinted—primordial spirit entered preaching platform.

Within.

Lu white robes flowing—true immortal.

Around—gossip runes rose, swirling rapidly.

Strength risen—runes ever mysterious, powerful.

Even ancient emperor nine-character arrays—seemed weaker.

Seated gossip platform—pondered.

"Great Luo Immortal Scripture worldwide—fortune cultivation. Five Phoenix fortune total limited, but grows with Heavenly Dao refining reserves."

"But truly utilized fortune—not much."

Pondered.

"Fortune thirds: human one, demon one, remaining scattered heaven-earth."

Eyes gleaming.

Hand raised—pushed forward. Five Phoenix projection appeared.

Holographic-like.

Above continent—three massive gas clusters.

Three fortune shares.

Growing—from Heavenly Dao refining reserves.

Human/demon untouched.

But scattered third—Lu planned utilize.

Great Luo spread fortune method—breaking celestial limit, aiming Mysterious/Golden Immortal...

But world unfamiliar—imperfect utilization.

Thus Lu aid.

World stronger—he stronger.

"Void heaven vanished ancient emperors..."

Smiled.

Mind moved—gossip runes floated, simulating Water imperial emperor aura.

"Use Water emperor aura—gather fortune, form vicious beast. Suppress/slay: gain its fortune..."

Eyes gleaming.

Yes...

Five Phoenix needs combat—upper saint clans insufficient, stingy. Others refused million reserve business.

Lu DIY.

Fabricate beasts—only suppress/slay for fortune.

Origin: simulated ancient emperor auras.

Beasts: ancient emperor lingering thoughts corrupted, fused ancient battlefield killing qi and current Five Phoenix fortune—born/changed.

Hand raised—gossip runes struck.

Soon beast prototype emerged.

Water emperor aura-based—water-related.

In water: tenfold power, profound water dao intent.

Free simulation—soon: slender snake tail, robust body, six long-neck dragon-like heads...

Lu continued—covered black sinister scales: eerie, demonic.

"Resembles legendary vicious beast Jiuying..."

"But six heads—call Liuying."

Eyes gleaming.

Hand raised.

Demonic qi heaven-soaring—one demonic body blood drop flew.

Scattered—infused Liuying body.

Soon body solidified.

Body built—needed will. Lu fragmented memories—intermittent. Etched Water ancient emperor scenes, ancient emperor war fragments.

Temperament—from fragmented memories: frenzied. Injected ancient war killing/murderous qi—simulated.

Will frenzied—destructive desire.

Fits vicious beast.

Done.

Lu activated Liuying.

Hum...

Endless dark—twelve crimson eyes slowly opened. Cold light illuminated world.

...

Lu exited preaching platform.

Expression unchanged—creating Liuying consumed energy, but ninth layer breakthrough: negligible.

Creating one beast—like forging ascension ground.

Thus rested briefly—reentered, deducing.

Cloud/Dao emperor auras—simulated two more beasts.

But appear after Liuying slain—together.

Pressure gradual—overwhelm world: bad.

Three beasts—about one Five Phoenix year.

Next: release.

Like ruins.

White Jade Capital pavilion—Lu held piece.

"Beast emergence—not random. Location: remote. Reason: fabricate, but logical."

"Next: Five Phoenix vicious beast frequent era—with world-warning opener..."

"Or Liuying appears—world unaware: waste my efforts."

Rested days on island—idea formed.

Entered preaching platform—simulated ruin construction.

Opener needs world-shocking guest...

Five Phoenix shocking beings: few.

Tomb Old Gu one.

Lu Jiulian, Zhulong etc. saint-level.

Of course Lu—but excluded.

Who else?

Shocking, mysterious...

Lu had candidates.

Brief stunning appearances—world-shaking... Demon Lord and Devil Lord!

Though both Lu avatars.

But...

Life play—acting key.

For Five Phoenix cultivators strengthen—he labored heart.

Lies many—more: fine.

White Jade Capital pavilion—Lu leaned Thousand Bladed Chair, spring breeze.

Island eternal spring.

Chrysanthemums brilliant, green peaches 娇艳, purple bamboo rustling.

Lu seated pavilion—ocean waves lapping.

White robes hunting, black hair flying—dashing free.

Hum...

Spiritual Pressure Chessboard emerged.

Drank Heavenly Immortal brew—liquor surged energy.

Lu lips curled—light smile.

"Now... performance begins."

Chessboard shone brilliantly—Five Phoenix projection.

Piece taken—suddenly down, flashing light tail between fingers.

Clack!

Crisp—like echoing heaven-earth.

...

Vast Ocean above.

Breeze stilled.

Unnoticed—two figures appeared.

One demonic qi heaven-soaring—hazed, shocking aura.

Other demonic qi surging—vague robust form hidden.

Stood ocean surface—ten thousand li apart confronting.

Demonic qi spread—clashing demonic surge.

Gazes collided suddenly.

Collision—heaven-earth fortune rivers churned, trembled!

Terrifying auras abruptly released.

Vast Ocean raised dozens-meter waves!

Rumble!

Terrifying boom echoed entire Five Phoenix continent.

Tranquil Five Phoenix—like meteorite into great lake—heaven-shaking waves and sound.

Cultivators hearts jolted.

All meditating opened eyes—gazing Vast Ocean.

What... happened?!

Terrifying auras.

Might... like two Mysterious Immortals clashing auras!

Eastern Sea, demonic sect.

Overlord eyes snapped open—body demonic qi uncontrollably surging!

"This unique demonic qi... Devil Lord?!"

Pupils contracted—light tearing skies.

Unforgettable: Wolong Ridge, sacrificing to devil—encountered Devil Lord.

Life-changing pivotal experience.

Mysterious powerful Devil Lord—deeply etched mind.

Guessed Devil Lord Young Master Lu...

But now—not...

This time... Devil Lord aura alone!

Boom!

Overlord no longer hid—soared.

Body shook void—axe/shield back, exploding sound—streaked toward Vast Ocean.

Demon clan court.

Demon Monkey King eyes snapped—monkey face excited.

"Demon Lord!"

Scratched cheek.

Hand raised—iron staff humming, gripped.

Demon Lord changed life—demon guardian. Now appeared—how not thrilled?

Staff swept void—Monkey King excited screech. Bearing demon fortune—pillar descended, streaked Vast Ocean.

Not just Overlord/Monkey King.

Nearly all continent immortals awakened.

Martial Emperor City Du Longyang, Tianxu Palace Tianxu公子, Empress Ni Chunqiu, Absolute Blade Sect Ye Shoudao etc...

Sima Qingshan, Jiang Li, Kong Nanfei, Bai Qingniao etc.

North Luo City Nie Changqing, father/son astonished—rushed out.

Great Xuan Academy depths—Lu Jiulian hands behind, with disciple Tang Guo—toward Vast Ocean.

South River City—Tang Yimo soared, hurrying Vast Ocean.

Ancient tomb.

Sleeping Gu Mangran jolted awake.

Primordial spirit spread—sensing two exploding heaven-earth auras.

Gu Mangran clutched chest—grabbed chrysanthemum medicine.

Hurrying Vast Ocean crowds—barely stabilized, unclear distant scene.

Expressions drastically changed.

Demon Lord... Devil Lord—fighting!

Chapter 497: A Divination Not Seen in Centuries

The boundless Vast Ocean was cleaved by two terrifying auras crisscrossing like blades, seemingly splitting heaven and earth in two.

