

## Starlit Path 611

Chapter 611: You Are Big Sister's Favorite Little Brother!

Rumble rumble!

The colossal statue, as if piercing through the entire small world of the comprehension ground, erupted with deafening roars.

Vast mystery ripples overflowed like spilling water, constantly shaking and splashing outward.

The statue began to shrink, as though it had lost an entire layer of thickness.

Yet compared to before, it remained incomprehensibly massive.

Bai Qingniao ended her comprehension. With the mystery sea above her head, her eyes lit up.

She had only grumbled a casual complaint—yet the Beast Ancestor statue actually shrank?

Pursing her red lips, her eyes curved into crescents.

Tilting her head back, basket on her back, she gazed at the statue and smiled sweetly.

This change in the Beast Ancestor statue naturally drew the attention of all powerhouses.

Everyone's hearts jolted.

The Beast Ancestor statue's status was supremely exalted, containing the primordial chaos mysteries of the ancient starry void. Thus, it was under constant scrutiny.

Now, with such a transformation, it naturally shocked all the powerhouses.

"Why did the Beast Ancestor statue shrink?"

"What happened? The Beast Ancestor statue is a supreme object—it shouldn't change so easily..."

"Could someone have activated it?"

Murmurs echoed incessantly.

The heaven-god rank god-demon overseeing the comprehension ground swept his divine soul toward the statue in an instant.

He saw a graceful young woman seated beneath the statue, tilting her head and smiling sweetly up at it.

In that moment, the overseeing heaven-god rank god-demon froze.

“How... did this girl appear beneath the statue?”

“A human girl—how could she cross the vast fire seas so quickly?”

“What are those god-demons doing? Are they all useless? Ignoring such an obvious human genius?”

The heaven-god rank god-demon was furious. This was a major incident.

But the more he looked, the more shocked he became.

Because above the girl’s head, the mystery sea vortex had already reached fifty thousand li in diameter!

The god-demon fell silent.

He had thought the human fiend Lu Jiulian was the most talented this time. Yet unexpectedly, this human girl displayed unprecedented talent.

“Fifty thousand li... and this is only after the third wave of mystery ripples.”

The heaven-god rank god-demon felt immense pressure.

Most importantly, this girl had already reached the Beast Ancestor statue.

According to his estimation, even the most talented great-path rank god-demon—ignoring everything and rushing straight—would need until around the fifth wave of mystery ripples to reach the statue.

Yet this human girl arrived so quickly.

“This is a disaster.”

“Humanity is truly rising!”

The god-demon murmured. Staring at the seated girl, a strong urge surged within him—to strike and kill her immediately.

But after thinking it over, he held back.

“Better report this to the Elemental Gods and let them decide.”

The heaven-god rank god-demon sighed.

This comprehension ground was increasingly slipping beyond the god-demons’ control.

...

In the void.

Tonggu’s expression was grim. His breathing quickened slightly, his face darkened as he awaited news.

He could already imagine what would happen next.

With Lu Jiulian displaying such talent, the god-demons would never let him live. They would surely dispatch great-path rank god-demons to hunt him down.

Though Lu Jiulian could kill sixteen immortal-rank god-demons, against great-path rank... he was likely still lacking.

The outcome was obvious. After all, the Five Phoenix had already produced one monstrous prodigy in Lu Ping'an.

The Elemental Gods also wore cold expressions.

The atmosphere was strange.

Tonggu felt he couldn't lose momentum. After all, Lu Jiulian had created such a perfect opportunity to mess with their mentality.

So Tonggu straightened his robes, preparing to speak.

But before he could,

a powerful divine soul fluctuation arrived.

The scene before everyone shifted.

Dots of light flickered.

Tonggu held his breath, staring at the screen. Sixteen white lights remained—he exhaled in relief.

Clearly, during the third wave of mystery ripples, no more human geniuses had fallen.

Instead, god-demons seemed to have lost quite a few brilliant lights.

Tonggu's breathing quickened.

Something big had happened!

The heaven-god rank god-demon returned. His divine soul fluctuation carried hesitation—he seemed unsure how to report.

“Speak!”

The Fire Elemental God's face grew even darker. The screen showed far fewer elite god-demons—he felt a pang in his heart.

Those qualified to enter the comprehension ground were elite god-demons. Humanity couldn't afford losses, and neither could he.

"Human Extreme Emperor Bai Qingniao... has already reached beneath the Beast Ancestor statue."

After a long silence, the heaven-god rank god-demon spoke.

His words stunned everyone present.

What?!

Even the experienced Elemental Gods revealed disbelief.

"Impossible... the third wave of mystery ripples just ended. How could someone reach the Beast Ancestor statue already?"

The Fire Elemental God declared flatly.

This defied common sense.

Tonggu had been ready to enjoy the show, but upon hearing this, his shock was impossible to hide. In his agitation, he accidentally yanked out a clump of his own beard.

Bai Qingniao?

The girl who carried the basket of chicks?

Tonggu's expression remained unchanged, but inside he was in turmoil.

"This chicken-raising girl is actually so good at covert infiltration?!"

Tonggu's heart was overjoyed.

Arriving beneath the Beast Ancestor statue so early—what did that mean?

It meant receiving vast mystery ripple baptisms, gathering an even larger mystery sea, comprehending far more mysteries!

As expected, the scene shifted—showing Bai Qingniao seated beneath the Beast Ancestor statue.

Above her head, a mystery sea vortex reached fifty thousand li in diameter.

Boom!

The Fire Elemental God's terrifying aura erupted. Space around him shattered continuously, spatial turbulence raging wildly.

"Fifty thousand li..."

The Fire Elemental God's heart shook.

But the next moment, killing intent surged.

Humanity had always been mediocre in mystery comprehension. Yet unexpectedly, in this comprehension ground, they displayed such excellence!

First Lu Jiulian, now Bai Qingniao...

"Wait..."

“Look at the chicks beside this girl!”

Suddenly, the Gold Elemental God frowned.

The Elemental Gods paused, shifting their gaze. Then their auras surged again.

Because above the nine chicks’ heads, mystery sea vortices had appeared!

And the mystery seas of these nine chicks were continuously being drawn out and merging into Bai Qingniao’s mystery sea...

“Her chicks are helping her comprehend mysteries?”

Tonggu shuddered and—once again—accidentally plucked out a tuft of his beard.

What kind of operation was this?!

Raising chicks should be like Bai Qingniao!

“And... the casualty report for this wave.”

The heaven-god rank god-demon's voice was somewhat hoarse. He hesitated whether to speak.

He felt that if he reported this, the Fire Elemental God... might explode.

After all, the Fire Elemental God had just lost his prized disciple Qiang Huo. Now... another disciple, Fire Eye, was dead.

Losing two prized disciples in such short succession.

The Fire Elemental God might go mad.

He might suspect he was cursed to lose disciples.

"Speak!"

The Fire Elemental God was already on the verge of exploding.

"Human Extreme Emperor Lu Jiulian killed... four great-path rank god-demons."

The heaven-god rank god-demon spoke.

His words fell.

The entire void fell deathly silent.

Even Tonggu fell silent.

“Impossible...”

Tonggu was the first to shout.

“You’re slandering us! You filthy liars—fabricating battle reports to frame our human prodigy?”

Tonggu shouted furiously, eyes glaring.

“Though I’m on humanity’s side, even I can’t stand this. How could a mere human Extreme Emperor kill four great-path rank god-demons? You god-demons are too vicious—using four great-path rank god-demons to frame our human Extreme Emperor?”

Tonggu's voice echoed through the void.

The Elemental Gods' mouths twitched.

The Fire Elemental God felt Tonggu's words like an extremely sharp dagger stabbing into his chest and twisting mercilessly.

His mentality... seemed on the verge of collapse.

And the heaven-god rank god-demon nearly spat blood.

This shameless Tonggu!

Framing your sister!

Using four great-path rank god-demons' lives to frame one human Extreme Emperor?

Are you insane?!

“Old Fire, you’re wrong. Someone must be framing our human prodigy Lu Jiulian. I know Lu Jiulian—he’s delicate, can’t lift heavy things, can’t carry burdens. A total weakling.”

Tonggu earnestly advised.

Humanity suffered no losses while four great-path rank god-demons died. Tonggu’s heart immediately became lively.

The Fire Elemental God’s eyes blazed with killing intent.

“Shut up... or I’ll kill you!”

“Alas, Old Fire, that’s not right. Oh? One of the dead great-path rank god-demons is Fire Eye, your disciple... sigh, truly tragic. I don’t know what to say to comfort you.”

“Anyway, same old words...”

“The dead cannot be revived. Don’t grieve too much. Condolences.”

Tonggu chattered on.

The Fire Elemental God nearly lost control of his aura. A palm strike shattered the void inch by inch.

Tonggu smiled. His whisk swept, slicing the space before him. The Fire Elemental God's attack was severed before it could approach.

And the heaven-god rank god-demon displayed the scene.

In the image,

Lu Jiulian sheathed the Azure Lotus Sword with a calm, melancholic expression.

His body was bloodstained, yet he stood tall and slender—somewhat dashing.

Paired with Dantai Xuan's shocked reaction and the four great-path rank god-demons' corpses, the scene was quite impactful.

Most importantly, after Lu harvested the four great-path rank god-demons' mystery seas and fed them into Lu Jiulian's,

Lu Jiulian's mystery sea skyrocketed.

From thirty thousand li in diameter, it reached fifty thousand li...

Outside the screen.

Tonggu drew a deep breath.

He wanted to keep taunting, to draw the Elemental Gods' hatred.

But...

It was exhausting.

His taunting speed couldn't keep up with how fast Lu Jiulian and Bai Qingniao's mystery seas were growing.

"Another fifty thousand li... haha, humanity truly produces monstrous prodigies."

The Fire Elemental God suddenly stopped being angry. He smiled at Tonggu.

He waved his hand, dismissing the heaven-god rank god-demon.

But Tonggu's eyes narrowed.

Because this action from the Fire Elemental God could be summarized in two words: "making arrangements."

Arranging what?

Naturally—arranging for Lu Jiulian and Bai Qingniao...

Tonggu felt the time was almost right... to start acting.

...

In the comprehension ground.

When news spread that four more great-path rank god-demons had died at Lu Jiulian's hands,

both humans and god-demons were utterly shocked.

Those were four great-path rank god-demons...

How did they die so quietly at Lu Jiulian's hands?

The human fiend's reputation was truly extraordinary.

The god-demons' vigilance toward Lu Jiulian grew even stronger.

Dantai Xuan and Lu Jiulian finished processing the four great-path rank god-demons' corpses—taking the vital parts and storing them—then each began hurrying on their way.

Because they also learned that Bai Qingniao had already reached the Beast Ancestor statue.

This news made them exchange glances and immediately accelerate.

After all, if they were too slow and god-demons arrived first, Bai Qingniao would face great danger.

After all, Bai Qingniao didn't have Lu Jiulian's dream-killing abilities!

And the god-demons also received news that Bai Qingniao had appeared beneath the Beast Ancestor statue.

In the next moment, they went completely mad.

The god-demons ignored the human fiend Lu Jiulian and rushed toward the Beast Ancestor statue—toward the center of the small world—under the heaven-god rank god-demon’s guidance.

Human Heavenly Emperor Luo Yang’s eyes blazed with brilliant light.

“I never expected Lady Bai to be so outstanding... already reaching the world center, beneath the Beast Ancestor statue!”

“We must hurry and protect Lady Bai!”

In the human camp, many powerhouses shouted.

Then the human geniuses turned into streaks of light and rushed toward the central region.

...

Little Red Dragon opened his eyes. He had broken through to Golden Immortal.

Exhaling turbid air.

Suddenly.

He felt a tearing sound above his head.

Little Red Dragon frowned and dove into the fire sea.

Boom!

Space tore open.

An immortal-rank god-demon narrowed his eyes. “Did something just flash through the fire sea?”

“The aura was very weak—only initial-rank god-demon level...”

“Seems to be someone from the human camp.”

This immortal-rank god-demon said.

Another immortal-rank god-demon frowned.

“Forget it. Let’s hurry to the Beast Ancestor statue. I heard a human got there first...”

But the first god-demon shook his head. A sharp glint flashed in his eyes.

“You go ahead. I’ll search for this little loach.”

The other immortal-rank god-demon didn’t waste words. He immediately rushed toward the world center.

In the fire sea.

Little Red Dragon, suppressing his aura, cursed inwardly.

He had been so low-key—yet he was still targeted?!

Did they really think he, Little Red Dragon, was easy to bully?

Well... as a newly advanced Golden Immortal, he was indeed easy to bully.

Boom!

This immortal-rank god-demon descended. Terrifying aura suppressed the surrounding flames.

“Come out!”

The immortal-rank god-demon roared. A palm slammed down.

The fire sea surged, erupting into massive flaming waves.

Little Red Dragon’s expression changed instantly. The indiscriminate shockwave struck him.

Puff!

The power of this elite immortal-rank god-demon was immense.

Little Red Dragon was gravely injured.

Transforming into his red dragon form, scales oozing blood, he frantically swam deeper into the fire sea.

“Trying to escape?”

The immortal-rank god-demon sneered coldly.

“If I can’t deal with the human fiend Lu Jiulian, I’ll vent my anger on this little loach. At least when the Elemental Gods ask, I’ll have killed a human camp genius.”

Indeed, Lu Jiulian’s continuous god-demon slaughters had shaken this immortal-rank god-demon.

He felt that after this comprehension ground ended, the Elemental Gods would be furious.

He would surely be implicated. So if he had some battle record, perhaps he could avoid their wrath.

With this thought, the immortal-rank god-demon’s eyes grew even hotter.

His figure flickered. In the fire sea, he instantly shot forward.

A claw struck. The void instantly solidified.

Little Red Dragon felt heaven and earth seal shut.

As though the void itself was imprisoned!

The immortal-rank god-demon sneered, clenching his claw.

How could newly advanced Golden Immortal Little Red Dragon resist? Dragon scales shattered, blood sprayed...

Little Red Dragon was furious. Encountering such a bully who preyed on the weak—what could he do?

He had been so low-key, yet he met a despicable one.

The situation was extremely critical for Little Red Dragon.

He needed a way to survive.

But the strength gap was too vast. He was only newly advanced Golden Immortal—initial-rank god-demon. Against an immortal-rank god-demon, he had no chance.

Fight—he couldn't win. Run—he couldn't escape.

He was in deep trouble.

But soon, Little Red Dragon remembered Azure Dragon's parting advice.

Gritting his teeth—even the straightforward him felt helpless.

Fine then...

Tears welled in Little Red Dragon's eyes.

He bit down hard and stomped.

Boom!

He roared and lunged fiercely at the immortal-rank god-demon.

Azure Dragon had told him to act pitiful if in mortal danger.

The straightforward Little Red Dragon couldn't do that.

So he chose the most direct method...

The immortal-rank god-demon narrowed his eyes. Terrifying aura erupted.

Puff!

Immense pressure nearly crushed Little Red Dragon into fragments. Dragon scales exploded, blood flowing from every pore.

His appearance was extremely miserable.

"Big Sister... save me!"

Little Red Dragon sprayed blood and shouted. He could only try this desperate measure.

Azure Dragon said that in mortal danger, he could call for Big Sister. He... would try.

The immortal-rank god-demon paused slightly.

Calling for help?

“Foolish?”

“This is the comprehension ground... where would rescuers come from?”

“Shout all you want. Scream until your throat breaks—no one will save you.”

...

On Buzhou Peak.

Zhu Long closed her eyes. Her eyelashes trembled gently.

Around her, fortune surged. Innate yin-yang qi flowed continuously...

Now, she was only one step away from Great Luo Immortal realm.

She faintly felt she could tear through the barrier at any moment, stepping into Great Luo Immortal—becoming the Five Phoenix's first Great Luo Immortal.

Then Father would surely praise her.

Thinking of this, Zhu Long pursed her lips. Adorable dimples appeared.

Just as Zhu Long prepared to break through in one go,

she suddenly paused.

Tilting her head, she seemed to hear Little Red Dragon's desperate cry.

Very, very miserable...

Zhu Long's face instantly darkened. Her dimples vanished.

Someone was bullying Little Red Dragon?!

Toward this straightforward little brother, Zhu Long was very protective.

Compared to Azure Dragon—that playboy who spread dragon seed everywhere—Zhu Long had great affection for Little Red Dragon.

Her mind moved.

Zhu Long prepared to go.

But she sensed Little Red Dragon's location was somewhat distant—even hard to approach.

Zhu Long closed her eyes and frowned.

Little Red Dragon seemed about to die. She needed a way to save him.

Suddenly, she stood. Her body swayed and entered the Candle Dragon Dragon Gate behind her.

Hum...

Profound fluctuations surged on the Dragon Gate.

“Little Red, open the Dragon Gate.”

Zhu Long said.

Her crisp voice seemed to traverse time and space, reaching Little Red Dragon’s ears.

In the comprehension ground, Little Red Dragon—who was desperately spraying blood—heard Big Sister’s voice. He instantly became excited.

Open the Dragon Gate?

Little Red Dragon’s eyes lit up.

The next moment, he let out an earth-shaking dragon roar.

The Heavenly Dragon Seed's companion Dragon Gate—where the Heavenly Dragon resided, the Dragon Gate appeared!

Little Red Dragon roared. His body coiled. Dragon blood sprayed.

Vaguely, a blurry Dragon Gate manifested.

In the distance.

The immortal-rank god-demon froze.

This mere initial-rank god-demon trash... had a trump card?

Narrowing his eyes, he was confident he could crush this little loach. So he didn't mind the initial-rank's trump card. If it had research value, he might even earn merit.

Finally, a portal formed!

Little Red Dragon's aura wilted, as though on the verge of death.

“A portal?”

The immortal-rank god-demon paused.

Creak creak...

The portal was pushed open!

A figure like swaying autumn leaves walked out alone.

Zhu Long sensed Little Red Dragon’s blood-soaked, near-death state. Her killing intent surged rapidly.

“You deserve to die!”

Zhu Long said coldly. Her gentle voice carried a chilling frost.

The immortal-rank god-demon froze. He never expected someone to step out from this portal?!

“Smuggling?!”

“Humanity has a smuggling method?!”

The immortal-rank god-demon trembled. He felt he had discovered a shocking secret!

And the aura on Zhu Long gave him a terrifying sense of crisis.

She was a peak Extreme Emperor!

He... was no match!

But he didn't plan to fight Zhu Long head-on. He just needed to transmit the news!

As long as the news got out, he would earn great merit!

Boom!

The fire sea exploded.

The god-demon fled frantically.

However.

Zhu Long's closed eyes trembled. Her eyelashes quivered. Her eyes opened.

Left eye black, right eye white...

Yin-yang qi condensed in the void, forming a massive millstone.

The escaping immortal-rank god-demon felt black and white intertwine. The next moment, heaven and earth were filled with endless darkness and endless white.

Dong dong dong dong dong!

It was as though thousands of attacks struck him in an instant...

The light faded.

The yin-yang millstone vanished.

And that immortal-rank god-demon... was on his last breath. Not a single part of him remained intact.

The girl Zhu Long slowly extended a hand, grasping the god-demon and dragging him behind the Dragon Gate.

“No...”

The god-demon’s face was filled with terror. He struggled. His bloodied claw left a bloody mark on the portal.

Zhu Long glanced at the stunned Little Red Dragon. She seemed to sense this place was very dangerous and couldn’t stay long.

With a flick of her finger, a crystal-clear dragon scale floated down and merged into Little Red Dragon’s body.

Little Red Dragon’s near-death injuries instantly recovered.

“Keep going, Little Red!”

“You are Big Sister’s favorite little brother!”

Zhu Long pursed her lips and nodded earnestly. Then she vanished behind the Dragon Gate.

Little Red Dragon was moved to tears. Snot and tears streamed down his face.

...

On Lakeheart Island, White Jade Capital pavilion.

The scene reflected in Lu’s eyes was Little Red Dragon opening the Dragon Gate and Zhu Long stepping out.

“Dragon Gate?!”

A flash of light streaked through Lu’s mind!

The spatial mysteries contained in the Dragon Gate were forged by the preaching platform and the system. Lu never expected it could connect to that comprehension ground...

And the Elemental Gods seemed unaware.

The Dragon Gate's interior connected endlessly—similar to a compressed teleportation passage.

But it could be used this way.

Lu felt as though a new world had opened before him. It seemed he had learned another way to mess with people.

The Dragon Gate's appearance made Lu exhale slowly.

His thoughts became even more active.

...

In the central region of the comprehension ground.

Bai Qingniao's eyes curved into crescents.

"Too big. Smaller—smaller still!"

“Still too big... smaller!”

“Good boy smaller”

With Bai Qingniao’s murmurs.

The enormous Beast Ancestor statue roared deafeningly. It shrank bit by bit...

This terrifying commotion.

Naturally drew the attention of the heaven-god rank god-demon rushing over.

Seeing the Beast Ancestor statue continuously shrinking, the heaven-god rank god-demon shuddered.

Vaguely, he seemed to recall a similar scene from the Gold Origin comprehension ground!

Back then, the Beast Ancestor statue had also slowly shrunk.

And now it was shrinking again...

Could that damned statue-thief... have returned?!

Chapter 612: Julian, Time to Show Your Signature Move!

Inside the Candle Dragon Gate.

Pitch-black. Silent.

So quiet you could hear a pin drop.

Zhulong stood with her eyes closed, as still and serene as an autumn leaf.

Before her knelt an Immortal-tier god-demon, his face twisted in terror. The Red Dragon Gate had already sealed shut. He knew—he was trapped with no hope of escape.

He was imprisoned in this eerie teleportation passage.

“You...”

