

Beyond the Timescape

Chapter 1271: Motherworld Chronicles

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When Xu Qing heard the voice of Goddess Starryeyes, he scowled, lifted his right hand, and made a grasping gesture. In that manner, he dragged Starryeyes out by the neck and placed hēr on the black glacier in front of him. Then he loosened his grip so shē could speak.

“Tell me everything you know,” he said. “Very accurately.”

His cold gaze coupled with everything shē had experienced after being captured, plus what shē had gone through with Starfire, ensured that Starryeyes’ defenses had all crumbled. Shē knew that hiding things wouldn’t benefit hēr at all.

After a moment of thought, shē said, “Everything here matches the description of a very secret location. It’s... the Fourth Star Ring’s primeval motherworld.”

“Continue,” Xu Qing said tranquilly.

“Supposedly,” shē continued, “the primeval motherworld is the place where the very first god was born in the Fourth Star Ring. Legend has it that before that primeval god, the Fourth Star Ring didn’t have gods at all. It was only because of hīm that gods came to be here.”

Xu Qing’s eyes glittered.

His gaze caused Starryeyes to shiver. After a brief moment of hesitation, shē continued, “It’s a very old story. I heard about it from my father. And not all the gods in the Fourth Star Ring accept it as truth. I guess you can say that the story of the primeval motherworld is just one of the stories that explain the origin of the gods.”

“Tell me some things you know to be true,” Xu Qing said coldly.

Starryeyes nodded. “There’s one thing that’s certain. When gods develop the godrot, and thēir bodies wither, thēy’ll sense a call from the motherworld. At that point, thēy will float through the starry sky, following a prescribed trajectory until thēy arrive here and land on the motherworld. That journey cannot be detected or perceived, so even after countless years have passed, very few gods know the actual location of the motherworld. Only the dead come here.”

“Godrot?” Xu Qing asked.

Starryeyes seemed hesitant to explain what were obviously secrets of the gods, but in the end, shē didn't hold back. "Gods under the level of True God are not undying. It's only after becoming a True God that one acquires a true name and becomes undying. However, that undying aspect refers only to the true name, not the god's body. The bodies of all gods, True Gods or not, will eventually develop godrot after enough time passes.

"It ends in complete withering.... When thēy sense the call of the motherworld, thēy come here and die. Those gods that don't have a true name become nutrients. As for those who do have true names, well, the motherworld is like a womb where they can develop a new god body.

"Then, by combining that new body with the true name, thēy can be resurrected. It's a slow process, but it's just one of the ways the natural laws governing the return of True Gods works."

Hearing this, Xu Qing frowned. "That doesn't conform to my previous understanding of this subject!"

Starryeyes quickly explained, "It's because there are two additional ways for gods to be resurrected. The first way is for a god to return to the body thēy died in. The other is to be summoned by a God Lord. But those two methods only work on gods who have not developed godrot. For example, maybe thēy died in battle.... For the godrotten, the only option is to answer the call of the motherworld."

Xu Qing looked thoughtful. This was the first time he had heard any information like this. But thinking back to instances in which he watched True Gods reviving, he realized that all of them had been killed in battle. That said, he still wasn't sure how trustworthy this information was, so he checked with Starfire.

Unfortunately, Starfire was a postheaven god, and was not yet a True God. In contrast, Starryeyes was nobility. In the end, there was no way for Starfire to answer the question.

After some thought, Xu Qing pointed down at the black glacier with his left hand. "What are those gruish things underneath the glacier?"

"They're sourcefiends..." Starryeyes replied immediately. "Sourcefiends are beings unique to the motherworld. They devour the corpses of gods, as they're a part of the motherworld itself. They are born here and die here. And ultimately, they become elements in the new god bodies that form."

Eyes narrowing, Xu Qing thought for a moment, then asked, "Can the sourcefiends leave the motherworld?"

Starryeyes shook hēr head to indicate the answer was no. "At least, I've never heard of that happening. Based on my understanding of the motherworld, there has never been a sourcefiend seen anywhere but here."

"Is the Fourth Star Ring the only place that has a motherworld?" he asked. "Or do all the other thirty-six higher star rings have them?"

"They all do," Starryeyes said quietly. Shē wasn't holding anything back. These matters were secrets that few under the True God level knew about. In contrast, upon reaching the True God

level, the information would become apparent to that god, as it was contained in thēir blood. Given that Starrryeyes' father was a god emperor, it made sense that shē would know all the details.

"How do we leave here?" Xu Qing asked, looking at hēr coldly.

Shē shivered and shook hēr head. "I don't know.... I just know that living beings shouldn't be able to come here...."

There was one thing shē didn't ask, and that was why Xu Qing would come to a place like this.

Xu Qing frowned and was about to ask another followup question. But then something shocking happened.

Starryeyes, perhaps because of just spending time in this place, was starting to wither and rot.

At the same time, Starfire spoke into Xu Qing's mind, sounding alarmed. *"Young Lord, my body is weakening, and my godsource is fading away!!"*

Apparently, Starrryeyes had also sensed the change in hēr, as shē started trembling in terror. "This is the primeval motherworld! It can break down and absorb all living things!"

Xu Qing checked himself, but didn't notice anything unusual. Looking at the terrified Starrryeyes, he said, "Are you sure there's no way to leave?"

Shē trembled as shē searched hēr memories. Unfortunately, shē really didn't know any way to leave.

Xu Qing waved his hand to put the goddess away. Then he scanned the area, all while simultaneously checking his ringsource and analyzing the information he had learned.

The primeval motherworld. It's supposedly the place where gods were first born in the Fourth Star Ring. Gods who develop godrot all come back here....

Living beings can't come here.... Then why would the Immortal Paragon arrange for me to be teleported here? Also... the so-called sourcefiends look very similar to whatever Erniu has inside of him. If Erniu really does have a sourcefiend in him....

Xu Qing had long speculated about Erniu's secrets. But even to this point he didn't have much concrete information to work with. However, now wasn't the time to ponder that. Xu Qing looked up into the dome of heaven.

Regardless of why the Immortal Paragon sent me here, the most important thing to do right now is figure out a way to leave. I tried the bronze door in the temple, but I couldn't use it to leave. In that case, I guess I need to check the canopy of heaven. Maybe that's where I'll find a way out.

With that thought in mind, he flew up into the sky. Moving with astonishing speed, he went higher and higher.

Time passed.

Unfortunately, heaven here was massive, and no matter how Xu Qing climbed, he never got more than halfway up. It was like there was no end. At a certain point, he stopped, hovered there, and looked down. The black glacier was still beneath him, and it seemed to stretch forever. When Xu Qing saw that happening, his heart sank.

Given the speed I'm capable of, I should have been able to fly through an entire universe at this point. But I'm still only halfway up!

Xu Qing could sense that Starfire and Starryeyes were both getting weaker and weaker. He didn't care much about Starryeyes. But he did care about Starfire, so he sent her some of his own ringsource to help.

It doesn't matter how high I get. As long as I'm in this location, they will keep getting weaker.

After some consideration, he kept moving at top speed. Not much time passed before he stopped, his pupils constricting.

A hair-raising sensation had struck him, like a mountain-toppling, sea-draining force assailing him. At the same time, a cold, prickling sensation filled him. It was as if every scrap of his flesh and blood, as well as all aspects of his divine will, were screaming that he was in danger. It was coming from the boundless sky above him. Apparently, if he kept going up, something unimaginably terrifying would happen.

I can't keep going!

Reeling, he dropped down. After going back down to a certain elevation, the terrifying sensation vanished.

Unfortunately, he couldn't actually relax, as a new danger suddenly manifested. After bolstering Starryeyes and Starfire, Xu Qing realized that his own ringsource was starting to disappear. That caused his expression to darken.

It wasn't happening very quickly, and he still had plenty in the stockpile from the black tumor. But nothing he did to try to stop it from happening had any effect.

When Starfire realized what was happening, shē got extremely nervous. *"Young Lord, it looks like it's speeding up. If things keep going on like this..."*

"I know," he replied. With that, he blurred into motion, heading down toward the glacier so fast that a sonic boom echoed out in all directions.

He was moving in the direction of the True God corpse that he had seen falling earlier. It didn't take very long before he reached the spot. There, embedded halfway into the ground, was the huge god corpse.

Despite being embedded in the ground, it hadn't shattered the glacier. It was almost as if it had melted into it. Down beneath, there were hordes of sourcefiends already feeding on the corpse.

Without any hesitation, Xu Qing touched the corpse. Silver light flashed in his eyes. Gradually, a feeble stream of ringsource emerged from the corpse and poured in to replenish both himself and Starfire. He was yet again using the Dark Serenity God-Assimilating Incantation!

“Oh, I see...” he said, his eyes glittering.

Chapter 1272: Here? Here!

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The Dark Serenity God-Assimilating Incantation is a very tyrannical secret magic. It's strong enough to assimilate the ringsource of a True God!

Xu Qing looked off into the distance, and the fog clouding his mind began to clear. He stopped using the secret magic and instead tried an ordinary collection technique on the corpse. The result was just as he had expected. It didn't work at all.

So that's how it is. If I want to collect from a True God, then I either have to rely on the power of the Aurora heaven beyond heaven to collect from the god imprisoned there, or I have to target lower-level gods like Starryeyes. Of those two, the first was half-retained, and thus not complete, while the other is seriously injured, and has dropped in cultivation level.

As for this god corpse, the ringsource is fading after death. The sourcefiends are devouring it, and the motherworld is absorbing it.... That's why ordinary collection techniques don't work at all. I can only use the domineering Dark Serenity God-Assimilating Incantation to succeed.

With it, I can counteract the effects of this locale that drains ringsource. And that means I can actually stay here safely. Except, there's no way the Immortal Paragon just wants me to come here, absorb god corpses, and improve my cultivation level!

Xu Qing's eyes narrowed. From what he could tell, the Immortal Paragon was the type of person who crafted plans within plans within plans.

I'm probably just one part of the overall plan. Or maybe I'm just here to help! Perhaps my presence here is the mere foundation for something else....

In other words, I probably don't need to sit around trying to figure out what the Immortal Paragon is planning. I should just wait and see. The truth about his plan will probably be revealed unexpectedly at some point. Unfortunately, I am not fond of arrangements like that!

Xu Qing didn't like it when his fate was manipulated by others, even if it was the Immortal Paragon himself.

That said, when he assessed the situation honestly, he had to admit that after coming to the Fifth Star Ring from the Revered Ancient mainland, everything he had done had been his own choice. But at the same time, it seemed that the Immortal Paragon had been watching over him, ensuring that he never ran into too much trouble to handle. He had long come to sense that.

Sighing, he focused on absorbing the ringsource, keeping some for himself and giving some to Starfire. After taking enough to counteract the effects of his surroundings, he settled cross-legged to focus on building another stockpile.

A few days later, the god corpse had sunk all the way down into the glacier. As the sourcefiends looked on with their blue eyes, Xu Qing flew up and then sped along over the surface of the primeval motherworld.

The ringsource I've taken so far is enough to keep Starfire and I going for a number of days. Going forward, I need to explore this place a bit more. Naturally speaking, the ideal outcome would be to find an exit. As for the Immortal Paragon's plan... I guess I'll consider it as a debt owed. Until the plan is revealed, I'll just focus on my cultivation.

With that decision made, he sent some ringsource to Starrryeyes. After all... he didn't want the goddess to die. That wouldn't do any good. As far as Xu Qing was concerned, if shē was going to die, it needed to benefit him in some way.

And thus, half a month went by.

There was no division between day and night on the primeval motherworld. But there was occasional dark-green moonlight that allowed Xu Qing to track time according to the timekeeping standards of the Revered Ancient mainland.

During the time that passed, he saw a lot of god corpses fall from the sky. Most of them crumbled in the process of falling, turning into ashes. Some, those who were Altar Gods or higher, didn't completely crumble, and landed on the glacier as mostly intact corpses that slowly sank down.

Seems Starrryeyes wasn't lying after all.... Gods under the True God level who develop the godrot come back here and become nutrients. Only True Gods land as intact corpses. Seems to me that 'primeval motherworld' isn't the best description of this place. Calling it a 'corpseworld' would make more sense. It's like hell itself.

Xu Qing looked up as a Godfire god crumbled into ashes. Beneath the glacier underfoot were countless sourcefiends staring at him. And amidst the hordes of sourcefiends was a temple that the moonlight barely reached.

Xu Qing looked down at the glacier, his eyes glittering coldly. During the half month that had passed, he hadn't just explored the topside of the glacier. He had also gone down below, where he had found a total of three additional temples. All of them, without exception, were surrounded by endless corpses and innumerable sourcefiends.

Xu Qing had not held back any ringsource. He had unleashed all his battle prowess to fight his way through them. Inside each of the three temples, he had found a bronze door. Unfortunately, no matter what efforts he made, the bronze doors were as useless as the door in the temple he had arrived in.

Apparently, the doors in the temples lead the way into this location, but are not exits to the outside.

Xu Qing had also come to a conclusion about the sourcefiends. *There's a definite connection between the temples and the sourcefiends.*

Unfortunately, he wasn't sure of the specifics. Contemplating such things, he flew up into the air. He needed to find some more fallen god corpses to replenish the ringsource he had used and also bolster Starfire. He had grown used to this process over the last half month. Though he hadn't found any True God corpses like the very first one he'd encountered, there were other corpses he could make use of, though most were in bad shape.

The ringsource those gods provided wasn't as amazing as that of the True God, which had provided enough in one shot to keep him going for days. But after absorbing from multiple corpses, he would get what he needed to continue exploring.

Days passed. Xu Qing would replenish his ringsource, then widen his search of the primeval motherworld. Unfortunately, nothing atop the glacier changed. It was always black, and it always went on forever.

Other than the sourcefiends under the glacier and the god corpses falling from above, he didn't see anything. He was the only living being in the world, flying along endlessly alone. He was slowly getting numb to it all. But then... on one particular day, he stopped in place and looked off into the distance, his eyes glittering.

"Is that...?"

Shockingly, a great distance away on the glacier, he had spotted a massive crevice! It was like a gigantic, ghastly canyon. This was the first unusual terrain feature he had encountered in this place!

His spirits lifted, and he raced along like a shooting star to appear right above the canyon! Looking down at it, he realized it resembled a wound. And it was so long and deep that his senses couldn't penetrate it. But there was something even more shocking....

The opposing walls of the valley, from top to bottom, were covered with innumerable bronze doors. Some of the doors were sealed with ice. Others were half-exposed. Yet others were completely out in the open.

If that were all there were to it, Xu Qing wouldn't have been so taken aback. But what really caused his pupils to constrict was that there were sourcefiends seated cross-legged around all of the exposed doors. These sourcefiends were different from the ones he had seen. They didn't just have blue arms. They were completely blue from head to toe, and they looked almost exactly like the one inside his Eldest Brother.

Wait, no. The one in Eldest Brother is a dark blue color. These ones... they're light blue!

Xu Qing's guard went up. Having fought many sourcefiends, he knew what they were like and how difficult they could be to deal with. But this was his first time seeing any that were pure blue. And there were a lot of them. It seemed that just as he caught sight of them, quite a few of them looked over at him with blue eyes.

Xu Qing didn't make any sudden moves. Similarly, the sourcefiends didn't move either. They just looked at him. Xu Qing slowly backed up, and the sourcefiends looked away from him.

They're not coming out....

Given everything he had experienced so far in this place, Xu Qing was certain that the valley... would be an extremely dangerous location to enter.

But why are they all sitting there by those bronze doors?

He frowned, then settled cross-legged in midair to study the sourcefiends. A few days later, something happened in the valley that dispelled much of his confusion. One of the bronze doors at the very bottom of the valley slowly opened. Godly chanting drifted out from inside.

“Kan Shan... Kan Shan....”

The godly voice seemed to contain the power of the star ring, and it stirred the local mutagen, causing it to converge in the form of a god talisman. It floated out of the door! And it shot right toward the nearest sourcefiend!

The god talisman seemed infinitely ancient, and it contained unimaginable mysteries. But all it took was one glance at it for Xu Qing’s heart to start pounding. He immediately backed up. As for the sourcefiend, its eyes became more intensely blue, and then it let loose a raging howl. It was as if the god talisman was a tribulation it had to face, and thus, it howled maniacally as the talisman approached.

As Xu Qing watched, the talisman and the sourcefiend collided. Next, golden light shone from the god talisman, while the sourcefiend shone with a blue glow. It looked like the two were trying to devour each other.

But the convergence of the blue and gold was like boiling water meeting a snowflake. The blue glittered, but in the end, couldn’t fight back, and was wiped out by the golden light from the god talisman. And then... it was as if the god talisman sucked all the life out of the sourcefiend. In the middle of the god talisman, bones appeared, then meridians and veins, and then flesh....

It became a god body! It surged with endless life force! A new god had been born!

The aura of a True God surged from the god body. And before the body could awaken, the bronze door sucked the body in. It vanished completely.

Xu Qing watched the whole thing happen, his heart pounding the entire time.

This is how new gods are reconstructed in this place! The reconstruction process requires a carrier in the form of a sourcefiend of blue ice. What came floating out of the door... was a true name!! The true name is imprinted and transferred to a new god. And the sourcefiend can’t do anything about it. It’s like predestination!

Xu Qing’s heart was racing.

Does that mean that I came out of that bronze door in the same manner as a true name?

He wasn’t sure. But as he looked at the sourcefiends and the bronze doors, he couldn’t help but think of his Eldest Brother!

It seems more than ever that Eldest Brother... is very unique! Whenever he goes all out, a sourcefiend comes out of his chest. It almost seems like he and the sourcefiend are occupying one body! What's more, Eldest Brother certainly does have undying characteristics!

A god fell from the sky off in the distance. The body had been on quite a journey. As the corpse fell to the ground, it didn't break apart. It was the corpse of a True God!

When Xu Qing spotted it, he settled his thoughts. His eyes glittered. Assimilating damaged gods was very limiting. It was nothing like dealing with the corpse of a True God! Xu Qing blurred into motion toward the corpse.

Inside that very corpse, Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix opened her eyes.

“Husband, we’ve arrived.”

Young Lord Aurora opened his eyes and looked around calmly. He was about to speak, when all of a sudden a strange expression overtook the calmness on his face. “Hmm?”

Chapter 1273: Big Brother Is Taking You to Do Something Big

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Xu Qing sped through the air over the black glacier. He looked like a hungry wolf!

During the time that passed, he had not found any way of leaving the primeval motherworld. And despite his contingency plans working so far, the constant drain on his ringsource was a source of great anxiety. After all, he had to worry about Starfire as well. And only a few days earlier... he had started to contemplate whether or not it would be worth it to give up on Starryeyes.

Draining those mangled corpses only brought in a meager amount of ringsource. And as time went on, the draining effect of the planet only increased. Over the past month, he had been searching for an exit while at the same time searching for intact corpses!

Unfortunately, the only intact corpses were those of True Gods, and such corpses didn't fall very often. And when they did fall, they would sink down through the glacier in a matter of days. The result was that finding one was like *fishing a needle from the sea*.

It really came down to getting lucky. In fact, during the past month, Xu Qing had only encountered two. One was that very first one he had found, and the other was this one. That was why he felt such a sense of urgency.

Luck is on my side this time. This corpse fell pretty close to me, and I was able to rush over to it immediately. It should have a good amount of ringsource. With the Dark Serenity God-Assimilating Incantation, I'll be able to collect quite a bit from it.

Xu Qing's mind was spinning with all the possibilities. An hour later... he caught sight of a massive corpse with green skin and black crystals growing all over it. Despite being dead, the corpse still sent immense pressure out in all directions, causing the air to ripple and distort.

Down beneath the glacier, hordes of sourcefiends were gathering in anticipation of the corpse sinking down.

Xu Qing stopped in midair and studied the area. After confirming that the corpse really was dead, he shot through the distortions to arrive atop the corpse. He landed on the chest. Given his experience harvesting the mangled god corpses, he knew that the chest was where the most ringsource would be gathered.

Without a moment of hesitation, he unleashed the Dark Serenity God-Assimilating Incantation and put his hand down onto the surface of the chest. Assimilation via direct contact was the most efficient! His eyes glittered as the process started. Streams of ringsource immediately began to come out of the chest and into him.

His eyes lit up.

It's good I got here so quickly. The planet hasn't taken much of the ringsource!

Xu Qing was in very high spirits as he rapidly assimilated as much ringsource as possible, not forgetting to send some to Starfire as well, who reacted with an exclamation of joy and satisfaction.

The sourcefiends below the glacier were getting visibly antsy. Although it wasn't possible to hear their calls, it was clear that they were instinctively angry at having their food stolen. In fact, some of them launched up into the air and smashed into the underside of the glacier.

Xu Qing completely ignored them, and focused fully on the assimilation effort. As the process went on, the spot where he was touching the skin of the god went from green to white. And it started to sink down.

When that happened, Xu Qing knew it was time to switch to another spot. However, that was when something completely unexpected happened!

A hand shot out from the white, sunken portion of the chest. There was no way for Xu Qing to avoid it! And before he could do anything, it latched onto his wrist!

Xu Qing's pupils constricted. He had studied the area and the corpse thoroughly before beginning, and had confirmed that the corpse was indeed dead. How could he not be caught surprised? His immortal embryo appeared behind him, and his cultivation base roared to life. Starfire, startled, held nothing back to help him.

But then... a gentle ringsource flowed out of the hand and into Xu Qing. The hand loosened its grip. Uncertain of what was going on, Xu Qing backed away. That was when a familiar voice drifted out.

“How long have you been this hungry?”

Xu Qing’s jaw nearly dropped as he looked at the sunken area of the god’s chest. Two familiar figures emerged. One was a man, the other was a woman. The woman was smiling. Her oval face shone with a pearly luster, and her eyes were slightly upturned with full under-eyes, making her seem unusually gentle and friendly. The man, meanwhile, wore a black robe with silver embroidery. He stood tall, but was relaxed, with an enigmatic smile on his face as he looked Xu Qing up and down.

Xu Qing stared at them in astonishment. It was an expression rarely seen on his face. He really could not imagine why these two people would appear as he was assimilating a corpse.

“You two....”

In reaction to his facial expression, Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix cast an annoyed glance at Young Lord Aurora. “Why did you have to go and grab our young friend’s arm like that??”

Young Lord Aurora chuckled. “I guess I was just too excited to see an old buddy. I hope I didn’t startle you too much, Xu Qing.”

Xu Qing took a deep breath, and his eyes lit up with understanding. This must be why the Immortal Paragon had arranged for him to come here! He quickly clasped hands and bowed.

