

Starlit Path 581

Chapter 581: You Ruined This Young Master's Appetite

What... is that?!

Behind the passage, Lu Jiulian, Tang Yimo, the Overlord, and the others shrank their pupils.

They had thought Young Master Lu was just passing time, but they never imagined he would actually catch something!

The golden creature was far too brilliant—dazzling and blinding. Looking directly at it felt like staring into a blazing sun; tears involuntarily streamed from their eyes.

Even with Golden Immortal eyesight, it was overwhelming.

“Is that a god and demon?”

“It seems similar... the aura is close.”

“So strange. I never knew gods and demons came in this kind!”

The Overlord and the others drew deep breaths.

They realized just how little they truly understood about gods and demons—or perhaps how vast the Primordial Starry Sky truly was.

They had only begun to encounter gods and demons and the Primordial Starry Sky; everything was still in the exploratory stage.

“That seems to be a high-tier god and demon...”

“With Young Master Lu’s strength, he should be able to suppress it easily.”

“But why is Young Master Lu fishing for this god and demon?”

Soon, doubt began to spread through their hearts.

At this moment, Lu had no time to explain to them.

An elemental god and demon... it actually existed!

Most importantly, Lu felt an inexplicable pull from this creature. It was like a powerful magnet drawing him in.

“An elemental god and demon... of the gold element?”

Lu’s eyes lit up as understanding dawned.

He had been unable to fuse the Fire-Origin Immortal Demon Body because he hadn’t fully mastered the Gold-Origin one. He had been wondering how to completely master it.

Originally, he thought it would be like before—gaining upgrades through missions or advancing his Qi Refining level.

But now... it seemed not.

“So that’s how it is...”

“Elemental gods and demons... supreme nourishment!”

A slight smile curved Lu’s lips.

Beneath the bamboo hat, his eyes fixed on the golden creature with brilliant intensity.

Boom!

A terrifying shockwave spread. The hook formed by the Phoenix Feather Sword was razor-sharp, piercing straight through the creature's mouth and reeling it in like a fish.

Innate Purple Qi surged from his cells, dramatically boosting Lu's strength.

With a powerful yank, he pulled the elemental god and demon fully into the air.

Roar!

Only then did Lu suppress the golden light and clearly see its form.

It was a beast resembling a ferocious ox, but with claws instead of hooves. Its entire body was covered in golden scales, gleaming like molten gold, as if forged from pure gold.

Though it only emitted the aura of a high-tier god and demon, in terms of raw power, ten high-tier gods and demons combined might not match it.

This elemental god and demon possessed at least the strength of an Immortal-tier!

The spiritual qi thread stretched taut, but since it was condensed by Lu, it was incredibly resilient.

The creature's sharp claws tried to sever the thread, only to spark violently.

The pain drove it nearly mad!

"Since you took the bait, don't even think about running."

Lu laughed.

Just like a fisherman who had hooked a big one.

His arm jerked forcefully, dragging the elemental god and demon back from the spatial turbulence it tried to flee into.

Realizing escape was impossible, the creature lunged at Lu in a frenzy, intent on killing him.

The Gold-Origin Insect Corpse had been far too tempting; without it, this elemental god and demon would never have emerged.

Feeling the ferocious killing intent rush toward him,

Lu narrowed his eyes.

He activated his *God and Demon Hunter* title.

Yet the title's usual overwhelming suppression had only a weak effect on this elemental god and demon.

It was affected, but barely.

This was after Lu's Qi Refining advancement—the title should have been even stronger. Even an Immortal-tier god and demon should have been noticeably impacted.

"Hm?"

"It seems this elemental god and demon's life level is far higher than ordinary high-tier ones!"

Lu took a deep breath.

Boom!

He yanked the fishing rod, pulling the golden elemental god and demon back toward him.

A fist swung out.

Dong!

A shockwave rippled outward. Like two titans clashing, space shattered inch by inch, revealing the chaotic turbulence behind.

The golden beast's claws were razor-sharp, yet colliding with Lu's fist produced the sound of metal striking metal—like two blades grinding against each other.

“What a tough one...”

Lu's eyes gleamed brighter. His punches grew even more ferocious.

He didn't use any spiritual pressure—just pure, raw physical combat.

Dong! Dong! Dong!

It was like two chunks of metal smashing together in the air.

The sound was piercing, causing many to grimace in discomfort.

Behind Lu, the Golden Immortals in the passage exchanged stunned glances.

This golden beast... was surprisingly resilient. Even under Young Master Lu's assault, it refused to stop struggling.

The Overlord and the Twelve Witch Kings watched with itching hands.

This close-quarters, flesh-against-flesh brawl made their blood boil. They longed to jump in and fight themselves.

But thinking of Young Master Lu's terrifying strength, their enthusiasm quickly cooled.

Pfft!

Finally, after a barrage of bone-shattering punches, the golden beast bled golden blood and collapsed onto the silver blade boat.

Lu sat calmly and stopped striking.

He smiled lightly and began reeling in the spiritual qi thread.

Roar!

The golden beast, now lying on the boat, let out a weak, exhausted roar.

Lu's eyes, half-hidden beneath the bamboo hat, lifted slightly—suddenly sharp.

He slowly stood. His entire body turned golden.

The golden beast, which had been trying to rise and fight, sensed the surging aura from Lu and finally gave up. It slumped down, obediently becoming Lu's prey.

Far away,

The Immortal-tier god and demon Kui Si felt a chill run through his massive body.

“This is a juvenile elemental god and demon...”

He murmured. Watching the elemental god and demon beaten to near death, Kui Si suddenly lost all desire to fight or invade.

Even though it was only a juvenile with high-tier strength, its combat power was not much weaker than his own Immortal-tier level.

His earlier excitement evaporated like water poured on hot coals.

He finally understood why Evil Eye had died.

A being capable of beating an elemental god and demon to a pulp was not someone an ordinary Immortal-tier could afford to provoke!

Suddenly, Kui Si seemed to see through the scheme.

“You killed Evil Eye...”

“And now you want to trap this Venerable!”

A suppressed aura erupted from Immortal-tier Kui Si. His massive eyes fixed on the graceful form of the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor.

A claw slammed down!

Boom!

The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor’s expression changed drastically.

Before she could react, the claw struck her.

Pfft!

The terrifying force sent her flying tens of thousands of miles.

Splash—half her body exploded into water, droplets raining down as she slowly reformed.

The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor bit her red lip, feeling deeply wronged.

What was wrong with Kui Si?

Just moments ago, he had been eager to attack Five Phoenixes. Now he suddenly turned on her.

Hadn't they already discussed everything with Hao?!

"What are you doing?"

"Didn't we already agree?"

The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor said coldly.

"Agree?"

"You think this Venerable is as stupid as Evil Eye? Trying to trap me!"

“Die!”

The colossal beast roared. The primordial starry sky beneath it trembled as if it would shatter. A terrifying claw tore open space cracks and endless turbulence.

The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor was only at Great Emperor level. Even with her special physique, she was wary of this strike.

She transformed into water and fled tens of thousands of miles.

Among the ancient Emperors of the Nine Heavens, her escape ability was among the strongest!

This was also why the ancient Emperors in the rift had ultimately chosen her.

“Do you know what that guy just fished up?”

“It’s an elemental god and demon!”

“A noble race among the gods and demons!”

“They are the purest beings born from chaos! You expect this Venerable Kui Si to die by charging at someone who captured and beat a living elemental god and demon?!”

“Do you think this Venerable Kui Si is an idiot?!”

Roar!

The fury of an Immortal-tier god and demon shook the entire starry sky.

The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor’s expression grew uglier.

She hadn’t done anything!

What the hell was Kui Si going crazy about?

She had planned for Kui Si to harass Five Phoenixes while she continued recruiting other Immortal-tier gods and demons... but now this guy was attacking her!

But soon, she understood—it must be because of the god and demon Lu Ping’an had fished up.

That bastard Lu Ping'an... truly insidious and cunning!

Not only did he toy with human minds—he toyed with gods and demons too!

Buzz...

Suddenly, the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor's body trembled. Her blue eyes turned pitch black.

Facing Kui Si's incoming claw,

She raised her hand. Countless streams of water formed a shield, blocking the strike.

Water exploded everywhere, like a torrential downpour in the starry sky.

"It's all a misunderstanding."

"This person is named Lu Ping'an. He has captured a juvenile elemental god and demon... which will surely draw out an adult one. When that happens, Five Phoenixes will face catastrophe. Then you and I can strike."

The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor said coldly.

Perhaps it was her change in tone, or the presence of Ancient Emperor Hao possessing her, elevating her status—Kui Si calmed down.

After some thought, he found it somewhat reasonable.

“Humans... truly despicable!”

Then, Kui Si slowly withdrew his attack.

He stood on the primordial star, continuing to stare at the passage mouth.

“You can send low-tier or high-tier gods and demons to harass Five Phoenixes. It was hard enough to open this passage—if it closes again, reopening it will cost a great deal of effort.”

The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor said.

Kui Si narrowed his eyes and glanced at her, saying nothing—an implicit agreement.

With Ancient Emperor Hao controlling her body, the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor gradually turned transparent and slipped away.

“I’ll go recruit other Immortal-tier gods and demons...”

Her voice lingered as her figure vanished.

Kui Si didn’t refuse. He lacked the confidence to swallow this nearly Immortal-Martial world alone.

Lu Ping’an’s strength also made him wary.

Moreover, if other gods and demons joined, even if the Nine Heavens’ ancient Emperors had set a trap, he would feel better sharing the suffering.

The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor was gone.

On the primordial star, Kui Si crouched, staring fixedly at the passage mouth.

He wanted to see what Lu Ping’an would do to that elemental god and demon.

...

Holding the North Sea Fishing Rod, Lu raised his hand. The golden beast's body floated before him.

He removed the Phoenix Feather Sword hook from its mouth. Golden blood dripped down.

The dying beast's eyes were still filled with ferocity.

"A gold-attribute elemental god and demon."

Lu patted its body lightly. A muffled sound echoed.

He faintly felt a powerful attraction emanating from within the creature.

"There seems to be something inside you that's attracting this Young Master."

Lu said.

A flash of alarm flickered in the elemental god and demon's eyes.

In the next moment, it struggled violently.

But it was futile.

The power of Lu's Innate Purple Qi was far beyond what this golden beast could resist.

"The Gold-Origin?"

Lu narrowed his eyes.

"Supreme nourishment."

Lu said.

Suddenly,

The golden beast erupted with terrifying aura, as if unleashing its final trump card. In a brief moment, it broke free of Lu's restraints.

Then, with its maw wide open, it lunged for Lu's arm.

"Hm... you also... oh no, you actually want to eat me?"

Lu said.

Boom!

Lu's entire body turned golden. The Golden-Element Immortal Demon Body erupted.

The golden beast bit down on Lu's arm, only to produce the sound of metal clashing.

Behind him, the Golden Immortals in the passage felt their hearts tighten.

After all, if that ferocious god and demon bit them, their arms would likely be torn off.

Even the Overlord, used to taking beatings, probably couldn't withstand it.

Yet Lu was unscathed. That indestructible body left everyone in awe.

Lu's eyes softened.

He raised his other hand and gently stroked the golden beast's head as it gnawed on his arm.

"Such a cute little golden beast..."

"This Young Master can't bear to hurt you."

Boom!

Then, Lu casually flicked out a ball of flame.

Infused with Innate Purple Qi, the terrifying heat distorted the surrounding void.

He raised the North Sea Fishing Rod.

With a shake of his arm, the golden beast's jaws cracked.

Then, using spiritual qi threads, Lu bound its four limbs to the fishing rod.

Looking at the securely bound golden beast, Lu's eyes were filled with satisfaction.

"So cute."

"Should be quite delicious."

Lu said.

The people behind him: "..."

Listen to that. Is that even something a human should say?

And so Lu placed the golden beast directly over the flame.

Boom!

A powerful wave of divine sense swept over. The golden beast's frenzied, killing-intent-filled will was instantly erased by Lu.

Sizzle sizzle sizzle...

Only the sound of Innate Purple Qi flames roasting the golden beast remained—crackling and popping.

A rich, mouthwatering aroma wafted from the creature.

Lu took a deep breath. The fragrance made the Gold-Origin within him tremble.

Behind Lu,

The gods and demons imprisoned in the abyss stared blankly at the sight of Lu sitting at the passage mouth, roasting a noble elemental god and demon.

In an instant, chills spread from the depths of their hearts.

This human... is a devil!

The Overlord and the others exchanged glances.

As expected of Young Master Lu with his petty streak...

The golden beast had merely thought of eating Young Master Lu.

So Young Master Lu returned the favor.

One moment saying "so cute."

The next, it was on the grill.

And the movements were so practiced... clearly premeditated.

Far away,

On the primordial star, Kui Si trembled all over.

He stared in disbelief at the elemental god and demon being roasted alive. A chill instantly enveloped him.

This human... actually plans to eat an elemental god and demon!

That is one of the most noble races among gods and demons!

How dare this human?!

Humans, always at the bottom of the food chain, preyed upon by gods and demons—now planning to eat an elemental god and demon!

A surge of rage erupted from within Kui Si.

It was the dignity of gods and demons being trampled!

Boom!

His massive body shifted slightly.

The primordial star beneath him trembled, cracks spreading across it.

Suddenly, his movement seemed to draw Lu's attention.

Sitting at the passage mouth, Lu raised his head slightly. While roasting, he glanced over.

He saw Kui Si.

That colossal body was hard to miss, even though the primordial star was quite far from the passage mouth.

Kui Si's gaze collided with Lu's!

Lu narrowed his eyes.

"Roar!"

Kui Si unleashed a terrifying aura, roaring deafeningly at Lu.

It seemed like a provocation, or perhaps a defense of divine dignity.

Lu's lips twitched slightly.

The Phoenix Feather Sword condensed.

With a swing, he severed the golden beast's head.

Kui Si's roar faltered. Then it grew even angrier.

This arrogant human thought that would scare this Venerable Kui Si?!

Lu frowned and glanced at the beast.

Yet Kui Si didn't move, didn't attack—just kept roaring.

Lu lost interest.

He sliced a paper-thin piece of golden beast meat and placed it in his mouth. The temperature was perfect, the texture slightly chewy, the rich aroma exploding across his taste buds, filling his mouth like a warm mist, striking his palate and tongue.

Lu's eyes lit up.

Delicious!

Perhaps because of the Gold-Origin, Lu felt it was an absolute delicacy.

Maybe he, Lu Ping'an, wasn't a God and Demon Hunter after all.

But a... Gourmet Hunter!

When the golden beast meat entered his stomach,

It turned into a warm current. Lu faintly felt his Golden-Element Immortal Demon Body stabilize a little more.

Lu slowly exhaled.

Then he began to feast.

Far away, on the primordial star,

Kui Si felt utterly humiliated. This human was ignoring him and just eating!

“Roar!!!”

He let out an earth-shaking roar, as if he wanted to shatter every star in the Primordial Starry Sky.

But all he dared do was roar.

Lu had easily subdued a juvenile elemental god and demon—giving him immense pressure.

Moreover, Evil Eye had died at Lu’s hands, making Kui Si deeply wary.

So he roared even louder!

Lu ate with refined elegance, slicing paper-thin pieces with the Phoenix Feather Sword and placing them in his mouth.

This way, the texture was best and never greasy.

The shrunken Phoenix Feather Sword lifted another thin slice.

“Roar!”

Far away, Kui Si’s furious roar caused the slice of meat on the sword to tremble and fall onto the silver boat.

Lu’s open mouth froze in midair.

Then his expression slowly darkened.

Beneath the bamboo hat, his face lifted slightly. His eyes turned icy as he glanced at the roaring Kui Si.

“You... ruined this Young Master’s appetite.”

Chapter 582: The Best Teammates: The Ancient Emperors of the Nine Heavens

Ruining his appetite...

Lu’s words left everyone exchanging speechless glances.

Behind the passage, the Overlord, Lu Jiulian, Tang Yimo, and the others were utterly silent. Young Master Lu was still the same Young Master Lu—overbearing and utterly unreasonable.

They didn't know what to say. They could only silently mourn for the god and demon in the Primordial Starry Sky.

With Young Master Lu's petty streak, that god and demon was probably... in for a world of suffering.

Would it end up like the one he just fished up—turned into ingredients and eaten?

Probably not. The one he caught seemed different from ordinary gods and demons, more like a wild beast with a frenzied, unhinged will.

But the colossal beast god and demon crouching on that primordial star was clearly different.

Besides, that thing looked completely unappetizing.

Crackle crackle.

The Primordial Starry Sky suddenly fell silent. Only the sound of oil dripping into the flames remained.

Lu stood up. Within his body, a powerful surge of Gold-Origin power coursed through him, gradually calming his strength.

He took a deep breath. The Gold-Origin within him transformed into a vast suction force. The roasted golden beast turned into a streak of golden light and flew straight into Lu's mouth.

He devoured it completely.

Boom!

Lu felt the immense power surging through his body. Slowly lifting his head, he looked toward the colossal beast god and demon Kui Si perched on the primordial star.

Kui Si's eyes were filled with ferocity. His roar exploded, as if he wanted to shake every primordial star from the sky.

Lu's words had ignited a deep fury within him.

This human... was too arrogant!

Did he really think this Venerable Kui Si feared him?

Ruined his appetite?

Why didn't he choke to death?!

Kui Si roared in rage. A claw slammed down. The primordial star beneath him was covered in cracks. Rivers of magma erupted like fire dragons, spraying everywhere.

His subordinate gods and demons also revealed ferocious expressions, shouting in unison.

"If you've got the guts... come at me!"

Kui Si stared at Lu sitting at the passage mouth and roared.

The Primordial Starry Sky was the domain of gods and demons.

He was betting Lu Ping'an wouldn't dare step out.

Moreover...

Lu had just killed an elemental god and demon. If he left the passage, he might very well be ambushed by an adult one.

So...

Though he acknowledged Lu's ferocity,

He was betting it was all bark and no bite—just like betting that Lu's gun... had no bullets!

Boom!

Under Kui Si's will, low-tier and high-tier gods and demons soared into the sky, releasing ferocious auras.

In the vast Primordial Starry Sky, they formed a continuous tide.

Lu stood calmly. He didn't suppress the Gold-Origin within him.

His entire body turned brilliant gold. Even the tips of his hair were tinged with golden light.

He gazed peacefully at the roaring Kui Si.

Clang clang clang!

The silver boat beneath him disassembled, silver blades stacking behind him into a pair of silver wings.

With a single step, he crossed the passage mouth.

In the next instant, his body turned into a streak of golden light, tearing through space.

Terrifying explosions echoed continuously through the starry sky.

Kui Si felt a chill in his heart!

This human actually dared enter the Primordial Starry Sky?!

Was he insane?!

Just after killing an elemental god and demon, how could he still be so arrogant?!

“Kill!”

Kui Si roared.

Low-tier and high-tier gods and demons, guided by his will, charged upward with earth-shaking battle cries. Their ferocious auras wove into a massive net, as if to completely envelop Lu.

Behind the passage,

The Overlord, Tang Yimo, and the others felt their hearts jolt.

They rushed through the passage, charging into the Primordial Starry Sky to assist Lu.

Facing the incoming gods and demons,

Lu, with his Golden-Element Immortal Demon Body fully activated, paid them no mind.

He moved with the leisurely grace of someone who had just finished a satisfying meal, as if digesting his food.

“Title: [God and Demon Hunter]...”

Lu's eyelids lifted slightly. He swept his gaze across the gods and demons.

Dong dong!

It was as though the sound of a beating heart transformed into a powerful wave that swept outward.

Soon, it gripped every god and demon's heart.

Their bodies froze in the starry sky.

Facing Lu, they didn't even have the courage to attack.

"What?!"

Kui Si was genuinely shocked for the first time.

He knew Lu was strong, but he hadn't been too worried. After all, as an Immortal-tier god and demon, he commanded many subordinates.

Under their siege, this human would surely be overwhelmed.

Yet he never expected that facing this human, his subordinate gods and demons wouldn't dare move...

"How is this possible?!"

Kui Si vaguely sensed something strange.

Even high-tier gods and demons didn't dare act against Lu...

Was it bloodline suppression?

Impossible...

Lu was human. How could a human have bloodline suppression over gods and demons?

Could it be because he devoured an elemental god and demon?

Did that give Lu the威压 of an elemental god and demon, making low-tier and high-tier gods and demons too afraid to attack?

That made sense!

Kui Si's eyes flickered. Then he suddenly exploded into action.

He didn't retreat.

Lu had just killed an elemental god and demon—surely it would attract the attention of an adult one.

As long as he stalled Lu, the hidden elemental god and demon would unleash a deadly strike.

Without this human's protection, the newborn Immortal-Martial world would naturally become his prey.

Elemental gods and demons were different from ordinary ones.

They didn't rely on devouring world origins to grow stronger. They were mysterious, born from the purest essence of chaos. Their growth was incomprehensible.

But one thing Kui Si was certain of: elemental gods and demons wouldn't compete with him.

Perhaps... this was his chance!

If he waited for the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor to recruit other Immortal-tier gods and demons, he wouldn't be able to monopolize this newborn Immortal-Martial world's origin.

So he decided to gamble!

Boom!

Kui Si took a deep breath. His body rapidly expanded. From mountain-sized, it grew until it rivaled a primordial star.

In his eyes, Lu became tiny—like a speck of dust that could be blown away with a breath.

Lu was like a blazing sun, radiating golden light. He passed through all the gods and demons.

Finally arriving before Kui Si.

Looking at the colossal Immortal-tier god and demon,

Lu slightly raised his chin.

“Although you ruined this Young Master’s appetite...”

“This Young Master can still give you a chance to live.”

Lu said calmly.

The abyss prison held low-tier and high-tier gods and demons, but no Immortal-tier ones.