One aura belonged to an unparalleled great demon—demonic qi soaring to the heavens.

The other was the Devil Lord—demonic qi surging like tidal waves.

Separated by tens of thousands of meters, invisible forces between them whipped up colossal waves. The colliding surges triggered tsunami-like roars.

Every cultivator held their breath.

Lu Jiulian hovered with hands behind his back, gazing gravely at the two figures below.

He felt pressure—pore-tightening pressure from them.

"Demon Lord and Devil Lord... both Mysterious Immortal realm!"

Lu Jiulian murmured.

Not ordinary Mysterious Immortals—the pressure immense. Even he had no confidence victory against either.

Five Phoenix continent hid such peerless experts beyond him and Zhulong!

Other immortals gathered swiftly.

Overlord, Tang Yimo, Du Longyang, and more.

Demon clan court's demon immortals like Monkey King.

Demons revered Demon Lord—near faith.

His emergence thrilled Monkey King.

Seeing confrontation with Devil Lord—Monkey King bared teeth at Overlord, battle intent boiling.

He'd side unwaveringly with Demon Lord.

Thus Overlord and Tang Yimo—demonic qi practitioners linked to Devil Lord—became foes.

Overlord and Tang Yimo's eyes gleamed.

Devil Lord changed their fates—they'd stand firm with him.

Demon/Devil Lord standoff—signal shifting world order.

Lu Jiulian's expression shifted.

Stepped forward.

With tagalong Tang Guo—appeared between Overlord and Monkey King's clashing auras.

Hand raised—suppressed both overpowering presences.

Mysterious Immortal Lu Jiulian—easy against them.

"Observe first—why Demon Lord and Devil Lord fight."

His words carried weight—as Five Phoenix's sole Mysterious Immortal besides Zhulong and enigmatic Young Master Lu.

Cultivators ceased clashes—gazed Vast Ocean standoff.

Waves parted—coffin emerged.

Gu Mangran leaned on it—sunken sockets gleaming, astonished.

"Five Phoenix... hides such beings. Demon Lord... Devil Lord..."

Deep breath—mind truly shaken.

Void heaven reborn high-martial—indeed held unimaginable secrets.

"Devil/Demon Lords—not in ancient war records. Post-war... ancient emperors' contingencies? For return and revival?"

Pondered—mind tangled like knotted threads, mush.

But focus: why confrontation?

Both always protected Five Phoenix—aligned.

Once invaders—Demon Lord aura repelled.

Now fighting?

Must be over immense secret.

All held breath.

Staring ocean's heaven-piercing figures.

...

Demon Lord hazed in demonic qi—like unparalleled great demon.

Face unclear—but strength evident.

Opposite—Devil Lord in surging demonic qi—like ultimate fiend.

Too strong—aura clash alone cracked ocean, webbed void fractures.

Suddenly—all chilled.

Demon Lord spoke.

Unmasked words thundered heaven-earth—unmatched fury.

"Devil Lord... I know my actions. Why?"

"But different paths—no collaboration. You block me—only battle remains."

Hand swept.

Demonic qi soared—ocean tore. Demonic qi-wrapped water dragon—destructive power—barreled at Devil Lord.

Devil Lord hands behind—invisible ripple spread.

Thousand-li domain around—void/time/space twisted.

Water dragon entered—instant explosion, even seawater annihilated.

"Great era approaches—each chooses path. But controlling emerging vicious beasts—no. Beasts from boundless killing qi fused fortune—immense karma. Tainted: fall. Can't watch."

"We known long ages—can't see you end thus."

Devil Lord said.

Voice boomed across sea.

Unmasked dialogue.

Knew surrounding cultivators—uncaring, or disregarded.

Lu Jiulian knew qualification.

Coffin-seated Gu Mangran believed—unrestored, uncertain victory.

But not focus—dialogue revelations.

Great era approaching?

What era—spark Demon/Devil Lord fight?

Beasts emerging? Karma taint?

Complex, profound...

Onlookers gleamed—overheard monumental secret. Perhaps concerning Five Phoenix.

Or their cultivation.

But info scant—undeducible.

Demon/Devil Lord continued standoff.

Words echoed again.

Hazed Demon Lord—demonic qi soaring, helpless tone.

"Devil Lord, you understand—if era truly comes, continent massive impact... Beasts born—not weak. Only control: no world harm."

"Karma taint—so what? Five Phoenix growth arduous—I can't watch destruction..."

Words inhaled chills from all.

Vicious beast era?

Beasts?

What beasts—tense even Demon Lord?

Harm world?

Current Five Phoenix—immensely strong. Heavenly Gate opened, immortals returned spreading methods.

Great Luo cultivation—fortune blessed.

Human/true immortals abound, Lu Jiulian river-like Mysterious Immortal—saint-level.

Five Phoenix rivaled any third-level high-martial.

Yet Demon Lord said era brings potential annihilation.

Most shocking/tense for world.

What beasts in Demon/Devil mouths?

Countless puzzled.

Overlord, Tang Yimo frowned.

Demon/Devil words—felt boundless oppression.

Gu Mangran frowned too.

Crisis?

What crisis—worry even peak saint-level?

Pondered—inexplicable. Then pupils contracted.

Ancient emperors' layout?

Possibility high!

Mind flashed scenes.

Beyond Heavenly Gate—ascension forbidden zones, ancient emperor seated back to beings.

Netherworld—Buddha-held ancient emperor back...

All Five Phoenix-linked—as if war-exiled ancient emperors gradually returning.

Gu Mangran deep breath—sunken sockets gleaming.

Stared ocean confronting pair—wanted more.

Devil Lord's demonic qi dispersed slightly in breeze.

"World its development track—we should stand outside three realms, watch changes. Era comes—worldly crisis. We shouldn't, can't intervene..."

"World birthed many cultivators, Great Luo spread... calamity theirs to resist—even opportunity."

"Cultivation stresses fortune—emerging beasts from ancient war killing qi fused fortune: heaven-shaking vicious... Suppress/slay: fortune gain."

"Thus world perhaps needs no intervention... Current world facing beast era—not powerless."

Devil Lord said.

Voice hoarse.

Silenced Demon Lord—even onlookers.

...

Origin Lake, lake heart island.

Lu smiled.

Demon/Devil Lord opener sufficient—drew countless focus.

Atmosphere brewed enough.

Next...

"Hm?"

"Still insufficient... can mystify more."

Smiled.

No rush activating planned ruin.

Before beast release—heighten tension.

How?

Simple.

Sleeve rolled—piece taken, eyes gleaming—placed.

Board pieces gleamed.

Like heaven-earth board, beings pieces.

...

Vast Ocean above.

Demon Lord moved instantly.

Tore sea—halving Vast Ocean. Thunderous charge into Devil Lord's domain.

Dong!

Terrifying explosion—entire Five Phoenix quaked.

"Demon Lord!"

"Insist? Or... seize beast fortune break shackles!"

Devil Lord furious roar echoed.

Heaven-soaring demonic qi—next, Vast Ocean vortex.

Void webbed cracks.

Demonic qi formed two black vortices—clashing.

Terrifying clash—stunned world. Even Mysterious Immortal Lu Jiulian scalp-numbed.

Peerless war.

Devil/Demon Lords' era-defining battle.

Boom!

Void tore.

Streaked as lights into outer battlefield—clashing endlessly.

Five Phoenix quieted soon.

"Demon Lord!"

Fanboy Monkey King wailed.

Outer battlefield vs Devil Lord—life/death unknown.