“Well met, Seniors!”

“Are you kidding me?” Young Lord Aurora said, his eyebrows shooting up. “You got the Aurora Immortal Palace, and the entire heaven beyond heaven. Yet you’re still addressing us as Seniors? Are we strangers or something?”

Young Lord Aurora’s eyes glittered much like they had when he was an imp back in the immortal palace. Spirit Phoenix laughed softly. After coming to the Fourth Star Ring, her husband had mostly acted very serious, and definitely not like this. She knew it was all because of Xu Qing.

Smiling, she said, “Oh, you! Why don’t you just come out and say it. You want lil’ bro Xu to call you big brother, don’t you?”

Young Lord Aurora smiled enigmatically.

Xu Qing blinked a few times and thought back to all the scenes that played out in the Aurora Immortal Palace. Given that, he had every reason to comply.

“Big Brother.”

Young Lord Aurora laughed heartily. He didn’t ask Xu Qing what he was doing here. Instead, he flicked his sleeve, causing the god corpse to collapse into a host of crystals that were packed with ringsource. He sent them flying over to Xu Qing.

“Let’s go,” he said. “Your big brother is going to bring you along to do something dramatic.”

With that, Young Lord Aurora and Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix flew up into the air, taking Xu Qing along with them. They headed... in the direction of the valley. Hearing their familiar voices, and seeing them in person, left Xu Qing feeling very moved. All of a sudden, he realized that this was a feeling he had experienced with someone else many times in the past.

I wonder how Eldest Brother is doing right now...?

Taking a deep breath, he put such thoughts aside and focused on keeping up with Young Lord Aurora and Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix. The three of them shot through the dark green sky and its dappled moonlight. Soon enough, the dark green moonlight merged into the black, cold wind. Snowflakes flew with the wind, piercing through the sky, before eventually reaching that huge valley. That was where the three of them stopped.

“This is the place,” Young Lord Aurora said, looking down into it.

The valley started in the extreme north and zig-zagged across the primeval motherworld. It looked almost like a massive, ghastly wound that cut down to the bone. The countless bronze doors Xu Qing had seen earlier responded to Young Lord Aurora’s gaze. They started trembling, and the sourcefiends outside of them all looked up and stared at the three of them. But it was a bit different from what Xu Qing had experienced before....

The sourcefiends looked scared. And what was even more terrifying was that they were making sounds like those animals would make when they were feeling threatened.

Xu Qing felt an instant sense of unease. He looked at Young Lord Aurora.

Young Lord Aurora hovered in midair, his black robe not moving at all despite the cold wind. A moment later, he plucked an alcohol flagon off his waist, lifted it, and took a drink. Then he splashed some alcohol out of it. Astonishingly, the alcohol seemed to contain the reflection of countless heavenly bodies.

“The Immortal Paragon said that this valley here on the primeval motherworld is evidence left behind when the first god was born in the Fourth Star Ring. It is a result of natural laws, and contains the secret of the origin of the gods.”

Young Lord Aurora lifted his pale right hand and pushed it toward the glacier on one side of the canyon. The glacier trembled as though a giant invisible hand had grabbed it.

“But from my perspective, if you consider this planet to be the mother of the gods, then that means that very first god must have cut open his mother’s belly and crawled out. And this is the wound left behind afterward.”

As Young Lord Aurora spoke, he lifted his left hand toward the glacier on the other side of the valley. Then he shoved both of his hands to either side with great force. Heaven and earth trembled violently.

A cracking sound rang out from the depths of the valley, so loud it would make one’s teeth ache. At the same time, the glacier on either side of the valley began to move, almost like a scab being ripped away from a wound. All of the bronze doors in the valley started shaking. A mist as black as ink poured out from the valley. At the same time, the sourcefiends howled and, seemingly driven

by instinct, shot out of the valley along with the mist. They headed directly toward Young Lord Aurora!

“You mere vehicles dare to make such a ruckus?”

A vertical red eye appeared on Young Lord Aurora’s forehead, which erupted with massive force. Rumbling sounds echoed out as the mist from the valley was shredded into nothing. The sourcefiends within it howled in anguish from the pressure, and all scattered. Some of them were even ripped to shreds.

Xu Qing was shaken deeply.

It was a given that Young Lord Aurora was strong. After all, he was the grandson of the Immortal Paragon and was the son of an Immortal Lord. He had an extraordinary background and his shocking talent, and even though he had been sealed in the immortal palace for a long time, he still controlled the palace and everything in it that entire time.

He had developed the many worlds there, and had the destined opportunities necessary to become a Summer Immortal that entire time. And there was little need to mention the fact that, although Immortal Lord Aurora had perished, he had done it all for his son. Beyond all that, after the seal was broken, Young Lord Aurora was working to carry out this unknown plan created by the Immortal Paragon....

Xu Qing’s eyes glittered brightly. *Peak Summer Immortal!*

“Before your big brother came here,” Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix said softly, “we secretly passed through the fringes of the battlefield in the Fourth Star Ring. While we were there, he had the opportunity to attack and kill the commander of the gods’ eastern army.”

Her words struck Xu Qing like a tempest. After all, it suddenly made the events back on the Fifth Star Ring battlefield much clearer. Xu Qing had previously speculated that the grindstone of flesh and blood was serving as a lamp to attract attention. He had been unsure of why exactly it was being done, but he had assumed it was something big. Now it turns out that he was right! It had been a distraction to allow someone to assassinate the commander of the eastern army in the Fourth Star Ring!![1]

Because of that, Goddess Starryeyes came in person to use hēr bloodline innate ability to bring back that assassinated officer more quickly. That, in turn, led to the return of Spirit Jade, and Starryeyes suffering a grievous injury.... After that came the bounty on Starryeyes, and hēr capture at the hands of Xu Qing! Everything was connected!

Those things were only the first part of the Fifth Star Ring’s plan! The chaos in the eastern theater became that lamp of flesh and blood. It drew the attention of the gods, who moved in large numbers, giving Young Lord Aurora the opportunity he needed for the assassination. That was the first step.

The death of the commander, the return of Spirit Jade, and the arrival of Starryeyes was the second step. All of that was Immortal Lord Deepgloom’s attempt to probe the secrets of God Emperor Death Departure’s godhood. That’s why it seemed as if the entire point of the plan was to get at Starryeyes....

But at the same time, God Emperor Death Departure realized something was going on. Hē wanted to beat them at their own game, so hē let hīs daughter be captured, all in the hopes that when Immortal Lord Deepgloom took action, hē could use the bloodline powers of hīs daughter to get details about the Immortal Lord’s canon!

After that, they made a deal.... However, given how the deal worked out... it seems that everything, going back to the very beginning, revolved around brightening the lantern of flesh and blood.

If the lantern in the eastern theater was to distract the gods to make the assassination happen, then the arrival of Starryeeyes onto the battlefield was a distraction to target Death Departure!

The deal they made was another lantern. So was my escape and the bounty the gods put on my head. All of it... was to distract the gods in the Fourth Star Ring! Plans within plans, getting more complicated the entire time!

And the entire point of everything... was to hide the fact... that Young Lord Aurora was coming here!

Xu Qing’s mind spun as all the puzzle pieces clicked together.

Just what I would expect of a plan put in place by the Immortal Paragon....

Xu Qing took a deep breath. He looked at Young Lord Aurora, then looked over his shoulder at Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix. “So what’s going to happen now?”

She looked at her husband as he started walking toward the valley. “Your big brother is going to peel the skin off this primeval motherworld.”

1. The assassination was mentioned in [chapter 1231](#). ❹

Chapter 1274: Peel the Skin Off!

Chapter 1274: Peel the Skin Off!

Peel the skin off! Xu Qing had experienced a lot of things in life, and had witnessed all sorts of freakish and gruish things. But the words he had just heard still struck him to the core with astonishment. His eyes shone. What style....

After all, this was the primeval motherworld of the Fourth Star Ring. To ‘peel the skin’ of an entire planet like that sounded like something absolutely incredible and extremely daring.

But then Xu Qing looked around and realized something seemed off. Over the past month, Xu Qing had been under the impression that all the resistance he had met was the will of the planet. But now he realized it seemed strange that there were no guardians here. The only thing here were the corpses and the sourcefiends.

“Based on my understanding,” Xu Qing said, “this place is extremely important to the Fourth Star Ring. So why...?”

Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix smiled. “First of all, it’s not possible to stay on this planet for long. It constantly absorbs ringsource. Also, it’s a very mysterious place that few people understand. Normally speaking, you can’t even get here. Though it exists, the reality is that it behaves more like a memory. In other words, it exists in the memories of the gods. Of course, that’s just how we describe it using the language of cultivators. The gods perceive things differently. They emphasize what happens to the true name.

“Most importantly, you’re only seeing the present. According to the Immortal Paragon, the Fourth Star Ring’s primeval motherworld... has already died dozens of times. It’s happened for various reasons, both intentional and accidental.

“But no matter how it’s destroyed, the foundation of the gods isn’t affected. And that’s because... it always reappears, undamaged. And the resurrections it carries out will resume exactly in the manner they were going on before the destruction.

“To some extent, you can say... that as long as gods exist in the Fourth Star Ring, this planet will never disappear. And that’s why the place doesn’t have any sort of guardian. It doesn’t need one.”

Xu Qing looked again at Young Lord Aurora walking toward the canyon. “In that case... what’s the point of peeling the skin off?”

A complicated look appeared in the eyes of Spirit Phoenix. Looking at Young Lord Aurora, she sighed. “Your big brother wants to do something that his father was originally supposed to do. It’s something unprecedented that only the two of them can accomplish.”

As her words drifted out, Young Lord Aurora entered the valley. The moment he did, he performed a very strange and complicated hand sign that involved bending and twisting his fingers in a bizarre way. As he performed the hand sign, a very ancient will seemed to build up. Ripples flowed through the sky, and rumbling sounds filled the air.

Xu Qing’s immediate reaction was to try to memorize the hand sign.

Off to the side, Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix could see what he was thinking and explained, “That’s a legacy from the Immortal Paragon, a sacrificial seal!”

Xu Qing tried harder to memorize it.

As Young Lord Aurora continued with the sacrificial seal, the glaciers on either side of the valley rumbled loudly, as though an immense force were causing their foundations to move. Then, a deafening crash exploded out as the glaciers on either side collapsed. Many bronze doors were revealed.

Rubble flew out everywhere as the effects spread. On either side of the canyon, the glaciers emitted sounds like groaning beasts. Massive chunks of dark ice were sent flying, revealing the pitch black surface beneath. Dark green moonlight covered everything.

The area beneath the glacier was a dark haze, within which were innumerable sourcefiends. Those sourcefiends had been born down there and lived their lives doing nothing but devouring the flesh and bones of gods. Now, they looked up at the source of the dramatic events... and they howled shrilly.

The howls spread out, creating terrifying sound waves that became like the angry roar of the primeval motherworld itself. It wanted to wipe all invaders out of existence. And it quickly became an attack focused on Young Lord Aurora.

Seen from above, it was an amazing sight. Countless sourcefiends seethed in the hazy darkness, like a black tide, maddened and full of mountain-toppling, sea-draining force. Those among them who were mostly blue ice revealed terrifying strength that left Xu Qing reeling.

And yet, Young Lord Aurora just pushed his hand down. Instantly, a canon very familiar to Xu Qing erupted from Young Lord Aurora. It swept over the raging sourcefiends, and those it touched were instantly deprived of any height. They became... flat, with only width and length! They were like things in a painting.

Xu Qing reeled, but at the same time, his eyes were shining. It was just like the time back in the Aurora Immortal Palace when he first met Young Lord Aurora. It was also like the path he had walked when he first formed his space-time and realized the direction he needed to pursue.

As Young Lord Aurora continued walking, he said, “Xu Qing, this is your path. I’m just borrowing it for the moment. After you achieve your dao, you’ll be the only person who can use it!”

As he passed, the sourcefiends lost their height and became flat, and like talisman paper from the Yellow Springs, they floated about. The sourcefiends could offer no resistance. They could not block his way. They could do nothing other than allow Young Lord Aurora to continue to walk into their lands!

In the world below the glacier, heaven had previously been the glacier itself. As Young Lord Aurora descended, both of his hands pushed out in either direction. An aurora spread out from him, turning into a sea of light that spread out below, dispelling the haze and revealing all of the lands.

Those lands were actually... a dull purple layer of flesh-like rock! In fact, close examination would reveal that the rock was actually covered with a membrane that was very much like an epidermis! Slender tentacles spread up from it like grass reaching toward the stars! And at the end of every single one of those tentacles was a golden eye. All of the eyes were staring directly at Young Lord Aurora! This was the true skin of the primeval motherworld!

Xu Qing’s eyes shone as he stepped forth alongside Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix. At the same time, Young Lord Aurora thrust his hands out, with fingers curved like clawed hooks as he shoved them toward the rock! Then he viciously yanked upward!

A thunderous groan echoed out from the depths of the ground. Hands trembling, Young Lord Aurora began to rip up the planet’s skin, bringing broken ice chunks with it. This was peeling the skin!!

The ripping sound was like a furious roar. A fountain of blood filled with planetary rubble erupted, shooting up! It was like a blood rain, except instead of falling from the sky it was rising into it! It turned into sky-obscuring, sun-blocking red clouds that spread out to replace heaven!

At the same time, as the land was lifted up, the millions upon millions of golden eyes glared furiously, sending innumerable golden gazes shooting like arrows toward Young Lord Aurora. As

they neared, a black vortex sprang into being in the blood eye on his forehead, and it devoured all of the gazes.

Next, he ripped the planetary skin upward! An intense ripping sound echoed out as two chunks of the skin rose higher! From a distance, it looked like an inverted 八 character.

The area involved grew larger and larger, and the ripping grew louder. Higher and higher it went, until finally it formed a relatively intact piece of skin! There it was in the dome of heaven. Wild colors flashed.

And then Young Lord Aurora said, “Seal the heavens. The fetal membrane becomes a world.”

The terrifying planetary skin writhed as it fused with the void, turning into an amber-colored fetal membrane! The gigantic embryonic skin was now the canopy of heaven in the primeval motherworld. The dark green moonlight native to the planet hit the membrane like a physical force, causing ripples to spread out. However, the light did not pierce it.

Looking up from below, the fetal membrane gave a sensation of being made of flesh and blood, complete with veins and arteries that formed a star chart. And the drops of blood flowing within were the rivers of stars. At the same time, it reflected the writhing of the flesh and blood that made the lands below.

Xu Qing was shaken to the core. The heaven of the primeval motherworld really had been changed!

Light from outside was obscured, and the world was cast into an eternal blood-colored evening. The motherworld had really been skinned like a huge beast. As for the land, it was made of dark red muscle covered with horrifying blood vessels that leaked viscous ringsource. The motherworld seemed to be twitching deep inside, causing the lands to quake. It was almost as if some ancient entity were inside, slowly waking up.

Xu Qing took a deep breath, his heart pounding as he watched Young Lord Aurora skin the planet.

When the young lord walked forward on the exposed flesh, his shoes were covered with sticky fluid. Surrounding him were 30,000-meter-tall waves of blood that sprayed out from the conglomeration of flesh. That provided the backdrop!

The motherworld seemed to call out in sadness. As countless sourcefiends crawled about in the blood, their cries joined in. It was a sound of unending grief and terror.

As for Young Lord Aurora, he seemed to be taking some measurements. Ultimately, they led him to a certain location.

“This is the place.” Reaching up to his forehead, he pushed his fingers down and then viciously dragged them out. A massive sword appeared, shining with silver light that drove away the color of blood. It was... the sword of the Immortal Paragon!

Young Lord Aurora didn’t hesitate for a moment. He stabbed the sword viciously down into the flesh below, then began to slash the sword forward.

The entire planet issued a scream of agony. More blood gushed out. The new wound spread rapidly, until... the planetary core was revealed! It was the planetary uterus that the primeval motherworld had used when that first god was born.

“Is he...?” Xu Qing said, his mind spinning as a seemingly insane notion occurred to him.

“You guessed it...” said Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix. “Your big brother has picked this spot... to reach godly ascension!”

Chapter 1275: Mi Ming, Xu Qing

Chapter 1275: Mi Ming, Xu Qing

Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix’s words were like a sharp blade that sliced through all of the fog and confirmed that Xu Qing’s preposterous speculation was actually correct! In this very spot where the first god had been born in the Fourth Star Ring, Young Lord Aurora would attempt godly ascension! It was a level of daring unheard of in either modern times or ancient!

Yet even as the fog dispelled, uncertainties occurred to Xu Qing. He had witnessed cultivators changing their dao to that of the gods, and it was not an easy task.

As his thoughts went wild, Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix could see what was going on.

“There are some things you don’t fully understand,” she said. “Years ago, when my husband first completed his ancient mirror canon, the godbane quietly entered and contaminated it.... It was only a slight contamination that my father was able to contain with his canon of secrets. However, he couldn’t completely eradicate it. That was why the Immortal Paragon ultimately chose to seal my husband in the Aurora Immortal Palace!

“The Immortal Paragon lost his son, so when it came to dealing with his grandson, he acted selfishly for the first time ever. He didn’t want to go through another loss. Therefore, he left inside my husband this trace of... a godspark.”

When Xu Qing heard that, he immediately understood why Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix had said that only Immortal Lord Aurora or his son could accomplish this task! It was because... the higher the cultivation base of a cultivator, the more difficult it would become to change the course of one’s life. For example, Empress Summer Departure had only been an Imperial Sovereign, yet even still, had required multiple ceremonies.

Young Lord Aurora had a peak Summer Immortal cultivation base. For him to change his dao would require an almost infinitely difficult ceremony. And yet, the infinite... now had a solid foundation. And that foundation was this location. The primeval motherworld!

This was where the Fourth Star Ring’s first god had been born, and it met all the requirements. The personhood available... was sufficient!

However... though the requirements were met and the personhood was sufficient, there was still one more thing that would be required for a peak Summer Immortal to change daos. And that was

a godspark! It was said that a single spark could set a prairie on fire, and the godspark... was exactly like that!

Of course, an ordinary spark wouldn't be enough. That was why no other cultivator could do such a thing. But Immortal Lord Aurora and his son were different!

The Immortal Paragon of the Fifth Star Ring had been infected by the godbane thanks to the God Paragon. After that, he was contaminated. That was the power that was unleashed when the God Paragon's godhood was shattered. It became a boundless godly might that formed a curse. Not even someone on the level of the Immortal Paragon was strong enough to get rid of it. It stayed behind as a sealing mark. The Immortal Paragon eventually figured out a way to get rid of the mark by passing it down through his descendants until it was eventually gone.

Immortal Lord Aurora lived a life of grief and pain. And he... didn't want his son to experience the same thing, so he ended his own life. He succeeded by raising Young Lord Aurora in a sealed environment. However, though it was technically a success, it wasn't a complete success, considering what happened afterward.

And now, Young Lord Aurora had selected the Fourth Star Ring's primeval motherworld as the place to use the remnant of the godbane to change his dao and achieve godly ascension!

Xu Qing's eyes glittered brightly. "He's not just aiming for godly ascension in general. He's going to become... a God Lord! With the personhood of the primeval motherworld to become a God Lord... if he succeeds, Young Lord Aurora will be able to command the destiny aura of the Fourth Star Ring. He'll be deeply connected to it! And after that...."

Xu Qing struggled to control his breathing as he realized what would come afterward. He could already guess why he and Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix needed to be here....

"We will be the anchors for him after he reaches godly ascension," he said, looking at Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix. He had long since experienced the conflict between human nature and godly nature. So he knew how important an anchor would be to someone who had just developed godliness.

"I'm his wife," Spirit Phoenix said, "whose destined marriage connects both past and present. And you... experienced the reflection of history and, in your kindness, you saved him. You also command the Aurora heaven beyond heaven, which means your karmic connection is profound. We are the only two people in existence who can be anchors for him."

Young Lord Aurora sat down cross-legged in the naked flesh, his long hair glimmering in the blood-red light shining from above. He was looking at the planetary uterus that he had peeled away.

A sound like a pulse crashed like thunder from inside the flesh, echoing across heaven and earth. It was the pulse of the motherworld! Along with the pulse came an awakening consciousness. It was as if the planet itself was waking up.

When Young Lord Aurora heard the pulse and sensed the awakening, he calmly lifted his right hand, took the Immortal Paragon's sword, and stabbed it into his own chest! The sword seemed to then transform into blood that he absorbed into himself. Having accomplished that, he closed his

eyes and went into an incantation gesture with his left hand. At the same time, he spoke two words which were an ancient enchantment.

“Blood Contract!”

The moment the words were spoken, heaven and earth filled with rumbling sounds. The motherworld started shaking violently, and the sensation of awakening grew more intense.

Yet Young Lord Aurora’s expression didn’t change a bit. He kept his eyes closed. And then vein lines appeared all over him. It was a network of blood vessels! The blood vessels beneath his skin were bulging up. They looked like crimson snakes encircling him! The sound of a heartbeat echoed from his chest.

Thump-thump. Thump-thump!

It started out at a different rhythm than the pulse from the primeval motherworld. But the two sounds mixed together and spread throughout all heaven and earth.

Young Lord Aurora took a deep breath, and then he grimaced as he threw his arms wide before slamming them onto his chest. Instantly, numerous blood vessels exploded out of his skin. They spread out all around him, a total of 36,000 of them. Each one resembled a slender tentacle, writhing about and pulsing with the aura of the Immortal Paragon’s sword. And then they stabbed right toward the planetary uterus!

From a distance, it was an appalling sight!

The primeval motherworld shook violently, and a force of rejection exploded out from the planetary uterus. But it couldn’t stop the blood vessel tentacles, which stabbed right through it!

The tentacles destroyed all in their path as they stabbed deep into the motherworld’s planetary uterus. They viciously hit the barrier of blood and flesh, and stabbed right into it. In an instant, the wailing like that of a dying beast from within the primeval motherworld grew more intense. And waves of blood surged out.

It was another attempt to block Young Lord Aurora’s blood vessels. An instant later, even more blood vessels emerged and stabbed into the flesh. They went deep, as if looking for something. Then, they seemed to make contact with subterranean meridians, which they wrapped around to possess them. After that... the pulse from the primeval motherworld stopped.

When it resumed, it gradually started to approach the same rhythm as Young Lord Aurora’s heartbeat. When the blood vessels had fully parasitized them, Young Lord Aurora’s eyes snapped open. Astonishingly, they shone with golden light like that of a god.

Every breath he took caused the entire planet to spasm. And then his heartbeat synced with the pulse of the primeval motherworld! It was as if he and the motherworld had become one!