The Immortal-tier god-demon trembled, a chill crawling up his spine. Though Zhulong's aura seemed no stronger than his own, her combat prowess far surpassed that of an elite god-demon from the Elemental Realm. He stood no chance against her.

Worst of all, he felt an overwhelming, soul-deep pressure radiating from her.

Zhulong kept her eyes closed. In the deathly stillness, his words rang out clearly.

She didn't care. She raised her hand and clenched it.

Boom!

Space seemed to shatter inch by inch.

Darkness swallowed the Immortal-tier god-demon.

"You bullied my little brother," Zhulong said calmly.

Then she dragged him out of the Candle Dragon Gate, up to the peak of Buzhou Mountain, and ended him.

That Immortal-tier god-demon died the most humiliating death imaginable—all because of a low-tier little mudfish.

Boom!

Zhulong froze. After killing him, a vast surge of destiny suddenly flooded into her. Her aura grew stronger, rising relentlessly...

She could faintly feel herself on the verge of breaking through the shackles of Ninth-Turn Golden Immortal.

Realizing this, she immediately grew serious.

She sat cross-legged on a bluestone slab and entered a meditative state.

Hummm...

The hum of the Great Dao seemed to echo. In the sea of destiny above her head, faint purple qi began to emerge, swirling as if wrapping around her in auspicious vapors.

...

Within the Land of Enlightenment.

The Celestial-tier god-demon was utterly shaken.

The statue... was shrinking!

A bone-deep dread flooded his heart.

This familiar scene made his pulse race.

How had the Golden Origin Beast Ancestor statue vanished last time?

It had shrunk—then been stolen...

Now the same thing was happening again, filling him with inexplicable fear and deep trauma.

The only small comfort was that the person below wasn't the black-robed figure who had stolen the Golden Origin statue, but a human girl carrying a wicker basket on her back.

Clearly two different people.

Still, he couldn't take it lightly.

More and more whistling sounds of flight filled the air as figures of god-demons emerged from the sea of flames, swarming toward the Beast Ancestor statue.

Yet the colossal statue suddenly shrank and vanished from their sight, causing many to panic and hasten even faster.

Luoyang led the human geniuses in a frantic rush.

They were racing against the god-demons.

They had to get as close as possible to the statue before the fourth wave of profound ripples spread—every inch closer meant deeper enlightenment.

After Little Red Dragon recovered, he too began moving discreetly.

After Lu Jiulian and Tantai Xuan killed four Great Dao-tier god-demons, the enemy side seemed to quiet down and stopped targeting them specifically, allowing the two to head toward the statue with relative ease.

Tension was building in the Land of Enlightenment.

...

In the void.

A cold, oppressive atmosphere hung heavy, terrifying auras intertwining.

Tonggu Daoist's robes fluttered as he gripped his whisk, narrowing his eyes with sharp glints flashing within.

The Elemental Gods locked their auras onto him.

After all, the entire purpose of this Land of Enlightenment was to deal with him.

Though they were still waiting for the perfect moment, circumstances had changed, and they began subtly targeting him.

Tonggu Daoist's expression grew colder; he stopped his usual banter.

His aura surged as he scanned the Elemental Gods warily, on guard against every one of them.

Though only the third wave of profound ripples had passed, the atmosphere had already become unusual.

Tonggu Daoist had to treat it seriously.

A bitter battle was coming.

He felt a headache forming—if full-scale war broke out, how would he get the human geniuses out safely?

Especially Lu Jiulian and Bai Qingniao. Their talent had even surprised him.

Losing such prodigies here would be an unbearable tragedy.

**Boom!**

Suddenly, the tense silence shattered.

The Celestial-tier god-demon returned in a hurry, his primordial spirit trembling with panic.

“What happened?” the Fire Elemental God asked, eyes narrowing.

“Something went wrong—the massive Beast Ancestor statue suddenly started shrinking...”

After a moment’s thought, the Celestial-tier god-demon spoke.

The scene before the Elemental Gods and Tonggu Daoist changed. An image of the statue’s location appeared.

In the image, the heaven-piercing Beast Ancestor statue that seemed to span the entire small world had vanished.

Only upon closer inspection did they see that the once star-vast statue had shrunk to just over a meter tall.

And it was still shrinking.

The atmosphere froze instantly.

Even the corner of Tonggu Daoist's mouth twitched.

This scene... it was all too familiar.

Could that black-robed thief have been Bai Qingniao?

No—that didn't make sense. The black-robed figure's aura had been completely different from hers.

"The Beast Ancestor statue... is shrinking again?"

"Is this girl the same damned black-robed thief from last time?!"

The Gold Elemental God couldn't hold back any longer and snarled coldly. Having the Golden Origin statue stolen right under his nose had been a massive blow.

Now the same thing seemed to be happening again.

"No... it's not the same person."

“The previous black-robed figure was a male human. This girl is female...”

The Fire Elemental God spoke.

The Gold Elemental God was unwilling to accept it.

“Regardless... this girl must be connected to that black-robed thief. Only he could make the statue shrink!”

“Capture her!”

Unable to restrain himself any longer, the Gold Elemental God erupted with terrifying aura, intending to descend into the Land of Enlightenment.

“Hmph! You plan to break the rules and ignore me?!” Tonggu Daoist’s cold voice rang out.

Yet his eyes had already begun to shine.

He knew exactly who had stolen the Golden Origin Beast Ancestor statue—Lu.

And now, seeing this familiar scene... could Lu be planning to “borrow” the Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue too?

Excitement surged in Tonggu Daoist’s heart. The benefits the Golden Origin statue had brought the human race were enormous. Adding the Fire Origin statue...

The human race would soar!

Still, looking at Bai Qingniao with her wicker basket, he couldn’t help wondering if the girl was Lu in disguise.

After all, the only person he’d ever seen capable of shrinking a Beast Ancestor statue... was Lu.

Tonggu Daoist’s words boomed like thunder.

His aura exploded, layering the surrounding space.

As a quasi-sage of the human race, he carried the presence he was due.

The Fire Elemental God glanced at him but paid no heed.

“I suspect your human race is cheating...”

The Gold Elemental God said coldly.

“The disappearance of the Golden Origin statue last time was related to your human race. Now you want to steal the Fire Origin statue too? Your appetite is truly insatiable!”

Tonggu Daoist’s eyes widened in fury: “You mangy cur, don’t slander us! The Golden Origin statue had nothing to do with the human race! If I’m lying, may I take disciples and watch every single one die!”

“We will not take the fall for this!”

Tonggu Daoist’s face flushed red with righteous indignation.

The Fire Elemental God nearly spat blood in rage, but before he could speak—

Tonggu Daoist pointed a trembling finger at the scene in the Land of Enlightenment.

“You’re just jealous of our human race producing prodigies like Lu Jiulian and Bai Qingniao...”

“Shameless as always—that’s the god-demon way. If you want an excuse to slaughter our geniuses, at least don’t hide behind lies.”

Tonggu Daoist roared in anger.

As he spoke, he struck with lightning speed, unleashing a divine ability.

Boom!

His attack tore through the surrounding seals, ripping open the void.

The Elemental Gods moved as well.

Terrifying auras clashed.

“Tonggu...”

“This time, you stay here!”

“We’ve long found your incessant chatter annoying. Today... we will kill you!”

Killing intent surged from the Elemental Gods, shattering space and sending chaotic currents raging.

“Heh... ganging up on one?”

“But I’m used to it. The human race has always been used to it...”

“If you want war, then war it is. The human race... has no cowards!”

Boom!

Tonggu Daoist swung his whisk, sweeping across three thousand realms as if to crush eternity and shatter space.

The Elemental Gods unleashed heaven-shaking energy.

The entire void exploded under their intertwined auras!

...

Inside the Land of Enlightenment.

Both god-demon and human camps were closing in on the towering peak.

The god-demon side had nearly two hundred Immortal-tier god-demons, including nearly ten Great Dao-tier...

That was the foundation of the greatest clan dominating the Primordial Star Sky.

The human side now had only sixteen geniuses left, four of them from the Five Phoenixes.

The numbers weren't even comparable.

Yet the human prodigy Luoyang remained unflinching. Despite the oppressive aura from the god-demons, he single-handedly broke through the pressure, leading the human camp toward the Flame God Mountain.

"Surround them!"

“Originally, a Celestial-tier god-demon scattered the human formation for individual kills, but the unexpected monster Lu Jiulian ruined that plan.”

“Now the higher-ups have ordered us to encircle and slaughter them—no matter the cost.”

God-demons spoke coldly.

Great Dao-tier god-demons led the charge, followed closely by Immortal-tier ones.

Their auras intertwined overhead, forming a prison that sealed in the human geniuses.

Luoyang’s eyes burned red as he gripped his fiery spear, continuously slamming against the barrier, trying to break free.

In truth, the moment he entered the Land of Enlightenment, he had prepared for this kind of oppression. But when it actually happened, unwillingness still gnawed at his heart.

He wanted to bring these human geniuses safely back to the ancestral land.

Having comprehended Fire Origin profound truths here, each of them had a chance to assail the Heavenly Emperor realm upon returning—adding strength to the human race’s future.

Dying here would be pure waste.

But the human race never feared battle.

Since things had come to this—then fight!

“With Brother Jiulian among us, slaying god-demons like chickens, buying us this chance—how could we shrink back?!”

“Kill them together!”

Luoyang roared, his Heavenly Emperor aura exploding, faint innate purple qi swirling around him.

“Fight!”

His spear swept out, crimson light like a blood-red setting sun!

Behind him, the eleven remaining human geniuses bellowed, their Supreme Emperor auras intertwining.

Above the sea of fire, the god-demons grew wary. Having fought humans before, they knew all too well the fearless ferocity humans displayed in battle.

They had avoided encirclement to minimize losses, but now encirclement was their only option—no retreat.

Kill these human geniuses, climb the peak, and slay the girl who had already reached the statue.

Then the human race in this Land of Enlightenment would be completely wiped out.

Their mission accomplished.

Little Red Dragon hid beneath the sea of flames.

He suppressed his aura, covering his mouth, barely daring to breathe.

He desperately wanted to charge out and fight alongside them, but as a newly advanced Golden Immortal with only low-tier god-demon combat strength—what could he do?

He would only throw his life away.

Little Red Dragon knew his limits clearly.

“I can’t die!”

“I can open Dragon Gates. At the critical moment, I can create an escape route for the human side!”

He took a deep breath.

So he had to stay hidden... and reveal his true skill when the time came.

As that scumbag Azure Dragon had said, his weakness might be his greatest advantage here—nobody paid attention to him.

Few god-demons were shameless enough to target the weakest.

Yet even as he thought this, watching the unyielding human geniuses ready to fight against overwhelming odds filled Little Red Dragon with profound sorrow.

If only he were stronger—if he had Big Sis’s power...

He would charge in and slaughter them all!

Just as grief gripped him, his eyes suddenly widened.

He thought he was hearing things.

“Sneak onto the island quietly. Don’t alert anyone.”

A warm, magnetic voice rang in his ear.

Calm, yet it struck him like thunder.

“Dad?!”

Little Red Dragon nearly lost control of his aura in excitement.

It really was Dad!

He really was everyone’s treasure!

After Big Sis, now Dad had come too.

Suppressing his aura, Lu's voice continued in his ear, laying out a plan.

Little Red Dragon's breathing quickened; he struggled to contain himself.

Then the voice fell silent.

Determination filled his eyes. Dad was about to do something huge... he couldn't drag him down.

He would help Dad complete the mission!

Taking a deep breath, he slithered low and unnoticed through the sea of flames toward the mountain.

...

Five Phoenixes Continent.

Lu activated his Fire Indestructible Demon Body, his form becoming a sea of fire.

Fire Origin profound power swirled endlessly within him.

The Fire Indestructible Demon Body had reached a bottleneck—just one step from perfection.

But that final step remained.

Before him, the Spirit Pressure Chessboard glowed.

Lu rolled up his sleeves and placed a piece.

As the piece fell, flames surged.

Perfecting the Fire Indestructible Demon Body was crucial for him.

With no Fire Elemental god-demons left to “fish” ...

His only hope now lay with the Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue.

Therefore...

Lu had to find a way to “borrow” it.

...

At the center of the Land of Enlightenment, atop the peak.

Bai Qingniao stared at the shrinking statue in faint astonishment.

Only after it shrank could she finally see its true form.

Her heart jolted.

“This is...”

The statue was a lifelike avian creature.

Phoenix-like, feathers vivid and flowing, divinely majestic. Crafted from unknown material, it seemed carved by divine hands. Its spread wings looked ready to soar at any moment, covered in mysterious profound patterns with crimson flames constantly circulating.

The Fire Origin Beast Ancestor had nine heads, each connected by a long, graceful neck...

Every head's eyes gleamed, making Bai Qingniao feel as though they were staring straight at her.

"A phoenix with nine heads..."

"This is the Fire Origin Beast Ancestor?!"

Her heart pounded. Could the Nine-Headed True Phoenix be connected to her Nine Phoenix Transformation?

Suddenly, she sensed something.

Turning her head, she saw the battle unfolding between god-demons and the human camp across the sea of fire.

Her brows furrowed.

“Little Phoenix One, Little Phoenix Two... Little Phoenix Nine!”

“Prepare for battle!”

Bai Qingniao stood, her graceful figure radiating fighting spirit.

The human side was clearly at a disadvantage—they needed support.

But just as she prepared to join the fight, a figure shot out of the sea of flames—Little Red Dragon.

A newly advanced Golden Immortal with only low-tier combat strength, he was utterly unremarkable.

Yet he had somehow sneaked all the way to the foot of the peak unnoticed.

Glancing up at Bai Qingniao surrounded by nine fire phoenixes, his eyes lit up.

He remembered Dad’s instructions perfectly.

Transforming into his heavenly dragon form, he coiled before her and relayed Lu's guidance word for word.

Bai Qingniao was left utterly bewildered.

"What? Just pat the Beast Ancestor statue and that counts as support?"

Is Young Master Lu... serious?

...

The situation was dire. Though the human geniuses fought without fear of death, the pressure was overwhelming.

Against such numbers, escape was impossible.

Even the prodigy Luoyang had prepared himself to die.

Who in life does not die?

Luoyang smiled freely. But before dying, he would drag as many god-demons down with him as possible!

The other human geniuses shared the same heroic resolve.

Death was commonplace in the war between humans and god-demons.

To them, death itself was not frightening.

What was frightening was dying without meaning.

Suddenly—

Above the sea of fire.

A foot stepped down, sending out a ring of flame ripples that swept outward like a tsunami.

Beneath the towering waves of flame, a cold voice drifted across.

“Trying to surround and slaughter human prodigies? Seems my reputation as Lu Jiulian still isn’t fearsome enough.”

The calm, faint voice rang like thunder in the god-demons’ ears.

Lu Jiulian, clad in blood-stained green lotus battle attire with his Green Lotus Sword at his waist, strode forward coldly, stepping atop the waves of fire.

Beside him, Tantai Xuan surged with karmic flames, his aura mighty, gaze burning.

Their arrival was like small boats in vast oceans.

Yet it instantly threw the god-demon side into turmoil!

“It’s the human fiend Lu Jiulian!”

“He’s here... he’s actually alive! He really killed four Great Dao-tier god-demons!”

“Damn it—how is he so fast? After killing four Great Dao-tier experts... isn’t he injured? Doesn’t he need time to recover?”

The god-demon camp grew restless.

Lu Jiulian's infamous reputation as a fiend struck fear even into the nearly ten Great Dao-tier god-demons present.

After all, even the Fire Elemental God's disciple, Fire Eye, had died by his hand.

Fire Eye's strength and talent were unquestionable—yet he had fallen. What chance did they have?

Luoyang and the human geniuses preparing for death froze.

Then overwhelming joy spread across their faces.

“Brother Jiulian!”

Luoyang clenched his fists. Watching the fearful god-demons, endless emotion welled up inside him.

This was true strength...

This was the human fiend!

Wasn't this the goal every human cultivator strove for?

His name alone intimidated god-demons before he even arrived!

Tantai Xuan's mouth twitched, but he kept a ferocious expression.

Lu Jiulian, sword at his waist, remained composed.

He seemed to have accepted the truth.

His title as the human fiend was well-earned.

"Come on then... whatever you've got, bring it to me, Lu Jiulian."

He spoke lightly.

He took one step forward.

To their own shock, many god-demons instinctively stepped back.

Luoyang and the human geniuses watched with pounding hearts and clenched fists, breathing rapidly.

So domineering!

Worthy of being the model for our generation of human cultivators!

The god-demons' faces turned ugly—especially the Great Dao-tier ones.

So many elite god-demons... scared back by a single human Supreme Emperor?

If word got out, the Elemental Gods would beat them to death!

“Brother Jiulian! Don't worry about us—kill these god-demons...”

“Wipe them all out—not a single one left!!!”

“Brother Jiulian is the best!”

Luoyang roared in excitement, spear pointed forward, charging without hesitation!

Lu Jiulian and Tantai Xuan nearly lost control of their auras.

Wipe them all out... my ass!

Boom boom boom!

Hearing Luoyang's words, killing intent flared in the god-demons' eyes.

"The human fiend Lu Jiulian is only one man—we have the numbers! Kill him! We can bury him in bodies!"

"Trading our lives for a human prodigy with quasi-sage potential is worth it!"

The god-demons no longer retreated. Perhaps Luoyang's shout had reminded them.

Facing the human fiend, retreating meant death, standing meant death...

Better to fight!

“Kill!”

BOOM!!!!

The sea of fire seemed ready to be torn apart!

Immortal-tier and Great Dao-tier god-demons unleashed their full auras without reservation.

Perfect—they could end the fight quickly and still have time to adjust before the fourth wave of profound ripples. The third wave had only just passed.

After slaughtering the humans, they could meditate on the profound truths in peak condition.

Facing the dense swarm of charging god-demons,

Lu Jiulian’s face darkened.

Tantai Xuan looked at him eagerly, itching for action.

“Jiulian! Time to show your signature move!”

Lu Jiulian: “...”

Staring at the sky full of god-demons,

Lu Jiulian took a deep breath and turned around.

He wasn’t running away—it was a strategic retreat.

...

Atop the peak.

Bai Qingniao looked skeptical.

But it was Young Master Lu’s plan. Even if she doubted Little Red Dragon, she should trust Young Master Lu, right?

If it had been that scumbag Azure Dragon, she absolutely wouldn't believe it. But Little Red Dragon was an honest heavenly dragon—she knew that.

So Bai Qingniao decided to try.

She walked to the Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue, took a deep breath,

then activated the Nine Phoenix Transformation in her mind. A flaming palm seemed to manifest.

She slapped the statue hard.

Thump!!!!

The next instant,

the statue shuddered.

Then Fire Origin profound ripples burst from it, sweeping out in an instant.

Bai Qingniao, Little Red Dragon, and others all fell into enlightenment.

...

Thump thump thump!

Just as Lu Jiulian prepared his strategic retreat, his brows suddenly furrowed.

Something stirred in his heart.

He looked toward the peak.

Crimson Fire Origin profound ripples surged like a violent tide, sweeping outward.

Lu Jiulian's eyes brightened as memories flashed before him.

He suddenly had a guess.

Every time he killed god-demons... it had been while in enlightenment.

Perhaps...

that was the truth!

He killed while in enlightenment!

Clang!

Facing the oncoming horde of god-demons,

Lu Jiulian no longer retreated.

His heart grew calm.

He slowly drew the Green Lotus Sword from its sheath, pointing it forward, expression serene.

The sword—no!

Rather...

Time for the signature move!

Boom!

In an instant, profound ripples swept through, and the Land of Enlightenment fell silent once more.

As if night had descended.

Chapter 613: Leave the Rest to Me, Lu Ping'an

Boom!

The Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue, now barely half a meter tall, trembled violently. Waves of profound ripples poured out endlessly, spreading like towering tsunamis at an unimaginable speed. In the blink of an eye, they swept across the entire Land of Enlightenment, covering billions of miles.

Every human cultivator and god-demon within was enveloped by these ripples and fell into enlightenment.

Such was the rule of the Land of Enlightenment—and the manifested power of the Beast Ancestor statue.

Once in this state, no external force could interrupt it.

The world fell utterly silent.

As if night had descended.

The god-demon and human camps, on the verge of clashing, all entered enlightenment at that moment.

The stifling quiet lasted only a short while.

Then came the sounds of sharp blades piercing flesh.

If anyone could observe the Land of Enlightenment, they would see Lu Jiulian's tall figure wielding his sword, thrusting its edge into the hearts of one god-demon after another.

His primordial spirit surged like a spatial storm, shattering each pierced god-demon.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Great Dao-tier god-demons let out anguished, unwilling roars.

But they were helpless—ultimately, their souls were crushed.

After the brief uproar, silence returned, punctuated only by a low chuckle.

“Heh heh heh...”

The fourth wave of profound ripples soon receded like the tide.

In the distance, the human prodigy Luoyang was the first to open his eyes. Myriad lights flowed within them, laced with murderous intent.

His fiery spear traced a flaming arc across the sky.

“Fight!”

Luoyang didn't bother assessing his gains from the enlightenment—there was no point now.

The true battle of life and death was only just beginning.

Around him, the other human geniuses awoke one by one, their auras exploding with killing intent.

But...

That intent quickly froze.

Tantai Xuan opened his eyes and looked around expectantly.

He caught sight of Lu Jiulian in the distance, calmly and indifferently drawing his Green Lotus Sword.

The blade was embedded in a Great Dao-tier god-demon whose body was incredibly tough.

That god-demon's flesh rivaled divine weapons, yet Lu Jiulian had pierced it effortlessly—and withdrawn the sword just as easily.

Dead...

So many more god-demons dead!