This Immortal-tier god and demon was perfect to add to the collection.

But first, Lu needed to work up a sweat and digest his meal.

Boom!

Kui Si roared in fury.

A claw slammed down.

The massive claw pressed like an entire world. In front of it, Lu was like a grain of sand.

Lu's lips curved slightly. The Golden-Element Immortal Demon Body surged. He lightly raised a hand.

Bang!

A tremendous shockwave exploded outward in concentric energy ripples.

Yet Kui Si discovered that his claw couldn't descend. This human had erupted with monstrous strength and blocked it.

Pfft!

A flash of golden light.

Kui Si's claw was pierced through.

Lu turned into a streak of light. A fist smashed into Kui Si's head!

Cracks instantly appeared on the head.

They spread and exploded!

Explosive sounds formed terrifying waves in the silent starry sky. Kui Si let out a roar of pain.

Fear flickered in his eyes.

Strong!

Too strong!

This human was absolutely not a newly ascended Immortal-tier!

His combat power was among the top even within the Immortal-tier!

Bang bang bang!

Lu turned into streaks of light, unleashing relentless attacks. Each strike caused Kui Si's body to shrink slightly.

In the end, Kui Si became like a ball, bouncing around the starry sky under Lu's blows.

The moment he was sent flying, Lu appeared behind him. Golden demonic qi surged, and he smashed him away again.

The Overlord, Tang Yimo, and the others watched in silence.

This ferocious beast... turned out to be so weak.

Completely powerless before Young Master Lu.

As expected...

Young Master Lu was the most reassuring presence.

The Overlord cracked his knuckles, sweeping his gaze across the countless stars twinkling with ancient light.

“This is the Primordial Starry Sky. Indeed, there’s a powerful and terrifying suppression.”

“Perhaps... this could become our training ground...”

The Overlord and Tang Yimo exchanged glances, eyes lighting up.

Perfect. They could fight while clearing out hostile gods and demons around the Five Phoenixes passage!

Thick blood dyed the starry sky.

Kui Si was completely beaten senseless...

Bruised and swollen.

His body, originally the size of a primordial star, had been pummeled down to the size of a house—like a sponge soaked with water, forcibly squeezed smaller by Lu.

Kui Si’s mentality... collapsed.

Why hadn’t the hidden elemental god and demon attacked yet?!

“This Venerable Kui Si... lost the bet.”

Boom!

Kui Si knelt in the starry sky.

Bruised and battered, covered in wounds, he didn't want to be beaten anymore.

He couldn't defeat this human, but he didn't want to die either.

Born from chaos and surviving until now, he had lived an endless span of time. He didn't want to die so miserably.

He didn't want to end up like Evil Eye.

Lu's silver wings fluttered gently. Golden light surged like a blazing sun of hope.

His golden robes billowed. Lu looked at Kui Si with a gentle gaze.

After a good beating, the negative emotions from having his appetite ruined had mostly dissipated.

“I, Lu Ping’an, am not some bloodthirsty monster.”

Lu said.

Kui Si forced a smile uglier than tears.

Could he choose not to believe him?

Yet Lu extended a hand and hammered his head once more. Kui Si collapsed into the starry sky.

Dragged by Lu, he was pulled step by step toward the Five Phoenixes passage.

His subordinate low-tier and high-tier gods and demons had long since scattered in terror.

Lu glanced at them.

With a flick of his hand, the Spiritual Pressure Chessboard appeared before him.

The chessboard domain instantly expanded, enveloping all the gods and demons.

Lu looked toward the Overlord, Tang Yimo, and the others.

With their current strength, they couldn't improve much within Five Phoenixes. These gods and demons would be left for their training.

Compared to the imprisoned ones in the abyss, these wild gods and demons were far more ferocious, with far stronger battle wills.

The tempering effect on the Overlord and the others would be even better.

But soon, Lu fell into deep thought.

He felt this idea had great potential.

After all, his goal was to elevate everyone's strength. The stronger they became, the more spiritual qi he could harvest.

Thus, this kind of training was beneficial for both them and him—nothing but advantages.

However...

He still needed to carefully plan and simulate the details.

Dragged along by Lu, Kui Si didn't dare breathe loudly.

This human's temper was unpredictable. Though they had only been together briefly, Kui Si had a gut feeling: if he acted out again, this human would kill him without hesitation.

Just as Lu was deep in thought,

The void suddenly trembled.

As if taking advantage of Lu's distraction, a hidden existence struck!

Kui Si sensed the overwhelming pressure of a higher god and demon rank. His dead eyes suddenly lit up!

He hadn't lost the bet!

This Venerable Kui Si was still alive!

The elemental god and demon hidden in the spatial turbulence had finally attacked!

Thanks to Kui Si drawing this human's attention, the elemental god and demon had the perfect chance to strike!

Boom!!!

Brilliant golden light exploded!

Space completely shattered. Terrifying turbulence with the power to annihilate gods and demons surged forth.

A claw covered in golden scales, brimming with murderous intent, shot out from the spatial turbulence, aiming straight for Lu's head.

It intended to rip his skull apart and annihilate his divine soul in one strike!

This attack's power was top-tier even among Immortal-tier!

Lu's pores suddenly tightened.

Then, Innate Purple Qi instantly surged from his cells, intertwining with his golden demonic qi.

Lu erupted with his full power.

The Phoenix Feather Sword swept out.

Under the amplification of Innate Purple Qi and the Golden-Element Immortal Demon Body, the sword qi stretched thirty thousand miles across the starry sky!

As if it would cleave the spatial turbulence apart!

The sword qi slashed across the golden claw.

Innate Purple Qi erupted with terrifying sharpness.

The sound of metal clashing rang out—like a long blade striking an ancient bell.

A dull boom exploded outward in waves!

Pfft!

The golden claw was severed, falling from the spatial turbulence.

A massive golden beast figure roared, then vanished back into the turbulence.

This adult gold-attribute elemental god and demon had failed its ambush and immediately fled!

Even Lu couldn't help but feel a trace of astonishment!

And a trace of lingering fear.

The battle had erupted in the blink of an eye. By the time the Overlord, Tang Yimo, and the others reacted, the terrifying golden beast had already escaped.

It left behind only a severed claw.

Kui Si stood up. The elemental god and demon's fleeting strike filled him with excitement.

That strike had seemed like a certain kill.

He had even prepared to cheer in victory.

Yet...

Before the cheer could leave his mouth,

He saw Lu calmly grasping the severed golden beast claw. Lu glanced at him.

“You... seem happy?”

Lu stored the golden arm and said.

Kui Si desperately wanted to shake his head, but he knew anything he said now would be pointless.

Still, he thudded to his knees again, completely spineless.

He had indeed lost the bet.

Lu's lips twitched slightly.

His gaze shifted to the shattered spatial turbulence. His eyes narrowed.

Then, dragging Kui Si, he returned through the passage.

Formations hovered above the abyss. Lightning arcs transformed into chains that descended and bound Kui Si tightly.

Kui Si was filled with grief and indignation, yet utterly helpless.

He desperately wanted to slap himself. Why had he roared so much earlier?

Now look what happened...

He'd roared himself straight into prison.

Wouldn't it have been better to wait for the other Immortal-tier gods and demons to gather and attack together?

Why had he let greed take over?

Kui Si let out a miserable wail from the abyss prison.

It terrified the gods and demons under Evil Eye's command, making them tremble.

Meanwhile, Lu sat back at the passage mouth and began examining his own condition.

“Still a bit short of fully stabilizing the Gold-Origin...”

Lu mused. He took out the golden arm. The Gold-Origin within him formed a vortex, drawing the golden arm into his body as a streak of golden light.

The Gold-Origin stabilized a little more.

“With this level... can I fuse the Fire-Origin Immortal Demon Body now?”

Lu frowned.

He still felt it wasn't quite enough.

With only one fusion attempt left, Lu had to be absolutely certain.

So he took out the Gold-Origin Insect Corpse again, preparing to fish the starry sky once more.

He had a premonition that the golden beast was still lurking in the spatial turbulence, waiting for another chance.

While fishing, Lu's mind entered the Sermon Platform to begin planning the training system for Five Phoenixes cultivators.

This idea had come to him suddenly.

It was built upon the foundation of the abyss prison.

Perhaps he could craft a series of innate spiritual treasures, graded differently for cultivators of various levels.

Each treasure would imprison gods and demons—or their clones—of corresponding strength.

Cultivators could enter the treasures to battle the gods and demons or their clones, earning points.

These points could be exchanged not only for destiny but also for pills, spiritual tools, spiritual treasures, cultivation techniques, cultivation insights, and more.

Because while destiny was needed for breakthroughs, improving actual combat power still required accumulation. Good pills, spiritual tools, cultivation techniques, and so on were crucial.

Lu even planned that if someone accumulated enough points, they could exchange for the chance to join White Jade Capital as a disciple and receive his personal guidance.

The more Lu thought about it, the more feasible it seemed.

If he could truly craft such spiritual treasures, they would provide immense assistance in elevating Five Phoenixes cultivators—and even the entire Immortal-Martial level.

Of course, creating such innate spiritual treasures required a large number of gods and demons. He needed powerful god and demon clones. A single low-tier god and demon could probably be split into seven or eight Profound Immortal-level clones...

Once these treasures were created, the number of True Immortals and Profound Immortals in Five Phoenixes would increase endlessly.

The gods and demons imprisoned in the abyss and suppressed in the chessboard domain alone were far from enough.

Lu suddenly smiled. If he really succeeded in crafting these treasures, his title of God and Demon Hunter would become all too literal.

As for the source of gods and demons, Lu wasn't worried.

After all, with teammates as excellent as the ancient Emperors of the Nine Heavens, he had no concern about the quantity or supply of gods and demons.

Raising his head, Lu gazed deeply into the vast Primordial Starry Sky.

He hoped... the ancient Emperors of the Nine Heavens wouldn't disappoint him.

The hopes of every cultivator in Five Phoenixes rested on their shoulders.

Chapter 583: Empress Ni Chunqiu's Determination

Nine Heavens.

Void Rift.

The massive chasm tore across the Nine Heavens' void.

Powerful auras surged within.

From deep within the rift came a wave of somewhat exasperated divine fluctuations—clearly triggered by discovering that Kui Si had been suppressed by Lu.

The ancient Emperors could only find it both amusing and absurd.

“It’s all because of greed... Kui Si wanted to monopolize Five Phoenixes’ Dao Origin, so he acted alone and ended up getting crushed by Lu Ping’an.”

“Serves him right. If he’d waited for the other Immortal-tier gods and demons to join forces, this wouldn’t have happened.”

“But this is a problem. A newborn Immortal-Martial Dao Origin is right there—few Immortal-tier gods and demons could resist the temptation. Or perhaps these gods and demons simply don’t know how terrifying Lu Ping’an is.”

The ancient Emperors exchanged thoughts.

Their judgment was largely accurate.

They simply assumed Kui Si, recruited by the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor, had been unable to resist the temptation and acted rashly.

In truth, Kui Si hadn't attacked proactively. He had only crouched on the primordial star and roared a few times.

From the depths of the rift, Ancient Emperor Hao's divine fluctuations surged forth.

"It seems we can't let Immortal-tier gods and demons go one by one. We must unite them completely before launching a joint assault on Five Phoenixes."

Ancient Emperor Hao's divine sense spread, delivering the decision.

His sharp gaze fixed on Five Phoenixes.

One Immortal-tier god and demon could be suppressed by Lu Ping'an—so bring several more...

Unless Lu Ping'an surpassed the Immortal-tier and peak Emperor level, Five Phoenixes' ultimate fate would still be destruction.

Ancient Emperor Hao's divine sense wavered slightly, as if with a sigh.

In truth, he had never expected Five Phoenixes to grow so quickly.

Back then, he had even intervened to help Five Phoenixes overcome many difficulties. At the time, he had merely viewed Five Phoenixes as a future replacement for the Nine Heavens.

Five Phoenixes—and Lu Ping'an—were just pawns in his game.

Yet now, this pawn had leaped off the board, completely escaping his control. It had matured and even openly defied him.

Ancient Emperor Hao couldn't help but sigh.

Cause in the past, effect in the present.

If he hadn't helped Five Phoenixes, hadn't helped Lu Ping'an—would none of this have happened?

Of course, sighs were just sighs. Even with the “Proximity” formation word under his command, he could not change the flow of time.

He had to face the current Five Phoenixes.

This was now an unchangeable reality.

...

Inside the Sermon Platform.

Mists of immortal qi swirled continuously. Lu’s thoughts surged as he deduced something.

A new generation of enhancement plans for Five Phoenixes was gradually taking shape under his calculations. This time, he intended to craft a series of innate spiritual treasures.

For now, he had a basic framework.

Lu sat upon the Sermon Platform, white robes fluttering. Eight Trigrams formation words danced around him.

He planned to build a cultivation-assisting spiritual treasure modeled after the Trial Tower.

For the time being, he called it the *Destiny Tower*.

Starting from the Heavenly Human level, then Human Immortal, True Immortal, Profound Immortal, Golden Immortal... it would be divided into five levels. Besides the vast mission hall on the first floor, each subsequent level would correspond to a specific cultivation realm.

Thus, the Destiny Tower would have six floors.

Buzz...

White lines flickered in Lu's eyes.

In the next moment, he felt as though he stood within a towering structure—though currently transparent, visible only as faint outlines drawn by the lines.

Lu stood with his hands behind his back.

He stepped into the first floor of the Destiny Tower. A pitch-black stone tablet rose from the ground.

Lu raised his hand and placed it on the tablet. It immediately glowed with light.

Lu pondered for a moment, then waved his hand.

In the center of the first-floor hall, behind the handprint stone tablet, a pitch-black stele rose upright. A light silhouette floated around it like a playful spirit.

After some thought, Lu's mind moved.

The silhouette's form shifted like clay. Finally, it transformed into the appearance of a young Zhu Long—cute, graceful, and charming.

Her role was to issue missions and guide cultivators entering the Destiny Tower.

Vast amounts of data flowed into the Zhu Long-like light silhouette under Lu's interwoven formation words.

Having finished, Lu continued upward, beginning to arrange and construct each floor.

For example, how to distribute the power of god and demon clones, what kind of trial scenarios to set up on each level, and so on.

Difficulty would be divided according to cultivation realm.

From the second floor to the sixth floor (representing Golden Immortal), the difficulty increased progressively.

Lu also arranged the mission rewards.

Different difficulties would yield different rewards.

“As for the reward of joining White Jade Capital...”

After some consideration, Lu assigned a correspondingly difficult mission.

Buzz...

With everything arranged, Lu exited the Sermon Platform.

He sat at the passage mouth, eyes gleaming.

The North Sea Fishing Rod remained still. The elemental god and demon hidden in the spatial turbulence had learned its lesson and wouldn't take the bait so easily. Or perhaps Lu's single sword strike that severed one of its claws had instilled deep fear.

He put away the fishing rod and stored the Gold-Origin Insect Corpse bait.

Lu waved toward the Overlord, Tang Yimo, and the others, who were fiercely battling Kui Si's subordinate gods and demons within the chessboard domain.

He had a task for them.

The Overlord and Tang Yimo naturally wouldn't refuse.

They soared into the Primordial Starry Sky.

Soon, they returned from various primordial stars with loads of ore.

The Primordial Starry Sky lacked little else, but these ores, nurtured over countless ages, were true treasures. They could be used to forge extremely powerful Emperor weapons—or even various innate spiritual treasures.

Lu swept his sleeve, storing all the ores in the Nether Profound Ring.

Then, seated on the Thousand-Blade Chair, he tore open space and left the passage.

The Overlord and Tang Yimo returned to their battles against the gods and demons in the chessboard domain, continuously honing their strength and potential through combat.

Lu returned to Heart Island.

He melted down the ores retrieved from the Primordial Starry Sky, including the golden scales of the elemental god and demon.

He began constructing a model of the Destiny Tower.

As for where to build the Destiny Tower?

After some thought, Lu's eyes lit up. He decided to construct it in a place no one in the world could find.

Ning Zhao finished her cultivation and pushed the Thousand-Blade Chair.

Yi Yue followed like a shadow at Lu's side, while Ni Yu carried her black pot, curiously tagging along.

Following Lu's instructions, the three maids left Heart Island with him.

Lu smiled and flicked his finger.

Boom!

The sea exploded. The colossal whale opened its eyes, head rising from the water.

It locked gazes with Lu for a long time. In the end, still feeling a little intimidated, it obediently opened its mouth as Lu requested.

Lu cast one formation after another.

He imparted spatial laws to the whale. Its stomach became a self-contained world.

This was where Lu planned to build the Destiny Tower.

A whale carrying an immortal island on its back, with a universe hidden in its belly.

Perhaps the whale itself never imagined that when it submitted back then, hoping only to outlive this human, Lu would give it so many extravagant surprises.

Both Heart Island and the Destiny Tower were objects imbued with immense destiny.

In other words, the whale itself carried great destiny—even Golden Immortals wouldn't dare harm it.

Ning Zhao, Yi Yue, and Ni Yu were equally stunned.

After the whale opened its mouth, Lu led the three inside its abdominal space.

This was a vast, self-contained world within the whale's belly.

Blue skies, white clouds, peaceful and serene.

Lu took out the ancient ores from the primordial stars and constructed the Destiny Tower.

He also transferred the gods and demons from the void abyss into the Destiny Tower.

The Destiny Tower was not only a cultivation treasure but also a prison for gods and demons.

Building the Destiny Tower was no simple task. It took Lu immense time and effort.

In Five Phoenixes' accelerated time flow, it took roughly thirty years.

Thirty years to craft a single innate spiritual treasure.

This was unprecedented for Lu.

It also showed just how precious and powerful the Destiny Tower truly was.

"This tower is called the Destiny Tower. From now on, the three of you will jointly control it."

"In peacetime, it will serve as Five Phoenixes' sacred cultivation ground. In wartime, with the three of you in command, even a peak Emperor would struggle to breach it."

Lu smiled.

Ning Zhao, Yi Yue, and Ni Yu were stunned. They hadn't expected Lu to make such a decision.

“Young Master...”

Ning Zhao’s red lips parted slightly. Her usually cold face showed traces of anxiety.

“This is unacceptable...”

“Such a treasure should remain in Young Master’s hands.”

Yi Yue and Ni Yu nodded in agreement.

Lu’s white robes fluttered. He waved his hand.

“This Young Master doesn’t lack a single spiritual treasure.”

“Besides, this Destiny Tower was built for all the cultivators of Five Phoenixes. Consider it White Jade Capital’s great contribution to Five Phoenixes—helping the world grow stronger. With the threat of gods and demons looming, Five Phoenixes’ cultivators must become stronger.”

Lu said.

“Moreover, as this Young Master’s maids and members of White Jade Capital, you naturally deserve some privileges.”

“This Destiny Tower is the privilege of White Jade Capital’s people.”

Lu smiled.

The three women were speechless and could only bow.

Lu swept his sleeve. Three tokens forged from the golden beast’s scales flew toward them—the control tokens of the Destiny Tower.

With that done, Lu led the three away.

Back on Heart Island, everything remained unchanged.

Yet the world had gained a new sacred cultivation ground.

“Ning Zhao, go spread the word. This Young Master will continue fishing.”

Lu smiled, then happily delegated the task.

The Thousand-Blade Chair transformed into the silver boat. Lu donned a bamboo hat and straw raincoat, settling onto the vast sea.

Like a lone boat drifting where sea met sky, he fished.

He didn't go directly to the passage mouth.

Yet if one looked closely, they would see that where the fishing hook descended, space twisted and tore—leading straight into the ancient aura of the Primordial Starry Sky.

Lu sat on the sea of Five Phoenixes, fishing gods and demons from the Primordial Starry Sky.

If the world knew, they would surely be astonished.

...

Having received control of the Destiny Tower, Ning Zhao, Yi Yue, and Ni Yu fully understood its immense value.

They even held authority over distributing rewards and supervising task completion—ensuring no one cheated.

Ning Zhao left Heart Island and gracefully arrived at Heavenly Mechanism Peak.

She found Mo Tianyu and Lü Mu, who were playing chess at the summit.

She informed them of the Destiny Tower.

Lü Mu was utterly shocked.

Both of them pinched their fingers to divine. Their expressions changed dramatically.

“This is a treasure capable of influencing the destiny of heaven and earth!”

“It is Five Phoenixes’ sacred cultivation artifact!”

He quickly mobilized the disciples of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to spread the news across the world.

This time, it wasn't some ancient ruin.

It was a cultivation sacred ground personally crafted by Young Master Lu of White Jade Capital—a labor of love dedicated to strengthening Five Phoenixes' cultivators.

It was White Jade Capital's monumental contribution to Five Phoenixes.

The name of Young Master Lu of White Jade Capital was known to all. When this news spread, the entire world was shaken!

Though the Destiny Tower had cultivation restrictions—only those at Heavenly Human level or above could enter—

The number of Heavenly Human experts in Five Phoenixes had already reached an enormous scale.

Whether on Five Phoenixes Continent or the life-bearing stars beyond, there were countless Heavenly Human experts.

Of course, they were still one-in-a-million geniuses.

Countless Heavenly Humans, Human Immortals, and True Immortals were filled with excitement.

Ning Zhao used this time to set up registration points across Five Phoenixes Continent and the outer stars.

There were four registration points on Five Phoenixes Continent: the capital of the Great Xuan Divine Dynasty, the Demon Capital of the Demon Tribe's royal court, the Witch Qi Tribe of the Witch Tribe, and the Sea Tribe's royal city.

For the outer stars, Mi Jia led the registration on the life star of the Heavenly Spirit Tribe.

In an instant, these four locations became gathering points of wind and clouds.