Xu Qing and Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix hovered in the air witnessing all of this happen, their hearts pounding. Then Young Lord Aurora suddenly looked up with golden eyes to look at Xu Qing.

He smiled. Given what he looked like, the smile was unusually horrifying.

“Little brother. The flesh is peeled. The blood vessels are complete. Next comes some things in the godly ascension ceremony that will taste unusually delicious. For instance, the memories of the primeval motherworld. Would you like to come here and sample them with me?”

Eyes glittering, Xu Qing flew down. He settled down cross-legged next to Young Lord Aurora atop the flesh of the primeval motherworld.

Seeing that, Young Lord Aurora laughed heartily. With the wave of a finger, he sent a blood vessel to hover in front of Xu Qing.

Xu Qing looked at the young lord briefly, then lifted his hand and touched the blood vessel.

Next, Young Lord Aurora spoke in a voice that echoed through the whole world.

“Planetary soul!”

Xu Qing’s mind spun. Memories from the primeval motherworld rushed to Young Lord Aurora, who used himself as the filter before sending some to Xu Qing. Xu Qing began shaking from head to toe. He saw innumerable gods and countless indescribable secrets. He saw ringsource forming a starry river, within which were true names.... Endless memories surged there, filled with a terrifying aura.

Meanwhile, as Young Lord Aurora absorbed the memories, his soul flowed above the river. A splash disturbed the surface of the memory river as Young Lord Aurora dropped his true name into it.

Mi Ming.[1]

When Xu Qing saw that happen, he sensed something within the memory river, which caused a splash as two characters appeared.

At the same time, Young Lord Aurora’s voice echoed in his mind.

“What are you staring at? Aren’t you going to leave your name? Neither your sister-in-law nor anybody else could do something like this. They don’t have godliness. But you do.”

“I realized quite a while ago that there was something fishy about you. You seem like a pure immortal, but you have a godly will hidden deep inside you. If my speculations are correct, you have another body somewhere. A god clone! That means that, like me, you can put your name here!”

“Hurry. By putting your name here, you get to make yourself part of the Fourth Star Ring for free. It’s a good thing... heh heh.”

Xu Qing turned his astonishment into determination. Sending out his own memories, he took advantage of the help of Young Lord Aurora to cause his own splash with his own name.

Xu Qing!

An instant later, the names Mi Ming and Xu Qing... sank down into the river of true names.

“Alright, little brother. Later on, you’ll realize how beneficial this freebie is going to be. But now... your big brother is going to become a god!”

Young Lord Aurora’s laughter rang out, and a powerful force descended onto Xu Qing, becoming something that gently extracted him from the memories of the primeval motherworld.

Xu Qing opened his eyes and quickly backed away, returning to where he had been before.

Terrifying fluctuations were now rolling out from Young Lord Aurora. The entire primeval motherworld was shaking violently as complex striations appeared on it. They matched the veins on Young Lord Aurora. The young lord’s aura surged, and the mutagen of a god began to appear. Godly will shook heaven and earth.

Young Lord Aurora slowly opened his eyes. In his right eye was visible a shrunken planetary system, while in his left eye was universal lightning. Both were golden. He slowly stood. With the millions and millions of blood vessel tentacles writhing about, it made a sight both grisly and holy.

He had become

A peak True God!

1. Young Lord Aurora’s name, Mi Ming, was introduced in [chapter 1165](#) along with a rather lengthy explanation/back story. In short, the name means “seeking brightness,” and the second character Ming 明 has the characters for sun 日 and moon 月 in it. ☞

Chapter 1276: The Demise of Myriad Gods

Chapter 1276: The Demise of Myriad Gods

Xu Qing had seen many, many gods. He had even seen a few True Gods. However... he had never seen anything like Young Lord Aurora as hē stood there on the primeval motherworld, emanating such mightiness.

The mutagen was extremely strong and terrifyingly active, causing all surrounding things to ripple and distort. Hīs godly will was like a sharp blade that caused heavenly bodies to tremble and universes to vibrate. What was more, the holy, golden light emanating off hīm was equally impressive.

At the same time, hīs form was changing! Black crystals spread out across hīs chest, becoming like a suit of scale armor. And upon the crystals were complex and ancient designs. The designs formed a network like a star chart, every part of which pulsed with an astonishing godly will. Astonishingly, if one looked closely, it would become clear that the lines which made the design were actually hīs true name!

From within the design stretched a dense host of blood vessels that connected to the primeval motherworld. As Young Lord Aurora rose to hīs feet, it looked like hē was actually an integral part of the motherworld!

The land of flesh around him churned. With the planetary skin to serve as heaven, and blood raining down, all heaven and earth was crimson, serving as the perfect complement to him. The anguished howls of the motherworld formed part of the background. As for the rise and fall of the surrounding lands, they corresponded to Young Lord Aurora's breathing. It was the same with the pulsing of the subterranean meridians.

Taken altogether, everything became his terrifying personhood!

It was not merely the personhood of a peak True God. There was also the presence of the true name, the connection to the primeval motherworld, and even more deeply... the spark formed by the godbane! This personhood could step through the doorway of something truly paramount! A personhood like this would have a profound impact on the surrounding world!

Even when just barely sensing it, Xu Qing felt that familiar sensation of his fleshly body being a separate entity that wanted to split away from him. After his cultivation base reached a certain level in the past, he had ceased to ever experience that sensation. But now, in the presence of Young Lord Aurora, he felt his breathing becoming unstable. His body felt like it was being ripped apart, and his eyeballs seemed to swivel of their own accord.

Though he was able to forcefully suppress such effects, the infection of a god that he was experiencing caused something like chanting to explode in his ears. The chanting of a godly voice filled every part of him, turning into distortions and madness that wanted to destroy all life.

At that moment of crisis, Xu Qing unleashed all of the ringsource he had to suppress the abnormalities. Those abnormalities became a destructive, unstoppable tempest that threatened to wipe away all forms of resistance within him.

But then a voice spoke into Xu Qing's soul. It was a godly voice that came from himself, and from his own true name from earlier.

"Xu Qing."

The sound caused a tremor to pass through him. His eyes instantly became clear, and all the abnormalities within him instantly calmed down. A strange connection to the Fourth Star Ring appeared with his soul.

He took a deep breath and looked at Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix at his side.

A bubble had appeared, surrounding her and cutting her off from the outside. Her gaze was fixed solely on Young Lord Aurora below. She was his wife, and she was also the daughter of Nineshores, so it was only natural that she would have special protections in situations like this.

However, after Xu Qing sensed the nature of the bubble... a thoughtful expression appeared on his face.

The aura of the Immortal Paragon....

Even as he studied the bubble, Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix suddenly said, "My husband's human nature is disappearing!"

Hearing that caused Xu Qing's attention to instantly shift to Young Lord Aurora.

Young Lord Aurora stood on the planetary uterus, black crystals spreading out over him, godly might surging and cold apathy filling his eyes. His human nature was rapidly fading away, while his godly nature was quickly filling him up. It seemed just on the verge of completely overwhelming him.

That was when Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix produced a certain object. It was a golden plaque that seemed to pulse with ancient time.

Written in calligraphy as *flamboyant as dancing dragons and swirling phoenixes* were some words.

Two families are now united in marriage by this covenant that never ends....

And thus, the agreement is confirmed.

Every word seemed to contain life force. It was canon. It was law. And it came from... Immortal Lord Aurora! This item was the marriage contract between Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix and Young Lord Aurora!

As soon as it appeared, karma created a pulling force like a powerful anchor. The words on the plaque glittered, full of the blessings of Immortal Lord Aurora. And then the plaque floated through the air toward the young lord. As it neared, a connection sprang into being!

Young Lord Aurora shivered, and the cold apathy that had been flooding his eyes suddenly stopped.

Two names flew off of the marriage contract. They were the names of Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix and Young Lord Aurora, and as they flew forth and merged into him, the coldness and apathy showed signs of melting.

Upon seeing that, Xu Qing waved his hand, causing his immortal embryo to appear. Within it, the Aurora Immortal Palace rose up, turning into his own karma, which in turn provided another anchor. It connected with Young Lord Aurora!

Gods were without emotions! Of course, that was not an absolute. Normally speaking, preheaven gods were all like that, although there were exceptions. For example, Goddess Starryyeyes had developed emotions because of unique outside influences.

As for postheaven gods, they would usually experience a complete transformation. However, emotions still existed in their memories, and whenever they recalled the past, it would result in slight fluctuations. However, they were little more than fluctuations. The exception was when some gods, before transforming, buried obsessions deep inside. Then, if the fluctuations became strong enough, the importance of an anchor would become manifest.

Anchors were more often used to re-awaken human nature, but even more than that... to affix human nature permanently in place! They could make human nature like a towering reef that would remain no matter what huge waves smashed against it.

Right now, the marriage contract and the Aurora Immortal Palace tugged at Young Lord Aurora, causing the cold apathy in his eyes to melt away. Human nature did not disappear.

Looking around, Young Lord Aurora murmured, “So this is what it feels like to transform from being an immortal into a god.”

To his eyes, the world looked different now. It was withered, feeble, dirty, and chaotic.... Everything about the past didn't seem important now. What was precious before became distracting. Even the most important people were like dust. The only thing worth pursuing in life was the elevation of one's own life force. And anything that got in the way of that should be destroyed. It didn't matter who the obstructor was.

Except... Young Lord Aurora's gaze fell on Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix and Xu Qing. Those two people were like threads connected to him, guiding his thoughts and becoming exceptions. They were like two burning fires in his life, lamps that could lead him back home.

“No problem. I'm fine.” Young Lord Aurora smiled at Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix and Xu Qing. It looked as if he was working hard to rekindle emotion. “I remember. I know what I have to do next.”

Reaching up with his crystal-covered right hand, he made a slashing motion toward the canopy of heaven. Huge rifts opened up in the air, and deep inside of them was primal-chaos that didn't come from this dimension.

Xu Qing's pupils constricted as he realized that, on the other side of the rifts were countless chains of karma, crumbling and reforming. Turbulence struck all the natural and magical laws, as if a pair of unseen hands were re-writing the rules of logic that governed the star ring.

Then Young Lord Aurora spoke in a calm voice that echoed like thunder.

“Godhood, assemble!”

The entire primeval motherworld shook violently! Millions upon millions of streams of golden light erupted from the subterranean meridians, like an inverted river of stars. The air screamed as it was overwhelmed. Countless blood-red bolts of lightning shattered the surface of the planetary skin, turning everything red.

Striations that defied description spread out from the motherworld to fill the space-time memories. Where they spread, innumerable heavenly bodies were affected, and were extinguished like candles.

At the same time, the force of attraction from the Fourth Star Ring distorted and was thrown into chaos. All planetary regions, all universes, all-star domains, and countless other orbiting objects shifted. The entire structure of the star ring was forcibly distorted due to the movement of Young Lord Aurora's hand.

What was influenced the most dramatically, though, were the memories of all the gods in the Fourth Star Ring! The primeval motherworld existed in a place between illusion and reality, and was part of the memories of all gods in the Fourth Star Ring. Therefore, whatever happened to the primeval motherworld would affect those memories.

At the moment, countless gods shivered within their temples. The instinct to prostrate erupted from their god souls.

In a temple in the extreme north of the Fourth Star Ring, in a god kingdom that had parasitized that area, a sacrifice was underway. There was a species of Godfolk there called the Star Spirits, who were currently peering deeply into the memories of the Fourth Star Ring. All of a sudden, they descended into madness and started withering up.

The god kingdom was eradicated and turned into ruins. Within those ruins, the corpses of their species crumbled into dust, leaving behind only paltry golden eyeballs that fell to the ground.

Within those eyeballs were the scattered remnants of what they had been looking at. It was a godly figure covered in an endless aurora, who was being coronated with a crown made of a black singularity!

In the western star systems of the Fourth Star Ring, there was one particular galaxy that had been woven into the shape of a bell. Seated cross-legged in front of it was a god.

The god seemed miniscule compared to the bell. However, floating around that god were countless star charts, all of them in constant motion. A tremor passed through the god, and blood started oozing out of his eyes, ears, nose, and mouth. The star charts around him suddenly exploded! His eyes snapped open, his pupils constricting as he realized that he was withering rapidly.

“The demise of myriad gods!! Isn’t that the sign of a True God being born? No. No, this can’t be! This is... some terrifying entity is stealing the paramount authority!”

The god trembled as he withered into nothing. Then, using the last scrap of energy he had in him, he rang the bell. The sound of a tolling bell swept through the entire Fourth Star Ring.

In the east of the Fourth Star Ring was the Temple of Eternal Silence, part of the Wisdom Heights God Kingdom, which was responsible for weaving fate. All of a sudden, it erupted with golden light.

Inside of the temple were the statues of many gods, whose eyes snapped open. Expressions of shock appeared on their faces, but before any of them could say a word, they crumbled into ashes. The webs of fate that they had been weaving for countless millions and millions of years collapsed into nothing.

All of those things were only the tip of the iceberg. Similar scenes were playing out everywhere in the Fourth Star Ring!

Chapter 1277: Lingering Tribulation from Eminent Desolation

Chapter 1277: Lingering Tribulation from Eminent Desolation

In the depths of space was a location where a rift existed in the void of the Fourth Star Ring. It was a huge location, equal in size to many universes, surrounded by endless crimson dust. This was one of the four great forbidden regions of the Fourth Star Ring.

From ancient times until now, hardly anyone had ever been there. Of the gods who died inside... not one had ever returned.

Now, as the bell tolled, and as dramatic events played out on the primeval motherworld, that forbidden region... stirred!

In its depths, where few gods ever visited, there was an altar made from a huge pile of god bones, within which crawled a host of vicious worms. Atop the bone altar was a bronze coffin surrounded by a swirling mist of primal-chaos. Innumerable god chains stretched out from the void to lock the coffin in place!

When the tempest struck the sea of memories outside, the chains swayed, and the coffin... exploded open!

Inside the coffin was a corpse that had been slumbering for millions upon millions of years. The corpse sat up! As hē did, the entire forbidden region quaked. Countless godly striations appeared, which were there to suppress the corpse. The corpse ignored the godly striations, and instead spoke in a raspy, laughing voice.

“God Paragon Nan Ke... your authority of fate... is currently being stolen. Years ago, you were like one of these god-eating worms that devoured some of Eminent Desolation’s authority when hē was undergoing tribulation. Well, I suppose I’ll just suppress you again!”

As the words left hīs mouth, godhood in the form of a blinding blood-red light shot out from hīs rotten chest. It spread out through the chains, causing all of them to crumble.

“This person walked the dao of immortals to the point of equaling us, and now it seems he used Eminent Desolation’s karma to conceal your fate and omniscience. A very clever and interesting plan!”

As the rotten expressions of Godtongue echoed out, countless god-eating worms around the coffin were vaporized.

An instant later, the godly striations in the forbidden region flowed toward the god like rivers, completely covering the god and crushing down. The coffin that had exploded appeared again. The chains formed once more. The body of the god was once again sealed inside the coffin.

However, laughter still echoed out, drifting from the coffin and speaking one last time. The godly voice said, “I see... fate can be broken, but constants must be respected!”[1]

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There were a certain number of god kingdoms in the Fourth Star Ring. Any True God who formed a god domain could create a personal god kingdom.

Above the god kingdom was the god dynasty. The Fourth Star Ring had twelve God Lords, so by extension, it had twelve god dynasties. Above the god dynasty was the god court, which, in the Fourth Star Ring, belonged to the most paramount of all entities, the God Paragon!

Within the twelve god dynasties were the terrifying streams of divine will belonging to the God Lords, emanating from the divine likenesses in their various palaces. That divine will spread out into the Fourth Star Ring and was deeply part of the sea of memories. That said, the God Lords would not just take action. They were paying attention to what was happening on the primeval motherworld, and the unique God Lord there!

The god court... had remained silent the entire time. The God Paragon had not issued any orders.

It wasn't out of the ordinary.

It was when the tolling of the bell exceeded nine breaths of time that something happened. One of the twelve god dynasties was the Eternal Dynasty. On the paramount throne of that dynasty was a figure who defied description.

His shape constantly changed. In one moment hē looked human, sometimes male or female, sometimes young or old. Hē could look like any living being. Hē might look like a nonhuman of any variety, including those who currently did exist, or those who had long since been destroyed in the past.

In one instant hē would look like a god with terrifying godly might. In the next instant, hē would represent death, and would reveal an infinitude of dead states. All shapes and forms shifted back and forth constantly. That was why it was correct to say that hē defied description!

All of a sudden, hē opened his eyes. When hē did, hīs form stopped shifting, and remained as it did when hē opened hīs eyes. Hē looked like a golden stone golem!

Hē was one of the twelve god emperors of the Fourth Star Ring. Hē was... God Emperor Eternal!

Hē had started out as a mere godslave of the God Paragon, one of many, but had risen on hīs own merits to the level of God Lord. The other God Lords could sit around and watch, but given hīs background and mission, after holding back temporarily, hē looked at the golden sphere of light that represented the essence of the god dynasty. The glowing sphere was dimming.

Hē closed his eyes for a moment, then opened them, lifted hīs right hand, and snapped hīs fingers. A force powerful enough to crush all obstacles surged forth, ripping open the sea of memories that existed between illusion and reality! Next, seventy-two eternal god decrees became shining streams of light that pierced through the void.

“Stop hīm. The birth of a new emperor will disrupt the balance.”

Outside of the primeval motherworld, beyond the space-time rift, where the memories of the gods existed, mysterious green starlight suddenly lurched and then began to congregate.

Gradually, it turned into numerous green doors of mysterious light! The doors slammed open. Out of them emerged the True Gods who had just received orders from God Emperor Eternal. Thēy shot directly toward the primeval motherworld! To thēir eyes, the motherworld seemed to have an external shell covering it. It was the skin of the motherworld, which Young Lord Aurora had peeled off and put above the flesh and blood of the planet to form a new heaven!

Thēir mission was to break open that planetary skin and stop what was happening on the primeval motherworld!

These True Gods were on a mission. And as thēy neared, thēir godly might surged, causing a host of massive godly magics to shoot forth. Unfortunately for thēm... the skin of the primeval motherworld automatically absorbed ringsource. That was, in fact, one of the reasons why Young Lord Aurora had put it in place, to serve as the first line of defense.

It didn’t matter how the True God’s launched attacks, the skin just couldn’t be pierced so quickly! All that resulted was some loud rumbling sounds.

Xu Qing and Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix heard them.

Xu Qing quickly suppressed the astonishment in his heart and looked up at the blood-red planetary skin that was the sky. There was a bulge in it, and it was dripping blood. But the defensive properties... were stupefying.

At the same time, Young Lord Aurora, who was in the middle of rising to the level of God Lord, currently had an irregularly shaped crimson crystal hovering in front of him. Maybe it was the color of fresh blood, or maybe it was the color of his aurora.

What was more, it actually resembled the surface of a mirror! There was something incredibly holy about it, but it also emanated terrifying might. It looked like some sort of amazing gem! It was godhood! Or, to be more precise, it was a bit of godhood. Hē was currently absorbing power from all the gods in the Fourth Star Ring, and was rapidly growing as hē rewrote the rules of logic.

Looking at the godhood, Young Lord Aurora spoke in a voice that caused magical laws to tremble. “It’s still not enough.”

Space-time cracked like glass.

Then hē looked up into the dome of heaven, and hīs pupils contained twelve spinning golden halos.

“I need... more nutrients.” The countless blood vessels stretching out behind hīm writhed. Using the primeval motherworld as the medium, hē sent them deep into the gods’ sea of memories, and through that sea into all of the countless living beings in the Fourth Star Ring.

In the shortest of moments, the sea of memories was covered in waves, and as Young Lord Aurora breathed in deeply, hē connected to the countless worlds out in the many heavens! As a result, countless gods in the Fourth Star Ring were shaking uncontrollably as thēy sensed ultimate supremacy calling out to

The majority withered into nothing but golden motes of light that rose from millions upon millions of planets, forming a starry river that flowed toward the primeval motherworld. They passed through the planetary skin! There, they became like crazed mutterings that flowed directly into Young Lord Aurora. As a result, the godhood began to materialize even faster.

Xu Qing watched, his heart pounding as he thought about the things he and his Eldest Brother had done in the past. Whether it was becoming fathers to a heavenly dao or plotting against Crimson Mother.... With the exception of the time they got some flesh and blood from the broken face, nothing could possibly compare to this! The scope involved was astonishing.

An even bigger bulge appeared in the planetary skin, as if some terrifying outside force were trying to break in.

Upon seeing that, Xu Qing circulated his cultivation base. His immortal embryo appeared behind him, and his iron skewer hovered next to him. It was even possible to see overlapping space-time all around him. His soul rippled with the power of his true name as he instinctively prepared to fly up and serve as a dao protector for Young Lord Aurora.

However, Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix reached out to stop him. Looking calm, she softly said, “Your big brother doesn’t need us to protect him. He said in the past that only weaklings need dao protectors. He... doesn’t need that! The most important thing for us is to serve as the anchors. Don’t let anything beyond that affect us.”

Xu Qing couldn’t help but sigh at how daring Young Lord Aurora was being. He nodded.

Outside of the planetary skin, behind the True Gods, there were forty-nine enormous figures, which were gods the size of planets who bore forty-nine divine likenesses on their backs as thēy approached through the sea of memories. The statues on thēir backs were all different, but the godly might thēy exuded was the same variety.

They all served the same God Lord, specifically, God Emperor Eternal!

As thēy neared the primeval motherworld, the True Gods parted. And then the forty-nine huge gods roared, all while the statues on thēir backs erupted with the might of a God Lord. The statues collapsed, turning into forty-nine ancient golden spears of stone. Pulsing with terrifying auras, they shot right toward the primeval motherworld’s skin.

They made contact.

The planetary skin trembled and couldn't hold strong. After only a few breaths of time passed, it was pierced through. Forty-nine spears penetrated the planetary skin and shot toward Young Lord Aurora!

As Xu Qing looked on intently, Young Lord Aurora, who was in the middle of converging godhood, looked up. A vertical eye opened up on his forehead! It was something that came during the process of forming godhood. By using 96,000 true names, it was possible to form an "eye of omniscience."

"You don't dare come personally. Instead, you're probing me. It's very... disruptive."

An apathetic godly voice echoed through the kosmos, causing the forty-nine golden stone spears to shiver, then crumble as if they were being peeled apart.

In the face of Young Lord Aurora's personhood, the God Lord power within them shattered. Rubble of magical laws showered in every direction. The flesh and blood of the motherworld devoured it, turning it into ringsource for Young Lord Aurora.

