

Beyond the Timescape

Chapter 1291: Qing and Niu Reunite

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Destiny was a wonderful thing.

The fleeing figure looked familiar. He was bedraggled, with a crazy look on his face. Most important of all was that, despite existing as only a head, he continuously spilled and devoured the motes of heaven's principle. It was like a cycle....

Xu Qing's mind was reeling. There was no way he could have ever guessed that he would run into his Eldest Brother like this....

The moment he caught sight of Erniu, he realized what was going on. He immediately thought back to the teleportation portal in that pocket realm.

That teleportation portal needed two specific things to work. It needed star ring hemp, and a golden rat. But I'm not the only person with those two things. Eldest Brother also has two such items.

Then Xu Qing thought about the Immortal Paragon's plan, and how he used Eminent Desolation's karma to confound the Fourth Star Ring God Paragon's omniscience. In other words... Xu Qing wasn't the only one who could do that. His Eldest Brother could as well.

Then Xu Qing thought about what Young Lord Aurora had said when he gave him Eminent Desolation's godhood of fate. He had said that someone else should have been present, except that person had never shown up.

The person who didn't show up was Eldest Brother?

As those thoughts ran through Xu Qing's head, the Undertakers looked at him.

Li Mengtu was the most familiar with Xu Qing, having been his study partner Zhong Chi in the reflected version of the history of the Aurora Immortal Palace. Those memories would never leave him. In fact, he excitedly stepped forward, bowed, and explained the situation.

"Young Lord, we're all here at the request of Sir Star Ring. He just got some more motes of heaven's principle, only for them to be stolen by a mysterious thief. This thief is crafty and extremely talented when it comes to deception. He has a host of gruish magics, to the point where Zhou Zhengli even suspects him of working with a partner!

“Right now, we have the thief locked up in this universe, which we are slowly assimilating. Eventually, the thief will have nowhere to hide. Doing it this way will also reveal whether or not he has an accomplice!”

As Li Mengtu explained these things, a very strange expression appeared on Xu Qing’s face. If there was any accomplice... it would be himself.

He looked at Zhou Zhengli. Zhou Zhengli’s expression flickered.

Everyone else stepped forward to offer greetings.

Sir Vilespirit acted very respectfully and didn’t do anything out of turn. But inside he was trying to figure out what was going on. *When he showed up and looked at the universe, his facial expression changed. Why?*

Hordeslayer and Rampart weren’t paying any attention at all to Xu Qing’s facial expression. They were focused on themselves. Both were feeling extremely uneasy. Though they were trying very hard not to stand out, they were still terrified of the possibility of Xu Qing waving his hand and turning them into a pair of swords. Unfortunately, no matter how hard they tried, it wasn’t possible to completely suppress their immortal sword instincts, which prompted them to feel very happy that their bonded master had arrived. Their unease just continued to build.

Yuanshan Su looked just as beautiful as ever as she bowed in greeting.

Sir Star Ring bowed as well. Though he had noticed the unusual expression on Xu Qing’s face, he was so focused on chasing down and killing the thief that he didn’t think much about it. His eyes flitted back to the sealed universe, and the thought of his heaven’s principle being stolen caused his killing intent to build.

Suddenly looking very solemn, Zhou Zhengli said, “Young Lord, I actually suspect that this fellow daoist didn’t intentionally steal the heaven’s principle. In fact, there is some evidence that suggests that he cultivates techniques related to order. Perhaps that’s what drew him to the motes of heaven’s principle.”

Thoughtful expressions appeared on the faces of the others present. As for Sir Star Ring, his eyes flashed with cold light as he looked at Zhou Zhengli, then Xu Qing. All of a sudden, bitterness struck him as he realized what was going on.

Zhou Zhengli ignored the look in Sir Star Ring’s eyes. Focusing on Xu Qing, he continued, “As for this talk of an accomplice....”

Xu Qing cleared his throat and waved a finger in the direction of the universe. That action caused something like a storm to kick up in the universe. As it spread, countless heavenly bodies shone with dazzling starlight. The starry sky shivered, and the sealing effects vanished.

Gradually, an asteroid was revealed in the depths of the universe. Atop it was Erniu, a dazed and incredulous look on his face. Of course, because of the cultivation level of Xu Qing and the Undertakers, they could see Erniu, while he could see nothing but a blur.

Upon catching sight of Erniu, Sir Star Ring’s eyes blazed with killing intent.

Xu Qing sighed helplessly. “That’s my Eldest Brother....”

Li Mengtu’s eyes went wide. Zhou Zhengli shivered inwardly. Sir Vilespirit actually gasped. Hordeslayer and Rampart were visibly stunned. Yuanshan Su’s eyes gleamed.

Sir Star Ring, meanwhile, looked from Erniu to Xu Qing. All he could do now was wait to hear Xu Qing’s decision.