All the Great Dao-tier god-demons had perished, their corpses floating around Lu Jiulian, auras dissipated, bodies cold.

Of the Immortal-tier god-demons, only a scattered few remained.

Atop the Flame God Mountain.

Bai Qingniao and Little Red Dragon also opened their eyes.

They turned toward Lu Jiulian's direction.

Swish.

Lu Jiulian gripped his bloodstained Green Lotus Sword and sheathed it calmly.

Many eyes stared in stunned silence.

Luoyang: "???"

Bai Qingniao: "???"

Little Red Dragon: “???”

Everyone was baffled, heads full of question marks.

They simply couldn't comprehend how Lu Jiulian had killed those Great Dao-tier god-demons.

How... one moment they closed and opened their eyes, and all those Great Dao-tier god-demons were gone?

Nearly ten Great Dao-tier god-demons, plus countless Immortal-tier—a lineup terrifying enough to destroy an entire immortal world.

Lu Jiulian remained as serene as still water; he had long grown accustomed to this.

It was everyone else's shock that made him shake his head.

“These people always spam question marks when I'm doing big things.”

You get used to it.

Look at Lord of the Netherworld Tantai Xuan—how calm he is.

Though excited, Tantai Xuan was unfazed. Gazing at the fallen Great Dao-tier god-demons, he simply smiled.

A man who had seen the world, his emotions remained steady.

The human fiend—did you think that title was a joke?

The atmosphere grew deathly quiet.

The surviving Immortal-tier god-demons felt chills run through them.

Looking at Lu Julian surrounded by Great Dao-tier corpses, they sensed something profound: this man was a monster.

Terrifying...

The human fiend had added yet another feat of slaying Great Dao-tier god-demons to his legend!

“So strong...”

“How did all those Great Dao-tier god-demons die?”

“Run! Staying here is just throwing our lives away!”

The surviving Immortal-tier god-demons’ morale plummeted; many already wanted to flee.

“Kill!”

But then the human Heavenly Emperor Luoyang roared.

He shot forward like a streak of light, his spear gathering immense power as it swept through one Immortal-tier god-demon after another.

Catching them off guard, he struck decisive kills!

“Hahaha!”

Luoyang was drenched in blood—but it was all god-demon blood.

He laughed wildly in exhilaration.

A great victory—this was truly a great victory!

How many years had it been since the human race achieved such a feat?

Always suppressed, this time... under the human fiend Lu Jiulian's lead, they had finally turned the tables.

The Immortal-tier god-demons' spirits shattered completely.

Panic spread as they scattered in all directions.

But the human geniuses' momentum surged; they struck out, felling every pursuing Immortal-tier god-demon on the spot!

Amid the chaos,

Lu Jiulian remained unflappable. With his Green Lotus Sword, he harvested vital parts from the Great Dao-tier corpses—precious materials.

Then, together with Tantai Xuan, he strode boldly toward the Flame God Mountain.

“Brother Jiulian, I am Luoyang from the human ancestral land. I’ve long admired your name. Seeing you today, it truly lives up to the legend.”

Luoyang sheathed his fiery spear and smiled at Lu Jiulian.

Lu Jiulian, sword at his waist, returned the smile.

Both bowed slightly, gesturing for the other to proceed.

Then, smiling, they ascended the Flame God Mountain together.

...

Boom!

A terrifying battle instantly tore through the sea of fire.

Tonggu Daoist grunted as he was forced into the Land of Enlightenment.

One step crushed the flames beneath him, distorting space into layered cubes that oppressed the Elemental Gods in the void.

Now inside,

the Elemental Gods no longer hid their primordial spirits. They unleashed them fully, instantly scanning the entire Land of Enlightenment.

Hm?

But their expressions changed dramatically.

“How is this possible?”

The Fire Elemental God’s eyes turned bloodshot in an instant.

After all, every elite god-demon who entered this time came from his Fire Elemental Realm—yet the casualties were catastrophic.

In his primordial spirit sense,

after the fourth wave of Fire Origin ripples ended, every single Great Dao-tier god-demon... was dead.

All of them—wiped out!

For the Fire Elemental God, this was a devastating blow.

His breathing grew ragged; he nearly lost control in rage.

The other Elemental Gods wore strange expressions.

Cold corpses floated throughout the Land of Enlightenment. The Fire Elemental God saw Fire Eye's body—dismembered, vital parts harvested...

“Human race!”

The Fire Elemental God roared in fury.

Terrifying energy exploded outward in a hemispherical wave centered on him, annihilating mountains and seas, sinking continents.

Tonggu Daoist was stunned.

“Too ruthless...”

But this outcome far exceeded even his expectations.

Boom!

The Fire Elemental God, like a madman, unleashed deadly attacks on Tonggu Daoist.

So many Great Dao-tier god-demons dead—only killing this human quasi-sage could offset the loss to the god-demon race!

Tonggu Daoist's expression darkened.

“There’s a debtor for every debt! I’ve been keeping you company, counseling you—why take it out on me?!”

He cursed angrily.

But he fought while retreating.

He needed to reach the Land of Enlightenment and evacuate all the human geniuses.

Especially Lu Jiulian and Bai Qingniao.

“Seal the entire Land of Enlightenment... not one escapes!”

The Fire Elemental God thundered.

Inside the Land of Enlightenment, the Celestial-tier god-demons acted.

Boom!

The sea of fire collapsed, revealing swirling vortexes—each representing a Celestial-tier god-demon.

They sealed the area.

Tonggu Daoist's face grew grave; he stopped his banter.

The danger ahead was extreme—he had to quickly transfer the human prodigies out.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Explosions rocked the sea of fire!

Tonggu Daoist swung his whisk, suppressing Celestial-tier god-demons one after another with muffled grunts.

A single human quasi-sage overpowering so many Celestial-tier god-demons.

“Tonggu, today you die too!”

The Fire Elemental God calmed, but his killing intent toward Tonggu grew thicker.

He transformed into a wisp of ghostly flame and charged.

The other Elemental Gods joined without slack, weaving a net of heaven and earth to seal and slay Tonggu Daoist!

Tonggu Daoist's heart sank.

As expected—their true target was him!

He felt real pressure. In truth, he could tear space and twist the void to escape right now.

His mastery of spatial profound truths far surpassed these Elemental Gods.

But he couldn't expose that.

He had to leave with the human geniuses.

This generation's human prodigies were vital to the race. Having endured four waves of profound ripples, their talent was extraordinary.

In the future, they could all become Heavenly Emperors.

Even quasi-sages might emerge!

So Tonggu Daoist refused to abandon them—he couldn't.

These were the human race's future hope!

Even if he left, he would take these young ones with him!

One step compressed space rapidly.

Yet even with layered spatial folds, the Elemental Gods—top-tier among Celestial-tier—could shatter spatiotemporal barriers.

Attacks still landed on Tonggu Daoist.

He grunted, blood trickling from his mouth.

But using that momentum, he accelerated toward the Flame God Mountain where the Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue stood.

The closer to the mountain, the safer—after all, with the Beast Ancestor statue present, the Elemental Gods dared not attack recklessly.

The statue's majesty carried weight. Angering it could provoke terrifying backlash.

Beast Ancestors were existences equal to human sages—if they struck back...

Even Elemental Gods would suffer greatly.

The entire Land of Enlightenment erupted into storm; the atmosphere turned grim.

God-demons frightened by Lu Jiulian's feats, after fleeing far, could no longer continue.

It was bloodline suppression from higher-tier god-demons.

Atop the Flame God Mountain,

human Heavenly Emperor Luoyang's expression changed drastically.

"It's Senior Tonggu..."

"He's fighting the Elemental Gods!"

"It seems, Brother Jiulian, killing so many Great Dao-tier god-demons drew their attention."

Luoyang said gravely.

Lu Jiulian remained calm, his gaze melancholic yet profound.

"Elemental Gods, huh?"

"If I entered the dream state, I wouldn't even know my own strength..."

"I can kill Great Dao-tier... I wonder if I could kill an Elemental God?"

Lu Jiulian murmured.

His words shocked Luoyang and Tantai Xuan to their cores.

He's getting cocky!

Those were Elemental Gods!

Existences comparable to human quasi-sages—even Tonggu Daoist wouldn't claim he could kill one...

No one responded to the awkward topic. The group continued upward, soon reaching the Beast Ancestor statue.

The statue radiated terrifying Fire Origin power.

Oppressive beyond measure.

Yet to them, it was incomparably beautiful. With such Beast Ancestor statues, the human race could birth countless powerhouses. Given time, they could sweep away decline in the Primordial Star Sky and stand against its three thousand innate god-demons!

Atop the mountain, the surviving humans gathered.

Though many human geniuses had fallen on this journey, far more survived than expected.

“The great battle has begun. Senior Tonggu fights the Elemental Gods, yet we can do nothing.”

“What we can do now... is comprehend the profound truths!”

Luoyang gritted his teeth.

The next moment, the human geniuses sat cross-legged, facing the Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue, seeking insights from its leaking ripples.

The fourth wave had just passed; no new wave would come soon.

So the only way to comprehend now was from the statue’s passive emanations.

Lu Jiulian stopped showing off. He too sat cross-legged. Above his head, his sea of profound truths grew larger—now reaching eighty thousand miles in diameter.

Being so close to the statue, though its pressure was suffocating,

the ripples it released brought immense gains.

Boom!

The sea of fire exploded.

Immortal-tier god-demons, originally scattered in retreat under Celestial-tier bloodline suppression, now surged back, charging the mountain!

Luoyang ceased comprehension and stood.

Gripping his fiery spear, he stepped forward to block the path—one man holding against ten thousand.

But his presence alone wasn't enough.

When Lu Jiulian drifted gracefully to his side,

the charging Immortal-tier god-demons faltered slightly.

“Keep killing!”

Celestial-tier god-demons roared furiously through primordial spirits!

Overcoming their fear of the human fiend, the Immortal-tier god-demons rushed forward!

“Brother Jiulian, this is tricky. They’re this frenzied—Celestial-tier bloodline suppression must be forcing them. Even your reputation can’t scare them off.”

“Looks like we have to wipe them all out.”

Luoyang said.

Lu Jiulian rested his hand on the Green Lotus Sword hilt, silent.

“Brother Jiulian, cut loose and kill.”

Luoyang urged.

Lu Jiulian sighed. He wanted to.

But he shook his head.

Cryptically: "The timing isn't right."

...

Five Phoenixes, Lake Heart Island.

In the White Jade Capital pavilion.

After possessing Lu Jiulian to slaughter the encircling Great Dao-tier god-demons, Lu realized the Elemental Gods might intervene next.

Upon returning, his mind immediately entered the preaching platform to perfect the Dragon Gate.

Since he planned to use it to connect to the Land of Enlightenment, stability was crucial.

He also had to ensure the Five Phoenixes' aura and coordinates remained hidden when opening it.

Lu, white robes fluttering, continuously inscribed array words. They wove in the void, forming mysterious formations.

Now, combining the ancient Emperor Hao's nine-character array words with his own insights, Lu's mastery of array dao was profound.

Soon, the Dragon Gate framework was complete.

Lu modified it: the gate's space was filled with arrays—not only isolating auras but stabilizing space.

After all, suddenly admitting so many Supreme Emperors, Heavenly Emperors, and even a quasi-sage like Tonggu Daoist could collapse ordinary space.

Such powerhouses required extraordinary containment.

With a thought, he exited the preaching platform.

Lu narrowed his eyes, placed a chess piece, and gently pushed it.

Humm...

The Dragon Gate framework from the platform was flung out by an invisible hand.

It overlapped and updated the existing Dragon Gate of the Five Phoenixes.

A slight smile curved Lu's lips.

Through Lu Jiulian's perspective, he saw the dire situation in the Land of Enlightenment.

...

"Brother Jiulian, ready yet?"

"Is the timing ripe?"

Luoyang watched the approaching Immortal-tier god-demons, his face stiffening slightly.

Even he would struggle if surrounded by hordes of Immortal-tier.

Suddenly,

both Luoyang and Lu Jiulian's expressions changed.

Boom!

The sea of fire beneath them exploded.

It formed a massive flaming palm.

The palm rose, rocking their footing.

Then it clenched abruptly.

Lu Jiulian and Luoyang paled.

If it closed fully—they'd be crushed instantly!

A Celestial-tier god-demon had struck!

Celestial-tier—far beyond Great Dao-tier, utterly beyond their current resistance...

This time, they were done for!

But just as the flaming palm was about to crush them,

space twisted, slicing the massive hand into fragments.

A whisk swept through, coiling around Lu Jiulian and Luoyang, gently pulling and flinging them onto the Flame God Mountain.

“You shameless curs! If you’ve got guts, fight one-on-one!”

Tonggu Daoist, bloodied and battered,

had tanked a blow from the Fire Elemental God to barely arrive in time and save them.

But he himself was gravely injured.

Madness burned in Tonggu Daoist's eyes.

This was a dead end for him—the Elemental Gods were determined to kill him and weaken the human race.

Yet having wandered far and wide for years, facing countless perils,

he had anticipated this and prepared.

Glancing back at the stunned human geniuses atop the mountain,

he exhaled slowly.

He'd made it.

"Time to go!"

As a human quasi-sage, Tonggu Daoist had trump cards.

He reached into his wide sleeve and pulled out a silver spirit boat that rapidly enlarged in the air.

“Board the Space-Time Spirit Boat!”

He shouted.

With a whisk swing, he flung every human genius aboard.

Including Bai Qingniao, Lu Jiulian, and the rest.

Though the Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue was tempting, Tonggu Daoist had no time for it.

Stealing it was impossible—not just because of the supreme Beast Ancestor pressure it exuded, but its sheer weight. The Space-Time Spirit Boat couldn’t carry it.

Trying would doom them all!

Once everyone was aboard,

Tonggu Daoist coughed blood, eyes gleaming.

He swung his sleeve.

Spatial profound truths surged around the spirit boat; the void cracked inch by inch.

It seemed ready to traverse space-time and flee.

“Trying to escape?!!!”

The Fire Elemental God’s eyes blazed with killing intent.

This Land of Enlightenment had been a complete humiliation for them.

So many Great Dao-tier god-demons dead—if these humans escaped too, the Elemental Realms would suffer massive losses!

“Stay!”

In the void,

the five Elemental Gods unleashed heaven-shaking might together.

Fire pillars soared from the sea.

The Fire Elemental God flipped his hand—a silver orb gleaming with dazzling light illuminated the world.

The moment the orb appeared,

the Space-Time Spirit Boat, on the verge of traversing the void, froze abruptly.

As if space itself had been locked!

Aboard the boat, Tonggu Daoist's expression changed drastically.

“That's the innate supreme treasure of chaos god-demons—the Void-Fixing Pearl!”

He never imagined the Fire Elemental God could obtain a chaos god-demon's innate treasure—  
existences on par with starry sky sages!

The Fire Elemental God was dead set on keeping them!

“We’re in trouble!”

Tonggu Daoist’s brows furrowed, worry flashing in his eyes.

Boom!

Space-time sealed.

The spirit boat’s traversal failed; it was knocked back into the void.

Tonggu Daoist’s face darkened. He swung his whisk, placing the human geniuses back atop the Flame God Mountain.

Now, holding this stronghold might give them a fighting chance.

But this was god-demon territory.

The outcome seemed grim.

Tonggu Daoist looked grim—he had miscalculated.

He could still escape alone, but taking all these human geniuses... nearly impossible.

Using his sleeve's universe ability with so many Supreme and Heavenly Emperors would cripple his combat power—likely dooming them all.

In the void,

the five Elemental Gods stared coldly.

“This time... not one leaves!”

The Fire Elemental God's killing intent surged.

“Especially that Lu Jiulian!”

He spat the words through clenched teeth.

Lu Jiulian had shaken his mindset profoundly—both personally and because of his terrifying talent.

This young man had to die!

Atop the Flame God Mountain, Lu Jiulian paused slightly. To draw such focus from an Elemental God... he, Lu Jiulian, could take pride in that.

After all, he was merely an ordinary Ninth-Turn Golden Immortal.

Tonggu Daoist glanced at Lu Jiulian too—losing such an outstanding prodigy here filled him with sorrow.

Suddenly,

Little Red Dragon slithered out unremarkably like a mudfish.

He dashed frantically toward the Beast Ancestor statue.

Hm?

In the void, the Elemental Gods noticed Little Red Dragon.

But a mere low-tier god-demon mudfish—they paid him no mind.

Their targets were human prodigies like Lu Jiulian and Bai Qingniao.

Yet the instant Little Red Dragon moved, Tonggu Daoist froze.

In his ear, barely audible, rang Lu's magnetic voice!

“Brother Tonggu! If it's just Little Red Dragon—initial Emperor realm—can you escape with him?”

Lu asked.

Tonggu Daoist was shocked to hear Lu's voice here.

But now wasn't the time.

“Yes!”

He nodded immediately.

Carrying so many Supreme Emperors and a Heavenly Emperor like Luoyang was incredibly difficult.

But one initial Emperor Little Red Dragon? Barely different from carrying nothing.

“Good!”

“Then... I’ll entrust Little Red Dragon to you, Brother Tonggu.”

As Tonggu agreed, Lu’s light laughter rang out.

“Leave the rest to me—Lu Ping'an.”

At that moment, Little Red Dragon, sweating profusely, finally reached the statue.

Aboard the spirit boat, Bai Qingniao’s primordial spirit wove, urging the human prodigies toward Little Red Dragon.

The geniuses hesitated—Bai Qingniao lacked authority.

“I am the human fiend Lu Jiulian. Trust me—follow me!”

Lu Jiulian immediately spoke up.

The moment his words fell, he shot forward like light.

The human geniuses trusted Lu Jiulian absolutely and followed without hesitation!

Streaks of light flashed.

This sudden shift stunned the Elemental Gods above.

The next instant...

The insignificant Little Red Dragon they ignored let out a deafening dragon roar.

A faint crimson portal emerged on his back...

Creak...

The portal opened.

Spatial storms raged.

One by one, the human geniuses entered the portal and vanished.

This abrupt turn left the Elemental Gods in the sky dumbfounded.

The next moment, their eyes turned bloodshot!

Because beyond the portal...

A figure all too familiar to them—a black-robed person—extended a hand, grasping the half-meter-tall Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue.

He pulled—nothing.

“Eh~”

The black-robed figure exclaimed in surprise.

Then, without hesitation, he slapped down.

The indestructible statue cracked in half. Dragging the half-mountain still attached, he stuffed it through the portal.

Chapter 614: I Borrowed It Fair and Square—Why Should I Return It?

Boom!

The Flame God Mountain shattered.

The black-robed figure who had suddenly appeared beyond the portal slapped it in half. The upper portion, still attached to the Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue, was yanked into the passage behind the gate.

This abrupt scene left everyone dumbfounded.

Even the human quasi-sage Tonggu Daoist was utterly stunned.

Staring at the halved mountain, he felt the urge to tug at his beard. Calling it an escalation was an understatement—stealing the Beast Ancestor statue was one thing, but taking half the terrain too?

Digging up the very ground beneath their feet!

Worthy of Brother Lu—his moves were as audacious as ever.

Tonggu Daoist sighed inwardly.

In the void, the Elemental Gods and numerous Celestial-tier god-demons were equally shocked.

They never imagined a portal would suddenly appear in the Land of Enlightenment, connecting to a spatial passage.

That black-robed figure was all too familiar to the Elemental Gods.

None other than the thief who had stolen the Golden Origin Beast Ancestor statue last time!

“Damn it!!”

The Gold Elemental God roared in fury.

He dared show up again?!

Who was this person?

How could someone so shameless, so cunning exist?

They had guarded against everything—yet a door had opened right beside the statue and whisked it away.

The Golden Origin statue was already gone.

Now the Fire Origin one too?!

And why take half the Flame God Mountain while he was at it?

What kind of maniac was this?!

Boom!

A terrifying explosion rang out.

The sea of fire boiled; the Flame God Mountain continued to crumble.

“Stay!”

The Fire Elemental God reacted, lungs nearly bursting with rage. He never dreamed the black-robed thief would reappear—and right in front of the Elemental Gods!

He struck with his palm, as if piercing space and time, compressing everything to reach into the portal and drag the thief out.

Lu was shrouded in his black robe.

It was the same one the system had provided last time—excellent for blocking primordial spirit probes.

Essential gear for sneaky operations.

The horrifying strike felt suffocating.

The human geniuses in the Dragon Gate passage stared at the seated black-robed figure who had hauled in both the statue and half the mountain—their scalps tingled.

Lu Jiulian and Tantai Xuan exchanged glances, mouths twitching.

That signature style—none other than Young Master Lu!

But the Fire Elemental God's devastating attack made many pale.

If it landed in the passage, everyone would die.

He was an Elemental God—top among Celestial-tier god-demons, ruler of an Elemental Realm.

Lu's black robe fluttered.

He had already pulled the mountain and statue into the passage.

Now seated before the gate, facing the terrifying palm, his robe billowed wildly.

Beneath it, Lu narrowed his eyes.

An Elemental God's strike was indeed fearsome.

Even with his nearly perfected Fire Indestructible Demon Body, Lu had no confidence in blocking it.

So he didn't try.

With a thought, he shifted the Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue back out.

He placed it right in front of the passage—as a shield.

Endless radiant flames surged before the Dragon Gate—the Elemental God's divine fire illuminating eternity.

The strike seemed capable of annihilating the void and all life within.

The Fire Elemental God attacked with boundless fury, showing no mercy.

But as it neared the gate,

he saw the black-robed figure using the Beast Ancestor statue as a blocker.

He nearly spat blood!

Could this guy be any more shameless?!

A resounding cry echoed.

As if from the distant primordial era, countless stars trembled.

