

## Starlit Path 621

Chapter 621: The Human Ancestral Land Has Disappointed Me, Lu Ping'an

The aura of the ancestral land?

Luoyang and Chai Feng exchanged glances, both eyes lighting up.

Tonggu Daoist had long told them he would lobby the ancestral elders for migration—so more human geniuses could benefit from the Beast Ancestor statues.

Tonggu had taken ten human geniuses to the Wood Origin Land, but before departing, reminded them ancestral powerhouses were nearing—stay alert.

Both rose, streaking as light into the Five Phoenixes Continent.

They landed on the boundless sea.

Before Lake Heart Island.

They didn't enter—merely bowed slightly toward it: “Young Master Lu, the human ancestral land has migrated to the starry region near the Five Phoenixes...”

Sea calm, waves still.

On Lake Heart Island,

Lu seated on Thousand-Bladed Chair slowly opened eyes.

“Human ancestral land, huh?”

“Tonggu Daoist mentioned it to me. If come, so be it.”

“Follow rules.”

Lu said faintly.

“You two may guide them.”

Chai Feng and Luoyang's faces brightened slightly.

“Thank you, Young Master Lu.”

Then streaked away, vanishing over the boundless sea.

Though Lu tasked guidance, both knew Five Phoenixes' location currently unremarkable. God-demons noticed—but not Elemental Gods.

Actions must be covert.

Welcoming ancestral geniuses—cautious.

As human Heavenly Emperors, Luoyang and Chai Feng possessed strength.

Crossed abyss into Ninth Heaven—streaking through.

Ninth Heaven now filled newborn worlds—they restrained auras, avoiding shattering them.

Soon exited Ninth Heaven.

“You divert those god-demons; I'll welcome ancestral seniors.”

Luoyang to Chai Feng.

Chai Feng nodded—division optimal. Primordial Star Sky god-demons plentiful—prevent detection needed distraction.

Else both tailed—easy expose Five Phoenixes.

God-demons no fools.

Simultaneous appearance here—arouse suspicion.

Tonggu long concealed Five Phoenixes—exposure meant dual statues' location hidden no longer—trouble then.

Chai Feng entered Primordial Star Sky—ancient aura drifting.

Sharp roar—aura erupted, Golden Origin truths unleashed—like brilliant star.

Many lurking god-demons drawn.

Luoyang seized chance—tiny flame, crossing void unnoticed.

As ancestral-achieved Heavenly Emperor, bore Primordial Immortal Domain immortal source imprint.

Soon traced it to ancestral land's trail.

Far from Five Phoenixes—but for powerhouses, void-crossing quick.

Position Tonggu researched—ensuring Five Phoenixes safety.

Too close—arouse god-demon suspicion, expose.

Ancestral land surrounded—growing god-demon watchers.

Ancestral migration—major event? God-demons how ignore.

Many guessed: pointless resource-drain migration—why?

Twisted, transparent sphere-like space.

Elder stepped out—human quasi-sage, aura mighty—surrounding space twisting endlessly.

Kind-eyed, brows smiling.

His emergence—god-demons warily fled, fearing quasi-sage aura lock—unlucky kill.

Human quasi-sages so insidious, shameless.

Elder strode void—sleeve flick.

Luoyang's tiny flame swept into sleeve—elder hands behind back, continuing void walk.

“Senior Xuancang!”

In sleeve—self-contained space.

Luoyang human-formed, respectful.

Sleeve—awaiting human prodigies, eyes expectant.

“Heavenly Emperor Luo!”

“Truly as Senior Tonggu said—this newborn immortal martial world holds two Beast Ancestor statues?”

“Grueling migration—hope no farce...”

Human prodigies voiced.

Luoyang anticipated—smiled, cupped hands around: “Senior Tonggu spoke truth.”

Next—forty-nine percent Fire Origin truths erupted—like blazing sun, dazzling hot.

“Good...”

Void-striding elder sensed Luoyang's Fire Origin—satisfied.

Luoyang left ancestral land at nineteen percent—now forty-nine. Obvious progress.

Luoyang no pride—next aura-guided elder toward Ninth Heaven.

Via Ninth Heaven springboard to Five Phoenixes.

Elder no refusal—void wandered briefly, shook monitors—fist shattered void, chaos currents raged—he stepped in, figure fading.

Circled Chai Feng—shook god-demon sights, returned Ninth Heaven.

“Senior Xuancang.”

Chai Feng smiled, bowed.

Elder loose robes, upright crown, long white beard—slight nod.

“Why not Senior Xiaoyao Zi personally?”

Chai Feng curious.

“Xiaoyao Zi guards ancestral land. Migration now—many covetous god-demons.”

Xuancang said.

Chai Feng and Luoyang no more words.

Soon led elder across void abyss into Five Phoenixes.

Hm?

Elder eyes shifted—mighty primordial spirit swept, boiling like hot oil.

Seemed boiling entire Five Phoenixes.

Focus: Fire and Golden Origin stars.

Dual statues—under sweep, like night fires—dazzling.

“Truly two Beast Ancestor statues... Tonggu that old fart spoke true.”

“No wonder dared life-guarantee ancestral migration.”

Elder marveled.

Then scanned whole Five Phoenixes.

Surprised—but not shocked.

“Indeed newborn immortal martial—immortal sources formed, aura decent—but vast growth room.”

Elder shook head.

Such immortal martial world with two statues... mismatched.

Status and strength incompatible—odd.

“Out.”

Elder sleeve flicked.

Humm...

Streaks shot—human prodigies emerged from sleeve.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Soaring aura pillars crisscrossed Five Phoenixes starry sky—mighty, domineering!

Luoyang and Chai Feng expressions shifted.

This time statue-related—safe, no god-demon Land—so true ancestral prodigies.

Over half human Heavenly Emperors.

Auras nearly destabilized Five Phoenixes—worst: feared exposing location.

“Everyone—restrain auras!”

Luoyang hurried.

Elder hands behind back—hovering void.

Primordial spirit swept Five Phoenixes—no quasi-sage aura.

Indeed newborn immortal martial as Tonggu said.

As for prodigies' unleashed auras—elder no stop.

Showcasing potential/cards—here for profound truth comprehension...

Naturally demonstrate.

Look down on ancestral prodigies—bad.

Strength shown—more resources.

Regarding exposure—elder smiled, sleeve gentle flick—barrier between Five Phoenixes, isolating prodigies' auras.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Human prodigies eyes torch-like—mighty auras storm-swept.

Like rival suns.

Aura surges alerted Five Phoenixes powerhouses.

Five Phoenixes Continent.

Nine Phoenix Institute—Bai Qingniao opened eyes, brows furrowed, glancing coop huddled chicks—annoyed.

“Scared my chickens...”

Words fell—nine chicks leaped from bosom, becoming nine fire phoenixes—resounding cries, aura shaking void.

Great Snow Mountain peak.

Kong Nanfei opened eyes—beside Meng Haoran stood, vast righteous qi cloud-surgings, auras piercing skies.

Buzhou Peak summit.

Zhulong lashes trembled—lifted smooth chin, delicate brows squeezed.

Netherworld.

Karmic fire-bathed Tantai Xuan opened eyes—endless karmic flames like vast sea.

Boundless sea.

Ancient tomb.

Lu Changkong set nurtured divine herb—neck crack.

Hand rub—herb lush green, withered poisoned dead.

...

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Five Phoenixes auras soared.

Though unmatched human Heavenly Emperors—unyielding, unflinching.

Luoyang and Chai Feng faces grim—mutual targeting?

“Senior Xuancang...”

But Xuancang halted words: “No need—besides bringing them comprehend truths, important matter discuss with that Young Master Lu.”

Luoyang paused.

Ominous premonition—from Xuancang's actions entering Five Phoenixes.

Next, Xuancang waved.

Human prodigies excited—streaked to Fire/Golden Origin stars.

Truth comprehension aided Supreme to Heavenly Emperor—Heavenly Emperor strength tied to truths.

Here—immensely thrilled.

Chai Feng sensed wrongness.

Exchanged Luoyang glance—both frowned.

“Ancestral elders discussed thoroughly—agreed, sent me to Five Phoenixes...”

“Beast Ancestor statues' importance self-evident. Five Phoenixes holding two... unsafe. Elemental God sneak attack—likely both lost.”

“Thus came discuss with Young Master Lu—transferring one Beast Ancestor statue to ancestral land.”

“After all, Young Master Lu backed by starry sky sage—human senior. Wandering senior knowing—would approve. Don't put eggs one basket—simple truth.”

“If starry sky senior blames—sage wrath I bear alone.”

Xuancang said.

But words fell.

Five Phoenixes starry sky.

Faint laughter echoed.

Lake Heart Island.

Lu shook head—placed piece on board, somewhat speechless.

Where people—competition...

Not all eggs one basket—harder steal together. Simple.

But both eggs his Lu Ping'an's—even smash both his choice. Why give one?

“Empty-handed white wolf? Human ancestral land... disappoints me, Lu Ping'an greatly.”

“Bear alone?”

“Can you?”

Chapter 622: I, Lu Ping'an, Never Let a Grudge Sit Overnight

The faint voice carried no great emotion, echoing through the Five Phoenixes starry sky.

Ring in every ear.

Five Phoenixes cultivators who heard Xuancang's words burned with righteous fury—feeling as if wolves had been invited in.

After all, the Beast Ancestor statues were theirs. Young Master Lu had generously opened opportunities for cultivation. Now ancestral land arrivals demanded taking one away.

Pretty words: protection, not all eggs in one basket. Ugly truth: coveting the statues!

Intent to claim them—hearts rotten!

Five Phoenixes cultivators knew the statues' value well. Mysterious Immortal and above could enter Golden/Fire Origin stars to comprehend diffused profound truths.

Talent yielding comprehension—Daluo potential. Meaning clear to all.

Two statues—different attributes—doubly significant.

Learning ancestral powerhouses wanted to haul one off—Five Phoenixes cultivators raged.

Bai Qingniao floated up—nine flame-burning fire phoenixes coiling around her.

Like a ninth-heaven fire goddess—eyes blazing, eyeliner seemingly ignited.

Tantai Xuan—karmic flames entwining, holding Life-Death Ledger, stepping out solemnly.

Kong Nanfei and Meng Haoran master-disciple—vast righteous qi surging skyward, unflinching.

Five Phoenixes cultivators—no retreat. Auras fluctuating—though not matching ancestral prodigies, not far behind.

Xuancang elder somewhat surprised—hands behind back, gazing Five Phoenixes Continent.

He'd heard Lu's words.

“Bear alone?”

“Can you?”

Xuancang smiled playfully—how many years since anyone dared speak thus to him, besides that old fart Tonggu?

Luoyang and Chai Feng paled—cold sweat.

Things utterly unlike imagined.

Thought Tonggu's lead—ancestral powerhouses entering Five Phoenixes harmonious, progressing together, cultivating greatly, uniting against god-demons.

Beautiful harmony.

But conflict erupted so fast—caught off guard.

Why?

Luoyang and Chai Feng exchanged weary glances.

Why such thoughts from Senior Xuancang?

“Senior Xuancang...”

“Young Master Lu backed by starry sky sage!”

“Young Master Lu and Senior Tonggu close...”

Luoyang and Chai Feng spoke.

But Xuancang faintly glanced them.

“Said it—if sage deems my actions improper, will seek me. I neither hide nor evade—bear alone!”

“As for you two—no using old Tonggu to pressure me. That old fart owes me seven-eight supreme treasures' worth—unpaid! Bad relations!”

Xuancang unmasked.

Luoyang and Chai Feng truly changed expressions.

Fight coming?

Stifled—this ancestral land truly dishonorable!

Five Phoenixes opened backdoor—cultivation chance. Ancestral land repays thus?

“Senior...”

Luoyang gritted teeth—about to speak again.

But Xuancang stopped him.

“This unrelated to you—speak no more...”

Xuancang finished—playfully smiled toward Five Phoenixes Continent, gaze piercing voids to purple-veiled island on boundless sea.

“Lu Ping'an?”

Lu seated pavilion—white robes pristine, gentle breeze—calmly regarding Xuancang.

A human quasi-sage.

Appetite large now.

“If your master still in Five Phoenixes—perhaps I'd wary. But absent... keeping one Beast Ancestor statue—see if you capable.”

“Whether I bear—this no concern of yours.”

“Hall quasi-sage—I. Mere ordinary Heavenly Emperor you—what qualification meddle?”

Xuancang laughed.

Then sleeve flicked.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Human prodigies streaked toward Golden/Fire Origin stars.

Lu's face gradually chilled.

This ancestral land...

Truly thought him Lu Ping'an good-tempered?

Good with Tonggu Daoist—felt same race, help where possible.

Five Phoenixes' achievements—all Lu's blood/sweat—nurtured from nothing.

Little ancestral land relation.

You absent building—swiftest claiming statues?!

World no such easy deals.

Lu narrowed eyes.

Eyes reflecting lights—saw ancestral prodigies nearing stars.

Lu cold-faced.

Raised hand—index/middle finger pinched piece.

Snap!

Piece abruptly board.

Boom!

Invisible ripple spread from board.

Next—Golden/Fire Origin stars, Beast Ancestor statues faintly trembled—vast profound truth ripples diffused.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Truth ripples like storm—instantly, ancestral prodigies boarding islands—blasted somewhat disheveled.

Statues' pressure—terrifying might—tumbled ancestral prodigies out awkwardly.

“This child controls Beast Ancestor statues?”

Xuancang elder eyes sharpened.

Depth gleamed faint excitement.

Luoyang and Chai Feng distressed like ants on hot pan.

Now—truly fighting?

If fight—whom aid?

“We aid... reason!”

Luoyang eyes flamed—fond of Five Phoenixes. Though newborn immortal martial—excellent cultivation atmosphere, pleasant speech, unity.

All striving strength.

Though brief stay—truly liked Five Phoenixes.

“Senior Xuancang... if insist fight—juniors must offend!”

Chai Feng and Luoyang spoke.

Luoyang now forty-nine percent Fire Origin—decent strength, ranked well among human Heavenly Emperors.

Xuancang swept them—surprised.

Unexpected such firm Five Phoenixes stance.

Lu naturally sensed Luoyang/Chai Feng attitude.

Expression softened slightly.

Now—just this old fart stirring.

Quasi-sage—so what?

He Lu Ping'an... truly unafraid now!

Lu eyes flashed ferocity.

“Years... first someone tramples my Lu Ping'an's face thus.”

Lu said—voice chilling.

His pettiness tolerated no dregs!

“Oh?”

“Youngster—bold words... show me your ability/qualification keep Beast Ancestor statues?”

“Statues vital—rarely human-held—best protection. Lest fall god-demons again—disaster.”

“That cost... you bear?”

Xuancang said.

Lu laughed.

Hands slowly clapped Thousand-Bladed Chair—chair shifted, silver lights exploded, crisscrossing.

Rising—body aura climbed, flesh terrifyingly potent.

“Then offending me Lu Ping'an's cost... you bear?”

Lu grinned.

Boom!

Words fell—Lake Heart Island turned murderous, auras intertwining—like terrifying storm dragon turning, sleeping lion abruptly waking.

Giant bow appeared in Lu's hand.

Thud!

Bow landed—White Jade Capital pavilion groaned overburdened.

Repaired Five Phoenixes Bow drawn.

Instant it appeared—

Entire Five Phoenixes starry sky turned murderous—atmosphere blade-sharp.

Five Phoenixes cultivators expressions shifted.

Zhulong back—Yin-Yang millstone rose. Dad fights—fight!

Lu Changkong hands behind—gray-green lights surged, poisonous river coiling.

My son fights—fight!

Human quasi-sage—so what?!

Xuancang expression changed—playful face vanished...

“This bow... supreme treasure?!”

“No—not supreme, but... great threat!”

“Tonggu old fart... tricked me villain role—now embarrassing!”

Xuancang mouth twitched.

Kind smile gone—subtly cursed.

Chai Feng, Luoyang, many cultivated Five Phoenixes human geniuses—firmly Five Phoenixes side now.

New ancestral prodigies—expressions drastically changed.

Felt murderous air!

Lu calmly regarded Xuancang.

Silver blades stacked behind—white to black robes, black hair vigorous.

Next—vigorous black hair turned gold.

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Sizzle...

One phoenix head bloomed brilliant gold.

Soon—hair crimson, crimson strands curling like blazing fire.

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Suddenly.

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Hair root to tip emerald—green strands somewhat... punk flair.

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Like rotating jade orb.

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Bow drawn full moon.

Creaking seemed heaven-earth horrified.

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Arrow tip pointed—starry sky human quasi-sage!

Lu face stern.

Pitch-black eyes emotionless.

He Lu Ping'an no sage—knew no grand human righteousness.

Five Phoenixes his all—life's blood/sweat.

Someone touching it—Lu would kill!

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Something here!

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“Innate purple qi—even Heavenly Emperors hard refine. This child such dense purple qi power.”

“Crucially—masters three Beast Ancestor truths... human fortune! No wonder mysterious starry sky sage took disciple!”

“This child sage potential!”

Xuancang elder marveled.

Lips curved comforted.

Where would he truly seize Five Phoenixes statues?

Such things—no cabbages, whoever grabs owns?

Of course, with starry sky sage strength—perhaps try. Below sage—insufficient affinity, force seize—courting death!

Statues sentient!

Elemental Gods held—high affinity, each corresponding one.

Statues choosing Five Phoenixes—its fortune, perhaps Five Phoenixes' uniqueness.

Xuancang human quasi-sage—how commit low error.

Actually—just play Xuancang and ancestral quasi-sages jointly acted.

Even Tonggu proposed.

Initially many quasi-sages suggested migrating statues to ancestral land.

Tonggu vetoed.

Xuancang veto side—statues chose Five Phoenixes, reason—non-sage intervene not.

Others worried Five Phoenixes couldn't protect—Xiaoyao Zi proposed this play, Tonggu no refuse.

So Xuancang test Five Phoenixes cards.

If truly no cards protect statues... even expose Five Phoenixes, even ancestral crisis—dispatch quasi-sages guard Five Phoenixes.

Thus Xuancang enraged Five Phoenixes scene.

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Xuancang felt Tonggu knew Lu's cards—could shoot heart-chilling arrow to quasi-sage—why not warn?

Chai Feng and Luoyang speechless.

Situation utterly beyond expectation—lost control.

Lu's arrow—they sensed great crisis.

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Lu calmly regarded Xuancang.

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Next—vigorous black hair turned gold.

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Sizzle...

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Soon—hair crimson, crimson strands curling like blazing fire.

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Suddenly.

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Hair root to tip emerald—green strands somewhat... punk flair.

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Boom!!!!

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Like rotating jade orb.

Lu eyes sharpened.

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Bow drawn full moon.

Creaking seemed heaven-earth horrified.

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Five Phoenixes his all—life's blood/sweat.

Someone touching it—Lu would kill!