Unwilling accident.

Thus aid.

Just tore void—entered.

Terrifying ripple struck.

Monkey King bloodied—like blood mist—fell back, crashing Vast Ocean.

World silent.

Monkey King's misery—shocked minds.

"Demon/Devil Lords—Mysterious Immortal pinnacle. Their battle... below Mysterious Immortal—dare intervene?"

Lu Jiulian shook head.

Monkey King unkillable—auras struck, wretched but light wounds.

From ocean—stood sea surface, glaring sky-floating Overlord.

Monkey King Demon Lord camp—Overlord/Tang Yimo Devil Lord.

Auras clashed.

Eerie flow—like igniting horrific war slaughter.

But peacemaker Lu Jiulian appeared—separated auras.

"Now clarify... Demon/Devil Lord's vicious beast era."

Words.

Monkey King/Overlord understood—calmed, no confrontation.

Gu Mangran pondered.

Demon/Devil fight—reminded something.

Perhaps ancient emperors' Five Phoenix contingencies activating?

War-exiled ancient emperors returning?

High possibility!

All pondered pre-battle words—transmitted info.

Final Devil Lord fury—era not just crisis, great opportunity.

Demon Lord seizing?

Thought emerged—immortals breathed faster.

Opportunity Demon Lord coveted...

Perhaps Mysterious Immortal proof!

...

White Jade Capital pavilion.

Lu smiled.

Demon/Devil opener effective—drew focus.

Atmosphere sufficient.

That next...

"Um?"

"Seems not enough... can mystify more."

Smiled.

No hurry activating thought-out ruin.

Before beast release—heighten tension more.

How brew tension?

Simple.

Sleeve rolled—piece taken, eyes gleaming—placed.

Board pieces shone.

Like heaven-earth board, beings pieces.

...

Demon/Devil battle entered outer battlefield—return unknown.

Gathered Vast Ocean immortals/Five Phoenix cultivators dispersed—returned homes.

Tianji Peak.

Tianji Pavilion.

Lü Mudui and Mo Tianyu sat cross-legged.

Lü Mudui held bamboo staff—light taps. Demon/Devil war—as top intelligence—how unknown.

"Demon/Devil Lords... legendary beings fighting? Unbelievable... over vicious beast era..."

"Beast era—crisis Five Phoenix safety. Per Devil Lord—mishandled: beings charred, countless deaths."

Lü Mudui aged face twitched.

Fingers tapped staff rhythmically.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Tearing sounds.

Next—figures landed peak foot.

Ancient bluestone path—ascended Tianji Peak.

Lü Mudui/Mo Tianyu looked.

Lu Jiulian, Nie Changqing, Nie Shuang, worldly Ning Zhao, Ni Yu etc.

Their arrival—understood.

"Divine beast era?"

Lü Mudui said.

Lu Jiulian etc. gravely nodded.

Divination fine—neither refused.

"Divination—let Tianyu."

Lü Mudui said.

Prepared profound yellow paper, pig blood.

Premonition: Mo Tianyu's calculation—concern Five Phoenix future period safety.

Demon/Devil wary—how not serious.

Mo Tianyu smiled—robe open, stood—paced peak.

Cultivation decent—fortune blessed, near human immortal peak—one more: true immortal.

All watched.

Mo Tianyu brewed emotion—began.

Three bronze treasures into hand—flipped, golden light vast, brilliant chimes endless.

Primordial spirit quaked—seven-star steps. Divination serious—these years, little else—forms ever flashier.

Hum...

Fortune silk converged.

Mo Tianyu eyes golden—vaguely communed Five Phoenix Heavenly Dao.

Three treasures fell—pinched three fingers.

Suddenly.

Mind profound.

Glimpsed heavenly secret.

Primordial spirit wandered time river—suddenly... saw.

Endless dark—twelve crimson eyes slowly brightened. Terrifying murderous qi spread—mountains/rivers collapsed, earth ruined.

Mo Tianyu felt killing/murderous qi assault—chills, trembling, forehead sweating.

Seemed saw twelve-eyed owner slowly emerge from dark—terrifying energy shattering space.

As beast form clarified.

Blood maw suddenly enlarged in eyes!

Suddenly—earside crisp piece on board.

Mo Tianyu jolted awake—withdrew divination scene.

Clutched chest—coughed blood heavily.

Eyes lingering terror.

Through three treasures' hexagram—expression drastically changed.

This hexagram... centuries unseen!

Hexagram showed...

Great fortune.

Chapter 498: The Vicious Beast Liuying—Opportunity and Crisis Coexist

"Great... great fortune?!"

Hiss!

This hexagram... utterly terrifying!

When Mo Tianyu clutched his chest, coughing blood, and revealed the divination, everyone on Tianji Peak inhaled sharply.

Who was Mo Tianyu?

Debut to now—divinations never wrong. Great fortune meant utter calamity.

Five Phoenix continent... doomed!

Facing world-ending crisis?!

Heavens!

Lu Jiulian, Nie Changqing, and others paled. Merely whimsically seeking divination—unexpected such omen.

"Great fortune—world-ending hexagram!"

Lü Mudui's eyes dimmed, body trembling slightly.

No doubt in Mo Tianyu's accuracy.

Current Mo Tianyu—near true immortal peak. In Five Phoenix—not weak.

Even Lu Jiulian hard change his divinations.

Plus third-sequence dao intent: defy fate.

Masterful at divination—even communing Heavenly Dao, exhausting secrets.

"I saw..."

Mo Tianyu pale—blood pouring.

"Twelve crimson eyes—murderous qi heaven-soaring, killing intent rolling, mountains/rivers collapsing, undead wailing..."

"World-ending crisis—terrifying vicious beast emerging."

"Demon/Devil Lords spoke truth!"

Mo Tianyu said.

Voice trembling—genuine.

Lu Jiulian etc. drastically changed.

"I'll find Young Master..."

Ning Zhao gravely.

Five Phoenix facing immense crisis—perhaps only Young Master resolve.

"Two preparations—you seek White Jade Capital Young Master Lu; we alert world—prepare calamity..."

"Beast acts—we strike thunderously, slay it..."

Lu Jiulian gravely said.

Next—scattered from peak, vanishing heaven-earth.

Mo Tianyu robe open—earlier divination shadow lingered, mind dazed.

Lü Mudui solemn—dipped brush in Mo Tianyu's blood.

Dip jolted Mo Tianyu.

"???"

Glared at Lü Mudui.

"World-ending crisis—how use pig blood write..."

Lü Mudui ignored—brushed Mo Tianyu's blood, slowly wrote message on profound yellow paper.

Summoned Tianji pigeon—rolled paper, alerted world.

Done—Lü Mudui hands behind, peak top. Gale whipping robes.

Gaze full future worry.

Mo Tianyu half-collapsed ground—quietly watching patriotic Lü Mudui.

...

Tianji Pavilion alerted world.

Branches across Five Phoenix received.

All drastically changed.

Spread swiftly—soon entire Five Phoenix knew.

Demon/Devil Lord battle plus Tianji message.

Terrifying crisis impending—spread continent.

Great Xuan divine dynasty capital—Human Emperor learned, immediately mobilized armies.

Entire Five Phoenix—hearts panicked.

Not just Great Xuan—demon court too mobilized.

Demon Lord appeared—demons fully believed great tribulation.

...

Meanwhile.