The godhood surged.

"Got any more?" Young Lord Aurora said, licking his lips. After all, the crimson godhood was not yet complete.

1. In [chapter 1044](#), there was a big explanation about constants and variables in regards to fate. For the best refresher, go back and reread that section on your own. In a nutshell, constants are possible outcomes that already exist, while variables are things that do not exist within the prescribed possible outcomes. 📖

Chapter 1278: God Lord Mi Ming

Chapter 1278: God Lord Mi Ming

At the same time as Young Lord Aurora's words rang out... a huge eye appeared outside the space-time rift above the opening torn in the planetary skin.

The eye was holy and immense! The pupil was a golden vortex that devoured starlight, while the iris was made of silver lightning bolts. It was astonishing to behold. The projections of innumerable heavenly bodies were visible in it, as if it contained infinite universes and unending star domains. Silver rivers surged past the eyelids, causing the void to boil like mercury.

And the eye was peering through the space-time rift to look at what was happening on the primeval motherworld! As he looked on, the void that contained the primeval motherworld started to collapse.

The damaged planetary skin shattered like glass. The magical laws within it collapsed, becoming pure ringsource. It wasn't just the planetary skin. The rest of the primeval motherworld reacted the same, as did the power of all the gods that was flowing to Young Lord Aurora's godhood.

The eye began to absorb all of it. It was as if this eye was a vortex that could devour all things. Everything the eye looked at became nothing but motes of light. Hē was taking all of the nutrients Young Lord Aurora needed, while also erasing Young Lord Aurora's future!

The light of the pupil swirled, and astonishingly, the images of Young Lord Aurora's future appeared therein. Some of the images were smashed to pieces by the gaze, while others were used to give the holy vision even greater power. Whatever timeline was involved, it seemed as if the eye could prevent it from happening. This was God Emperor Eternal's response to Young Lord Aurora!

The entire primeval motherworld shook violently. The planetary skin withered and crumbled. Blood rain poured down like a silver river. Even the color of the motherworld was being extracted, leaving it pale white! Space rippled. Time cracked. Dust collapsed, causing countless dazzling nebulae to form and dissipate.

Everything was being subverted by the gaze of God Emperor Eternal!

Xu Qing's soul was already showing signs of collapsing into destruction! But his true name proved its effectiveness, making him like a little boat struggling on the surface of the ocean during a storm. Next to him, Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix's face was pale.

Then, a mighty figure suddenly appeared in front of the two of them, blocking them from the gaze from beyond the heavens.

"Just what I would expect of a God Lord," a calm voice said. It was Young Lord Aurora, who was standing protectively in front of Xu Qing and Spirit Phoenix.

Hē met the gaze of God Emperor Eternal!

When the two gazes made contact, the black crystals covering the young lord vibrated, and cracks started spreading across them. It looked like they would start collapsing at any moment. The ringsource within him temporarily went still. It was as if all the stardust in heaven had collapsed into the godly voice that echoed in his soul, and every bit of sound was devouring his god soul.

"That's what I'm talking about!" Young Lord Aurora said. Hē laughed, and innumerable blood-red incantation symbols appeared in the vertical eye on his forehead, all of them emitted deafening rumbling sounds.

Next, Young Lord Aurora extended his right hand and made a scooping gesture. Astonishingly, he scooped the eye out of his forehead and then flew it up toward the direction of the sky.

A never-ending aurora erupted out like the tide! It shot up into the canopy of heaven.

Xu Qing observed it all, struggling to breathe steadily. He hadn't noticed anything unusual about the eye earlier, but now that it was flying upward and sending out the aurora....

He recognized it! It was the gaze of Immortal Lord Aurora! That eye... was a remnant of Immortal Lord Aurora! Put most precisely, it was Immortal Lord Aurora's eye, which he had left to his son because it contained his canon!

As the eye brought forth the aurora, the dome of heaven over the primeval motherworld rippled as it became a flowing, jade-like ocean.

It wasn't just red! Tens of thousands of multi-colored bands of light were like splashes of ink. They made a waterfall of indigo, reddish purple, and silver white that surged out with great vigor. The colors intertwined and spread. From outside of the primeval motherworld, it looked crystalline and semitransparent.

Every inch of the protective shield danced with a glow that could eradicate god souls. Even higher, it was just barely possible to see the illusory projection of an enormous eye that stared into the space-time rift toward the eye of God Emperor Eternal....

The two gazes met! Intense rumbling echoed out! A muffled grunt drifted out from the space-time rift.

Profound magical symbols appeared within the jade-like canopy of light, along with veins of light, within which danced flowing sparks of blue electricity. It was like a prismatic beast that had devoured innumerable living things, and it was blocking the gaze of God Emperor Eternal!

It even proliferated into multicolored butterflies made of light particles. The light butterflies of ringsource spread through the aurora, filling the sky with their fluttering wings, and moving at top speed toward the space-time rift.

They completely and fully blocked the gaze of God Emperor Eternal! They stopped all of his absorption efforts, and prevented him from interfering! All of the interference that had turned things around had ended. Everything went back on course. The scattered godly might became ripples in the spectrum of the aurora.

The boundless aurora was creating a splendid totemic design in the canopy of heaven! In life, the owner of this canon had struggled to endure the torment of losing a wife and son, and had longed to die. After death... he would offer protection!

Everything shook. All of the True Gods in the vicinity of the primeval motherworld felt a deep, instinctive drive to retreat. The eye in the space-time rift dimmed, having been overwhelmed by the butterflies of light.

The only thing left behind beneath the aurora covering the motherworld was the godhood power gathering at that critical moment! It was erupting!

From the viewpoint of Xu Qing and Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix, as of this moment, Young Lord Aurora's godhood glowed with unprecedented brightness. The black crystals covering him devoured all light rays, and each scale of the armor filled with more and more of the true name designs. Several breaths of time passed in which the true name designs continued to build toward completion. And then... they started moving like living things!

They gathered at the chest, where they became a spinning golden vortex. Within the vortex golden threads moved casually, spreading out before him to connect to the blood-red godhood.

The rapidly forming godhood also contained designs that were the same as those on Young Lord Aurora. Every part thrummed with astonishing power that could destroy heaven and earth.

As the golden threads connected to the godhood, Young Lord Aurora's appearance gradually became less and less like that of a cultivator. Hē grew taller and more holy, and what was more, there was a will building within hīm that defied description. Especially noteworthy was that hīs spine seemed like a string that connected the illusory and real dimensions, every thrum of which formed a resonance with the star ring. It became a godly voice that filled the star ring.

“Godhood, form!”

The godhood in front of hīm shone with dazzling light! As it became complete, heaven and earth trembled, the universe shook, the star domain vibrated, and the entire Fourth Star Ring... filled with shock waves!

All beings shook. All gods shivered with fear. The sea of memories was covered with boundless, huge waves. The ringsource everywhere turned into a mountain-toppling, sea-draining tide that flowed in reverse.

In an area that was millions upon millions of light-years, all stellar systems seemed to be sucked into a vortex that was dragged toward the primeval motherworld. The entire Fourth Star Ring was falling into gloom. The influence was so massive that gods in other star rings noticed what was happening, and unleashed godly might to investigate.

With the darkness of the Fourth Star Ring, only the primeval motherworld shone with light, and it was a scarlet light that came from Young Lord Aurora's godhood. It was a cube made of crimson magical symbols, each surface like a mirror that reflected the ultimate fate of all the civilizations of all the gods and living beings in the Fourth Star Ring. It was... authority of fate!

Put most precisely, it was... something like the mirror canon, specifically, fate stolen from the God Paragon! Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix looked at the godhood, alarm in her eyes. She knew that the most critical moment was coming. Next to her, Xu Qing looked at the fate on the godhood, and was stunned.

That's... Eminent Desolation's godly authority....

At that moment, enlightenment hit him.

Right when Young Lord Aurora's godhood finished forming, something happened in the depths of the Fourth Star Ring, in the forbidden region surrounded by crimson dust. On the altar of god bones and tiny bugs, was the bronze coffin of primal-chaos fog secured by countless chains. Raspy laughter echoed out from the coffin.

“Now I get it.... Nan Ke, you really were worthy to steal godly authority from Eminent Desolation. Maybe you did seal me here up until now, but it has to be said that you are no simpleton! Had you detected earlier that this would happen, you would have stopped it.

“But that immortal who has risen to our level borrowed Eminent Desolation's karma to cover your fate and omniscience. And thus, it happened before you sensed it.... You could have corrected the matter, but chose to let it go. And that is because... this is also an opportunity for you!

“You want to use this opportunity to have all of the gods of the Fourth Star Ring substitute for you in suffering the lingering tribulation of Eminent Desolation! You have been preparing for this moment ever since you took away Eminent Desolation’s karma and authority, and accepted that tribulation. I just wonder what your subordinate god emperors are thinking right now.”

The laughter grew louder and louder.

Elsewhere in the darkened Fourth Star Ring, in the twelve god dynasties, all of the god emperors... were silent. They could see the karma, and understood everything. Slowly, they looked up at the most paramount god court in the Fourth Star Ring. Even God Emperor Eternal slowly closed his eyes and gathered his senses.

Except... the God Paragon in the paramount god court, even now, did not react.

In the Fifth Star Ring, space-time was astir. All living beings could sense it. The Immortal Paragon was on the move forward.

In his left hand was the reflection of the scene when his son, Immortal Lord Aurora, ascended the throne and took command of destiny aura. In his right hand were a thousand years that had been erased starting on that day.

“The time has come.”

Chapter 1279: Aurora Epoch

Chapter 1279: Aurora Epoch

In the Fourth Star Ring, on the primeval motherworld’s lands of flesh and blood, Young Lord Aurora had fully become a god, and had cast aside the fleshly body of a cultivator. He slowly looked up. As he stood there, his state was almost indescribable. His spine, which was connected to other illusory dimensions, quivered, as if every breath he took tapped into the power of the star ring itself.

As Xu Qing and Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix looked at the young lord in this state, it created an instant and very deep impression on them. One look, and they would never forget the sight.

In fact, it was almost impossible for them to truly grasp what they were seeing. It was as if... this level of personhood was too high, making it impossible for bystanders to visually process the true structure of what they were seeing. And if someone tried to forcefully perceive that structure, it could easily lead to a mental collapse.

It was like... directly looking at fate. And fate could not be fathomed!

As for the aura on display... it shook heaven and earth, filling all living beings with the urge to prostrate in worship.

Xu Qing's heart pounded as he stood there. Though he was present with an immortal body, he did have the body of a god back in the Revered Ancient mainland. And that god clone, having been made from the flesh and blood of Eminent Desolation, contained the concept of fate. What was more, he had wielded a carving knife of fate made from godly authority, and as such, his god clone had a good understanding of fate....

Because of those things, Xu Qing experienced sudden enlightenment. Now he knew why the Immortal Paragon had wanted him present. Also, he could sense that the reason Young Lord Aurora had succeeded in becoming a god and developing godhood came down to something very familiar.

Eminent Desolation....

Even as he thought that, Young Lord Aurora's voice echoed out in all directions, just like the heaven-shaking, earth-shattering sound that existed when the Fourth Star Ring was first formed.

"Every soul within fate is a seemingly simple but actually complex entity within multidimensional space.

"It is a variable constrained by the laws of karma, and a fantastic attractor that can surpass the borders of primal-chaos. In reality, a true god of fate... merely wields a pickaxe to excavate the vein of ore known as perception in order to hew out a new version of the self that is full of radiance and light. All living beings, all inanimate objects, all cultivators, and all gods can be considered their own god of fate."

The first sentence came out of the mouth of Young Lord Aurora.

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But then, the entire primeval motherworld trembled. The lands of flesh and blood grew new skin, new plants, new living beings, and even rivers and seas. Living beings and inanimate objects proliferated. In the shortest of times, the primeval motherworld became a flourishing planet.

As Young Lord Aurora continued to speak, life turned into civilization, as if the motherworld had just passed through countless years of time.

This was... one utterance birthing myriad things! The thrum of the subterranean meridians echoed within the life force of all things. That sound no longer formed a resonance with Young Lord Aurora, but rather... was catering to hīm! It was catering to Young Lord Aurora!

Outside of the primeval motherworld, the True Gods who had come to offer resistance now began to tremble. The disparity with their own providence gave them no other choice but to bow their heads toward the primeval motherworld, and then drop to their knees and kowtow to Young Lord Aurora.

It wasn't just them. As Young Lord Aurora rose to the level of a God Lord, and as his godly voice echoed out, nearly ninety-nine percent of gods in the Fourth Star Ring instinctively prostrated on the spot.

It was the same among the statues in the temples who led the various Godfolk, and even in the god kingdoms. Everywhere in the Fourth Star Ring, gods prostrated toward that star light that had appeared in the darkness. At first, the light was only a bit here and there, but then it spread, ultimately becoming boundless and endless.... It was like the stars were being relit.

This was what happened when a God Lord was born. This was how valuable a God Lord was to a star ring, and how much support such a god received. God Lords were doted on by the star ring! Right now, as the Fourth Star Ring was being lighted up again, it trembled as its brightness eventually surpassed anything from before.

At the same time on the primeval motherworld, Young Lord Aurora, who had brought about all of this, looked up at Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix. His eyes were cold and apathetic, without any emotion at all.

That gaze caused Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix to shiver. The marriage contract in front of her seemed to fade, as if all the color were draining out of it. Even the words on it were starting to disappear.

“Husband...” she said, her voice trembling.

Young Lord Aurora nodded. “I’m fine. I haven’t lost the past. My emotions have become dull, and things have lost their color. But I haven’t forgotten about my mission.”

As that godly voice drifted down, heaven and earth filled with never-ending lightning bolts. Intense rumbling echoed out as Young Lord Aurora’s gaze next fell onto Xu Qing.

“Xu Qing, do you remember the moment in that reflection of history when my father ascended the throne?”

Xu Qing suddenly looked up at the young lord.

“I came here to the Fourth Star Ring,” Young Lord Aurora continued, “to borrow the flesh and blood of the primeval motherworld, and the karma of the very first god born here, as well as the scrap of the godspark within me... to change my dao to that of a Fourth Star Ring god! This was the decision of predestination, and the arrangement of fate.”

Young Lord Aurora began to rise up into the dome of heaven. Behind hīm stretched numerous blood vessels, through which pulsed golden blood. And they seemed to support hīm as hē rose into the sky.

“After becoming a god here on the Fourth Star Ring’s primeval motherworld, I then rose to the level of God Lord. I am hereby a part of the network of gods in the Fourth Star Ring, and by catalyzing the godspark, I can seize the paramount godly authority of the God Paragon and make it my fate! Today... the dao resonance has risen, and the hour has come. Next... it’s time to restore the sun and moon!”[1]

As Young Lord Aurora floated up in midair, golden light shone out in all directions, almost as if hē had become this planet’s sun! Light erupted everywhere!

In the Fifth Star Ring, an old man strode through the void clad in a rough hemp robe and hemp sandals. He suddenly stopped in place. He looked up and in the direction of the primeval motherworld in the Fourth Star Ring. He slowly spread his arms.

Within his left hand, the image of the fate of his son Immortal Lord Aurora ascending the throne glittered with crystalline light that fused with the void. In his right hand was the thousand years of time that had been erased starting on that day. It flew out, becoming time sand that... re-entered the world!

A thousand years ago, on the day when Immortal Lord Aurora was to succeed Immortal Lord Nineshores, he instead chose to rebel and end things. It was his son's wedding day, and was also the day he was to ascend the throne and take command of the Fifth Star Ring. Dramatic events had unfolded. But had they not, then the Fifth Star Ring would have entered *his* epoch.

But instead, he chose to rebel! After that... the Immortal Paragon personally killed his own son.

In order to prevent anyone from remembering that karma, he and Immortal Lord Nineshores had used their canon to cover things up for a thousand years. And the Immortal Paragon... had personally taken that karma upon himself.

Back then, Immortal Lord Nineshores had continued to rule the Fifth Star Ring. His time in office had been extended by a thousand years.

Today was the last day of that thousand-year period. This moment was the last moment of that thousand-year period.

As the dao resonance echoed in the Fifth Star Ring, and a new day arrived, the Immortal Paragon sent that thousand years of karma back into the star ring! The entire Fifth Star Ring trembled.

In the dao palace in the Nineshores heaven beyond heaven, Immortal Lord Nineshores sat in his palace looking out, a smile on his face. He seemed to be relaxing.

"I hope," he murmured, "you turn out to be more outstanding than your father or even your grandfather...."

With that, he reached up toward the crown of the epoch on his head, which contained the destiny aura of the entire Fifth Star Ring. Slowly but surely, he took it off... and returned it to the star ring!

As the Fifth Star Ring trembled under the dao resonance, countless planets, universes, star domains, and all of the heavens beyond heaven... filled with unprecedented levels of destiny aura. And all of them rushed to meet their new lord. It was as if time had gone backward to that day a thousand years ago when Immortal Lord Aurora took the throne!

Back then, Immortal Lord Aurora had failed to take the throne. But today... his son Mi Ming was restoring the sun and the moon and thus taking over his father's position!

The Aurora Epoch was officially beginning!

1. Here he uses the separate characters for sun日 and moon月 which, when combined, make the character Ming 明 from his name. Also, there was a specific reason for that name. For details, you can go back to [chapter 1164](#). ❹

Chapter 1280: An Empty Past, a Distinct Present

Chapter 1280: An Empty Past, a Distinct Present

The old man in the hemp sandals in the Fifth Star Ring watched as the dusty light from his hands rose up and disappeared.

Memories of the past seemed to flit through his eyes. They were memories of the life of his son, Aurora. They ended with Aurora's bitter smile as he begged to die.

The old man's eyes filled with a brilliant light, and he began to pulse with an indescribable pressure. As a result, the void around him seemed to fill with bubbles. They contained life, death, and reincarnation. They contained beginnings and destructions. And they all stitched together to form what seemed to be a fairy tale that was very nearly true and real.

The old man reached out with his right hand to grasp the fairy tale! He was going to take the figures from within the memories and extract them through time. He would bring out the illusion and make the fairy tale real. They could become real in an instant!

The bubbles trembled as various versions of Immortal Lord Aurora appeared. Guided by the old man, the bubbles converged. As they did, the fluctuations that had filled the Fifth Star Ring ceased. Then, for some reason unknown to them, all living beings and all inanimate objects in the star ring began to tremble.

Something unspeakably terrifying was coming to life in the Fifth Star Ring. It was as if some mysterious thing that had been sealed for millions upon millions of years was on the verge of being released....

The old man's hand faltered. Ultimately, he lowered his hand, and the image of Immortal Lord Aurora that had been about to form... once again faded away.

The ripples left the Fifth Star Ring. Everything went back to how they had been before.

The old man closed his eyes. In the end, he sighed with regret and pain.

"I can't bring you back..." he murmured, looking at the palms of his hands. "Just give me some more time.... What's happening now is what you always wanted to see...."

He lifted his hands again. This time, he did not summon anything. Instead, he shoved his hands in the direction of the Fourth Star Ring. His palm prints suddenly seemed to erupt with a gravitational force that could devour rivers of stars.

In an instant, that force spread through the Fifth Star Ring. All of the heavens beyond heaven, as well as countless star domains and universes, encompassing infinite stars and living beings... suddenly became destiny aura commanded by him!

The power of destiny aura surged, converging into an hourglass of immortal command. As it spiraled down toward his palm, it shrank. As the process continued, innumerable heavenly bodies formed, and unending starlight flourished.

All the dazzling light slipped through his fingers, turning into silver streams. It fused with the destiny aura and remained within the old man's palm.

Then he suddenly clenched his hand into a fist! In a manner unknowable to all living beings in the Fifth Star Ring, an immaculate immortal pressure swept out to form a scroll painting. All the stars were glittering dots on the canvas. There were innumerable black holes collapsing and turning into dust, which became designs on the painting. Trillions of living beings were like crystals in amber.

This was not a destruction. Instead, it was the process of gathering all the destiny aura, which was what happened any time a new Immortal Lord ascended the throne. Today, the old man was taking the karma that had been hidden for a thousand years and releasing it.

The Nineshores Epoch was ending, and the Aurora Epoch had arrived!

Immortal Lord Aurora had been set to ascend the throne, but had ended up perishing. And thus... the Immortal Paragon would guide the destiny aura of the Fifth Star Ring into his only descendant. Young Lord Aurora.

"I'm waiting for you to get back," he said softly.

The destiny aura of the entire Fifth Star Ring became an unstoppable river that swept out of the star ring to... the primeval motherworld of the Fourth Star Ring!

On the primeval motherworld, Xu Qing heard the words spoken by Young Lord Aurora. He looked at the living things proliferating in heaven and earth, and the fog of his confusion was dispelled by a large amount!

"First, he becomes a god," he said, "and then a God Lord. And then what...?"

"Then," Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix said softly, "this is something that will be an unprecedented first in all of the thirty-six higher star rings.... A god becoming an immortal!"

Although Xu Qing had already guessed that this was what was coming, it was still mind-blowing to him. He had witnessed more than one instance of someone changing their dao to become a god. But he had never even heard of a god becoming an immortal!

It was something related to the environment of the thirty-six star rings. After all, gods... were grand and noble! There was no way that thēy would even consider the possibility of walking the immortal path. And of course, there were surely other factors that would make it impossible for gods to do such a thing.

As those thoughts ran through Xu Qing's head, he looked up at Young Lord Aurora rising into the sky with countless blood vessels stretching behind hīm.

Young Lord Aurora looked down at the primeval motherworld; hē sensed the ringsource of the Fourth Star Ring, hē felt hīs godliness growing stronger, and hē suddenly smiled. Though the smile seemed a bit twisted, the words hē then spoke... were astonishingly shocking!

“The dao of gods... is pure savagery!”

As hē spoke, hē lifted his right hand, then waved it, causing all of the blood vessels connecting hīm to the primeval motherworld to start vibrating violently. In the depths of the flesh and blood, where the blood vessels connected to the subterranean meridians, the blood vessels suddenly snapped away and began to retract. The primeval motherworld rumbled loudly as Young Lord Aurora's voice filled the Fourth Star Ring.

“Cultivator Mi Ming hereby changes from a god... into an immortal!”

The primeval motherworld trembled as all of the newly formed civilizations and lives began to wither! It wasn't just on the motherworld. The True Gods prostrating on the outside spasmed, and all of the other gods in the star ring experienced a sensation like lightning striking thēir god souls. Countless temples to the gods collapsed. Countless statues crumbled. The words hē had spoken astonished all living beings!