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“Golden Origin truth, Fire Origin truth, plus Wood Origin force? Other two—primordial spirit, innate purple qi?”

“Innate purple qi—even Heavenly Emperors hard refine. This child such dense purple qi power.”

“Crucially—masters three Beast Ancestor truths... human fortune! No wonder mysterious starry sky sage took disciple!”

“This child sage potential!”

Xuancang elder marveled.

Lips curved comforted.

Where would he truly seize Five Phoenixes statues?

Such things—no cabbages, whoever grabs owns?

Of course, with starry sky sage strength—perhaps try. Below sage—insufficient affinity, force seize—courting death!

Statues sentient!

Elemental Gods held—high affinity, each corresponding one.

Statues choosing Five Phoenixes—its fortune, perhaps Five Phoenixes' uniqueness.

Xuancang human quasi-sage—how commit low error.

Actually—just play Xuancang and ancestral quasi-sages jointly acted.

Even Tonggu proposed.

Initially many quasi-sages suggested migrating statues to ancestral land.

Tonggu vetoed.

Xuancang veto side—statues chose Five Phoenixes, reason—non-sage intervene not.

Others worried Five Phoenixes couldn't protect—Xiaoyao Zi proposed this play, Tonggu no refuse.

So Xuancang test Five Phoenixes cards.

If truly no cards protect statues... even expose Five Phoenixes, even ancestral crisis—dispatch quasi-sages guard Five Phoenixes.

Thus Xuancang enraged Five Phoenixes scene.

Xuancang face somewhat stiff.

Felt overplayed—shouldn't volunteered lead, let Xiaoyao Zi—now targeted him, he'd watch show—better?

“Tonggu dog... pitted me!”

Xuancang felt Tonggu knew Lu's cards—could shoot heart-chilling arrow to quasi-sage—why not warn?

Chai Feng and Luoyang speechless.

Situation utterly beyond expectation—lost control.

Lu's arrow—they sensed great crisis.

New ancestral prodigies—expressions drastically changed.

Felt murderous air!

Lu calmly regarded Xuancang.

Silver blades stacked behind—white to black robes, black hair vigorous.

Next—vigorous black hair turned gold.

Gold Indestructible Demon Body activated—Golden Origin truths like raging river, poured into Five Phoenixes Bow...

Sizzle...

One phoenix head bloomed brilliant gold.

Soon—hair crimson, crimson strands curling like blazing fire.

Fire Indestructible Demon Body activated—Fire Origin truths surged, into bow.

Lu expression cold—vast primordial spirit poured, then body purple qi coiled—innate purple qi activated.

Four mighty energies converged in Five Phoenixes Bow.

Four phoenix heads exhaled energies intertwining front—forming bizarre energy sphere.

Suddenly.

Lu's form turned lush green.

Hair root to tip emerald—green strands somewhat... punk flair.

Wood Indestructible Demon Body activated—Wood Origin force surged in.

Of course, among five—Wood weakest.

But with Fire/Golden Origin truths—stronger than Lu's own spiritual energy.

Boom!!!!

Terrifying energy sphere condensed before Five Phoenixes Bow.

Above Lake Heart Island—void cracked inch by inch.

Fist-sized five-colored energy sphere spun—energies scrambled, turning purple-black.

Like rotating jade orb.

Lu eyes sharpened.

Knee raised against bow—body arched back...

Bow drawn full moon.

Creaking seemed heaven-earth horrified.

Around Lake Heart Island—sea water evaporated ten percent.

Spinning jade orb abruptly became purple-black glassy energy long arrow!

Arrow tip pointed—starry sky human quasi-sage!

Lu face stern.

Pitch-black eyes emotionless.

He Lu Ping'an no sage—knew no grand human righteousness.

Five Phoenixes his all—life's blood/sweat.

Someone touching it—Lu would kill!

Five Phoenixes starry sky.

Xuancang elder felt instantly locked by terrifying killing intent!

Expression changed!

Something here!

Lu's foundation far exceeded imagination...

“Truly as Tonggu old fart said... this kid such foundation!”

“This longbow—sage left? Fusing such powers...”

“Golden Origin truth, Fire Origin truth, plus Wood Origin force? Other two—primordial spirit, innate purple qi?”

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Lu face stern.

Pitch-black eyes emotionless.

He Lu Ping'an no sage—knew no grand human righteousness.

Five Phoenixes his all—life's blood/sweat.

Someone

Chapter 623: A Romantic Debt Left by Lu Ping'an

The injured Heavenly God-tier demon let out a shrill, agonized roar before detonating its soul. Space shuddered violently as it dragged its half-crippled body away, tearing through the void to escape.

In its panic, it left behind one final sentence.

It left Xuan Cang stunned and disheveled amid the ancient starry sky for quite some time.

Watching the fleeing Heavenly God-tier demon, Elder Xuan Cang felt a twinge of frustration. He truly hadn't been able to hold it in any longer—that was why he'd rushed out of the Five Phoenixes in a hurry and released the arrow Lu had shot into the ancient starry sky.

A horde of demons had conveniently shown up, so he'd used them as sacrifices for the arrow.

Fortunately, he'd managed to contain himself. Otherwise, if he'd detonated the arrow inside the Five Phoenixes, disaster would have struck.

At first, Xuan Cang had been rather pleased. After all, sacrificing so many demons for one arrow meant he hadn't lost out—he'd even profited.

Of course, he was also shocked by the arrow Lu had unleashed.

The single shot from the Five Phoenixes Bow fused five entirely different raging energies, erupting with terrifying power that could rightly be called a ultimate killing move.

The dying Heavenly God-tier demon's final shout wasn't wrong... but unfortunately, this killing move didn't belong to him, Xuan Cang.

Raising his purplish arm, it gradually recovered under the soothing flow of spiritual energy.

Xuan Cang couldn't help but give a wry smile.

"What a pity—I didn't manage to kill them all in one go. One escaped... Now that the news reaches the Realm of Elements, in the next battle, I'll probably be targeted heavily."

"Whether I'll be ganged up on and beaten to death by the Elemental Gods... that's up to fate."

Xuan Cang exhaled. Though a bit depressed, his mood was still decent.

Confirming that Lu could protect the Beast Ancestor statue was great news—for him and for the entire human ancestral land.

At the very least, the human ancestral land no longer needed to divert two quasi-saints to guard the statue. Saving the manpower of two quasi-saints could accomplish a lot.

Losing even one quasi-saint guardian meant greater peril for the human ancestral land.

The demons' spies were watching it closely. The moment it grew vulnerable, the demons would surely launch an assault.

The Beast Ancestor statue was important, but so was the human ancestral land.

Though he'd been "shot" by Lu's arrow, he hadn't lost face and was quite satisfied.

As if something occurred to him, Xuan Cang's expression suddenly turned cold.

"That damned Tong Gu... Good thing I'm strong enough, or this time I'd have been utterly humiliated!"

Xuan Cang cursed angrily.

After venting, he didn't return to the Five Phoenixes. He'd just emerged with such immortal grace—going back now would be too embarrassing.

"Hmm, as for the conditions Lu Ping'an mentioned..."

Xuan Cang frowned.

After thinking it over, he shook his head. "Fine, fine. It's just nurturing thirty Emperor Realm experts and thirty Great Emperors... Not Supreme Emperors or Heavenly Emperors. It's tough and excessive, but the talents produced will belong to the human race. No loss."

Xuan Cang smiled.

Then, with hands clasped behind his back, he gracefully traversed the starry sky.

As for pitting some human prodigies, Xuan Cang didn't care.

Human prodigies were meant to grow by overcoming countless obstacles.

If they couldn't handle even this minor trouble, how could they be called human prodigies?

How could they shoulder the future of the human race?

Xuan Cang smiled. Everything he did was for the good of the human prodigies.

"If you're going to blame someone, blame that damned Tong Gu..."

Stroking his beard with a chuckle, he took a step, causing the stars to shift. In an instant, he vanished, returning to the human ancestral land.

...

In the Realm Ruins.

Tong Gu, who had just climbed into the palace via vines, suddenly felt an itch in his nose.

He sneezed loudly, the resounding sound echoing through the palace.

It drew furious glares from the Elemental Gods who had just arrived.

"What are you glaring at?"

"Are you lusting after this old daoist's body?"

"Dream on—this old daoist is the daddy you'll never have!"

Tong Gu wiped his nose, casting a sidelong glance at the Elemental Gods.

The Fire Elemental God and Gold Elemental God exploded in rage, barely containing themselves from attacking.

But Tong Gu showed no fear, rolling up his sleeves, ready to fight.

"If you want a battle, let's make it a proper one—until one side dies, or both do."

A faint voice echoed from the depths of the palace.

Tong Gu and the two Elemental Gods froze instantly. The Heavenly God-tier demons didn't dare speak.

The speaker was undoubtedly the chaos being in the palace...

An untouchable existence, capable of clashing with demon emperors at the chaos tier.

Creak... creak...

The palace gates were profoundly deep.

But the interior was utterly dark.

Tong Gu held his tongue, lifting his gaze along the corridor. All he saw were stacked, slender, perfectly toned long legs protruding from the shadows.

The owner of those legs—the upper body—was shrouded in darkness, completely invisible.

"No fighting? Then come in."

After waiting a while with no outbreak, the shadowy figure in the palace depths spoke leisurely, breaking the tense silence.

Tong Gu and the Elemental Gods exhaled in relief.

Then, straightening up, they strode into the palace.

As a human quasi-saint, Tong Gu had seen his share of the world over the years.

The Elemental Gods, needless to say, were powerful and high-status, carrying themselves with neither humility nor arrogance.

Stepping inside, darkness gradually enveloped their eyes, and the pale long legs vanished.

The palace was pitch black, fingers invisible even when held up, as if thick ink had wrapped everything.

After a long while...

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Clusters of white flames flickered to life.

They spread from the entrance all the way to the depths.

The scene within the palace gradually clarified.

This magnificent palace seemed crafted entirely from emerald jade, with a throne atop it.

On the throne lounged a woman, languid and seductive.

She wore a black-and-white gown with high slits, revealing slender, flawless long legs. One side of the gown was black, the other white—and so was she.

Half her body was inky black, the other half pure white as jade.

Strangely, the black half had white eyes, while the white half had black eyes.

A stark contrast.

Her aura was utterly ordinary, without the slightest fluctuation.

But that very lack of fluctuation was what made her terrifying and dreadful.

Her control over power had reached an unfathomable realm.

"Human race, demon race..."

"You've been fighting for so many years, and you're still at it? Utterly meaningless..."

"This ancient starry sky is just a massive cage. You're all merely beasts trapped inside—what's there to fight over?"

The woman leaned lazily against the black-and-white throne, speaking indifferently.

Below, Tong Gu smiled calmly. "How can we not fight?"

"The human race fights for survival, for a stable foothold in the ancient starry sky. There's nothing wrong with that..."

"To a supreme being like you, who sees far and wide, it may seem pointless. But to us weak, pitiful, helpless humans... fighting is how we stay alive."

Tong Gu remained composed, neither servile nor overbearing... and slipped in some flattery.

The Gold and Fire Elemental Gods cursed inwardly—Tong Gu's shamelessness was etched into his bones.

"Our demon race fights to defend our territory! To protect our living space! We are the true orthodoxy of the ancient starry sky!"

The Gold Elemental God hurried to say.

"Orthodoxy my ass!"

"Shameless bastard! You dare say that?!"

"You're just creatures born from primal energies, yet you feel superior? This old daoist thinks the human race is the true orthodoxy! Damn it!"

Tong Gu cursed outright.

"You!"

The Gold Elemental God's eyes blazed with killing intent.

"Interesting..."

The woman on the black-and-white throne smiled.

Her features were stunningly beautiful, but the black-and-white skin made her seem eerie—yet with a strange allure.

"There's no such thing as orthodoxy in the ancient starry sky... Demons or humans, you're all just dust."

She chuckled lightly, her black-and-white eyes holding a trace of reminiscence.

"Once, the human race ruled the ancient starry sky. So did the demons. Even some weak races you look down on were once invincible, dominating the stars..."

"But with each passing era, those former kings, those once-glorious worlds... in the blink of an eye, they've all become silent ruins in this Realm Ruins."

She smiled as if recounting ancient secrets.

Tong Gu's pupils contracted.

That person...

Who was it?!

"So there's nothing worth fighting for. When the time comes... just wait for death."

The woman yawned lazily, revealing no more secrets.

But her words sent chills down the spines of Tong Gu and the Elemental Gods.

"Wait for death? How could we just wait?"

"Even in the darkest trials, the human race will endure! Humans must strive for strength!"

Tong Gu declared solemnly.

He meant it. The human race's rise from obscurity, surviving countless demon sieges and growing stronger, embodied their refusal to bow to fate.

In the dark ancient starry sky ruled by demons with countless powerhouses, humans had carved a path, standing unyielding and unexterminated—thanks to their unbreakable conviction.

Though unreliable and shameless, Tong Gu had poured his heart into the human race's rise and strength.

Moreover, the feud between humans and demons couldn't be erased by a casual word from this woman.

"Strive for strength?"

"Your human race has three saints... If you meet them, ask: Is the demons your greatest enemy?"

"The stronger you become, the clearer it is... where true terror comes from, and from whom."

"When he appears, it will be the end of all life."

The woman sighed, then smiled again.

As if mocking Tong Gu's ignorance, yet lamenting his persistence.

She seemed accustomed to such defiance—only for it to yield repeated disappointment and despair.

Tong Gu was stunned.

Was the demons not the human race's greatest enemy?

Or, as inspirational sayings claimed, was the greatest enemy... humans themselves?

Tong Gu's mind wandered.

The woman said no more. The Elemental Gods fell silent.

This being rivaled demon emperors—they dared not speak carelessly. Better to stay quiet than risk death.

Let Tong Gu talk himself to doom.

The woman seemed done talking.

"This lord knows why you've come."

"It's for the Wood Origin Beast Ancestor statue, right?"

She said.

At the mention, Tong Gu's eyes lit up.

He flung himself sideways to the ground.

"Senior..."

"Our human race is so pitiful! The demons are inhuman, bloodthirsty killers—they slaughter billions upon billions of our people every year, from hundred-billion-year-old elders to newborn infants, sparing none..."

"They hold four Beast Ancestor statues, committing atrocities, bullying our human race, and repeatedly tricking our prodigies into throwing away their lives..."

"We're so miserable!"

Tong Gu sat sideways on the floor, wailing tragically. At the emotional peak, tears streamed down.

The demons' existence was a sharp blade hovering over the human race, chilling them to the bone.

The Gold and Fire Elemental Gods' eyes nearly shot flames.

Damn it!

This bastard!

"Stop playing the victim! The human race just stole two Beast Ancestor statues from us demons! How are you miserable?! Your prodigy Lu Jiulian, at Supreme Emperor realm, killed fourteen of our Great Dao-tier demons—how is that miserable?!"

"Have some shame!"

The Gold and Fire Elemental Gods nearly roared.

They were the ones suffering—yet he made them sound utterly evil!

The black-and-white woman on the throne merely smiled.

The palace had been silent for billions of years, rarely seeing visitors. Boredom reigned.

She found this quite entertaining.

Hearing the Gold Elemental God's words, Tong Gu grew even more upset.

Tears flowed faster.

"Senior, look—they're slandering us... Our human race has no talent for comprehending Beast Ancestor statues! If one fell into our hands, I, Tong Gu, swear Xuan Cang will meet a bad end!"

Tong Gu pounded his chest.

The Gold and Fire Elemental Gods refreshed their view of Tong Gu's shamelessness.

Swear on yourself, damn it!

"Tong Gu, you thief! Return our Beast Ancestor statue!"

The enraged Fire Elemental God nearly attacked.

Pure origin fire flared around him.

But...

The moment the flames emerged, the black-and-white woman on the throne raised a finger.

Whoosh...

The palace suddenly turned freezing cold...

The origin fire froze solid.

The Fire Elemental God's anger vanished, replaced by deep fear.

He'd nearly been provoked by this bastard.

"Next time, I'll mince you and feed you to my black-and-white beast..."

She traced lightly in the air, her tone casual, but it sent the Fire Elemental God into an icy abyss.

"My black-and-white beast is so obedient and cute—it eats anything."

She glanced at everyone below and smiled.

Tong Gu stopped wailing, wiped his tears, stood up, and fell silent.

Know when to push and when to pull back—that's the way.

"My injuries are nearly healed. The Wood Origin Beast Ancestor statue is useless to me now... It keeps getting eyed by my black-and-white beast, so I'll give you a chance."

Hmm?

Her words brightened Tong Gu's eyes.

The Gold and Fire Elemental Gods hadn't expected such luck.

They'd prepared many plans, even to summon a demon emperor for a forceful seizure. Now, it seemed unnecessary.

The woman flicked her finger.

A water droplet formed above the hall.

Within it reflected scenes.

Human prodigies and demon elites.

"The Wood Origin Beast Ancestor statue is in the comprehension ground... Whichever side obtains it can take it away."

She said.

Her words changed Tong Gu's expression slightly.

It was a contest among those inside the comprehension ground.

Humans were clearly at a disadvantage.

After all, demons outnumbered them vastly, and every demon was an elite.

Tong Gu regretted not insisting on bringing more human geniuses from the ancestral land.

That would have increased their chances.

"But the statue is held by my black-and-white beast..."

"So seizing it carries certain risks."

She crossed her long legs, gazing at her slender fingers.

"Of course, besides this method, if you provide information I desire, you may take the Wood Origin Beast Ancestor statue. It's useless for my injuries now—just an ugly, rotten thing to me..."

Her words first dashed hopes, then reignited them.

Tong Gu and the Elemental Gods focused intently.

"What information?"

The Gold Elemental God couldn't resist asking.

Her black-and-white eyes swept over everyone.

"Seen my eyes?"

"Remember them."

"Whoever provides information on a being with eyes exactly like mine can take the Wood Origin Beast Ancestor statue."

She said.

"Otherwise, let your outstanding juniors fight desperately... But the end might be becoming food for my cute black-and-white beast."

"My little cutie's tiny fists aren't something many can withstand."

Her tone grew colder.

The Gold and Fire Elemental Gods were stunned.

"A being with eyes like hers—mastering black-and-white mysteries?"

"Many master black-and-white mysteries, but exact eyes like these are rare..."

The Heavenly God-tier demons huddled to ponder.

On the other side.

Tong Gu maintained a smile, but inside he was frozen solid.

He hadn't expected this saint-level terrifying woman to make such a demand.

A being with black-and-white eyes...

He knew one!

Wasn't that little Zhu Long?!

Lu's precious little girl!

Damn...

Tong Gu's thoughts raced. He glanced at the black-and-white woman on the throne, then recalled Lu's face.

Gossip flames burned fiercely.

"Could it be a romantic debt left by brother Lu Ping'an?"

"No... wait..."

"Something's very wrong!"

"How could brother Lu have history with this woman?"

They were worlds apart!