Supreme beings in the starry sky seemed disturbed from slumber, gazing over as meteors streaked by.

Boom!

The Fire Elemental God's face darkened!

With the statue in front, his attack triggered its supreme pressure.

That pressure was utterly terrifying!

A soul-deep oppression.

It made the Fire Elemental God nearly cough blood, as if a supreme entity stared him down.

He forcibly dissipated his attack, eyes bloodshot—an act of helplessness.

If he actually hit the statue...

He truly feared erasure. Beast Ancestors rivaled chaos-tier god-demons and human starry sky sages.

His ferocious assault dispersed swiftly, like a gentle evening rain pattering on the Dragon Gate—light and leisurely.

Lu's black robe lifted slightly as he smiled.

He set the Fire Origin statue aside, then clapped his palms together as if pulling the gate shut.

Boom!

The Dragon Gate shuddered, creaking heavily and anciently.

“Who the hell are you?!”

“Return my Golden Origin Beast Ancestor statue!”

Outside the gate,

the Gold Elemental God and the internally injured Fire Elemental God shot forward, raising hands to seal space and sever the passage.

But they found the portal’s spatial profound truths utterly different from theirs.

Though simpler than the black-robed thief’s previous escape,

it still eluded their grasp.

As the gate slowly closed,

Lu's robed figure grew blurry and vanished.

Yet in response to their demands, a faint laugh seemed to emerge from beneath the robe.

"I borrowed these Beast Ancestor statues fair and square—why should I return them?"

The calm words drifted from the closing portal.

They echoed across the heavens, overpowering the roaring sea of fire.

The world fell deathly silent.

Tonggu Daoist inhaled deeply, shocked and impressed. Those words... worthy of Brother Lu, backed by a sage—no wonder he was so bold!

Look at the Gold and Fire Elemental Gods—stunned speechless.

Borrowed?

He called it borrowing?

How shameless!

But before they could retort,

the Dragon Gate fully closed.

The human geniuses, the Beast Ancestor statue, and the halved Flame God Mountain—cut off completely from the Land of Enlightenment.

Humm...

The moment the gate vanished, Little Red Dragon felt drained empty.

But he was content—immensely proud to have contributed so greatly to Dad, helping accomplish something so monumental!

Even if it meant certain death afterward, he was thrilled.

Little Red Dragon dismissed the gate and plummeted weakly from the void, utterly spent—opening it had been far more taxing than imagined.

But as he fell toward the sea of fire, a wide sleeve swept over.

Tonggu Daoist scooped him up, tucking him into his sleeve's universe, then erupted with heaven-shaking fury.

“Who was that?!”

“Where did he take so many of our human geniuses?!”

Tonggu Daoist's roar carried grief, heartbreak—the sorrow of cherished prodigies lost.

“You damned god-demons! Was this your plot?!”

His eyes bloodshot, face twisted in rage.

In that moment of raw emotion, every god-demon in the Land of Enlightenment froze.

The Gold and Fire Elemental Gods paused.

They had been about to rebuke him—but were stunned by his villainous accusation.

This scoundrel surpassed even the black-robed thief in shamelessness!

“Silence!”

The Gold and Fire Elemental Gods fumed.

They realized instantly—Tonggu Daoist was stirring trouble.

“Leave that little mudfish!”

The Fire Elemental God’s body expanded millions of feet tall, enveloping the entire Land of Enlightenment.

The other Elemental Gods unleashed their auras.

The black-robed thief was gone—but he'd left one clue: Little Red Dragon.

The gate had appeared because of him. Capture and interrogate the dragon, and they could uncover the statue's whereabouts.

But Tonggu Daoist had taken him.

That alone convinced them Tonggu was in league with the thief.

Feeling the overwhelming auras filling the space,

Tonggu Daoist sighed, a trace of melancholy on his face.

He couldn't bluff them anymore.

These god-demons had gotten smarter.

But...

He smiled, gripping his whisk and swinging it calmly.

Now free of the human geniuses as burdens, as a quasi-sage—he truly had confidence in escaping.

Though space was locked by the innate treasure “Void-Fixing Pearl,”

Tonggu Daoist feared it not.

The Space-Time Spirit Boat couldn’t break through—but he could.

His whisk swept out.

Its three thousand strands pierced like blades.

They stabbed the void, shattering space like a broken mirror.

Twisting spatial storms raged.

Tonggu Daoist pressed his palms together, unleashing boundless aura.

A vertical eye seemed to open on his forehead, containing infinite profound truths—gazing through past, present, and future.

“It’s Tonggu’s divine ability—the Eye of Space!”

The Gold Elemental God’s gaze sharpened.

The Fire Elemental God had already unleashed endless aura; countless fire dragons rose from the sea, coiling like serpents to slay and detain him.

“Open!”

Tonggu Daoist’s eyes blazed white-hot.

The vertical eye seemed to slash out a heavenly blade.

Spatial chaos flowed like raging waters.

The blade cut the flow, carving voids even in the turmoil.

Countless spatiotemporal branches shattered under that slash. Tonggu Daoist flickered, becoming a streak of light that vanished into the unfolding void—merging with the chaos like a drop in the ocean.

Gone in an instant.

Boom!!

Only then did the Elemental Gods' attacks land.

The entire Land of Enlightenment collapsed utterly—heavens cracked, mirroring the sea of fire.

“Tonggu Daoist escaped after all.”

“No choice—his comprehension of spatial truths nears ninety percent. Even the Void-Fixing Pearl couldn't hold him.”

“We lost big this time.”

“Another Beast Ancestor statue gone—the god-demon race will suffer greatly.”

“The real issue: the human race now has two statues. They’ll cultivate countless Heavenly Emperor powerhouses—that’s the greatest threat to us!”

The Elemental Gods spoke one after another.

Their faces dripped with gloom.

Despite all precautions, the black-robed thief had slipped through again.

“Who is that black-robed figure? His spatial escape methods twice surpassed ours—even hinting at sage-level shadows. Human sages are few—which one backs him?”

They debated endlessly.

But his origins and master remained unknown.

“Regardless—issue warrants for those human geniuses... and the black-robed thief. As for the Water and Earth Origin statues, delay their openings...”

The delay was to avoid tempting the thief!

The Elemental Gods were truly spooked.

The thief wasn't strong—but utterly infuriating.

Twice now, shaking their composure.

...

Space shattered inch by inch.

In a corner of the Primordial Star Sky, a tattered whisk emerged. Tonggu Daoist broke through the void.

His robes hung in shreds like noodles, torn by spatial chaos.

He looked utterly disheveled—using the Eye of Space had cost him dearly.

Escaping encirclement by Elemental Gods and Celestial-tiers demanded a price.

Fortunately... the gains were immense.

Tonggu Daoist's eyes gleamed.

“Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue secured...”

“Hahaha... the human race is turning fortunes around!”

He laughed heartily.

Eyes shining brightly.

But losing two statues in a row would enrage the Elemental Gods—the Primordial Star Sky would grow more dangerous.

“No... the Five Phoenixes world is still far from the human ancestral land. With two statues, its status is entirely different.”

“Originally, I planned to persuade Brother Lu to migrate the Five Phoenixes nearer the ancestral land upon return. But now—major moves are out.”

“A world migration would draw god-demon attention. The Five Phoenixes might be exposed. Currently, the Elemental Gods haven't noticed it.”

Tonggu Daoist wiped blood from his face, shook himself.

Blood evaporated; he regained his immortal, refreshed demeanor.

“But without migration, once the Elemental Gods discover the Five Phoenixes... it would be catastrophic.”

“After all, Brother Lu’s master is wandering the starry sky...”

“A starry sky sage’s wanderings—who knows how long? Millions, tens of millions of years...”

Tonggu Daoist sighed.

Suddenly, gaining another statue felt troublesome.

He needed a way to protect the Five Phoenixes.

He flicked his sleeve.

Little Red Dragon appeared, pale from exhaustion.

“You’ve earned great merit. Who’d have thought Brother Lu planned from the start of the Land of Enlightenment—incredible depth. Even I’m impressed.”

“Who could imagine a little dragon with mere initial Emperor strength would be key to the human retreat?”

Tonggu Daoist now found Little Red Dragon increasingly pleasing.

Honest, resilient, diligent, uplifting—he couldn’t help but admire him.

“I owe you this time. Let me grant you a fortune.”

He narrowed his eyes.

Then flipped his hand.

A dazzling flame swirled.

“This is the soul crystal of a fire-attribute Celestial-tier god-demon I slew long ago. Take it.”

With a flick, the flame burrowed into Little Red Dragon’s forehead.

Little Red Dragon felt flames envelop him, twisting in agony.

Yet his body underwent miraculous transformation.

His aura surged—from initial Emperor to Great Emperor, peaking there...

Without any side effects.

“Comprehend it well. Fully absorbing it will benefit you greatly. With the Fire Origin statue, reaching Heavenly Emperor limit isn’t impossible.”

Tonggu Daoist smiled.

Then tucked the meditating dragon back into his sleeve.

One step shifted the stars; he streaked through the Primordial Star Sky.

In high spirits, hands behind his back, whistling—almost humming a tune.

In the distance,

god-demons peeked out.

Spotting Tonggu Daoist, they fled in terror—only watching from afar. A human quasi-sage could kill them on a whim.

Their task was mere surveillance—no need to risk lives.

Tonggu Daoist wandered the starry sky.

Stopping and starting, leading his pursuers in circles.

He had time—dragging them along as long as possible.

...

Silence filled the Dragon Gate passage.

The human geniuses eyed each other awkwardly, unsure what to say.

Tantai Xuan plopped down, exhaling in relief.

It was over.

This journey to the Land of Enlightenment had shown him the human race's weakness against god-demons.

Humans needed strength. Tantai Xuan burned with desire to grow stronger.

One day, he—the Lord of the Netherworld—would stand atop the Primordial Star Sky.

“Thank you for your aid, brother...”

After a long pause, the human geniuses recovered.

Heavenly Emperor Luoyang sheathed his fiery spear and cupped his fists toward the robed Lu with a smile.

Lu waved it off casually.

Lu Jiulian, Bai Qingniao, Tantai Xuan, and others bowed deeply.

“Young Master Lu...”

Lu dismissed the black robe, revealing white robes purer than snow, seated on the Thousand-Bladed Chair.

He smiled at them.

“Good to have you all back safe.”

Lu said.

“No need to worry about Little Red Dragon. Senior Tonggu couldn’t escape with so many—but one little dragon is easy.”

The human geniuses stared at Lu in surprise.

The black-robed thief... was the Five Phoenixes' Young Master Lu.

Unable to store the statue in a spatial treasure, Lu held it directly.

The Fire Origin statue shrank in his hand—soon trophy-sized like the Golden Origin one.

Hummm...

Vast Fire Origin power surged from it.

Lu's white robes turned crimson; his hair reddened.

The power coiled around him, seeping into his body.

His Fire Indestructible Demon Body began its final ascent toward perfection.

“Congratulations, Host, on obtaining the adorable little Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue...”

System prompts flashed.

But Lu was focused on gathering Fire Origin power—ignoring the messages and rewards.

Everyone held their breath, watching Lu.

The human geniuses were astonished—who was this man?

He held the statue directly, absorbing its power.

The statue's pressure could crush souls.

Ordinary cultivators struggled even nearing it—absorbing leaked power was already difficult.

Yet he grasped it outright.

Fire Origin power soon saturated him.

Boom!

Like a volcanic eruption.

Lu's eyes sharpened; his presence grew heavier.

Then heaven-shaking thunder roared—as if overturning the world.

Fire Indestructible Demon Body... perfected!

Lu's lips curved upward. His power had soared.

Now, facing Qiang Huo, he could subdue him easily.

“Time to spar with the giant beast Qu Si...”

Lu cracked his neck, dismissing the demon body.

His gaze shifted to the halved Flame God Mountain. With a flick, compressed pure Fire Origin power wrapped it.

Sizzle...

The mountain melted visibly—soon forming a house-sized crimson crystal.

“Fire Spirit Divine Stone! Supreme ore—for crafting treasures!”

Luoyang’s eyes widened. No wonder Lu took half the mountain.

Refined to purity, it yielded such exquisite Fire Spirit Divine Stone.

Lu nodded, satisfied. He hadn’t been petty—the stone was perfect for reinforcing the Five Phoenixes Bow.

He stored everything.

Then led the group out of the Dragon Gate space.

Luoyang and the human geniuses made no moves.

Lu's aura seemed unremarkable—yet even Heavenly Emperor Luoyang dared not act rashly.

Plus, Tonggu Daoist's close ties with Lu ensured cooperation.

Emerging from the gate,

dazzling light flashed.

Rich spiritual energy washed over them—the splendor of the Five Phoenixes world unfolded.

They were home!

On the Five Phoenixes Continent, Chai Feng—cultivating human Emperor-realm talents—narrowed his eyes.

He sensed many familiar auras.

The human geniuses who had ventured to the Fire Origin Land of Enlightenment?

Returned?!

And thick with bloody scent—his expression shifted.

A terrible battle had occurred!

Chai Feng immediately roared.

Protocol for returning warriors from the ancestral land.

As a human Heavenly Emperor, his aura soared, stirring storms across the Five Phoenixes.

Fresh from the gate, Luoyang's eyes wavered—then filled with warmth.

“Brother Jiulian...”

He gazed deeply at Lu Jiulian with a gentle smile.

Lu Jiulian was still dazed.

Luoyang's next action baffled him further.

The human Heavenly Emperor stepped forward, aura blazing.

His roar pierced the heavens.

“In the Fire Origin Land of Enlightenment, human prodigy Lu Jiulian, with Supreme Emperor realm, slew fourteen Great Dao-tier god-demons and dozens of Immortal-tier! Glorifying the human race!”

“Congratulations to the human race! Congratulations to Brother Jiulian!!”

The words boomed across the Five Phoenixes.

Chai Feng, hearing the feats, flushed red.

He bellowed in response.

“Congratulations!!!”

The call and response left every powerhouse in the Five Phoenixes stunned.

Even Lu's mouth twitched...

What the hell?!

Lu Jiulian pressed his lips.

He wanted to calmly say, "No surprise—it's just my signature move," but glancing at Lu beside him...

He couldn't bring himself to.

Why... did it suddenly feel so embarrassing?!

Chapter 615: Little Cotton Jacket Is About to Break Through to Daluo

Congratulations to the human race!

Chai Feng's roar echoed through every corner of the Five Phoenixes world.

Every cultivator on every life-bearing star in the Five Phoenixes starry sky heard it clearly.

Everyone was stunned.

They had never seen such a spectacle.

But the human geniuses from the ancestral land were accustomed to it. Almost as soon as Chai Feng roared, they joined in unison.

It was a ritual—a ceremony passed down by a supreme human powerhouse.

Necks strained, excitement surging, as if their blood boiled and their spirits ascended.

It had to be said—their shouts were truly passionate, like victors returning from a great war.

Lu fell silent for a moment. This momentum was intense.

Yet the excitement in the human geniuses' words surprised him somewhat.

The Five Phoenixes had felt the oppression and threat from god-demons, but not to the depth of those human geniuses who had struggled for survival under constant god-demon pressure.

Their resonance of will was perhaps a bit lacking.

Tantai Xuan and Lu Jiulian, however, were genuinely stirred.

They had just survived nine deaths in the Land of Enlightenment, nearly encircled and slain by god-demons in a foreign land.

Now returned, greeted with cheers and congratulations.

Lu Jiulian's emotions truly surged.

Though Lu's presence beside him made Lu Jiulian feel oddly embarrassed and ashamed, he quickly reconsidered...

Those Great Dao-tier and Immortal-tier god-demons—hadn't they died by his hand?

Indeed, all fallen to him—though inexplicably.

But in the Land of Enlightenment, his title as the human fiend had spread thoroughly.

Even Great Dao-tier god-demons grew wary at his name.

Thus, Lu Jiulian felt accepting this congratulations and glory... was perfectly justified.

I, Lu Jiulian, am just that strong!

On the Five Phoenixes Continent,

whistling sounds of flight rang out.

Overlord, Tang Yimo, Jiang Li, Micah, and other Golden Immortals streaked across the void.

Seeing the blood-soaked human geniuses—especially Lu Jiulian’s green lotus battle attire dyed crimson—one could imagine the ferocity of the battles in the Land of Enlightenment.

“Slew fourteen Great Dao-tier god-demons? Great Dao-tier... that’s equivalent to Daluo Immortals!”

“How is that possible?”

Overlord couldn't believe it.

He truly didn't—how could he not know Lu Jiulian's level?

Even if Lu Jiulian broke through to Daluo Immortal, he might not have such combat power.

Not just Overlord—nearly all Five Phoenixes cultivators doubted it.

At that moment, Chai Feng arrived through the void. Seeing only sixteen of the twenty-four who had gone to the Land of Enlightenment return, he felt a heaviness.

But this survival rate was already impressive.

Luoyang took a deep breath and, without reservation, recounted everything that had happened.

Chief among it: Lu Jiulian's infamous feats.

Lu listened to their excited exchanges and smiled.

He knew exactly how Lu Jiulian's reputation had come about, so he said nothing about their celebrations.

After all, he—Lu Ping'an—was a low-key person.

Lu returned to Lake Heart Island.

He didn't join their discussion. Instead, he took out the Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue.

Now he finally checked the reward for obtaining the adorable little Beast Ancestor statue.

He remembered the system prompt.

"Congratulations, Host, on obtaining the adorable little Beast Ancestor statue. Reward: Phoenix Blood Pool."

Hm?

Lu paused. This reward seemed special.

Somewhat unexpected.

“Phoenix Blood Pool?”

Lu murmured. Soon, the system’s description appeared before him.

“Phoenix Blood Pool: A pool formed from a diluted drop of essence blood from the Fire Origin Beast Ancestor. It can cleanse bloodlines, enhance physical strength, and increase the success rate and depth of comprehending profound truths.”

This made Lu pleasantly surprised.

Enhancing physical strength and boosting profound truth comprehension success rate—this was excellent.

Comprehending a profound truth granted qualification to assail Daluo Immortal realm.

With the Phoenix Blood Pool, the Five Phoenixes gained a secret treasure that could elevate many cultivators’ Fire Origin profound truth comprehension.

The Golden Origin pyramid Land of Enlightenment had been open for ages.

Yet only a handful had truly comprehended Golden Origin profound truths—even including ancestral land geniuses.

Comprehending profound truths was no easy feat.

The Phoenix Blood Pool increasing success rate for Fire Origin truths was formidable.

Of course, Lu knew it only applied to Fire Origin—not others.

He wasn't too disappointed. One must learn contentment.

Like him—taking only half the Flame God Mountain.

In his old “never take a stitch from the enemy” days, he'd have hauled the whole thing away.

“This Phoenix Blood Pool can enhance physical strength—a rare treasure for current Five Phoenixes cultivators.”

Lu's mind stirred.

He activated the Phoenix Blood Pool.

Soon, a crimson vortex appeared in the void before him.

It expanded, forming a blood pool in the air.

The pool contained terrifying, violent energy.

Beast Ancestor essence blood—even Lu found it tricky. He could faintly hear the Beast Ancestor's roars.

Overcoming the pressure, Lu immersed himself.

After a long while,

Lu frowned.

It did enhance the body—but his, already immensely strengthened by Fire and Gold Indestructible Demon Bodies, gained little.

As for profound truths...

His Fire Origin comprehension was already profound; he didn't need the pool's aid.

For Lu, the reward was underwhelming—but only for him. For other Five Phoenixes cultivators, the Phoenix Blood Pool was invaluable.

"I should create a Fire Origin Land of Enlightenment and place the Phoenix Blood Pool within. They're meant to pair."

Lu narrowed his eyes.

He had a plan.

Gaining the Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue was great news for the Five Phoenixes.

As Tonggu Daoist thought,

Fire Origin truths appealed to a broader audience—most cultivators practiced fire attributes.

Thus, the Fire Origin statue was even more precious than the Golden Origin one.

But just as Lu prepared to set up the Fire Origin Land of Enlightenment,

in the Primordial Star Sky, Tonggu Daoist—who had been leading pursuing god-demons in circles—seized a moment when they were bewildered, shook them off, erased his traces, and slipped into the Ninth Heaven.

Time arrays operated within the Ninth Heaven.

Time accelerated; it was no longer lifeless.

Though ancient Emperor Hao had wandered the starry sky,

fusing the Ninth Heaven with the Five Phoenixes might have been his wisest decision.

Some life stars in the Ninth Heaven now bore mortal life.

As the world evolved, cultivators would emerge among them, drawing on heavenly power.

Tonggu Daoist smiled.

The many worlds in the Ninth Heaven weren't even low-martial yet—but world evolution started from nothing to prosperity.

Hands behind his back, he crossed the abyss and returned to the Five Phoenixes.

Human geniuses from the ancestral land rushed over upon learning of his return.

Seeing him unharmed and immortal as ever, they sighed in relief.

Heavenly Emperor Luoyang's eyes shone with emotion.

Indeed, they had held him back. Without them, Tonggu Daoist could have escaped the encirclement long ago.

Fortunately, Young Master Lu opened the Dragon Gate, allowing their escape and easing his burden.

Tonggu Daoist maintained his enigmatic air. With a flick of his wide sleeve,

a crimson streak shot out—Little Red Dragon, now at peak Great Emperor realm.

A Celestial-tier god-demon soul crystal—what a treasure.

Little Red Dragon bowed deeply in gratitude, then under Tonggu's casual wave, streaked away as red light.

Tonggu Daoist headed straight to Lake Heart Island.

Ning Zhao and the three guardian maidens paused at his sight.

But without the Young Master's permission, they barred him.

Tonggu Daoist wasn't annoyed—he waited with a smile.