Ning Zhao and Ni Yu with Little Yinglong returned Vast Ocean. Worldly travels years—Ning Zhao greatest gains, strength risen, fortune accumulated much.

Compared playful Ni Yu/Little Yinglong—hers most evident.

But now world turbulent from Demon/Devil confrontation/battle—she ceased travels.

Plus Mo Tianyu divined great fortune.

How sit still?

Back Vast Ocean—as White Jade Capital disciples, should easily find lake heart island.

But...

This time—wrong.

Ning Zhao/Ni Yu flew days—utterly no island trace.

Like vanished.

"Young Master... took island, left Five Phoenix upper realm play?"

"Or Young Master deliberately unseen?"

Ni Yu suggested.

Ning Zhao glanced: "Think Young Master like you—only play?"

"Plus Young Master treasures Five Phoenix—current all his heart-blood labor. How ignore impending crisis?"

"We absent island—Young Master seclusion undisturbed, sealed island. His methods—unless emerges—we can't find..."

Ning Zhao said.

Reasonable explanation.

Ni Yu nodded hurriedly—Sister Ning amazing.

But soon—expressions worried.

"Young Master secluded... current Five Phoenix prosperity his single-handed. Emerges—finds world beast-destroyed..."

"How furious Young Master."

Ni Yu said.

"Young Master omnipotent—senses beast destruction, intervenes suppress. We return continent—prepare resist emerging beasts."

Pondered—returned continent, prepare.

...

Meanwhile.

Buzhou Peak.

Lu Jiulian stepped air—suddenly descended.

Beside Heavenly Dao tree—ever tranquil. Faint flute from peak.

Tree swayed to melody.

Rare beauty—but Lu Jiulian no time admire.

Step by step ascended peak.

Soon saw Zhulong seated bluestone, playing flute.

Ever serene autumn leaf—quiet cross-legged, eyes closed, lashes trembling.

Lu Jiulian stood moment—awaited song end, stated intent.

"No Father's message—no easy leave... guard Heavenly Dao tree. Failed once—can't again."

Zhulong earnestly.

Lu Jiulian persuaded several—Zhulong firm. Not leave unless beast reaches Buzhou.

"This beast era—you best not join. Comprehended Five Phoenix Heavenly Dao—sense crisis. Mysterious Immortal above intervene—bad occurs."

Zhulong eyes closed—told Lu Jiulian.

Kind reminder.

Lu Jiulian grave—believed not casual.

Zhulong inhaled/exhaled Heavenly Dao—special sense.

Believed intuition.

But more so—greater unease.

Thus thought—ultimate move.

Gazed Zhulong—light cough.

Solemnly.

"Zhulong girl, I don't want struggle anymore."

Lu Jiulian earnestly.

Zhulong flute-gripping hand stiffened slightly.

Crack!

Next—flute crushed.

Boom!

Buzhou Peak—brilliant blinding light, like second sun—night to day.

Heavenly Dao tree nearby—ceased swaying, dared not move.

All cultivators trembled under vast Mysterious Immortal pressure—dared not breathe.

Vaguely—figure like meteor falling.

Ten thousand li beyond Buzhou.

Lu Jiulian bruised/swollen—calmly crawled deep crater, patted clothes.

Light sigh.

Seems... must struggle himself.

...

White Jade Capital pavilion.

Lu leaned Thousand Bladed Chair—eyes lines jumping, all reactions reflected.

Smiled—nearly enough.

Mind moved—Spiritual Pressure Chessboard showed created beast "Liuying".

Terrifying murderous light rolling—six heads, each terrifying ability.

From box—piece taken.

Lu lips smiled.

"Zhulong girl right—beast for below Mysterious Immortal... thus restrict above, or others no breakthrough pressure."

Thought.

Hand raised—gossip array words interwoven—like rules, hidden in board.

Done—clamped piece slowly down.

Water ancient emperor aura ruin—dialed into board, released Five Phoenix continent.

Clack.

Piece fell—southern domain vast jungle great river mid.

Current southern domain—with continent expansion—immensely broad. Lu chose remote.

Hum...

Board piece like black hole—sucked hovering Liuying in.

...

Rumble!

Five Phoenix skies suddenly changed.

Day to night—rolling black clouds, terrifying murderous qi.

Great Xuan divine dynasty capital.

Human Emperor looked up—brows grave, worried.

New emperor—cultivators' terror deeply felt. Learned continent facing even cultivators feared world-ending crisis—felt deep powerlessness.

Now crisis descended.

Various cultivation forces.

Hidden immortals looked up—sensing sky change, expressions grave.

Great Xuan Academy depths.

Lu Jiulian gazed skies—face grave.

"Heaven anomaly... indeed Demon/Devil Lord's calamity era approaching?"

Deep breath.

Lu Jiulian with Tang Guo—left academy.

Tang Guo obediently followed—special divine king body: true immortal now.

Hm?

Rumble!

Lu Jiulian hovered heavens—invisible yet tangible lotus bloomed.

Squinted—gazed southern domain.

"There!"

"Though hidden—sensed."

Lu Jiulian deep breath—southern direction chilled him.

"Guo'er, guard Great Xuan Academy. Divine dynasty human fortune hub—anomaly damages human fortune. Must guard."

Lu Jiulian said.

Tang Guo unwilling—but Lu Jiulian's unprecedented seriousness—she agreed.

Watched Lu Jiulian lotus-step soar away.

Tang Guo silently wished—returned academy depths, guarded.

Southern domain—suddenly convergence.

Tearing sounds crossed—Five Phoenix skies, many immortals soared.

Heavenly Gate emerged—many recent ascendants still condensing immortal qi in ascension grounds—heard, hurried back.

Southern domain—immortal might vast.

Human/true immortals gathered.

Overlord, Tang Yimo etc. current peak true immortals—hovered heavens.

Southern vast jungle—towering trees below, earth quaking.

Rumbling endless.

Like earth collapse.

Gu Mangran absent—but always concerned Five Phoenix, hoped greatly—unwilling see destruction.

Primordial spirit spanned distance—sensing southern earth.

Rumble!

Vast fortune surged—southern heavenly dragon species: coiling dragon. Fortune blessed—now rivaled true immortal.

Boom!

Suddenly!

All immortals watching—saw southern earth abruptly collapse.

Countless jungle annihilated—massive black hole replaced. Ten thousand li diameter great black pit emerged.

Heaven-soaring murderous qi from pit.

Blood murderous qi pillar—like dyeing Five Phoenix skies crimson—shocking.

"Terrifying murderous/killing qi. Devil Lord said beasts from ancient war killing qi fused fortune: unparalleled vicious..."

"Indeed—beast births here!"

"We must suppress before emergence!"

Five Phoenix immortals spoke.

Pit faintly—water rippling, terrifying aura spreading.

Many immortals seemed see graceful stunning figure slowly walking in heaven-soaring murderous qi.

Hm?

Meanwhile.

Vast Ocean ancient tomb.

Gu Mangran primordial spirit sensed soaring killing qi—mind shifted.

"This... ancient emperor aura?!"

"Water ancient emperor!"

Deep breath—sunken sockets gleamed!

Indeed—all linked ancient emperors.

Pit below... likely ruin!

Ancient emperor ruin!

Then Gu Mangran thought—expression ugly.

"Demon/Devil Lord's great era... this?"

"Only Water ancient emperor—war-descended void heaven ancient emperors not one! Each aura breed beast?!"

Gu Mangran couldn't sleep—controlled coffin rushed tomb.

Several void crosses—southern domain skies.