At that moment, heaven... transformed! Destiny aura flowed from the Fifth Star Ring, appearing in the Fourth Star Ring, where it began to replace the void around the primeval motherworld!

As Xu Qing watched, more of the fog of confusion in his heart disappeared. He was a true monarch, and thus he was augmented by the destiny aura of the Fifth Star Ring. As a result, he could see exactly what was happening, and knew where that destiny aura came from.

“I get it now...” he murmured.

This was the plan that the Fifth Star Ring had meticulously been carrying out this entire time, step by step. And the designer of the plan was the Immortal Paragon.

That said, though the plan had been implemented, it hadn't been completely carried out, as the Immortal Paragon had been missing some pieces. But then he had run into Xu Qing and Erniu in the Revered Ancient mainland. By that point, the important parts of the plan were already underway. Things fell into place from there.

He needed to do it at a special location: the primeval motherworld, where the first god in the Fourth Star Ring had been born. He needed to do it at a special time: when Immortal Lord Nineshores was leaving office and Immortal Lord Aurora was succeeding him. That was when it could be completed.... That was when a god could be used to create a new Immortal Lord!!

Chapter 1281: Living God Umbilical Cord

Chapter 1281: Living God Umbilical Cord

This... has never, ever been done!

Xu Qing was rocked with astonishment as he looked up at the mighty Young Lord Aurora. As everything clicked together, he began to form some speculations about what the Immortal Paragon was planning.

Actually, there is someone who did something like this in the past. I just wasn't there to witness it.

Xu Qing was thinking about Li Zihua! That was someone who had walked a similar path.[1]

What Young Lord Aurora was doing right here and now was leaving a much more profound effect. That said, there were still many unknown elements.

As these things became clear to Xu Qing, the destiny aura of the Fifth Star Ring surged forth. The sky had become silver!

It was the color of the destiny aura from the Fifth Star Ring, and it... swept through the space-time memories of the Fourth Star Ring gods, slipping through the cracks to fill the area outside the primeval motherworld. It stained the void, turning everything silver. And as a result, the heaven over the primeval motherworld... was thoroughly transforming.

It became a majestic river of destiny aura that surged forth from the horizon. It came to replace the sun and moon, and also to bolster Young Lord Aurora! Inside of it were projections of all living beings in the Fifth Star Ring. There were illusory cultivators, universes and starry skies, and numerous heavens beyond heaven.

They were all cheering for Aurora! The soundless cheering became like fluorescent fishes swimming through the river, leaving behind streaks filled with immortal sealing marks that drifted toward the young lord.

A huge silver vortex was forming, with him in the middle. Rumbling sounds drifted out, filling the primeval motherworld inside and out. And in that manner, it entered the memories of the host of gods in the Fourth Star Ring.

Shaking began to fill the Fourth Star Ring. The souls of the numerous gods trembled. The statues in the temples shook. Veined lines ripped open throughout the starry sky. Crimson ringsource, like the blood of gods, seeped out of those veins and spread into the sea of stars.

Young Lord Aurora, who was orchestrating all of this, hovered above the primeval motherworld, within the vortex of destiny aura.

"Gods come from heaven," he said softly. "The dao of immortals comes from the self...."

The innumerable immortal sealing marks in the vortex of destiny aura began to glitter brightly, and to purify the godsource and mutagen coming off Young Lord Aurora. As the purification process proceeded, sounds emerged like the strings of a zither snapping.

The sounds materialized, infecting the godsource and turning into a host of burning godfire lamps. This was the godsource of God Lord Aurora!

The lamps were densely packed and seemed to have no end. But the moment they formed, they started crumbling! In the blink of an eye, millions upon millions of god lamps collapsed into ashes. It was like they had been sliced apart, as though some blade had chopped down, severing the Fourth Star Ring and Young Lord Aurora from each other!

The destiny aura of the Fifth Star Ring entered Young Lord Aurora's spine. That was the godly meridian the Fourth Star Ring had bestowed when he ascended to the level of God Lord. Right now, the power of the Fifth Star Ring's destiny aura ripped that spine out, thus severing his resonance with the dao of gods in the Fourth Star Ring. In an instant, all of the godly veins covering Young Lord Aurora went dim.

The moment the scene started to play out, a rumbling like a whimper drifted out from the depths of the Fourth Star Ring. It came in the form of the combined wills of all the gods in the star ring. It could be called the dao of the gods, and its call turned into a roar of rage. It could not permit something like this to happen!

That roar of rage seemed to contain innumerable godly voices!

"This is not permitted!"

"This is not permitted!"

"This is not permitted!"

As the godly voices descended, through the memories of the gods, the sound entered the primeval motherworld and rushed toward the river of destiny aura from the Fifth Star Ring. The river of destiny aura reacted as if giant hands had squeezed it with great force, turning it into blood-red amber. The transformation started outside of the primeval motherworld, then spread rapidly.

From a distance, it looked like the sky was turning amber, as the effects spread through the river toward Young Lord Aurora's vicinity. As the vortex of destiny aura solidified, the will calling out to the motherworld caused the planet to start trembling.

A will was waking up! The ground quaked as Young Lord Aurora's conversion was interrupted!

The young lord's face distorted, and it was possible to see the previously dimming god veins starting to turn bright again. Astonishingly, within every single vein it was possible to see the godly will of the Fourth Star Ring's dao of gods. That godly will was attempting to drive out the destiny aura of the Fifth Star Ring in one fell swoop.

But how could the destiny aura of the Fifth Star Ring simply fall back? The amber shattered as the destiny aura made a comeback! It smashed into the Fourth Star Ring's dao of gods with

unprecedented force. Neither would back down. The dao of gods extended, causing the magical laws of the Fourth Star Ring to reach the various god dynasties.

Instantly, the Fourth Star Ring's God Lords strode out. They could stand by and watch as Aurora became a god. But now a god was changing into an immortal, and the Fourth Star Ring's dao of gods was requiring that they interfere.

However, just as the God Lords were about to step onto the primeval motherworld... a host of figures appeared out of nowhere to block their path! Those figures... all pulsed with an aura no weaker than the God Lords, except formed from immortal might.

They were the Immortal Lords of the Fifth Star Ring!

At the same time, an old man in hemp sandals appeared outside the paramount god court. There he stood, his eyes steely, not saying a word. The god court... was as silent as ever.

On the primeval motherworld, Young Lord Aurora looked up into the dome of heaven, where it was possible to see gold and silver intersecting.

"Not willing to let go of me?"

He extended his right hand and pushed it down toward the primeval motherworld. That gesture caused the entire planet to tremble. Heaven and earth heaved. Then an illusory river appeared from within the depths of the motherworld.

It was a river filled with true names. Among those countless true names was one in particular that glittered far more prominently than the others! It was the true name Young Lord Aurora had left there.

Mi Ming!

Seek for what is not seen. The sun and moon are the brightness![2]

Years ago, Immortal Lord Aurora had taken away the sun and moon from the Fifth Star Ring and put them into his son's name. And not long after that... his son took the sun and moon of the Fifth Star Ring and, by means of his true name, put them... in the river that represented the dao of gods in the Fourth Star Ring!

They were buried like a nail! And right now, as he pushed down, that nail... started to explode!

The sun and moon appeared!

It was like the Fifth Star Ring's destiny aura opening up a door leading into the depths of the Fourth Star Ring's dao of gods! Rumbling sounds echoed out as the destiny aura opened the door of the sun and moon in the river of true names, and rushed inside!

It became a boundless immortal lightning that sent ripples through the entire river of true names! Every bolt of lightning contained materialized destiny aura, as well as heroic spirits of the Fifth Star Ring!

Xu Qing had visited the Heroic Immortal Tombs in the Nineshores heaven beyond heaven, and had paid respects to immortals who had fallen in battle. The mark they left in destiny aura was now made manifest in the lightning.

That lightning shot with deadly force toward the true name! This was how the sun and moon would truly return!

The Fourth Star Ring's dao of gods rippled and distorted as a dramatic transformation took place. One grew strong while the other weakened! The destiny aura of the Fifth Star Ring surged with great intensity!

The solidified amber cracked, and the destiny aura vortex around Young Lord Aurora began spinning again! The conversion from god to immortal proceeded. Millions upon millions of god lamps began to go out. Streams of godsource emerged from Young Lord Aurora, splitting away from him. And the black crystals that had covered him started to fade away. His godly aura became weak, while the might of an Immortal Lord grew strong upon him.

What was more, as the destiny aura poured into his spine, an incredible transformation hit Young Lord Aurora. His god bones shattered, section by section. In their place, new bones grew, as sparkling and translucent as crystal. The new bones were covered with immortal script, and close examination would reveal that it was a shrunken star chart of the Fifth Star Ring.

These were star ring bones! Only paragons had such bones! Only an Immortal Paragon or a God Paragon would have a star chart of the star ring on their bones when they broke through. But right now, it was happening inside of Young Lord Aurora!

However, the method being employed was different. The Fifth Star Ring's destiny aura was the flame, while the Fourth Star Ring's dao of gods was the kindling. With a paramount godspark, the power of two star rings could be used for the forging! In other words, power from two star rings was converging on him!

Of course, most of the extracted power came from the Fourth Star Ring! Howls of agony from the Fourth Star Ring's dao of gods echoed through the starry sky. The Fourth Star Ring's dao of gods was experiencing an unprecedented catastrophe. The destiny aura from the Fifth Star Ring was infecting it inside and out!

Young Lord Aurora was creating another huge problem, as he was detaching and shredding its natural laws. As a result, it was struggling in an unheard-of fashion!

Outside of the primeval motherworld, an enormous starry door that pulsed with ancient time suddenly opened up. As it did, an indescribable aura emerged. It seemed like the aura of a god, but there was something different about it. Apparently, it was even more ancient!

After the starry door opened, a host of ancient statues were revealed, all of them surrounded by gray fog. They came from an era far removed from the current one. Perhaps it was better to say

that their time had been stretched out so long it surpassed that of the first god to have been born on the primeval motherworld.

What was more, if one peered further into the starry door, it would be possible to see that, beyond the congregated statues, there existed the crumbling remains of an ancient planet. It wasn't possible to see anything clearly beyond that. There was only a symbol growing larger and larger. The symbol glittered with gray light and something indescribably mysterious. Neither gods nor cultivators had seen any symbol like it before!

After appearing, it pieced together a dilapidated iron chain and then began moving toward the primeval motherworld. Wherever it passed, the starry sky couldn't stand up to the force, and collapsed. Soon, the empty memories where the primeval motherworld existed couldn't hold on any longer... and they started to crumble! The God Lords and Immortal Lords who had been locked in combat were all stunned.

Having been pushed to the ultimate limit, this was what the Fourth Star Ring's dao of gods chose to do to seek salvation! It had opened this unknown door.

Up to this point, the paramount god temple in the Fourth Star Ring had not reacted, not even to Young Lord Aurora becoming a god or transforming back into an immortal. No orders had been issued. But now, it suddenly lit up with boundless godlight.

Out from the godlight strode the God Paragon!

“The Living God Umbilical Cord, the endless end... has finally been opened!”

1. Li Zihua was the Imperial Sovereign of Moonrite back in Revered Ancient, father of the Heir Apparent and his siblings. His name came up in too many chapters to reference them all, and his story was spread out among many chapters. The first chapter that mentioned that he had once been a god was [chapter 643](#). I believe the last time he was mentioned, though not by name, was in [chapter 1088](#).... ㄟ

2. Since Ming 明 means brightness, and is made up of the two characters for sun 日 and moon 月, his name literally “contains the sun and moon.” ㄟ

Chapter 1282: Of Course I Dare!

Chapter 1282: Of Course I Dare!

The God Paragon. There was no more ultimate and paramount entity in the Fourth Star Ring. After a long moment of silence, hē finally appeared, walking slowly out of the god court.

The light in the starry sky started rippling. Countless red lightning bolts appeared, weaving together in the void to create a staircase underfoot. And thus, hē slowly walked forth.

Every step hē took caused cracks to spread out through the starry sky, like shattered porcelain. And within each of the cracks were illusory images. Some images depicted living beings slowly growing younger. Enormous trees turned into seeds, and middle-aged creatures turned into embryos. Some

images depicted the starry sky starting to wither until it was destroyed in a dazzling flash of light. The scenes created a clear impression of hīs majestic status.

The entire Fourth Star Ring was affected. Some weak life forms exploded like blooming lotuses, with their brain matter becoming prismatic bridges that led to heaven. Some temples emitted deafening rumbling sounds as the paramount godliness surging into them caused instant transformations, making them transparent, and ultimately causing them to become sparkling manifestations of godly qualities. Even the cycles of day and night and the orbits of heavenly bodies became crystallized.

What was more, within the depths of the spatial rifts were ancient living entities whose tentacles curled toward the god court and trembled excitedly. All of the God Lords were currently bowing their heads in the direction of the god court. All were offering worship! All gods' eyes were focused on the same thing!

This most paramount of entities stepped forward, something that the vast majority of living beings couldn't even perceive due to the limits of their own form, until hē was fully manifest in the starry sky.

Astonishingly, it was a body made of three trillion dao projections! The outer layer was formed from a flow of galactic debris, collapsing from inside to out to create the shining outline of a person, but at the same time, revealing the shape of millions upon millions of heavenly bodies exploding. Any who attempted to look directly at the face of this entity would see endlessly shrinking nebulae whose every fold and crease seemed to be filled with the birth and destruction of reincarnation.

Raw power seemed to leak out of the dimensional rifts. It would occasionally turn into stellar fragments that drifted into the mortal world of the various gods, where it became godly light that spread for millions upon millions of kilometers. As the light shone, the wind on all the planets stopped moving. Countless clouds became like black glass inset with gold. At the same time, the god weapons of all the various gods suddenly began to leak a dark gold liquid!

Howls of anguish echoed out. God weapons that would never decay for all eternity were now crumbling thanks to the godly might weighing down on them.

This was the God Paragon! And the godly voice that echoed into the star ring was like a godly divination that could influence all living beings.

"The Living God Umbilical Cord, the endless end... has finally been opened! This path is hidden deep within the dao of gods...."

The voice did not echo into the ears of the host of gods. Rather, it was in their very marrow, where it vibrated like tolling bells! That was because the presence of a godly divination made many spoken words meaningless.

All living beings, and in fact, all gods, found that a transformation to natural law was being imprinted into their souls. And then... they started to collapse. It was because eight of the words that had just been uttered were actually taboo! And all of the external influences at play were not intentional on the part of the God Paragon.

They were merely the side-effects of hīm showing up at the last moment. They were ripples flowing out from hīm, and the effects of the words hē had spoken. The entire Fourth Star Ring seemed on the way to transforming into something very bizarre.

Both True Gods and God Lords... even the being in the coffin in the forbidden region... were struck speechless. The chains with the god talismans on them simply hung quietly.

From beginning to end, the God Paragon's attention was focused solely on the Immortal Paragon, who stood there in his hemp sandals.

"I didn't do anything to stop you," the God Paragon said. "So now... are you going to stop me?"

The Immortal Paragon's eyes glittered vaguely as he sensed the starry door outside the primeval motherworld. Finally... he shook his head.

The God Paragon said nothing further. Hē lifted hīs left hand. Hīs palm no longer contained a sun and moon, nor did it contain primal-chaos. Instead, it contained something that surpassed the material, and was called the 'existential conception.'

Countless circular rings of light within it constantly brightened and faded over and over again. Every ring of light contained images of different civilizations rising and falling. This was something that only an entity with personhood equal to hīs could understand. It was... paramount godhood!

With a look at hīs palm, hē slowly clenched hīs left hand into a fist and took a step forward. That single step taken by hīs majestic form caused hīm to appear outside of the primeval motherworld. There, hē didn't bother to even look at the motherworld. Instead... hē looked at the starry door and the gray world within it.

Hē did not hesitate, as this was an opportunity hē had waited countless years for. Hē stepped into the starry door!

Hē... was seeking the path to Living God!

When hīs majestic form and terrifying personhood entered the starry door, the door began to rumble loudly, as if it couldn't sustain the force.

The Fourth Star Ring's dao of gods also struggled. But it did no good, because the door... was already open! The God Paragon forced hīs way inside, and then charged into the depths of the fog in that gray world!

As for the starry door itself, the violent intrusion caused it to crumble to pieces. A rumbling boom echoed out, and the Fourth Star Ring's dao of gods moaned in grief.

The dao of gods deteriorated! Earlier, a chain of symbols had stretched from the starry door to the outside. As the door collapsed, so did the chain. However, the section that was on the outside... fell down toward the primeval motherworld.

The chain fell down through the void. The Fifth Star Ring's destiny aura couldn't stop it, and within moments, it appeared within the primeval motherworld's dome of heaven. It looked like a huge snake that could devour worlds as it shot directly toward Young Lord Aurora!

This was an unexpected turn of events! The mighty pressure of the chain caused the entire primeval motherworld to tremble. The dome of heaven split, and both Xu Qing and Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix were shaken to the core.

This was not godly might, nor was it the dao of immortals. This was something much older, and it surpassed the limits of perception. It was like a tribulation.

Young Lord Aurora was in great danger, but his eyes shone with determination. "The dao of immortals is life, the dao of gods is death... I guess I'll just borrow your power to get rid of this godhood even faster!"

Suddenly, he lifted his right hand and stabbed his fingers into his own eyes. Grabbing the golden light there, he dragged it out and severed it! Blood poured out of his eye sockets.

Without any hesitation, he took advantage of the dao bones forming within him to... bring back his personal canon that he had developed as a youth. It was the mirror canon!

By using that personal canon, he was replacing his lost eyes. An instant later, his eyes once again shone with radiance and light! His eyes had been restored!

The pupils were like mirrors, reflecting everything within the river of destiny aura above. It made it seem like the river was within him! And it caused the river of destiny aura to flow through him! Rumbling sounds echoed out as the power of destiny aura from outside and inside overlapped!

A heaven-shaking, earth-shattering mightiness erupted from Young Lord Aurora as he fused with the Fifth Star Ring's destiny aura.

"Xu Qing, I have a gift for you. Do you dare take it?"

Xu Qing's eyes glittered in response to the suggestion. He could guess exactly what kind of gift Young Lord Aurora was talking about!

There was only one gift that Young Lord Aurora could give after changing from god to immortal, and it was something he couldn't allow to infect him! It was... the godly authority of fate that he had stolen from the Fourth Star Ring's God Paragon when he rose to the level of God Lord!

Xu Qing now had further speculations about why the Immortal Paragon had sent him here! His heart was pounding, and he had trouble breathing steadily.

Voice full of determination, he said, "Of course I dare!"

Most people wouldn't dare to trifle with Eminent Desolation's karma. But Xu Qing had long since developed deep karma with Eminent Desolation. After all, his god clone was made from Eminent Desolation's flesh and blood. Granted, he'd had help. His Eldest Brother had taken him along to steal the blood, and his Master had acquired the flesh somehow. But facts were facts, and the reality was that taking this godly authority wouldn't change much.

With that thought in mind, Xu Qing's eyes glittered even more brightly.

Up in the sky, Young Lord Aurora heard Xu Qing's response and laughed heartily. Reaching up with his right hand, he made a grasping gesture, and the Fifth Star Ring's destiny aura responded to both the internal and external connection to him. Within his palm formed... a blade made of destiny aura!

As his dao bones trembled with power, he used the synergy between God Lord and Immortal Lord, as well as the godbane serving as godspark, to wield the blade of destiny aura toward the incoming chain of symbols.... He slashed it toward the chain!

As the blade descended, cracks appeared on the thread it contained from the fate of the Fourth Star Ring. The light of future and past connected into a blood-red tapestry. The Fifth Star Ring destiny aura trembled, and by extension, all living beings shook.

With those two things bolstering it, the blade... hit the chain. A deafening boom rang out. Cracks spread out on the surface of the primeval motherworld, and waves surged across the sea of memories.

The chain shook!

Young Lord Aurora also shook. He staggered backward as if millions upon millions of universes were exploding inside him. Gaping wounds opened up all over his fleshly body, and god blood turned into crimson crystals that scattered everywhere.

Within those crystals were reflections of the moment he changed from immortal to god. When the crystals hit the destiny aura or the chain, they melted, turning into liquid primal-chaos that formed the foundation of the dao of immortals.

The liquid flowed into Young Lord Aurora's dantian region, and the godhood that had been crumbling suddenly started forming again. Then, countless threads swept out to connect to Young Lord Aurora.

They were resisting the outside force! The threads were karma!

"Still not enough!!"

A mix of golden and silver blood sprayed out of Young Lord Aurora's mouth, but his eyes shone with vicious determination. Within his pupils appeared a black and a white fish, swirling around in a yin-yang symbol.

In his left eye were the karma threads encircling the godhood, which bolstered the crumbling magical laws of the Fourth Star Ring. In his right eye was a vortex of neonatal immortal origin, reflecting all the living beings of the Fifth Star Ring.

And then Young Lord Aurora shot up toward the descending chain of symbols!

Chapter 1283: Consider This... the First Gift!

Chapter 1283: Consider This... the First Gift!

Above the primeval motherworld, the chain of symbols glittered with gray light. It was a light that could eradicate all things, be they gods or cultivators, godly authority or canon, natural laws or magical laws. All things were at a much lower level than it.

Apparently, this light from the Living God Umbilical Cord could crush all logic in the thirty-six higher star rings. As such, fighting against it with upward momentum would require using overwhelming force to whittle it down. And only something with equal levels of power could face it as an equal.

That was why Young Lord Aurora's blade formed from the Fifth Star Ring's destiny aura had been incapable of breaking it, and had only given it a slight pause. Young Lord Aurora deserved his reputation as being a consummate chosen. The moment he saw the chain of symbols falling toward him again, he had come up with a method to fight it.

To truly fight it... he needed to use the godhood within him! After all, that godhood was Eminent Desolation's authority of fate that the God Paragon had once tried to steal. Because Eminent Desolation was half a step into the Living God level, that godhood was the only thing that could equal the chain of symbols, or perhaps even surpass it.

Meeting the force of the chain of symbols with godhood like that was the best choice. Furthermore, Young Lord Aurora... didn't just want to rely on that godhood alone to fight back. He wanted to take the opportunity provided by the clash between the godhood and the chain to actually sever the connection between himself and the godhood. That connection came in the form of karma threads between himself and Eminent Desolation!

As the power of gods and immortals swirled in his eyes, he shot up into the air and unleashed unheard-of force. He was the vessel to channel the Fourth Star Ring and the Fifth Star Ring, sending out explosive power to form a long blade that was a mixture of gold and silver.