Finally, Lu's ethereal voice came from the island.

Only then did the maidens allow him ashore.

On the island, Tonggu Daoist's gaze fell on Lu.

His eyes widened.

Lu's aura had grown more solid—a subtle, imperceptible transformation, yet on the cusp of another. These contradictory states in one person astonished him.

“Brother Lu, quite the harvest this time.”

Tonggu laughed heartily.

Lu held the Five Phoenixes Bow, embedding crushed Fire Spirit Stones into it.

“Back?”

Lu tinkered with the bow.

Tonggu Daoist sat naturally. Ning Zhao quietly poured him wine.

“I brought Little Red Dragon back safely—and gave him a fortune. That little guy earned major merit.”

Tonggu Daoist chuckled.

He'd granted the fortune largely for Lu's sake—Little Red Dragon's close ties to him were an investment.

Plus, the dragon was now half his disciple.

Lu's eyes focused; he glanced at Tonggu Daoist.

"Thanks."

Whether for the return or the fortune—unclear.

"Now, Brother Lu holds two Beast Ancestor statues—a big deal... The Primordial Star Sky won't be peaceful for a while."

Tonggu Daoist sipped wine, eyes serious.

"God-demons will mobilize massively to hunt the statues—not good news for the Five Phoenixes."

“The Five Phoenixes clashed with wandering god-demons—how long that stays hidden from the Elemental Realms is unknown.”

Tonggu Daoist said.

“Prepare early, Brother Lu.”

Lu nodded slightly.

“Once more god-demons link to the Five Phoenixes, Qiang Huo’s death won’t stay hidden...”

“The Five Phoenixes aren’t exactly safe—danger could be great or small.”

“But great danger will come eventually.”

“Without your master’s return—no starry sky sage guarding—the Five Phoenixes could face annihilation.”

Tonggu Daoist was grave.

Lu's hands paused.

"Any suggestions, Brother Tonggu?"

Lu asked curiously.

He trusted Tonggu hadn't raised this without reason.

Tonggu Daoist smiled, pinching a piece of green jade cake from Lu's plate.

"There's a way, naturally..."

"The Elemental Gods lost two statues—they won't let it go. But short-term, they likely won't open Water or Earth Origin statues... You've rattled their mindset."

"They fear you'll somehow steal those too..."

"They'll even guard them heavily."

“This period is both dangerous and safe—as long as the Five Phoenixes stay hidden. If discovered, make sure those god-demons... stay forever!”

Tonggu Daoist said.

“As for the way—I pondered long on the journey...”

“The best might be migration...”

Lu paused, frowning, setting down the bow he was repairing.

Migrate the Five Phoenixes?

Lu deemed it unwise. The current Five Phoenixes wasn't an obscure low-martial world but an immortal martial one wrapped in purple qi.

Migration would cause massive disturbance—alerting powerful god-demons in the Primordial Star Sky.

Thus, migration seemed poor.

“Of course, with two statues, migrating the Five Phoenixes risks exposure—the statues’ location would be impossible to hide...”

Tonggu Daoist laughed. “So the migration I mean isn’t the Five Phoenixes...”

Lu was momentarily confused.

“If the Five Phoenixes can’t move—then move the human ancestral land, the Primordial Immortal Domain...”

“Two Beast Ancestor statues are hope for human rise—must be protected. Once in god-demon hands, now ours—we guard them well.”

“These statues are my trump card to convince those stubborn old fogeys in the Primordial Immortal Domain.”

Tonggu Daoist said seriously.

“The ancestral land... can migrate?”

Lu had never heard this.

“Naturally. The Primordial Immortal Domain, like the Five Phoenixes, is an immortal martial world.”

“A great world adrift in the Primordial Star Sky. Over endless ages, under god-demon sieges, the ancestral land has migrated many times—each costly in lives, but those migrations birthed powerhouses in desperation, making humans ever stronger.”

“Now, with the Five Phoenixes holding two statues—if the ancestral land migrates here, cultivating many who comprehend profound truths—what’s not to like?”

Tonggu Daoist explained.

Lu pondered thoughtfully.

If the ancestral land could migrate—it was indeed a good solution.

At least, current Five Phoenixes struggling against a full Elemental Realm assault would be difficult.

“Of course, ancestral migration is major—I alone can’t decide.”

“So I’ll return to lobby. Meanwhile... Brother Lu, strengthen the Five Phoenixes.”

“As an immortal martial world, self-strength is fundamental—don’t rely on ancestral protection and neglect world ascension.”

“The ancestral land is just a concept. If the Five Phoenixes grow strong enough... even shelter the Primordial Immortal Domain—then the Five Phoenixes could be called the ancestral land!”

“World strengthening is vital.”

Tonggu Daoist said earnestly.

A warning.

“Since the Five Phoenixes reached this level, slackening means being torn apart by covetous god-demons.”

“Never underestimate god-demons... even with many victories, never grow complacent.”

Tonggu Daoist exhaled slowly.

They discussed details at length.

Eventually,

the plate of green jade cakes was emptied by Tonggu Daoist.

He burped contentedly and rose to leave.

Lu stared expressionlessly at the empty porcelain plate—suspecting the old daoist’s long talk was just to snag those cakes.

Tonggu Daoist didn’t linger in the Five Phoenixes—as he said, time was urgent.

No one knew when accidents might strike.

If the Five Phoenixes’ location exposed,

Elemental Gods would swarm—no joke, with two statues at stake.

Thus, Tonggu hurried back to convince the old fogeys for ancestral migration.

Just closer to the Five Phoenixes—for rapid strategic support in war.

He left all human geniuses behind.

With two statues—and Lu crafting Lands of Enlightenment—they were vital cultivation holy grounds.

Leaving them was wisest.

...

Little Red Dragon returned to the Five Phoenixes, exhilarated by his elevated cultivation.

He crossed the void to the foot of Buzhou Peak.

He wanted to thank Big Sis for saving him—but black-and-white clouds shrouded the peak, oppressive pressure daunting even peak Great Emperor Little Red Dragon.

“Big Sis seems at a critical cultivation point...”

He inhaled deeply, choosing not to disturb.

He bowed deeply in gratitude, then left.

He headed to Tailing's Asking Heaven Peak.

To thank Azure Dragon—his pre-departure guidance had worked, helping him survive.

Most importantly, the “find Big Sis” method was Azure Dragon's teaching.

Now, a grand luxurious dragon palace stood on Asking Heaven Peak.

Azure Dragon's palace—sheltering the Great Xuan Dynasty as an auspicious symbol.

The Human Emperor built it to gather destiny.

Little Red Dragon barely stepped through the threshold when clamor erupted.

Dozens of voices rang from the palace.

“It’s Uncle Red Dragon!”

Little Red Dragon smiled wryly at the gaggle of young ones.

All Azure Dragon’s offspring—inheriting his bloodline, gifted in cultivation.

These were the talented ones.

Less gifted offspring weren’t qualified for the palace.

After greeting the kids,

he met Azure Dragon.

Azure Dragon appeared upright—if Little Red Dragon didn’t know his daily brothel visits, he might have been fooled.

Azure Dragon’s cultivation was strong—he prioritized it despite his “seeding” efforts.

Many dragon sons and daughters were prodigies; some served in court, contributing to human destiny—thus Azure Dragon gained destiny blessings.

Now at peak Mysterious Immortal.

Azure Dragon stared blankly at Little Red Dragon—Sixth-Turn Golden Immortal after one trip.

Hearing the tale, he sighed deeply.

After thanking him, Little Red Dragon left—to cultivate harder, aiming for Ninth-Turn Golden Immortal, even proving Daluo.

Azure Dragon watched his departing back, eyes sharpening—feeling pressure.

Time to sire more offspring for greater destiny!

He, Azure Dragon, couldn't lag like that salty fish Little Ying Dragon!

...

In the preaching platform, Lu constructed the Fire Origin Land of Enlightenment.

Similar to the Golden Origin pyramid—but a flame mountain with 9,999 steps to the summit.

He placed the Phoenix Blood Pool at the 5,000th step.

Entry required talent.

The pool's Beast Ancestor blood was violent—insufficient Fire Origin affinity could tear one apart instantly.

Lu meant well.

The Spirit Pressure Chessboard glowed faintly.

Lu's eyes gleamed. He rolled his sleeve, picked a piece.

Then placed it slowly.

Click.

The piece on the board scraped—then Lu flicked it sharply.

Humm!

In the starry sky beyond the Five Phoenixes Continent, opposite the Golden Origin star—a crimson star formed.

The Fire Origin star—bearing the flame mountain, Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue, and Phoenix Blood Pool.

Lu admired his work.

But his brows raised—something stirred.

Hm?

He looked up, sharp gaze piercing the mist around Lake Heart Island toward Buzhou Peak.

There...

Thick black-and-white clouds shrouded Buzhou Peak, purple qi surging within.

Like a fully wrapped egg—its occupant about to hatch.

Lu's eyes brightened.

Surprise and joy mingled.

“Yin and Yang press the dual qi, purple qi like primordial chaos...”

“Little Cotton Jacket is about to break through to Daluo?”

Chapter 616: Zhulong's Closest Kin—Qi Refinement Layer Twelve

The heavenly phenomena signaled to Lu that something momentous was about to happen.

In fact, it wasn't just Lu.

Across the entire Five Phoenixes Continent, many cultivators sensed the changes in the world—a cascade of auspicious signs, as if heaven and earth themselves were celebrating.

Even the birth of Golden Immortals in the Five Phoenixes had never triggered such omens.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Outside Buzhou Peak,

sounds of flight filled the air. The void tore open as figures stepped out one after another.

Human Heavenly Emperor Chai Feng, accompanied by his thirty newly accepted disciples whom he aimed to nurture into Emperor realm, stood in the void, gazing toward Buzhou Peak.

Heavenly Emperor Luoyang did the same, along with numerous human geniuses and countless Five Phoenixes cultivators.

Lu Jiulian, Overlord, Tang Yimo, Sima Qingshan, and other Five Phoenixes Golden Immortals hovered in the air, eyes fixed on Buzhou Peak shrouded in purple.

At this moment, Buzhou Peak seemed to gather the essence of the entire Five Phoenixes world.

The immortal sources of the Five Phoenixes flickered in and out of visibility, fluttering their wings as they circled the peak endlessly...

“Is this an attempt to breakthrough to Daluo Immortal?”

“Miss Zhulong might become the first in the Five Phoenixes to step into Daluo Immortal realm—this is a blessing for our world.”

“Daluo Immortal should be comparable to human Heavenly Emperors—top-tier powerhouses in the immortal martial level.”

Human cultivators sighed in awe.

Many gazed at Buzhou Peak with gleaming eyes. The Five Phoenixes had risen from a weak low-martial world to a powerful immortal martial one—it had been no easy path.

Zhulong too had grown from those low-martial days to become one of the Five Phoenixes' strongest.

The former Buzhou Peak demoness who single-handedly slew seventeen Tianyuan Nascent Souls—her feat felt like yesterday's glory.

But in today's context, it paled in comparison.

“Breaking through to Heavenly Emperor isn't that simple... one needs to comprehend a profound truth.”

“Miss Zhulong hasn't comprehended any profound truths. If she attempts Heavenly Emperor realm, there's a high chance of failure.”

“True, but since she's confident enough to try, perhaps she has some secret we don't know.”

Chai Feng and Luoyang, as Heavenly Emperors from the human ancestral land, had insights into such breakthroughs.

Their words deepened the solemn expressions among the Five Phoenixes crowd.

Indeed... Zhulong hadn't comprehended Golden Origin or Fire Origin profound truths.

Did she truly have a shot at Daluo Immortal?

For a moment, everyone's hearts tightened.

But no one spoke up or shifted their gaze from Buzhou Peak. If Zhulong succeeded, she would be the Five Phoenixes' first Daluo Immortal.

It held profound significance—they might witness history.

For many Five Phoenixes Golden Immortals, it was also a valuable lesson.

...

Lu leaned back in his Thousand-Bladed Chair, making no further moves.

His fingers lightly tapped the armrest.

His eyes fixed on Buzhou Peak.

He saw clearer than others: atop the peak, Zhulong sat cross-legged on a bluestone with eyes closed. Vast innate purple qi swirled endlessly around her.

She was on the verge of assaulting Daluo Immortal realm.

But Lu frowned. Even he wasn't certain of her success—the breakthrough to Daluo was unprecedented.

As Chai Feng and Luoyang noted, Zhulong lacked Golden or Fire Origin truths, making it hard to predict.

Why had Tonggu Daoist been so excited when Lu acquired the Golden and Fire Origin statues?

Simply because they aided comprehension of profound truths.

Comprehending one was crucial for breaking into Heavenly Emperor.

Without it, success was rare—ancestral land experience proved that.

Self-comprehension without aid was far harder.

Lu said nothing, nor did he intervene. This breakthrough required her own effort—if successful, it would be her fortune.

The higher the cultivation, the less he could help.

Moreover...

Lu felt it inwardly.

If Zhulong succeeded, his own Qi Refinement layer... might also advance.

He even felt a quiet anticipation.

...

Outside Buzhou Peak,

Zhulong sat cross-legged, feeling as if immersed in chaos.

Innate Yin-Yang qi coiled endlessly around her.

She knew what she faced—what she intended: assaulting Daluo Immortal. She had resolved to do so, aware of the failure risk.

Yet a strong impulse drove her.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The surrounding void seemed to collapse; her aura climbed relentlessly.

Purple qi descended from the heavens. As immortal sources circled her, more purple qi cascaded down.

Above her head, her sea of destiny boiled—refined through nine turns to perfection.

She wasn't sure how destiny manifested at Daluo.

Zhulong's lashes trembled. As her aura rose, a Yin-Yang millstone soon emerged overhead.

Her self-forged innate treasure Yin-Yang Millstone also appeared, rising and falling in the purple qi, bathed in it—evolving under its blessing.

Time passed; Zhulong lost track of how long she meditated.

She felt touching the world's fundamental truths—countless energies vividly before her. The world turned vibrant, dazzling.

Colors shifted like ink blots bleeding on paper.

Everything in heaven and earth seemed to sublimate. Strands of purple qi entered her body, transforming it—her spirit leaping forward.

But lacking a profound truth, at the breakthrough's climax, she felt rootless—like drifting duckweed, unsure how to anchor.

Struggling in the endless purple qi ocean.

Her aura fluctuated wildly, as if on the verge of collapse—failure imminent.

...

On Lake Heart Island,

Lu frowned, sensing something wrong with Zhulong's state.

Space shattered around him.

He appeared atop Buzhou Peak.

In the boundless purple ocean, Zhulong furrowed in pain, body trembling slightly.

Without a profound truth, she couldn't systematically harness the innate purple qi or surging energy.  
Continuing risked explosion...

“No wonder Beast Ancestor statues are so prized... with them, comprehending truths equates to capital for Daluo breakthrough.”

Lu inhaled deeply.

His hands formed seals.

He intended to impart his comprehended truths to Zhulong, helping her organize the power.

At least prevent her from being overwhelmed by chaotic energy.

As his cherished little cotton jacket, how could Lu watch her burst and perish?

Humm...

Golden Origin truth flowed like water—a golden heavenly river cascading from the skies.

To cleanse her body.

Yet...

Lu's eyes narrowed.

Zhulong's mind seemed adrift—drawn by something?

“What's going on?”

Lu frowned. At such a critical moment, how could reliable Zhulong make such a novice error?

Something must have happened.

Knowing her, she wouldn't slip like this.

“Heart demon?”

“Or... someone influencing her?”

Lu's eyes sharpened, killing intent surging.

Interfering during breakthrough could doom her eternally.

A slight misstep—and death.

Humm...

Lu's primordial spirit trembled, then flooded into Zhulong's will space like a torrent.

...

Outside Buzhou Peak,

when boundless terrifying pressure spread from the summit, everyone's expressions changed.

“Something's wrong!”

“Miss Zhulong's breakthrough seems interfered with...”

“Energy rampage—without a profound truth to order the surge, trouble as expected.”

Human geniuses paled.

Five Phoenixes cultivators grew grave.

Daluo breakthrough was indeed arduous.

Even a prodigy like Zhulong faced mishaps.

But knowing the issue, they were helpless.

They couldn't even intervene.

They couldn't pinpoint the source—rash action would worsen it.

...

Outside Buzhou Peak, the Heavenly Dao Tree swayed, faintly forming a worried human face.

Helpless.

Atop Buzhou Peak, Lu's mind entered Zhulong's will space.

Upon entry,

Lu frowned. In the space, a pair of massive eyes...

Loomed overhead, exuding endless pressure.

Zhulong's autumn-leaf-like figure drifted uncontrollably toward them—pulled by mysterious force.

No wonder failure loomed—some powerful entity meddled in her will space.

“Dare scheme against my little cotton jacket...” Lu's eyes blazed with killing intent.

He felt lingering fear—if discovered later, it might have been irreversible.

In the will space, Lu's phantom manifested, crossing the void toward the enormous eyes.

...

Zhulong felt dazed, pulled by immense attraction.

Eyes closed, lashes trembling, she looked up—at massive eyes in the sky, gleaming with myriad lights.

Mysterious power—and a soul-deep tremor.

Whose eyes?

Zhulong wondered.

Vaguely, she sensed a connection.

But now, she had no time for that. Even if related—so what?

At the critical Daluo assault, she must escape the pull. Failure aside, death loomed.

She struggled.

Lashes quivered, trying to open her eyes.

But lids weighed heavy—like sandbags glued on. Opening was excruciating.

Repeated attempts finally tore the darkness.

Zhulong's eyes opened.

Black-and-white pupils burst with dazzling light.

Innate Yin-Yang qi intertwined into a ferocious beast, charging the heavenly eyes.

Yet...

To her shock, those eyes turned black-and-white too.

Identical to hers.

Boom!

Her unstoppable divine ability... extinguished utterly.

This...

Zhulong felt lost for the first time. The foe wielded Yin-Yang too?

“My offspring...”

Suddenly,

an ancient voice echoed through every corner of the will space.

Boom!

Zhulong felt in boundless void—a terrifying colossal beast blotting sky and sun. One scale a world...

Suffocatingly powerful.

“No!”

“I have a dad!”

Zhulong's mind nearly yielded, but at the last moment, clarity returned. She gritted her teeth.

Forcibly severing the link...

The entity seemed stunned.

Then Lu appeared, closing on the overhead eyes. Preaching platform swung like a hammer.

Boom!

Terrifying runes blotted the sky, enveloping the will space...

“You dare eye my little cotton jacket?”

Lu said.

The massive eyes showed astonishment, then fixed on Lu—immense pressure.

One could imagine the owner's strength.

Crucially...

Lu never expected such stealthy intrusion into Zhulong's will space.

The black-and-white eyes stared at Lu.

Lu, protective as ever, met the gaze fearlessly.

Their stare-off brewed a strange atmosphere.

Zhulong, seeing Lu arrive, was moved to tears—it was Dad!

In that peril, Dad saved her.

“You...”

After long silence,

a muffled voice boomed.

Complex emotions. Then the eyes deeply regarded Zhulong, projecting black-and-white beams from the pupils before slowly closing. The overhead space turned pitch black.

Lu exhaled slowly.

The eyes' disappearance relaxed him.

The entity's methods were enigmatic—a mere pair of eyes brought crushing pressure.

Lu unsure of its full strength...

If fight broke out—could he hold?

But its final words—surprised, like meeting an old acquaintance.

Puzzled Lu. He had no recollection of this beast—no prior intersection...

“Who is he?”

Lu frowned.

Why act so familiar?

The black-and-white beams from the eyes fell on Zhulong.

Lu intended to block—but sensed profound truth fluctuations.

He hesitated, allowing it.

The lights stabilized Zhulong's aura.

“Yin-Yang profound truth...”

Lu narrowed his eyes.

Black and white, rippling with truths.

The eyes' owner... had aided her.

This sharpened Lu's gaze.

Thoughts raced, but he didn't linger in her will space—soon withdrawing to his body.

Atop Buzhou Peak, Zhulong's surging energy stabilized.

Yin-Yang truth—different from Golden or Fire Origin, but still a profound truth.

With it mastered,

the breakthrough flowed naturally.

Purple qi merged into her; destiny enveloped her.

Her aura soared like a plummeting waterfall—thrillingly fast.

Lu watched satisfied.

This breakthrough—thrilling but safe. She succeeded; a happy ending.

“Zhulong's eyes black-and-white—and those in her will space too. Could the beast share bloodline with her?”

“Coming to acknowledge kin?”

Lu pondered.

Space cracked; he returned to Lake Heart Island, seated in the pavilion amid gentle breeze.

Picked a piece, resuming chess.

Outside Buzhou Peak,

powerhouses noted Zhulong's stabilized aura—excitement spread.

She'd stabilized; rampant energies calmed. With their cultivation, they discerned the shift.

Zhulong comprehended a profound truth in desperation—reversing fate, achieving Daluo!

Boom!

Thunder clouds gathered.

But before striking, they dissipated.

No Daluo tribulation fell.

Many sighed—the Buzhou Peak demoness, heaven's favored daughter...

Clouds parted; myriad auspicious rays shone down.

Zhulong sat on bluestone, radiating destiny glow and faint purple qi.

The Five Phoenixes' first Daluo Immortal—was born!

Overlord, Tang Yimo, Lu Jiulian, and others sighed deeply.

Lu Jiulian said nothing, turning to streak away. With Zhulong's success, it was his turn to assail Daluo.

Her breakthrough showed the Five Phoenixes now had the foundation for Daluo births.

Truly an immortal martial world.

Overlord, Tang Yimo, and other Five Phoenixes cultivators silently departed.

...

On Lake Heart Island,

tranquility reigned.