Experts at Heavenly Human level and above from human, demon, witch, and sea tribes converged. Heavenly Human cultivators scattered across blessed lands and those who had ascended to the Immortal Realm all returned to their respective registration points, desperate to qualify for the Destiny Tower.

The Heavenly Spirit Tribe's star was nearly bursting with cultivators from other life stars.

Such was the prestige of White Jade Capital.

The name of White Jade Capital resounded like thunder across Five Phoenixes.

Tian Yuan Domain.

Martial Emperor City.

Du Longyang wiped his Martial Emperor Spear, exhaling slowly. After reaching Profound Immortal, further progress had become increasingly difficult.

The appearance of the Destiny Tower was an unexpected blessing.

Fighting gods and demons inside the tower, breaking through oneself in battle, and gaining destiny blessings from the gods and demons to advance realms—this was exactly what Du Longyang pursued.

At Absolute Blade Sect, Ye Shoudao, one-armed and gripping his blade, felt the same.

Tian Xu Gongzi was already thrilled, sitting in his sedan chair, preparing to head to the capital of the Great Xuan Divine Dynasty.

Qiannu Palace.

The Empress's red robes billowed. Her eyes blazed with brilliant light.

“A special mission... Completing it even grants the chance to join White Jade Capital and receive personal guidance from Young Master Lu?!”

The Empress’s red lips parted slightly, her breathing quickening.

Just this reward alone made it impossible for her to refuse.

“This mission... I, Ni Chunqiu, must complete it! No one can stop me!”

Determination and resolve shone in Ni Chunqiu’s eyes.

She had waited too long for this opportunity!

Even if... she knew the mission’s difficulty would be immense!

...

All of Five Phoenixes erupted into a frenzy, swept up in celebration.

Finally, when all Heavenly Human cultivators had gathered,

On Heart Island,

Ni Yu, Ning Zhao, and Yi Yue took out their golden scale tokens.

Their divine senses surged.

The teleportation formations prepared at the four registration points instantly activated.

Buzz...

Four beams of light shot into the sky.

“Burp~”

In the vast sea, the colossal whale let out a belch.

Meanwhile, in the self-contained world within the whale’s belly,

Outside the Destiny Tower,

Figures were teleported in, arriving in four groups at the four cardinal directions of the tower.

Boom!

The mission hall on the first floor of the Destiny Tower suddenly opened.

Everyone surged inside. Astonishingly, the hall could accommodate them all.

The moment they entered,

Buzz...

In the center of the hall, a faint silhouette resembling young Zhu Long appeared.

Among the crowd, Ni Chunqiu's beautiful eyes sparkled.

Hidden within was also Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor, his gaze flickering.

When Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor learned that Lu Ping'an had built something called the Destiny Tower, he immediately joined. He could use it to enhance his own cultivation.

After the Zhu Long-like silhouette announced the rules of the Destiny Tower's mission hall,

A stone tablet appeared before each person. Under the guidance of the Zhu Long silhouette, they placed their hands on the tablets.

A suction force seemed to connect with their souls.

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor's heart nearly stopped. His soul contained great secrets—if Lu Ping'an discovered them through this, he would be finished.

His current happy life might turn to ashes.

He held his breath for a long time.

Fortunately, nothing unusual happened.

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor finally exhaled in relief.

Suddenly, everyone looked up and saw a massive black stele.

The stele was densely engraved with text. Each line corresponded to a mission.

Missions were divided by strength: Heavenly Human zone, Human Immortal zone, and so on...

Everyone knew their own strength. Following the Zhu Long silhouette's instructions, they began accepting missions from the appropriate zones.

Once a mission was accepted, they would be teleported to the corresponding floor of the Destiny Tower, entering the mission scenario to complete the task.

Missions naturally carried danger. Lu's goal was to strengthen Five Phoenixes' cultivators.

Thus, before entering a mission, participants had to infuse soul power.

If the mission failed, all infused soul power would be erased, inflicting severe damage. Recovery would take time.

Thus, failure came at a cost, making cultivators wary of recklessness.

...

Ni Chunqiu's red robes billowed. She bit her red lip, eyes scanning the mission panel rapidly.

"Destiny Maiden, tell me... which is the special mission that rewards joining White Jade Capital?"

Ni Chunqiu asked.

The Zhu Long-like light figure appeared before her, its ethereal voice ringing in her ears.

"With your current mid-stage Profound Immortal cultivation, I do not recommend choosing the special mission."

The Destiny Maiden—Lu's designated Zhu Long silhouette—said.

The Empress bit her red lip, eyes wavering slightly.

"If I choose this mission now, what are my chances of success?"

The Empress asked.

“One in a million. And there is a risk of soul annihilation.”

The Destiny Maiden replied.

Ni Chunqiu’s long lashes trembled. Her pale hand clenched beneath her red sleeve.

“Even if the success rate is only one in a million, I must try...”

The Empress took a deep breath. Then, with a surge of divine sense, she selected the special mission.

Despite the Destiny Maiden’s repeated warnings, the Empress remained resolute.

She was afraid—afraid someone else would complete the mission first!

This news quickly reached the minds of Ning Zhao, Ni Yu, and Yi Yue, who controlled the Destiny Tower.

The three women exchanged glances, hesitation in their eyes.

Ning Zhao's gaze was complex.

She perhaps vaguely understood Empress Ni Chunqiu's feelings.

"If I were her, perhaps I too would fight desperately for that one-in-a-million chance."

Ning Zhao murmured.

Ni Yu's lips trembled. "Sister Ning, we should still ask Young Master..."

However, Ning Zhao slowly exhaled.

She shook her head.

"Normally, we should indeed consult Young Master..."

Ning Zhao looked at the red-robed figure in the mission hall, light flickering in her eyes.

She knew that if they asked Young Master, he might very well refuse the Empress.

“But this time, let me be willful. Let her take on this mission.”

Ning Zhao said.

Ni Yu and Yi Yue were stunned.

...

On the vast sea,

A lone silver boat drifted.

A white-robed youth sat motionless upon it, holding the fishing rod and fishing quietly.

While Ning Zhao and the others debated whether to consult Lu,

Beneath Lu’s bamboo hat, his eyes had long since shimmered with white light.

Chapter 584: Do You Know How to Mess with Minds?

In the Primordial Starry Sky,

The passage mouth of Five Phoenixes hung alone in the void.

It was as though a faint gleam pierced through endless darkness—like a lone white spark in the black night, glaringly conspicuous, drawing the gaze of creatures lurking in the shadows.

The Overlord, Tang Yimo, the Twelve Witch Kings, Mi Jia, and the other powerhouses sat cross-legged at the passage mouth, all bearing wounds and breathing heavily.

Outside the passage, gods and demons were bound by the chessboard domain—Young Master Lu's divine ability restraining them completely.

Each god and demon retained its primal savagery, igniting the battle lust within the Overlord and the others, fueling their desire to fight and grow stronger through combat.

Suddenly, they sensed something.

Raising their heads, their gazes followed the dim, oppressive darkness of the Primordial Starry Sky into the distance.

Far away, on distant primordial stars, powerful figures slowly emerged. Cold eyes filled with ferocity and greed fixed upon the Five Phoenixes passage.

“Immortal-tier!”

Mi Jia narrowed her eyes, staring into the distance.

Then her pupils shrank.

Gradually, she realized... there wasn't just one god and demon in the far reaches of the Primordial Starry Sky.

She shot out of the passage and hovered in the void, sweeping her gaze around.

Her expression changed drastically.

“We... are surrounded.”

Mi Jia spoke gravely, her voice heavy.

The Overlord, Tang Yimo, and the others also rose into the air, scanning their surroundings. Like Mi Jia, their eyes were filled with solemnity.

Centered on the Five Phoenixes passage, the surrounding void was ringed by Immortal-tier gods and demons, each radiating terrifying aura pillars.

So many Immortal-tier beings—how could they not feel dread?

The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor appeared.

Her graceful form, wrapped in deep blue gauze, materialized in the starry sky.

The Immortal-tier gods and demons occupied one primordial star after another, not immediately approaching the Five Phoenixes passage.

Perhaps the fate of Kui Si had made them wary.

After all, both Evil Eye and Kui Si had fallen in Five Phoenixes—a major shock for them.

Though Immortal-tier gods and demons varied in strength, most were roughly equal.

Moreover, they could still feel the lingering shockwaves of battle. The pungent scent of blood filled the starry sky—a pressure on their souls that made them tremble.

The blood of an elemental god and demon had been spilled here!

That made them even more cautious.

Thus, they had agreed to the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor's proposal: wait until all Immortal-tier gods and demons gathered before striking.

The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor's stunning face carried a cold edge.

"Feel the despair of being surrounded..."

"Being stared down by so many ferocious beasts—that sleepless, restless feeling will drive you mad..."

"Lu Ping'an, who loves to toy with minds... let him taste what it's like to have his own mind toyed with."

The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor's red lips curved slightly.

Then her body dissolved into a stream of water and vanished into the void.

Like a silken ribbon carried by the wind, she swiftly disappeared into the distance.

She still had to persuade and recruit more Immortal-tier gods and demons. The current army was only a third of the total.

The more she persuaded, the deeper her admiration for Ancient Emperor Hao grew.

At first, she had worried about the danger of so many Immortal-tier gods and demons gathering.

If they became greedy and turned against the Nine Heavens, it would be catastrophic.

But during the persuasion process, Ancient Emperor Hao's will repeatedly possessed her body. Each time, these Immortal-tier gods and demons were deeply wary.

Clearly, Ancient Emperor Hao had anticipated this. Considering their fear of him, he must have already prepared countermeasures.

Or perhaps he possessed some trump card that terrified these Immortal-tier gods and demons.

Thus, the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor continued recruiting with peace of mind.

And after Kui Si's fate, she was certain these Immortal-tier gods and demons wouldn't act rashly—lest they share his end.

...

Lu naturally knew what was happening in the Primordial Starry Sky.

Yet he was quite dissatisfied. These Immortal-tier gods and demons... not a single one dared to make a move. They all crouched on distant stars, watching Five Phoenixes.

As if they planned to crush Five Phoenixes with sheer pressure.

Lu felt they were practically mocking him. Compared to Kui Si, they had even less guts.

At least Kui Si had dared to roar a few times in defiance.

“Hm...”

“The Destiny Tower just opened, and it’s already consuming resources at an alarming rate. This number of gods and demons is far from enough.”

Lu frowned.

He examined the Destiny Tower’s raw materials. Gods and demons were the source material for the tower.

With so many Five Phoenixes cultivators participating in missions,

The supply from a dozen low-tier gods and demons was only enough for one round.

Lu urgently needed more gods and demons. It seemed he had to find a way to lure those Immortal-tier gods and demons perched on the primordial stars...

Lu narrowed his eyes, a cunning thought forming.

...

“Congratulations. You have qualified to undertake the special mission.”

The ethereal voice rang in Ni Chunqiu's ears, making the Empress's beautiful eyes light up.

"I've qualified?"

Ni Chunqiu said in delight.

"Due to your persistence. However, be warned: the special mission has only a one-in-a-million chance of success for you, with the risk of soul annihilation."

The Destiny Maiden spoke, reminding her.

Though the Destiny Maiden was created by Lu, she possessed a very human touch.

After thanking her, Ni Chunqiu felt the black stele glow. A beam of light descended, enveloping her body.

"Now proceeding to the sixth floor of the Destiny Tower. Best of luck with your mission..."

The Destiny Maiden's light voice echoed, then faded completely.

Ni Chunqiu bit her red lip, her body trembling with excitement.

Logically, she should first complete easier missions to strengthen herself.

But...

She was afraid—afraid someone else would complete the special mission first and claim the chance to join White Jade Capital and receive Young Master Lu's guidance.

Because there was only one slot for joining White Jade Capital.

That meant once this special mission was completed, no one knew when it would open again.

So even with only a one-in-a-million chance, she had to seize it.

Opportunities were fleeting.

She had waited far too long for this.

...

On the first floor, in the mission hall,

Du Longyang, Ye Shoudao, and Tian Xu Gongzi—the three Profound Immortal experts—did not immediately accept missions.

They exchanged glances, looking toward where the Empress had vanished.

“She really chose the special mission...”

“Too reckless. The special mission is on the sixth floor... that’s a zone only for Golden Immortals.”

“Sigh... we’ve been comrades with the Empress for so long, yet we can’t help her at all.”

The three felt a mix of emotions.

They all understood why Ni Chunqiu had made this choice—it was for the reward of the special mission.

For them, that reward was indeed irresistible.

Personal guidance from Young Master Lu, and... the chance to join White Jade Capital.

Even for Golden Immortals, this mission's appeal was terrifying.

Who was Young Master Lu?

A being capable of thrashing Immortal-tier gods and demons and contending with peak Emperors.

And the status of a White Jade Capital disciple needed no explanation—it was supremely prestigious.

But they knew their own limits. With Profound Immortal cultivation, attempting the special mission offered no hope.

"I just hope Ni Chunqiu doesn't die."

Du Longyang shook his head. He placed his hand on the stone tablet. The Destiny Maiden appeared, and he began selecting a mission.

This Destiny Tower was equally useful for Profound Immortals and Golden Immortals, making it highly intriguing.

This was something personally released by Young Master Lu of White Jade Capital.

Beyond being the mysterious Lord of White Jade Capital, Young Master Lu had many other identities.

For example, Five Phoenixes' greatest alchemist, greatest artifact refiner, greatest formation master, and so on...

So how could anything Young Master Lu released possibly be trash?

Du Longyang selected a Profound Immortal-level mission and was quickly teleported away.

Ye Shoudao and Tian Xu Gongzi also chose their missions.

As one figure after another was sent to different floors of the Destiny Tower, the mission hall gradually emptied and grew quiet.

Yet each floating stone tablet signified a cultivator currently tackling a mission within the tower.

...

The Empress's red robes billowed. She opened her eyes.

Finally seeing her surroundings clearly, she drew a deep breath.

Terrifying pressure instantly enveloped her, as if her blood had frozen.

Her eyes were filled with shock as she looked around.

This was a primordial star covered in cracks—a unique environment simulated by the Destiny Tower.

At the center of the star crouched a colossal being, snoring loudly.

It was a giant beast-type god and demon. Even a single strand of fur on its body was like a sharp spear to the Empress.

Buzz...

Just as Ni Chunqiu held her breath,

A mission description and requirements appeared before her eyes.

“Special Mission Requirement: Survive three attacks from the Immortal-tier god and demon Kui Si.”

The Empress’s pupils shrank.

Immortal-tier?!

This giant beast god and demon was Immortal-tier?!

That was an existence only Ninth Revolution Golden Immortals could contend with!

Was this really a special mission?

This was a death mission. How could she, a mid-stage Profound Immortal, possibly survive the attacks of an Immortal-tier god and demon?

...

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor had also chosen a mission.

His Golden Immortal-level mission was on the sixth floor. When the mission began, his eyes suddenly shrank.

The surrounding environment had transformed into the royal city of the Great Xuan Divine Dynasty—where the Yu King’s Manor once stood!

But now, the entire city had become a living hell.

The ground cracked, buildings collapsed, mountains and rivers shattered, blood flowed like rivers.

“Illusion?”

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor clenched his fist, divine sense surging. He was certain this was all an illusion.

Yet his heart could not calm.

He exploded with extreme speed, rushing toward the Yu King’s Manor.

But the manor had already collapsed.

Standing before the ruins, Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor felt a chill pierce his body and soul. He had never felt so hollowed out.

He rushed into the rubble, quickly unearthing one corpse after another.

When he dug up the little princess's body, all strength drained from him.

"Is this... how I felt after you died?"

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor murmured.

He gently stroked the little princess's face.

Boom!

A terrifying shockwave struck, plowing terrifying furrows into the earth.

A tall, slender, sharp-armored figure resembling a long-armed ape—a low-tier god and demon—stood in the void. Seeing Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor, it revealed a cold smile.

“Die!”

The low-tier god and demon’s eyes blazed with extreme savagery.

It didn’t know where it had been captured to, but at least this place was far better than the abyss prison. At least here, it could easily tear apart these weaklings.

“God and demon...”

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor shot forward, cradling the little princess’s body and dodging the attack.

He landed in an open area.

He gently set the little princess down.

His gaze gradually turned cold. After fighting gods and demons for hundreds of thousands of years, he loathed them from the depths of his soul...

Whether this was all an illusion or not,

At least Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor's rage had been ignited.

Perhaps one day, this scene would truly happen.

He had to grow stronger—strong enough to surpass his previous life, to reach peak Emperor level.

Only then could he protect everything he wanted to protect.

Bang!

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor shot forward, ferocious and unrelenting, clashing with the low-tier god and demon.

Two Emperor-level powerhouses battled. The surroundings were reduced to utter ruin. The ground was torn apart, and atop the wreckage, more terrifying destruction erupted.

After the clash,

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor was filled with disbelief.

“This... is a real low-tier god and demon? Not an illusion?”

He had thought the god and demon was fake, but after fighting it, he realized it was exactly like those in the Primordial Starry Sky—flesh and blood.

It could be injured, enraged, and terrified!

“That bastard Lu Ping’an... wouldn’t actually be using real gods and demons to train Five Phoenixes cultivators, would he?”

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor was dumbfounded.

He couldn’t help but marvel at the method.

Using environmental simulation to awaken his sense of crisis, then forcing him to unleash his potential through real combat with gods and demons.

This Destiny Tower... was truly fascinating!

Five Phoenixes was about to experience a massive surge in cultivator strength!

...

On Heart Island, all was quiet.

The purple bamboo grove rustled softly in the wind.

Ning Zhao, Ni Yu, and Yi Yue sat cross-legged in the peach blossom forest.

Their divine senses locked onto the entire Destiny Tower. Through the golden scale tokens, they could sense everything happening within.

The progress of missions, the methods each cultivator used to tackle them.

Since Young Master trusted them enough to leave the immensely important Destiny Tower in their care, they naturally took their responsibility seriously.

They compiled statistics on the first opening of the Destiny Tower and the completion rates of missions.

Ning Zhao frowned slightly. "The failure rate is as high as sixty percent. Especially in the Heavenly Human and Human Immortal zones... it's even reached seventy percent."

Yi Yue and Ni Yu also wore grave expressions. “True Immortal and Profound Immortal completion rates are acceptable, but weaker cultivators seem to lack battle awareness.”

“But that’s fine. These missions expose their shortcomings, allowing them to improve in the future.”

After exchanging thoughts, the three nodded.

“Yi Yue, record the overall situation. When Young Master returns from fishing, we’ll report it to him.”

Ning Zhao said.

Yi Yue nodded slightly.

Ning Zhao gave a gentle yet cold smile, then turned to Ni Yu.

“Ni Yu, how’s the situation?”

Ni Yu looked up, her chubby face serious.

“The Empress chose the special mission. Her current situation... isn’t good.”

“She might die.”

As Ni Yu’s words fell, both Ning Zhao and Yi Yue looked over.

...

In the Primordial Starry Sky,

The atmosphere was extremely tense.

The Overlord, Tang Yimo, Mi Jia, and the Heavenly Witch formed by the Twelve Witch Kings all stared grimly at their surroundings.

The pressure was immense, making their bodies tremble.

“What do we do?”

“Should we inform Young Master Lu?”

Tang Yimo asked gravely.

Mi Jia took a deep breath. “I’ve scanned the area. Around the Five Phoenixes passage... there are eight Immortal-tier gods and demons!”

Utter despair!

Eight beings comparable to Kui Si—Immortal-tier. If they attacked together, even Young Master Lu might not withstand it, right?

One Immortal-tier was equivalent to a peak Emperor. Multiple attacking together wasn’t as simple as one plus one!

“And... this isn’t even the final count. More Immortal-tier gods and demons are still gathering.”

Mi Jia said seriously.

“What exactly do they want? So many Immortal-tier gods and demons gathering—clearly the work of the Nine Heavens’ ancient Emperors! Have they gone mad?!”

The Overlord clenched his fists, cursing furiously.

Mi Jia's heart was heavy. The Nine Heavens... was no longer the Nine Heavens he once knew. He couldn't see through it anymore.

The ancient Emperors of the Nine Heavens were all shrouded in mystery.

What they were plotting, he couldn't fathom.

"I'll go inform Young Master Lu. You all... hold on until I return!"

Tang Yimo exhaled heavily.

Then he turned into a streak of light, intending to rush toward Five Phoenixes.

But the moment he moved,

A faint voice rang in their ears.

“No need.”

“This Young Master already knows what’s happening here.”

It was Lu’s voice.

The Overlord and Tang Yimo’s eyes lit up.

They respectfully bowed toward the void.

They released their divine senses but couldn’t locate Young Master Lu at all. Such a method left them in awe—at the very least, they couldn’t do the same.

“Only eight Immortal-tier... this Young Master is a little disappointed...”

Lu’s calm voice rang out again.

The Overlord, Tang Yimo, Mi Jia, and the others were speechless.

Was... was that even something a human should say?!

“And they don’t even dare to attack. This Young Master doesn’t even have an excuse to make a move...”

Lu continued.

After those two sentences, the fear and oppression of being surrounded by so many gods and demons instantly vanished.

It was as if Lu’s ease had infected them.

“Hm. There’s an elemental god and demon hiding in the spatial turbulence. This Young Master can’t stray too far from the passage.”

If Lu went too far and the elemental god and demon killed its way into the Five Phoenixes passage, the consequences would be unimaginable.

“Since they won’t attack, then force them to attack...”

Lu mused.

The Overlord, Tang Yimo, and the others froze.

“Provoke these gods and demons. Lure them within a million miles of the Five Phoenixes passage.”

Lu thought for a moment and said.

The Overlord, Mi Jia, Tang Yimo, and the Twelve Witch Kings didn't know what to say. Was Young Master Lu serious?

But soon, they exchanged glances, and their blood began to boil.