He made another attack against the Living God Umbilical Cord's chain of symbols!

Heaven and earth shook. The starry sky filled with rumbling sounds. The primeval motherworld and everything around it vibrated violently. A terrifying tempest swept out in all directions.

The Fourth Star Ring's dao of gods moaned in agony again. The Fifth Star Ring's destiny aura surged with intensity.

The chain of symbols slowed down to a stop yet again. The gray light within it had been significantly reduced by the Fourth Star Ring's dao of gods and the Fifth Star Ring's destiny aura, but there was still some left. It flowed down the length of the blade.

When it entered Young Lord Aurora, it became pure destruction that raged forth with mountain-toppling, sea-draining force. Young Lord Aurora shivered from head to toe, and blood oozed out of his eyes, ears, nose, and mouth. However, his eyes remained as vicious as before.

Golden light shone from the godhood within him, racing to slam into the invading gray light.

They collided. The shock of it caused the karma threads connecting the godhood and Young Lord Aurora to shiver. And then a few of them snapped.

At that critical moment, Young Lord Aurora didn't hesitate to slash the blade out again. Heaven and earth shook as the blade light swept forth from Young Lord Aurora. He then launched a third, fourth, and a fifth attack! Each slash of the blade caused the chain to shake, and rocked the godhood, causing further breakage among the karma threads.

After nine blade attacks, madness began to rise within Young Lord Aurora. He then stretched out his left hand, releasing an explosion of golden light. He waved as right hand, sending out intense silver light.

Reaching out, he grabbed the chain of symbols. Expression distorting viciously, he let loose a howl that echoed through both the Fourth and the Fifth Star Rings. The godhood within him thrummed violently as a flame emerged from it, which surged through Young Lord Aurora's arms and into the chain of symbols!

The chain burst into flames. However, it didn't melt immediately. It just flickered as the flames slowly ate away at it.

As that happened, the threads connecting Young Lord Aurora to the godhood seemed on the verge of being fully destroyed.

And then, a tipping point was reached between the godhood and the symbols. Both sides went completely insane! The godhood rumbled as it shrank down, until it was a finger-nail sized fragment. Despite its size, though, its terrifying mightiness surpassed anything from before. It was as if fighting the chain of symbols had purified the godhood! The impurities had been extruded, leaving behind only the purest of half-step Living God Eminent Desolation's paramount godhood!

At the same time, the karma threads connecting the godhood to Young Lord Aurora were unable to repair themselves. They were about half gone! Visible on the surface of the severed threads were images of Young Lord Aurora becoming a God Lord. Just like his godliness, they were fading away.

As for the chain of symbols, it had been worn down to such a degree that it couldn't fight back any longer.... The chain of symbols burst into flames! It was visibly being burned up! As every part of it started crumbling into ashes, an astonishing sound emerged that resembled a musical instrument being played.

Meanwhile, Young Lord Aurora was surrounded by a sound like that of a rushing river. It was the flow of a new immortal origin. The terrifying immortal power of an Immortal Lord swept through the star chart of the Fifth Star Ring that existed on his dao bones, spreading out and filling the bones with silver light.

That influenced Young Lord Aurora's form, causing him to revert from a godly appearance to that of a cultivator! It was as if human nature were flourishing within him, while godly nature was retreating. His hair changed from golden to white, eventually turning into flowing silver like a silver river. The aura of an immortal rose within him.

The dome of heaven trembled, and the dao of gods wailed. The destiny aura of the Fifth Star Ring grew more robust. That was when Young Lord Aurora did something that no one could possibly have predicted. He lifted his right hand, which surged with the Fifth Star Ring's destiny aura, and then he... pointed at Xu Qing!

"Xu Qing, you are the master of the Aurora Immortal Palace and heaven beyond heaven. You should benefit from the nourishment of the destiny aura from this beginning of an epoch. You are also a true monarch, so you have the right to be blessed by destiny aura! Furthermore, you have provided immense assistance both to the Fifth Star Ring and to me.

"On this day, I will give you two gifts. Consider this... the first gift!

"I, Mi Ming, having become an Immortal Lord and having taken office in the Fifth Star Ring, hereby issue an imperial decree! Fifth Star Ring destiny aura: go!"

Mi Ming's words were a paramount imperial decree, and they caused the Fifth Star Ring destiny aura in the area to surge. As it did, one portion of the destiny aura became like a dragon rushing toward Xu Qing.

As it neared, Xu Qing's heart raced. The destiny aura issued a draconic roar, and then... it entered Xu Qing!

Xu Qing's cultivation base went wild! The nourishment of destiny aura brought pure ringsource. It contained the will of all living beings, like the approval of natural and magical laws. And it was backed by Mi Ming's status. It was completely legitimate and just! And it was an amazing destined opportunity!

Rumbling sounds erupted from inside Xu Qing as the blessing caused his cultivation base to smash right through mid Quasi-Immortal and into... late Quasi-Immortal!

A shocking aura swept out of him. The moment Xu Qing had gained enlightenment of his ninth extreme, the canon of parallelism, he had earned the qualification to become a peak Quasi-Immortal.

The only thing he had been missing was ringsource! That was the main reason he had been so intent on finding more ringsource. What was unfortunate was that he needed a staggering amount of ringsource. His ability to absorb it was also an issue, and thus, his progress had been slow.

But now, this destined opportunity provided what he had been missing. In one shot, he was greatly bolstered. And the blessing of the destiny aura ensured that he had no trouble absorbing the ringsource.

An instant later, Xu Qing's aura surged again. Astonishingly, he advanced from late Quasi-Immortal into the great circle! This was also called... peak Quasi-Immortal!

And there was still more to come! He pushed past the limit of that cultivation level, rising higher, to a level no one had reached in the past. Terrifying pressure erupted from Xu Qing, pushing out with mountain-toppling, sea-draining force that could crush everything.

This was energy that, from ancient times until now, surpassed anything a peak Quasi-Immortal could do. In fact, there were even some Summer Immortals whose auras could not compare to this! This was what happened when Xu Qing... unleashed everything he had accumulated!

A dazzling silver light shone! That was the color of the Summer Immortals, and it flowed around him, gathering in his eyes until they were pure silver!

He had silver eyes and violet hair.... His cultivation base was not that of an immortal, and yet, it already surpassed that of an immortal!

All he lacked was the tenth extreme! It was canon turning into law! All Xu Qing had to do was gain enlightenment, and his cultivation base would break through, and he would step into the ranks of the Summer Immortals!

And he had already determined that when that day came, he would return to Revered Ancient! The good fortune caused his heart to swell.

Taking a deep breath, he sensed the terrifying fluctuations within him. He knew what path he would follow going forward. Looking up at Young Lord Aurora, he clasped hands and bowed very deeply!

Young Lord Aurora looked down, his eyes twinkling with joy at the sight of Xu Qing's breakthrough. He laughed heartily. And then, having no reservations whatsoever, he... cut the final karma thread connecting him to godhood! It was no longer connected to him.

The aura of an Immortal Lord erupted with no hindrances. The Fourth Star Ring trembled, and the Fifth Star Ring cheered with joy!

He was now completely back to being human! Hē had thoroughly returned to being he! He had transformed from immortal to god, become a God Lord, and then switched back to the dao of immortals.

In that manner, the Fifth Star Ring... got a new Immortal Lord!

Immortal Lord Mi Ming!

At the same time, though it seemed like his connection to the Fourth Star Ring had been completely severed, the reality was that it still existed. His name, which contained both the sun and moon, would forever be part of the river of true names there.

As a result, Immortal Lord Mi Ming would be like a nail plunged deeply into the natural laws of the Fourth Star Ring! It wasn't something that could easily be tampered with. It was as if he had left his canon behind there for all eternity.

He was the first person in the Fifth Star Ring to have the blessing of that star ring's destiny aura, while at the same time, capable of stirring the dao of gods in the Fourth Star Ring.

He... was the most powerful Immortal Lord in two star rings! It was no exaggeration to say that he was half a step into the Immortal Paragon level!

Chapter 1284: I Cannot Be Fooled, Fool!

Chapter 1284: I Cannot Be Fooled, Fool!

In countless universes in the Fourth Star Ring, living beings trembled. Even gods shook in the depths of their god souls.

Only a day had passed since Young Lord Aurora arrived on the primeval motherworld. But the events which had played out were astonishing. They were like an unrivaled tempest, the effects of which spread through the entire Fourth Star Ring. Temples collapsed. Gods withered. God kingdoms fell into ruin. Even god dynasties were swept up in the violence. The very foundation of the Fourth Star Ring was shaken!

That wasn't even to mention that Young Lord Aurora's true name was now forever a part of the Fourth Star Ring's dao of gods, bringing with it the destiny aura of the Fifth Star Ring. That made the blow to the foundation even greater.

It was easy to imagine what would happen going forward. The Fourth Star Ring's dao of gods wouldn't be as pure. The resurrection ability of the gods would be obstructed. And even more terrifying... immortal energy could very well appear within the Fourth Star Ring! The gods would then feel pressure to survive both from inside and outside.

And there was another critical point. That was... that the God Paragon had abandoned the Fourth Star Ring and just left! Hē had given up on all the other gods in the Fourth Star Ring. Hē had taken advantage of their crisis, ensuring that hē would face no repercussions for choosing to enter the Living God Umbilical Cord.

Those actions were a huge blow to the gods of the Fourth Star Ring. Moans of grief swept out from the dao of gods and into the souls of all gods left behind in the Fourth Star Ring. It remained in place for a long time before fading away.

It was quite a contrast to the Fifth Star Ring. The destiny aura seethed as Young Lord Aurora achieved his breakthrough and returned. However poorly the Fourth Star Ring was faring because of the invasion, the living beings of the Fifth Star Ring were benefiting. In fact, the effects were more pronounced as the destiny aura grew stronger. Cheering filled the star ring.

Because of this incident, it was correct to say that the war was about ninety percent over. The end was in sight.

And the results... were astounding! Whether in terms of absolute power levels, or from the perspective of the star rings overall, there was no doubt that the Fourth Star Ring would have trouble turning things around. In fact, the Fourth Star Ring seemed to be doomed to have its fate devoured.

Now they were facing a countdown! That was because the Immortal Paragon had issued new orders. The Immortal Lords who had entered the Fourth Star Ring were to go all out to fight the God Lords.

With the wave of a hand, the Immortal Paragon opened up a host of huge teleportation portals all over the Fourth Star Ring. Armies of cultivators poured out of them and attacked the Fourth Star Ring forces! What seemed to be a very one-sided battle began to rage.

Standing there on the primeval motherworld, Young Lord Aurora could sense what was happening. Seeing that matters had essentially been decided, he reached up and plunged his hand into his own chest.

Grabbing the godhood that was now cut free of karma threads, he dragged it out. Silver blood sprayed out as the godhood... emerged from Young Lord Aurora. The moment he pulled it out, heaven and earth trembled, and a will of fate appeared clearly on the godhood.

Young Lord Aurora had no desire to keep it. He knew that the karma was not something he could sustain. According to the Immortal Paragon... there were only two people in existence who could bear that karma.

One of them was Xu Qing. The other had supposedly been set to arrive in the middle of the breakthrough process, at least according to the Immortal Paragon's plan. But for some unknown reason, that second person was nowhere to be seen.

"Ah whatever...." Young Lord Aurora looked at Xu Qing. "Xu Qing, this thing has benefits and detriments! You surely understand its background. As long as that being has not perished, no god or human in the higher star rings can truly own it.

"Regardless, you can consider it a precious treasure! You can make your own decision about whether or not... to take this second gift!"

Xu Qing looked at the godhood in Young Lord Aurora's hands. He could sense the strong connection between himself and it. Put precisely, it was actually connected to his god clone.

Therefore, he didn't hesitate. He nodded.

Young Lord Aurora waved his hand, sending the godhood toward Xu Qing in a blur of prismatic light.

Xu Qing caught it. The moment he did, his mind spun, and he could clearly sense the fluctuations of the godhood. And he could sense the incomparably terrifying power within it. It was as if... he was holding an entire star ring in his hand.

"My god clone back in Revered Ancient should be able to contain this godhood...." Xu Qing took a deep breath and put the godhood away. Then he looked around. He knew that his time in this place was coming to an end.

"In that case," Young Lord Aurora said softly, "do you want to fight in the war here in the Fourth Star Ring? Or would you like to come with me? Or is there somewhere else you'd like to go? I can send you wherever you want."

Xu Qing thought for a moment. “I want to go back to the eastern theater in the Fifth Star Ring.”

He had not forgotten about the Fifth Ring Immortal Pill that Immortal Lord Deepgloom had promised to give him. He was now a peak Quasi-Immortal, but he lacked enlightenment of canon. That said... he still wanted that Fifth Ring Immortal Pill. He wanted to give it to Plumdark.

Young Lord Aurora waved his hand, causing ripples to spread through the void. Destiny aura converged, creating a vortex.

Young Lord Aurora smiled. “In that case, see you in the Fifth Star Ring.”

Xu Qing nodded. He bowed to Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix, then looked around wistfully one last time. Many images floated up in his mind, but in the end, he suppressed them all, leaving behind only his fixation on becoming a Summer Immortal. With that, he shot into the vortex. He disappeared inside, leaving the primeval motherworld.

After he was gone, Young Lord Aurora looked at Spirit Phoenix. He smiled warmly. “Sorry I put you through so much anxiety....”

Eyes puffy and red, Immortal Fairy Spirit Phoenix floated up to Young Lord Aurora’s side. “We have one more thing to do. Then we can settle down.”

Smiling faintly, Young Lord Aurora clasped her hand and turned. Together, they disappeared into the void.

Elsewhere in the Fourth Star Ring, the pocket realm Xu Qing had visited was now nothing but ruins. When Young Lord Aurora achieved his breakthrough and changed his dao, this place had been affected just like the rest of the star ring.

It was little more than rubble. The sky had been torn open, and looked like it wouldn’t stay intact much longer.

Two corpses could be seen on the ground. One was a black tumor, rotting and full of filth. The other was the local god who actually looked human. Hē was not rotting, but rather, was slowly dissipating as if by some process of purification. As the corpse dissipated, someone crawled out from inside.

Sheesh, I barely got half full! Why’s it dissipating all of a sudden? Well, I am a badass. I risked everything to unleash my Heaven-Devouring Earth-Consuming Reverse-Ancient Super-God Incantation. At least I got to eat a bit before this thing dissipated.

Hmmmpfh! It’s not like I didn’t notice that teleportation portal pop into being next to me all of a sudden. It was very enticing, as if it was trying to lure me inside. It was obvious what was happening. This god knew it didn’t want me eating it, so it was trying to trick me into leaving! But I, Erniu, am not that kind of person! I cannot be fooled, fool!

His clothes were in tatters, and he looked very bedraggled. He was none other than Erniu. Despite looking to be in bad condition, his belly bulged out as if he had just eaten a big meal.

After crawling out into the open, he looked around. When he saw the world around him, his jaw nearly dropped. He even gasped in surprise.

What happened out here? The aura is in chaos! Why does it seem like a war broke out...? What's going on...? Holy crap! Did I miss something? Did something incredible happen?

A moment later, Erniu's eyes sparkled, and he slapped his thigh excitedly.

If a war broke out in this damned place, that would be a good thing! That would mean gods died! Don't tell me that I've finally experienced some heaven-defying good luck! Can I finally get full?

Erniu licked his lips in anticipation.

Chapter 1285: Immortal Lord Dark Alchemist

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The eastern theater of the Fifth Star Ring was very far away from Xu Qing, and it was currently very empty. Roughly seventy percent of the cultivator army had been ordered by the Immortal Paragon to invade the Fourth Star Ring for the final battle.

Those left behind were tasked with the important mission of maintaining planets that were designated as supply depots. There were many such planets stretching between the eastern theater and the Fourth Star Ring. Just about every other universe had at least one.

Their purpose was to provide supplies to the front lines and also offer healing services to injured members of the army. They were so full of immortal energy that they were almost like immortal towers. And they weren't just on the side of the Fifth Star Ring. They extended through the various theaters all the way into the Fourth Star Ring.

The cultivator army pushed the front lines deeper and deeper into the Fourth Star Ring, and the supply depot planets went with them, going deeper and branching out as necessary. It made sense considering that the battlefield encompassed countless universes, and the cultivators' goal was complete domination of enemy territory. Given that, it couldn't be understated how important logistics were. And thus, these planets were like game pieces on a game board, which the cultivators put in place to stabilize the battlefield.

In the middle section of the Fifth Star Ring's eastern theater, there was a supply depot planet that was pure yellow. It hung in space surrounded by rings of rubble, atop which many cultivators were stationed.

The planet's surface was covered with mountain ranges and vast deserts filled with yellow sand, each grain of which could provide a baptism of immortal energy. There were many cultivators on the surface as well, all of them tasked with various duties relating to logistics.

This was a very important planet, as it was the very first supply depot planet that had been put into service at the beginning of the full-scale war. It was the starting point of the chain of supply depot planets that ultimately stretched into the Fourth Star Ring.

This planet also had a lot of teleportation portals. There were big ones and small ones, and they operated nonstop day and night, funneling massive amounts of supplies out of the Fifth Star Ring and to the front lines. That was the primary mission of this supply depot planet.

Because the planet was so important, the teleportation portals there were connected to subsequent supply depot planets. However, given the wartime situation, they only performed outgoing teleportations, and would not accept returning teleportations. Wounded cultivators had to abide by that arrangement, and could only seek treatment on other supply depot planets.

In order to ensure the defenses were as strong as possible, there was a huge contingent from the army stationed there, and Immortal Lord Deepgloom had even left a clone in charge. All such arrangements were to ensure that supplies could get to the front lines safely.

As countless cultivators hurried about their work, a strange rumbling suddenly filled the air and multi-colored light flowed through the dome of heaven.

Large numbers of cultivators shivered and sent their divine will out to check what was happening. The streams of divine will soon came to focus on the source of the strange phenomenon.

It was a teleportation portal! And it was lighting up!

The fluctuations were noticed first by the cultivators in charge of that portal. Except, they hadn't activated the portal. And this wasn't a case of the portal being used to send supplies out. Instead....

After checking the incoming teleportation, one of the cultivators said, "It's coming from the Fourth Star Ring. There's a living person coming through, on the order of... an Immortal Lord!"

The information was immediately relayed up the chain of command. Even as the unusual event was reported, the glow from the teleportation portal grew brighter, becoming a dazzling display that shook all the lands in sight.

Then a massive vortex appeared in the sky. As countless people looked on, a figure materialized there. He wore a black daoist robe, and had violet hair. His eyes were silver. The terrifying aura that he emitted, even in the midst of teleportation, caused heaven and earth to tremble. The converged divine will from all the cultivators also shook.

He was none other than Xu Qing! As he stepped out of the vortex, winds screamed and the air vibrated. The unique immortal starlight of the Fifth Star Ring spread over him like tide waters.

As he hovered in the air, the empyrean winds caused his robe to flap. Stellar debris whipped about around him like a silver river.

He was the center of all attention! The destiny aura of the Fifth Star Ring swirled around him, converging into a violet energy. It was almost like he was being welcomed back by the destiny aura itself.

The feeling of the familiar immortal starlight, destiny aura, and immortal will left Xu Qing feeling a bit dazed. He hadn't been gone for very long, but so much had happened that he felt like a lifetime had passed.

Back when things went awry between Immortal Lord Deepgloom and God Lord Death Departure, Xu Qing had been a mid Quasi-Immortal. He had fled for his life, explored the primeval motherworld, helped Young Lord Aurora change his dao, and upgraded his own cultivation base. Now... he was a peak Quasi-Immortal! That type of change in cultivation base was huge.

As Xu Qing thought back to everything, he couldn't help but sigh in his heart.

At the moment, bells were tolling on this, the original supply depot planet. They interrupted Xu Qing's thoughts. As the bells tolled, some of the cultivators assigned to the area appeared outside the teleportation portal. They included men and women, and they were from different universes in the Fifth Star Ring. But all of them instantly recognized who Xu Qing was.

"It's Xu Qing!"

All of them were visibly shaken, and they quickly clasped hands and bowed to him.

"We offer respectful greetings, True Monarch!"

Voices rang out in all directions, and they were full of deep respect! After all, everyone had been made aware of the events on the primeval motherworld almost in real time. It had been sent to everyone through the destiny aura.

Xu Qing looked around, then suddenly shifted his gaze up. Clasping hands, he bowed at the waist. As he did, nine crimson suns appeared through the clouds as Immortal Lord Deepgloom's clone revealed himself. Magnificent dao reverberations filled the sky.

"Xu Qing!" he said.

A pill appeared in front of Xu Qing that swirled with nine-colored light. Within it was a vortex made of millions upon millions of pieces of stellar rubble, as well as an aura very close to that of a Summer Immortal.

"Fifth Star Ring Immortal Pill," Xu Qing murmured. This pill was the main reason he had come back.

The Fifth Star Ring Immortal Pill could only be used by someone who had been blessed with destiny aura. If he wanted to give it to another person, it would require that person to be connected to the destiny aura of the Fifth Star Ring. However... Xu Qing could get around that. Because he had Fifth Star Ring destiny aura, he could share the pill's potent medicinal effects with someone else.

There were other considerations. After he got back to Revered Ancient and gave it to someone else to use, he wanted to see if the Revered Ancient destiny aura could produce similar effects. With such thoughts in mind, he reached out and took the Fifth Star Ring Immortal Pill.

Meanwhile, Immortal Lord Deepgloom's clone noted the silver glow in Xu Qing's pupils.

“Normally speaking, this pill would be a gift given to you much later. But the karma of the Aurora Epoch caused the timeline to advance.”

Xu Qing nodded. “Many thanks, Immortal Lord! If there are no other matters at hand, your humble servant would like to leave the eastern theater and return to the heaven beyond heaven to seek enlightenment and attempt a breakthrough.”

Immortal Lord Deepgloom looked deeply at Xu Qing. “I suggest that you stay here for a while to rest and recuperate. After all... an old friend of yours would like to see you.”

Xu Qing could think of a number of people he might be referring to, but wasn’t sure which one. “Immortal Lord, which old friend wants to see me?”

“Immortal Lord Dark Alchemist! He has countless incarnations, which he sends out to all the star rings to seek the will of the dao. He has sent incarnations to the Ninth Star Ring as well. You probably knew him as... Grandmaster Bai. At the moment, he’s on the battlefield in the Fourth Star Ring, where he’s hoping to confirm something for you.”[1]

When Immortal Lord Deepgloom said ‘Grandmaster Bai,’ the name hit Xu Qing with the power to dry up rivers and drain seas. He suddenly found it difficult to keep his breathing steady.