Breeze rustled; peach petals danced, purple bamboo leaves whispered.

Swish.

Lu poured wine, sipped lightly, eyes slitting in contentment.

On the chessboard, a tangled, hair-like mess gradually clarified.

Final piece fell—as if dispersing Zhulong's Daluo tribulation.

Lu smiled. All rounded out perfectly.

As Zhulong achieved Daluo,

Lu's mind stirred.

System prompts flashed.

“From ground rises towering building. Congratulations, Host—spiritual energy reserves accumulated, meeting Qi Refinement advancement conditions. Advance?”

As expected. Zhulong's Daluo entry provided enough spiritual energy share for his bottleneck leap.

From Qi Refinement Layer Eleven to Twelve.

After quasi-sage chimes accelerated the Five Phoenixes' transformation—birthing many Ninth-Turn Golden Immortals—plus Tonggu's additional chime at Lu's request, completing immortal martial evolution, fusing Ninth Heaven, and billions of souls reborn...

Such vast spiritual energy surge enabled the leap upon Zhulong's breakthrough.

Lu remained calm.

All within his grasp.

Qi Refinement to Layer Twelve; Fire and Gold Indestructible Demon Bodies perfected—his raw strength rivaled Great Dao-tier god-demons.

Layer Twelve might elevate him to true Great Dao-tier.

No need to hold back.

“Advance.”

Lu said faintly.

He sought rapid growth—his advancement could drive the world's. Only stronger himself could strengthen the Five Phoenixes.

Elemental Realm threats soured even green jade cakes.

Urgent need for power.

Upon confirmation, prompts dimmed.

Like a whale spouting,

Lu felt a stream explode in his mind, soaring skyward in myriad lights.

Humm...

Hazy, his soul transcended spatial dimensions.

Entering a mysterious, profound realm.

Far off, a figure shrouded in black approached step by step.

Lu narrowed his eyes, trying to discern the face—clear yet unforgettable, no impression formed...

Now at Qi Refinement Layer Twelve with perfected Fire and Gold bodies, Lu rivaled top Great Dao-tier god-demons.

Yet this entity—unfathomable.

Instinct urged: scrutinize—this person's identity tied deeply to him.

As Lu strained,

the figure smiled.

Flicked his forehead.

Lu's consciousness plummeted back, exiting the mysterious dimension.

The black figure turned, hands behind back—where it passed, all twisted, annihilated...

“Congratulations, Host—advancement complete: Qi Refinement Layer Twelve. Further along the path to excellent Qi Refiner.”

“Reward: Indestructible Demon Body (Wood Origin Source). Material: Star Tear Wood.”

Hm?

Lu's consciousness returned; brows raised.

Mind stirred.

System panel appeared.

Host: Lu

Title: Qi Refiner (Permanent)

Special Title: God-Demon Hunter

Qi Refinement Layers: 12

Spiritual Energy Reserves: 1/10 (trillion)

Primordial Spirit Power: 10000 (ten thousand yuan)

Innate Purple Qi: 1000 (strands)

World Rating: Five Phoenixes Great World [Immortal Martial]

Little change—except vast spiritual energy increase. Primordial spirit power shattered bottleneck—now terrifyingly potent.

One thought could sweep the entire Five Phoenixes, forming devastating will storms.

Innate purple qi growth less pronounced—harder to acquire.

But gains substantial.

Purple qi subtly fortified his body—key to rapid demon body perfection.

Lu raised his hand, clenching slowly.

Boom!

Muffled void cracks echoed.

Space Cutting activated; void layered, as if sliced by invisible blades.

Now, Lu possessed true Daluo combat power.

Actually, Fire body perfection already granted it—now merely elevated.

No dwelling on the destructive shrouded figure in that space.

Lu checked the reward.

Ordinary enough.

“Indestructible Demon Body, Wood Origin... after Fire, Wood?”

Lu smiled.

No rush to fuse—high success rate post-Fire perfection.

But he waited.

“Star Tear Wood: Supreme material, chaos-born companion treasure. Evolves wood-element god-demon bloodlines; enhances treasure resilience when forged.”

Prompt appeared.

Lu held a willow-stump-sized wood block—surprised.

“Supreme material...”

His eyes lit.

He drew the Five Phoenixes Bow—already fused with Fire Spirit Stones. He planned to embed Star Tear Wood too.

The bow's importance as world-suppressing treasure demanded maximal enhancement.

Lu long sought materials—this arrived timely.

As Lu repaired the bow,

in the Ascension Ground.

Lu Jiulian sat amid heavenly court ruins.

Suddenly,

his aura erupted. Eyes opened—bewildered, then bored.

Mind stirred.

Purple qi surged—like Zhulong, ready for Daluo assault.

But bewildered: he'd just sat, not yet brewing breakthrough mood.

Long sigh echoed in the Ascension Ground.

“I... always grow stronger without realizing...”

Chapter 617: You Dare Glare at Me Too?

Lu's breakthrough was understated.

Advancing from Qi Refinement Layer Eleven to Twelve went unnoticed by most—no one realized he had broken through. Compared to previous ones, this was utterly low-key.

No spiritual energy vortex enveloping the entire Five Phoenixes, no dazzling heavenly phenomena like special effects.

Just Lu Jiulian's bored lament.

Lu's advancement inadvertently spurred Lu Jiulian's.

After breaking through, Lu checked on Zhulong. Seeing her stabilize, he paid it no more mind and resumed repairing the Five Phoenixes Bow.

With the Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue, he could infuse pure Fire Origin profound truths—combined with Golden Origin, granting devastating dual-truth power.

A trump card for the Five Phoenixes—Lu wouldn't use it lightly.

He'd planned to test an arrow somewhere, but considering the bow's might, one shot would likely alert Elemental Gods in the Primordial Star Sky instantly.

So he held back.

As for sparring with the giant beast Qu Si—Lu reconsidered. Forcibly elevated to Great Dao-tier god-demon, Qu Si tanked hits well but lacked real combat prowess.

The bow's power would reduce him to ash in moments.

Qu Si still had uses—dying without shining would be wasteful.

After embedding half the Star Tear Wood, Lu stored the rest.

Its value was high—the only extra reward besides the inevitable Indestructible Demon Body for reaching Layer Twelve.

Supreme material enhancing treasure resilience—delightful.

Carefully stowing it, Lu grew bored.

Breakthrough done, bow repair paused.

Nothing to do.

He descended the White Jade Capital pavilion, strolled Lake Heart Island, then inspected the maidens' progress.

In the alchemy pavilion,

Ni Yu hugged Little Yinglong over a golden cauldron brimming with pills. Constant alchemy and standardized recipes earned her much destiny—barely Golden Immortal now.

Lu's appearance nearly choked her on a pill.

“Young Master!”

Ni Yu scrambled up, uneasy—never expecting him here.

Lu stared speechlessly at her snacking on pills.

Somewhat disappointed.

Had this girl forgotten why she stayed petite?

Overdosing on body-tempering pills fixed her figure. Without that, she'd likely be plump by now.

Imagining piglet-like Ni Yu, Lu shook his head. Good thing it set.

Little Yinglong had fattened a bit.

Lu tore open the origin universe, tossing the teary dragon in.

Salty fish time over—train with Five Phoenixes immortal sources.

Done, Lu steered his Thousand-Bladed Chair out.

Ning Zhao cultivated quietly, powerful energies swirling.

She'd reached Golden Immortal—diligent from the start, not wanting to embarrass the Young Master.

Lu knew his three maidens' talents weren't exceptional.

Without managing the Destiny Tower for vast destiny blessings, Ning Zhao and Yi Yue's Golden Immortal entry would be near impossible.

Unlike Ni Yu, rewarding her pills via the tower for easy destiny.

They relied on diligent management for strength.

“Young Master...”

Ning Zhao and Yi Yue bowed.

Behind Lu, Ni Yu blushed—comparison highlighted her laziness.

“Good.”

Lu smiled.

After checking assignments, he returned to the pavilion.

Leaning on the rail, enjoying the breeze a while,

Lu prepared to open the Fire Origin star.

Grant Fire Origin profound truth comprehension access.

Snap!

Sleeve rolled, piece picked—Lu placed it firmly. It ignited, endless flames soaring skyward.

...

Like a pebble in a pond.

On Heavenly Secret Peak,

Lü Mu and Mo Tianyu chess mid-game.

Lu's move alerted them. Eyes met, they smiled.

Heavenly Secret Pavilion's purpose? Convey White Jade Capital's will.

Fire Origin star opening—Young Master Lu's intent. They must announce.

Mysterious yellow paper, Old Lü's blood.

Soon, Heavenly Secret pigeons fluttered off the peak, informing all Five Phoenixes cultivators.

The world buzzed.

Many frustrated with Golden Origin shifted to Fire Origin. Cultivators streaked skyward, heading beyond the continent to the Fire Origin star.

Human prodigies Chai Feng and Luoyang appeared.

“Brother Luo, your Fire Origin talent should be exceptional, right?”

Chai Feng eyed Luoyang—a prodigy selected for the Land of Enlightenment.

Specialization mattered—some excelled in Golden, others Fire...

Few mastered multiple; greed hindered mastery.

Chai Feng came to try—but recalled Lu tricking him into nurturing thirty Emperors.

Now, urge to drag Luoyang in.

Cultivating Emperors for Five Phoenixes wasn't bad.

So Chai Feng bet him.

Luoyang paused, refusing outright.

“Brother Chai, you don't know—Five Phoenixes cultivators seem innately sensitive to Fire Origin beyond imagination... You didn't see Brother Jiulian's fifty-thousand-mile profound sea spectacle in the Land, or Miss Bai reaching the finish while others started...”

“I fall short. In Fire Origin, I can't match Five Phoenixes geniuses.”

Luoyang waved it off.

Chai Feng stifled frustration—old Luo wouldn't bite.

Soon, Fire Origin star opened.

Rules mirrored Golden Origin—flame mountain like the pyramid, Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue atop.

Chai Feng dropped persistence without trapping Luoyang.

Cultivators ascended the flame mountain, enduring scorching heat on its steps.

Chai Feng lacked Fire Origin talent—decent in Golden, mediocre here. Barely two thousand steps before Beast Ancestor pressure forced descent.

But overall Fire Origin comprehension fared better than Golden—fire's popularity perhaps.

Dozens in Five Phoenixes reached five thousand steps...

Five thousand meant grasping ten percent profound truth power.

Golden pyramid? Mere handful.

Comprehending truths was positive.

Those failing weren't rushed—with the statue, daily meditation as cultivation—five thousand steps eventual.

Overlord, Tang Yimo, Sima Qingshan, and other Five Phoenixes Golden Immortals felt dejected.

Hoping average Golden talent meant strong Fire.

Overlord fared worse in Fire than Golden.

Tang Yimo little better.

Micah showed some Fire talent—four thousand steps, short of five thousand.

But far surpassed Overlord's one thousand.

Three thousand offered hope—with effort, ten percent grasp.

One thousand start? Talent ceiling low—effort futile.

Profound truth contests were cruel.

Realistic.

Talent decided—you lacked, you lacked.

Prodigies started where others toiled lifetimes unreachable.

Lu watched the flame mountain bustle, amused.

Like a farce.

...

Lu Julian felt stronger—but Daluo still distant.

Unsure how, now bottlenecked—he needed effort.

No more “I don't want to try.”

Wrong—effortless like salty fish?

He, Lu Jiulian, no salty fish.

How to advance?

Eyes on Destiny Tower.

He arrived, accepting Golden Immortal zone heavenly-tier task...

Tower's hardest.

Lu Jiulian aloof—his fame in Five Phoenixes soared, rivaling even White Jade Capital's Young Master Lu.

Slaying fourteen Great Dao-tier god-demons in the Land—heralded by Luoyang's congratulations, echoed everywhere.

Yet fame unchanged his cool demeanor.

Taciturn by nature.

Task accepted—no flirting with cute destiny maidens, not a word extra—teleported directly.

“Green Lotus Golden Immortal took heavenly-tier Golden Immortal task? Tower's toughest!”

“Worthy—slaughtered in god-demon Land, glorifying Five Phoenixes!”

“Heard god-demons retreated at his name... too strong!”

“Green Lotus Golden Immortal... too strong!”

Destiny Tower hall buzzed with awe.

Lu Jiulian heard none.

Tower apex.

Eyes opened.

Task backdrop: Great Xuan Academy.

Lu Jiulian appeared, calm. Far off, giant beast Qu Si awoke from slumber.

Post-Lu beating, Qu Si grew vigilant—any stir alerted him.

“Great Dao-tier god-demon!”

Lu Jiulian inhaled, staring. Destiny Tower imprisoned one?

“Worthy of Young Master Lu—unfathomable strength.”

“Subduing Great Dao-tier god-demons.”

Lu Jiulian slowly drew his waist-hung Green Lotus Sword.

Boom!

Feet erupted air waves.

Green lotuses bloomed around him. Sword swept—qi crisscrossing thirty thousand miles, scarring earth instantly.

Lu Jiulian versus Qu Si—intense.

Fourteen Great Dao-tier slain under Green Lotus Sword Immortal—but no arrogance, no laxity.

He knew himself—without special state, Great Dao-tier meant death.

Few exchanges confirmed: Qu Si bottom-tier Great Dao.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Fierce clash.

Qu Si vented rage—post-advancement, few chances to fight.

Immortal-tier for Five Phoenixes Golden Immortals practice.

Great Dao-tier? Beyond them.

Qu Si fought seriously—unleashing dominance, ferocity!

Long after,

Lu Jiulian blood-soaked, wounds riddling him.

Green lotus attire crimson.

Sword gripped, he sat heavily. Qu Si afar, battle-weary.

Eyes ferocious, baring teeth at Lu Jiulian.

Lu Jiulian ignored.

Doubting how he'd slain fourteen Great Dao-tier in the Land.

Struggling against bottom-feeder Qu Si—how elites died?

Unfathomable—let it go.

Battle accumulated, shattered bottleneck.

Breakthrough imminent—true Daluo.

Golden Origin long comprehended; Fire Origin in the Land too.

Dual truths—high Daluo confidence.

Sword propped ground, rising slowly.

No slaying Qu Si.

“Breakthrough assured—leave you for the next battling to prove Dao.”

Lu Jiulian said.

Qu Si kept baring teeth, snorting heavily.

Lu Jiulian bloodied, sword-caned, turned—cool glance.

“Glare what?”

“I slew fourteen Great Dao-tier god-demons in the Land...”

“You dare glare at me too?”

Lu Jiulian said.

Aura shifted—truly murderous god. Fallen Great Dao-tier parts materialized around him.

Thick bloodlust, terrifying aura storming.

Qu Si froze mid-mock—forced awkward friendly smile.

Real Great Dao-tier auras—bloodline suppression silenced him.

Lu Jiulian's erupting presence... overlapped Lu Ping'an's in Qu Si's eyes.

Lu Jiulian left.

Qu Si, alone atop tower, tears flowed aggrieved.

Too miserable.

Lu Ping'an tormented his main—now alt too!

Qu Si... too bitter.

...

Lu Jiulian spared Qu Si—defeat completed task.

Destiny blessed, returned to Ascension Ground.

Boom!

Aura uncontainable, piercing heavens like a beam.

Eyes closed, purple qi condensed. Fire and Golden truths ordered rampant energy.

Zhulong's precedent—his breakthrough seamless.

Soon stabilized.

Purple qi enveloped.

Lu Jiulian looked up—thunder clouds rolled.

Daluo tribulation.

Unavoidable—he no heaven's favored like Zhulong.

Thunder barrage endured—safely crossed, entering Daluo.

Five Phoenixes' second after Zhulong.

Daluo—destiny blessed, beyond Five Phoenixes, mind touring three realms, vast divine abilities.

Lu Jiulian's breakthrough—joy for some, sorrow others.

Overlord and Tang Yimo felt immense pressure.

Always compared—catching up now distant.

Lacking profound truth talent—Daluo hard without.

Brief dejection—soon rallied, cultivating harder.

Daluo births stimulated Five Phoenixes cultivators massively.

Countless practiced frantically.

Chai Feng and Luoyang sighed—Five Phoenixes' short low-to-immortal martial rise from such drive.

Matched ancestral land geniuses under god-demon oppression.

How embarrassing?

In this atmosphere, Chai Feng and Luoyang joined the diligent ranks—no slacking.

...

Primordial Star Sky.

Cold, silent.

Ancient stars drifted like dust.

Boom...

Void muffled, twisting oppressively.

Quiet stars shoved aside by vast force.

But not destroyed.

Soon, twisted void revealed a boundless great world.

Migrating through the starry sky.

Tonggu Daoist flickered, appearing above.

Flushed, excited.

Back in human ancestral land, Primordial Immortal Domain—after much persuasion, convinced stubborn elders for migration.

Closer to Five Phoenixes—for aid if exposed.

Two Beast Ancestor statues—profound for ancestral land.

Reason elders agreed to migrate for a new immortal martial world.

Historically, worlds migrated to ancestral land—never reverse.

Ancestral land, human stronghold—monitored by many Celestial-tier god-demons.

Migration drew attention.

News reached Elemental Realms swiftly.

Fire Elemental God still fumed over stolen statues.

Scouts returned disappointments—enraging him.

Ancestral migration news heightened Elemental Gods' urgency.

“Only Beast Ancestor statues prompt ancestral migration...”

“One might not suffice—two absolutely.”

“Tonggu Daoist knows something—black-robed thief tied to him!”

“If ancestral land gains two statues... humans rise! Strike first?”

Elemental Gods debated heatedly.

Previously, they'd swarm without hesitation.

But now different.

Humans no longer easy prey.

Amid intense discussion,

a Celestial-tier god-demon streaked in panicked.

“The chaos entity holding Wood Origin Beast Ancestor statue awakened!”

“Wood Origin profound truth Land of Enlightenment... opening!”

News stunned Elemental Gods—then excitement surged wildly.

...

Lu unaware of Wood Origin Land opening.

He pondered fusing Wood Indestructible Demon Body.

Fire perfected—qualified for Wood.

But hesitant...

Gold body: golden hair, noble.

Fire: crimson hair, dazzling...

Wood: lush green—Lu oddly uncomfortable.

## Chapter 618: Don't Compare Yourself to Young Master Lu

Whether to fuse the Wood Indestructible Demon Body—this indeed gave Lu pause for thought.

But then it dawned on him: he seemed to have no romantic prospects anyway. So what if he had three thousand strands of green hair?

It had nothing to do with him.

Leaning back in his Thousand-Bladed Chair, Lu exhaled long and slow, his mind calming considerably.

In the end, he chose to fuse it. The power of an Indestructible Demon Body was undeniable.

Humm...

“Does Host confirm fusion of Wood Indestructible Demon Body?”

The system prompt appeared as usual.

“Fuse it.”

Lu said calmly, fingers lightly tapping the armrest.

“Fusion commencing.”

The prompt appeared, then quickly faded.

Lu blinked in mild surprise—no warning of danger this time.

Boom!

Soon, his mind sank into chaos.

A crystalline green flash passed before his eyes—vitality's power, surging vibrantly, dazzlingly.

His white robes instantly shifted hue, turning crystalline green—like lush grass.

Hummm...

Dense vitality coursed through him, astonishing Lu.

“This is the Wood Indestructible Demon Body?”

Lu marveled inwardly. With a thought, the Phoenix Feather Sword floated up, grazing his fingertip.

The wound split—but green ripples surged, healing it instantly.

Recovery speed dozens of times faster than before.

“Gold for offense, Fire for destruction, Wood for vitality...”

Lu's eyes sharpened. With Wood, his injury recovery would be extraordinarily swift.

But the current Wood body was still weak—lacking Wood Origin infusion, far behind perfected Gold and Fire.

White robes pristine once more, Lu sat in the pavilion sipping fine wine.

His mind studied the chessboard's layout.

The Five Phoenixes' cultivation now ran smoothly—like engaged gears. Without his intervention, cultivators continuously provided spiritual energy, aiding his Qi Refinement advancements.

It spared him much worry.

He could sit on Lake Heart Island, quietly watching flowers bloom and fall.

Yet thoughts lingered: those eyes in Zhulong's will space—what were they?

And the black-robed figure during Layer Twelve breakthrough—who?

Pondering this,

Lu entered the preaching platform to deduce.

Attempting to derive the black-robed figure.

But the platform failed—unable to manifest him. No matter how Lu deduced, even the eyes remained unclear.

“Could that black-robed figure transcend the system's level?”

Lu frowned.

What level beyond the system?

Starry sky sage?

Or above sages?

Regardless, Lu knew one thing: he was likely targeted by a sage—or something beyond.

...

Lu Jiulian broke through to Daluo Immortal—the Five Phoenixes' second after Zhulong.

Chai Feng and Luoyang arrived successively, offering congratulations. As human Heavenly Emperors, they knew the weight of adding two such powerhouses.

For humans, immense good news—bolstering strength against god-demons.

Chai Feng and Luoyang loved the Five Phoenixes' atmosphere. With flame mountain and pyramid as cultivation holy lands, practitioners here were blessed.

Previously, humans risked greatly entering god-demon Lands—outstanding performers targeted, even slain on pretexts.

Most fallen geniuses died innocently—humans endured silently for strength.

Now, with their own Beast Ancestor statues—huge for human rise.

Chai Feng ultimately chose the pyramid.

Luoyang the flame mountain—both aiming to push truths to fifty percent.

Each ten percent gain massively boosted combat power.

Flame mountain's advantage: Phoenix Blood Pool—enhancing Fire Origin affinity and comprehension.

Chai Feng envied—his Fire talent mediocre. Better stack Golden.

Luoyang bathed in the pool—Fire Origin surged, reaching eighth thousand steps—forty percent mastery!