"Impossible... Different races. Sure, she looks beautiful, but who knows what horrifying primal beast her true form is..."

Tong Gu took a deep breath, shaking his head, frowning.

He knew about Zhu Long, but should he tell?

What if... she meant harm?

If he revealed Zhu Long, and she learned her daughter had called a human "daddy" for years—would she fly into a rage?

Lose face?

Then take it out on brother Lu, tearing him apart?

A saint-level fury—one slap could shatter the Five Phoenixes!

Even Lu's saint master might not withstand it!

Tong Gu was torn.

He sneaked a glance at the throne. She was now icy and ruthless—completely different from her earlier chatty self.

Tong Gu's heart sank.

He knew women best.

A woman's mood changes like summer weather. This icy demeanor—for Zhu Long's information—definitely wasn't benevolent!

So, Tong Gu decided not to tell.

But if not, the human geniuses in the comprehension ground would all die...

So painful...

Tong Gu winced, yanking at his beard.

"Does anyone know?"

She seemed to sense something.

Terrifying pressure erupted from her black-and-white eyes, sweeping down.

Heavy as mountains, it left Tong Gu and the Elemental Gods breathless.

"We... do not know."

The Elemental Gods shook their heads hurriedly.

"This old daoist knows nothing either!"

Tong Gu shook his head blankly.

Inside, he sighed.

Brother Lu, my loyalty to you is true—I resisted the temptation of the Wood Origin statue and didn't betray you!

Still, Tong Gu pinned hopes on the human geniuses.

Most were ordinary.

But there was Lu Jiulian!

The human ferocious god Lu Jiulian, who kept creating miracles without ever falling...

This time, perhaps another small surprise for him?!

So, Tong Gu held back, waiting expectantly.

It's just a black-and-white beast.

She called it cute—it couldn't be too ferocious... right?

Thinking this, Tong Gu looked up at the floating water droplet.

Trying to peer into the scenes within.

...

Five Phoenixes Starry Sky.

Elder Xuan Cang's departure eased the tense atmosphere.

The human prodigies felt awkward.

Their situation was truly uncomfortable—after all, Xuan Cang had sold them out.

Chai Feng and Luo Yang sighed in relief. It was all an act. With Senior Xuan Cang's status, he wouldn't do such a thing.

The Beast Ancestor statue appearing in the Five Phoenixes was a blessing for humans. Turning blessing into tragedy would be terrible.

As for the price the extra human prodigies had to pay for comprehension.

Chai Feng and Luo Yang said nothing.

Living in the Five Phoenixes these days, they knew Lu Ping'an's temperament.

Him not slaughtering these prodigies outright was already merciful.

Though the Heavenly Emperor prodigies were dissatisfied, seeing Lu's earlier arrow silenced their complaints.

If Lu shot at them, they'd all turn to dust.

Lu Ping'an shot even quasi-saints without hesitation—would he fear mere Heavenly Emperors?

Though Lu was also Heavenly Emperor realm, wielding a supreme treasure made that his strength.

"Any objections?"

Lu calmly scanned the human prodigies.

"This is the price we must pay. Dao brother jests—we have none."

"We'll nurture the thirty Great Emperors."

A human Heavenly Emperor cupped his hands with a smile.

"But dao brother, could you be flexible? Let us comprehend after nurturing ten Great Emperors... The remaining twenty can be cultivated slowly as repayment?"

Leaning on his Thousand Blades Chair, Lu's gaze fell on this Heavenly Emperor.

"Bargaining?"

"You..."

"Add ten more Great Emperors."

Lu's calm words echoed through the void, turning the speaker's face black.

This guy... doesn't play fair!

Chai Feng gave him a sympathetic look. Idiot—reasoning with Lu Ping'an?

Senior Xuan Cang's mess, and Lu not wiping them all out was already kind.

Besides, nurturing Great Emperors for the Five Phoenixes—what's wrong with that?

Chai Feng's reputation in the Five Phoenixes was stellar now.

After all, thirty Emperor Realm experts from his guidance earned him the title "Emperor Master."

The other prodigies fell silent.

Lu seemed to sense something.

His brows furrowed.

He waved his hand.

"Fine. Time acceleration in the Five Phoenixes—thirty means thirty. No bargaining."

Lu said.

With that, his mind stirred, and he vanished from the starry sky.

The tense atmosphere dissipated with Xuan Cang and Lu's departures.

Lu returned to the lake island.

Instructing his three maids—Ning Zhao and the others—that he was entering seclusion.

He sealed the island.

The Spiritual Pressure Chessboard unfolded.

Gentle breezes blew, lending a somber air to the lake island.

Lu's brows knit tightly, worry filling him.

He no longer concerned himself with ancestral land matters.

If they pushed further, Lu Ping'an had a temper too—he wouldn't stay polite.

This seclusion was because Lu Jiulian had entered the Wood Origin comprehension ground.

Lu sensed it vaguely.

Through Lu Jiulian's aura, his eyelids twitched incessantly—as if something major loomed.

Could it be... Lu Jiulian and the others were in big trouble?!

Chapter 624: Just Because I Looked at You One Extra Time

On the lake island, Lu frowned.

He and Lu Jiulian shared a unique karmic connection. Through it, he sensed a strange causality.

That's why he felt trouble brewing for them.

Such causality usually only surfaced when trouble arose.

Now, it seemed Lu Jiulian and the others had reached the Wood Origin comprehension ground.

"As Tong Gu said, a chaos being resides there—immensely powerful, ancient beyond measure, rivaling human saints. It seized the Wood Origin Beast Ancestor statue from demon emperors..."

Lu held a chess piece, lost in thought.

Thus, the Wood Origin ground was far more dangerous than the Fire Origin—mainly due to that uncontrollable chaos being.

Most crucially...

According to Tong Gu, it related to the eyes that appeared in Zhu Long's will space—likely their owner.

So, Lu had crossed that being.

Lu Jiulian was his avatar, carrying a trace of his aura. Ordinary folk might not detect it, but a saint-level existence likely could.

Would the chaos being vent its anger on Lu Jiulian?

Lu sighed at the thought.

The possibility was high.

"If worst comes to worst, use the Dragon Gate to bring Lu Jiulian back..."

"A saint-level chaos being isn't easy to handle. No Wood Origin statue now—wait until my qi refining advances further, or until a saint emerges in the Five Phoenixes... then settle scores."

"Can't beat it? Five Phoenixes cultivators can play coward—they're not like me, Lu Ping'an. Revenge can wait ten years."

Lu smiled.

Thinking this calmed him.

He was glad for his foresight—not sending Zhu Long.

Otherwise, she'd be the one in trouble now.

Her connection to that being was even closer—exposure would be worse.

Leaning on the Thousand Blades Chair, Lu felt pleased with his prescience.

The chess piece in hand suddenly dropped.

Plop!

Like a water droplet in a vast ocean.

The scene around Lu rippled, shifting to Lu Jiulian's first-person view.

...

Wood Origin Comprehension Ground.

Lu Jiulian, Overlord, Tang Yimo, Sima Qingshan, and Azure Dragon—five powerhouses from the Five Phoenixes—gathered cautiously in this unknown realm.

They proceeded warily. Even Lu Jiulian, who dominated the Fire Origin ground, remained extremely vigilant.

Now a Great Luo Immortal, his primordial spirit clearly sensed a terrifying hidden aura.

Far stronger than the Great Dao-tier demon Fire Eye he'd slain.

A demon powerhouse?

Lu Jiulian frowned. Demons likely invested heavily in the Wood Origin statue.

But Tong Gu had stressed its importance—they knew it too. Though outnumbered and strained, they had to fight for it.

"Wonder if this Wood Origin comprehension will release insight ripples triggering epiphany... If so, my little universe might open again."

Lu Jiulian took a deep breath.

Everything here was unknown.

A primal forest—vitality dense, life essence floating in the air. Trees towered; single leaves like houses.

Everything ahead was pitch black.

They felt shrunk to ants in a vast ancient forest.

Overlord's eyes gleamed. This time, he might comprehend mysteries.

Fire Origin no, Gold Origin no.

But Wood Origin—he could!

He had the foundation!

From low-martial Five Phoenixes, stacking the thickest armor, tanking hits all the way to immortal-martial world!

How many wounds had he endured?

Each time taking the deadliest blows, yet never dying!

Didn't that prove his life's resilience?!

Such tenacious life perfectly matched the vibrant Wood Origin!

"I, Xiang Shaoyun... was born for Wood Origin mysteries!"

Overlord declared brightly.

Tang Yimo was equally resolute. Rare chance to venture—he wouldn't waste it.

Like Overlord, both Ninth Revolution Golden Immortals—breakthrough remote.

To Great Luo required mastering mysteries—now their last hope.

Sima Qingshan remained calm, book box on back, brush in hand, scroll floating before him.

Sketching the Wood Origin ground.

He felt no affinity for Wood Origin.

Just a poor painter who loved drawing—no connection. So he stayed relaxed.

Always had.

Azure Dragon stuck close to Lu Jiulian, confidently.

He'd heard from Little Red Dragon about Lu Jiulian's Fire Origin feats—knew this was the thickest thigh. Hug it, and there'd be benefits.

Even if no soup, at least safety.

They sped through the dense forest.

A vague attraction pulled them one way—Lu Jiulian knew: the statue.

Same as Fire Origin.

"Follow the feeling!"

Lu Jiulian said.

All nodded. For ground experience, Lu Jiulian led.

Time passed.

Soon, Lu Jiulian frowned.

"Something's off."

"Why no first wave of mystery ripples after so long?"

His doubt; others confused—they knew little.

Elsewhere in Wood Origin.

Scattered demons grew grave.

"Strange—by norm, first wave should have erupted..."

A green-glowing demon said.

The oddity made demons hesitate—something bad loomed.

Buzz...

In the palace, Elemental Gods and Tong Gu transmitted via powerful primordial spirits.

The black-and-white woman allowed brief transmission—after, no more interference.

Or she'd kill mercilessly.

Even Elemental Gods—before a demon emperor-rivaling her: only death.

Transmission ended quickly.

Palace quieted, each scheming.

Comprehension ground exploded...

Human prodigies' expressions shifted.

Tong Gu's transmission revealed dire disadvantage.

"Rush at full speed to the center—seize the statue before demons!"

"This trip's goal isn't comprehension... it's treasure snatching!"

Lu Jiulian grew serious, grim.

Facing over two hundred immortal-tier demons and twenty-plus Great Dao-tier encirclement!

Vast disparity!

No choice—fight with backs to the wall.

"Pity... no mystery ripples, no little universe burst, no reliving my title as human ferocious god."

Lu Jiulian lamented.

From today, his peerless glory might bury in dead demons' memories.

"Go! Full speed—seize the treasure!"

Lu Jiulian ordered.

"Treasure snatch? No comprehension?"

Overlord's face changed, baffled. Born for this mystery—why skip?

"No ripples mean triggering requires specific stimulus. To comprehend: seize it."

Lu Jiulian explained.

Overlord reluctantly accepted.

Five Phoenixes group and human prodigies moved.

Azure Dragon low-key—this wasn't his stage for flair. Hug Lu Jiulian's thigh.

Boom!

Powerful auras erupted across the ground.

Lu Jiulian focused—Great Dao-tier demons.

They got transmission too.

Race to seize first!

Whoosh!

Lu Jiulian tilted, foot cratering wood trunk, shooting forward.

Others followed.

Swish!

House-sized leaves rustled in wind.

Figures streaked as light through forest.

All fast—human or demon.

Soon, core area.

Entering, dense forest gave way to vast emptiness—trees flattened, like a sunken space...

Lu Jiulian, Overlord, etc., perched on massive tree.

Some crouched, some touched trunk.

All eyes fixed center...

A vine.

Vine secondary—crucial: statue entwined densely.

High cultivation let them see beneath.

Vine wove nest-like—but no bird.

A round, fluffy black-and-white ball lay inside.

"What's that?"

Tang Yimo narrowed eyes—furry, seemingly cute.

"Unknown. The chaos being Tong Gu mentioned? Saint-rivaling?"

A human prodigy said oddly.

If so, too undignified—like a furball.

"Probably not—this ball..."

"So cute—want to take home."

Sima Qingshan's eyes brightened.

"Miaoyu loves fluffy things—bring for her?"

He considered.

"Careful."

As all eyed it covetously...

Azure Dragon behind Lu Jiulian poked head out.

"Fluffy things... not always cute!"

As heavenly dragon, he instinctively dreaded the core black-and-white fluff—soul-deep, like facing big sister.

Definitely extraordinary... and ferocious!

Lu Jiulian nodded.

Humans held back.

No rush—someone would test waters.

Looking up, Lu Jiulian, Overlord eyed opposite side—demons perched on branches, varied forms.

Demons stared humans—standoff.

Terrifying auras clashed overhead.

"Humans..."

Leading green-glowing demon grave.

Gaze on Lu Jiulian.

"Human ferocious god Lu Jiulian... Supreme Emperor who slew fourteen Great Dao-tier demons in Fire Origin!"

Dread in eyes.

Not just him—all demons dreaded Lu Jiulian.

How could they not? His feats horrifying.

Lu Jiulian calm, hands behind back.

He understood—shocked by his record.

Though from little universe burst—he couldn't now...

Didn't stop deterrence.

Greater power, greater pressure—even beyond his age.

"Ignore these humans—mere dozen, no threat..."

"If Lu Julian acts, eight Great Dao-tier intercept. Others seize statue!"

"Remember: seize and flee. Not safe here!"

"The human thief specializing in stealing statues lurks unknown—deliver to Fire and Gold Gods safest!"

Leading elite Great Dao-tier demon ordered.

Boom!

Next moment.

It waved—two Great Dao-tier, dozen immortal-tier shot out.

Space cracked—fast as black lights toward statue.

Ignored black-and-white ball.

No threat sensed. Sleeping—no need wake.

Seize and run—goal met, no extra trouble.

Humans stirred—unwilling to yield statue.

Prepared to act.

But Lu Jiulian stopped.

"Wait..."

"Can't wait—Wood Origin strategically vital—can't let demons have..."

Some humans urged.

Lu Jiulian silent, watching field.

Demons fast.

Soon tiptoed around vines.

Exchanged glances, suppressed auras, cautiously approached center—aiming quiet seizure without waking fluff.

Tension peaked.

Even perched demons held breath, watching careful moves.

Humans too captivated—breathless.

From Lu Jiulian's view, Lu felt speechless.

Watching silent, tense humans—Lu shook head. Only wind and leaves rustling.

"Are these really Five Phoenixes graduates?"

"Not a bit of my Lu Ping'an's wit inherited?"

Lu disappointed.

Now wasn't prime... mind-game time?

You're rivals! Why cooperate with their act?

"Got it!"

Suddenly.

Reaching Great Dao-tier demon thrilled—grabbed trophy-sized statue.

Previous Gold/Fire huge—piercing worlds. This Wood small, pre-shrunk.

Joy—he seized without waking...

Perfect!

But extracting silently key.

Both sides hearts in throats.

Lu Jiulian squinted—watching demon carefully angle extraction from nest...

Thrilling, nerve-wracking—blood froze, breathless.

So tense.

In palace.

Water droplet reflected.

Woman on throne watched lazily, half-smile.

Gold/Fire Elemental Gods hearts pounding—immersed.

Tong Gu tense briefly.

Then realized.

Seeing Lu Jiulian, Overlord, Tang Yimo tense silently.

Tong Gu kidney-ached in fury.

"Why tense?!"

"Idiots!"

"Opponents! Provoke! Mess with them—wake the sleeping black-and-white beast!"

"Stir it up! Why watch show?! Damn—old daoist furious!"

Tong Gu fumed, pounding chest.

Distant Gold/Fire Elemental Gods shifted, glaring maliciously.

"Despicable!"

"Bastard!"

Tong Gu ignored, raging.

On trunk.

Tension mounted—humans wide-eyed.

Azure Dragon hid behind Lu Jiulian, neck stretched, staring high-difficulty demon.

From Lu Jiulian's view—Lu helpless, shook head.

Then picked chess piece.

Plop.

Corner board.

Instant—like invisible toe.

Hm?

Puckering butt, tiptoeing, neck-craning Azure Dragon felt cold neck base.

Suddenly!

Invisible foot kicked puckered butt.

Bullseye...

Force irresistible.

Azure Dragon face flushed red.

"Ohhh~!"

Involuntary cry—soulful yet mostly excruciating.

Next, stumbled off trunk—kicked by giant force.

Cry shocked all!

Lu Jiulian, Tang Yimo, Overlord snapped awake.

Right!

Why tense?!

Azure Dragon tumbled, furious.

Twisted—see who kicked bullseye.

Nothing behind.

Thud!

Crashed field, shattering vine.

Crisp sound rang.

"Whimper..."

Whimper from nest.

Black-and-white fluff seemed woken, rolled.

Fluffy black-white revealed watery, lively big eyes—opened spiritedly.

Black-and-white beast first eyed waker Azure Dragon.

Watery eyes met flushed, awkward Azure Dragon.

Instant—just extra glance—Azure Dragon felt heart struck.

"So cute..."

Beast eyes swirled, quickly fixed on thief demon nearly extracting statue.

Tension froze.

Azure Dragon's entrance broke stalemate, woke beast.

Gripping statue demon nearly flamed inside!

So close—just bit more success!

Guardian woken at brink!

That damn thing!

Great Dao-tier scanned, glared Azure Dragon!

But acted fast—no caution, yanked violently.

Rip!

Vine tearing resounded.

However...

Next.

Demon body stiffened.

Fluffy black-and-white beast—seeing thief—eyes raged.

Killing intent boiled.

Bloody aura thick!

Roar!

Heaven-shaking roar.

Fluffy ball inflated, enlarged...

Became ten-thousand-zhang terror—like rage bear propping sky!

Black-and-white beast eyes crimson, claws sharp, fur like steel needles.

Hot breath from nose.

Mouth slightly open—rows knife-sharp teeth, dense gears—chilling.

Pfft!

Boom!

No visible move.

Huge beast lowered head, mouth clamped.

Fierce shake!

Blood sprayed...

Great Dao-tier demon swallowed whole—one bite. Gripping arm spared—beast wary statue.

Arm clutched statue, flung with it—smashed ground, blood from stump.

Beast unsatisfied—raised plump paw.

Clang!

Paw sharp as fork.

Stabbed down.

Pfft pfft!

Two Great Dao-tier demons pierced before escape—like skewered steak, stuffed mouth.

Crunch crunch chewing silenced field dead.

"This... quasi-saint stellar beast!"

Demons paled.

Harmless ball to terrifying beast—instant.

Beast mouth gaped, roared—gale like blades.

Vines shattered—many immortal-tier demons roared to bloody explosion.

Fallen Azure Dragon terrified—nearly couldn't stand.

Cute... my ass!

Pig-eating-tiger!

Azure Dragon fled.

But spotting statue gripped by severed arm.

Eyes brightened.

Behind—transformed ferocious beast targeted him.