“Dancing on the edge of life and death... perhaps this is also a form of cultivation!”

The Overlord grinned, his blood surging with excitement.

He had a feeling he was about to take the most brutal beating yet.

“Do you know how to mess with minds?”

“Go mess with theirs. Provoke them into attacking. These gods and demons have short tempers—minds are easy to break...”

Lu's voice rang out again.

"This Young Master will provide support."

"Go boldly."

Chapter 585: It's Harvest Season Again

Do you know how to mess with minds?

The Overlord was speechless. What kind of question was that?

Though they had never done such a thing before, messing with minds shouldn't be too difficult.

The Overlord exchanged glances with Tang Yimo, Mi Jia, and the others.

In the next moment, the Overlord took the lead, stepping forward and turning into a streak of light that shot into the distance.

Since Young Master Lu had promised to back them up, he naturally went all out!

Lu wouldn't send them to their deaths, so the Overlord trusted him completely.

Tang Yimo and Mi Jia also soared into the sky, transforming into streaks of light and charging toward the primordial stars occupied by gods and demons.

...

On the vast sea of Five Phoenixes,

Lu sat alone on his silver boat, fishing quietly.

Watching the actions of the Overlord, Tang Yimo, and the others, Lu couldn't help but smile.

He put away the fishing rod.

Raising his hand, he placed a piece on the chessboard.

The gods and demons trapped within the chessboard domain were instantly swept away, drawn into the Destiny Tower to serve as resources for mission development.

Gods and demons were indeed ferocious, but with the title [God and Demon Hunter] in his possession, Lu was their natural predator.

With these gods and demons added to the pool, the Destiny Tower should be able to operate for quite a while longer.

But for the next batch, it would depend on how many the Overlord and the others could lure over.

Lu stopped fishing. One hand propped up his chin while the other held a chess piece, tapping lightly.

On the chessboard, scenes from the Primordial Starry Sky seemed to emerge.

It formed an intricate and complex game.

The corners of Lu's mouth curved into a meaningful smile.

...

In the Primordial Starry Sky,

On each ancient primordial star, the gods and demons crouched in stunned silence as they watched the Overlord, Tang Yimo, and the others charge toward them.

“What are these humans doing?”

“Are they looking to die? Daring to charge out of the passage alone.”

“They’ve got guts. Since they dare come, let’s kill them! It’ll serve as a warning to that newborn Immortal-Martial world!”

The gods and demons sneered, their divine senses intertwining.

The Overlord’s black robes whipped in the wind. With axe and shield on his back, his dark hair flew wildly. His eyes were sharp and fierce. His burly frame contained explosive power, surging like a dragon.

He stared at the Immortal-tier god and demon perched on the primordial star.

A trace of disdain appeared on his cold, stone-like face.

He raised a single finger, pointing directly at the Immortal-tier god and demon.

Then he swept it sideways, encompassing every high-tier and low-tier god and demon.

“In this Overlord’s eyes, all of you... are trash!”

“Daring to covet Five Phoenixes? Sooner or later, I’ll kill every last one of you.”

The Overlord’s words rang out.

Pulling aggro?

Why bother with fancy tricks?

Direct, simple, and brutal—that was the most efficient way.

Even if it meant getting beaten...

The Overlord had never feared a beating.

Besides, with Young Master Lu backing him up... he couldn’t possibly die!

His divine sense fluctuated, ensuring every god and demon clearly understood his words.

Silence fell for a moment. The atmosphere in the void grew tense.

Tang Yimo and Mi Jia were speechless. Such simple, straightforward mockery... it had zero finesse. Could it really mess with the minds of these Immortal-tier gods and demons?

Wasn't it too obvious?

Yet...

Reality proved they had overthought it.

In the eyes of the Immortal-tier god and demon, the Overlord—who only had the combat power of a low-tier god and demon—was utterly weak.

Being mocked by a weakling?

How could he endure it?

Naturally, he struck with thunderous fury!

Boom!

The Immortal-tier god and demon perched on the star erupted with world-shaking killing intent.

With a casual wave of his hand,

Terrifying energy exploded. An invisible giant hand formed around the Overlord and squeezed.

Pfft!

The Overlord's body shuddered. He swung his axe and shield to block.

A heaven-shaking explosion erupted!

The pressure of an Immortal-tier—equivalent to a peak Emperor—made him feel, in that instant, as if he were about to fall into death.

That overwhelming, irresistible force was the same pressure he had felt when facing Evil Eye.

But back then, Zhu Long, Lu Jiulian, and the others had shared the burden.

Now, the Overlord faced this Immortal-tier god and demon's pressure alone.

He felt as though he would be crushed in an instant!

Pfft!

A massive cloud of blood mist exploded in the air.

The Overlord's body was completely shrouded in blood.

"Ant-like trash."

The Immortal-tier god and demon glanced coldly and disdainfully at the spot where the Overlord had exploded, sneering.

In his view, a mere low-tier god and demon dared to provoke him—an Immortal-tier. He clearly didn't know how to spell "death."

On the star, the low-tier and high-tier gods and demons under this Immortal-tier's command all burst into mocking laughter.

But as the blood mist dissipated,

The Overlord still hovered in the starry sky.

Though battered, his expression was filled with ferocity.

Wiping the blood from his mouth, the disdain on his face grew even thicker.

He didn't know Young Master Lu's sophisticated techniques for messing with minds.

What he knew was this simple, direct, and brutal form of mockery.

"If I were Immortal-tier, I'd crush you!"

The Overlord said.

Boom!

The laughter on the primordial star abruptly stopped.

The Immortal-tier god and demon's eyes flashed with rage.

Then, a terrifying attack tore through the void once more, instantly engulfing the Overlord!

In the boundless sea,

Lu smiled, brewing a pot of hot tea. Steam rose gently as he placed a chess piece on the board.

In the Primordial Starry Sky,

A beam of light descended. The Overlord opened his eyes—his wounds fully healed, his condition restored to peak.

“As expected of Young Master Lu!”

The Overlord narrowed his eyes, his boldness growing.

He stared at the Immortal-tier god and demon, raising his finger with utter contempt and disdain.

“You... can’t kill me!”

“Trash!”

“Get lost already!”

The Overlord’s voice echoed.

The Immortal-tier god and demon exploded like a powder keg!

Rage seemed to sweep across heaven and earth.

Terrifying pressure spread—an Immortal-tier’s aura. The low-tier and high-tier gods and demons on the star struggled to breathe under the bloodline suppression.

Yet...

What shocked these gods and demons was that

This insolent human seemed unkillable.

The Immortal-tier's attacks struck again and again. Each blow carried the power to easily crush a low-tier god and demon, yet the human recovered unscathed every time, continuing to mock and taunt.

The sight filled them with nameless fury.

After more than a dozen lethal strikes, the Overlord still hadn't died.

In fact, relying on his unyielding will, he continuously accumulated power.

He rarely had such an opportunity to suppress his strength indefinitely.

Though he had always been durable in the past, even he would eventually die.

But with Young Master Lu's support, he felt as though he had gained immortality!

Thus, the power suppressed by his unyielding domain grew stronger and stronger!

Like a spring compressed to its limit—once released, it would unleash a heaven-shaking rebound!

Bang!

Just as the Overlord was crushed and revived once more,

He felt it was enough.

His eyes blazed red as he stared at the Immortal-tier god and demon.

In the next instant, the accumulated power exploded.

In that moment, overwhelming demonic qi surged, transforming him into a great demonic figure dominating heaven and earth.

Bang!

A single strike collided with the Immortal-tier god and demon's attack. Energy ripples spread outward.

The Overlord coughed blood but burst into wild, exhilarated laughter.

He felt the doubts and bottlenecks in his cultivation shatter in this moment!

"Immortal-tier god and demon... nothing special..."

"If you've got the guts, kill me!"

The Overlord said.

Blood dripped from his mouth and nose. After dropping those harsh words, he turned and fled.

He felt he had done enough.

The aggro should be sufficiently pulled.

“Seeking death!”

On the primordial star, the Immortal-tier god and demon’s rage reached its peak.

This weak human dared to taunt him again and again.

If he couldn’t even kill a low-tier god and demon-level human, how could he establish his authority?!

So, without further hesitation, the Immortal-tier god and demon pursued.

Like a streak of light, he sped through the void, closing in on the Overlord.

That unrelenting killing intent.

Mi Jia and Tang Yimo watched in stunned silence.

It actually worked?

The Twelve Witch Kings were already itching to act. They roared and charged toward another primordial star occupied by an Immortal-tier god and demon.

Transforming into the Heavenly Witch, they copied the Overlord's naked provocation.

Feeling it wasn't enough, they split into twelve and cursed in unison.

Tang Yimo and Mi Jia also followed suit.

The Overlord sped toward the Five Phoenixes passage.

But his speed was far too slow compared to an Immortal-tier.

Along the way, he was blasted apart several times, yet each time he revived, full of vigor, continuing to taunt and provoke.

In this way, the Overlord lured one Immortal-tier god and demon—along with many low-tier and high-tier subordinates—straight into the million-mile range of the Five Phoenixes passage.

...

In the Nine Heavens,

Within the void rift,

From deep within the rift, a powerful surge of divine sense erupted.

Ancient Emperor Hao had been monitoring the situation in the Primordial Starry Sky. When he saw the Overlord luring gods and demons toward the Five Phoenixes passage, his expression changed slightly.

“What exactly is this Lu Ping’an planning?”

“These gods and demons... fools!”

Ancient Emperor Hao’s cold voice rang out.

In the next moment, he transmitted to the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor: the plan to unite the other gods and demons must be accelerated.

Otherwise, by the time she finished recruiting, the gods and demons originally stationed outside Five Phoenixes to pressure them... might all be gone.

“Lu Ping’an...”

Ancient Emperor Hao's tone grew colder.

If he could, he would kill this thorn in his side immediately and replace Five Phoenixes' Immortal-Martial Dao Origin with the Nine Heavens'.

But he couldn't.

This was why he had the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor recruit the gods and demons.

The Nine Heavens alone could no longer restrain Lu.

Only by borrowing the power of the Primordial Starry Sky's gods and demons could he suppress Five Phoenixes.

Soon, he calmed down.

He didn't know what Lu was planning, but... perhaps he could turn the tables.

...

When the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor received Hao's message, her expression changed slightly.

"Didn't I already tell them not to attack?"

The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor was baffled.

Of course, she could never have imagined that Lu Ping'an would send people to provoke these gods and demons into attacking.

If she knew, her mentality would probably collapse.

Kui Si's fate had already shaken her slightly. If the gods and demons she painstakingly recruited were wiped out in one go, she feared her mentality would truly shatter.

Lu Ping'an wasn't just messing with minds himself—he was calling in a whole team to do it together...

After adjusting her emotions, the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor accelerated.

She had to speed up her recruitment!

Otherwise, Five Phoenixes would only grow stronger.

The growth rate of this Five Phoenixes was simply absurd!

...

Bang!

The Overlord's eyes blazed red. Demonic qi surged around him as he swung his axe with full force.

The axe beam sliced across the Primordial Starry Sky.

But the Immortal-tier god and demon's strength was overwhelming. He ignored the counterattack and blasted the Overlord away again.

Yet the Overlord revived once more, lively and full of vigor.

Repeated deaths and revivals forged his will into something even stronger.

For him, this was a grand opportunity.

The transformation between life and death brought him immense insight into cultivation!

Finally, the Immortal-tier god and demon lured by the Overlord's taunts stepped into the million-mile range of the Five Phoenixes passage.

The Overlord's aggro-pulling mission was temporarily complete!

On the other side, the Twelve Witch Kings, Tang Yimo, and Mi Jia also charged wildly, drawing the wrath of their own Immortal-tier god and demon as they fled toward the Five Phoenixes passage.

Of course, their fates were similar to the Overlord's.

Blasted apart again and again.

Boom!

The Immortal-tier god and demon's terrifying fist slammed down.

The Overlord struggled to block, but the immense force made him feel like a porcelain doll about to shatter.

His body was sent flying hundreds of thousands of miles through the starry sky.

A beam of light descended.

The Overlord's wounds healed instantly. This cycle of pain and revival brought a wry smile to his face.

Messing with minds... really was a technical skill.

It was harder than he thought.

Compared to Young Master Lu's effortless mastery, he still had a long way to go.

But it was over.

Seeing the other three Immortal-tier gods and demons lured into the million-mile range of the passage,

The Overlord grinned.

“Young Master Lu... we’ve completed the mission!”

The Overlord called out.

“Well done.”

A voice like a sudden thunderclap rang faintly.

Then space tore open.

A silver boat slowly emerged from the rift.

Lu, in snow-white robes, sat upon the silver boat. A chessboard lay before him as he pondered the game.

Steam rose from the teacup, filling the air with fragrance.

The scene was poetic and picturesque.

Yet in this murderous battlefield of the Primordial Starry Sky, it stood out starkly.

The four lured Immortal-tier gods and demons—and their subordinates—immediately sensed something was wrong.

Far away, the other four Immortal-tier gods and demons watched.

They hadn't been taunted, so they hadn't attacked.

Now, seeing the situation shift, they narrowed their eyes.

The Overlord, Tang Yimo, Mi Jia, and the Twelve Witch Kings took positions behind Lu.

They were panting heavily.

Through the cycle of being blasted apart and reviving, only to taunt again, their wills had grown even stronger.

This mission to mess with the gods and demons' minds had allowed them to grow tremendously.

“You’re the human who killed Evil Eye and Kui Si!”

The four Immortal-tier gods and demons stared gravely at Lu.

Though Lu looked frail, humans were never to be judged by appearance.

Lu placed a chess piece.

The world seemed to tremble.

The chessboard domain instantly expanded, enveloping the four gods and demons.

Within this million-mile range, Lu could act without worry. Even if the elemental god and demon hidden in the spatial turbulence tried to rush the passage, Lu could react instantly.

Lu raised his head and smiled at the four Immortal-tier gods and demons.

His gaze swept over the many subordinate gods and demons behind them. The smile on his face grew deeper.

This shift in expression instantly ignited fury in the four Immortal-tier gods and demons.

Why did this expression make them feel so uncomfortable?

It was as if they had already become this human's property—tools to be allocated and used.

Since they had already come this far, since they had already attacked, they decided to go all out rather than wait for the other gods and demons the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor was recruiting.

Fear?

Caution?

With four Immortal-tier gods and demons attacking together, such emotions were thrown aside.

“He's alone. The four of us can kill him!”

A cold voice boomed.

Their words carried absolute confidence.

The confidence of Immortal-tier beings—equivalent to peak Emperors!

The four Immortal-tier gods and demons charged at once.

Their wills spread, commanding their subordinate gods and demons to attack in unison.

In an instant...

Gods and demons soared through the void. The shockwaves they produced made hearts tremble.

The Overlord, Tang Yimo, and the others felt the immense pressure.

They looked toward Lu with concern.

“No worries. Return to guard the passage mouth...”

Lu said calmly.

Hearing this, the Overlord and the others quickly retreated to the Five Phoenixes passage mouth and took up defensive positions.

Lu slowly stood.

The silver boat transformed into silver wings stacked behind him.

Golden light surged. His white robes turned golden, his black hair turned golden.

Title activated.

God and Demon Hunter!

Buzz...

A mysterious aura spread outward.

The four gods and demons felt a sudden oppression.

It came without reason, yet it tightened their hearts.

To have killed Evil Eye and Kui Si—this human indeed possessed extraordinary means!

But they were four Immortal-tier gods and demons. Four against one—how could they lose?

Facing four Immortal-tier opponents, Lu felt quite relaxed.

The pressure was light—this was the confidence brought by the enhanced Golden-Element Immortal Demon Body.

It seemed that even at the peak Emperor or Immortal-tier level, there were still differences in combat power.

Moreover, Lu hadn't even unleashed his Innate Purple Qi yet.

Once he did, his strength would rise even further!

“Kill!”

The four Immortal-tier gods and demons suppressed their unease and charged.

Yet Lu did not engage them immediately.

Instead, he moved leisurely through the starry sky, leaving countless golden afterimages.

Dong dong dong!

With every step he took, the low-tier and high-tier gods and demons revealed expressions of pain.

Lu tore open spatial rifts, capturing the subordinates of the four Immortal-tier gods and demons like dumplings into a pot.

The Destiny Tower was still operating. Gods and demons were an extremely important strategic resource—Lu had to maintain a sufficient stockpile.

With grain in hand, the heart feels no panic!

The four Immortal-tier gods and demons were furious.

They felt utterly ignored.

Lu Ping'an wasn't treating them as opponents at all!

He was brazenly harvesting their subordinates right in front of them!

Suddenly,

A faint mosquito-like voice rang in their ears.

“Lu Ping'an dares to be so arrogant and careless. Join forces with us—kill him together!”

“Nine Heavens... Hao?!”

The four Immortal-tier gods and demons calmed down. They exchanged glances, then—without hesitation—charged toward Lu.

Hm?

Lu seemed to sense something unusual.

He glanced at the four Immortal-tier gods and demons, whose attacks had suddenly intensified.

At the Five Phoenixes passage mouth,

The Overlord and the others, who had been watching Lu battle the gods and demons,

Suddenly felt an overwhelming pressure.

A suffocating pressure!

“Enemy attack!”

The Overlord roared!

Mi Jia and Tang Yimo’s hair stood on end. Even as Golden Immortals, they felt the breath of death envelop them.

Space shattered!

From the chaotic spatial turbulence,

A brilliant golden light erupted!

Boom!

A golden beast burst forth with overwhelming killing intent.

Its golden claw covered the entire spatial passage.

“Elemental god and demon?!”

Far away,

The other Immortal-tier gods and demons’ expressions changed slightly. As Kui Si had said, the nobility of elemental gods and demons was deeply rooted in their hearts!

Meanwhile, the four Immortal-tier gods and demons who had attacked together saw their eyes light up!

“Hao... did he plan this with the elemental god and demon? To strike at this exact moment!”

The four Immortal-tier gods and demons were invigorated.

The remaining four Immortal-tier gods and demons watching from afar also launched powerful attacks!

They too had received Ancient Emperor Hao’s transmission. In this moment, they unleashed world-shaking killing intent!

Eight Immortal-tier gods and demons attacked simultaneously!

Completely surrounding Lu.

And the void shattered!

Ancient Emperor Hao’s arm stretched out from the spatial rift. The “Proximity” formation word surged, sealing space.

A series of killing moves, a series of plans...

Interlocked perfectly!

The eight Immortal-tier gods and demons couldn't help but marvel at Ancient Emperor Hao's insidious cunning.

Yet soon, they discovered that

Lu, surrounded and under siege, remained utterly calm.

Even in this desperate situation, his expression didn't waver.

Not even the adult golden elemental beast attacking the passage mouth caused him to change color.

In fact, upon seeing the other four Immortal-tier gods and demons join the fray, he revealed a smile that sent chills down the gods and demons' spines.

That smile... was the smile of harvest season arriving.

As if everything was within Lu's expectations.

Chapter 586: Hao, You're a Good Person

Destiny Tower, Sixth Floor.

Kui Si calmly regarded the woman before him.

To him, women were just humans—nothing special.

What puzzled him was how such a weak creature, insignificant as a grain of sand, dared stand before him.

Though he had been captured by that human,

Though he had been beaten senseless,

He was still an Immortal-tier god and demon!

How could this frail woman dare provoke him?

“Die.”

Kui Si raised his massive claw and brought it down. Space shattered inch by inch.

Against someone weaker than even a low-tier god and demon like Ni Chunqiu, Kui Si didn't bother with techniques or divine abilities.

A casual claw was more than enough to tear her apart.

In Kui Si's eyes, human women had no concept of beauty or ugliness—all humans were ugly!

Yet that very casual claw

Filled Ni Chunqiu, who was undertaking the special mission, with an overwhelming sense of impending death.

She might die!

Ni Chunqiu bit her full red lips, determination flashing in her eyes.

She unleashed all her power, forming a powerful energy barrier to block the strike.

She had to survive—just withstand three attacks from Kui Si!

Bang!

The simulated primordial star environment of the Destiny Tower's sixth floor shook violently.

Mountains crumbled, rivers shattered.

Cracks spread across the ground, magma erupting in bursts.

Kui Si's claw was casual, but to Ni Chunqiu, it carried unimaginable danger.

Boom!

Dust settled.

Ni Chunqiu was drenched in blood, her body trembling slightly.

She had blocked Kui Si's first strike!

Blood dripped from her mouth and nose as she coughed lightly.

Yet joy appeared on her face.

She knew the special mission's minimum requirement was Golden Immortal level. Forcing herself into it was essentially suicidal.

But...

She refused to give up this chance.

Who knew how long it would take her to reach Golden Immortal?

By then, the special mission might already have been claimed by someone else.

"You didn't die?"

Kui Si was astonished.

His eyes rolled, fixing on Ni Chunqiu.

This woman... actually survived?

Not even a low-tier god and demon, yet she withstood his strike.

Kui Si grew furious!

Lately, his luck had been terrible. He had roared a few times on a primordial star and ended up suppressed by Lu Ping'an.

Now even this ordinary human woman dared act arrogantly before him!

Boom!

Another claw slammed down, as if swatting a fly.

This time, though, the claw carried far greater power.

In an instant, Ni Chunqiu felt her body locked in place, sealed by an overwhelming force.

Yet her gaze remained sharp. She wiped the blood from her mouth and nose.

Her energy surged again, stacking into another barrier!

Bang!!!

The ground exploded. A massive claw mark gouged the earth like an abyss.

A pillar of dust and smoke slowly rose.

Ni Chunqiu was completely blood-soaked.

She maintained her defensive stance, breathing with difficulty.

She had burned her soul power—even her divine sense was nearly exhausted.

Even so, she had blocked Kui Si's second strike—barely clinging to life.

She... had reached her limit.