Even better: Bai Qingniao, cradling nine chicks in the pool—also eighth thousand, forty percent.

Luoyang sighed—worthy of slashing through the god-demon Land, reaching the end in the second ripple wave.

He was Heavenly Emperor—Fire Origin achiever, Daluo equivalent in Five Phoenixes.

Bai Qingniao merely Ninth-Turn Golden Immortal.

Yet matched him in comprehension.

Flame mountain opening—daily assaults on Fire Origin star.

Five Phoenixes Celestial realm cultivators increased daily; Human and True Immortals multiplied.

A prosperous era—true immortal martial golden age.

...

Human ancestral land, Primordial Immortal Domain.

A vast world—like a sphere, countless dust-like stars floating within, a universe unto itself.

Migrating slowly through the Primordial Star Sky—ethereal energies flickering, edges veiled in dazzling auroras.

Migration no rarity for the ancestral land—countless times evading god-demon sieges.

Each costly—resources drained.

But compared to two Beast Ancestor statues—negligible.

Tonggu Daoist streaked from the domain.

Robes fluttering, whisk swept—eyes narrowed ahead.

Clearly, more Celestial-tier god-demons probed outside.

Migration stirred them.

Perhaps guessing the aim: nearing the two statues.

Tonggu Daoist frowned.

He halted further advance—starry scouts' reports demanded attention.

“What wind blows lately... Lands of Enlightenment opening one after another.”

Tonggu Daoist shook his head.

Scouts' intel simple.

Boom!

Void twisted beside him—a blurry figure emerged, clarifying into a green-robed youth.

“You got the news? The chaos entity holding Wood Origin statue awakened... Wood Origin Land opening.”

“Compared to prior Golden and Fire—greater opportunity for humans.”

“Only Beast Ancestor statue not controlled by god-demons in the Primordial Star Sky.”

Tonggu Daoist said to the youth.

The green-robed one—Xiaoyao Zi—glanced at him, shaking head: “Tonggu, don't forget that chaos entity's power...”

“Holding a statue alone—god-demons couldn't seize it—proves its terror. I heard an Elemental Realm chaos emperor fought it—failed to take the statue.”

“Opportunity... but risk. Possible total annihilation.”

Xiaoyao Zi said.

“Actions carry risk. Convincing migration—didn't that hold great risk?”

Tonggu Daoist laughed, eyes gleaming.

“Wood Origin statue extraordinary—vast vitality. In human hands, many powerful but side-effect-heavy secrets could deepen research. Success—overwhelming war advantage against god-demons.”

Xiaoyao Zi eyed him: “You think that—god-demons don't?”

“My advice: humans stay out this time... We have Golden and Fire statues. Cultivate well—strength rises naturally.”

Xiaoyao Zi said.

Tonggu Daoist shook head:

“No. Opportunities seized, fought for...”

“These two statues—wrested from god-demons, no?”

“Xiaoyao Zi, humans stronger—yet your fire wanes?”

Xiaoyao Zi's expression faded: “Tonggu, that entity likely sage or emperor level. I won't gamble human foundation.”

“Other old fogeys think same?”

Tonggu Daoist narrowed eyes.

Xiaoyao Zi shook then nodded: “I speak for majority. Minority neutral...”

Tonggu Daoist smiled—no anger, just disappointment.

“Humans rose from nothing—breaking sieges, turning peril to safety time and again.”

“Weak then—but bold, daring fight...”

“Now with assets—cowering, clinging, hoping endure eternity? God-demons grant that chance?”

“If they gain Wood statue—overall boost. Human plight worsens!”

Tonggu Daoist's suppressed voice echoed.

Xiaoyao Zi shook head: "Different views. God-demons won't get it—that entity strong."

"I dare not gamble!"

Tonggu Daoist fumed.

"You won't—I will!"

Nostrils flaring. But Xiaoyao Zi shook head still.

Tonggu Daoist glanced back—ancestral land quasi-sage phantoms emerged, voicing wills.

"Humans developing rapidly now—with two statues, capital for growth. Ten thousand, hundred thousand years—rival god-demons."

"Mutual deterrence—human talent allows steady strengthening."

Quasi-sages' wills surged.

Tonggu Daoist disappointed—logic sound.

But would god-demons allow such time?

“Fine.”

Tonggu Daoist shook head.

Rip.

Tore a sleeve strip. Fingers silver-glowing, drew star map on cloth.

“Five Phoenixes coordinates in Primordial Star Sky. Migrate slowly.”

“What you dare not—I dare... Human future fought for—not covered into!”

Tonggu Daoist flicked—the cloth shot to Xiaoyao Zi.

Xiaoyao Zi caught, expression complex.

“Tonggu...”

But Tonggu Daoist waved, cutting persuasion.

“No common ground—don't want to talk.”

Words fell.

Step out—void layered.

“Staring what? Never seen argument?”

Tonggu Daoist roared at lurking Celestial-tier god-demon.

Next—palm struck.

Space caged, shrinking with cutting force.

God-demon jolted out—face pale in rage.

Argue fine—why vent on him?!

Puff!

Resisting—heavy injury, coughing blood, fled.

Tonggu Daoist glanced back at Xiaoyao Zi, huffed, tore spatial chaos—vanished.

Xiaoyao Zi and quasi-sages watched his departure—sighed.

“Tonggu's spatial truths near ninety percent—top among quasi-sages...”

“Hope he returns alive.”

They sighed. Ancestral land resumed slow starry migration.

...

Tonggu Daoist fumed inwardly—yet knew elders' choice wise.

Humans developing rapidly—steady transition best.

No sages or emperors present—no full war confidence. Prime growth window.

But discomfort lingered.

Wood Origin Land opening—if god-demons gained it,

Lu's dual-statue advantage... neutralized.

Wood Origin unique—not offensive, but ultimate healing.

Holder invincible.

Shook head—no more dwelling.

Repelled monitoring Celestial-tier, plunged spatial chaos. Planned personal venture—disrupt god-demons even if no seizure.

“Perhaps ally with Brother Lu...”

“Backed by starry sky sage master—chance possible.”

Tonggu Daoist narrowed eyes, stirred.

“Enter Five Phoenixes first—discuss with Brother Lu... hear his thoughts.”

Guessing futile—step out, treading spatial river toward Five Phoenixes.

...

Lu truly unaware of Wood Origin Land opening.

No starry scouts—he guarded his acre.

Century passed since Wood fusion—in time arrays. Five Phoenixes visibly transformed.

Immortal martial evolution weakened Golden Immortal shackles—more born.

Demons under Golden Crow Demon Emperor birthed many Demon Emperors—mostly special bloodlines.

Witch clan's twelve Witch Kings all Heavenly Witch—fusion would skyrocket power.

Sea clan under Gu Mangran's nurture grew stronger.

Gu Mangran early Golden Immortal—but talent cultivation exceptional. No new Golden Immortals—yet sea clan's might undeniable.

Humans needless mention—geniuses abound.

Golden age—prodigies emerged.

Better environment, immortal source guidance—easier than before. Many talents shattered shortest Mysterious/Golden Immortal records.

But compared to elders overcoming heavenly barriers—these lacked tempering, resilience inferior.

Lake Heart Island.

Lu seated—incense curling, tea fragrant.

Chessboard pieces scattered—like net over Five Phoenixes affairs.

Continent millennia in time arrays—White Jade Capital fame faded.

New generation rose—elders' prestige waned.

World echoed new prodigies' names.

Ning Zhao stood quietly beside Lu. Tea emptied—she refilled unhurriedly.

But Lu smiled, pointing board.

“Calves unafraid of tigers—youths so bold now.”

Lu shook head amused. Ning Zhao, just poured, curiously peered.

Board showed Five Phoenixes Continent scene.

...

Five Phoenixes, Tianyuan Domain.

Heavenly Void Palace.

Atmosphere stern—wide-robed cultivators sword-hovering, expressions cold.

Outside,

golden-armored figure gripping golden spear approached. Each step rippled void.

“I am Great Xuan Dynasty third prince, Zhao Qingzhi—disciple of Heavenly Emperor Chai Feng. Stuck at Mysterious Immortal bottleneck years—seeking breakthrough via combat. Thus challenge Heavenly Void Prince—to clear mind, assail Golden Immortal!”

In Heavenly Void Palace,

powerhouses grim.

Mostly new faces—palace generations shifted quickly.

“Great Xuan third prince Zhao Qingzhi... prodigy—current era's brightest. Mysterious Immortal peak, spear unmatched in Five Phoenixes...”

“But arrogant beyond measure—disregards all cultivators, even elders. Once boasted: Golden Immortal entry—he'd solo-spear challenge entire Heavenly Secret Pavilion Golden Immortal rankings!”

Palace voices echoed.

Most felt stifled.

Once, Heavenly Void Prince with Martial Emperor City Du Longyang, Absolute Blade Sect Ye Shoudao, Qiannv Palace Empress Ni Chunqiu—Tianyuan Four Outstanding.

Now three Golden Immortals.

Only Heavenly Void Prince...

Stuck Mysterious Immortal peak—now young challengers' target.

Zhao Qingzhi arrogant—beneath golden armor, eyes sharp.

Teacher Chai Feng called him most talented—he believed it.

Though taught humility—why not be proud with such gifts?

Youth demanded audacity!

Bottleneck years—challenge elders born.

To him, elders unremarkable—merely earlier start.

In Five Phoenixes rise era—his achievements rival mysterious White Jade Capital Young Master Lu!

So proud!

Two years Core Formation, five Body Storage, seven unlock heavenly locks, nine Nascent Soul, fifteen transformation, twenty Three Gods realm...

Talent—even teacher Chai Feng praised endlessly: Daluo potential.

Undefeated rise—suppressing peers, brightest prodigy star.

Spear expert—first thought challenge Du Longyang.

But Du long Golden Immortal—he'd start with “Golden gatekeeper” Heavenly Void Prince. Defeat him—mind clear to Golden, then spear Du Longyang.

Forge his invincible legend.

Void high,

Du Longyang, Ye Shoudao, Empress Ni Chunqiu hovered—expressions odd watching below.

“Heavenly Void old fart... years stuck Mysterious peak?”

“Now young target—losing Tianyuan Four face.”

Empress Ni Chunqiu big eyes slitted, chuckling.

“Kid arrogant—if not Chai Feng disciple, I'd beat him.”

Du Longyang huffed.

“No respect for seniors...”

“You spear users—all stubborn.”

Empress eyed Du Longyang, laughing.

“Am I like him?”

“You defending him?” Du Longyang glared.

Ye Shoudao single-armed robes fluttering, knife-backed, glanced Empress: “Kid said... given time, even White Jade Capital Young Master Lu underfoot.”

Empress eyes widened: “What?”

“Dreaming?!”

“What trash dares compare to my Brother Lu?!”

Empress fumed, nearly rolling sleeves for beating.

But.

Heavenly Void Palace—bells rang, aura soared.

Heavenly Void Prince seated palanquin, borne by four stunning maidens—emerged gracefully.

Empress quieted.

Du Longyang narrowed eyes: “Heavenly Void flashy as ever—but this seclusion... something.”

“Filled past deficiencies—perfect foundation for Golden!”

Ye Shoudao nodded: “Heavenly Void aims not Golden—but Daluo...”

Empress ignored rest—still mad Zhao Qingzhi slighted her Brother Lu.

“Heavenly Void—beat him dead! Brat born good era—arrogant! Without Brother Lu—you nothing!”

Empress cursed.

Below,

atmosphere grave.

“Come! My invincible path starts suppressing you antique!”

“Hahaha!”

Zhao Qingzhi laughed seeing challenge accepted.

Aura erupted—golden spear radiant.

Myriad spear shadows swept—eclipsing sun, enveloping Heavenly Void city.

On palanquin,

Heavenly Void Prince red-robed, pale.

Four maidens trembled under spear intent.

Heavenly Void smiled lightly: “Little darlings, no fear.”

Next—produced wooden box, opened—mini sword inside.

Pinched with two fingers, flicked.

“Go.”

Pointed at Zhao Qingzhi.

Next—

Boom!

Sword light swept—Zhao Qingzhi's spear intent shattered instantly.

Heavenly Void Prince's eyes held hardship's depth, beating's insight.

Foundation perfect—solid.

Seemingly weak—truly not.

After all, he—sole man Young Master Lu possessed.

His sword fused Young Master Lu's will and aura...

Like storm brewing, rivers overturning.

Terrifying aura swept—heavens changed, winds raged.

Then battle ended.

Zhao Qingzhi knelt one knee, trembling. Golden crown shattered, hair disheveled.

Chest—quiet sword mark.

Puff.

Blood from mouth/nose—eyes incredulous.

“I... lost?”

Gazed Heavenly Void Prince: “You no longer Mysterious Immortal?”

“No—still Mysterious... but Golden entry long possible if wished.”

Heavenly Void smiled calmly.

“Youth—arrogance fine. But cultivation path—no smooth sails. More beatings help. And...”

Zhao Qingzhi trembled.

And?

“Don't compare yourself to Young Master Lu—you can't fathom his terror.”

“His strength—beyond imagination.”

“The more compare—the more despair.”

Heavenly Void Prince said.

Like Empress—staunch Lu admirer.

Words shook Zhao Qingzhi profoundly.

Then Heavenly Void smiled, beckoned—divine sword returned, mini in box. Amid four maidens' tinkling laughter, palanquin borne—petals scattering, bells and chimes ringing—reentered Heavenly Void Palace.

Chapter 619: How Can a Scholar's Affair Be Called Stealing?

Heavenly Void Prince hopped away playfully on his palanquin borne by four stunning maidens, vanishing deep into the palace.

Leaving only Zhao Qingzhi kneeling single-kneed outside—hair disheveled, face incredulous.

High in the skies, Du Longyang, Ye Shoudao, and Ni Chunqiu said nothing.

For the mentally crumbling Zhao Qingzhi, they offered no kicks while down—but no comforting words either.

Youth could be arrogant—but within limits.

Heavenly Void Prince—an old-timer from Five Phoenixes' mortal martial era to current immortal martial—was a veteran. Simply put, figures like him had endured more cultivation setbacks than Zhao Qingzhi had grains of rice eaten.

Never underestimate any antique—each held unique persistence in cultivation.

Onlookers outside Heavenly Void Palace dispersed.

News of Great Xuan Dynasty third prince Zhao Qingzhi's failed challenge—first stop on his invincible path—spread worldwide via Heavenly Secret Pavilion.

As Five Phoenixes' most mysterious force—even Golden Immortals avoided provoking it—rumored under White Jade Capital.

Zhao Qingzhi's tale spread unchecked—even the current Human Emperor didn't suppress it.

Heavenly Secret Pavilion untouchable.

Zhao Qingzhi became cultivators' laughingstock—mentioned in every chat.

He stood outside three days and nights, reflecting.

Heavenly Void Prince's strength exposed his shortcomings.

Pre-challenge arrogance contrasted starkly with post-defeat desolation.

Rain poured.

Torrential downpour churned yellow mud, splattering his golden armor.

“Don't compare to Young Master Lu—you can't fathom his strength.”

Heavenly Void Prince's calm words on palanquin—hammer blow to his chest.

Zhao Qingzhi always saw himself Young Master Lu Ping'an's peer—prodigy talent, teacher Chai Feng praising Daluo potential.

But this lesson left him lost.

“Young Master Lu... truly that strong?”

Zhao Qingzhi inhaled deeply—aura surge blasted rain away.

Golden armor gleaming, spear on back—he left Heavenly Void Palace.

White python-robed eunuch descended like teleport before him.

“Third Prince, His Majesty summons you back to court.”

Eunuch said.

“I won't return—I seek an answer.”

Zhao Qingzhi shook head, smoothing messy hair, picking fallen golden helm.

Next step—cannon-fired, vanishing instantly.

Eunuch sighed, bowed toward Heavenly Void Palace, then followed.

Gradually, panic rose.

Zhao Qingzhi headed not inland—but boundless sea.

“Oh no, Third Prince—where to?”

Eunuch hurried ask.

“To seek White Jade Capital—witness true Young Master Lu's grace.”

Zhao Qingzhi resolute.

Eunuch clutched heart—face twisting.

Third Prince... courting disaster.

White Jade Capital legends known to all.

Cultivation world knew Young Master Lu's pettiness—offending him could doom Great Xuan Dynasty.

Eunuch couldn't persuade—turned back to dynasty.

Zhao Qingzhi streaked boundless sea three days/nights—no White Jade Capital.

Legends: mysterious island.

Primordial spirit swept—nothing, even to world's end.

Left him bewildered.

Suddenly, on boundless sea—a white-robed youth with sea clan youths sat on mountain-like turtle back, drifting slowly.

“Sea clan?”

Zhao Qingzhi stirred.

Youth long sensed him.

Smiling at approach—sleeve flick.

Sea water soared, forming curtain blocking Zhao Qingzhi. Brows furrowed—golden spear raised, myriad qi.

Yet peak Mysterious Immortal power—couldn't pierce a hole.

“Seeking White Jade Capital?”

Faint voice from white-robed youth.

“Who are you?”

Zhao Qingzhi sheathed spear—realizing golden immortal before him.

“Surname Gu, name Mangran. Fate to meet—reminder: seek White Jade Capital sincerely. Insincere—even Lake Heart Island before you, unseen.”

Gentle laughter rose.

Boundless sea fogged—turtle bore Gu Mangran and others away.

“Gu Mangran? Sea clan ancestor Gu Mangran?”

Zhao Qingzhi inhaled. Legendary—single-handedly elevated ordinary sea clan to power.

Gu Mangran's words enlightened.

No more primordial sweeps—slow steps on boundless sea.

Ten days/nights later—at dawn's first light, amid purple qi—a misty island veiled in fogs.

“Lake Heart Island?!”

Zhao Qingzhi startled—then ecstatic.

White Jade Capital legends... true!

Step by step toward Lake Heart Island.

But before entry—a girl with black cauldron on back blocked him.

“Who are you?”

Ni Yu—dispatched to guard—unhappy.

“Great Xuan Dynasty Zhao Qingzhi... crossed seas to pay respects to Young Master Lu.”

Zhao Qingzhi said.

“Pay respects to my Young Master?”

Ni Yu paused.

Suddenly, Lu's transmission reached her—listless eyes brightened.

“You here to challenge?”

“Seeing Young Master not hard—beat me first.”

Ni Yu said.

Zhao Qingzhi blinked, scratching head.

Girl looked childlike—he uncomfortable fighting one.

“This improper? Perhaps... someone else?”

Zhao Qingzhi said.

Fighting fine.

But child—no.

“Oh? Looking down on who?”

Ni Yu displeased.

“I'm weakest on island—can't beat me, want swap?”

Ni Yu snorted.

Next—body shook, tiny foot tapped sea.

Sizzle...

Vanished.

Zhao Qingzhi eyes narrowed—instinctively swept golden spear. Terrifying aura closed—like towering mountain!

Beside him, girl swung black cauldron smashing.

Clang!

Spear met cauldron—instantly shattered.

Cauldron slammed his body.

Puff!

Zhao Qingzhi coughed blood—utterly baffled.

How so heavy?

Worse—girl slapped his face, stuffing pills in mouth. Cauldron mountain-like crushed—driving him into boundless sea. Water exploded, cratering like giant bowl...

Zhao Qingzhi stunned.

This child... Golden Immortal?!

Insane...

White Jade Capital this terrifying?

Mere child maiden—Golden Immortal?

How fearsome mysterious Young Master Lu?

First taste of White Jade Capital's dread.

Worse—what pills?

Why endless sea water flooding mouth?

As Zhao Qingzhi suffered,

eunuch returned to Great Xuan Dynasty.

Current Human Emperor—hearing report—nearly collapsed.

As emperor, from records and oral traditions—knew White Jade Capital's terror truly.

Hurried eunuch fetch Chai Feng.

Zhao Qingzhi challenging Heavenly Void—fine, youth needed setbacks for growth.

But seeking White Jade Capital—risk dynasty!

Chai Feng shocked hearing Zhao Qingzhi sought Lu.

Disciple young/hot-blooded/arrogant... but not brainless?

Chai Feng glad not at Golden Origin star.

Streaked to boundless sea.

Soon found Lake Heart Island.

Boom!

Chai Feng landed, aura restrained.

Ni Yu mid-cauldron smash—forcing Zhao Qingzhi gulp bellyful sea water.

Seeing Chai Feng—reluctantly sheathed.

Chai Feng wry smile—relieved inwardly.

Alive good.

“Thank you Young Master Lu sparing this unworthy disciple.”

Chai Feng cupped hands, slight bow toward island.

“No harm... youth—more sea water good for health.”

Lu's ethereal voice drifted from immortal-misted, purple-veiled island.

Chai Feng smiled: “Young Master Lu right.”

Sea-water-bellied Zhao Qingzhi teared from choking—originally unconvinced, seeking Young Master Lu's strength.

Unexpectedly bullied by maiden.

Ni Yu chubby hand fished boundless sea.

Zhao Qingzhi retching—floated to Chai Feng.

Belly swollen—dry heaving, couldn't expel.

Chai Feng paused—even his power helpless.

Ni Yu beckoned—pulled Zhao Qingzhi, slapped belly.

Mouth spat azure pill.

“Sea Gathering Pill’—barely poison immortal pill...”

Ni Yu reclaimed, tossing vomiting Zhao Qingzhi to Chai Feng.

Zhao Qingzhi felt emptying East Sea—body hollowed.

“Thank you Master Ni...”

Chai Feng wry—nearly forgot Young Master's little maiden Five Phoenixes' top alchemist.

Her pills only Mysterious/Golden Immortal task rewards in Destiny Tower.

Zhao Qingzhi realized—child authored pills he'd joyfully earned brushing tasks.