Lu Jiulian sensed aura—stunned.

"General Gu."

Lu Jiulian slight cupped hands.

Gu Mangran nodded—shared speculation.

Unhidden words—let Five Phoenix immortals inhale sharply.

Overlord, Nie Changqing etc. changed.

Gu Mangran what existence?

Ancient war survivor—hundreds thousands years antique. Speculation—no error.

"Ruin?"

"Ancient emperor ruin?"

Many Five Phoenix immortals—several human immortals breathed faster—streaked pit, descended.

If ancient emperor ruin—inheritance?

Temptation... immense.

But human immortals just entered—soon immortal qi scattered, fortune nearly collapsed—murderous/killing qi clouded eyes.

Human immortals soon retreated.

Vitality greatly injured—nearly cultivation stripped, fortune drained!

"Look! Heavenly-earth fortune?!"

Suddenly.

Many immortals looked up—saw heavens, rolling fortune surged, converging ascending murderous qi pillar.

Fortune with murderous/killing qi interwoven—original milky white turned crimson—like flowing blood, shocking.

"Heaven-earth fortune—not demon nor human."

"Scattered heaven-earth large share—we can't claim. Unexpectedly gathered thus."

"No wonder Devil Lord said calamity yet great opportunity! Fortune fused beast—we can suppress/slay for it!"

Lu Jiulian eyes gleamed.

Not just him—Great Luo cultivators discovered.

Fortune gathering hard—later harder. Human to true immortal easy.

But true to Mysterious—immense.

Like Lu Jiulian—post saint-slay broke true shackles, proved Mysterious.

Suddenly all breathed faster.

Even human immortals anticipated—perhaps share cup?

Even little—advance true immortal: worth great risk.

Roar!

Suddenly.

Shattering sound echoed.

World suddenly chilled.

Bone-chilling.

All gazed—saw murderous/killing qi and fortune fused.

Vaguely materialized.

Immense—ten thousand meters, black scales gradually clear in qi waves.

Boom!

Like twelve crimson eyes opened simultaneously from dark—comparable Mysterious Immortal aura rolling released.

Heaven-earth changed—crimson overtook all.

Snake tail, ox body, six heads!

Vicious beast Liuying—fused heaven-earth fortune—born!

"Act!"

Beast birth instant.

Overlord etc. suppressed by terrifying Mysterious pressure—expressions shifted, struck ferociously.

Heavens—Lu Jiulian gaze sharpened.

Invisible tangible lotus bloomed.

Lotus nine petals—each ringing!

Green lotus sword swept—sky-cleaving blade, tore void, spatial chaos—slashed Liuying.

Great war—instant erupted.

Chapter 499: Lu Ping'an, Even You Have This Day

The colossal beast had emerged!

No one knew its name, but born from the fusion of heaven-earth fortune with boundless killing and murderous qi—it was undoubtedly an omen of great calamity.

The surging murderous intent in those twelve eyes chilled the soul and froze the blood!

Its terrifying aura spread vast and wide. The fused fortune had long reached river-like intensity—in other words, this was a Mysterious Immortal-level vicious beast.

Moreover...

The quantity of fused fortune was immense—not an ordinary Mysterious Immortal!

"It has just emerged; its strength hasn't fully recovered... slay it!"

Five Phoenix immortals' eyes gleamed.

In this moment, all united against the common foe—unleashing terrifying killing strikes.

This world-ending beast brought apocalyptic destruction to Five Phoenix—naturally, it must be eradicated.

No one held back; everyone struck with full power.

Not just because of the beast's terror.

But also...

This Liuying beast fused heaven-earth fortune. Slay or suppress it—divide the fortune.

Thus, battling the beast was crisis... yet immense opportunity!

Among all strikes, Lu Jiulian's shone most brilliantly.

Green lotus sword became ten-thousand-zhang blade—sweeping heavens, suddenly slashing down. Endless void chaos webbed densely.

All other strikes paled beside it.

"This world-ending tribulation? Mo the Diviner too long without calculation... his divination wrong?"

"This beast merely Mysterious Immortal. Five Phoenix has Mysterious-level power..."

"Calamity elsewhere? Beast terrifying—but not yet Five Phoenix-ending."

Five Phoenix immortals soared.

Puzzled.

Before emergence—extreme tension.

Demon/Devil Lords personally warned—great oppression, fear. Plus enigmatic Young Master Lu.

Now emerged—Mysterious-level beast, growth potential, but currently Mysterious.

Lu Jiulian could suppress easily.

Plus many pillar true immortals, numerous human immortals.

Suppressing—not hard.

Thus world felt Mo Tianyu's divination... mistaken.

Current Five Phoenix could destroy saint clans—mere Mysterious beast: fear what?

Boom!

Lu Jiulian's green lotus sword unleashed peerless edge.

Stronger than against Cloud Ancestor—this sword's splendor shocked world.

Terrifying explosion—boundless sword qi like ground thunder soaring.

Mountains/ivers shattered—countless trees minced to ash.

Massive sword qi lotus enveloped Liuying beast.

This sword—world astonished.

Overlord grave—this sword... even with unyielding intent, likely unbearable.

Tang Yimo deep breath—current true immortal, seven pulses open: perhaps unmatched.

Only eight pulses...

But eight simultaneous—death certain.

Monkey King's fur quivered in gale—staring sword, lingering fear.

Fortunate no major war between demon court/human Great Xuan—if awakened this Lu Jiulian.

This sword—enough destroy countless court demons.

Fortune Mysterious Immortal—terrifying!

Rumble!

Night turned day.

Dong! Dong!

Powerful heartbeat suddenly jolted all.

All horrified—turned abruptly to sword qi lotus center. Bad premonition instantly enveloped.

Black, cold... boundless terror emerged from lotus.

Black sinister scales cracked—but...

Six heads—one severed, but wriggled—ink-green slime sprayed, new head regrew soon.

Six ferocious heads—twelve crimson eyes blazing.

Roared at heavens!

Roar!

Terrifying sound waves—boundless killing qi, oppressive.

Void.

Lu Julian cross-legged—expression shifted slightly.

Looked up—river-like fortune above. But after slashing Liuying—found own fortune... greatly reduced!

Vaguely—rules entwined beast.

Force kill—trade Mysterious cultivation!

Lu Jiulian grave.

Recalled Zhulong's words—she communed Heavenly Dao, sensed Mysterious above intervening: bad.

This... the bad?

"Rules power?!"

Gu Mangran in coffin—noticed Lu Jiulian's anomaly.

"Ancient emperor remnant rules... like void heaven's, but void's from Hao Emperor—this from Water ancient emperor. Indeed... beast from enemy ancient emperors' contingencies in ancient war!"

Gu Mangran deep breath—immense pressure, crisis.

"You can't strike more—with your strength, can't oppose emperor rules... force: fail kill fine, but cultivation/fortune stripped: disastrous."

Gu Mangran immediately told Lu Jiulian.

Change naturally noticed by Five Phoenix immortals.

Gu Mangran's words—world shocked.

"What? Enemy ancient emperors' contingencies?"

Five Phoenix immortals horrified.

Current cultivation level—knew ancient war terror in Nine Heavens.

Now Gu Mangran's words—touched ancient war secrets.

"Those enemy ancient emperors vicious—left such contingencies... prevent void heaven regaining glory!"

Coffin Gu Mangran palm slammed wall—furious.

Truly angry.