A mid-stage Profound Immortal blocking attacks from an existence comparable to a Ninth Revolution Golden Immortal.

Even if the opponent hadn't gone all out, it was still fatal to her.

"You're still alive?!"

"Why are you so persistent? Burning your soul and divine sense just to block my attacks?"

Confusion and bewilderment flickered in Kui Si's eyes.

But in the next moment,

He opened his maw wide.

Within it, an energy particle flickered between destruction and reformation.

Terrifying energy fluctuations made the void tremble, as if it would shatter.

This devastating power was heart-stopping.

Kui Si refused to believe that even this attack—capable of obliterating a high-tier god and demon—would fail to kill the woman!

Ni Chunqiu felt the terrifying breath of death envelop her.

She struggled to lift her gaze. Her vision had already been stained red with blood.

It seemed... she couldn't make it.

At least, she had tried her best.

Ni Chunqiu smiled.

Bang!

As Kui Si's furious energy cannon tore through the void, making everything seem to freeze for Ni Chunqiu,

She felt as though she had fallen into an endless sea. Scenes from her life flashed before her eyes.

Did she regret it?

Ni Chunqiu asked herself. Was it worth going to such extremes?

Just as she felt she would be annihilated,

Three familiar silhouettes appeared before her.

The sight of those three figures left Ni Chunqiu dazed.

Bang bang bang!

Space violently fluctuated and exploded.

Kui Si's energy attack was blocked.

Ning Zhao, Ni Yu, and Yi Yue's wills had forcibly descended through the golden scale tokens, intervening in Kui Si's attack.

...

Boom!

Dust settled.

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor calmly watched the ape-like low-tier god and demon collapse before him.

Its life force rapidly faded.

Destiny surged into his body, absorbed and gathering into a sea of destiny above his head.

He closed his eyes, attempting to break through to Third Revolution Golden Immortal.

But the amount of destiny was still insufficient.

Everything around him began to rapidly dissolve. The Yu King's Manor of the Great Xuan Divine Dynasty—the familiar scene—collapsed like a crumbling illusion, shattering before his eyes.

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor finally exhaled in relief.

It really was all fake!

He had almost lost himself in the act.

“Congratulations on completing the Yellow-rank Golden Immortal mission. You may return to the hall to claim your points reward.”

The Destiny Maiden's ethereal voice rang in Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor's ears.

The corners of his mouth curved slightly. He was growing more and more intrigued by this Destiny Tower.

“A spiritual treasure crafted by Lu Ping'an to cultivate powerhouses...”

“Priceless!”

“But the resources it consumes are astronomical. I wonder where Lu Ping’an gets them from.”

With a thought, Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor exited the mission zone and returned to the hall.

As a reincarnated ancient Emperor, his insight was sharp.

At a glance, he could see the core of the Destiny Tower.

Aside from the special missions, tasks were divided into Heaven, Earth, Black, and Yellow ranks.

Each rank offered different point rewards.

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor had completed a Yellow-rank Golden Immortal mission—its point reward was substantial.

Communicating with the Destiny Maiden through his divine sense, the black stele displayed the rewards he could exchange with his current points.

“Points can even be exchanged for destiny?”

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor's eyes narrowed slightly.

The reward list left his heart surging.

He even considered exchanging all his points for destiny to break through to Third Revolution Golden Immortal.

But after some thought, he hesitated. He exchanged half his points for a precious marrow-cleansing pill and a treasured divine sword—both for the little princess.

This illusion mission had awakened his sense of danger. He needed to start strengthening the little princess.

After all, he couldn't protect her every moment.

As the destiny poured in, his destiny sea surged.

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor frowned.

A tearing sensation assaulted his soul, as if...

Vaguely, the seal on his memories was being broken.

Flashes of the void rift deep within the Nine Heavens appeared before his eyes.

In his pain, Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor felt a trace of confusion.

These were...

His memories?!

...

In the Primordial Starry Sky,

The atmosphere was tense, like a taut thread stretched to its limit—one slight touch and it would snap, collapsing everything.

Crisis!

An unparalleled crisis.

The Overlord, Tang Yimo, Mi Jia, and the others felt chills run through their bodies.

This was a battle at the peak Emperor level!

A perfectly interlocked scheme!

A plot targeting Young Master Lu!

Eight Immortal-tier gods and demons, plus the golden elemental god and demon charging toward the passage mouth from the spatial turbulence, and... Ancient Emperor Hao's attack reaching through the void!

They had completely sealed Lu's escape route, intending to kill him on the spot!

Whoosh whoosh whoosh!

Behind the passage,

Five Phoenixes' Golden Immortals naturally sensed the apocalyptic aura.

Their expressions changed drastically as they rushed over.

On Buzhou Peak, Zhu Long opened her eyes. In an instant, day and night seemed to cycle in her gaze.

She tore through space, leaving Buzhou Peak and appearing in the abyss.

In the Netherworld, Tantai Xuan held the Book of Life and Death, endless karma swirling around him. Even he paled slightly.

Lu Jiulian, within the Ascension Land, frowned and opened his eyes.

The three tore through space simultaneously.

They vaguely felt an unease.

When they arrived before the abyss and looked through the passage mouth, they saw a terrifying battle raging in the Primordial Starry Sky!

Lu was trapped within—eight Immortal-tier gods and demons, plus Ancient Emperor Hao's arm reaching through the void.

At the passage mouth,

A golden elemental god and demon unleashed world-shaking killing intent.

“Hold it back!”

The Overlord’s eyes instantly turned blood-red.

Mi Jia’s body swelled as she unleashed her Extreme Dao Emperor Fist.

Tang Yimo opened seven meridians, transforming into something akin to a god and demon.

Bang bang bang!

But the golden elemental god and demon’s attack was too overwhelming. One claw shattered space, causing the spatial passage itself to crack.

Pfft!

The Overlord, Tang Yimo, and Mi Jia all coughed blood, feeling as though the heavens themselves were crushing them!

Yet they couldn't retreat. If they did, Five Phoenixes behind them would be attacked in an instant.

Zhu Long appeared at the passage mouth in a flash, her graceful figure swaying like autumn leaves. The Yin-Yang Millstone spun.

Tantai Xuan and Lu Jiulian also arrived.

Zhu Long at peak Sixth Revolution Golden Immortal, Tantai Xuan and Lu Jiulian also at Sixth Revolution.

The three joined forces.

They tried to block the golden beast's strike.

Boom!

Terrifying energy ripples spread. The explosion unleashed waves of destructive energy particles.

“So strong!”

“We might not hold!”

Tantai Xuan’s pupils shrank as he spoke.

Zhu Long and Lu Jiulian were equally grave, staring at the golden beast’s claw.

“This isn’t an ordinary Immortal-tier god and demon! It’s far stronger than that Evil Eye!”

They recognized the difference.

Its life level was higher than Evil Eye’s—its power and strength far superior!

Meanwhile,

Lu was sealed by eight Immortal-tier gods and demons. Killing intent wove into a massive net, intent on tearing him apart instantly.

Yet Lu remained utterly calm.

As if everything was within his expectations.

In his pupils reflected the Spiritual Pressure Chessboard. The game on it seemed to have already predicted this very moment.

“Thank you, Hao.”

“You’re a good person.”

Under the assault of eight Immortal-tier gods and demons,

Lu raised his head, looking toward Ancient Emperor Hao’s arm reaching through the void rift, and said.

His words carried no concealment.

The eight Immortal-tier gods and demons trembled.

There was something wrong with those words!

“I was worried they wouldn’t attack... Now they’ve all come right to me. What a bountiful harvest...”

Lu smiled again.

But his words sent chills down the gods and demons’ spines.

“This human must be bluffing!”

“He’s been forced into a corner! He has no escape!”

“He’s trying to sow discord among us!”

The Immortal-tier gods and demons’ eyes blazed with ferocity. At this point, there was no turning back.

Their killing moves rained down like a cascading waterfall.

Yet Lu looked meaningfully at Ancient Emperor Hao’s arm reaching through the void.

Then he raised his hand and snapped his fingers.

The sound echoed.

The eight Immortal-tier gods and demons discovered that where Lu had stood, only an eight-colored furious lotus remained.

Lu's figure... had vanished!

This was Lu Jiulian's domain—Shift and Swap!

Though Lu Jiulian had gained independent consciousness, he was still Lu's clone. What he excelled at, Lu... could also do.

Ancient Emperor Hao had used the "Proximity" formation word to seal space.

If Lu tried to tear open an escape route, it would take time—enough for the golden beast to breach Five Phoenixes.

And the eight Immortal-tier gods and demons' attacks would land instantly.

Ancient Emperor Hao's plan was meticulously calculated.

But he hadn't anticipated that Lu would escape the crisis in this way.

All his schemes turned to nothing!

Behind the spatial rift,

Ancient Emperor Hao's emotions fluctuated slightly.

Vaguely, he felt things were about to go wrong.

It was as if he and Lu were playing a chess game, move and countermove.

But in the end...

He had still fallen one move short.

Was this Lu Ping'an's trump card?

Shift and Swap... that was clearly the technique of that Lu Jiulian from Five Phoenixes!

How could Lu Ping'an also use it?

Specialization in different fields—even Emperor-realm domains followed this rule. One person couldn't possess two domains, yet Lu Ping'an's abilities left Ancient Emperor Hao silent.

"Could it be... that Lu Ping'an is the same as me?"

A murmur echoed from deep within the rift.

Boom!

The eight-colored furious lotus exploded.

Like a surprise gift package, it left the eight Immortal-tier gods and demons momentarily stunned.

Their attacks collided with the explosion of the eight-colored lotus.

The world was filled with blinding radiance, turning the ancient, desolate Primordial Starry Sky as bright as day.

Terrifying energy ripples and shockwaves seemed to awaken the long-dormant Primordial Starry Sky.

Yet Lu paid no attention to these Immortal-tier gods and demons.

In fact, his primary target wasn't them.

It was...

The adult elemental god and demon that had finally emerged from the spatial turbulence!

Lu's first goal was this creature. The other gods and demons were just bonus leeks.

An adult elemental god and demon possessed Immortal-tier strength—and among Immortal-tier, it was far from weak.

Because their bloodline was nobler than ordinary gods and demons.

After using Shift and Swap,

Lu appeared at the passage mouth.

Zhu Long, Lu Jiulian, Tantai Xuan, and the others were struggling to hold on.

But they had managed to block it.

Lu's arrival brought them relief.

“You’ve worked hard. Leave the rest to this Young Master.”

Lu swept his gaze and fixed it on the golden elemental god and demon.

The corners of his mouth curved slightly.

“Finally showed yourself.”

It really hadn't been easy. This elemental god and demon was too cautious—even baiting it with the Gold-Origin Insect Corpse hadn't worked.

The temptation of the Gold-Origin Insect Corpse was terrifying to gods and demons.

Yet this elemental god and demon had resisted.

A truly ruthless one!

Boom!

Innate Purple Qi instantly surged around Lu. Brilliant, sharp light flickered in his eyes.

Facing an Immortal-tier elemental god and demon, Lu immediately entered his strongest state!

If he couldn't suppress it and allowed it to escape back into the spatial turbulence, luring it out again would be nearly impossible.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh!

Purple light streaked across the sky, golden light soared!

Two beams of light clashed in the Primordial Starry Sky at extreme speed.

The eight Immortal-tier gods and demons emerged from the explosion of the eight-colored lotus, their expressions extremely ugly.

They exchanged glances. They hadn't expected Lu to escape even in such a situation!

"Could it be... that Hao really teamed up with Lu Ping'an to trap us?"

One god and demon voiced his suspicion.

Ancient Emperor Hao: "..."

He wanted to say not to let Lu Ping'an mess with their minds.

But he didn't.

Words were sometimes pale and powerless.

He proved himself with actions.

Countless formation words interwove in the void, suppressing toward Lu.

Yet as Lu battled the elemental god and demon, he also unleashed formation words.

Two sets of formation words clashed in the void like armies in battle!

Boom!

Innate Purple Qi flowed.

Terrifying power gouged a massive crater in the starry sky.

The golden elemental god and demon was beaten until golden blood sprayed. It flew backward, bouncing through the air like a ball.

“Spa... spare... me!”

Buzz...

Lu flashed before the elemental god and demon. A broken plea echoed.

Lu paused.

“You can speak?”

This was the first time Lu learned that elemental gods and demons could speak.

But Lu said nothing.

This elemental god and demon was too strong. If he let it escape, it would be a massive threat to Five Phoenixes.

Just like this time—Lu couldn’t stray too far from the passage, always wary of this creature.

Lu had never shown mercy to enemies.

Moreover, an elemental god and demon was an excellent resource for enhancing the Golden-Element Immortal Demon Body.

“I... have a master... raised here!”

“Kill me... you will suffer... calamity!”

“The God of Elements... will not forgive... you!”

Sensing Lu’s resolute killing intent,

Broken waves of will spread, carrying a hint of threat.

Lu was wreathed in purple qi. Golden hair and golden robes billowed.

The silver blade wings behind him fluttered gently.

His expression remained cold.

He raised his hand and clenched it.

Boom!

The golden elemental god and demon exploded, turning into streams of golden light that wrapped around Lu's body.

They seeped into his skin, rapidly circulating within.

Threats?

The God of Elements?

Lu narrowed his eyes, memorizing the name.

Though unfamiliar, just hearing it sent a chill through him—as if merely mentioning it would draw its attention.

This being must be extraordinarily terrifying!

The Gold-Origin surged into his body, gradually stabilizing his Immortal Demon Body. His power began to climb.

He closed his eyes. The energy within him surged like a boiling volcano.

He was calming his power, attempting to control the soaring strength.

The eight Immortal-tier gods and demons who had escaped the eight-colored lotus explosion watched Lu adjusting his aura with closed eyes, their expressions grave and fearful.

The elemental god and demon... had been killed!

And an adult one at that!

If any one of them faced an adult elemental god and demon alone, they would be obliterated.

This human... was truly strong!

Though there were eight of them, could they really win?

“While he’s still unstable—surround and kill him!”

Ancient Emperor Hao’s cold voice rang from the spatial rift.

“The other reinforcements have arrived...”

The eight Immortal-tier gods and demons were overjoyed. They looked into the distance.

Figures radiating overwhelming auras were speeding toward them. The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor’s deep blue figure was among them.

Counting carefully—there were twelve more Immortal-tier gods and demons!

Clearly, Ancient Emperor Hao’s warning had spurred the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor to hurry.

Moreover, the battle’s fluctuations had made her recruitment much easier. Many Immortal-tier gods and demons had been tempted and rushed over, eager for a share.

“Another twelve Immortal-tier!”

“Plus our eight—twenty in total!”

“Twenty Immortal-tier, plus the ancient Emperor of the Nine Heavens! A certain-death trap!”

Boom!

Powerful divine fluctuations spread.

The Immortal-tier gods and demons who had been intimidated earlier now went mad with excitement.

A massive army of gods and demons,

Led by twenty Immortal-tier gods and demons, surged toward them.

At the passage mouth,

The Overlord, Tang Yimo, and the others' eyes turned blood-red.

They didn't retreat. Instead, boundless rage surged within them.

Mi Jia was filled with disappointment.

And beneath the disappointment, uncontrollable anger.

“The ancient Emperors of the Nine Heavens... actually united so many gods and demons... utterly disappointing!”

Had the ancient Emperors forgotten how the Nine Heavens’ powerhouses once used their blood to block the gods and demons?

Mi Jia stepped out of the passage, choosing to fight.

Zhu Long and Tantai Xuan also soared into the air.

Lu Jiulian was dazed and silent. His heart had suffered a shock...

“Young Master Lu... why can you use my domain power?”

Lu Jiulian was stunned.

Wasn’t one person limited to a single domain?!

A seed of doubt was planted in his heart.

But now wasn't the time for doubt.

He too stepped forward, joining the battle.

Facing twenty Immortal-tier gods and demons... the overwhelming pressure nearly brought despair.

Meanwhile, Lu, eyes closed, used his powerful divine sense to sort his surging energy, feeling the Golden-Element Immortal Demon Body reach its peak.

He abruptly opened his eyes.

Chapter 587: The Sermon Platform Manifests, Suppressing the Number One Imperial Weapon

Flashes of fragmented images, searing pain like countless steel blades slicing through his mind.

The agony spread across Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor's consciousness and soul like a spiderweb.

He vaguely glimpsed something—blurred scenes flickering through his mind. He had a premonition that these images were crucial, tied to a heaven-shaking secret.

But every time he tried to see them clearly, his soul felt as if it would tear apart.

It was as though an invisible hand gripped his heart. If he dared pursue those memories with curiosity, the hand would squeeze, crushing his heart!

Pfft!

Blood poured from Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor's mouth and nose. He dropped to one knee in the Destiny Tower's hall.

His expression was unsightly.

"My memories... someone sealed my memories?! Who?!"

Spiderweb-like cracks filled his eyes.

Many in the Destiny Tower hall were startled by his outburst.

Yet Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor ignored them, seemingly lost in madness.

The terrifying Golden Immortal pressure radiating from him kept everyone at bay.

Only after a long while did he calm down.

His destiny sea had completed the Third Revolution. His current strength was nearly on par with his previous life's, though back then he had walked far deeper into the Great Emperor realm. As a newly ascended Third Revolution Golden Immortal, there was still a gap in combat power.

"It must be that 'Hao'... What exactly did I see deep within the void rift...?"

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor clenched his fist.

After exhaling slowly, he took his exchanged items and left the Destiny Tower.

His abnormal behavior had already drawn the attention of the tower's controllers.

As for his sealed memories, Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor would not give up searching. Since he had sensed them, he would continue to probe relentlessly.

He wanted to restore his memories. He wanted to know... what was hidden deep within that rift.

What secrets did the Nine Heavens conceal from him?

For a Great Emperor of the Nine Heavens to be unaware of such secrets—what a terrifying thought.

Ancient Emperor Hao and those other ancient Emperors—what exactly had they done behind his back?!

Was the decline of the Nine Heavens related to them?!

The moment he teleported out of the Destiny Tower and stepped onto the solid ground of Five Phoenixes,

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor sensed something. His expression shifted slightly.

He looked toward the void abyss. Terrifying auras surged endlessly from the passage mouth.

Those auras were like streaks of light in the darkness—impossible to ignore, drawing the eyes of every creature in the shadows.

“So powerful... god and demon auras...”

“Are the gods and demons launching a full-scale invasion of Five Phoenixes?”

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor shook his head.

At his current level—a newly ascended Third Revolution Golden Immortal—his ability to help was limited.

Moreover, his mind was consumed by the issue of his sealed memories. He had no interest in the battle in the Primordial Starry Sky.

He needed to return to the Yu King’s Manor. He needed to strengthen the little princess first.

Only when she had the power to protect herself could he pursue what he wanted without worry.

Even if something happened to him, she would be able to take care of herself.

“Perhaps... I could ask Lu Ping’an to help with the sealed memories in my mind.”

Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor pondered.

But the thought was quickly dismissed.

That bastard Lu Ping'an...

No way.

He shook his head, casting the idea aside.

He and Lu Ping'an... were enemies!

...

In the boundless sea,

Within the ancient tomb,

Nowadays, Gu Mangran's figure rarely appeared in the tomb.

Having broken through to Golden Immortal and severed ties with the Nine Heavens to become a true cultivator of Five Phoenixes, Gu Mangran now devoted himself entirely to nurturing the Sea Tribe.

He returned to the tomb less and less.

Jiang Li, Ximen Xianzhi, Mo Liqi, and Luo Mingyue were still cultivating within the tomb.

Because Gu Mangran had told them they had inherited the legacies of the four kings. They should cultivate diligently in the tomb and walk their own paths.

He hoped Jiang Li and the others could carry forward the legacies of the four kings.

Of course, besides them, Lu Changkong and Bu Nanxing still resided in the tomb.

Ever since receiving the Immortal Mandala from Lu, Lu Changkong had become obsessed, tirelessly researching the immortal herb seed.

He wanted to cultivate the Immortal Mandala.

Bu Nanxing was terrified. Upon learning that the Immortal Mandala could poison even Daluo Immortals, the supreme practitioner of the “crouch” path nearly packed his bags and fled.

Lu Changkong’s previous experiments had been tolerable. Though toxic, Bu Nanxing could endure them.

Even if poisoned, he wouldn't die immediately.

But this Immortal Mandala was different.

It could kill even Daluo Immortals. How could he dare touch it? The most important rule of crouching was to never place oneself in danger. He had to uphold that.

Yet when he timidly suggested to Lu Changkong that the world was vast and he wanted to see it,

Lu Changkong earnestly held his hand and spoke to him all night about life.

He instilled in him the idea that once they succeeded in cultivating the Immortal Mandala and produced a poison capable of killing Daluo Immortals,

Would he still need to crouch?

Then he would be the greatest in the world!

Bu Nanxing was brainwashed. He vaguely felt it made sense. Crouching until the end, becoming invincible... wasn't that the ultimate goal of the crouch path?

So he stayed.

But he still felt something was off.

Ever since Lu Changkong began researching the Immortal Mandala seed,

Bu Nanxing lived in constant fear. As Lu Changkong's assistant, he worried every moment whether he would be poisoned to death by Lu Changkong's minor toxins.

The terrifying auras erupting from the void starry sky's passage mouth made Lu Changkong pause.

He looked up, glanced over.

Taking a deep breath, he buried his head and continued researching.

From the intensity of the auras, Lu Changkong could judge the ferocity of the battle in the Primordial Starry Sky.

Even with his special poison physique, if he were caught in such a battle, he would be of no help to Lu—only a burden.

All he could do was research the Immortal Mandala and absorb it with his poison body, advancing his physique.

Then, with a wave of his hand, he could scatter deadly poison capable of killing Daluo Immortals.

By then, no one in the world would dare bully his honest, simple son.