Deep inside, Xu Qing was both sentimental and loyal. Whether it was Sergeant Thunder, Grandmaster Bai, or his Master, there were certain people who held a place in his heart that could never be replaced. All of sudden, he found himself thinking back to what Grandmaster Bai had said to him when they parted, so long ago.

“The world is a tavern for living beings. And the timescape is an old guest. As long as we don’t die, we’ll meet again....”

The voice drifted through his memories, and images popped up in his mind. He thought back to learning about plants and vegetation in the scavenger basecamp. He thought about the sorrow he felt when he visited the grave in the Violet Lands. He thought about that mysterious old man with the medicinal decocting pot that he had seen in the Aurora Immortal Palace.

“We’ll meet again...” Xu Qing murmured.

He chose to wait for Grandmaster Bai. At the same time, he worked on stabilizing his cultivation base to make sure he was in a peak state. He also tried to organize his scattered thoughts regarding the tenth extreme.

Time passed. Before he knew it, it was a month later.

Although Grandmaster Bai did not return during that time, there was a piece of news that excited the whole Fifth Star Ring. It was a report about the war!

The Fifth Star Ring’s army was smashing through the gods like a boulder crushing a drinking glass. Forty percent of the Fourth Star Ring was already occupied, and resources had been seized from countless universes.

After being abandoned by the God Paragon, the God Lords of the Fourth Star Ring were put into a deadly situation. Five of them had chosen to leave and go to other star rings. Three were confirmed to have perished! Of those three, two were slain by Immortal Lord Mi Ming, who suddenly appeared on the battlefield without any warning! The remainder were still trying to fight back, but were clearly in a hopeless situation.

As for God Lord Death Departure, he ended up losing in a fight to Immortal Lord Deepgloom, but used an innate ability to escape, and was now at large.

What was more, the Immortal Paragon had issued a new imperial decree! Immortal Lord Mi Ming was in command during this epoch, and as such, he would take over for Immortal Lord Deepgloom to lead the war effort.

It was an era belonging to cultivators... and the war would only bring further glory and honor!

1. Immortal Lord Dark Alchemist's name contains the same character 'dark' that we see in Dark Serenity or Plumdark. The second character in the name is the word for a medicinal pot. I considered a variety of options, eliminating Dark Pot almost immediately lol, and ultimately (for a variety of reasons) settled on this option for the translation choice. ㊦

Chapter 1286: The Karma of Coveting a Dao

Chapter 1286: The Karma of Coveting a Dao

A new era really had begun the moment Immortal Lord Nineshores stepped down.

Immortal Lord Mi Ming's rise to prominence had already been transmitted back to the Fifth Star Ring by means of destiny aura. He carried on the legacy of his father Aurora, taking command of the Fifth Star Ring and becoming its leader. He now had incredibly high status.

And now... his performance on the battlefield in the Fourth Star Ring was outstanding. He had killed two God Lords and had taken control over the army! It caused a swell in destiny aura, and filled innumerable Fifth Star Ring cultivators with extreme excitement. Cheering could be heard on all of the supply depot planets.

At the same time, Xu Qing's status also increased. He was the master of the Aurora heaven beyond heaven, and he had a very special relationship with Mi Ming. He had helped Mi Ming to change his dao to that of the gods, then back to that of an immortal. What was more, he had been the subject of Mi Ming's very first imperial decree as an Immortal Lord, and had been blessed by destiny aura.

As a result, everyone in the Fifth Star Ring had heard the story... of Xu Qing, the person who Immortal Lord Mi Ming viewed as a younger brother.

True Monarch Xu Qing was going to be an extremely important person in the epoch to come in the Fifth Star Ring. The status, position, and destiny aura involved... left people who had gotten into conflicts with Xu Qing, whether directly or indirectly, shaking in fear.

One person who felt especially uneasy was Li Mengtu's Master, Poison Monarch! He was also in the Fourth Star Ring at the moment. He had just finished a fight to the death with a True God, and he had won. He was currently seated cross-legged on a gray asteroid.[1]

Seated cross-legged around him were his subordinates. If Xu Qing were present, he would recognize those subordinates. They were the very same squadron that he had clashed with early on. There were fewer of them now. All the survivors were injured in some way, and they looked exhausted.

None of them were speaking any more than Poison Monarch was speaking. Occasionally, some of them looked like they wanted to say something to Poison Monarch, but in the end, none did.[2]

Poison Monarch didn't look back at them. However, given the level of his cultivation base, he knew exactly what was going on. He felt just as bitter as them.

In the past, he had been able to avoid coming to the front lines. But orders had come through just a few days ago from the Fourth Star Ring, ordering him into service. The orders didn't come directly from Immortal Lord Mi Ming. But they came from the Tower of War Affairs, so he couldn't ignore them. Someone there had arranged for him and some of his subordinates to come to the Fourth Star Ring to carry out a specific mission.

Poison Monarch had speculations about who had issued the orders. Not that it mattered. In the end, there would always be someone willing to suck up to important people, and then use war powers to achieve their own ends.

You sucked up to Xu Qing, didn't you...?

Poison Monarch's bitterness grew deeper. If he had been assigned to ordinary war duty, he wouldn't have been so bitter. But he had been given a very brutal mission.

He had been ordered to kill nine True Gods as strong as himself! In the days that had passed since he started the mission, he had only killed one![3]

A lot of people know about my history with Xu Qing.... Is that why this is happening? I had hoped to take his dao to benefit myself. It didn't work, but the karma was sown. And now... I'm facing the backlash.

When Poison Monarch thought about the past, he felt a sense of defiance, but at the same time, got the feeling this was all fate. He felt like he had watched Xu Qing just get stronger and stronger, until now, when someone had sucked up to him to launch an attack on Poison Monarch himself. Having reached this point in his train of thought, Poison Monarch sighed.

The clone I sent should be arriving right about now. Hopefully, he can resolve this karma.

Shaking his head, he looked in the direction of the Fifth Star Ring.

In the Fifth Star Ring, a dilapidated figure had just appeared outside the yellow supply depot planet where Xu Qing was staying. He was an old man surrounded by a dark green cloud of poison. His facial features were exactly the same as Poison Monarch, and his aura matched as well.

He was a clone sent by Poison Monarch. Clearly he had run into stiff opposition on his way here, as he was severely injured. Within the cloud of dark green poison, he looked withered, and his canon emanated a sense of rot. His left arm had been severed at the shoulder, and the flesh around the wound wriggled.

The clone looked hesitantly at the supply depot planet, then gritted his teeth and flew forward. He had made contact with a friend on the planet ahead of time, but still had to go through a screening process. It was several hours later before he arrived at a stargazing tower in the southeast.

The tower was a pagoda made from a meteorite, constructed atop a mountain, and the area was full of strong immortal energy. This was where Xu Qing was staying.

Upon arriving, his friend stopped in place, and even took a step back. “You’re on your own from this point forward, Poison Monarch.”

The friend was an army officer stationed on the planet. After hearing about the matter between Poison Monarch and Xu Qing, and given that he owed a favor, he had helped out. But he wasn’t willing to do more than escort Poison Monarch to this location.

Poison Monarch nodded in response. And with that, he made his way up toward the stargazing tower. He stopped about 300 meters away from the pagoda. Without the slightest hesitation, he bowed deeply and said, “I’m an old friend. May I have an audience with the True Monarch?”

Despite how his voice rang out, there was no response from the pagoda.

A short time passed. Poison Monarch’s clone sighed. Then he produced a palm-sized bronze doll, held it out in front of him, and put it on the ground. The bronze doll looked exactly like Poison Monarch, and it even had a dark green heart pumping in its chest cavity.

Poison Monarch looked at the doll with determination in his eyes. Then used the nail of his finger to slash open his neck. Blood sprayed out, sizzling through the air before landing on the doll. The doll started moving. At the same time, the clone started to fade away.

Bowing once more to the tower, he said, “My true form is in the Fourth Star Ring, on a mission to kill nine True Gods as strong as myself. Because of that, I can’t come in person. In my stead, I’ve sent this tribulation-substitution doll. Activate the doll, and my true form will be teleported into your presence to fight for you. Whether I live or die, it will resolve the karma I sowed by trying to take your dao.”

As the voice echoed out, the clone disappeared. There was never any response from the tower. Off in the distance, the officer who had escorted Poison Monarch to this location sighed, bowed, and then left.

Sometime later... the bronze doll blurred and disappeared. When it reappeared, it was inside the tower in Xu Qing’s hand. He looked expressionlessly at it for a time.

If I use this, the karma will be resolved. If I don't, the karma will remain. Everything depends on your fate.

Back in the Fourth Star Ring, Poison Monarch's true form grunted. About fifty percent of the karma threads connecting him to Xu Qing had already snapped. Upon sensing that, Poison Monarch sighed again. He had always looked like an old farmer, but now, he looked even older than before.

I should never have made a move on him in the first place. I should never have coveted his dao....

1. Poison Monarch was introduced in [chapter 1120](#). He was mentioned in quite a few other chapters as well, sometimes as Poison Monarch or sometimes just as Li Mengtu's Master. I believe the last time he was mentioned by name was in [chapter 1246](#). ❹

2. The main clash occurred in [chapter 1205](#), although the people involved were introduced a few chapters before that in [1201](#). ❹

3. To provide some context, [chapter 1202](#) gave some broader information about what it means to kill True Gods. When Xu Qing visited the Heroic Immortal Tombs, one of the stone steles had an epitaph in which the buried hero mentioned being proud of having killed seven True Gods, while another lamented about not being able to kill any. So being ordered to kill nine is obviously a very difficult task. ❹

Chapter 1287: Meeting Again After 1,200 Chapters

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Xu Qing had not forgotten about the situation with Poison Monarch, no matter what events had played out recently. That was just Xu Qing's personality. Originally, he had planned to gain enlightenment of the tenth extreme, and thoroughly step into the Summer Immortal level. And then, before he left the Fifth Star Ring... he had planned to kill Poison Monarch!

Although it was true that Poison Monarch had failed to take Xu Qing's dao, the fact remained that karma had been sown. But then the man had sent a clone to him, and had offered him the bronze doll.... Xu Qing looked at the doll in his palm.

Before picking it up, he had inspected it thoroughly. Now, he used destiny aura to seal it before putting it away.

Right now, the most important thing is my reunion with Grandmaster Bai....

Putting aside the issue of Poison Monarch, Xu Qing looked up into the starry sky above. Just barely... he could sense something stirring in his mind.

He's coming....

Xu Qing stood and walked out of the stargazing tower. The starry sky above seemed to spin as a ray of light descended from beyond heaven. It was like a starry river pouring down, sending ripples through the surrounding nebulae. The light eventually reached the surface of the planet, becoming like a waterfall. It looked almost like an ink painting came to life.

The faint aroma of plants and vegetation spread out, filled with canon and magical laws. Along with it came a sound like an ethereal zither, playing an ancient melody that resembled the rustle of young plants growing. It was profound and extraordinary to the extreme. Then a figure appeared within the ink painting.

He stepped out. He was an old man. He wore a robe as white as the moon, embroidered with decorations that resembled plants and vegetation. Tied to his waist was a medicinal decocting pot. He had chiseled features, but at the same time, the way his eyebrows framed his eyes made him seem very compassionate.

His eyes were as profound as deep pools of water, and his pupils were like vortexes made of stellar nebulae. Occasionally, they would flicker with starlight, as though a river of stars existed deep inside. He was surrounded by lingering violet energy that seemed like the materialization of a spirit meridian that had existed since the beginning of heaven and earth.

He was smiling as he looked down at Xu Qing.

“You’ve grown up.” His voice was as clear as spring waters flowing over jade.

The voice caused endless memories to stir within Xu Qing. Images of the past flitted through his mind. Xu Qing’s eyes were red as he clasped hands and bowed.

“Teacher....”

The simple form of address, and all the memories, contained emotions that made Grandmaster Bai’s gaze seem even more kind and gentle than before.

“Let’s take a walk,” Grandmaster Bai said softly. He waved his hand, and starlight descended, making a path that stretched out between them.

Xu Qing took a deep breath. Heart brimming with respect, he stepped onto the starry path and walked up to Grandmaster Bai. Then, they went into the starry sky together. After leaving the supply depot planet, they strolled through the boundless universe.

“Tell me everything that happened after you joined Seven Blood Eyes,” Grandmaster Bai said.

Xu Qing nodded as he thought back to the past. “Well, after I got into Seven Blood Eyes, I became a disciple of the Seventh Peak....”

Xu Qing’s story became like images reflected in Grandmaster Bai’s eyes. He talked about the Grand Competition at the Merfolk Isles, and the Seazombie war, and the migration to the Revered Ancient mainland.... Eventually he joined the swordsages... and of course, there was everything that

happened in Sea-Sealing County. Then there was Crimson Mother, Empress Summer Departure, and Grand Emperor Swordsage....

Grandmaster Bai led the way through the starry sky. Xu Qing walked to his right, half a pace behind him.

It was just like years ago in the scavenger basecamp. Back then, Xu Qing had been called the Kid. In the hopes of finding a lifespan flower for Sergeant Thunder, he had sought help from Grandmaster Bai. Eventually, he started eavesdropping on lessons outside the tent, which was how he started learning about plants and vegetation. Eventually, he had been called into the tent, and his formal education had begun.

Something similar was happening now. As they traversed the starry sky, green lotuses seemed to bloom beneath Grandmaster Bai's feet. Every universe they passed through, every planet they encountered, flourished with greenery. There were some desolate planets where plants began to sprout in the cracked and parched soil. New life was being born.

Xu Qing wasn't even sure how much time passed as he recounted everything he had experienced in Revered Ancient.

Finally, Grandmaster Bai sighed. "In the past, the Ninth Star Ring wasn't very special compared to other star rings.... But then Eminent Desolation failed to rise to the Living God level. Hē was the first one to ever return from the Living God Umbilical Cord, and afterward, hē went to the Ninth Star Ring. That was where hē stayed, at the Revered Ancient mainland.

"From that moment on, entities with paramount personhood from all the star rings focused on Revered Ancient. No one knows why Eminent Desolation went there.

"In the past, God Paragons from other star rings went to the Ninth Star Ring in the hopes of finding out more about Eminent Desolation. However, anyone who got close had a difficult time avoiding death.... Though some did find destined opportunities, few could escape the resulting karma. The God Paragon of the Fourth Star Ring is a good example.... Apparently, only paragons native to the Ninth Star Ring, if they're very careful, have a chance at success.[1]

"Some time ago, the Immortal Paragon entrusted me with a mission. By means of a special transmigration magic devoid of any unusual powers, I was transformed into a mortal, born on one of the islands off the coast of Revered Ancient. I did not have any memories of the past, and I could not take a single step off the island. It was only after I died that I recovered my memories of the past.

"Because of Eminent Desolation, Revered Ancient... is an inauspicious place. Are you sure... that you want to go back? If you want to stay here in the Fifth Star Ring, you'll definitely become an Immortal Lord before long." Grandmaster Bai looked at Xu Qing.

Xu Qing was silent for a long moment. "I have to go back, Teacher."

Grandmaster Bai seemed like a wise old man who had come to understand the mortal world, as he said nothing. His face did seem slightly more wrinkled than before. However, the wrinkles didn't

come from the passage of time. They were like mountains and rivers that secretly contained something profound and ancient.

Eventually, he shook his head. “Before coming to see you, I confirmed something for you in the Fourth Star Ring. That... is where you can reach immortal ascension!”

Those words shook Xu Qing to the core.

Grandmaster Bai stopped in place in the starry sky. As soon as he did, all of the heavenly bodies in the surrounding universe seemed to respond to a call, and changed their orbits. As they swirled through the starry sky, they converged in front of Grandmaster Bai and Xu Qing in a specific sequence. It transformed into a majestic star chart that resembled a medicinal decocting pot!

Grandmaster Bai inclined his head in the direction of the Fourth Star Ring.

“Xu Qing,” he said softly, “I want to impart some knowledge to you. It has nothing to do with plants and vegetation. It has to do with the ‘beyond.’ The thirty-six higher star rings, and all the God Paragons therein, are considered ‘within.’ What they are pursuing... is in the beyond.[2]

“It’s not necessarily important to understand what the term means exactly. But you need to remember it... on that future day when you acquire the destined opportunity to rise from Immortal Lord to Immortal Paragon.

“As for right now.... If you want to gain enlightenment of a higher level of canon, you need to go to the Fourth Star Ring! You already ran into the god of pain, and descended into an illusion. In that illusion, you broke through, and lived a life of pain.

“Although it was an illusion, and false, it did contain some truth. And thus, why not go experience it for real? Let the reality really happen! Make the illusions truly false!”

Grandmaster Bai waved his sleeve, and the countless heavenly bodies within the decocting pot star chart shifted. They unleashed dazzling starlight, then converged into the shape of a very unique bridge. It led right into the Fourth Star Ring!

The bridge was made from starlight and spirit plants. It was difficult to tell if it was material or illusory, and was a true manifestation of the mysteries and majesty of nature. It was different from the god of pain’s illusion that contained truth, yet it did the same thing.

“Go,” Grandmaster Bai said. “I hope that when you return... you are a Summer Immortal!”

As Grandmaster Bai spoke, the special bridge shone with dazzling light.

Xu Qing took in the scene, his mind spinning. Memories of that illusory life he had lived filled his mind. A moment later, his eyes shone with determination.

After bowing to Grandmaster Bai, he walked onto the bridge. Striding atop the starlight and spirit plants, he headed in the direction of the Fourth Star Ring! As the bridge shimmered, Xu Qing slowly made his way off into the distance. The star chart spun, pulsing with a magnificent energy and immortal fire.

A moment later, Grandmaster Bai appeared atop the star chart, where he settled down cross-legged. Given the destiny aura he could utilize, and his cultivation level, he was doing everything possible to help Xu Qing on this journey. That was the karma of their relationship as teacher and student, which had begun back in Revered Ancient.

Off to the side, ripples spread through the void as an old man wearing hemp sandals appeared. He walked over to Grandmaster Bai and looked at Xu Qing disappearing in the distance. Perched on his shoulder was a golden rat who was munching on a sunflower seed.

Grandmaster Bai didn't turn to look at him. He just coolly said, "So, Immortal Paragon, did you put that certain item in place like you were supposed to?"

The Immortal Paragon sighed. "You know I'm the Immortal Paragon, right?" he said. "What's with the attitude?"

"You owe him!" Grandmaster Bai said calmly.

The Immortal Paragon shook his head. He had known Grandmaster Bai for many years, so he was obviously familiar with his personality. He also knew full well... that although Grandmaster Bai was an Immortal Lord, the truth was that he could have become an Immortal Paragon any time he wished. But for some unknown reason, he had held back from taking that final step.

Ignoring Grandmaster Bai's tone, the Immortal Paragon sat down next to him. "I put it in place. I don't want to be involved in the karma, but as you know, I couldn't just let that thing go."

Grandmaster Bai said nothing in response.

A short time passed, and then the Immortal Paragon continued, "You know, Xu Qing is getting help from you, and he'll have that certain item from me. But that doesn't mean he's guaranteed to succeed. His canon is different from that of most other people.... Advancing it further will involve pushing it to the 'statute' level of Immortal Lords. That's a big gap to cross, so it's going to be extremely difficult. What will you do if he fails?"

The Immortal Paragon looked at Grandmaster Bai.

Grandmaster Bai said nothing for a long moment. "He won't fail."

The Immortal Paragon continued to look at him for a long moment. "Is he what Eminent Desolation is looking for? Or could it be... that he is actually a transmigrated version of Eminent Desolation??"

His words seemed to make the surrounding universe stop moving.

"You've been to Revered Ancient," Grandmaster Bai said calmly. "If what you suggest is true, wouldn't you be able to see it, given the level of your cultivation base? So what are you asking me for?"

1. Quick note here about "paragons." I chose to use the word because it shares the character that I translated as 'paragon' in I Shall Seal the Heavens. However, that doesn't necessarily mean that the paragons in this book are the same as the paragons in that book. Of course, I'm not definitively saying they *aren't* the same. I'm just saying that the same character/word does not in itself

definitely make a connection. In this paragraph, he uses that character in isolation when he talks about “paragons native to the Ninth Star Ring.” I think that was intentional. It seems to me that the implication is that it could be an Immortal Paragon or a God Paragon native to the Ninth Star Ring. When used in conjunction with Immortal/God, I’ll capitalized paragon as part of the name of the cultivation level, but when used in a standalone way, I won’t capitalize it. ￼

2. Yes, the ‘beyond’ mentioned here is a reference to the title of the novel. ￼

Chapter 1288: A Disturbance in the Starry Sky

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The war still raged in the Fourth Star Ring.

At the moment, a relatively small-scale battle had broken out in one of the large universes there. On the cultivator side was the Spiritheaven Legion from the Fifth Star Ring’s western theater, who were responsible for establishing order in this place, the Manythousands Universe.

They were fighting some Godfolk who were native to the Manythousands Universe. In the past, those gods had been very powerful and influential, with more than ten True Gods. But the main forces from the Fifth Star Ring had killed almost all of those True Gods, thus throwing the rest of the gods into chaos. There were now only a few lingering resistance fighters who had somehow escaped in the chaos.

But the Spiritheaven Legion had tracked them down, and were now attempting to wipe them out. Unfortunately... though the Fifth Star Ring had the upper hand in the war, that didn’t mean that they won every single battle. Unexpected things still happened. That said, those unexpected events usually happened on a small scale, so the overall war wasn’t affected.

Right now, an unexpected situation had developed in this cleanup effort. These Godfolk actually had two True Gods hidden within their ranks! Unfortunately, the Spiritheaven Legion only had a single Summer Immortal, and thus, the presence of two True Gods put them in a bad position. Both sides were suffering from heavy casualties.

Of the roughly 100,000 cultivators that made up the army, most were injured in some way. The Summer Immortal leader was doing her best against the two True Gods, but was reaching the limits of exhaustion.

What was worse, the gods had sealed the area with special warding spells that prevented any shock waves from escaping the battlefield. Similarly, divine will was blocked off. As a result, the cultivators couldn’t send distress messages. If the gods won, it wouldn’t change the war situation overall. Eventually, other cultivator forces would arrive and wipe them out.

But the Spiritheaven Legion... were fighting for their lives.