Pounced.

Huge toothed maw gaped—biting Azure Dragon.

First eye-contact waker, extra-glance one—deserved respectful bite.

Quasi-saint terror paralyzed Azure Dragon—chilled, no courage move.

On trunk.

Lu Jiulian etc. shocked by change.

Fluffy beast's sudden ferocity stunned.

Seeing Azure Dragon targeted—Lu Jiulian shifted.

Raised hand.

Fire/Gold mysteries condensed—dual mystery rage lotuses.

Flash—domain swap, appeared over Azure Dragon.

Threw lotuses.

Boom!

Terrifying explosion.

Lu Jiulian felt immense pressure.

Smoke cleared.

Beast drooling, huffing—maw biting them.

Azure Dragon escaped pressure via aid.

Rolled, grabbed statue.

Lu Jiulian teleported away.

Beast bit Azure Dragon—he clutched statue madly.

Doubted beast bite statue too!

Yet...

Chilling—darkness enveloped.

Beast eyes ignored statue—only Azure Dragon.

Boom!

Bit down—Azure Dragon and statue, raising dust.

But mouth closed.

Wood Origin statue erupted green ripples.

Vast mystery ripples swept instantly.

Buzz...

Ripples spread.

Engulfed field.

Humans and demons entered comprehension...

Including beast—and Azure Dragon in mouth.

Silence brief.

Laughter echoed overhead.

"Heh heh heh..."

Chapter 625: Don't Come Any Closer, Or I'll Call for Help!

Heh heh heh...

A light, uninhibited laugh echoed across the field.

The surrounding scene seemed to freeze, as if held by some mysterious force.

Even the mighty black-and-white beast remained poised mid-bite toward Azure Dragon.

The Beast Ancestor statue, nearly in its jaws, radiated powerful, vigorous Wood Origin mysteries.

Lu Ping'an controlled Lu Jiulian's body, slowly opening his eyes.

He twisted his neck slightly, lips curving upward.

Finally, the mystery ripples had been released.

This Wood Origin Beast Ancestor statue was truly laid-back—completely different from the Gold and Fire Origin ones.

Those had proactively unleashed ripples, saving him so much effort.

But this Wood Origin one... if not for the black-and-white beast opening its mouth, nearly biting the statue, it might never have bothered.

For a Beast Ancestor statue, such nonchalance wasn't ideal.

"Still, this black-and-white beast wields quasi-saint power. Logically, a quasi-saint shouldn't be controlled by the statue's mystery diffusion..."

"Perhaps because it intended harm to the statue."

Lu Ping'an maneuvered Lu Jiulian's body, gliding forward smoothly.

A metallic scrape rang out—the sword unsheathing, slightly grating.

He drew the Blue Lotus Sword, but didn't stab the beast.

After all, with quasi-saint strength, even immobilized in contemplation by the statue, its might was extraordinary.

If he truly tried to kill it, the beast would awaken at the threat.

Thus, his target wasn't the beast.

"Hmm... feels like someone's watching."

Lu Ping'an frowned briefly.

But he glanced away. Let them watch—he controlled Lu Jiulian's body. Any issues? Blame Lu Jiulian.

Holding the Blue Lotus Sword horizontally.

He raised a finger, tracing slowly along the blade.

Then, the sword shot forth.

Carrying his primordial spirit fluctuations, it spread toward the surrounding demon powerhouses.

Pfft!

One thrust pierced an immortal-tier demon's chest instantly. The spirit within erupted, shattering its soul.

Now, with qi refining at layer twelve, Lu Ping'an's strength had grown immensely—primordial spirit control effortless.

Far easier than slaughtering demons in the Fire Origin ground.

The sword swept sideways—each pass blooming blood flowers.

Immortal-tier demons fell like harvested leeks, collapsing in waves like broken wheat stalks.

Lu Ping'an moved Lu Jiulian's body casually.

The sword danced like a dragon, threading through—blood spraying, demons perishing one by one.

Even Great Dao-tier demons roared in dying fury—to no avail.

His primordial spirit was far stronger now.

"Can't keep killing... this ripple wave is about to end."

Lu Ping'an frowned via Lu Jiulian's body.

Then flashed before the black-and-white beast's maw.

He yanked out the terrified, soul-shaken Azure Dragon.

After thinking, he stuffed several Great Dao-tier demon corpses into the beast's mouth.

Satisfied, he patted its plump belly.

Just then, the Wood Origin statue's ripples trembled rapidly—soon retracting like a mirror reforming. Minds returned to bodies.

Lu Ping'an made Lu Jiulian's body smile gently, raising a hand.

The bloodied Blue Lotus Sword returned to Lu Jiulian's grasp.

...

Huff!

Great Dao-tier demon Mu Ling gasped heavily. The sudden violent Wood Origin ripple had caught him off guard.

Fortunately, his talent in Wood Origin mysteries steadied him—no disarray.

He comprehended some, forming a fifteen-thousand-li diameter mystery sea.

Pleasing—at least some gain this time.

The first wave's vast sea owed to the statue's ferocious ripples.

This intensity rivaled three waves from Gold or Fire statues combined.

His natural affinity yielded great harvest.

But soon, he refocused—priorities elsewhere.

Gaze shifted to the Wood Origin statue and the terrifying quasi-saint black-and-white beast.

Mu Ling had thought success assured—the statue nearly theirs.

Yet humans despicably woke the beast, ruining everything in its rampage.

His gaze swept further—and froze.

Rubbing eyes in disbelief, scanning around...

Thick, acrid blood assaulted his senses.

His body trembled.

Corpses floated everywhere—chilling.

Not others—their demon kin!

Even a nearby Great Dao-tier comrade lay twisted in unwilling death.

The trail of deaths halted just before him.

Cold sweat drenched Mu Ling. As Wood Elemental God's favored disciple, he'd never brushed so close to death.

He'd known Qiang Huo's demise under Fire Elemental God—mocked his weakness then.

Now, true fear gripped him.

Death had passed him by!

"Why?!"

Mu Ling reacted, scanning painfully—eight Great Dao-tier dead, fifty-six immortal-tier...

The numbers plunged him into icy despair.

How?!

Who did this?

The beast during comprehension?

Gaze shifted—beast retching demon corpses distastefully, clawing throat, paw slamming ground in dry heaves.

Utter revulsion and agony.

It refused handouts!

Truly the beast!

Mu Ling chilled, eyes reddening—this damned creature...

Most entrants were Wood Realm elites—Wood Realm's foundation. Such losses devastated!

"No... wait..."

Something dawned. He turned.

Saw Lu Jiulian gripping Blue Lotus Sword somewhat blankly, tip dripping demon blood.

"Human ferocious god Lu Jiulian?! You! It was you!!!"

"You kill during comprehension!"

Mu Ling shrieked, trembling in disbelief.

His cry drew gazes.

Surviving demons quaked—fearful confusion. What happened?

Over two hundred immortal-tier—fifty-six dead. A quarter gone!

Worse: eight Great Dao-tier!

Elite demons!

Lu Julian regained composure—expression complex.

Here it came again...

This familiar, monotonous... little universe burst.

Shaking head, he sighed, sheathing Blue Lotus Sword adeptly.

Calmly scanning.

"Yes..."

"It was me."

Humans equally shocked.

Overlord, Tang Yimo, Sima Qingshan wide-eyed—they'd missed it... Lu Jiulian slain so many.

Eight Great Dao-tier among them!

Worthy of rising from mid-martial prodigy to immortal-martial—terrifying!

His nonchalant demeanor stunned them.

Accustomed?

They'd thought "human ferocious god" mere nickname.

Now: earned sword by sword!

Overlord's eyes blazed with battle intent.

Tang Yimo's gleamed—new pursuit goal.

Sima Qingshan smiled, shaking head.

Lu Jiulian's strength blessed humans—safety assured.

"It was you... You must die! You'll die!"

"Demons swear eternal enmity with you, Lu Jiulian!"

Mu Ling raged—fearful, terrified.

Unknown bred fear.

Killing during comprehension—how dare anyone comprehend?

A nightmare.

With him, grounds became demon graveyards!

This monster, this ferocious god—eliminate early!

He must report to Elemental Gods!

Lu Jiulian remained calm.

Kill him?

If words sufficed, he'd died thousands in Fire ground.

Meanwhile, discarded Azure Dragon awoke suddenly.

Clutching statue, twenty-thousand-li mystery sea roiled overhead.

But face ashen.

Muttering.

"Big sis, save me... save me..."

"Your dearest little Qing is dying!"

"Forget it—this black-and-white beast too brutal. Big sis coming risks grave injury—better not... Let me die, at least big sis grieves!"

Azure Dragon despaired.

Beast too overpowering.

Even Zhu Long might lose.

Quasi-saint!

She'd just entered Great Luo—far from quasi-saint.

Calling her useless—just more food, turned to beast droppings...

Handsome, dashing Azure Dragon as droppings? Sorrow and regret surged.

Should've sired more offspring—boosted strength, survival chance.

Hm?

Suddenly stopped calling—pressure gone.

Looking—beast retching furiously, paw quaking ground, as if gravely insulted.

Azure Dragon beamed.

Alive again?

Glanced statue—excitement. Precious statue secured...

He, Azure Dragon... awesome!

Scanned—Lu Jiulian saved him.

Terrifying feats—slain hordes, eight Great Dao-tier. When so strong?!

Single life strengthens?!

But Azure Dragon hugged statue, soared.

"Jiulian rocks! Worthy of man I taught!"

He laughed.

"Statue ours—withdraw!"

Boasted triumphantly—no trace prior misery.

Lu Jiulian studied at Great Xuan Academy—then at Tai Ling under his preaching peak. True—he'd taught him.

Others speechless at claim.

But latter words brightened eyes.

"Statue secured?"

Even Lu Jiulian stunned.

Then realized—ripples ended comprehension unknowingly.

During, he not only killed—formed twenty-thousand-li mystery sea!

Sima Qingshan looked—nine-thousand-li overhead.

Sighed—Wood affinity mediocre, as expected.

Other human prodigies checked.

Ancestral land prodigies yielded dark horse—fifteen-thousand-li, rivaling Mu Ling.

Overlord excited—thick armor, endured beats, born for Wood—how much his sea?

Hopeful glance.

Froze.

Others dense black seas.

His... basin-sized?

Face darkened...

Tantai Xuan's misfortune contagious?

So confident.

Yet... joke-sized sea?!

Iron-blue, embarrassed.

He'd boasted Wood genius.

Now this farce.

Low-key Azure Dragon—doubted hope—twenty-thousand-li.

Overlord jealous, unwilling.

Why this promiscuous dragon such talent?!

Unfair.

Promiscuity boosts comprehension?!

But glancing Tang Yimo's thousand-li—balanced.

"Go!"

Lu Jiulian said nothing.

Seeing statue with Azure Dragon—joy.

Flashed beside, pulling back to humans.

"Run!"

No hesitation.

Grabbed Azure Dragon, streaked as cyan light distant.

Human prodigies reacted.

Statue theirs—flee!

Swish!

Sprang away like coiled springs.

Sima Qingshan grave.

Brush in hand, scroll unfurled.

Ink splashed.

Scroll became mini-world, barring demons.

Then fled.

"No! They stole Wood Origin statue!"

Mu Ling realized.

Chilled, fury consumed.

"Chase!"

Statue vital—mission core.

Loss unforgivable by Elemental Gods.

But as pursuit began...

Beast finished retching—watery eyes aggrieved, earth-shaking roar.

Craving fresh kills to rinse mouth!

Remaining demons targeted.

Mu Ling nearly coughed blood.

Ruthless—bloodline power surged.

"All immortal-tier scatter—distract beast!"

Words paled immortals.

Suicide!

Beast's roars slapped them dead—no escape.

Vast gap.

They craved life—but bloodline compulsion forced sacrifice.

"Go! Humans only one Heavenly Emperor Lu Jiulian—we can reclaim!"

"But if ripples spread, flee instantly—Lu Jiulian kills in comprehension!"

Mu Ling declared.

He'd pierced the secret.

Mystery gone—fearless.

Twelve remaining Great Dao-tier streaked after humans.

Statue mandatory.

Boom!

Blocking scroll—mountains shifted.

"Hmph! Petty tricks!"

Mu Ling's spirit storm tore scroll.

Distant fleeing Sima Qingshan frowned, sighed.

Early Ninth Revolution—ineffective against Heavenly Emperors.

No rush—mere ordinary scroll.

Pressed to limit...

Humble painter—but trump cards!

...

Comprehension ground palace.

Atmosphere heavy.

Wood Origin spread—droplet flooded green brilliance, blinding details.

Tong Gu worried—last glimpse: beast biting statue-holding Azure Dragon.

Human side.

Thought beast truly cute as woman claimed.

Cute?! Nowhere!

Quasi-saint pet...

He, Tong Gu—pet-qualified before her.

Green faded.

Palace: Tong Gu, Elemental Gods pupils contracted.

Next—Tong Gu ecstatic.

"Well done!"

"Worthy ferocious god Jiulian! Hope of human rise—my chosen junior!"

Exultant.

Demons heavy losses again.

Great Dao and immortal-tier slain by Lu Jiulian.

Feats rivaled war casualties!

Crucially: Azure Dragon lived.

Snatched statue!

Tong Gu thrilled most.

Gold/Fire Elemental Gods sank.

Again...

Fire Origin replay.

Lu Jiulian... cursed!

Black-and-white throne.

Woman watched droplet interestedly.

Green surprised her.

She'd drained Wood power for healing.

Statues recovered over time.

But this ripple—she'd underestimated.

"However..."

"Sensed familiar fluctuation?"

Black-and-white eyes narrowed—excitement gleamed.

Lu controlling Lu Jiulian slyly—quasi-saints missed, but her saint spirit caught.

Tiny—but evident.

"Seems the one in girl's will space..."

Eyes squinted.

Interest sparked.

Endless Realm Ruins ages—boredom exhausted.

Now... fun.

Long legs shifted, recrossed.

Black hand propped smooth chin, lips curved.

Spirit fluctuation spread from palace.

"Gun Gun, stop playing."

"Obey—attack the statue! Want to bite? Bite big."

Voice echoed on rampaging beast slapping immortals.

Beast paused.

Rage subsided—confused head-scratch.

Owner changed tune?

But no overthink—bite statue allowed—interested.

"Roar!"

Ignored annoying distracting immortals.

Plump black-white fluff quivered—limbs pounded.

Chased statue's direction.

Boom!

Ground quaked...

"Damn! Beast insane?!"

"So many immortals can't distract?"

Pursuing Mu Ling etc. raged.

Dared not vent at beast.

Lu Jiulian carried Azure Dragon.

Most humans Supreme Emperor.

Overlord, Tang Yimo not fastest.

Soon overtaken by dozen Great Dao-tier!

"Lu Jiulian—strong exterior, weak core. Without comprehension... nothing!"

"Surrender statue—or all humans die today!"

Mu Ling cold.

"Heh."

"No skill to kill you?"

"Try?"

Lu Jiulian sword slung, calm.

Mu Ling anxious—beast approaching.

Waved—twelve Great Dao-tier attacked!

Lu Jiulian focused.

Fire, Gold, new Wood mysteries...

Palm: brilliant tri-color rage lotus spun.

Might stronger!

Eight Great Dao-tier blocked Lu Jiulian—fearing reputation.

Tri-color lotus suppressed eight!

Tang Yimo activated seven meridians—inflated ferociously, clashed head-on.

Overlord picked one.

Instant heavy wounds—but endured!

Professional tank!

Sima Qingshan, prodigies combined—suppressed one.

But Azure Dragon exposed.

Hugging statue—weak, pitiful, helpless.

"Surrender—or die!"

Mu Ling killing intent.

Azure Dragon clutched, gritted.

"Don't come closer... or I'll call help!"

Big sis loses to beast—but crushes same-tier?

Invincible peer!

"Call help?"

Mu Ling sneered—afterimages, space cracked, closing.

"Big sis!!!"

"Save me!"

Mu Ling charging—Aure Dragon exploded blood, wretched—shrieked.

Dragon qi surged—cyan Dragon Gate formed.

Behind gate.

Bu Zhou Peak Zhu Long sensed.

Closed eyes trembled—dived in.

Palace.

Gate instant.

Amused woman bolted upright—black-white eyes terrifying glare, collapsing space.

Sizzle—vanished.

Mu Ling ignorant of gate.

Unconcerned.

Closing Azure Dragon—statue soon—excited.

Secured—Elemental God favor!

Suddenly...

Horrific bear paw slapped.

Beast appeared—pawed Mu Ling aside like trash—heavy injury, body near pulp.

Ignored.

Maw gaped—teeth gleamed.

Stared Azure Dragon—roared.

Bit again.

Azure Dragon liver-colored face.

Damn...

What grudge?!

Craving his body so?!

Trembled sorrow—dissipated qi, gate vanished—no sending big sis to death...

Sighed.

Wham!

As bite neared.

Suddenly—beast slapped like ball—rolled pitifully, clutching mouth.

Before Azure Dragon.

Half-black, half-white strange woman hovered.

Looming down coldly.

Azure Dragon stared—stunned.

This chick... also craving his body?!

Chapter 626: I Feel Like I've Seen You Somewhere Before

The sudden turn of events left everyone in shock.

In the midst of the enlightenment grounds, a woman in black and white abruptly appeared. Her long dress, sharply divided between black and white, fluttered in the wind, as if imbued with some profound and mysterious aura.

Her hair was extraordinarily long, cascading down to her waist—one half pure white, the other jet black—giving her an eerily demonic allure.

The arrival of such a bewitching yet terrifying woman froze the entire atmosphere.

It was the overwhelming, dreadful presence radiating from her that solidified the air around them. Even the quasi-saint-level Black-and-White Beast could only cover its mouth and weep quietly off to the side.

The Black-and-White Beast felt utterly wronged.

Its master had told it to bite, yet just as it was about to sink its teeth in, she showed up and swatted it away with a single slap.

How could it not feel aggrieved?

The one who ordered the bite was her. The one who punished it for trying was also her...

Women were impossible to please!

Why did females always have to torment other females?

It was just like how big fish eat small fish, and small fish eat shrimp.

The Black-and-White Beast had casually swatted aside the Great Dao-tier divine-demonic Wood Spirit, and now this woman had done the same to the beast itself...

The Wood Spirit's body was cracked and fractured, but he wasn't dead yet.

The beast had only sent him flying with little effort. Though his physical form was on the verge of shattering, riddled with fissures, his Great Dao-tier regenerative abilities meant he could hold on for now.

Still, gazing at the woman hovering in the void, the Wood Spirit's body began to tremble uncontrollably.

It was a fear that came from the depths of his soul.

"It's her... the terrifying chaos being who stole the Wood Origin Beast Ancestor statue!"

Terror filled the Wood Spirit's face.

He never imagined this chaos entity would appear here—an existence comparable to a divine-demonic emperor. If she went berserk, everyone in the enlightenment grounds would die.