“Qingzhi—talent good, but curb pride/impatience...”

“Return—stay by master, century seclusion.”

Chai Feng shook head at wretched disciple—helpless.

Most talented disciple—also most wayward/arrogant.

Hoped lesson taught.

“Young Master Lu—I'll depart. Much disturbance—forgive.”

Chai Feng smiled, lifting Zhao Qingzhi.

Island little ripple.

Chai Feng minded not—prepared leave.

Suddenly—

Body jolted.

Near island—void twisted, vast spatial chaos surged, shattering void.

Murderous Tonggu Daoist tore space stepping out.

Chai Feng tensed.

“Senior Tonggu!”

Chai Feng hurried bow.

Tonggu Daoist frowned: “Golden Origin only forty percent? With statue—why slack cultivation? God-demons all slain—no pressure? Statues not enticing?”

Tonggu Daoist's barrage baffled Chai Feng.

Dry-heaved Zhao Qingzhi incredulous—his teacher, Daluo-equivalent human Heavenly Emperor—publicly scolded?

Chai Feng hasty smile—grabbed Zhao Qingzhi, fled fast.

Tonggu clearly fuming—best slip away.

Tonggu Daoist watched departure—disappointed head shake.

Then turned to Lake Heart Island.

“Hey—little Ni girl good, cultivation up. Brother Lu in? Message for old daoist?”

Tonggu Daoist grinned.

Ni Yu gripped cauldron tighter—chubby hand out.

Tonggu familiarly produced rare ancestral land treasure herb from sleeve.

Ni Yu got herb—giggled, leading way.

Lake Heart Island.

Lu chuckled head shake—Zhao Qingzhi farce mere boredom relief.

Sending Ni Yu teach manners—senior guiding junior, not pettiness over disrespect.

Lu rolled sleeve—piece placed. Island spiritual energy stormed, purple qi thundered.

Gaze shifted to boarding Tonggu Daoist.

Tonggu Daoist just ashore—eyes sharpened.

Sensed Lu's aura... stronger again...

Even he felt faint pressure. Brother Lu... advanced once more?

Ning Zhao graceful—white skirts fluttering, led Tonggu Daoist up pavilion.

Tonggu Daoist narrowed eyes, chuckling praise: “Sister Ning Zhao—prettier again.”

Ning Zhao polite lip smile—withdrew pavilion.

“Brother Tonggu—back so soon?”

Lu pinched bronze cup, sipped wine—curious.

Tonggu said leading ancestral land near Five Phoenixes.

Not easy—top immortal martial migration lengthy, defending god-demon raids.

“Sigh—long story...”

Tonggu Daoist sat, sipped tea—resentment surged, pouring woes to Lu.

“Brother Lu—told you five Beast Ancestor statues: four god-demon held, one chaos entity. Now entity awakened... Wood Origin Land opening.”

“Previously only statue not god-demon controlled.”

Tonggu Daoist inhaled, recounting Xiaoyao Zi talk.

Lu listened—eyes brightening.

“Wood Origin profound truth Land?”

Fingers tapping armrest lightly.

Hearing Wood Origin—Lu stirred greatly.

But felt too coincidental.

His demon body type—corresponding Land opens?

Coincidence?

Or arranged?

Lu narrowed eyes—recalled unclear figure at Layer Twelve breakthrough.

“Feels orchestrated—for me Lu Ping'an to 'borrow' this statue.”

Lu muttered.

Mid-woes Tonggu Daoist paused.

Dry-mouthed glance at Lu.

Human words?

Why not claim all statues yours?!

“Brother Lu—this Wood Origin statue hard to steal...”

“Not steal—borrow. Brother, mind words. Scholar's affair—how call stealing? I Lu Ping'an upright—borrow if can, never steal.”

Lu dissatisfied.

Upright?

Tonggu Daoist mouth twitched—shameless than him.

“Right right—borrow. Borrow without return—easy next borrow.”

“This Wood Origin statue—chaos entity holds. Extraordinary—even your master might fail... So no antics. Comprehend Wood Origin—disrupt god-demons' plans.”

Tonggu Daoist said.

Lu brows raised.

“Entity that strong? Sage comparable?”

Lu surprised—never met sage-level. Unsure if ancient immortal martial memory's old daoist was.

“Born chaos—rumored Beast Ancestor era contemporary, immensely strong. God-demon chaos emperor fought—couldn't seize statue.”

“Wood Origin statue—robbed directly from god-demons.”

Tonggu Daoist smacked lips.

Lu nodded gravely—borrowing from sage-level... harder.

Previous two Elemental Gods—quasi-sage.

This chaos entity—apparently sage.

Stealing sage-level...

Lu felt dancing death's edge.

“But even without statue—comprehending Wood Origin good... Oddest of five truths—not offensive, supreme healing.”

“Comprehend—immense benefits.”

Tonggu Daoist persuaded.

“Came hear Brother Lu's thoughts.”

“If unwilling—recommend Wood-talented cultivators accompany.”

Tonggu Daoist smiled.

Then expression grave.

“Brother Lu—not deceiving: this Wood Origin venture dangerous... possible annihilation. Even I—no full retreat confidence. Entity's mood unpredictable.”

“If wants all dead—only starry sky sage saves. Not even Elemental Gods.”

Tonggu Daoist said.

“So think carefully. No send—I won't blame.”

Lu pondered.

Indeed high risk.

Unfathomable sage-battler—no confidence.

Lu thought—Tonggu Daoist unhurried, occasionally snagging green jade cake.

Cakes tasty—satisfying, one led another.

“Brother Tonggu—entity no weakness?”

Lu asked seriously.

Aim: collect five statues—so if possible, attempt...

“Weakness?”

“Heard from sage: severely injured. Seized Wood Origin statue for healing... But injured—still terrifying.”

“Also—not any five elements truth—black-white truth.”

Tonggu Daoist said.

“Comprehenders exist—rare, one in billions. That Zhulong girl similar—rare, but vast gap to entity.”

Lu paused.

Tapping halted.

“Black-white truth?”

Lu frowned.

Linked to chaos entity awakening timing—perhaps related to Yin-Yang eyes in Zhulong's will space?

Or... entity owner of those eyes?!

Recalling eyes' actions in Zhulong's will.

Lu narrowed eyes.

Wood Origin Land—another must-go reason.

Chapter 620: Being This Outstanding Might Leave You Friendless

“Hm? Brother Lu, you know this chaos entity?”

Tonggu Daoist noticed Lu's contemplative expression and quickly stuffed the half-bitten green jade cake into his mouth whole, eyes sharpening as he asked.

“No idea.”

Lu shook his head.

“What's your plan, Brother Lu? This Wood Origin profound truth Land... shall we get involved?”

Tonggu Daoist's eyes held hope. Though no confidence in snatching the Wood Origin Beast Ancestor statue from the chaos entity,

in his view—perhaps Lu could?

Of course, if Lu lacked certainty, Tonggu wouldn't let him risk death.

Lu's talent exceeded imagination—given time, a pillar for humans, at least quasi-sage level.

Human quasi-sages weren't easy to birth.

“I feel a deep affinity with the Wood Origin Beast Ancestor statue—like heaven destined it for me.”

Lu rolled his sleeve, picked a piece, placing it slowly on the board.

Gentle breeze stirred fallen peach petals.

“So, we must find a way to borrow this Wood Origin statue.”

Lu's words—shameless, hardly human—but Tonggu Daoist's eyes lit up.

“Worthy of Brother Lu—far bolder than those old fogeys. No wonder leading Five Phoenixes from obscurity to current immortal martial world...”

“Worthy of the man I favor!”

Tonggu Daoist eyes slitted in delight.

Lu smiled, waving off: “Of course, no full certainty—you know, Wood Origin statue held by chaos entity comparable to human sages...”

“Borrowing it means clashing head-on with that entity...”

Tonggu Daoist nodded gravely.

“So, real danger—abandon the statue... God-demons wanting it won't come cheap. Without losing several Celestial-tier—heh...”

“Above Great Dao-tier: Celestial-tier. Elemental Gods are Celestial-tier—but top among them.”

Tonggu Daoist explained.

Lu nodded—god-demons seizing Wood Origin likely cost Celestial-tiers, same for humans.

No quasi-sage deaths—hard to wrest from sage-comparable.

“Then Brother Lu, select a few with wood affinity talent...”

Tonggu Daoist stuffed three-four more cakes, grinning.

“Once gathered, I'll set off.”

Lu nodded slightly—unmindful of emptied cakes.

Tonggu Daoist didn't linger—spatial shuttle away, checking human geniuses' cultivation in Five Phoenixes.

Lu sank into thought.

“If guess right—that chaos entity owner of eyes in Zhulong's will space...”

“Black-white truth... isn't that Yin-Yang truth?”

“Zhulong entered Daluo thanks to projected Yin-Yang truth from those eyes.”

“Interesting...”

Lu fingers tapped armrest lightly.

Zhulong—preaching platform/system's first heavenly dragon species, profoundly mysterious. Now, even familiar with platform, Lu couldn't recreate another Zhulong.

Unique in the world.

“Child's mom?”

Lu lips curved slightly.

Time for formal meeting.

But soon pondered—if entity saw him, might slap Lu Ping'an dead?

After all—he'd “abducted” Zhulong.

Now, girl's eyes held only world's best Dad.

No room for others.

“Plus serious issue...”

“Send Zhulong girl to this Wood Origin Land?”

Lu narrowed eyes.

Pondering, unconsciously arranging board pieces.

“If send Zhulong—risk real recognition, tadpole finding mom... meat bun beating dog—one way trip?”

“Then no world's best Dad in her eyes—I'd grieve to death.”

Lu shook head—denying sending Zhulong openly.

“No sending Zhulong—at least not blatantly.”

“Send that scoundrel Azure Dragon probe waters...”

Lu grew solemn.

Zhulong personal—too risky. Years nurturing—if abducted, uncomfortable.

So Lu decided Azure Dragon test.

Worst case—Dragon Gate linked, retreat route.

That scoundrel Azure Dragon...

Thinking him, Lu long sigh, head shake—full disappointment.

If not harmless—Lu would've reforged him.

Offspring nearly a race.

...

Tonggu Daoist left Lake Heart Island—soon atop Fire Origin star.

Saw Luoyang attempting ninth thousand steps.

Plain-robed human prodigy Luoyang on flame mountain steps—vast Fire Origin truths rolling like worldly sea of fire, threatening incineration.

Luoyang gritted teeth, hands behind back, sweat-drenched—lifting foot for step, but like crushing atmospheric pressure—couldn't land.

Boom!

Summit Fire Origin Beast Ancestor statue released rolling aura.

Luoyang grunted.

Ejected from flame mountain, landing base.

He remained composed—brushed ash.

Failure routine—decades assaulting ninth thousand, that one step—like heaven and sea apart.

“Senior Tonggu?!”

Luoyang spotted him—eyes brightening.

“Good—truth mastery forty-nine percent, far better than that Chai kid.”

Tonggu Daoist surprised by Luoyang's progress. At Heavenly Emperor—truth comprehension key.

Later percentages—vast differences.

Seventy percent qualified quasi-sage assault.

Eighty—basically quasi-sage.

Ninety—strong among quasi-sages.

Full hundred—perfect truth: quasi-sage pinnacle, half-step sage.

Luoyang encouraged by praise—embarrassed head scratch, smile.

“Mainly Phoenix Blood Pool on Fire Origin star—bathing greatly boosted.”

Luoyang said.

Tonggu Daoist paused—Phoenix Blood Pool?

Gaze shifted to fifth thousand steps pool.

Step out—space tore.

Instantly above pool—gazing leisurely blood pool, containing vast Fire Origin power.

“Incredible... this pool alone supreme treasure!”

Tonggu Daoist marveled.

“Brother Lu's master truly thoughtful—prepared blood pool...”

“Could... Golden and Fire Origin statues acquisitions—all in that mysterious starry sky sage's calculations?”

Tonggu Daoist felt high likelihood.

Suddenly found Lu's master so kind.

“Wonder if Brother Lu's master still takes disciples...”

“Or let old daoist hug thigh.”

Tonggu Daoist muttered.

Then had Luoyang gather human geniuses.

Tonggu Daoist saw them diligent in Five Phoenixes—significant gains, surprising.

Without two statues—Five Phoenixes cultivation environment lagged far behind Primordial Immortal Domain.

Previously seeing Chai Feng—thought all slacking.

Unexpectedly all progressed visibly—only Chai Feng...

Thinking this, gaze on Chai Feng soured.

Chai Feng wronged—head lowered.

His fault?

Golden Origin pyramid lacked Phoenix Blood Pool equivalent—and lost bet to Five Phoenixes cultivators, nurturing thirty Emperors...

Chai Feng tough?

“This time, Wood Origin Beast Ancestor statue Land opened... those skilled in healing step forward.”

Tonggu Daoist said.

Long pause—rustling ten human geniuses emerged.

Luoyang and Chai Feng knew selves—no wood talent.

These ten talented in healing—hence Tonggu's call.

“Not bad...”

“Others stay guard Five Phoenixes. Rest—with me to Wood Origin profound truth Land...”

Tonggu Daoist said.

“This Land—face terrifying chaos entity, possible god-demon encirclement. Afraid?”

Tonggu Daoist grave.

“Any afraid—leave now.”

He watched ten human geniuses—stood straight, no retreat.

Fire Origin Land encirclement experienced—comrades died.

Hearts burned—how fear, retreat?

“Good...”

Tonggu Daoist nodded satisfied.

Ancestral old fogeys no send—he'd lead himself.

Death—what fear?

Strength without daring death?

On Fire Origin star,

Overlord, Tang Yimo, and other Five Phoenixes cultivators heard Tonggu Daoist's mobilization to humans.

Exchanged glances—heavy in eyes.

“Wood Origin profound truth Land?”

Overlord inhaled deeply.

“This time—we can't miss...”

Overlord and Tang Yimo eyes met—unyielding resolve.

Indeed—poor in Golden/Fire truths. Watching others comprehend, break Daluo—while they bottlenecked Golden Immortal.

Deep anxiety.

Must strengthen!

Five Phoenixes surely quotas—minds stirred, left Fire Origin star.

...

Five Phoenixes Continent.

Lu placed pieces on board—each representing Wood Origin expedition selectee.

Click!

Piece fell.

Subtle ripple spread faintly.

Great Xuan Dynasty capital.

Pre-dawn darkness—newborn vitality.

Spring Wind Pavilion.

In heavenly room—Azure Dragon suddenly shivered.

Jolted from gentle haven—behind bed vast white softness. Perhaps too abrupt—coquettish protests rang.

Tinkling voices drifted.

“Oh—Dragon brother, stay longer—still early.”

Charming girl lotus arm hooked Azure Dragon's neck.

Azure Dragon forehead cold sweat.

Hurriedly disentangled, swallowed—staring silent ceiling beam, inexplicable oppression, dread.

Heart raced.

Bed's six—from human, demon, sea clans—no longer fragrant.

Stared long.

No movement—Azure Dragon exhaled.

Scratched lipstick-marked neck base.

For strength... sacrificed too much.

“Hurry back?!”

“Need personal invite?”

Faint voice—unangered authority, terrifying pressure—fresh-relieved Azure Dragon huge jolt.

Voice echoed room.

Only Azure Dragon heard clearly.

“D-Dad?!”

Azure Dragon ignored all—dressed hastily, heedless six girls' resentful gazes—exited Spring Wind Pavilion.

Azure Dragon streaked sky—soon over Lake Heart Island.

Belt tightened—Azure Dragon silent. Ni Yu eyed unclean lipstick on neck base, thick rouge scent—disdainful.

“Heh—scum dragon!”

Ni Yu stared, sneered.

“Mind your business, little girl...”

Azure Dragon rolled eyes.

Fearful Dad—not fearing stunted Ni Yu.

But on Lake Heart Island—low-key, head down.

Outside—unrestrained 360-degree flirt. Here—flirt once, no tomorrow's sun.

White Jade Capital pavilion.

Azure Dragon familiarly ascended. Lu seated Thousand-Bladed Chair, lightly tapping piece.

Azure Dragon saw Lu—no words, pinched ears—kneeled double knees.

Fluent, seamless.

“Dad—we dare not again...”

“We'll cultivate diligently—no crooked paths. Offspring many—no match hard work. You right—diligence path to books mountain, boundless learning sea...”

“Enough—shut up, kneel.”

Lu faint—cutting Azure Dragon's repentance.

Not first brothel catch.

But this time—Azure Dragon sensed severity.

Dad truly angry? Just few more cuties—why so mad?

Jealous?!

Azure Dragon mind whirred.

Suddenly—Lake Heart Island mist stirred. Ning Zhao led several ashore.

Lu Jiulian, Sima Qingshan arrived together.

Sima Qingshan—early Five Phoenixes Golden Immortal batch. Years no lag.

Now Ninth-Turn Golden Immortal.

Low-key, uncontenting—cultivation via painting.

Lu Jiulian needless mention—this Wood Origin Land, Lu no personal go—so Lu Jiulian, cheat tool essential.

Sima Qingshan—Lu favored. From poor painter to Five Phoenixes painting sage—Lu watched grow.

Sima's serene mindset suited Wood Origin.

Azure Dragon too—Wood Origin vitality.

Azure Dragon overflowing vitality—perfect.

“Here?”

Lu smiled.

Sima Qingshan neat green robes—gentle bow.

Lu Jiulian bowed.

“Simple matter—Jiulian experienced. This time Primordial Star Sky Wood Origin profound truth Land opens. Compared prior two—crucial...”

“Thus send you three. But high danger—Wood Origin statue held by chaos entity.”

Lu said.

Kneeling Azure Dragon eyes brightened.

Dad not mad over brothel.

But soon tangled—heard Little Red Dragon: Lands dangerous—god-demon chases, now terrifying chaos entity...

Azure Dragon reluctant—didn't want die.

But thought something.

“Entity male or female? Send me—use charm conquer her?”

“Life for seduction?”

Azure Dragon eyes lit.

Azure Dragon felt—average cultivation/talent, only standout charm—high female attraction.

So—Lu planning beauty dragon scheme!

“Shut up!”

Lu mouth twitched.

Nearly couldn't resist reforging messy-minded Azure Dragon.

Suddenly.

Lu narrowed eyes—head turned outside Lake Heart Island.

Ning Zhao understood—floated out.

Mist parted—revealing outside: Overlord and Tang Yimo arrived together.

“Young Master Lu—heard Primordial Star Sky Wood Origin Land opens. We two wish venture.”

Overlord and Tang Yimo unison.

Lu paused.

First proactive volunteers.

But no refusal—allowed aboard White Jade Capital pavilion.

Lu no deny—Lands extreme danger, but tempering grounds.

Survive return—vast cultivation gain.

Like Tantai Xuan, Bai Qingniao.

Now half-step Daluo—accumulation sufficient, soon assail.

Though Lu doubted Overlord/Tang Yimo Wood Origin affinity—but participation key.

Thus Wood Origin expedition: Overlord, Tang Yimo, Lu Jiulian, Azure Dragon, Sima Qingshan five.

Humm...

Void twisted.

Space tore.

Tonggu Daoist with ten human geniuses appeared outside Lake Heart Island.

Groups met.

Tonggu Daoist surprised seeing Lu Jiulian—again?

Golden Origin you, Fire Origin you—this Wood Origin too?

So outstanding—friendless!

“This... Jiulian going too?”

Tonggu Daoist asked.

“No harm—try, tempering.”

Lu smiled.

Lu Jiulian no objection—Lands hugely beneficial, worth trip.

Tonggu Daoist no more words.

“No delay—I'll depart with them now...”

Tonggu Daoist said.

But Azure Dragon spoke.

“Wait...”

“Haven't bid wives farewell!”

Azure Dragon shy.

Tonggu Daoist laughed: “Quick go quick return... one hour here wait.”

Tonggu Daoist thought farewells normal.

Lu glanced Azure Dragon—cold smile.

“One hour maybe not enough... three days? I'll hurry?”

Azure Dragon timid.

Tonggu Daoist face stiffened.

Farewell three days?

Wives encircle Five Phoenixes?!

“Ignore him.”

Lu said.

“Early go early back—stay safe.”

Lu eyed Azure Dragon—silencing objections.

Tonggu Daoist eyed Azure Dragon oddly—now understood Lu's choice.

Guy brimming vitality—perhaps extraordinary Wood Origin talent.

Old daoist smiled—no more.

Hand beckoned.

Rip!

Void tore.

Space-Time Spirit Boat materialized.

Ten humans, Lu Jiulian, Overlord etc. Five Phoenixes expeditioners boarded.

Tonggu Daoist floated up—whisk sweep, seated front.

“Brother Lu—until next.”

“Safe return—I’ll treat wine!”

Tonggu Daoist hearty laugh—eyes gleaming.

Ancestral old fogeys dare not—he would!

Boom!

Spirit Boat silver-gray light enveloped—plunged void. Next instant—vanished spatial chaos.

Space-Time Spirit Boat—spatial supreme treasure, unique.

Watched departure.

Lu exhaled slowly.

Waved Ning Zhao etc. cultivate—leaned rail, drew Spirit Pressure Chessboard.

Board faint glow—this Wood Origin Land trip—Lu quite concerned.

Mainly that chaos entity—curious.

Of course, Wood Origin statue too.

After all, fresh-fused Wood Indestructible Demon Body—to perfect, relied on it.

Time flew.

Stars shifted.

Five Phoenixes time arrays—decades passed.

One day.

Meditating Golden Origin star human Heavenly Emperor Chai Feng, Fire Origin star Luoyang—sensed.

Eyes opened—brow light burst.

Next—distant starry gaze met—eyes bright, excitement surging.

“Ancestral land's aura!”