I'm not going to make it out of this... thought the Summer Immortal. She wore a suit of dao armor, and was very pretty. At the same time, she was clearly a valiant, formidable, and accomplished killer. She was not from the older generation of Summer Immortals, but rather, had achieved her breakthrough only about a hundred years in the past. Her dao armor was in tatters, and her face was pale. Her injuries were quite serious, and she was completely pinned down by the two True Gods.

The two True Gods were extremely gruish.

One of them was 30,000 meters tall, and resembled a huge snake. Astonishingly, its body was made of a host of god skulls, making it seem like it was an emissary of death. Every move it made caused mutagen to spread out in all directions, and it pulsed with a godhood of death.

The other god was a wriggling ball of flesh covered in a slimy fluid. The slime it produced was extremely poisonous, and rained down into the starry sky until it formed a spinning vortex. Within the vortex was a sea of black plum flowers with human faces on them. It was a truly horrendous sight.

The bleeding Summer Immortal unleashed her canon, allowing her to just barely defend herself against the two True Gods. She also managed to back up a bit. Her subordinates were in a desperate situation, and the gods were fighting like mad. The universe was completely locked down by the gods' magic. However, her eyes shone with determination.

She lifted her right hand, and her cultivation base ignited, sending out pressure that could exterminate gods. The power of a Summer Immortal surged. Shock waves rolled through the universe, and the starry sky trembled.

The two True Gods quickly backed away. They were not in peak condition either. Although they had escaped with their lives before, they had both sustained serious injuries.

As the gods fell back, the Summer Immortal didn't hesitate for an instant. Silver light surrounded her as she severed her own right arm, then ignited the flesh and blood to refine the bone within it. Then she poured all of her Summer Immortal power into that bone, including all of her canon, causing it to become a silver crescent moon that sliced through the void in front of her.

She was going all out, infusing her own bone with canon in the hopes of creating an opening that would allow her to send out a call for help. That... was their only hope.

The bone, transformed into a silver crescent moon, was just on the verge of slicing out into the open. But then, the True God made of skulls flashed into motion and appeared right in front of it.

With a grim, ruthless expression, the god opened its mouth and devoured the silver moon. Rumbling sounds filled the god, and then countless skulls shattered. However, it refused to vomit up the crescent moon. By sacrificing its own body, it destroyed the canon in the silver moon, and foiled the Summer Immortal's plan to call for help.

Seeing that, she sighed inwardly and prepared to take further decisive action. But then....

The fragrance of plants and vegetation suddenly filled the universe.

All of the cultivators noticed instantly. So did the gods, whose hearts pounded in fear. The two True Gods were stunned, and the Summer Immortal looked into the void toward the source of it. Ripples flowed out, causing all obstacles and warding spells to become incredibly weak. Many even collapsed. Then, a bridge made of starlight and spirit plants appeared, descending toward the universe.

The scene caused an instant stir among all living beings present on the battlefield. Given the fact that the bridge was emanating a very strong immortal energy, the cultivators were obviously excited.

The gods, meanwhile, were horrified.

What was especially eye-catching... was the person on the bridge. As he strode forward on the bridge, he emanated a terrifying pressure, as well as an astonishing aura. And then his facial features became clear to the cultivators below. Everyone recognized him instantly!

“True Monarch Xu Qing!!”

The Summer Immortal didn’t just recognize him. She could sense the power of an Immortal Lord, and could feel the strong destiny aura that accompanied Xu Qing.

The two True Gods didn’t hesitate for an instant. They immediately fled! They didn’t recognize Xu Qing, but they could sense that the person on the bridge was terrifying, and emanated a very fiendish aura. It was the type of aura that someone would develop after slaughtering many, many gods! Although they could sense that this person wasn’t a Summer Immortal, that fiendish aura and the bridge made it clear that this was not someone to trifle with.

Most importantly of all, their warding spells had been broken, revealing their position.

As they fled, Xu Qing’s eyes glittered with cold light, and he took a step forward. The bridge extended with him as he walked. The starry sky shattered, and the void trembled.

Terrifying power surged forth, arriving right in front of the True God made of god skulls. The bridge came with it, and it rushed right toward the True God.

The True God’s mind collapsed as an unprecedented sensation of deadly crisis filled it. The god screamed and tried to fall back. It unleashed its godly authority, even resorting to withering up its own body and tapping into its godhood. But no attempt to flee did any good.

It wasn’t because of Xu Qing’s power. It was because Xu Qing was tapping into the disappearing bridge to launch a deadly attack. He was borrowing the might of an Immortal Lord!

Nothing could stop that power from slamming into the True God. Rumbling sounds echoed out as the True God shivered from head to toe, then began collapsing. The god... was destroyed in body and soul!

The bridge, having accomplished its mission of sending Xu Qing to this place, dissipated into motes of silver light.

Xu Qing's cultivation base erupted, unleashing peak Quasi-Immortal power. Countless overlapping space-times then appeared, turning into innumerable parallel universes. It was like a myriad of immortals appearing and moving in unison.

And they were moving right toward the final True God!

Chapter 1289: Swallowed in One Bite

Chapter 1289: Swallowed in One Bite

The True God whose form was that of a slimy ball of flesh and blood immediately started writhing in response to the scene that was playing out. The god seemed just on the verge of piercing through the void and making an escape.

But then the Summer Immortal blurred into motion as she pursued the True God. She moved, waving her left hand, and her entire body surged with silver light as she unleashed her Summer Immortal power to foil the god's escape. The True God lurched to a halt.

"Xu Qing, let's join forces. We—"

Before the Summer Immortal could finish speaking, Xu Qing waved his hand, causing a fingernail to fly forth. The moment the fingernail appeared, a terrifying force swept out. The starry sky rippled. The void shattered. And though the power was not on the same level as the bridge from before, it still shook everything.

It was the dao weapon![1]

It instantly sucked in the space-time projections behind Xu Qing and combined them, resulting in a beam of light made of both gold and silver. It pierced through the void toward the True God, moving with such incredible speed that it arrived almost instantly.

The True God trembled, its flesh and blood started collapsing, its poison vanished, and the sea of plums became part of the void. The same thing happened to its soul! It was killed in spirit and form!

It happened incredibly quickly. Xu Qing attacked with efficient speed, and his aura and the terrifying nature of the fingernail shook heaven and earth.

The Summer Immortal looked at him, stunned. *He's not just some Quasi-Immortal.... He's obviously a Summer Immortal! And with that dao weapon, ordinary Summer Immortals would have to be very careful around him. He's obviously just on the verge of a breakthrough. He has everything, even the completed immortal embryo. All he needs to become a mature immortal is an upgrade in canon!*

"True Monarch," she said, "wait for me just one moment!"

The surrounding gods were fleeing like mad. As for the cultivators, they knew that they had just escaped death. After bowing to Xu Qing, they started chasing down and killing the gods.

The Summer Immortal joined in. Without the True God present, it wasn't hard at all for the Summer Immortal to lead her subordinates and wipe out the surviving gods. After the work was done, the Summer Immortal returned to Xu Qing and bowed to him.

"Many thanks for your assistance!" she said sincerely.

Xu Qing returned her salute, then chatted with her a bit. After coming to understand the latest developments in the Fourth Star Ring, he bid farewell. As he disappeared into the starry sky, the Summer Immortal struggled to clear her mind.

He's a true monarch, and he has destiny aura. He's also the younger brother of Immortal Lord Mi Ming.... There could hardly be anyone more respectable than him in the entire Fifth Star Ring! And his battle prowess is astonishing.... The next time I see him, he'll surely have broken through and become a Summer Immortal.

Having reached this point in her train of thought, her heart suddenly started racing.

It doesn't seem like he has a daoist partner....

Xu Qing had no way of knowing what that female Summer Immortal was thinking. He was currently drifting along through the starry sky of the Fourth Star Ring.

The deeper he went, the more devastation he saw. He saw shattered planets and destroyed god kingdoms. The ravages of war were endless in the Fourth Star Ring. Everything was in decline.

There was hardly any starlight, and none of the golden glow that came from god kingdoms. Roughly half of the entire star ring had descended into utter darkness and gloom. The supply depot planets stretching from the Fifth Star Ring were just about the only thing bringing light into the Fourth Star Ring. The cultivators were starting to wrap things up once and for all.

According to what that Summer Immortal told me, the end stages of the war involved two things. First, the cultivator army is trying to force the gods into picking a spot for the final battle. Second, the supply depot planets are being used as staging areas to purge any resistance fighters. The main army is up on the front lines. Further back... all the work is being done by Corpsedrainers and various defense squadrons.

Xu Qing found himself thinking about Zhou Zhengli and the others.

I can probably track them down by means of the supply depot planets. Reminiscing about his old comrades-in-arms made him smile. I wonder how they're doing...?

In that manner, time passed. Xu Qing traveled in the Fourth Star Ring looking for the destined opportunity he needed.

He would occasionally run into surviving gods. Given that he was a peak Quasi-Immortal who had battle prowess sufficient to equal a Summer Immortal, the only things he had to worry about were peak True Gods and God Lords.

On one of the supply depot planets, he was finally able to make contact with Zhou Zhengli. After determining his location, he headed there to meet his old comrades-in-arms.

Zhou Zhengli and the other Undertakers had just finished a mission and had earned the right to take an extensive leave. They were currently on their way back to their local supply depot planet, where they would then part ways for their time off.

After Xu Qing went missing along with Goddess Starryeyes, Zhou Zhengli and his Undertakers progressed a lot. They had participated in the general offensive against the Fourth Star Ring, and had earned a lot of battle credits. They had continued the Undertaker tradition of draining corpses on the battlefield, all while being proactive in their activities.

All of them had made significant progress with their cultivation base. Every member was a Quasi-Immortal, while Sir Star Ring was already a mid Quasi-Immortal on the verge of a breakthrough to the late level.

Sir Vilespirit and Yuanshan Su were very close to breaking out of early Quasi-Immortal. Hordeslayer and Rampart were in a similar position. Their mood had improved a lot after Xu Qing left. Being so free from worry had led to them feeling very proud of their accomplishments.

Zhou Zhengli was the only one whose cultivation base hadn't changed much. However, given how deceptive he was, it was hard for anyone to tell the truth of the matter.[2]

After arriving at the supply depot planet, Zhou Zhengli looked around at everyone preparing to leave.

Grinning, he said, "Ladies and gentlemen, I have some news for you. I recently got word from the young lord. He's currently on the way to this very planet."

His announcement was met with various reactions.

Sir Vilespirit's eyes narrowed, and he quickly took steps to rein in the instinctive cruelty that had been building in him lately. Yuanshan Su seemed dazed. Sir Star Ring's facial expression didn't change at all, but his eyes glittered.

The biggest reaction came from Hordeslayer and Rampart. The two sword people had been secretly transmitting a conversation in which they were talking about where to go to have fun on their time off. But Zhou Zhengli's announcement caused their hearts to start pounding. Eventually, everyone went their separate ways.

Zhou Zhengli continued to smile as he watched them go to different parts of the supply depot planet. Inside, he was feeling quite excited.

There were two people who were most excited about Xu Qing's return. They were Zhou Zhengli and Li Mengtu, who had stayed off-planet to work on his cultivation. The two of them were Xu Qing's earliest followers, and they had benefited the most when Immortal Lord Mi Ming shook the entire Fifth Star Ring.

They had both noticed how Fifth Star Ring cultivators looked up to them more. Virtually all doors were open to them on this supply depot planet. Even the Summer Immortal in charge of the entire planet treated them with respect.

Because of that, Zhou Zhengli couldn't have been more pleased with the choice he had made years ago.

Zhou Zhengli knew what everyone else was thinking, but he didn't care. He knew that all of their little plots and schemes were nullified the moment Xu Qing helped Young Lord Aurora. So it was no surprise they had all disappeared the moment they heard Xu Qing was coming back. He laughed softly as he watched them go, then prepared to wait in place so that he was the first to welcome Xu Qing.

Those who left went to do different things.

Sir Vilespirit went into seclusion. The broken sword inside of him was trembling. *"He's on the way back. If you want to go forward with that matter we discussed, I don't care. But... do you really dare?"*

In response, the broken sword inside of Sir Vilespirit emitted a flustered and exasperated sensation.

The brothers Hordeslayer and Rampart were now in no mood to have fun. Instead, they raced back to their mansion grotto to try to come up with a plan.

"What do we do...? That guy is coming back!"

"We're finished. Finished! I knew things were just going too well. Our sword bodies are sharper than ever. Once he notices, he's definitely going to get greedy!"

"This is all your fault! I told you not to eat so much!"

"This is *your* fault. You were the one who started eating!"

Sir Star Ring left the supply depot planet, turning into a bright beam of light that shot through the starry sky to a secret mansion grotto he had constructed. It was located on a shattered planet that had seemed like the perfect place for cultivation. After settling down cross-legged, his eyes shone brightly.

Although the gap between us continues to widen, Xu Qing... I'm not going to allow myself to fall too far behind!

He waved his hand, and a little pile of dust motes appeared in front of him. It was no ordinary dust, as each mote was terrifyingly heavy.

They were motes of heaven's principle!

Sir Star Ring eyed the motes with anticipation rising within him. He had worked very hard recently, and had come across some destined opportunities that had allowed him to increase his stockpile of heaven's principle. It was all for his future breakthrough to Summer Immortal.

He planned to walk a different path than Xu Qing. Xu Qing still had not gained enlightenment of the canon that would take him to Summer Immortal. But Sir Star Ring had long known that his canon was heaven's principle.

I've almost assimilated enough by this point. Just a few more days of assimilation, and I should be able to fully fuse with heaven's principle! At that point, the only thing I'll lack to break through to Summer Immortal will be a bit of ringsource to nourish my immortal embryo!

With that thought in mind, Sir Star Ring resolutely performed a double-handed incantation gesture, then focused his thoughts inward on the assimilation process.

However, that was when something unexpected happened!

Without any warning whatsoever, the air in the mansion grotto rippled, and a huge mouth appeared. It seemed to be made of pure greed, and resembled a mad dog's mouth! Before Sir Star Ring could even react, the mouth swallowed the dust of heaven's principle in one bite!

It was gone, just like that. Not one mote was left behind. Then the mouth vanished! The only thing left behind was the sound of a satisfied burp.

It happened too quickly. Sir Star Ring was initially stunned, and then his eyes filled with rage as he let loose a furious roar. His cultivation base raged!

1. Xu Qing got the dao weapon in [chapter 1253](#) and we saw it in action in [1259](#). ❸

2. A long time ago during the immortal palace arc, I mentioned that the author eventually described Zhou Zhengli using the same term he used to describe the Seventh Peak traditions from the Seven Blood Eyes days. This is what I was talking about. If you recall, Seventh Peak disciples had the reputation of being 'deceptive.' The same term is used here to describe Zhou Zhengli. ❹

Chapter 1290: Is It Little Ah Qing?

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Mid Quasi-Immortal cultivation power swept madly through the starry sky in the area, covering entire universes like heavenly tribulation. Rumbling sounds echoed everywhere. The canon of order manifested as chains, which swept through the void and locked down everything.

Sir Star Ring wasn't holding anything back. Eventually, he sensed a person fleeing through a rift in the void! The person was clearly very adept at getting away unnoticed. Were it not for the fact that Sir Star Ring was very close to late Quasi-Immortal, he probably would not have noticed the clues.

The fleeing person looked very strange. His head was the size of a normal person, and resembled a young man who was neither good-looking nor ugly. His body, though, was that of a five- or six-year-old child. The bulky robe he was wearing made him look almost like a ghost.

As for his aura... it was that of an Imperial Sovereign. That said, he was moving so fast he was like a blur. He was obviously using a secret magic of some sort, and even seemed to have fused with the star ring itself in some way.

Seeing all that caused Sir Star Ring's eyes to overflow with killing intent. His right hand flashed with an incantation gesture, causing countless lightning bolts and chains of order to shoot toward the fleeing figure. Sir Star Ring himself also gave chase. The killing intent materialized, locking down the entire area!

His eyes were crimson. That heaven's principle was very important to him for his breakthrough. He had spent blood, sweat, and tears to get it, and had even set up the entire secret mansion grotto in order to prevent anything unexpected from happening. He had set up warding spells all over the shattered planet, and had been careful to maintain them.

How could he ever have imagined that something like this would happen?? That mouth seemingly came out of nowhere. And even more gruish was the fact that Sir Star Ring hadn't been able to detect it at all.

Sir Star Ring was like an erupting volcano as he chased after the fleeing figure. Where he passed, the starry sky shattered. And soon, his power swept over the thief.

The fleeing figure exploded. However, only a moment later, he formed anew and then started fleeing again.

Sir Star Ring snorted coldly and set his foot down. That step took him right to the thief, where he sent pressure out in all directions. The weight of order erupted, and his immortal embryo's power surged out.

The strange-looking thief exploded again. This time, he didn't form anew. Instead, the shattered flesh and blood turned into a host of wriggling blue worms that scattered in different directions. At the same time, they belched out a large volume of mist that distorted the void and upturned natural laws. The multicolored mist seemed corrosive, but Sir Star Ring's cultivation base was so high that he simply unleashed his canon. The resulting order shattered all the mist.

It also caused all of the worms to explode. However, the moment they exploded, a frigid energy swept out madly in all directions.

The frigid energy wasn't a sealing ice, but rather, a force of destruction. It destroyed all traces of passage! In other words, it made it seem like his true form was dead, while in fact, he had vanished without a trace.

Sir Star Ring looked around grimly. He had lost track of the thief!

This guy is weak but very gruish....

Sir Star Ring's eyes were ice-cold. The sensation he got was that this person had carried out countless heists, to the point where it was an ordinary circumstance to have someone trying to chase him down and kill him. Given his extensive experience in that regard, he had a host of gruish techniques to draw on. At the moment, Sir Star Ring knew he had no way to track the person down.

That said, those motes of heaven's principle are deeply connected to my canon. Special escape methods aside, he's still just a measly Imperial Sovereign. Assimilating that collection will not be easy to do....

Sir Star Ring chuckled coldly and used his connection to the heaven's principle to start tracking it down. A few days later, Sir Star Ring could be seen hovering motionless in the starry sky, his eyes closed, but a scowl on his face.

A short time later, the void rippled and Sir Vilespirit stepped out. Looking at Sir Star Ring, he grinned.

"Sir Star Ring. I never thought I would see the day that you asked for my help."

Sir Star Ring ignored his comment.

Sir Vilespirit raised an eyebrow but said nothing further as the void next to him rippled. Yuanshan Su appeared. Next came Hordeslayer and Rampart, who hadn't been inclined to show their faces, but in the end, realized that they might need Sir Star Ring's help later. Next to arrive was Li Mengtu, who was only now returning to the area.

Finally, Zhou Zhengli showed up. "Given your cultivation base, Sir Star Ring, how could an Imperial Sovereign evade you for so long?"

Sir Star Ring opened his eyes and looked at the group. "He's only an Imperial Sovereign, but he's very gruish. He seems like a cultivator, but also resembles a god or even a mutant. He has undying characteristics, and can split apart into innumerable clones. I've actually wiped him out numerous times, but his flesh and blood just scatters and then comes back to life. What's more, he's obviously an expert in being deceptive.

"I've been able to sense that my collection of heaven's principle is on the verge of being assimilated. I suspect that this person seems like an Imperial Sovereign, but is actually an injured True God! That is why I've troubled you all to come here. Going forward, I'll owe all of you a favor!"

Sir Star Ring spoke in a rather stiff manner. He had never asked anyone for help, but at the moment, he was out of options, and time was running out. Meanwhile, his words caused the others' eyes to glitter with interest.

Zhou Zhengli looked at the surrounding void and smiled. "Not a problem. How exactly would you like us to help?"

“I’ve tracked the thief down to the universe up ahead,” Sir Star Ring replied. “Please, unleash your sealing magics to block all the exits. I’m going to assimilate this universe, and that way, the thief will be unable to escape!”

Li Mengtu nodded. Waving his hand, he unleashed his canon, causing a massive poisonous flower to cover the universe in question. His poison canon was then made manifest in the form of millions of streams of poisonous fog.

Sir Vilespirit grinned and took out his broken sword. Its raging, baleful aura locked down the area. Yuanshan Su, Hordeslayer, and Rampart all used their various canons and Quasi-Immortal might to further seal the area. Last was Zhou Zhengli, whose forehead opened to reveal a third eye, which finished the sealing.

Their combined power caused the universe up ahead to tremble. Then Sir Star Ring sat down cross-legged and performed a double-handed incantation gesture, causing chains of order to snake out and wrap around the universe. He immediately started assimilating it!

Based on his connection to heaven’s principle, he could sense that the thief was getting very anxious.

At the most, it will take a few days to force you out into the open!

A figure was fleeing at top speed through the sealed universe. Put precisely, a head was rolling along through it. Occasionally, some motes of heaven’s principle would spill out, though he would quickly swallow them back up.

It went without saying that the head was Erniu. At the moment, he really was starting to get nervous.

What the hell kind of place is this...? Why are there so many strong people around here?? Besides, I’m just borrowing this stuff! Is there really a need to push things this far? Isn’t chasing me for half a month enough, ya fool? You killed me a bunch of times! And yet you’re still coming after me?? This is outright bullying!!

Erniu quickly swallowed some of the heaven’s principle he had spilled. He already had planned a way to escape, but doing so would require giving up the stolen goods. And he wasn’t willing to do that.

This is some precious stuff. It would be a huge waste to give it up!

A crazy look could be seen in Erniu’s eyes, and it was a struggle for him to breathe steadily. After escaping from that pocket realm, he had been careful to stay out of sight. That was especially true after he realized how many powerful experts there were in the area.

His current situation came about because he was just too gluttonous. Having sensed the precious treasure right there, he had taken a big risk and devoured it.

What should I do? Do I... really just throw caution to the wind??

Grinding his teeth, he finally decided that he had no choice but to undo one of his seals. However, that was when a terrifying stream of divine will swept over him. Erniu shivered as a sense of deadly crisis filled him. The divine will made him feel like a tiny rowboat navigating terrifying waves. But then his jaw nearly dropped, and his expression became one of doubt. His eyes widened.

It seems so familiar. Is this... is it... Little Ah Qing??

Outside of the universe, the divine will swept through the area, causing Sir Star Ring and the others to shiver. Zhou Zhengli's eyes lit up, and he shot to his feet and bowed.

“We offer respectful greetings, Young Lord!”

A person approached through the starry sky. He wore a daoist robe and had long, flowing hair. A dao will emanated from him, and he was surrounded by auspicious signs. Every step he took caused the entire starry sky to tremble. He was none other than Xu Qing!

However, he didn't seem interested in anyone gathered outside of the universe. Instead, he was looking at the universe itself with a very curious and surprised look on his face.