No one could escape.

Even with the protection of the Elemental Gods, the Wood Spirit felt certain death awaiting him.

Why was this woman here?

Hadn't the Elemental Gods promised that the Beast Ancestor statues would be left for fair competition, with chaos beings staying out of it?

The Wood Spirit watched in dread and difficulty.

In the distance, Lu Jiulian had single-handedly held off the Great Dao-tier divine-demons, his reputation as a ferocious human genius preventing them from fighting him to the death.

But they had still managed to pin him down.

The woman's arrival drew Lu Jiulian's attention.

"Who is she?"

"Is she here for the Beast Ancestor statue too?"

Lu Jiulian narrowed his eyes.

The aura emanating from her was utterly horrifying. More importantly, she had slapped away a quasi-saint-level Black-and-White Beast with one palm—and the beast didn't even dare retaliate.

This woman's strength clearly surpassed the beast's.

Was the Wood Origin Beast Ancestor statue really that hard to claim?

It had attracted a monster like her.

Lu Jiulian hesitated. If he unleashed his full power... could he even beat her?

Or would he just get himself killed?

The eight Great Dao-tier divine-demons fighting Lu Jiulian also stopped attacking, overwhelmed by the oppressive pressure from the black-and-white woman.

Sima Qingshan and the other human geniuses had barely held off one Great Dao-tier divine-demon together. As the enemy paused, the pressure on them eased.

Overlord was already drenched in blood. Against a Great Dao-tier opponent, he couldn't counterattack, but he had blocked wave after wave of assaults—an impressive feat in itself.

Tang Yimo, at the Ninth-Turn Golden Immortal realm, had opened seven veins, going all out.

He wouldn't open the eighth unless absolutely necessary.

Though he knew that with his current strength, unleashing the eighth vein of the Eight Veins Escaping Demon Technique would grant him explosive power, it came at the cost of burning his lifespan.

Tang Yimo wouldn't make that choice lightly.

Even with seven veins, he had managed to hold his divine-demon opponent at bay.

The woman's appearance brought the battle to a halt. Tang Yimo panted heavily, dispersing his demonic technique. Covered in blood, he looked utterly wretched.

Every gaze in the area was drawn to the woman.

Yet she paid no attention to them at all.

Her eyes held indifference—an apathy toward all life.

Azure Dragon clutched the Beast Ancestor statue, his body trembling slightly.

After swatting away the Black-and-White Beast, an even scarier one had arrived.

Azure Dragon was certain she wasn't here for his body. From years of experience, he could tell her eyes held no interest in him whatsoever.

She was a cold, detached woman.

The atmosphere grew tense and chilling.

The woman stared at Azure Dragon with eyes of pure ice.

Azure Dragon wisely kept silent, making no moves.

He knew when to flirt and when to lay low.

So he quietly dispersed the Dragon Gate...

Why?

He didn't want to get his big sister killed.

This woman could slap a quasi-saint beast flying. Calling out his big sister now would just mean sending her to her death alongside him.

Azure Dragon wasn't the type to betray his teammates.

The black-and-white woman frowned slightly.

The aura had vanished.

Earlier, a familiar presence had faintly burst from Azure Dragon—the very aura of the girl she was searching for.

But by the time she arrived, it was gone.

What was going on?

She furrowed her brows, sensing something odd.

Was the issue with this azure dragon?

Her black-and-white eyes locked onto him, making Azure Dragon's heart tighten.

Yet he couldn't help feeling curious...

Her eyes bore some resemblance to his big sister's.

The difference was that big sister's gaze could kill, while this woman's was perfectly controlled.

Thinking of this, Azure Dragon flashed what he believed was a suave, dashing smile.

Boom!

The oppressive force from the woman slammed him face-first into the ground.

A terrifying aura leaked out, as if capable of annihilating everything.

"Where did that aura you just leaked come from? Who does it belong to?"

Her voice was cold and ruthless.

It echoed through the enlightenment grounds, weighing heavily on everyone's bodies.

Lu Julian frowned.

He wanted to intervene, but he knew that even if he did, he'd likely be killed instantly.

This woman was far too powerful.

Azure Dragon wanted to cry. Entering these enlightenment grounds had been nothing but misery for him.

First, some mysterious entity kicked his butt.

Then the Black-and-White Beast chased him down. Now an even more terrifying female demon had her eyes on him.

A handsome dragon's life was always filled with trials he shouldn't have to endure.

"That aura I leaked?"

"When I formed the Dragon Gate, it released big sister's presence... So this woman wasn't drawn by my charm, but by big sister's aura."

"Her target is big sister... Damn, is she big sister's enemy?"

"Cold as ice, murderous intent overflowing... She must have a grudge against big sister and wants her dead!"

"Opposites attract, but same repels—this woman definitely has it in for big sister!"

Thoughts raced through Azure Dragon's mind until everything clicked.

He wasn't like Little Red Dragon—straightforward and stubborn.

If it were Little Red Dragon here, he'd probably roar that she'd have to kill him first.

But Azure Dragon thought things through.

Still, he felt a deep sorrow. He absolutely couldn't summon big sister.

In the end, he might do the same as Little Red Dragon: fight this woman to the death.

But fighting to the death? No way. He'd just refuse to talk.

If she wanted to kill him, so be it.

Once he was dead, Dad and big sister would avenge their beloved Azure Dragon someday...

With Dad's petty grudge-holding personality, this woman wouldn't get away with it.

For the first time, Azure Dragon found his father's pettiness utterly endearing.

Pinned to the ground by crushing pressure, Azure Dragon said nothing.

He refused to speak!

He might be a playboy, but he had his principles.

The woman watched him grit his teeth, breathing heavily in silence, her expression growing even colder.

"Speak!"

Boom!

She slowly raised a hand.

Crack!

The void around Azure Dragon began to collapse inch by inch, the world darkening as if shrouded in death.

Azure Dragon's heart pounded. Her power filled him with despair.

In the distance, Lu Jiulian and the others wore grim expressions.

What could they do?

They all sensed her terror. Stepping forward now would only get them crushed.

"What do we do?"

Lu Jiulian gritted his teeth.

Senior Tonggu was nowhere to be found...

Their only hope was him.

From Lu Jiulian's perspective, Lu watched everything unfold, his face grave.

On the island in the lake, a gentle breeze blew.

But the atmosphere felt like a battlefield thick with killing intent.

Lu leaned against the railing, a chessboard before him.

The scene from the Wood Origin enlightenment grounds appeared vividly around him.

Gazing at the distant black-and-white woman, at the aura that seemed capable of shattering the void, his expression was solemn.

"That familiar presence... It must belong to the owner of those eyes from Zhulong's will space..."

Lu took a deep breath.

A chaos being comparable to a saint—what he had imagined as some monstrous creature turned out to be a woman.

Her appearance was strange, but her aura... was undeniably powerful.

Good thing Azure Dragon closed the Dragon Gate in time. If Zhulong had stepped out, things would have gone horribly wrong.

This woman clearly had some special connection to Zhulong.

She was here to steal his little padded jacket!

Lu grew serious.

He needed to do something.

...

Boom!

Azure Dragon felt like he was about to burst under the pressure, consciousness fading.

In the palace, Tonggu Daoist saw the scene through a water droplet and paled.

The Gold and Fire Elemental Gods exchanged odd glances.

They hadn't expected this terrifying woman to leave the palace...

All because of one human.

Did that human hold some great secret? To move a being rivaling saints and emperors, there had to be something huge.

Otherwise, an apex existence from the ancient starry sky wouldn't be stirred so easily.

Even the collapse of the Immortal Martial World wouldn't faze her.

The Gold and Fire Elemental Gods grew excited. If there truly was a major secret, mastering it could greatly strengthen the divine-demons.

Or, reporting this to the emperors might offset their failure to protect the statue!

So they moved, speeding toward the enlightenment grounds.

Tonggu Daoist's expression shifted. After a moment, he too left the palace.

He couldn't beat her, but...

They had agreed to let humans and divine-demons compete fairly for the statues. Her interference broke that deal.

"Senior... let's talk this out nicely."

Mastering spatial profound truths, Tonggu stepped forward, space shattering as he instantly appeared in the grounds, smiling broadly.

Azure Dragon, face deformed against the ground, nearly wept.

Senior... you finally showed up!

"Senior, save me!"

Azure Dragon cried out with difficulty.

Lu Jiulian, Overlord, Tang Yimo, and the others appeared behind Tonggu—the strongest present, a quasi-saint.

On the other side, the Gold and Fire Elemental Gods hovered in the air. The terrified divine-demons huddled near them like they had found their backbone.

The two gods didn't intervene, watching the show with amusement.

If the humans suffered, they were happy to see it.

If this meddlesome Tonggu got killed, even better.

Losing a quasi-saint like him—powerful and troublesome—would be a massive blow to human morale.

Without him defending the ancestral lands, the Elemental Realm would have a real shot at conquering them.

In this era without saints or emperors, quasi-saints were critical strategic assets.

Losing one meant losing immense deterrence—and risking annihilation.

Tonggu knew this, his scalp tingling.

But Azure Dragon had been entrusted to him by Lu. He felt obligated to bring the dragon back.

He'd try to save him. If he failed, he'd explain to Lu later.

Tonggu wasn't foolish. Trading his quasi-saint life for Azure Dragon's would be too great a loss for humanity.

If he were alone, he'd sacrifice himself without hesitation.

But as a human quasi-saint, his existence carried too much weight.

The woman stared at Azure Dragon, slowly pressing her palm downward.

The earth cracked. The entire enlightenment grounds seemed on the verge of collapse under the pressure.

She ignored Tonggu's words entirely.

Azure Dragon coughed blood, streaming from his mouth and nose.

Despair deepened in his heart.

In this moment, memories flooded him: his beloved Dad, big sister, straightforward Little Red Dragon, lazy Little Yinglong, Yunlong, Shenlong...

And the beautiful wives in his dragon palace flashing before his eyes.

Today, Azure Dragon might bid them farewell forever.

The immense pressure drained his life force bit by bit.

He felt death approaching.

In the distance, Tonggu gritted his teeth.

Raising a hand, silver-gray spatial energy surged, slicing the void. The cut space twisted and constricted, pressing toward the woman to free Azure Dragon.

"Did I allow you to interfere?"

Suddenly.

The woman's black-and-white hair whipped upward. Her dress billowed under a surge of power, revealing long, elegant legs.

One leg swept in an arc toward Tonggu.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Tonggu's face flushed red, as if an entire cosmic starry sky crushed down on him.

Pfft!

The void exploded. Spatial fluctuations shattered.

Tonggu paled, sent flying, crashing into the ground and plowing two mountain-like ridges with his legs.

Eyes wide, sweat pouring, he gasped.

This woman... was too strong!

Was this saint-level power?

They weren't even on the same plane. She could kill him in one move.

Blood trickled from Tonggu's mouth and nose. He gave a bitter smile and shook his head.

Looking at Azure Dragon...

"This old Daoist... can't save you."

Regret filled his eyes. Azure Dragon had been entrusted by Lu—dying here pained him.

Most of all, the dragon's talent in Wood Origin profound truths was extraordinary.

Given time, he could have achieved greatness.

Humanity had few such geniuses in Wood Origin.

Sighing, it was fate. Even a quasi-saint couldn't change it. Blame Azure Dragon's bad luck.

Even watching from the sidelines, the Gold and Fire Elemental Gods broke into cold sweats.

"This woman... seems even stronger now!"

"Her injuries have healed more than when she fought the Wood Emperor."

"Back then she suppressed him—now she could probably take on five divine-demonic emperors!"

They whispered gravely.

But her casual display gave them valuable intelligence. Reporting it would earn major merit.

Lu Jiulian, Overlord, Sima Qingshan, and Tang Yimo looked grim.

Too... too powerful!

Even Tonggu couldn't save Azure Dragon. They had no chance.

The woman's black-and-white eyes shifted back to Azure Dragon.

The Black-and-White Beast waddled over, looking somewhat fawning.

She glanced at it and nodded slightly.

The beast beamed.

Its mountain-sized body shrank back into the adorable black-and-white fluffy ball everyone had seen before, perching on her shoulder.

Big watery eyes spun cutely.

Thanks to Tonggu's intervention, the pressure on Azure Dragon eased slightly.

Clutching the statue, he looked miserable—but still managed to spit blood and mutter:

"So jealous..."

"Being cute really pays off."

Even now, he envied the beast.

If Lu Jiulian knew, he'd be torn between laughter and tears.

"Will you talk?"

Her dress fluttered, long legs flashing beneath the hem—legs that had just sent Tonggu flying with a casual sweep.

Azure Dragon clamped his mouth shut, shaking his head stubbornly.

He might be a rogue, but he had his bottom line.

A glint flashed in her eyes. The beast on her shoulder stared curiously with its big watery eyes.

She raised her hand.

"If you don't talk, you die."

"If you do, you live."

Azure Dragon actually believed her.

At her level, she wouldn't go back on her word.

But he shook his head again.

Closing his eyes, hugging the statue, arms spread—he looked like a dead pig unafraid of boiling water.

She lifted a finger, pointing at him from afar.

Ready to kill.

Suddenly.

Azure Dragon's closed eyes trembled. A faint sigh seemed to echo in his mind.

"Dad?"

Tears streamed down his face in excitement.

He was so touched. In this desperate moment, only Dad still cared.

"This woman covets your big sister. You did well not exposing her."

"Strike the Beast Ancestor statue with full force..."

"Dad's taking you home."

Lu's calm voice drifted into his ears.

That simple "taking you home" made Azure Dragon's heart quake with emotion.

His eyes sharpened.

Anyone else telling him to attack the statue—he'd refuse.

The statue had spirit. He feared backlash killing him before the woman could.

But if Lu said it, there was a reason.

No hesitation.

From defiant resignation, he suddenly opened his eyes.

Staring at the woman, he flashed a wicked grin.

"Heh heh heh..."

The smile stunned her. The beast on her shoulder popped out tiny paws, covering its eyes in disgust.

Then Azure Dragon erupted with astonishing aura.

Pulling out the Wood Origin Beast Ancestor statue, he slammed a palm toward it with full force.

Hmm?

Everyone's expressions changed.

The Gold and Fire Elemental Gods froze. Was he going to destroy it if he couldn't have it?

So the divine-demons couldn't have it either?

Humans... truly mad.

But they didn't think his strike could shatter it.

Boom!

His palm struck the statue solidly.

Buzz...

Dazzling green light burst forth.

Blindingly bright!

The next instant, energy ripples spread wildly, accompanied by roaring booms.

Wood Origin profound truth ripples surged madly.

In an instant, they engulfed the entire enlightenment grounds.

Everyone was enveloped.

Lu Jiulian's face shifted—this familiar sensation. Before he could think, the ripples hit, plunging him into enlightenment.

Overlord, Tang Yimo, Sima Qingshan—all the same.

Even Azure Dragon, closest to the statue, fell into it.

Quasi-saint Tonggu, the two Elemental Gods, and countless heavenly god-tier divine-demons—all succumbed.

Even quasi-saints struggled against the statue's ripples.

The ripples swept over the woman too.

The beast on her shoulder blinked, then closed its watery eyes.

Lu Jiulian opened his eyes.

Lu, controlling Lu Jiulian's body, exhaled slowly.

"Who exactly is this woman?"

Lu shook his head. This Wood Origin enlightenment trip had gone far beyond expectations.

Controlling the body, green lotus robes fluttering.

He flashed through the void.

Planning to take Azure Dragon and the human experts away.

As for the statue—if he could grab it, great...

Lu landed beside Azure Dragon, who still wore that wicked grin, palm pressed to the statue.

Mad Wood Origin ripples poured from it.

Lu breathed deeply. Through Lu Jiulian's feedback, vast Wood Origin truths flowed into his indestructible wood-element demonic body.

The effect was good, but holding the statue directly would be better.

Controlling the body, Lu grabbed Azure Dragon and scooped up the statue, preparing to leave.

"Shame—time's tight, or I could've killed a few Great Dao-tier divine-demons. There are heavenly gods and Elemental Gods too... Wonder if I could take out an Elemental God?"

Lu was ambitious.

But he decided against it.

Mainly, the woman might wake any moment.

Suddenly.

Lu, in Lu Jiulian's body, stiffened.

At some point, a pale black hand rested on the shoulder.

"I feel like... I've seen you somewhere before."

A cool, clear voice sounded in his ear.

A faint fragrance brushed past, stirring stray hairs.

Lu's pupils contracted.

This woman...

Hadn't fallen into enlightenment!

His heart froze for an instant.

But quickly, he suppressed the turmoil, remaining calm and composed as he turned to face the woman whose hand rested on his shoulder.

Black-and-white woman—appearance bizarre, yet features exquisitely perfect, as if crafted by heaven itself.

Up close, even Lu felt a flicker of admiration.

But admiration passed, leaving only calm.

No matter how beautiful—if she threatened him, he'd kill her all the same.

"You've got the wrong person, miss."

Lu said.

"Wrong person?"

Strange light swirled in her black-and-white eyes.

As if seeing through Lu Jiulian... straight to Lu possessing him.

Her gaze burned. She leaned closer.

That flawless face drew nearer to Lu's in Lu Jiulian's body.

"I feel like I've seen you somewhere!"

"I wasn't sure before, but now... I am."

"No matter if it was the last cosmic era, or the one before—even if heavens grow old and chaos collapses... I'd never forget your aura."

Her breath brushed his face, making Lu's eyes narrow.

This woman... her flirting lines were professional!

Master-level!

It actually made his guarded heart skip!

Lu Ping'an...

Had been flirted with?!

Wait—what do you do when someone flirts with you like this?

Chapter 627: I Don't Want to Work Hard Anymore

This was the first time Lu had ever encountered a situation like this.

He had originally planned to use the possession of Lu Jiulian's body as an opportunity to reason properly with this black-and-white woman.

Normally, Lu Ping'an didn't bother reasoning with others. But this time, he chose to.

Not because of her saint-level strength—no, it was simply because he genuinely loved reasoning. He believed it was the proper way for cultivators like them to uphold the right values.

Yet he never expected... this black-and-white woman wouldn't reason with him at all.

The moment they met, she started flirting.

It completely disrupted his plans.

"Miss... you've definitely got the wrong person."

Lu controlled Lu Jiulian's body and spoke earnestly.

Her enthusiasm made even him feel too embarrassed to strike.

The woman smiled, and much of the murderous aura around her dissipated. Earlier, it had flared because she sensed Zhulong's presence, making her somewhat anxious.

Now, compared to Lu's aura, Zhulong's could wait.

Her hand remained on his shoulder.

"I didn't get it wrong. The essence of a person... never changes."

"For example... your pettiness."

She said.

Lu froze, then his expression turned grave.

He suddenly felt like hitting someone—what should he do?

Wasn't his temper good?

Who had ever seen him lose it?

Any survivors want to step up and discuss it with him...?