Mind flashed past: stood imperial city walls, watching Hao Emperor alone, resolute—for void heaven, charge enemy ancient emperors' killing array.

That lonely back—recalling now: heart cold, tragic.

But soon Gu Mangran calmed.

"Mysterious above strike—beast absorbs fortune, accelerates full recovery?"

Lu Julian deep breath.

Expressionless gazing ten-thousand-zhang beast below—six heads sweeping like divine weapons, cleaving void.

"Overlord, Old Nie... this war—yours."

Lu Jiulian hovered void.

Hand raised—green lotuses bloomed around.

"I'll contain in this area... if you fall, only lead beast upper realm... perish together."

Lu Jiulian calm.

Beast emperor rules.

Even Zhulong here—likely ineffective.

Unless enigmatic Young Master Lu acts.

But per Ning Zhao etc.—Young Master secluded, unknown duration.

Await rescue—Five Phoenix likely beast-trampled, destroyed.

Thus... Lu Jiulian no choice.

Greater power—greater responsibility.

As one of three Mysterious—he bear due.

Below.

Watching slowly crawling from massive pit Liuying beast.

Terrifying killing/murderous qi covered all.

Human immortals couldn't approach—even true immortals immense pressure.

"Leave to us."

Overlord removed axe/shield—staring mountain-like Liuying, eyes flaming.

Around—demonic qi surged, aura climbing endlessly!

Long... no blood-boiling battle intent.

Post Great Luo—mind increasingly serene.

Now world-ending beast—ignited inner war intent.

His dao: unyielding.

Bear all misfortune, beatings—to absolute peak!

"Come!"

"Hit me!"

"My dao unyielding!"

Overlord roared—body suddenly towering, muscles dragon-coiled, frenzied aura exploded.

Streaked as light—charged ten-thousand-zhang Liuying.

Like firefly charging sun.

Tang Yimo neck cracked—drooping hair inverted in qi waves.

Aura climbed—body explosive sounds.

Six pulses simultaneous—aura thick as ink.

"War!"

Slight crouch—foot stomp, earth shattered—black streak charged Liuying.

Mysterious can't act.

Thus true immortals must.

Facing Mysterious-power Liuying—Tang Yimo no underestimate—full power, direct six pulses!

Five Phoenix human immortals retreated beyond Lu Jiulian's aura zone.

Watching struggle causing mountains/ivers shatter Liuying—hearts heavy.

"We... aid too."

Sima Qingshan deep breath—instructed worried An Miaoyu wait outside.

Green robes flying—book box back, brush gripped—great strides charged Liuying.

Kong Nanfei laughed—recited poem, righteous qi surged—carrying body into fray.

One by one Five Phoenix true immortals fearlessly joined Liuying battle.

Nie Changqing gripped Dragon Slayer—blade qi soared.

This day.

Heaven-earth dark—beast emerged.

Five Phoenix true immortals—desperate fight!

...

White Jade Capital pavilion.

Lu leaned Thousand Bladed Chair—no smile, somewhat grave.

"Overdone? Not."

"Great Luo gave method—but breakthrough needs combat. These years—besides upper invasion—true stimulating battles... too few."

"This beast—I labored heart-blood create. Slay: fortune no less saint-slay!"

Lu grave.

Board showed Liuying vs Five Phoenix true immortals.

Saw Overlord unyielding body—tail-swept, half nearly shattered, flung thousands li.

Saw Tang Yimo six pulses—body purplish, god-demon charge.

Pressure given.

If fail—Five Phoenix destruction.

Thus desperate war.

Only desperate—breakthrough.

Perhaps post-war—Five Phoenix birth Mysterious Immortals.

"Opportunity given—grasp: yours."

Lu shook head.

He could only thus.

Ideally painless elevate to Mysterious.

But no—Lu could mind-elevate true immortal, but Mysterious/Golden: too hard—needs opportunity.

Only self-breakthrough.

Soon gaze on Water imperial weapon—primordial spirit stirred, controlled Stealing Heaven Tower suppress—began draining reserves.

Mind sank preaching platform.

Beast era opened—not one beast.

Scavenged Cloud/Dao weapons—ancient emperor auras usable.

Prepare more beasts.

Let Five Phoenix immortals fully enjoy combat joy.

More Mysterious births—better for Five Phoenix.

...

Five Phoenix continent.

Heaven-earth dark—countless gazed south, southern domain.

Great Xuan divine dynasty capital.

Palace corridor.

Human Emperor hands behind—thin robes, attendants silent.

Gazed southern skies.

There—night yet day-bright.

Knew Five Phoenix immortals battling peerless beast.

This war... decided Five Phoenix future.

Tianji Peak.

Lü Mudui and Mo Tianyu hands behind—read southern battle reports, peak top.

Both divination masters—not combat skilled, else join southern battlefield.

"Great fortune... truly great fortune?"

"What exactly saw?"

Lü Mudui asked Mo Tianyu.

Mo Tianyu robe open—earlier divination shadow recovered.

Shook head.

Closed eyes.

"Hope not great fortune—my divinations' nature: I know?"

"But too accurate—helpless."

"That divination—twelve eyes, boundless killing qi, vast fortune..."

"But actually saw something else..."

Mo Tianyu hesitant.

"What?"

Lü Mudui puzzled.

"Saw... corner chessboard."

"Heaven-earth board—beings pieces..."

Mo Tianyu deep breath—expression dazed, gazing vast earth, murmured.

Perhaps truly as Gu Mangran said.

Those ancient emperors... Nine Heavens board, Five Phoenix beings pieces.

...

Pingyang Heaven.

Seventh-level high-martial world.

Continent prosperous great city.

Water-blue long-skirted woman pale—cross-legged recovering.

Suddenly body trembled—mind like heavy hammer, pained wail.

"Damn..."

"What? Sense clan imperial reserves rapidly draining..."

"Clan million-year accumulation... who stealing?!"

Water Saint Ancestor beautiful face horrified, fearful.

Weapon fallen Five Phoenix—she worried period, but not overly.

After all clan weapon—non-clan uncontrollable.

But now—panicked.

Suddenly heard city chaos outside.

Primordial spirit cautiously spread.

Now hidden Pingyang—dangerous, near void heaven Five Phoenix. If Lu Ping'an strikes—she doomed.

But most dangerous: safest. Believed Lu Ping'an couldn't guess here.

Hum...

Primordial spirit spread—heard many voices.

"Five Phoenix continent birthed Mysterious-level vicious beast! Five Phoenix faces world-ending crisis!"

"Five Phoenix opportunity and calamity—heard saint lord say: beast from ancient war killing/murderous qi fused fortune. Fortune convertible: birth Golden Immortal!"

"Most terrifying: beast holds ancient emperor remnant rules. Five Phoenix Mysterious act—fortune absorbed... truly great tribulation!"

"My cousin's sister's distant relative in Five Phoenix—heard... beast 'Liuying' birth, Blood-Clothed General guessed Water ancient emperor aura activated, fused Five Phoenix heaven-earth fortune—born! All ancient emperors' layout! Contingencies!"

"Water ancient emperor aura? How Five Phoenix have?"

"Seemed Young Master Lu seized Water Saint Ancestor's weapon—caused beast birth..."

"All Young Master Lu's fault?"

"Shh! Shut up! Seek death? Young Master Lu's pettiness—you know not? Whatever he does right!"

Whispers exchanged.

Water Saint Ancestor leaned wall—primordial spirit quaked, gathering surrounding info.

Eyes increasingly bright.