His son should have been able to live as a carefree second-generation heir. Unfortunately, as his father, he had been incompetent, forcing Lu to bear burdens he shouldn't have at his age.

...

The terrifying auras erupting from the void abyss had long drawn the attention of many powerhouses.

Outside the abyss,

The armies of the Netherworld were already stationed.

Many Five Phoenixes Immortals who hadn't entered the Destiny Tower hovered in formation, guarding the area.

Their expressions were grave. Their auras flared, signaling a terrifying battle was unfolding.

The frontline battle was fierce. They could vaguely see waves of unmatched auras weaving into a massive net, as if trying to ensnare all of Five Phoenixes' Golden Immortals.

The Golden Immortals of Five Phoenixes were like moths caught in a spiderweb, unable to break free.

Everyone desperately wanted to help, but they knew their strength was insufficient.

All they could do was wait—for the battle to end, for news from the front.

The nine city lords of the Netherworld transformed into massive figures, stationed outside the abyss.

They sat upon their thrones, coldly watching the front.

Powerhouses from every life star in the Five Phoenixes Universe also fixed their gazes on the passage in the abyss.

Whether from the Heavenly Spirit Tribe or the former upper-realm saint clans,

In this moment, they all hoped Five Phoenixes would survive.

The years spent in the Five Phoenixes Universe had rekindled their joy in growing stronger. Compared to the despair and darkness of the Nine Heavens, life in Five Phoenixes was joyful. Their clans could grow and prosper.

They had gradually come to identify with Five Phoenixes and wished to integrate into it.

...

In the Primordial Starry Sky,

Terrifying killing intent illuminated the sky like blazing suns.

Twenty Immortal-tier gods and demons—what a horrifying lineup?!

Equivalent to twenty peak Emperors.

Such power could easily destroy a first-grade high-martial world, shattering it completely.

“Kill him!”

“He fought an elemental god and demon—he must be exhausted! This is our chance!”

“Twenty Immortal-tier attacking together—he has no escape!”

The cold voices of the Immortal-tier gods and demons echoed through every corner of the Primordial Starry Sky.

Though it was Ancient Emperor Hao’s alliance,

Lu’s threat to them was immense.

To have slain an adult elemental god and demon—that alone was terrifying!

Moreover, the strange suppressive power emanating from Lu made them deeply wary!

Boom boom boom!

The simultaneous attacks of twenty Immortal-tier gods and demons made even the primordial stars tremble.

Overwhelming battle cries surged forth.

The Overlord, Tang Yimo, Mi Jia, and the others were resolute.

Yet the immense pressure still made it hard to breathe.

Tang Yimo gritted his teeth, eyes blood-red as he watched. The aura within him surged, as if it would break through the eighth meridian at any moment.

Unleashing ultimate killing intent.

The Overlord shouldered his axe and shield, glaring coldly, killing intent boiling.

Mi Jia's Extreme Dao Emperor Fist pushed forward, fearless of death.

He had been reborn in Five Phoenixes. He was already content. Even if he died here, what was there to fear?

At worst, he would return the life Five Phoenixes had given him!

“Congratulations, Host, on elevating the Golden-Element Immortal Demon Body to perfection. You have gained qualification to comprehend the Gold-Origin Profound Meaning. Proceed with comprehension?”

The moment Lu opened his eyes, a system prompt appeared.

His expression remained calm, showing no joy or sorrow.

Gold-Origin Profound Meaning?

Lu’s brow lifted slightly.

Perhaps it was a killing move derived from perfecting the Golden-Element Immortal Demon Body?

Without further thought, he refused. Now wasn’t the time for comprehension.

Lu sensed terrifying killing intent rolling toward him like heavenly thunder.

All his escape routes seemed sealed in this moment.

“Twenty Immortal-tier gods and demons...”

The corners of Lu’s mouth curved slightly.

This time, it was truly a bountiful harvest!

From the spatial rift, Ancient Emperor Hao seemed to peer at Lu. His cold gaze carried doubt and indifference.

He wanted to see how Lu would turn the tables in this desperate situation.

Though Lu had previously outmaneuvered him with Shift and Swap to escape the encirclement,

This time, with twenty Immortal-tier gods and demons attacking, it was a certain-death trap!

“Kill!”

Powerful divine fluctuations wove through the Primordial Starry Sky, forming a will capable of annihilating anyone below the Emperor realm.

Lu gazed calmly.

Innate Purple Qi wreathed his body. His golden robes and golden hair billowed.

“The Golden-Element Immortal Demon Body has reached perfection...”

“Time to test its power.”

“Just how strong am I now?”

Lu felt the terrifying power surging through him.

The power of the God and Demon Hunter title spread invisibly.

With his strength increased, the title’s power... had grown even stronger!

Facing the onslaught of twenty Immortal-tier gods and demons,

Lu's lips curved.

He slowly raised his hand. Endless golden light erupted from his palm—the power of the Gold-Origin!

His palm pointed toward the leading Immortal-tier god and demon.

Then clenched!

The Immortal-tier god and demon's expression changed drastically.

He felt a golden palm suddenly appear around him, seizing him tightly!

The god and demon roared in fury.

He unleashed an attack that collided with the palm.

Yet a violent explosion erupted. This Immortal-tier coughed up foul blood and was sent flying backward in dejection.

A single palm from afar had severely wounded an Immortal-tier!

Yet the remaining nineteen Immortal-tier gods and demons' attacks rained down together.

Boom!

The area where Lu stood was instantly obliterated into dark void. Countless spatial turbulence surged, each strand carrying terrifying cutting power.

Even a high-tier god and demon caught in it would be shredded.

"Is he dead?"

After that combined strike,

The nineteen Immortal-tier gods and demons watched gravely.

Lu's strength had exceeded their expectations. Most importantly, the terrifying suppressive power emanating from him left every god and demon uneasy.

Splash splash splash...

Yet soon,

The nineteen Immortal-tier gods and demons' pupils shrank.

They saw Lu within the spatial turbulence, wreathed in purple qi, radiating golden light like a blazing sun—dazzling and unstoppable.

He gazed calmly at the Immortal-tier gods and demons.

Innate Purple Qi could both attack and defend. The defense it provided gave Lu complete confidence.

The silver wings behind him spread.

In the next instant, his body shot out from the spatial turbulence, transforming into a streak of purple-gold light.

His speed was blinding, streaking across the Primordial Starry Sky.

“So fast!”

This speed was like the ultimate velocity of the world.

A flash of purple-gold light approached one of the Immortal-tier gods and demons.

The gods and demons reacted instantly, unleashing attacks without hesitation.

Boom boom boom!

Nineteen gods and demons against one.

They clashed in the sky. Lu, in his purple-gold form, fought nineteen alone without the slightest sign of weakness.

From the spatial rift, Ancient Emperor Hao watched in shock.

“This child’s cultivation advances too quickly...”

Ancient Emperor Hao had to admit that Lu's growth rate left him chilled.

Could it be that the elemental god and demon had granted him immense benefits?

If this continued, it wouldn't be long before this child surpassed him!

Far away,

The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor watched in horror as Lu faced nineteen Immortal-tier gods and demons without faltering. Her graceful body trembled slightly.

Lu Ping'an... had become this strong?!

This level of power and cultivation was not inferior to Hao, who had been plotting in the rift for hundreds of thousands of years.

Though she possessed Great Emperor strength, facing Lu Ping'an, she would likely be killed instantly.

Suddenly,

Ancient Emperor Hao's voice rang in the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor's ears.

Her beautiful eyes narrowed.

Her red lips pursed. Without hesitation, she closed her eyes and slowly spread her arms.

In the next moment, her body trembled.

When her eyes opened again, the deep blue had turned pitch black.

Ancient Emperor Hao had possessed her.

“Lu Ping’an...”

Ancient Emperor Hao had originally not intended to possess the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor and act.

But...

Watching Lu fight nineteen Immortal-tier gods and demons without weakening, he felt a crisis—an ominous premonition.

So he decided to act.

Buzz buzz buzz...

Formation words interwove. Above the possessed Water Tribe Ancient Emperor, a cauldron appeared.

“The Myriad Pattern Cauldron!”

The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor said coldly.

She pointed.

The Myriad Pattern Cauldron soared, as if it would crush the starry sky.

Lu’s mind stirred slightly.

He looked up at the Myriad Pattern Cauldron. Emotions flickered in his eyes.

This cauldron... felt somewhat familiar.

The number one imperial weapon of the Nine Heavens!

Back then, Qi Liujia's Six Armor Formation Sect inherited this very Myriad Pattern Cauldron...

But Qi Liujia's Myriad Pattern Cauldron was like a child's toy compared to this one.

He hadn't expected that now, the Myriad Pattern Cauldron would become a supreme killing weapon, intent on suppressing him.

"Hao has acted... everyone, suppress him together!"

"This child has a great secret! That strange suppressive power against us gods and demons... if we uncover it, we may have a chance to return to the 'Elemental Realm'!"

The gods and demons' eyes blazed red. They unleashed their full auras.

Lu was too strong—strong enough to terrify them. But without that strange suppressive power emanating from him, Lu fighting nineteen alone would have been impossible.

Thus, in their eyes, Lu's greatest secret... must be that strange suppressive power!

It was as if he were their natural predator!

They were gods and demons born from the primordial chaos. For Lu to possess power that suppressed them, it must be related to some ancient secret!

So they went mad!

Boom boom boom!

Terrifying attacks wove through the sky, shattering the void.

At the Five Phoenixes passage mouth,

Zhu Long, Tantai Xuan, Lu Jiulian, and the others unleashed their auras, guarding the passage and preventing the terrifying auras from seeping through.

This was a battle between peak Emperors. If those auras penetrated the passage, countless cultivators would suffer!

“So terrifying... this is the peak Emperor realm!”

Tantai Xuan exhaled slowly, suppressing the heaviness and pressure in his heart.

The gods and demons were too strong.

Without Young Master Lu, Five Phoenixes wouldn't even last one round!

They too had to grow stronger—continuously stronger!

“Young Master Lu seems to have created a Destiny Tower to aid cultivation. Perhaps we can also use it to break through...”

“Once this is over, let's go to the Destiny Tower.”

Tantai Xuan said.

The Overlord, Tang Yimo, and the others nodded.

Then silence fell.

They focused intently on the battle in the starry sky.

Facing the crushing Myriad Pattern Cauldron,

Lu frowned slightly.

The silver blades behind him stacked. The Phoenix Feather Sword guided them, transforming into countless silver beams that streaked across the void, clashing with the Myriad Pattern Cauldron!

Yet they were all repelled.

The most severely injured Immortal-tier god and demon had recovered. The twenty gods and demons attacked once more. Enduring the pressure of Lu's God and Demon Hunter title, they unleashed terrifying killing intent, like a tsunami intent on swallowing and annihilating Lu.

Lu narrowed his eyes, staring at the Myriad Pattern Cauldron pressing down.

It was forged with the Nine Character formation words as its skeleton and countless scattered formation words as its flesh and blood.

But Lu was no stranger to formation word techniques.

Looking at the Myriad Pattern Cauldron,

A rather mad idea suddenly formed in Lu's mind.

Perhaps he could use formation words—with the Eight Trigrams formation words as the skeleton and countless formation words as flesh and blood—to forge the Sermon Platform!

To manifest the Sermon Platform in the world!

“You have the Myriad Pattern Cauldron.”

“I have... the Sermon Platform.”

Lu's eyes blazed.

But first, he needed to suppress these gods and demons.

With a thought,

The Innate Purple Qi wreathed around Lu surged wildly, forming a terrifying storm.

Innate Purple Qi was Lu's sharpest weapon against these gods and demons.

All one hundred strands of Innate Purple Qi were unleashed without reservation.

Splash splash splash!

Five strands intertwined into icy chains that whipped out, binding an Immortal-tier god and demon with overwhelming force.

One hundred strands formed twenty purple qi chains, binding all twenty gods and demons.

The Immortal-tier gods and demons roared, trying to break free with their powerful physiques.

Yet they were horrified to discover that even they—renowned for physical strength—could not shatter these purple qi chains!

Realizing escape was impossible, they panicked and tried to flee.

Splash splash splash...

The chains clashed.

Lu raised his hand. His palm gripped all twenty purple qi chains.

Each chain was taut, as if he were walking dogs.

Tantai Xuan, Lu Jiulian, the Overlord, and the others stared in stunned silence.

Others walk dogs.

Young Master Lu... walks gods and demons!

And Immortal-tier gods and demons at that!

Invincible Young Master Lu, dominating gods and demons with absolute dominance!

“Attack quickly!”

The twenty Immortal-tier gods and demons flushed with rage. Their wills surged, commanding their low-tier and high-tier subordinates to swarm Lu, hoping to distract him and give them a chance to break free.

The gods and demons obeyed, charging madly toward Lu.

Yet the power of Lu’s God and Demon Hunter title spread.

His cold gaze swept over the low-tier and high-tier gods and demons—merciless.

Boom!

Their mental defenses collapsed instantly. Under the pressure of Lu’s gaze, they all dropped to their knees.

At this moment,

The Myriad Pattern Cauldron controlled by the possessed Water Tribe Ancient Emperor finally approached within a hundred feet of Lu, pressing down on him.

Lu finally had time to look up at the Myriad Pattern Cauldron bearing down on him.

With a thought,

The Eight Trigrams Sermon Platform—with the Eight Trigrams formation words as its skeleton and countless formation words as its flesh and blood—coalesced above Lu's head.

“Go.”

Lu's divine sense surged. His eyes blazed.

The Eight Trigrams Sermon Platform tore through the void.

The Myriad Pattern Cauldron pressed down as if to crush the ages.

The two collided in the Primordial Starry Sky!

Like two ancient primordial stars smashing together, terrifying, blazing energy erupted.

The possessed Water Tribe Ancient Emperor—Ancient Emperor Hao—saw his black pupils shrink.

Lu gripped the twenty purple qi chains, walking the gods and demons like dogs. His eyes narrowed.

Crack...

A shattering sound rang out.

The possessed Water Tribe Ancient Emperor trembled.

In his black pupils' reflection,

The Myriad Pattern Cauldron, clashing with the Eight Trigrams Sermon Platform...

Cracked!

Chapter 588: Hao, Our Little Secret Is Gone

Ding!

A clear sound rang out—like ripples across a vast ocean—echoing through every corner of the Primordial Starry Sky.

All eyes were drawn to it. This was a world-shaking clash!

The Myriad Pattern Cauldron, the number one imperial weapon of the Nine Heavens, was Ancient Emperor Hao's most powerful creation. Its might was unparalleled, capable of suppressing the ages.

Though this Myriad Pattern Cauldron wasn't the true imperial weapon body—merely formed by interwoven formation words—

Under Ancient Emperor Hao's control through the possessed Water Tribe Ancient Emperor, its power was nearly as terrifying as the original, capable of crushing the starry sky!

The Immortal-tier gods and demons had unleashed their full killing intent precisely because of this strike.

They had clashed with Ancient Emperor Hao before and suffered under his Myriad Pattern Cauldron.

This time, with Ancient Emperor Hao wielding such a supreme killing move, they believed Lu Ping'an would be easily suppressed.

Yet, unexpectedly, Lu seemed completely unaffected by the Myriad Pattern Cauldron.

Instead, he struck first, binding them like dogs and parading them through the starry sky.

Then, he unleashed a devastating counterattack against the Myriad Pattern Cauldron!

Crack!

The shattering sound was crisp—like the sound of countless hearts breaking.

Ancient Emperor Hao, possessing the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor, stared with pitch-black eyes. His pupils reflected the cracked Myriad Pattern Cauldron. Shock and disbelief filled his gaze!

His Myriad Pattern Cauldron... had cracked?!

Even though it wasn't the true body, its power was nearly identical...

Yet this imperial weapon had been forcibly shattered by Lu Ping'an!

“What... is that?!”

“Lu Ping’an’s imperial weapon?”

Ancient Emperor Hao’s black pupils gleamed with extreme sharpness as he stared at the Eight Trigrams Sermon Platform clashing with the Myriad Pattern Cauldron.

Both were imperial weapons formed from formation words, yet this Sermon Platform seemed more refined, more profound, and of a higher level than his Myriad Pattern Cauldron!

Lu Ping’an... had another trump card like this!

He had thought he had unraveled all of Lu’s secrets, yet just when he believed he understood, Lu revealed yet another!

These endless trump cards filled Ancient Emperor Hao with immense pressure.

A crisis lingered constantly in his heart.

Lu’s threat had thoroughly unsettled him.

He had already held Lu in high regard, yet he realized he had still underestimated him.

Or rather... underestimated the mysterious existence backing Lu.

That Voice of the Quasi-Saint had already terrified him.

And now, the Eight Trigrams Sermon Platform Lu had manifested was far beyond the Emperor realm!

Bang!

Like exploding fireworks, it shattered into pieces.

A whistling sound tore through the sky.

Then, clearly visible, the Myriad Pattern Cauldron broke apart and flew backward.

Lu stood in the Primordial Starry Sky, his golden robes billowing, radiating endless light.

He gripped the purple qi chains, binding twenty Immortal-tier gods and demons.

Against Immortal-tier gods and demons, Lu possessed overwhelming suppressive power.

The manifested Eight Trigrams Sermon Platform had shattered Ancient Emperor Hao's Myriad Pattern Cauldron. Lu wasn't surprised.

The Sermon Platform's mysteries were something even Lu hadn't fully uncovered.

At the very least, one thing was certain:

The Sermon Platform was absolutely not an Emperor-realm artifact. That was why the Myriad Pattern Cauldron had been destroyed.

Just as diamond would shatter ordinary stone—the higher-grade material naturally prevailed.

With the Myriad Pattern Cauldron shattered, terrifying energy storms raged through the starry sky.

Lu calmly regarded the possessed Water Tribe Ancient Emperor—Ancient Emperor Hao.

With a thought, the Eight Trigrams Sermon Platform pressed forward once more.

Boom!

It was as though the earth itself trembled. The stars in the sky seemed to collapse.

Wherever the Sermon Platform passed, spatial turbulence surged violently. Space was as fragile as paper beneath its might.

Ancient Emperor Hao gradually recovered from his shock, calmly watching the approaching Sermon Platform.

This wasn't his true body—only a possession of the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor's flesh.

“Lu Ping'an...”

Ancient Emperor Hao stared at Lu and slowly spoke.

“The secrets you carry... I will uncover them eventually!”

With those words,

His consciousness withdrew from the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor's body.

The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor trembled.

Her long lashes fluttered. When her eyes opened again, they had returned to deep blue.

And in those blue pupils reflected only the ever-growing Eight Trigrams Sermon Platform, carrying spatial turbulence as it bore down.

Terrifying pressure and the aura of death enveloped her.

A trace of sorrow flickered in her eyes.

She... had been abandoned?

After defeat, Ancient Emperor Hao had discarded her body without hesitation.

For a moment, the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor felt a pang of sadness and vulnerability.

Lu glanced at the pitiful Water Tribe Ancient Emperor.

Then slowly waved his hand.

The Eight Trigrams Sermon Platform crashed down with even greater force.

Boom!

The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor's body instantly exploded into a mist of blood. Even transformed into water, she couldn't withstand the terrifying power that had shattered the Myriad Pattern Cauldron.

Her soul was torn apart by the overwhelming force.

Following Fire Spirit Ancient Emperor, the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor... had fallen.

Lu, who had ruthlessly destroyed a flower, remained calm and emotionless.

The Sermon Platform dissipated.

His lips curved slightly as he surveyed the many gods and demons present. His eyes narrowed.

“So many gods and demons... truly a bountiful harvest. What immense destiny they carry—enough to nurture countless Five Phoenixes powerhouses.”

Lu smiled.

The Destiny Tower’s operation required gods and demons as fuel.

And with so many, it could run for a very long time.

Moreover, twenty Immortal-tier gods and demons were equivalent to cultivating at least twenty Ninth Revolution Golden Immortals for Five Phoenixes.

This battle had been highly satisfying for Lu.

Just as the saying goes—harvest season had truly arrived.

The only regret was that Ancient Emperor Hao had escaped—or rather, he had never truly appeared in person.

Though Lu very much wanted to eliminate this ancient Emperor who constantly brought trouble to Five Phoenixes,

The feeling of danger emanating from beyond the void rift was too strong. His instincts warned him against stepping in rashly.

Perhaps the danger of the rift was tied to its secrets.

Previously, Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor had glimpsed something and nearly exploded mentally, choosing to self-destruct.

Lu grew more and more curious about the secrets hidden deep within that rift.

But it wouldn't be long. With Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor's current growth, he would soon have the strength to break through the memory seal.

Moreover, Lu's own power had increased significantly—he could now suppress the seal.

Once this was over, Lu planned to find time to probe Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor's memories and uncover the secrets of the rift.

Until then, he wouldn't feel at ease.

Boom!

Turbulence surged through the Primordial Starry Sky.

Lu slowly pulled the purple qi chains closer.

The twenty Immortal-tier gods and demons' eyes filled with terror.

They realized they had truly become prisoners.

Lu smiled faintly at the gods and demons.

“You gods and demons are truly foolish. Sold out, yet still counting money for the seller.”

“Hao and this Young Master have long been allies. Did you really think his imperial weapon, the Myriad Pattern Cauldron, could be shattered so easily by me?”

“That was just a show for you—to make you accept captivity willingly.”

Lu said.

“This Young Master merely mentioned to Hao that I needed some gods and demons as reserve resources. I never expected Hao to be so enthusiastic.”

Lu sighed with emotion.

Behind him, Zhu Long, Lu Jiulian, Tantai Xuan, and the others were dumbfounded.

They had almost believed Lu’s words. Was it true?

Could everything really have been a joint scheme between Ancient Emperor Hao and Young Master Lu to trap these gods and demons?

If so... these gods and demons were truly pitiful!