"Miss, you can't just say things like that..."

Lu replied.

She waved her hand dismissively.

"Whether it's random or not, you know in your heart."

"You can call me 'Black-White,' or 'Black-White Empress.'"

"On you, I sense the aura of my offspring. Can you take me to see her?"

The Black-White Empress asked.

Compared to her aggressive, ruthless demeanor when interrogating Azure Dragon, she now spoke much more gently.

Lu paused, falling into thought. This woman... seemed far more reasonable than he'd imagined.

Was it some kind of scheme?

Perhaps Zhulong had something special that could help her recover her strength—that's why she was so eager to find her.

He'd heard she was injured; it was quite possible.

But then Lu pondered deeper. Zhulong was created by him through the system and the preaching platform...

Yet this woman claimed Zhulong was her child. Did the system have some connection to her?

Vaguely, Lu felt he was grasping some clues. The secrets of the system's existence were starting to surface.

What exactly was the system? Who created it? These had always been deep mysteries in Lu's mind.

Still, the system had helped him immensely, aiding the Five Phoenixes' rise from obscurity—from a low-martial world to the current Immortal Martial World.

Of course, while the system helped, Lu had put in tremendous effort himself to reach this point.

"Can you?"

Seeing Lu lost in thought and zoning out, the Black-White Empress prompted.

Lu looked up, expressionlessly glancing at her.

"No."

He said flatly.

A direct refusal.

Nonsense—Zhulong was his most cherished little padded jacket. No one would harm her!

The Black-White Empress's expression stiffened. She hadn't expected him to be so unyielding.

"You say you know me, that we've met before... Then tell me, who exactly is this 'me' you've seen?"

Lu asked curiously.

But at this question, her exquisite face suddenly changed.

"I cannot say! I must not..."

"It would bring terrible calamity, a crisis of annihilation to this world!"

She shook her head.

Lu frowned. Was it really that exaggerated?

Just a name—yet she didn't even dare mention it?

This only piqued his curiosity more. Perhaps she mistook the system's aura for someone she'd met before—maybe the system carried traces of that being's presence.

Since she wouldn't say, Lu didn't press further.

The atmosphere grew awkward.

Buzz...

The profound truth ripples from the Wood Origin Beast Ancestor statue began to tremble, as if they couldn't hold much longer.

The Black-White Empress frowned and muttered under her breath: "Useless piece of wood!"

Then, looking at Lu: "Really no chance?"

"If I don't see her this time, I'll see her eventually. As her strength grows, our bloodline connection will strengthen. I'll find her sooner or later."

She said.

"Fine. If you won't allow it, I won't force it..."

She shook her head, dropping the insistence.

Lu, controlling Lu Jiulian's body, raised an eyebrow.

The awkward silence lingered, neither knowing what to say.

But it didn't last long.

Lu picked up the Green Lotus Sword.

Under the Black-White Empress's curious gaze, he swiftly shuttled through space, appearing beside each entranced divine-demon.

Raising the sword, he stabbed down—one sword per divine-demon.

In Lu's view, dealing with this woman was exhausting. Since he didn't know what to say, why not kill some divine-demons for fun?

The Great Dao-tier divine-demons roared in fury just before death.

Watching this, the Black-White Empress pursed her lips. So... insidious!

So this was how the human ferocious god earned his infamous reputation...

She couldn't help feeling a twinge of pity for those divine-demons Lu assassinated. Meeting such a sneaky bastard—they died too unjustly.

Lu continued, slaying one Great Dao-tier after another.

Feeling it wasn't enough, a bold idea emerged.

His gaze shifted to the Elemental Gods, comparable to quasi-saints.

The Gold and Fire Elemental Gods—top among heavenly god-tier divine-demons. Killing one could shift the balance in the ancient starry sky.

The Black-White Empress crossed her arms, watching the show from afar.

When she saw Lu sneaking toward the entranced Fire Elemental God with the Green Lotus Sword, she was stunned.

"So bold... That's a peak heavenly god-tier divine-demon, practically half-step chaos rank..."

"You're actually targeting one like that."

After the shock, amusement crept in.

Her lips curved as she watched quietly.

Immortal-tier divine-demons could be killed silently. Great Dao-tier ones screamed before dying...

A heavenly god-tier, even in enlightenment, would instantly awaken to danger. Lu in Lu Jiulian's body had no chance against one.

In her eyes, this was recklessly bold.

But for her, it was good news.

If the Elemental God retaliated thunderously, she could "save" Lu—making him owe her a favor.

A favor from this being...

Her black-and-white eyes gleamed brightly at the thought.

Lu, of course, had no idea of her calculations.

He was just trying his luck. He knew Elemental Gods were hard to kill—apex powerhouses in the ancient starry sky.

This one might even surpass the Xuancang quasi-saint he'd once full-drawn the Five Phoenixes Bow against.

But seeing the enlightenment ripples around it...

Lu saw a golden opportunity. Fortune favors the bold.

The Five Phoenixes were a human force.

The divine-demons had always opposed humans, seeking their extinction. The Five Phoenixes remained hidden in a remote location, undeveloped—any divine-demons who came were either killed or turned into strategic reserves.

No news reached the Elemental Realm, allowing the Five Phoenixes peaceful, rapid growth.

In short:

If this Elemental God learned of the Five Phoenixes and the two Beast Ancestor statues there, he'd spare no effort to wipe them out—slaughter every living being, eradicate them completely.

So killing him? No issues at all.

It was for the Five Phoenixes' own good.

Lu truly worried himself sick over them.

The Fire Elemental God was immensely powerful. Even in enlightenment, terrifying flames surged around him, as if scorching the void.

A horrifying divine-demon.

To the Black-White Empress, he wasn't much. But to current Lu, he was the strongest opponent yet!

(Excluding her, of course.)

Raising the Green Lotus Sword.

Lu wiped the blade.

Metal Origin, Fire Origin, and the freshly comprehended Wood Origin truths...

All three poured madly into the sword.

Without the Five Phoenixes Bow, he couldn't merge five powers.

But he'd mastered the bow's principles long ago. Using the sword as base, he simulated it.

Buzz...

The Green Lotus Sword—a congenital treasure forged after Lu Jiulian's Golden Immortal ascension, decent materials.

But under this strain, cracks began appearing.

As the three truths flooded in, fissures spiderwebbed across it.

No innate purple qi available.

So Lu added primordial spirit power!

Tricolored sword light threatened to cleave the entire grounds.

The Black-White Empress's eyes showed surprise.

Merging four energies—even she hadn't expected it.

"Metal and Fire Origins are mastered by Beast Ancestor-level beings. The five Beast Ancestors restrain each other—how can their truths fuse?"

"Interesting..."

She was genuinely intrigued.

"Stab!"

Cracks spread like serpents.

Lu knew the sword wouldn't hold long.

Gripping it, he thrust toward the Fire Elemental God's heart.

Boom!

At the same moment.

The statue's ripples trembled faintly.

Soon, like a river cut off, they calmed—no more fluctuations.

The Black-White Empress glanced over, her smile deepening.

Ripples ceased.

The atmosphere shifted abruptly.

The sword's cataclysmic surge woke the targeted Fire Elemental God instantly.

"COURTING DEATH!!!"

He roared in earth-shaking fury!

But too slow—the sword already pierced his chest.

Clang!

Sparks flew, the crisp ring echoing through heaven and earth.

Yet the strike infused with three truths... failed to breach his physical defense!

Half-step chaos rank, after all!

His body was terrifyingly tough!

Divine-demons prized physical defense. Immortal and Great Dao tiers fell easily to Lu in Lu Jiulian's body—but not an Elemental God.

The awakened roar formed a flaming storm, sweeping out.

It jolted everyone from the Wood Origin enlightenment.

The Gold Elemental God snapped open his eyes, incredulous at Lu Jiulian stabbing the Fire Elemental God's chest.

He knew Lu Jiulian well—the human ferocious god's name spread widely among divine-demons!

Practically on their must-kill list.

Yet even he never imagined Lu Jiulian mad enough to assassinate an Elemental God with mere Emperor strength?!

The human geniuses awoke.

All gasped in shock.

Brother Jiulian... terrifying!

Overlord, Tang Yimo, Sima Qingshan opened their eyes, stunned.

Tonggu Daoist sucked in a breath, emerging from enlightenment drenched in cold sweat—the Black-White Empress's pressure weighed heavily on him.

He worried endlessly, unsure how to resolve this crisis.

Azure Dragon had likely enraged her, possibly triggering a massacre.

She was capable—when she seized the Wood Origin statue, she'd slaughtered through the Wood Elemental Realm, taking it forcibly from an emperor!

So Tonggu's first glance upon waking was toward her.

Only to find her arms crossed, hovering quietly... watching the show.

What show?

Following her gaze...

"Holy crap!"

Tonggu's scalp exploded!

Insane?!

How dare Lu Jiulian try killing an Elemental God?!

It was like Tonggu assassinating the Black-White Empress—impossible!

The gap was too vast!

"No penetration?"

Lu blinked.

Then his eyes sharpened.

Buzz!

Hand shaking, the sword spun rapidly.

Lu clenched a fist, slamming the hilt!

Immense force erupted!

Boom!

The sword shattered.

Countless fragments scattered in dazzling brilliance.

Pfft!

The exploding three-truth energy drove the blade into flesh.

Blood sprayed.

The converged sword light pierced clean through the Fire Elemental God's body.

The scene sparked uproar again.

Divine-demons ignored the slain Great Dao tiers—all eyes on this battle.

The human ferocious god Lu Jiulian was truly ferocious!

Claws reaching even Elemental Gods.

The Wood Spirit watched in disbelief, like witnessing a madman.

An Elemental God versus Lu Jiulian?

Without his uniqueness, the Wood Spirit could suppress him one-on-one.

Yet now, trying to slay a god?!

And he actually pierced the chest!

Shocking, indeed.

The Fire Elemental God burned with cold rage—insulted.

A mere early Emperor human ant daring to kill him?

Though pierced, his body could regenerate from a drop of blood—no fear.

But after penetration, Lu withdrew satisfied.

Because his primordial spirit on the sword... was about to erupt fully inside!

Lu released control of Lu Jiulian's body, preparing to confront the god head-on.

Lu Jiulian's vision blurred, then cleared—consciousness returned.

The ripples told him he'd done something big again.

His small universe bursts always led to astonishing feats.

How many Great Dao tiers this time?

But upon waking...

He stared in horror at the Fire Elemental God, sword hilt protruding from his pierced chest.

Flames raged in the god's eyes.

He was injured!

Pierced by a newbie human Emperor brat!

"YOU COURT DEATH!!!"

Terrifying murderous intent exploded. Flames surged, threatening to incinerate the grounds into a sea of fire.

The Gold Elemental God raged too.

But Tonggu reacted, grabbing the void—space shattered, blades encasing the Gold God.

"The Fire Elemental God bullying our human junior is one thing—but you, old gold fart, joining in shamelessly? Two Elemental Gods ganging up on a junior—proud of that?!"

"Have you no face left?!"

Tonggu roared, striking thunderously.

His words nearly gave the Fire Elemental God internal injuries from anger.

Damn it... Lu Jiulian struck first!

Did he look like he enjoyed bullying a mere Emperor junior?!

The Gold God's clash with Tonggu canceled out invisibly...

Lu Jiulian was dumbfounded.

What had he done?

His small universe burst... what did it do?!

Facing the god who seemed ready to tear him apart, he felt drained.

He'd done nothing—yet carried the massive blame.

In the distance, the Black-White Empress's eyes lit up. With her strength, she sensed Lu's primordial spirit poised to shatter the god's.

"Need my help? I can assist..."

She smiled.

Her voice wasn't loud, but it echoed—shocking all powerhouses.

Her strength was terrifying, rivaling human saints—Tonggu vomited blood from one casual move.

So her offer stunned them.

"This being wants to help Lu Jiulian?"

"What face does the human ferocious god have to make a chaos entity act?"

"Unbelievable!"

Divine-demons gasped.

Azure Dragon, awakened and distanced, hugged the statue in shock.

Gasped deeply.

"Worth teaching under me, Jiulian!"

Eating soft rice like this—new waves pushing old, each stronger!

Far behind him!

Tonggu and the Gold God, mid-battle, pupils contracted.

Tonggu stunned, then ecstatic!

The Gold God horrified!

What deal had Lu Jiulian struck with the Black-White Empress?!

...

Five Phoenixes, lake island.

Lu's surroundings turned into a sea of fire.

He frowned.

On the Spirit Pressure Chessboard, pieces glowed hot, flames dancing across the board.

The Fire Elemental God was strong—extremely so!

Even current Lu found him daunting.

"Need my help? I can assist..."

The Black-White Empress's voice drifted over, echoing on the island.

Lu's gaze sharpened.

Her origins unknown—he remained wary.

But now... her help would ease things greatly.

After thought, Lu murmured seriously:

"It's not me asking—it's Lu Jiulian requesting..."

Then he placed a piece decisively!

...

Hearing her words, Lu Jiulian paused.

So familiar... déjà vu.

Was she speaking to him?

Turning, he met her black-and-white eyes sparkling with amusement, lips curved into mature, charming dimples—gazing at him.

The scene felt so familiar.

Glancing back at the flaming sea, the Fire Elemental God poised to devour him.

The gap was insurmountable.

Without his small universe, no way he'd pierce the chest.

So Lu Jiulian knew his choice.

He looked at the distant Black-White Empress.

Shook his head, sighed.

He'd become his original self again.

"Miss, I don't want to work hard anymore."

Lu Jiulian said.

The Black-White Empress laughed.

Her eyes gleamed.

Not because of his words—but Lu's agreement.

In her view, Lu Jiulian was dust. But Lu was different.

Helping now meant Lu owed her a favor.

Worth it.

Next instant, she acted—flicking a finger.

The pierced Fire Elemental God felt the world darken. Black-and-white light filled his vision, forming a cage. His body forced to one knee...

A mighty force yanked his mind.

Into a hazy primordial spirit battlefield!

There, a white-robed youth sat calmly on an Eight Trigrams platform, robes fluttering, immortal aura surging, purple qi vast.

Gazing peacefully at him.

Chapter 628: Primordial Spirit Clash, Scheming Lu Ping'an

The Black-White Empress's intervention caught everyone off guard.

Neither the Fire Elemental God nor the Gold Elemental God had anticipated it. Why would the Black-White Empress—an existence rivaling human saints and divine-demonic emperors—act on behalf of a mere Lu Jiulian?

This sent a dangerously alarming signal.

Could it mean the Black-White Empress might side against the divine-demons because of Lu Jiulian, joining the human camp?

For the divine-demons, that would be disastrous news.

A single Black-White Empress wielded immense deterrent power—enough to prop up an entire race. If she opposed them, the divine-demons would face tremendous pressure.

"Why are you doing this, senior?!"

"Are you intending to interfere in the war between humans and divine-demons?"

"Aren't you afraid of incurring the wrath of our divine-demonic emperors?!"

The Gold Elemental God watched the Fire Elemental God forcibly suppressed and kneeling on the ground. His expression shifted as he spoke coldly.

His voice echoed, breaking the strange tension in the field.

"Wrath my ass!"

Tonggu Daoist snapped out of it and immediately cursed.

"What, only your divine-demons have emperors? We humans don't have saints?"

"If senior chooses to help us humans, that's out of kindness. We humans repay even a drop of kindness with a gushing spring—unlike you cold-blooded, treacherous divine-demons who turn on allies without a second thought... If senior aids us, our human saints naturally won't stand idly by. If your emperors want war, our saints... why fear it?!"

Tonggu Daoist roared.

He truly hadn't expected the Black-White Empress to act for Lu Jiulian's sake.

In this era, even old cows craved tender grass?

Lu Jiulian was just younger-looking, more pleasing to the eye, a bit handsomer than an old Daoist like him...

And the Black-White Empress would intervene over a pretty face.

Heh, women...

Tonggu sighed inwardly.

But his mouth didn't stop: "Senior is awesome! For helping humans today, we will forever remember your great favor..."

Tonggu shouted repeatedly. With her acting, he hurried to pull her into their camp. If the Black-White Empress joined the humans, it would be a massive boon.

Humans were at a disadvantage precisely because they had fewer saints than divine-demonic emperors.

Her presence—equal to a saint—meant humans gained one for free. What a windfall!

Trading a pretty boy for a saint-level powerhouse...

It was like pie falling from the sky.

Killing intent surged in the Gold Elemental God's eyes.

Tonggu's words fueled his rage. He genuinely worried she'd be swayed to the human side.

Then, neither he nor the Fire Elemental God might leave alive.

So he quickly spoke: "Senior..."

The two quasi-saint-level powerhouses bickered verbally.

Meanwhile, Lu Jiulian felt dazed...

He... hadn't worked hard again. In a moment of carelessness... he'd eaten soft rice once more.

He truly didn't want this.

But he couldn't control it. Lu Jiulian felt tormented. As the human ferocious god, he needed to learn self-reliance.

Yet he'd reverted to his old self again.

Becoming the person he once despised most, time and again.

Those around exchanged glances.

The divine-demons trembled even more. Originally, in the Wood Origin enlightenment grounds, divine-demons outnumbered and outpowered humans. But now, because of one human ferocious god—Lu Jiulian—their side had suffered heavy losses.

And a being rivaling divine-demonic emperors like the Black-White Empress had intervened...

Was a divine-demonic Elemental God about to fall here?

Boom!

The atmosphere grew grave.

The Fire Elemental God knelt on the earth. Flames erupted endlessly from his body, incinerating all vegetation in the grounds, turning the surroundings into scorched wasteland.

Yet he seemed trapped in a bizarre state—kneeling motionless on one knee.

Lu Jiulian steadied himself, exhaling slowly.

The Black-White Empress smiled faintly, arms crossed, her black-and-white dress fluttering.

Helping Lu Jiulian?

No—she was helping Lu.

She cared about owing Lu a favor. A mere Lu Jiulian wasn't worth her notice.

This was an early investment.

Hearing the Gold Elemental God's words, she smiled: "Whether I help humans depends on my mood."

"Don't threaten me..."

"If I'm in a bad mood, I might just kill you. Would your emperors wage war over one like you?"

She chuckled.

"Besides, at your level, you have no idea what saints and emperors truly bear. Strength determines vision and perspective."

Her words made the Gold Elemental God's eyes redden.

This woman... so arrogant, so unrestrained?

But they also left him somewhat bewildered. Indeed, as she said, divine-demonic emperors outnumbered human saints.

If emperors acted, humans would be doomed.

Yet humans had risen from obscurity in the ancient starry sky, growing stronger despite encirclement—because emperors never personally intervened.

Of course, there was one exception.

When the first human saint emerged, an emperor had acted.

But it was mere intimidation; they fought deep in the starry void, ending with much thunder but little rain.

Thus, over the years, conflicts persisted, but emperors never struck.

They tacitly allowed encirclement but never acted themselves.