"Five Phoenix great tribulation?! Ancient emperor contingencies?!"

Deep breath—ample chest heaving.

She... discovered monumental secret!

"Lu Ping'an seized my weapon—activated clan ancient emperor Five Phoenix contingency?!"

"Birthed Mysterious beast? Mysterious... saint-level beast! Plus ancient emperor rules..."

Water Saint Ancestor leaned wall—body uncontrollably trembling.

Unexpected joy!

Never thought clan ancient emperor left such contingency...

"Clan ancient emperor left words: destruction comes—ancient emperor returns! This beast birth... sign clan ancient emperor return?!"

Water Saint Ancestor thought something.

Next...

Beautiful face full glee.

"Hahaha!"

"Lu Ping'an—self-inflicted, seized clan weapon—now retribution!"

"Void heaven ancient war main battlefield—emperor wars erupted. Perhaps... many ancient emperors truly left contingencies in void heaven. You want imperial weapons? More into Five Phoenix—more such emperor-rule vicious beasts born... Five Phoenix... doomed!"

"Heavenly Dao cycles!"

"Lu Ping'an—even you have this day!"

Water Saint Ancestor face excited.

Originally planned eternal hide.

But now... couldn't!

"Though unwilling... can contact six saints hiding ruined Dao ground—they hold clan weapons..."

"If all into Five Phoenix... more world-ending beasts, activate all ancient emperors' Five Phoenix contingencies—with Five Phoenix power, can't resist—utter destruction!"

"Though those six disgusting... insidious Lu Ping'an more disgusting!"

Water Saint Ancestor eyes flashed venom.

Most vicious woman's heart—but she cared not.

Vicious—so what?

Compared Lu Ping'an's humiliation—nothing.

Next—body water flow vanished.

Though plan.

But...

Still gather accurate intel—judge if Lu Ping'an's insidious plot!

Heard pre-seizing Water weapon—void heaven trapped Cloud/Dao weapons.

If more beasts...

Ancient emperor contingencies real!

Then she: unite six saints—weapon smash, fully activate all ancient emperors' void heaven contingencies!

Utterly destroy Five Phoenix!

Let Lu Ping'an... die without burial!

Chapter 500: Bearing Imperial Weapons, Invade Five Phoenix, Welcome the Ancient

Emperors' Return

The vicious beast had descended—sun and moon lost their light.

The lower half of the southern domain, centered on the jungle where Liuying emerged, was sealed within a thirty-thousand-li radius by immortals.

Even the demon clan court and Great Xuan divine dynasty dispatched armies to guard all directions.

To prevent failure in suppressing the beast—allowing escape.

At least mortal armies could slightly hinder it.

Mortals and cities within evacuated.

Once-bustling cities—ghost towns now. None lingered.

Though mortals unaware—Great Xuan prestige high. Emperor's order: obedient migration.

Plus recent times—southern skies night bright as day. Anomaly signaled immortal battle.

Immortal clashes—terrifying. Ripples alone could slay mortals.

Stay: await death.

Boom!

Earth quaked—deep chasms split, grand canyon nearly tearing southern domain.

Jungle collapsed—trees shattered.

A figure flew backward—crashing earth repeatedly, raising heaven-soaring dust.

Soon—from crater, figure rose.

Overlord—dusty, wretched. Massive wound gushing blood.

"Strong!"

Overlord gasped.

"But strength not peaked... I can hold!"

Back axe/shield—charged again into encircled Liuying zone.

Heavens—murderous/killing qi fused fortune formed odd phenomenon—like volcanic ash clouding skies.

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Immortal lights flashed.

Sima Qingshan stood—pale, brush gripped.

Drew embroidered mountains/rivers—shifting peaks to suppress Liuying. Too hard.

Mountains easily tail-whipped to rubble!

Mysterious Immortal power!

Five Phoenix peak true immortals united—struggled suppressing.

Frontline teetered collapse.

Lu Jiulian guarded heavens—couldn't act. Would feed fortune to Liuying—counterproductive.

Watching immortals bloodied, flung back.

Anxious.

Fortunately—true immortals three shifts.

First led by Overlord—with Tang Yimo, Sima Qingshan, Kong Nanfei.

Four peak true immortals vs beast—suppressed somewhat.

Though pressured—gained breathing room.

Overlord tanked with defense; Tang Yimo six pulses endless killing.

Sima/Kong restricted advance.

Coordinated well.

Second led by Bai Qingniao—with Nie Changqing, Du Longyang, Tianxu公子, Ye Shoudao, Empress.

Bai's chicks fire phoenixes clashed Liuying—plus true immortals blocked toward continent.

Shifts allowed no beast rest—no recovery chance.

Third led by Li San-sui—with Jiang Li, Ximen Xianzhi, Luo Mingyue, Mo Liuqi (Gu Mangran's four kings inheritors)—plus Meng Haoran, Tang Guo, Nie Shuang special physiques. Li's arrays suppressed.

No breathing room.

Shifts resisted/suppressed Liuying.

Resting shift swiftly swallowed Ni Yu pills—recover, rejoin.

Liuying too strong—six heads, six dao intents.

Tang Yimo once exploded head—but useless. Regrew soon.

But not fruitless—learned kill method: simultaneous sever six heads.

Known—but hard.

Mysterious-level beast!

War became endurance, tug-of-war.

Month passed swiftly.

Southern battlefield—Five Phoenix cultivation focus.

Liuying's might spread continent.

Aura diffused—infected southern jungle beasts with murderous/killing qi and fortune.

Turned killing machines—spreading outward from southern domain.

Longer infected—stronger.

Even human immortal-level beasts emerged.

Thus Great Xuan/demon court reinforced.

Outside battlefield—each added five hundred thousand: million total.

Stalemate.

...

Pingyang Heaven, Little Thunder Sound Buddhist World.

Five Phoenix Mysterious (saint) beast news—spread via ascension Heavenly Gate across lower three heavens.

Blood Evil, Yuan Magnetic, Pingyang—ascendants formed powerful alliances, wished aid Five Phoenix.

But ascension grounds tempered—partially ignored void heaven rules.

Rules lingered—entry suppressed cultivation.

Most lower three strong—observed, not entered.

Little Thunder Sound ancient temple.

Great Senior cross-legged—chanting, monitoring Five Phoenix.

Beast emerged—world-ending power.

Frowned—Five Phoenix now lower three master, comparable upper third-level high-martial—center.

Nine Heavens fundamentally strength-revering.

Suddenly.

Vast primordial spirit ripple.

Current near true immortal Great Senior—felt terrifying aura.

"Void sealed!"

Chills—gazed.

Water surged—graceful figure emerged.

Great Senior mind horrified.

"Water Saint Ancestor?!"

Shocked—then chilled. She fled outer battlefield?

Why here?

Mind moved—understood. Hidden Pingyang all along!

Closest to void heaven Pingyang.

Most dangerous: safest.

Bold Water Saint Ancestor!

If Young Master Lu primordial sweep—exposed.

"No need futile. Entire Little Thunder Sound sealed—Lu Ping'an can't sense you."

Water Saint Ancestor blue hair flowing.

"Amitabha... your holiness saint ancestor—what virtue monk warrant personal action?"

"Kill monk—with status, your Pingyang hide exposed."

Great Senior said.

"Won't kill—want all Five Phoenix beast 'Liuying' info!"

Water Saint Ancestor grave.

Great Senior shifted.

About destroy data—

Water Saint Ancestor saw—instant shadow-shift beside.