But even if it wasn’t true, they were still pitiful.

The twenty Immortal-tier gods and demons bound by purple qi chains stared in shock. Their eyes widened, killing intent and rage surging.

“Hao! That bastard from the Nine Heavens!”

“He really deceived us! Hao and you are in cahoots! Everything was a trap, everything was a lie!”

“We hate this! We hate this!”

The gods and demons roared in unwillingness.

Their unwillingness brought Lu joy.

He had only casually mentioned it, yet it had successfully poisoned their view of Ancient Emperor Hao.

Allying with gods and demons to attack Five Phoenixes...

Lu wouldn't let Ancient Emperor Hao off easily.

Did they really think Five Phoenixes was easy to bully?

“This was supposed to be a secret. This Young Master only wanted you to lose with understanding...”

“But since you've fallen into my hands, you can't spread the news anyway.”

Lu said.

Suddenly,

Lu's brow lifted.

He looked toward a silent, desolate corner of the Primordial Starry Sky!

“Who?!”

Lu said.

Buzz...

Space distorted. An Immortal-tier god and demon appeared, eyes filled with madness and terror—as if he had discovered an unimaginable secret!

“Quickly spread the news!”

“The ancient Emperor Hao of the Nine Heavens cannot be trusted! Absolutely cannot be trusted!”

“Allying with Hao was the greatest lie! Report to the Elemental Realm—avenge us!!!”

The gods and demons sensed the one who had appeared and let out anguished roars.

Blood even flowed from their eyes—a sight of weeping blood.

“Oh no!”

“Trouble!”

Lu put on a shocked expression.

His silver wings flared. Spatial laws surged as he pulled the twenty Immortal-tier gods and demons along, streaking through the starry sky.

The fleeing Immortal-tier trembled. Then, coughing up mouthfuls of blood, he burned his soul and ignited his blood essence, exploding with tenfold speed and vanishing into the distance.

After chasing for a short distance, Lu stopped.

A trace of regret appeared on his face.

“Sigh, Hao... our little secret is gone.”

Lu mimicked Ni Yu’s dramatic chest-thumping in the void.

The gods and demons bound by purple qi chains revealed expressions of satisfaction.

Lu’s face turned cold. With a wave of his hand, he sealed all these gods and demons into the Destiny Tower as strategic reserves.

The low-tier and high-tier gods and demons suppressed by Lu’s God and Demon Hunter aura were also imprisoned in the Destiny Tower.

The Destiny Tower was itself a prison for gods and demons.

With all the gods and demons sealed away,

Lu dispersed the purple qi around him and calmed the boiling Golden-Element Immortal Demon Body.

He returned to his snow-white robes, sitting once more on the Thousand-Blade Chair.

The perfected Golden-Element Immortal Demon Body was increasingly terrifying, as if it could barely be contained, constantly leaking destructive aura.

Even seated on the Thousand-Blade Chair, Lu faintly felt it was hard to suppress.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh!

With the matter settled,

The Overlord, Tang Yimo, and the others also restrained their auras.

Filled with excitement, they appeared before Lu.

“Young Master Lu... as magnificent as ever! I’m in awe!”

Tantai Xuan laughed heartily.

Watching Young Master Lu dominate and parade those arrogant gods and demons like dogs had been as refreshing as drinking iced watermelon in June.

Mi Jia, Tang Yimo, and the others also congratulated him.

This time, suppressing so many gods and demons would surely serve as a massive deterrent to those in the Primordial Starry Sky.

Next, Five Phoenixes could gain breathing room. Other gods and demons wouldn't dare invade easily.

It bought them precious time to grow stronger.

The strategic significance of this battle was immense!

Lu Jiulian's expression remained complex. He gazed at Lu, eyes deep. The image of Lu using Shift and Swap still lingered in his mind.

The others hadn't noticed his abnormality.

Tantai Xuan was curious. He looked at Lu. “Young Master Lu, did you really conspire with Ancient Emperor Hao to stage this grand play? Were these gods and demons truly deceived?”

Not just Tantai Xuan—Lu’s earlier words had convinced many of them.

Their hearts were filled with doubt.

Lu glanced at them as if looking at fools.

“How could that be...”

“I just said it casually. The ones who got hurt were those gods and demons—not this Young Master.”

Lu shook his head.

Ancient Emperor Hao was plotting against Five Phoenixes’ Immortal Origin.

Lu didn’t need to guess to know that.

Thus, Five Phoenixes and the Nine Heavens were now sworn enemies.

The Nine Heavens had no hope of becoming an Immortal-Martial world. Ancient Emperor Hao could only pin his hopes on Five Phoenixes' immortal fortune.

Lu's words left Tantai Xuan and the others speechless.

Young Master Lu... are you a devil?

Your skill at messing with minds is top-tier.

He had already won completely, yet he still toyed with the gods and demons' minds one last time.

"The Destiny Tower released by White Jade Capital—you should all visit when you have time. It will benefit you."

"Those gods and demons are mostly imprisoned in the Destiny Tower. Besides destiny cultivation, don't neglect your combat skills."

Lu said.

Everyone nodded, breathing slightly faster. The Destiny Tower... White Jade Capital's spiritual treasure designed to strengthen all of Five Phoenixes!

"Hm. The god and demon that escaped earlier should spread the news. From now on, it will be hard for Ancient Emperor Hao to unite gods and demons against Five Phoenixes. In fact, many gods and demons may become hostile toward him. Consider it a little surprise for Ancient Emperor Hao."

"As long as we keep watch on the Nine Heavens, Five Phoenixes will have time to grow stronger."

Lu said.

Everyone nodded.

But soon, Lu's expression grew serious again.

Seated on the Thousand-Blade Chair, white robes fluttering, he slowly raised his head and gazed deep into the Primordial Starry Sky.

"The Primordial Starry Sky is too ancient. These gods and demons may be just a drop in the ocean. Perhaps there are even more terrifying existences and forces..."

"Now that Five Phoenixes has achieved Immortal-Martial, could there be Immortal-Martial worlds in the Primordial Starry Sky as well?"

“You all must grow stronger quickly.”

Lu said, “To protect Five Phoenixes, to protect our home—your current level... is far from enough.”

Zhu Long, Tantai Xuan, the Overlord, Tang Yimo, and the others’ expressions grew solemn.

Lu’s words weighed heavily on their hearts.

Indeed, the Primordial Starry Sky was so ancient, so vast. Perhaps deep within it lay worlds they couldn’t imagine—perhaps even more mature Immortal-Martial realms than Five Phoenixes!

The true crisis was still brewing.

Young Master Lu stood alone. If they didn’t grow stronger quickly, they would only hold him back.

Everyone bid Lu farewell and turned into streaks of light, returning through the passage.

Only Lu Jiulian remained, gazing at Lu with a complex expression.

The two stood silently in the starry sky.

Lu's white robes fluttered as he leaned on the Thousand-Blade Chair, saying nothing.

Lu Jiulian wore his green lotus battle attire, his brows slightly furrowed in a daze.

Suddenly, Lu smiled.

"Don't overthink it. If your heart is yours, then you... are you."

"You have flesh and blood. You have people you must protect."

Lu said.

Lu Jiulian took a deep breath. His eyes flickered. Then he bowed deeply toward Lu.

"Thank you, Young Master Lu, for your guidance."

Though Lu's words were simple, they struck straight at Lu Jiulian's heart.

Lu Jiulian might have some guesses, but...

As Lu said, he had people he needed to protect. His heart belonged to him—so naturally, he was himself.

Lu smiled and waved his hand. “Cultivate well.”

Lu Jiulian nodded.

With Shift and Swap, he returned to Five Phoenixes.

This domain ability was indeed... quite powerful. Even spatial seals couldn't stop it.

It was like instantaneous material transfer between two coordinates.

Even Lu admired this technique.

Looking back at the depths of the Primordial Starry Sky,

During the battle with the gods and demons, Lu had gained much information.

“Who is this ‘God of Elements’ the elemental god and demon spoke of? And what is this ‘Elemental Realm’ they mentioned? Is it an Immortal-Martial world within the Primordial Starry Sky?”

Lu’s eyes gleamed.

The Primordial Starry Sky was too vast, filled with ancient and majestic auras.

It was a complete, boundless universe.

Lu’s divine sense spread, feeling the endless expanse.

He didn’t probe further. He withdrew his divine sense and returned to Five Phoenixes Continent.

As for the passage mouth, Lu directly sealed it.

Upon returning, Lu needed to enter seclusion. With the Golden-Element Immortal Demon Body at perfection, he was ready to attempt fusing the Fire-Origin Immortal Demon Body.

The immense power from perfecting the Golden-Element Immortal Demon Body left Lu astonished.

If he could also complete the Fire-Origin Immortal Demon Body, perhaps... he could surpass the peak Emperor realm?

Additionally, the unexpected reward from perfecting the Golden-Element Immortal Demon Body—the qualification to comprehend the Gold-Origin Profound Meaning—Lu needed to investigate.

So he chose to seal the passage.

...

In the Nine Heavens,

Within the void rift,

An oppressive low pressure hung over every corner.

The ancient Emperors remained silent.

They had failed.

Uniting twenty Immortal-tier gods and demons to surround and kill Lu Ping'an—failed.

The Water Tribe Ancient Emperor had perished.

“Lu Ping'an... has truly matured.”

“This is trouble. The Nine Heavens can't deal with Lu Ping'an. Five Phoenixes' rise is unstoppable.”

“Another plan has failed. Can we still obtain Five Phoenixes' Dao Origin?”

The divine wills of the ancient Emperors surged, communicating.

Repeated failures had shaken their confidence.

Buzz...

Suddenly, powerful energy fluctuations erupted from the rift depths.

Just like when Fire Spirit Ancient Emperor fell, the Water Tribe Ancient Emperor gradually recovered.

“Lu Ping’an grows too fast. To deal with Five Phoenixes, we must complete our plan...”

“Only after the plan succeeds will we have a chance to devour Five Phoenixes.”

“From now on, ignore Five Phoenixes. Shift all focus to the plan.”

“Lu Ping’an has someone behind him. The gods and demons have the ‘Elemental Realm.’ The Nine Heavens has no backing—we can only rely on ourselves.”

Ancient Emperor Hao’s voice slowly emerged from the rift depths.

The ancient Emperors fell silent. Then, they all quieted.

They still remembered that Voice of the Quasi-Saint—Lu Ping’an had someone behind him.

As for the “Elemental Realm” behind the many innate gods and demons of the Primordial Starry Sky—that was an existence that made them tremble.

Perhaps... they truly needed to adjust their plans.

...

Whoosh!

Space shattered.

An ancient primordial star was blasted apart.

The Immortal-tier god and demon who had burned his soul and ignited his blood essence to escape slid through the starry sky, finally crashing onto another star to stop.

“The ancient Emperor Hao of the Nine Heavens colluded with Lu Ping’an... to scheme against us innate gods and demons!”

Twenty Immortal-tier gods and demons and hundreds of low-tier and high-tier gods and demons captured—this was a catastrophic blow to the god and demon race of the Primordial Starry Sky.

“Ancient Emperor Hao... too despicable!”

“Deceived countless gods and demons!”

“Perhaps I can use this chance to connect with the Elemental Realm! Maybe there’s still a chance to join the Elemental Realm!”

The god and demon was covered in blood, yet his eyes shone with excitement.

After resting briefly on this primordial star, he turned into a streak of light and sped away.

...

Lu returned to Heart Island.

The perfection of the Golden-Element Immortal Demon Body had elevated his strength.

But to break through the barrier and enter the Daluo Immortal realm, Lu felt he was still lacking.

Of course, he wasn’t in a hurry.

“System, what is this qualification to comprehend the Gold-Origin Profound Meaning?”

Lu sat on the pavilion, poured a cup of Heavenly Immortal Wine, took a sip, and asked.

But his question sank into silence.

The system didn't respond.

Lu wasn't surprised.

After a long while,

A system prompt appeared.

“Host has obtained qualification to comprehend the Gold-Origin Profound Meaning. Proceed with comprehension?”

Lu looked at the prompt. His brow lifted slightly as he pondered.

Five Phoenixes was temporarily stable.

With so many gods and demons as reserve resources, the Destiny Tower could operate until at least twenty Ninth Revolution Golden Immortals were nurtured.

So Lu could rest easy.

Draining the cup of Heavenly Immortal Wine, Lu slowly exhaled.

He had a feeling this Gold-Origin Profound Meaning was crucial—perhaps the key to breaking through to the Daluo Immortal realm.

So Lu didn't hesitate.

“Then comprehend it.”

Lu lightly tapped the armrest of the Thousand-Blade Chair and said.

With those words,

The system prompt before Lu dimmed.

A powerful suction force instantly pulled Lu's soul into a strange space.

Chapter 589: How Did This Person... Sneak In?

"Qualification for comprehending the Gold-Origin Profound Meaning activated."

In endless darkness, the system prompt flickered with white light. After briefly illuminating, it slowly dimmed.

Lu felt his soul being pulled by an overwhelmingly powerful force, as if traversing through time and space itself.

On Heart Island,

A gentle breeze blew.

Lu leaned back in the Thousand-Blade Chair, eyes closed, breathing softly, seemingly dozing lazily.

Below the pavilion,

Ning Zhao, Ni Yu, and Yi Yue—the three maids—looked up. They had intended to report on the Destiny Tower’s first opening, but seeing Lu asleep on the pavilion, complex emotions flickered in their eyes.

“Young Master faced twenty Immortal-tier gods and demons alone in the Primordial Starry Sky, even outwitting Ancient Emperor Hao of the Nine Heavens... He bore the entire burden of Five Phoenixes by himself.”

Ning Zhao’s white dress fluttered, her presence even more ethereal as she spoke.

“Young Master must be exhausted. Let him rest. We’ll handle the Destiny Tower properly—ensure it doesn’t trouble him.”

Yi Yue sighed softly.

Ni Yu, carrying her black pot, nodded vigorously.

As Young Master’s maids, their duty was to ease his burdens.

“Let Young Master sleep well. We’ll report when he wakes.”

Ning Zhao said.

Her gaze fell on the sleeping figure leaning against the Thousand-Blade Chair. Her red lips pursed slightly, tenderness flashing in her eyes.

With a gentle wave of her hand,

Spiritual qi wove through the air, forming a soft spiritual blanket that floated down, covering Lu.

The three exchanged glances and silently departed.

Their divine senses interwove, sealing Heart Island completely.

Divine Sense Island Sealing.

While Young Master slept, no one could disturb him.

During this time, no matter how urgent the matter, it would have to wait until he awoke.

...

The Overlord, Tang Yimo, Mi Jia, and other Five Phoenixes Golden Immortals returned.

They headed straight to the capital of the Great Xuan Divine Dynasty and entered the Destiny Tower. Since Lu said the tower could help them, they came without hesitation.

Guided by the Destiny Maiden, they selected missions tailored to enhance their strengths and entered.

Lu had divided the Destiny Tower's missions into Heaven, Earth, Black, and Yellow ranks. To access higher-level missions, lower ones had to be completed first.

This prevented reckless behavior.

Special missions were the exception.

The Overlord chose a Yellow-rank Golden Immortal mission.

Upon entering, he felt as though he had fallen into an illusion.

It was a scene of human hell.

Xijun was destroyed, reduced to scorched earth. He saw Luo Mingsang's corpse, along with the bodies of his former subordinates.

The Overlord's eyes narrowed. Though he knew it was an illusion, rage still surged within him.

A low-tier god and demon stood in the distance, wantonly destroying everything in Xijun.

"Damn beast!"

The Overlord's fury found an outlet. Demonic qi erupted as he transformed into a streak of light, charging toward the low-tier god and demon.

Boom boom boom!

The Golden Immortal missions, screened by the Destiny Maiden, were perfectly suited to each participant.

The Overlord's opponent was a low-tier god and demon specializing in speed and devastating attacks.

Against such an enemy, the Overlord was instantly at a disadvantage.

He could only passively take hits, but each blow tempered his body.

Though furious, he realized the immense benefit this god and demon provided for his training!

Not just the Overlord—

The Destiny Maiden seemed to have recorded every Five Phoenixes Golden Immortal's information, assigning low-tier god and demon opponents tailored to each.

Tang Yimo faced a low-tier god and demon equally skilled in explosive power. Their battle was a contest of endurance in unleashing power.

Sima Qingshan encountered a low-tier god and demon proficient in blade arts.

This god and demon could effortlessly slice through Sima Qingshan's painting-prison.

Mi Jia faced a low-tier god and demon with a soft, mud-like body. Her Extreme Dao Emperor Fist was severely restricted in combat, but overcoming these limitations would bring her tremendous growth.

One Golden Immortal after another trained relentlessly in the Destiny Tower.

Completing missions not only granted destiny from slain gods and demons but also points—exchangeable for destiny, treasures, and more...

For Golden Immortals, destiny was crucial, but forging imperial weapons was equally important.

With points, they could now consider crafting imperial weapons.

The Destiny Tower's mission completion rate was around thirty-something percent.

Most Heavenly Humans had broken through due to the world's transformation but lacked combat experience. The Destiny Tower filled that gap.

As time passed, completion rates would gradually rise.

Because the minimum requirement was Heavenly Human realm, cultivators below that level went mad with ambition.

They trained relentlessly, pushing their limits.

Geniuses emerged one after another, all striving to qualify for the Destiny Tower.

The entire Five Phoenixes Great World plunged into a cultivation frenzy.

And all of this...

Lu, at this moment, was completely unaware of.

...

Lu opened his eyes.

He found himself floating in a vast starry sky.

“Hm? This is... the Primordial Starry Sky?”

Lu was slightly surprised. He was familiar with the Primordial Starry Sky’s aura.

This ancient, profound presence matched it perfectly.

But this wasn’t the region near the Five Phoenixes passage.

Lu looked down and saw himself cloaked in black robes.

These robes blocked divine sense probing.

They weren't conjured by Lu—clearly prepared by the system.

“Interesting...”

“Is this ‘comprehending the Gold-Origin Profound Meaning’ just another case of the system sneaking me in?”

Lu's mouth twitched. After all, this wasn't the first time the system had done this.

In the beginning, Lu had possessed Tian Xu Gongzi—essentially sneaking into the Tian Yuan Domain...

But Lu quickly calmed down.

He was used to it.

He accepted.

Only then did Lu raise his head and look deep into the starry sky.

“Huh?”

Lu’s brow furrowed.

Following his gaze, he clearly saw, far in the depths, an enormous statue radiating profound mystery.

Lu narrowed his eyes. With just a blurry glance, he felt an odd daze.

“This is the Gold-Origin Profound Meaning?”

Lu took a deep breath.

His black-robed figure moved, shooting forward.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh!

As he approached the massive statue,

Lu noticed intense soul fluctuations around him. One soul after another transformed into streaks of light, speeding past.

Clearly, he wasn't the only soul here.

These beings weren't all human—some were gods and demons, others strange beasts...

But without exception, their auras were incredibly powerful.

At least Great Emperor-level soul strength!

Some even made Lu wary—like terrifying soul storms!

“Peak Emperor-level souls can reach such terrifying intensity?”

Lu narrowed his eyes.

His current divine sense was at the eleventh layer of Qi Refining—not yet at its peak.

Yet compared to many here, it was weaker.

“Where... exactly is this place?”

Lu grew curious. Just where had the system sent him?

Deep in the Primordial Starry Sky?

Lu felt oddly excited.

He didn't know what to do next. He simply followed the others, speeding toward the massive statue.

As he drew closer, he finally saw it clearly.

It was an enormous beast statue—lifelike, pure gold, as if not a statue but a real golden beast towering in the starry sky, radiating profound mystery.

The beast raised its claw in a forward-sweeping motion.

As if it could shatter an entire universe—no existence could block this claw.

Lu watched for a moment. His mind seemed drawn in by the claw.

He felt as if it would fall at any moment and crush him.

But Lu sensed danger. He abruptly closed his eyes, severing his gaze. His soul fluctuated violently.

“Oh? He actually escaped the statue’s influence on his own?”

Many mocking gazes turned toward Lu, now tinged with surprise.

“He must be a newcomer. Anyone who dares look directly at the statue is courting death...”

“The comprehension conference is about to begin. The statue’s profound energy will stabilize and spread in ordered waves. Only then can comprehension start. Looking directly before that will tear your soul apart with the terrifying Gold-Origin Profound Meaning.”

“Escaping forcibly means his soul strength is quite strong...”

Murmurs rose around him.

Soon, attention shifted away. Such incidents were common.

Lu calmed himself and observed his surroundings. He saw many souls shattering—those who stared at the statue and were torn apart by its power.

Lu narrowed his eyes.

So domineering!

A little terrifying.

Perhaps Lu's forceful escape caught some attention, recognizing his potential.

"Don't go any further. Find a nearby primordial star to settle on. Only on a star can you comprehend stably."

"The closer stars are already occupied by powerhouses. We can't compare to them."

Someone warned Lu.

Lu, cloaked in black robes, looked ahead.

Indeed, the closer to the statue, the more stars were occupied.

Each star hosted a figure.

Their auras were powerful—peak Emperor, Immortal-tier god and demon level.

Even closer—within the first hundred stars—were soul auras that made Lu wary and uneasy. Even from millions of miles away, their terrifying soul power was palpable.

“Who are those on the first hundred stars?”

Lu asked curiously.

“You don’t know? Only those qualified for comprehension can enter this area... and you don’t know them?”

The questioned powerhouse looked at Lu in disbelief.

Lu smiled and casually bullshitted.

“The first hundred stars are basically occupied by top powerhouses from the Five Elemental Realms. The five closest stars belong to the personal disciples of the Five Elemental Gods!”

The powerhouse spoke with some wariness.

“Five Elemental Gods?!”