In the Gold Elemental God's view, one emperor move would raze human ancestral lands and Immortal Domains to ash.

Yet encirclement had always been driven by Elemental Gods.

Even without emperors, divine-demon forces sufficed to suppress humans.

The Black-White Empress smiled faintly, ignoring them further.

She truly feared no emperors—they had bigger concerns than her.

Or rather, merely suppressing an Elemental God hadn't crossed their bottom line.

But she only suppressed; whether he lived or died depended on... the one dealing with him now.

...

The primordial spirit battlefield was a unique place.

For cultivators, the primordial spirit was most mysterious—the foundation for exploring the starry void.

Lu had intended to ambush the Fire Elemental God but hadn't expected Elemental Gods to be far stronger than imagined. At least, if his true body were here, breaching defenses wouldn't be too hard.

But controlling Lu Jiulian's body made it difficult.

Ultimately, he alerted the enemy.

So Lu had no choice but to drag the primordial spirit into the battlefield.

Otherwise, Lu Jiulian might get beaten to death.

Human powerhouses would struggle to escape the Wood Origin grounds.

The Black-White Empress acted only for Lu Ping'an's sake. And Lu knew—though polite to him—she'd never kill an Elemental God for him.

Elemental Gods weren't cabbages.

"Primordial spirit battlefield?"

"You dare face me here?"

"Who gave you the courage..."

The Fire Elemental God scanned surroundings, eyes landing on Lu seated in the wheelchair and the Eight Trigrams platform before him.

This place reeked of strangeness. Even as an Elemental God, he felt uneasy.

But Lu's aura didn't seem overwhelmingly powerful, so he wasn't afraid.

Still, primordial spirit battles were risky—even he remained vigilant.

Lu gazed calmly. His first close look at an Elemental God.

A quasi-saint pinnacle powerhouse.

Currently, Lu struggled against quasi-saints...

Without the Five Phoenixes Bow, only manifesting the preaching platform might give him a chance.

But dragging the spirit here... this was his home turf.

Originally, pulling an Elemental God's spirit in would be nearly impossible.

But Lu's spirit power attached to the Green Lotus Sword had pierced the chest and heart, enabling it.

The Elemental God's spirit was indeed formidable.

Terrifying heat radiated extreme Fire Origin power.

Lu's fire-indestructible demonic body was perfected, yet this pure Fire Origin force sparked joy in his eyes.

Such refined power—he could never have too much...

If stripped entirely, channeled into the Five Phoenixes Bow, the arrows would pack terrifying might.

"Mere human Emperor... who gave you the guts? Even that dog Tonggu lacks the audacity to share a battlefield with my spirit."

The Fire Elemental God said coldly.

Lu knew it was true—his spirit far surpassed ordinary quasi-saints.

Even Tonggu's might not match.

That was his confidence.

But Lu had his own.

This was the primordial spirit battlefield... and his trump card: the preaching platform.

"No words?"

"Then die."

"Kill you, return to my body, then slaughter that Lu Jiulian!"

Ruthlessness filled the Fire Elemental God's eyes.

**Boom!**

Vast, pure Fire Origin power erupted fully. Thousands of fire pillars exploded around him.

His form blurred, lightning-fast as he charged Lu, cold killing intent flooding every corner.

Lu's eyes flickered slightly, lips curving upward.

He raised a hand, placing a chess piece slowly.

Plop.

Soft, but crisp.

Soon, an array word floated from the Eight Trigrams platform.

Buzz...

It enlarged abruptly, weaving in the void.

Lu placed pieces one after another. Interwoven array words soon formed a massive array net.

The Fire Elemental God charged like a massive fireball, colliding with it.

Rip!

The net tore easily before the flames.

Terrifying fire waves swept every inch of space.

Immense primordial spirit power poured down, threatening to engulf Lu.

Endless seas of fire raged...

In the battlefield, Lu sat poised in the Thousand-Bladed Chair, white robes fluttering. His surroundings became a complete inferno.

His spirit power compressed into a tiny space by the god's.

The gap was stark.

As a quasi-saint pinnacle, his spirit was honed to perfection.

The entire space seemed an ocean of flames, Fire Origin churning endlessly.

The god's face emerged from the sea sporadically, mocking Lu as he was relentlessly pushed back.

In his view, this human overestimated himself.

A mere Emperor daring to provoke him, dragging his spirit here.

Not even suicide like this!

No matter who Lu was, the god resolved to kill.

At least crush his spirit here—the price of arrogance.

Boom!

Lu inhaled deeply. The god's strength exceeded expectations.

Watching the encroaching inferno.

Heat flushed his skin rosy.

He paused placing pieces, narrowing his eyes.

Boom!

The surrounding fire sea suddenly coalesced into a massive flaming palm.

Vast Fire Origin and spirit power roiled within.

It slammed down, cracking and shattering space inch by inch!

"Die!"

The god's face emerged, laughing wildly.

Thud!

Sparks flew.

Unnoticed, the Eight Trigrams platform had appeared above Lu.

Rotating slowly.

The palm struck it, exploding countless sparks.

Below, Lu's white robes billowed wildly from the force.

His expression remained calm.

Lips curving.

From feigned weakness to counterattack...

The chessboard before him seemed decided.

Hmm?

The god's full-power palm failed to kill Lu—and felt immense suction surging from the platform.

"What is this platform?!"

"A primordial spirit supreme treasure?!"

His pupils contracted.

He hadn't underestimated Lu—anyone bold enough to drag an Elemental God's spirit here was extraordinary.

But easily tearing the initial net had bred slight contempt.

He thought Lu weak.

Now, clearly, a trump card.

Luring him to lower guard, then activating the treasure!

"But so what if you have a treasure?!"

"With your strength, even possessing it—what can you do to me?"

He grew colder.

Boom!

Power pressed down, flames surging in the palm.

He aimed to crush the treasure, using it to explode Lu's spirit.

But as he erupted...

Immense suction from the platform madly absorbed and devoured his spirit power!

"Damn!!"

"What treasure is this? Since when did humans have such a thing?!"

The instant he felt devouring, shock hit. Though little lost, the sensation was awful!

He tried withdrawing.

But the suction—though not overwhelming—stuck like taffy. No shaking it off!

Lu leaned on the Thousand-Bladed Chair, robes increasingly ethereal.

His spirit controlled the platform, absorbing wildly despite the odds.

The god knew Lu was culprit, but shattered array words reemerged.

Weaving around him into a massive array cauldron.

Inspired by observing Ancient Emperor Ha's Myriad Pattern Cauldron—Lu's sealing method.

The Eight Trigrams cauldron as cage, imprisoning the god's spirit.

Boom boom boom!

The god attacked frantically, but what was once fragile as paper now stood unbreakable.

He panicked slightly.

He'd underestimated this human—deceived by weak strength.

Unexpectedly, a human array master!

Fury rose!

Fire pillars exploded, filling the cauldron with endless flames surging to burst free.

Yet...

To his horror, the more he erupted, the stronger the platform's suction...

His spirit power drained like a flooding river.

Unease crept in.

After more strikes, feeling weaker, he calmed.

No novice in battle.

He quickly grasped: the more he attacked, the more Lu benefited—suction surging.

What a scheming human!

So he reined in aura.

Sitting calmly in the cauldron.

Gazing through at white-robed Lu.

"I'll see how long a mere human Emperor can seal me."

He sneered.

Lu was surprised—the god calmed and analyzed so quickly.

With no attacks, suction weakened.

The god laughed. As expected...

No rush now. Outside, the human sustaining the array and treasure must consume vastly.

This ebb and flow—the human would falter first, releasing it.

Without array and treasure, he'd crush him easily.

"Outlast me... an Elemental God afraid of a human Emperor?"

Confident.

Lu watched the poised, eyes-closed god and smiled.

The victim wasn't anxious.

Why would Lu Ping'an be?

Did he think the cauldron only sealed?

It slowly absorbed Fire Origin; the platform spirit power.

The god fixated on the platform.

By realization, too late.

Patience? Lu had plenty.

Boiling a frog slowly—exactly this.

Treat it as... refining a pill.

...

Back in the Wood Origin enlightenment grounds.

Tension hung heavy.

The Black-White Empress's action deterred all—even Gold Elemental God and Tonggu ceased fighting.

Temporary truce, eyes flickering on the kneeling Fire Elemental God.

All curious what befell him.

"His primordial spirit was dragged into a battlefield—fighting someone."

The Gold Elemental God spoke from experience.

Tonggu glanced at him, knowing it too.

"Could it be Brother Lu?"

"Dragging the Fire Elemental God's spirit in... can he win?"

Tonggu wondered, somewhat incredulous.

He sighed, thinking Lu reckless.

Underestimating an Elemental God.

Pinnacle heavenly god-tier among divine-demons—strength not to be belittled.

"Primordial spirit battles are perilous... one misstep, eternal doom."

"Brother Lu... was impulsive."

Tonggu shook his head. Now, only hope for a miracle.

He knew Lu's strength: Extreme Emperor realm. Even if advanced to Heavenly Emperor recently...

Against an Elemental God's spirit—like a pond versus ocean.

No comparison.

"Too risky... too reckless!"

Tonggu gritted teeth.

Eyes gleaming on the god's body—perhaps sneak an attack, shatter it while unnoticed.

Body and spirit linked—destruction would affect the spirit, giving Lu a chance.

But the instant Tonggu's eyes lit, the Gold Elemental God read his intent.

Cold aura locked him—if Tonggu struck the body, he'd heavily injure Tonggu!

Outside, tension crackled.

The Black-White Empress's eyes flickered surprise.

She vaguely... sensed something.

Time ticked by...

Situation remained grave.

Humans and divine-demons split camps. With her deterrence, no full clash.

Tonggu eyed by Gold God—several attempts to smash the body foiled by counter-threats.

Relieving the Gold God: she only suppressed, no further action—good for divine-demons.

As for the Fire Elemental God?

He wasn't worried.

No human—even a quasi-saint—could erase his spirit.

Even Xiaoyaozi, most spirit-proficient human quasi-saint, likely couldn't.

So wait for recovery—then humans here face annihilation.

Suddenly, one day.

The Black-White Empress let out a soft "eh?"

Tonggu and Gold Elemental God opened eyes, looking at the Fire Elemental God.

Next moment.

To their shock.

His primordial spirit aura...

Like melting ice.

Plummeted rapidly!

Dropping relentlessly to rock bottom!

This stunned both sides.

What happened to the Fire Elemental God?!

Chapter 629: Did I, Lu Jiulian, Just Slay a God?

Boiling a frog slowly is actually a profound technique.

Just like premium ingredients often shine brightest with the simplest cooking methods, bringing out their innate flavors fully.

Lu treated the Fire Elemental God the same way.

By the time the god realized what was happening, he found that most of his Fire Origin power—attached to his primordial spirit—had been absorbed by the array patterns on the Eight Trigrams cauldron. It was too late to react.

"Damn it!"

Fire Origin power amplified his spirit's attacks, making them far more devastating.

Yet it had been stripped away unknowingly.

Only now did the Fire Elemental God understand why Lu remained so calm—he'd been waiting for the absorption to complete.

If not for losing so much, the god might never have noticed.

But now, it was futile.

The absorbed Fire Origin power erupted fully. A fiery storm raged, clashing against the god's own primordial spirit force.

It began eroding his spirit relentlessly.

The Fire Elemental God felt so frustrated he nearly spat blood. It was like someone stealing your knife and using it to stab you.

He didn't dare unleash his spirit power to resist—below him, the Eight Trigrams platform waited hungrily. Any eruption would trigger frantic absorption.

This sensation drove him mad with rage.

He truly hated it.

In the outside world, with his peak heavenly god-tier strength, he'd easily erase Lu.

Yet here in the primordial spirit battlefield, a mere human Emperor had schemed against him so thoroughly.

One link chaining the next.

It left him feeling powerless, as if his strength had been eroded unnoticed, stripping his ability to fight back.

Lu smiled.

The timing was ripe.

"After all, you're an Elemental God. Erasing your spirit entirely is still tricky."

"But I'm not bloodthirsty. An Elemental God is a massive strategic asset—a top-tier tool divine-demon, far more useful than some giant beast like Kuisi."

Lu muttered.

Then he rose from the Thousand-Bladed Chair, instantly appearing beneath the Eight Trigrams platform.

Pushing a palm forward against it.

Metal Origin, Fire Origin, Wood Origin...

All three powers burst forth simultaneously.

Forcing the platform down toward the Fire Elemental God.

The god felt chills down his spine.

He hadn't expected Lu to wield these three powers...

The forces of three Beast Ancestor statues.

Though weaker than his own, it still shocked him.

Who among humans could command three?

Suddenly, realization dawned...

"It's you!!!"

Brilliant light exploded from his eyes like flaming tongues, scorching and twisting the void.

Lu was slightly surprised.

He'd been recognized.

"You're the one who stole two Beast Ancestor statues!"

Fury burned in the god's eyes, flames practically shooting out.

This guy dared show himself!

And plotted to kill him?!

So insidious!

This time, Lu wore no black cloak, but in the god's eyes, their figures overlapped perfectly.

Lu smiled. Recognized? Fine.

He hadn't planned to spare the Fire Elemental God anyway.

Though dealing with an Elemental God's spirit was tough, Lu would try.

Boom!

The three powers erupted.

Greatly empowering the Eight Trigrams platform.

Inside the cauldron, the god felt like he was about to burst.

He endured—no releasing power. He knew erupting would play right into Lu's hands.

The platform would devour his spirit force madly.

But under Lu's boost, the pressure intensified.

"What treasure is this?"

The god gritted teeth, eyes full of shock. A treasure that absorbed spirit power—humans had such a thing, and divine-demons knew nothing?

Humans truly hid unknown trump cards!

Feeling the oppression.

The Fire Elemental God faced a choice.

He never imagined suffering such humiliation!

Yes, humiliation!

With only spirit power, he was completely countered by the platform. Against a human Emperor, he was powerless.

For a moment, sorrow welled up.

Was the Fire Elemental God... going to fall here?

Finally, as pressure closed in, he couldn't hold.

Spirit power surged wildly.

Then the Eight Trigrams platform pounced like a cat smelling fish!

Boom boom boom!

Unnoticed, Lu had reseated in the Thousand-Bladed Chair.

In the cauldron, the god's aura weakened steadily. His spirit power fully absorbed by the platform, growing feeble.

Whoosh...

Agonized howls echoed.

The pain of spirit power being stripped—like soul tearing.

Buzz...

Lu's eyes gleamed.

Raising a hand, energy ripples spread from the platform.

He refined the god like a pill. But as a quasi-saint pinnacle equivalent, it was challenging with his current strength.

Given enough time, though, success was certain.

On the platform, a handful of fist-sized crimson "pills" floated out—high yield.

Formed from absorbed spirit power, condensed pure essence.

The Fire Elemental God stared unwillingly at Lu from the cauldron.

Lu remained calm.

Grasping one pill.

Powerful spirit fluctuations radiated.

"Call these 'Fire Essence Pills.' Mid-grade immortal pills, at least."

Lu smiled, satisfied.

"Perfect as rewards. In the Flame Mountain enlightenment grounds, reaching the 9,990th step earns one. Tempered by the Beast Ancestor statue's power, it counters the instability from swallowing them..."

Lu was pleased.

Glancing calmly at the god.

Fully refining him would take ages.

Unless Lu broke through further—otherwise, millennia at least.

Though mere nothing to an Elemental God, far too long for Lu.

Besides, no rush to complete it.

Finishing now would cut off the Fire Essence Pill supply.

One pill, if estimated right, could boost a Fire Origin-talented Emperor by a minor realm.

From early to mid-Emperor, etc.

Benefits of spirit elevation.

Though Lu stripped most Fire Origin, remnants lingered—so only extreme Fire Origin talents could refine them.

Hence mid-grade, not top-grade.

If universal, perhaps top-grade.

Lu raised a hand, forming seals.

Refining the god: a long process.

No hurry—take it slow.

Boom!

The god lost resistance. The platform continuously absorbed—no recovery possible. He'd only weaken.

Ignoring the raging, howling spirit pounding the cauldron on the preaching platform.

Lu retracted it.

Closed the battlefield.

Severing the god's spirit-body link.

Explaining the weakening aura on his body outside.

Done.

Lu returned to the lake island, scenes from the grounds reflecting again.

Though suppressing the Fire Elemental God, little joy.

Ultimately, his strength fell short—forcing schemes.

If overwhelming, he'd crush the spirit directly—no need for tricks.

Lu sighed deeply. Still not strong enough.

...

Wood Origin enlightenment grounds.

Atmosphere icy cold.

The Gold Elemental God's eyes narrowed. His once-relaxed face showed disbelief.

He clearly sensed the Fire Elemental God's aura fading—until like a soul stripped, only a shell remained.

In short: spirit-body link severed?!

Spirit and body interdependent—severed meant one thing: spirit extinguished or fully sealed...

Either shocked the Gold Elemental God.

A peer like the Fire Elemental God—what happened?

Killed?

Lu Jiulian slew him?

Tonggu Daoist understood the extinguished aura meant: at least until spirit return (if ever), no major threat to humans.

Even Tonggu was stunned...

Heavens!

What did Brother Lu do to him?

How?

The Gold God didn't know, but Tonggu guessed some.

Behind Lu Jiulian stood Lu.

The god only faced Lu.

"Perhaps... he met Brother Lu's mysterious saint master?"

"Possible... Otherwise, with Brother Lu's Extreme Emperor—at best new Emperor strength—how silence or suppress the spirit?"

Tonggu shook head.

Unbelievable, but fact—so he nearly bloomed with joy.

Not ordinary heavenly god-tier—an Elemental God!

In the Elemental Realm, below emperors: Elemental Gods strongest.

Each noble, vital—major human foes and threats.

Yet...

One such threat quietly resolved by Brother Lu.

Of course...

Life or death unclear.

The Black-White Empress's eyes shone brightly.

As expected...

Though arduous, within predictions. Worthy of that man.

The Fire Elemental God lost justly.

Alive or dead? Unclear—link severed only.

Likely alive.

Buzz...

She released pressure, no longer suppressing the body.

But it remained kneeling—spiritless shell.

Elsewhere.

Lu Jiulian sat cross-legged.

Sensing the severing.

The Black-White Empress glanced at him, realization dawning.

Smiling.

Next instant, she flashed to Azure Dragon hugging the statue.

He'd been watching the drama—suddenly chilled as she appeared.

This lady again?

Tears nearly fell.

So long—why still targeting him?

She took the Wood Origin statue from his arms.

"Rollroll, bite."

Handed it to the shoulder fluffy ball.

The Black-White Beast's eyes lit up. Beneath fluff, razor teeth emerged—snapping rapidly.

Clang!

Bitten.

Vast profound truth ripples burst from the statue.

Buzz...

All plunged into enlightenment.

Lu recontrolled Lu Jiulian's body.

This time, no sneaky assassinations.

The spirit clash drained him greatly.