Xu Qing was increasingly unsure of what to do. In the beginning, he hadn’t cared much at all about Sir Star Ring. But after all their travels and exploits, they had become comrades in arms. What was more, those motes of heaven’s principle were crucial to Sir Star Ring reaching the Summer Immortal level. At the same time, he knew what his Eldest Brother was like. His Eldest Brother would consider it a loss to not grab something good that he saw.... And if he swallowed something, getting it back was going to be extremely difficult.

After some thought, Xu Qing waved his hand to unleash his canon. Overlapping universes appeared, and from within them spilled numerous motes of heaven’s principle. Given Xu Qing’s cultivation base and level of enlightenment, plus his own research into heaven’s principle, it made this an easy thing to do.

As the motes of heaven’s principle appeared, they shifted from being illusory to material, and they piled up in front of Sir Star Ring. Xu Qing even added in the mote of heaven’s principle he had taken from Sir Star Ring long ago.

“This was all just a misunderstanding,” he said quietly.

Sir Star Ring looked at all of the motes that made up for what he had lost. A thousand thoughts were running through his head. Finally, he bowed deeply to Xu Qing.

“Many thanks!” Then he turned and left, leaving behind only a few words. “I won’t forget how you’ve helped me achieve my dao, and how we’ve become comrades in arms. I know you’re not from the Fifth Star Ring.... When you go back to your home, I’ll come along.”

Xu Qing nodded. Then he looked at Zhou Zhengli and the others. “I’ll be leaving soon,” he said calmly, “so this will be the last time we see each other.”

Li Mengtu’s eyes glittered with anticipation. “I’ll go with you!”

Zhou Zhengli smiled. It went without saying that he had come to understand the situation even before Sir Star Ring did. “Wherever you go, Young Lord, I’ll go also. But for now, we don’t want to disrupt this reunion between you and your Eldest Brother.”

Clasping hands, he turned and left with Li Mengtu.

Yuanshan Su didn’t say anything. Sir Vilespirit felt hesitant. Hordeslayer and Rampart were elated. Taking such thoughts with them, they all left.

After they were all gone, Xu Qing turned his attention back to the universe in front of him. Looking at Erniu there, hopping up and down in excitement, caused a smile to break out on his face. His Eldest Brother was one of the most important people to him.

He stepped forward. That step spanned the starry sky and put him right in front of Erniu.

“Little Ah Qing!!” Erniu cried elatedly. He almost felt like it wasn’t real.

“Eldest Brother....” Xu Qing cleared his throat. He got the feeling that when his Eldest Brother heard about what he was going to do next, it wasn’t going to go over well. But for now, he just smiled and said, “I missed you!”

Chapter 1292: Erniu Shattered

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Erniu was very excited. He had been completely taken aback earlier when he sensed Xu Qing’s aura. And now that Xu Qing was right in front of him, his mind was spinning. He was so ecstatic at being able to reunite that he was too stunned to react. The two hadn’t seen each other for a very long time, so he was understandably shocked.

Finally, he asked a question that he realized sounded stupid as soon as it came out. “Little Ah Qing, what are you doing here? And who were those people who trapped me here?”

Xu Qing thought for a moment before deciding that the simple truth was the best response. “My subordinates.”

Erniu was shocked to the core, and his eyes went wide. Earlier, he had sensed that something was happening outside, but had no way to know the details. But after the big chase he had endured, he knew that his pursuer was terrifying. And upon being trapped he realized that his pursuer had called some friends to help, all of whom were also very strong. And now, he’d come to find out, they were all subordinates of little Ah Qing....

It was such an amazing development that he went right back to being as excited as before. He also sent out his divine will to examine Xu Qing’s cultivation base. When he realized how deep and unreadable it was, he got even more excited. He even had to suppress the urge to gasp!

But then, all of a sudden, he was overwhelmed by the instinct to act like the Eldest Brother. As such, he had to force himself not to ask what place this was, or what status Xu Qing had earned, or what he was doing here. He didn’t want to give Xu Qing any more chances to provoke him. That said, he couldn’t stop himself from wanting to know about Xu Qing’s cultivation base.

“So that’s how it is,” he said in a light tone. “Hahaha.... Ahem. So, little Ah Qing, how much have you been hogging for yourself here? Your cultivation base... seems to have changed a bit.”

Xu Qing blinked a few times. He was, of course, very familiar with his Eldest Brother. “Oh, just a few destined opportunities and a few flashes of enlightenment.”

It was a simple response, but it was profoundly distressing to Erniu. Now he wanted to know what exact destined opportunities and what specific types of enlightenment could lead to such a terrifying advancement in cultivation base.... However, he wasn’t willing to admit defeat. Maintaining his dignity as the Eldest Brother, he stuck his chin up.

“Not bad, I suppose. That said, little Ah Qing, your cultivation base still has some impure elements. You’re going to have to work hard going forward. What’s more... given how long we’ve been apart, you’re obviously unaware of what I’ve been up to.”