Lu narrowed his eyes. When the golden elemental god and demon died, it had mentioned the God of Elements.

“So there are five Elemental Gods.”

Lu had thought there was only one.

“Judging by your soul aura, you’re human, right? Heh... interesting. Human Immortal-Martial worlds in the Primordial Starry Sky are rare under the oppression of the Elemental Realm’s gods and demons. Yet you still managed to get a comprehension slot.”

The powerhouse smiled meaningfully, then flew off to claim a nearby unoccupied life star.

Lu pondered.

The powerhouse’s words revealed that there were still many human Immortal-Martial worlds in the Primordial Starry Sky.

But very few.

Under the oppression of the Elemental Realm’s gods and demons, they were nearly extinct.

This reminded Lu of Five Phoenixes’ and the Nine Heavens’ experiences.

In Heavenly Spirit Ancient Emperor’s memories, the Nine Heavens had once been glorious, nearly qualifying for Immortal-Martial ascension.

But then came the god and demon calamity, destroying their chance.

Lu found an unoccupied life star and settled on it.

He didn't go toward the first hundred stars. Though the comprehension conditions there would be better,

With his apparent "sneaked-in" slot from the system, Lu didn't dare act too boldly.

The soul strength of those in the first hundred stars was no weaker than his.

Some could even easily suppress him.

And the five disciples of the Elemental Gods on the closest stars...

They were terrifying.

Likely Daluo Immortal-level powerhouses.

Of course, their strength had nothing to do with Lu. Cloaked in black robes, he kept an extremely low profile.

Lu caused no trouble, made no noise, and sat in meditation.

The surrounding area was deathly silent. Each star was quite far apart.

It seemed to form distinct stellar zones.

First five-star zone, first ten-star zone, first fifty, first hundred...

Each zone differed, with aura strength decreasing in steps.

Lu's zone had many stars.

The atmosphere was harmonious. Even when conflicts arose, they were just harsh words—no major fights.

“Probably because fighting would cause violent fluctuations in the Golden-Origin Statue...”

Lu lifted his face beneath the black robes, gazing at the massive statue, eyes narrowing.

He vaguely sensed that if battle fluctuations erupted, the Golden-Origin Statue might release even more terrifying killing intent.

Lu probed the system, but it seemed completely gone—no response.

In other words, here, Lu had no assistance.

He didn't even know how to leave.

Roar!

Suddenly,

A terrifying roar echoed faintly between heaven and earth.

The sound boomed, vast and overwhelming.

Lu felt dazed. Before this roar, he felt like a speck of dust, easily shattered.

“It's starting! The comprehension session begins!”

“This time, I must condense an Origin Sea at least a thousand miles wide!”

“I wonder which of the Five Elemental Gods’ disciples will stand out and receive the statue’s inheritance.”

The chatter gradually quieted.

Lu also calmed his mind.

Buzz buzz buzz...

Vaguely,

The massive statue stabilized.

As the beastly roar faded,

Golden light rapidly retracted...

Until it condensed to its extreme, like a calm stone dropping into a vast lake.

A colossal ripple erupted.

Waves of golden energy spread outward.

This golden ripple was the profound energy released by the statue!

Lu narrowed his eyes.

He could clearly see

The five disciples of the Elemental Gods on the closest stars tremble slightly. They were the first struck by the golden profound ripple, entering a state of comprehension.

As they comprehended, golden ripples gathered above their heads, forming Origin Seas.

Boom!

The golden profound ripple expanded outward.

Like waves spreading.

Everyone breathed rapidly, hurriedly entering comprehension.

As they comprehended, golden profound ripples lingered above them, converging like tiny streams.

“So this is how profound meaning comprehension works?”

“Quite interesting.”

“It seems to test pure talent! Pure talent alone...”

Lu’s eyes flickered.

Throughout his growth, Lu had relied on the system’s Qi Refining upgrades.

He had never truly tested his own talent.

This time, he could finally feel how talented he really was.

So this time, Lu got serious.

Boom!

Finally, the golden profound ripple surged past the first hundred stars, thinning slightly but continuing to spread, covering everyone in the outermost zones.

Lu was also struck.

In that instant...

It felt like icy water splashing over him in the bitter cold of winter!

His soul froze instantly!

Before Lu's eyes, only golden light remained!

He entered comprehension.

...

After Lu entered comprehension,

The entire area fell into dead silence. Everyone was immersed in the golden profound ripple.

As time passed, the golden profound ripple stabilized.

In the void, six figures slowly coalesced.

All six were vague humanoid shapes. Five were blue, red, yellow, gold, and green. The sixth was faint white.

Their auras were incredibly powerful. Their wills clashed, causing the area to tremble.

“This time’s comprehension session—unexpectedly, humans came too... Your human race is already so weak. Why bother joining?”

The golden figure spoke to the white figure.

“The Beast Ancestor Statue releases profound ripples once every ten million years. The one who condenses the largest Origin Sea will receive the Beast Ancestor’s special Gold-Origin inheritance... Your human race is utterly hopeless at comprehension. Has any human ever condensed an Origin Sea over ten thousand miles wide? Why come and embarrass yourselves again?”

The words echoed.

Yet the white figure remained silent.

The other figures lost interest. Their gazes shifted downward.

The white figure swept its gaze across the area.

The Elemental Gods were right—humans were indeed terrible at comprehending profound meanings.

This time, only nine human powerhouses had come, but they were the ones he had placed hope in.

Of course, he knew the hope was slim.

Yet he still held onto it. The human race needed someone to stand up and break the current situation.

Suddenly,

The white figure's eyes shrank. Its gaze fell on a black-robed figure seated on a star.

"Human soul aura?"

"This time, humans only sent nine... How did this tenth one sneak in?"

Chapter 590: This Guy... Is He Cheating?

What the hell is a human doing here?

There's no way someone without qualification could have entered this zone.

The white figure was genuinely puzzled. In the ancient starry void where gods and demons reigned supreme, humans barely clung to survival. Just being here to comprehend the mysteries was already a rare privilege.

He had only managed to secure nine slots for humanity, carefully screened to give his race the best possible chance at grasping the profound mysteries of the Gold Origin. Those nine spots had been painstakingly arranged.

And yet... somehow, there was a tenth human.

“The tenth human...”

Although the white figure couldn't make out the face, something felt off.

He glanced toward the Elemental Gods. Could these bastards have finally grown a conscience and granted humanity an extra slot?

“Impossible.”

The gods and demons of the Elemental Realm had always done everything in their power to squeeze humanity's living space. Countless human immortal-martial worlds had been destroyed. Countless peak martial artists on the verge of becoming immortals had their foundations shattered.

All of it orchestrated by these very gods and demons.

So the idea that they would suddenly show mercy and grant an extra slot was absurd.

Still, no matter the reason, this was good news for humanity.

“At least one more person means one more sliver of hope.”

The white figure gave a faint smile, staying silent. He neither exposed nor questioned the intruder.

It seemed the Elemental Gods hadn't even noticed the extra human among them.

Watching the gods chatting and chuckling among themselves, the white figure allowed himself a rare moment of lightness.

But even as he smiled, he knew the truth: even with one more person, it would still be incredibly difficult for humanity to stand out in this comprehension of the Gold Origin mysteries.

Rumble—

Ripples of Gold Origin essence spread outward like waves crashing on a beach. The entire area felt like a vast shoreline. Each powerhouse seated cross-legged on their ancient star became a depression in the sand, gathering the flowing essence into their own sea.

The pattern was obvious.

The closer one sat to the statue, the faster the sea of mysteries gathered and expanded.

Everyone understood the harsh reality.

The true victors would almost certainly be decided among the top hundred ancient stars.

Those were the prime positions for comprehension.

Especially the top five stars, occupied by the favored disciples of the Elemental Gods.

The seas of mysteries above their heads had already reached diameters of a thousand miles—completely dominating everyone else.

And the gap was still widening.

The qualified powerhouses knew this too. None of them harbored delusions of competing directly with the gods' disciples.

Overpowering those who had both the best environment and the best talent to seize the statue's ultimate inheritance? Impossible.

They had only come to absorb what they could, to integrate a bit of the Gold Origin essence into their own offensive divine abilities and boost their power.

After all, the Gold Origin essence excelled at enhancing destructive force.

In the void.

The conversation among the Elemental Gods gradually died down.

They narrowed their eyes, watching their disciples intently.

Though they were on friendly terms, competition still existed.

And even for them, the inheritance contained within the statue was incredibly tempting.

Unfortunately, they themselves were far beyond the qualification range.

Their strength was too overwhelming. If they tried to comprehend it by force, the statue would unleash a terrifying backlash beyond imagination.

So they placed their hopes on their disciples. Once every ten million years came this chance, yet across hundreds of cycles, no one had ever obtained the statue's highest inheritance.

The white figure remained silent.

The Elemental Gods had stopped mocking him for now. His gaze fell upon one particular star among the top hundred—the one occupied by humanity’s most gifted prodigy, the only human who had secured a place there.

This was humanity’s hope.

Rumble!

A terrifying beastly roar seemed to explode through the void.

“The first wave of essence ripples has ended,” the blue Elemental God announced.

Everyone’s eyes shifted downward, landing on the seas of mysteries above the heads of the top five prodigies.

“Each sea is roughly fifteen thousand miles in diameter... the differences are negligible.”

The five Elemental Gods exchanged faint smiles.

Then their gazes turned toward humanity's prodigy.

"But only eight hundred miles... Humans really are as foolish as ever. They're simply not suited for this mystery."

"Wasting a precious slot again."

"Every cycle they refuse to give up. Next time, let's just eliminate humanity's slots entirely."

Their words dripped with mockery, clearly aimed at the white figure.

But the white figure said nothing.

When one is weak, even breathing is a mistake.

Still, he couldn't help but feel disappointed. The one hope he had pinned everything on... had failed again.

He hadn't truly expected this prodigy to suppress the gods and demons of the Elemental Realm and claim the top spot.

He had only hoped for a decent showing—something that could at least keep pace with their disciples' seas.

But perhaps humans truly had no talent for the Gold Origin mysteries.

Among the top hundred, humanity's prodigy was dead last.

"Don't rush," one of the Elemental Gods chuckled. "There are ten waves in total. Humanity still has a chance to struggle."

"How else will they learn what true despair feels like?"

"Hahaha..."

The taunting laughter echoed.

It felt as though they were deliberately trying to provoke the white figure.

But he remained unmoved, completely ignoring them—as if they were nothing more than air.

Yet his eyes had dimmed considerably, the light within them fading.

If only they could obtain the inheritance, perhaps humanity would have a chance to reverse their desperate situation and break free from the Elemental Realm's encirclement.

But alas... humans really seemed to have no aptitude for this.

...

Bathed in endless golden light, Lu actually felt a strange sense of comfort.

Though the light carried an aura of ultimate destruction and annihilation, overwhelmingly powerful, it didn't harm the body at all.

Instead, it felt warm—like sunlight soaking into the skin.

Bit by bit, it was absorbed into his soul.

Vaguely, Lu seemed to see a golden behemoth being born on a life-bearing star.

Then joyfully playing and frolicking across its surface...

Everything was peaceful and harmonious.

A perfectly natural cycle of life.

The corner of Lu's mouth lifted slightly.

He began gathering his own sea of mysteries. As the golden ripples flowed past him, he absorbed them carefully, forming a golden ocean above his head.

Unlike the others, Lu wasn't in a hurry. He even moved with a trace of caution, as though these wisps of Gold Origin essence were timid little spirits—one wrong move and they'd scatter in fright.

So compared to everyone else, his sea gathered slowly.

...

A deafening beastly roar shook the entire ancient starry void.

A vast surge of golden energy ripples erupted from the statue.

Compared to the first wave, this one felt different—stronger, more violent...

Hum—

The top five prodigies momentarily held their breath. Then, gritting their teeth against the impact that threatened to knock them over, they began absorbing the new wave, expanding their seas.

The further along it went, the harder it became to expand the sea, because the ripples now carried traces of the statue's will.

The more one gathered early on, the stronger the foundation—and the better the chance of expanding further later.

The second wave ended.

It felt like a storm had swept through.

Looking around, the scene was one of devastation.

The top hundred prodigies had managed to hold steady, their seas intact.

But beyond the top hundred, many had their seas shattered by the second wave.

They tumbled across their stars, jolted out of their meditative state.

Many felt regret. Many felt unwilling.

But their seas were gone—they had lost the right to continue.

Of course, while some failed, others endured.

Still, compared to the top hundred, far more had been eliminated.

In the void.

The white figure let out a soft sigh.

Including the intruder, humanity had sent ten participants this time.

And the second wave alone had eliminated five of them.

Though the prodigy on the top hundred star had held on, the white figure could no longer see any hope.

Suddenly, something caught his attention.

“This intruder... actually survived the second wave?”

After a moment of surprise, he glanced at the intruder’s sea.

His eyes flickered.

Because that sea... had reached a diameter of three thousand miles!

But the light in his eyes quickly dimmed again.

“Not bad talent. If I’d known, I would’ve arranged a spot in the top hundred. But being outside that range, the position is too poor. There’s almost no chance now...”

After another glance, he looked away, turning his gaze back to humanity's prodigy—who had finally reached a sea of five thousand miles.

The atmosphere was growing tense.

Those whose seas had been destroyed by the waves didn't leave. They remained seated on their stars, watching the others continue.

Most eyes were fixed on the top five prodigies.

They clicked their tongues in admiration.

After the second wave, those five had likely reached seas of twenty-five thousand miles!

Truly worthy of being the prized disciples of the Elemental Gods.

Even if they couldn't obtain the statue's inheritance, the level of comprehension they had already achieved was enough to derive incredibly powerful offensive techniques from the Gold Origin essence.

The world fell silent.

Everyone watched this silent contest unfold.

Finally, the second wave ended. The third wave began to surge.

Once again, many were swept away.

Seas collapsed and vanished into the starry void.

Even among the top hundred, some failed.

But that was normal; the figures in the void paid it little attention.

The white figure was focused on humanity's prodigy.

The others watched their own disciples.

Wave after wave of essence ripples spread, each one stronger than the last, growing more terrifying—as though the giant beast within the statue was growing increasingly agitated.

And with each wave, the amount the prodigies could absorb decreased.

The further it went, the harder expansion became.

...

After bathing in enough essence ripples, Lu felt as though his very soul had been refined and elevated.

The next moment, his mind shifted.

He activated the Indestructible Golden Body in soul form.

The instant he did—

It was as though his body became a massive vortex, frantically pulling in and devouring the free-floating essence energy drifting through the void.

His sea of mysteries began expanding at terrifying speed.

While everyone else's expansion slowed to a trickle...

Lu's was growing exponentially.

First wave: one thousand miles.

Second wave: three thousand miles.

Third wave: five thousand miles.

Fourth wave: ten thousand miles...

While others gathered less and less, Lu gathered more and more.

His sea expanded faster and faster.

...

"Sigh."

The white figure let out a breath.

When the fifth wave spread—

The human prodigy on the top hundred star trembled violently. His sea shattered. Unable to withstand the statue's pressure any longer, he tumbled across his star, losing all right to continue.

Failure.

The white figure felt a pang of pain.

"Hahaha... Humans really are hopeless. They couldn't even last past the fifth wave."

"Taking up one of the top hundred spots with that kind of performance? What a waste of a perfect spot."

"Humans don't deserve this kind of opportunity."

The Elemental Gods had noticed too. Their mocking voices rang out.

The white figure, already in a foul mood, swept an icy glance at the five gods.

“Shut up.”

Boom!

A terrifying, oppressive aura erupted from him.

But the Elemental Gods seemed to have been waiting for this moment, as though goading him into attacking.

The white figure’s aura fluctuated. He gave the golden statue a wary glance and forcibly restrained himself.

Had all of humanity’s participants failed?

His gaze swept across the field.

Suddenly, his pupils shrank.

He looked toward the black-robed intruder.

And what he saw...

Above that black-robed figure's head, the golden sea of mysteries swirled—

Vast. Stable.

“Fifth wave... eighteen thousand miles in diameter?”

“This... how is this possible?!”

Unbelievable!

If he remembered correctly, the first time he looked at this black-robed figure, the sea had only been three thousand miles.

By the logic of the previous waves, there was no way it could have reached eighteen thousand miles.

Is this guy cheating?

And he wasn't the only one who noticed.

Many powerhouses on nearby stars had also seen it.

After all, in a field full of failures, the one still calmly expanding his sea stood out like a sore thumb!

"Is that... a human?"

"Everyone else's sea shrinks with each wave, but his keeps growing?!"

"This doesn't make sense... Humans can't possibly have this kind of talent!"

...

Amid the growing clamor.

Countless gazes turned toward Lu.

There was heat. There was envy.

This must be what it's like when a prodigy finally appears from the slums.

Because right now, Lu's sea of mysteries had already reached the level of many in the top hundred.

Though still far from the top five.

But this was already a miracle.

In the void.

The Elemental Gods noticed as well. They exchanged glances.

"A human?"

"Impossible... How could a human have such talent?"

“It’s only eighteen thousand miles. Still far behind our disciples. This is probably the peak of what this human can do. The next wave will shatter his sea.”

Their voices were calm.

Though surprised, they weren’t overly worried.

But the white figure’s heart surged with excitement. The despair he had felt earlier was replaced by a new spark of hope.

Though... he knew the odds were slim.

Lu’s position was terrible—far outside the top hundred.

But even so, the white figure’s heart pounded.

After all... wasn’t humanity the race that lived to create miracles?

Boom!

Another beastly roar. The massive statue seemed to tremble.

Almost alive.

The essence ripples it unleashed grew even more terrifying, like a golden hurricane!

Muffled grunts came from the top five prodigies.

Their seas fluctuated violently.

The sixth wave.

Their expansion had slowed dramatically.

But the gap between them remained tiny—all five hovered around forty thousand miles.

“It’s growing! Growing again!”

“Reverse growth again?! Is this human a monster?”

“What terrifying talent!”

Whispers spread. Shock rippled through every heart.

Even the powerhouse who had once explained things to Lu was dumbfounded.

He never imagined Lu could do this.

Originally eighteen thousand miles, after enduring the sixth wave, Lu’s sea had surged to thirty-two thousand miles!

It had increased!

While everyone else weakened, one person was growing stronger... How could that not shock the world?

And most importantly...

Lu was seated outside the top hundred.

In the worst possible environment!

Yet in that terrible position, he had forcefully surpassed many of the top hundred prodigies.

Slowly closing in on the top five.

Breathing grew heavier.

The atmosphere grew heavier still.

Everyone stared at what came next...

Vaguely, they felt they might be about to witness a true miracle.

The white figure's eyes blazed.

He stared at the black-robed figure, wanting to probe deeper, but discovered that even his soul power couldn't penetrate the robe.

“Is this child... a disciple of some saint?”

Lu’s aura wasn’t particularly strong—only at the Extreme Emperor realm—yet he could block the white figure’s investigation. That was the only explanation.

Even the Elemental Gods grew tense.

They hadn’t expected a dark horse to emerge from humanity!

The seventh wave surged!

This time, the storm was even more terrifying.

The golden ripples seemed to take the form of a massive golden claw, thick with profound power.

Puff!

Seas collapsed one after another.

Muffled groans echoed across the top hundred stars.

One prodigy after another failed, unable to withstand the pressure, falling at the seventh wave.

But the top five... still held on.

Their seas reached forty-three thousand miles!

Their growth had slowed dramatically!

But at least they had endured the statue's pressure and still managed to grow.

Yet at this moment, no one was looking at them.

Not even the Elemental Gods.

All eyes were fixed on the black-robed figure seated alone on an ordinary, forgotten star outside the top hundred.

Above his head, the sea of mysteries surged...

It had reached forty-two thousand miles!

Though the rate of increase had slowed... it had still grown by ten thousand miles from the previous wave!

Terrifying!

Most importantly...

This human's sea was now only one thousand miles behind the top five disciples of the Elemental Gods!

That was what set everyone's blood boiling!

The white figure almost laughed out loud!

He never dreamed that, after giving up all hope, such an unexpected joy would arrive!

Could he actually overtake them?!

The white figure was filled with anticipation.

The five Elemental Gods, however, had ice-cold expressions.

At this point, even they began to feel uneasy...

They tried to probe Lu, only to be blocked by the black robe—just as the white figure had been.

The same thought flashed through their minds.

“The eighth wave!”

Whispers rose again.

Everyone’s breathing quickened.

Suddenly.

The world seemed to fall into absolute silence.

Even the Elemental Gods and the white figure felt an overwhelming pressure—the terrifying might radiating from the statue.

The giant statue seemed to truly come alive.

Its gaze swept across star after star, landing on the few beings still withstanding its pressure.

Perhaps it felt its authority being challenged.

The next instant.

A golden ripple of essence surged forth.

It took the form of the golden statue itself—leaping out with astonishing agility!

Puff!

Cracks seemed to appear on the top five stars.

The five prodigies swayed. They struggled desperately against the crushing pressure of the entire statue bearing down on them.

But after a moment...

They couldn't hold!

Their seas ultimately stopped at forty-three thousand miles...

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The next moment, all five seas shattered.

Their bodies tumbled across their stars.

Rubble rolled.

The five prized disciples of the Elemental Gods calmly rose to their feet.

Across the distance, they exchanged glances—eyes full of rivalry.

Though their masters were close, here they were competitors, each representing their own master.

Still, they all knew the gap between them was minimal.

Unfortunately, they hadn't endured the eighth wave to reach the ninth.

Of course, they were still quite satisfied with forty-three thousand miles. The eighth wave was already impressive.

But soon, they froze.

They had finished so long ago... yet no one seemed to be paying attention to them?

As though realizing something, they turned.

And saw, beyond the top hundred stars...

A black-robed figure still seated in meditation.

Above his head, the sea of mysteries roared...

He was still comprehending?!