Finger flick.

Saintly might vast.

Near true immortal Great Senior—blocked nothing, coughed blood flying, ground—barely breathing.

Saint ancestor—not resistible.

Water Saint Ancestor flipped all data.

Shocked.

"Demon/Devil Lords—Mysterious pinnacle... two saints?"

"Great Xuan Academy Lu Jiulian, Buzhou witch... Five Phoenix saints?!"

Unseen—shocked.

From Great Senior—first understood Five Phoenix.

Destroying Cloud/Dao—merely half force!

Gu Mangran, Lu Ping'an... not limits!

So many saints—Five Phoenix second-level high-martial comparable!

"Terrifying!"

Water Saint Ancestor trembled—lingering fear.

"These beasts... from ancient emperor aura? Hold rules—Mysterious can't act or fortune absorbed?"

"No wonder Five Phoenix world-ending! Saints only counter saints... saints can't—Five Phoenix doomed!  
More Primordial Unity useless vs saint!"

Water Saint Ancestor read on—eyes brighter!

Finally truth of Five Phoenix tribulation.

Plus Great Senior data—clear judgment.

"This tribulation—beast 'Liuying' from Water ancient emperor aura activation, fused Five Phoenix heaven-earth fortune—born! Water ancient emperor contingency—likely ancient emperors return start!"

Seeing—Water Saint Ancestor gleamed.

"Indeed... true!"

"Lu Ping'an seized my weapon—now regret!"

"Self-inflicted!"

Water Saint Ancestor set data—distant Great Senior coughed rising, staring.

Great Senior disappointed—once idealized upper realm beautiful.

Witnessed Cloud/Dao—now Water Saint Ancestor domineering.

Upper realm, saint clans—utter disappointment.

Water Saint Ancestor glanced.

Hand raised—water arrow gathered palm.

About arrow kill Little Thunder Sound Great Senior.

But Great Senior resolute—primordial spirit quaked, immortal qi boiled—self-detonate.

"Water Saint Ancestor—even death drag you—expose to Young Master Lu!"

Great Senior calm.

Increasingly Buddha light illuminated.

Water Saint Ancestor killing intent surged—tiny bald donkey dare threaten!

But too late strike.

Vast aura swept—heaven-soaring killing intent like blood sea surging.

Five Phoenix continent—strong primordial spirit swept!

"Stay!"

Cold coffin collapsed void arriving.

Gu Mangran!

Sensed Pingyang anomaly—from void heaven acted.

Water Saint Ancestor fear flashed—Blood-Clothed strength undeniable. Though vitality withered—with medicines—entangled, no weapon: escape hard.

Gathered all data—no linger.

Turned water flow vanished Little Thunder Sound—swiftly left Pingyang.

Exposed—no stay.

Perfect—unite other six saints—no remain Pingyang.

After departure.

Gu Mangran coffin descended Little Thunder Sound—long suppressed Great Senior coughed blood heavily—body powerless ground.

Gasped heavily.

"Unexpected Water Saint Ancestor hidden Pingyang..."

Gu Mangran seated coffin.

"General Gu... Water Saint Ancestor seized Five Phoenix emerging beast 'Liuying' data. Knows beasts from imperial weapons... now likely uniting other six weapon-bearing saints!"

Great Senior weak—saint pressure plus initial heavy injury. If not questioned—likely crushed dead.

But ignored wounds—informed speculation.

Gu Mangran shifted.

"Now troublesome—internal/external woes... truly Five Phoenix great tribulation! Five Phoenix first poison hexagram—well-deserved..."

Gu Mangran heard Mo Tianyu's divination.

One "great fortune"—scared countless true immortals.

"But these saints not foolish—Liuying truly from Water weapon Young Master Lu seized? Uncertain."

"Cloud/Dao weapons long trapped Five Phoenix—no beasts. Perhaps... coincidence."

Gu Mangran said.

Brows tight—words even he doubted.

Truly coincidence?

Water ancient emperor aura undeniable—why only Water?

Not from Water weapon fall?

Cloud/Dao weapons—fell by void heaven mysterious rift power—perhaps suppressed ancient emperor aura spread.

But regardless—if next Cloud/Dao ancient emperor aura infected beasts born—Five Phoenix truly doomed!

Gu Mangran no linger Pingyang.

Soon back Five Phoenix.

Vast Ocean sought lake heart island.

But...

Found whale, island.

Chrysanthemums swayed, peaches bloomed—no Lu.

"Indeed Young Master secluded... perhaps breaking Mysterious Immortal."

"But so what? Beasts hold ancient emperor rules—Mysterious can't act. Young Master becomes Mysterious: worse."

Gu Mangran seated coffin—heavenward long sigh.

Perhaps... fate.

"Perhaps seek Mr. Lu—more chrysanthemum medicines."

After departure.

Lake heart island.

Breeze blew.

Lu suddenly appeared.

White flowing, black vigorous.

Leaned Thousand Bladed Chair—odd face.

"Water Saint Ancestor uniting six saints... use weapons activate Five Phoenix peerless beasts?"

"This woman... so talented?!"

Lu smacked lips—shocked.

But soon eyes brightened.

Gazed drained lusterless Water imperial weapon.

Feasible method.

Roundabout—million reserve business on.

Sleepy—pillow delivered. Reject... grave sin?

"Need Cloud/Dao ancient emperor aura infected beasts as convincing evidence?"

Lu stroked chin.

Seems next period—busier.

Mind moved—entered preaching platform, perfected Cloud/Dao beasts details.

Within.

Gossip array words floated.

Before Lu—two murderous/killing qi surging beasts no weaker Liuying models floated.

"Dao beast name 'Yungu Diao'—two forms: vicious eagle, remnant leopard. Release: Heavenly Gate ascension grounds."

"Cloud beast name 'Hell Hou'—ferocious, spits karma fire. Release: Netherworld abyss."

...

Great Xuan calendar year 532.

Historians recorded: southern domain sealed, beast "Liuying" emerged—southern skies bright as day. Five Phoenix immortals soared—clashed endlessly with beast.

Same year—Heavenly Gate hung heavens, heaven-soaring murderous qi overflowed. Great vicious emerging—immortals panicked, rushed back Heavenly Gate.

Next year—Nine Prisons secret realm unrest. Nine prison gates karma fire burned—surroundings barren.

"Vicious beast great era" descended.

...

Outer battlefield.

Seven vast auras interwoven—boundless saintly might impacting endlessly.

Water Saint Ancestor body flickering—like vanishing anytime.

"Indeed... long trapped Five Phoenix Heavenly Gate/Netherworld Cloud/Dao weapons—birthed beasts!"

"Five Phoenix world-ending tribulation come!"

"Lu Ping'an self-inflicted... we must not miss chance."

Battlefield.

Saints hesitant.

Exchanged gazes.

Hand raised.

Void showed Liuying—plus gestating, not emerged—murderous/killing qi and fortune nurturing, entwined ancient emperor aura "Yungu Diao", "Hell Hou" images.

Latter two occasionally flashed Cloud/Dao ancient emperor auras—several saints grave.

"You still hesitate?! Breaching Five Phoenix—perhaps war-vanished ancient emperors... return!"

Water Saint Ancestor anxious.

Finally...

Six exchanged.

Killing intent gleamed—decided inwardly.

"Beasts emerge—ancient emperors return omen..."

"We duty-bound."

"Bear imperial weapons—invade Five Phoenix—welcome ancient emperors' return!"