"Thanks."

Lu glanced complexly at the Black-White Empress.

"Remember—you owe me a favor."

She said.

Lu didn't deny. Without her suppression, dragging the spirit in would've failed—Lu Jiulian likely dead.

"Alright."

He nodded.

Then mind stirring, a crimson pill tore space, emerging.

One of many Fire Essence Pills from refining—carrying the god's spirit aura.

Lu made Lu Jiulian grab and hold it—intentionally creating illusion of the god's fall, deterring divine-demons.

Done, Lu exhaled, deeply eyeing her before withdrawing will—no longer controlling.

Buzz...

Wood Origin ripples receded like tide.

The Black-White Empress watched his departing will, narrowing eyes.

Next, long legs stepping—she vanished with shoulder beast, returning to the palace.

Will gone, favor secured.

No need to linger.

As ripples faded.

All awoke—humans and divine-demons.

Lu Jiulian cleared, feeling warmth in hand.

Looked: fist-sized pill.

Radiating pure Fire Origin.

Bewildered—where from?

What did his small universe do again?

Tonggu and Gold Elemental God awoke from ripples.

Eyes locked on the Fire Essence Pill in Lu Jiulian's hand.

The Gold God's eyes reddened instantly.

"Fire Elemental God's spirit aura... this pill..."

"Damn!"

"Refined from his spirit?! The Fire Elemental God... fallen?!"

Chills ran through him, body cold.

He thought sealed—but now, likely doomed.

Dead!

"You did it?!"

"Human ferocious god Lu Jiulian?!"

Gaze shifted to pill-holding Lu Jiulian—prime suspect.

So many immortal and Great Dao tiers dead before.

Now... even an Elemental God poisoned!

Tonggu stunned too.

But quickest to react—kindred with Lu Ping'an, he guessed: Lu planted the pill on him.

To make him take the fall!

And deter divine-demons!

Worthy of Brother Lu!

Of course, shocked too—authentic aura.

Meaning... Lu might've really taken him down?!

Tonggu's heart itched.

Ah, my outstanding Brother Lu!

"Pill from an Elemental God's spirit?!"

"Wow~!"

"Jiulian! You slayed a god!"

Tonggu roared, face incredulous, pointing trembling finger.

Then, as if recalling: eyes misted.

"Ah~ Old Fire! So tragically dead!"

Words thundered across the grounds.

Divine-demons trembled, staring fearfully at Lu Jiulian...

Human ferocious god... god-slayer?!

The Gold God's face twitched at Tonggu's words.

This dog—disgusting again!

Heart-stabbing!

He eyed the body—Green Lotus hilt still in chest...

Lips moved to retort—but words felt powerless.

Humans side.

All stunned.

Overlord, Tang Yimo, Sima Qingshan and Five Phoenixes powerhouses gazed shocked at Lu Jiulian—like meeting him anew.

"Lu Jiulian had such a trump?"

Human ancestral geniuses gasped.

Azure Dragon, amid daze, snatched the statue—thrown angrily by the beast after chipping a tooth.

Hugging it felt safer.

Tonggu's shout.

Dumbfounded Lu Jiulian too—belated realization.

"I, Lu Jiulian... slayed a god?"

Warm pill indeed pure Fire Elemental God spirit-refined.

Plus hilt in shell—undeniable.

His small universe... that strong?

Killing immortals: accepted.

Great Dao tiers: barely.

But god-slaying.

Lips quivered—not dumb, felt deliberate framing!

This blame... can't take!

If surrounded by Elemental Gods later.

A hundred Lu Jiulians wouldn't survive.

Hurriedly pocketed pill, waving hands.

"Not me! How could I..."

But divine-demons ignored explanations.

Explain?

Pill in hand, hilt unextracted—ironclad evidence! Deny what?!

Though Gold God sensed oddity—likely in Lu Jiulian.

Killing even him—nothing normal!

What happened during enlightenment?

He grew wary.

"It was you! Really you!"

"Jiulian! No humility—you slayed a god!"

Tonggu bellowed excitedly.

Human geniuses, clueless, only thrilled.

Before returning ancestral lands, couldn't contain—roaring together.

"Human Lu Jiulian!"

"Emperor realm, defying heavens to slay a god!"

"Glory to humans! Congratulations to humans! To Brother Jiulian!!"

Voices thundered.

Few humans, but unified roar—soul-shaking deterrence.

Divine-demons quaked.

The body still knelt.

Tonggu's eyes flashed—while Gold God dazed.

Step out, space compressing.

Appeared beside Lu Jiulian, grabbing him—flash to Azure Dragon.

Black-White Empress gone—noted.

Unclear why she helped humans.

But such fortune—Tonggu welcomed.

Most importantly: Wood Origin statue still human-held.

This Boundary Ruins trip: perfect!

Divine-demons massive loss—humans huge gain!

Linger no more!

Big profit...

Time to run!

Chapter 630: I Shouldn't Indulge in Killing Anymore

For Tonggu Daoist, this trip to the Boundary Ruins had truly come full circle.

Now that the Wood Origin Beast Ancestor statue was in human hands, he had no intention of letting it go. Wasn't their purpose in entering the ruins precisely to seize this statue?

Originally, Tonggu's goal was merely to disrupt the divine-demons from obtaining it. He never expected to actually claim it through sheer luck.

With matters settled, it was time to leave.

Stay and face the Gold Elemental God's wrath? No thanks.

With a flick of his sleeve.

Tonggu enveloped all the human powerhouses in his sleeve's hidden realm—a divine ability allowing him to carry the human geniuses away together.

Azure Dragon, clutching the Wood Origin statue, breathed a sigh of relief as he was drawn into the sleeve realm.

Finally safe.

The silent Lu Jiulian was enveloped too. He remained dazed amid the humans' celebrations—very quiet.

Because he knew: the god-slaying... wasn't him.

If unclear before, this time he felt it.

Someone had borrowed his hands to eliminate many divine-demons—even taking down an Elemental God.

Who?

Lu Jiulian pondered, soon locking onto a target.

Before his eyes emerged a figure seated in the Thousand-Bladed Chair—white robes pristine, ethereal as an immortal.

It had to be him.

Overlord and Tang Yimo felt some disappointment. They'd joined this enlightenment trip hoping for a breakthrough in Wood Origin truths.

But neither comprehended any.

Especially Overlord—his talent shockingly poor.

Others resonated in tens of thousands of miles; Overlord in mere meters...

The gap... embarrassing.

With everyone enveloped, Tonggu felt satisfied.

His gaze shifted to the Fire Elemental God's body—a peak heavenly god-tier divine-demon shell.

If possible, he'd love to snatch it from the Gold Elemental God.

But he knew: impossible.

Forcing it might cost him his life.

Beyond the Gold God present, many heavenly god-tier divine-demons remained—a lineup deadly for Tonggu.

Know when to quit—Tonggu understood.

The body was tempting, but not worth it.

If the Black-White Empress intervened again, deterring divine-demons, he'd try. But she'd vanished.

Now: safely escape with the statue.

"Think you can leave?!"

The Gold Elemental God saw Tonggu's retreat, eyes flashing icy killing intent.

This round: divine-demons suffered massively. Over a dozen Great Dao tiers dead—plus the Fire Elemental God.

If they'd secured the statue, acceptable.

But without it? Pure loss of elites.

How could he not rage?!

"Chase!"

Cold and ruthless.

He waved—heavenly god-tier divine-demons unleashed auras, as if sealing the void.

They couldn't let Tonggu escape easily.

If he did with the statue, humans gained a massive boost—building counterattack strength soon.

Boom boom boom!

Heavenly god-tiers soared.

Eyes sharp.

Tonggu was strong, but heavenly god-tiers—quasi-saint equivalents—weren't weak, just below his level.

One? Manageable. Four or five ganging up? Troublesome.

Plus the Gold God lurking.

Bang bang bang!

Void shattered instantly. The dead world collapsed—earth sank, trees exploded.

With the statue removed, the Wood Origin grounds lost vitality. Towering trees withered; green faded to desolation.

Only barren land and a silent, crumbling world floating in the ruins.

The truth of the Wood Origin grounds.

Divine-demons shuddered.

But Tonggu and heavenly god-tiers remained calm—they'd seen through the illusion long ago.

Boundary Ruins: graveyard of shattered worlds. What vitality?

All facade from the statue—now gone, illusion torn.

"Stop him!"

The Gold Elemental God said coldly.

His gaze fell on the Fire Elemental God's body.

He'd already summoned a divine-demonic emperor. No choice—in these ruins, the Black-White Empress dominated.

And the Fire Elemental God's spirit suppressed: major issue. He couldn't rescue it.

Only an emperor could.

This trip, he'd communicated with emperors.

They'd asserted: the Black-White Empress wouldn't act against them.

Yet she did—foiling even emperor predictions.

So now: seek the emperor.

Heavenly god-tiers struck together—void crumbling.

Tonggu feared no mere heavenly god-tiers.

But head-on: he'd suffer.

Humans weaker than divine-demons largely due to fewer quasi-saints—far harder to birth than heavenly god-tiers.

"Ah! Black-White Empress! Please act!"

Tonggu hovered, robes fluttering, sleeves shaking.

Suddenly shocked, pointing afar.

Attacking heavenly god-tiers startled, pausing.

Soon: furious embarrassment.

Tonggu bluffing—no Empress behind.

Tricked!

That dog Tonggu—deceiving again!

Heavenly god-tiers raged, helpless as Tonggu tore void and fled—instantly gone.

No spacetime spirit boat this time—pure spatial truths.

The Gold God guarding the body fumed.

So many heavenly god-tiers—couldn't stop one Tonggu carrying human geniuses.

Boom!

Gold Origin erupted. He tore space, summoning a golden halberd from beyond—slashing in.

Countless spaces exploded.

Clash in the void.

Blood sprayed. Gold God ejected, aura unstable—but eyes colder.

"Chase! I wounded him protecting those geniuses—go capture!"

His words sparked heavenly god-tiers' eyes. Streams of light shattered space in pursuit.

In the silent world.

Gold God eyed the spiritless Fire Elemental God body, face twitching.

Turning to the palace hovering above.

"As a chaos being... you shouldn't interfere in divine-demon and human affairs."

"Your actions today—our emperors will settle with you!"

Words echoed in silence.

From the palace: faint disdainful snort—no reply, just mockery.

"Chaos beings should remain neutral, like those neutral races... Your interference enraged divine-demons. Because of you, a promising emperor-candidate Elemental God fell!"

"You owe divine-demons an explanation!"

Gold God said.

Unimaginable—he dared speak thus to her.

Earlier, he'd trembled under her pressure.

In the palace.

The Black-White Empress teased her shoulder beast, legs crossed casually.

This Gold God: emboldened by emperor backing.

Without: wouldn't dare bark.

But she wouldn't tolerate it.

Next: finger flick.

Pale hand slowly patted out.

Gold God tensed—power threatening to tear his soul, but little fear.

He wanted to force her hand!

Boom!

Space solidified.

Next: starry sky thundered. Vast aura like chaos descending.

A chaos-condensed palm clashed with her slender one.

Massive black annihilation silhouette swept.

Silently obliterating all.

Clash of ancient starry sky apex beings.

"Black-White, this time it's overlooked. Next... no mercy."

Grand, stern voice echoed.

Then the heaven-shaking palm swept—carrying Gold God and Fire Elemental God's body—vanishing.

In Boundary Ruins: shattered worlds drifted lonely.

Human and divine-demon departure restored quiet clamor to cold emptiness.

Tap tap tap...

Crisp heels on floor echoed in vast palace.

Before emerald stairs.

Black-White Empress's graceful figure emerged.

Cradling beast, stroking fluff. Long lashes fluttered, gazing calmly at fading chaotic void.

"Divine-demonic emperor..."

"Not tough at all—didn't even fight. Seems pressure there is heavy."

She smiled.

"Perhaps I should go soon too. Slim chance of success, but... try anyway."

"But first: find that girl."

Her eyes deepened—softer.

...

Outside Boundary Ruins.

Rippling void like pond waves.

Gold Elemental God stood respectfully, aura restrained—no arrogance before Empress.

Terrifying black hole hovered nearby.

Fire Elemental God's body floated—still kneeling.

"Emperor, his body's spirit aura gone clean. Spirit fell in battlefield—refined into pill by human..."

Gold God said.

Void rippled. From black hole: claw extended, closing to sharp finger.

Pressed on Fire Elemental God's brow.

Boom!

Ripple energy spread from head.

Hmm?

"Not dead—just link severed, suppressed and sealed."

"As for the pill: minor consumed spirit—nothing major."

Faint voice drifted.

Gold God stunned.

Exhaled.

So: sealed.

Divine-demons prized bodies over spirits. Loss in spirit battle: not unexpected.

"Hmm?"

"Interesting—this power... peculiar."

"Who among humans wields it?"

Suddenly.

Black hole existence: surprise, thoughtful.

Long after: sharp finger flicked.

Invisible order thread picked—scattering into starry map.

"Here: sealed location... Go personally now—bring Fire Origin back."

Faint voice from black hole.

Gold God memorized map position in ancient starry sky. Nodded solemnly.

Done: mysterious existence prepared to leave.

But Gold God hesitated.

"Emperor!"

"Why not suppress Black-White Empress..."

"Why not eradicate humans?"

Puzzled. Divine-demons dominated ancient starry sky, but rising humans threatened balance.

Human saints far fewer than emperors.

To aggressive Gold God: simple extermination.

Black hole figure paused. Faint voice:

"Don't ask."

"You wouldn't understand."

...

Five Phoenixes continent.

Lu leaned on Thousand-Bladed Chair, calm—eyes lightly closed.

Spirit surged. Though sealed Fire Elemental God's spirit in preaching platform, he diverted focus to suppress.

An Elemental God—no carelessness.

Many capsized in ditches.

He'd capsized plenty himself.

But the god struggled fiercely—unwilling. More struggle: more consumed, yielding Fire Essence Pills.

"Good stuff—pity only for Fire Origin talents... Hmm, Qingniao excels in Fire Origin. Her Nine Phoenix Transformation fire-based too—pills could help greatly. Enough: quasi-saint possible?"

Lu narrowed eyes, pondering.

Five Phoenixes: Immortal Martial now—but unsatisfying.

Recent human ancestral quasi-saint "rampage"—staged, but discomfoting. Five Phoenixes needed strength—must.

If staged once: next time?

Deep breath. Five Phoenixes needed own quasi-saints...

Even true Five Phoenixes saints.

"Perhaps... no more indulging in killing. Settle down, cultivate Five Phoenixes powerhouses—secure place in ancient starry sky. At least: voice."

Lu thought.

Most pressing: severed link.

But Elemental God-level could deduce traces.

Saint-level: easily calculate survival—even locate Five Phoenixes.

Peaceful time: limited.

Lu's eyes flickered—crisis sense rising.

Tonggu thought saint backed him.

But Lu knew: no saint—just his own machinations.

True saint-level divine-demon attack...

Unprecedented crisis possible.

"But... Five Phoenixes rose too fast. Before explosion: sedimentation needed."

Lu pondered, leaning—palm tapping armrest lightly.

...

Ancient starry sky.

Void flashing.

Heavy bloody scent spread.

Tonggu emerged through space gates.

Blood trickled mouth, chest stained red—violent Gold Origin lingering on wound.

"Ptoo!"

"Too straining—spatial travel with group, nearly flipped."

Looked back—no Gold God pursuit: relief.

If chased: bloody battle.

Why no pursuit? Guesses: statue with Black-White Empress—divine-demons need emperor or treasure.

With humans: less threat.

Ongoing war anyway.

Statue human-held: rally attack to seize.

Easier than Empress.

Tonggu shook head. Hot potato—sure to anger divine-demons.

No choice.

Divine-demon hands: true human crisis.

Exhaled.

Sudden space explosion behind.

Heavenly god-tiers emerged coldly—aura pressuring ancient stars to groan.

Tonggu sneered coldly.

No Gold God: fearless.

Though burdened with geniuses—heavy pressure if Elemental God.

Mere ordinary heavenly god-tiers: manageable.

Space compressed underfoot—one step: millions miles.

But wounded by Gold God—blood trail in starry sky, traceable.

No help—sleeve realm burdened strength with many.

Abandon geniuses? Heavenly god-tiers slaughter easily.

Unacceptable.

Human geniuses: rise foundation.

Whoosh whoosh!

Void compressing.

Tonggu paled slightly—Gold God's attack eroding like maggot.

Spatial master though—worsening wound, pursuers closing—encircling.

Race against time.

Tonggu grave—no frivolity, serious.

Statue, geniuses, Brother Lu's people...

Must deliver.

Ancestral lands: reinforcements.

Time passed.

Distance shrank.

Boom boom!

Heavenly god-tiers: cold eyes.

Statue in hand—no quit.

Knew his goal.

But ancestral direction: guarded heavenly god-tiers—detect anomaly: block.

Tonggu gritted teeth.

Sleeve geniuses sensed gravity.

Aura restrained—solemn.

Life-death race. If caught: doom.

No excess fear—Boundary Ruins trip: death accepted.

Prepared to fight dying.

Pity: enemies too strong—heavenly god-tiers quasi-saints. Though not top: suicide to fight.

Tonggu fast—skimming void, brow twitching.

Nearer: Five Phoenixes, not ancestral.

But no entry—only Brother Lu fight-worthy, half-baked. Others weak.

No quasi-saint: entry dooms Five Phoenixes.

Ancestral run.

Soon: expression shifted.

Sighed.

Ancestral surrounded—monitored.

Gamble component—lost...

Void thundered.

Heavenly god-tier blocked front.

Pursuers joyous.

"Block! Statue with him!"

Heavenly god-tiers shouted.

Tonggu ruthless.

Speed surged—fusing space, 90% mastery extreme.

Shattered explosions.

Space mirror-like broken—blocking god shattered—one-strike kill.

Emerging: Tonggu swayed, coughing hot blood—pale.

Brief delay.

Pursuers encircled—sealing escapes.

Tonggu cold-eyed. No escape.

But not just flee.

Trapped: fight—bloody path!

Boom!

No hiding aura—silver-gray galaxy oscillating ancient starry sky.

...

Ancient starry sky.

Xuancang elder circling Five Phoenixes: expression changed.

"Tonggu's aura?"

Desperate fight-to-death: grave. Big trouble!

Then: shadows—plunged away.

...

Five Phoenixes.

Lu planning reform—no more killing: sensed aura, froze.

"No peace... I just want steady growth, no fighting—why so hard."

Exhaled.

But save Tonggu.

Exposure? Whatever.

Sooner or later...

If expose: spectacularly.

Mind stirred.

Rose from chair—white to black robes, flying.

Five Phoenixes Bow in hand.

Full draw—aiming starry heavenly god-tiers encircling Tonggu.

On lake island.

Draw bow—shoot divine-demons!

My hands are tired but my heart is warm by the time I reach here ~ Thank you to everyone who's been following along!