Erniu sighed deeply. “As you can tell, I’m only here as a clone. You definitely have no way of even comprehending how powerful my true form is now. Let me tell you, my true form is half a step away from conquering all of Brilliant Heaven! I, your Eldest Brother, am like the sun in the sky over in Brilliant Heaven!”

Erniu suddenly looked very proud.

Meanwhile, a look of astonishment appeared on Xu Qing’s face. It was an expression that left Erniu feeling very pleased.

“But in the end,” Erniu continued, “I missed the days when you were at my side, little Ah Qing. Too much. And thus, I used an amazing divine ability to pierce through the void, to sever the profoundly ancient, and to come here to find you. I want you at my side when I finally reign supreme over all of Brilliant Heaven!”

Erniu suddenly seemed to pulse with great mightiness.

Xu Qing smiled and nodded, then started moving through the starry sky.

Erniu cleared his throat, and then hurried along after Xu Qing in the form of a head. “However, little Ah Qing, do you know the problem with that final half a step I need to take? I need the corpse of a peak Altar God!

“I have to devour the corpse of a peak Altar God to activate the million clones I have buried all over Brilliant Heaven, as well as the ten million magical devices I put in place. And then I can absolutely crush Brilliant Heaven!

“And that is how I’ll save the Revered Ancient mainland! Now, I could have done all of that on my own, little Ah Qing. But then I thought about you. You are my little Junior Brother, after all. Therefore, I decided to give you the chance to do it!”

Erniu looked at Xu Qing, and inside, he was feeling very emotional. “Little Ah Qing, don’t you think it’s fair to trade the corpse of an Altar God for the rulership of Brilliant Heaven??

“Once I conquer the place, I’m going to appoint Master as the crown prince, and you can be a junior prince! Huang Yan will be the divine beast guardian of the kingdom, Second Junior Sister can be the divine beast’s daoist partner, and Third Sib can be the majordomo! I’ll give great honor and riches to all of my fellow apprentices. We—”

Before Erniu could finish speaking, Xu Qing nodded and waved his hand to produce a handful of mutilated corpses. Though they were all in bad shape, they all emitted True God auras.

“Eldest Brother, I don’t have any Altar God corpses....” He was telling the truth.

Erniu stared in shock. The sight of the corpses caused his scalp to tingle. It felt like he was in a dream, and he instinctively gasped.

Voice trembling, he said, “True Gods?”

Xu Qing nodded.

After a long moment of silence, Erniu laughed heartily. Swallowing so he didn’t drool, he tried to seem very nonchalant. Suppressing his hunger, he waved his hand casually.

“I’m kind of burned out on eating measly True Gods. I mean, they have tons of them in Brilliant Heaven. If I have any more, I might just hurl. The reason I mentioned peak Altar Gods just now is that I was worried that you would be too shocked, little Ah Qing. So I lowered my standards a bit. Let me tell you, over in Brilliant Heaven, the gods all treat me very respectfully.”

Meanwhile, Xu Qing suddenly stopped in place and looked off into the distance in the starry sky. Eyes glittering coldly, he stomped his right foot down in front of him.

The spot he was looking at in the starry sky suddenly collapsed. Rifts spread out in all directions, and tempest winds raged. Several gods popped out into the open. They were resistance forces that the passing armies had missed, and they had been hiding in the void. Sadly, they could not escape Xu Qing’s senses.

The leader of the group was actually a peak Altar God. But when the group caught sight of Xu Qing, they were so terrified they immediately tried to flee.

Face completely expressionless, Xu Qing pushed his right hand out. Instantly, a terrifying pressure swept out, turning into a crushing force that descended on the void. The starry sky shook. When the force disappeared, nothing was left behind. The rogue gods had been killed in body and soul.

Given Xu Qing’s current battle prowess, killing Altar Gods was as easy as flipping over his hand.

When Erniu saw that happen, a buzzing sound filled his mind. A long moment passed, and then he cleared his throat.

“Not bad. Not bad at all, little Ah Qing. You’re about as strong as I am in Brilliant Heaven. That said, you need to remember that while it’s good to be able to use overwhelming force against the gods, you also need to earn an appropriate status among cultivators. Take that as a little bit of advice from your Eldest Brother, a person who has plentiful experience in that regard.

“Now that you’ve grown up, there are certain things I can finally tell you. In the past, my status was such that I could turn my nose up at the starry sky. Myriad cultivators would prostrate in worship to me. But my feelings then can only be summed up by the idiom *one can’t win against the cold when in high places*. And that is how I ended up forming my signature power of frigid coldness.”

It was impossible to determine if it was coincidence or not, but... as soon as Erniu finished speaking, some army cultivators from a nearby supply depot planet arrived to check on the fluctuations which had just rolled out from the area. Upon flying over and spotting Xu Qing, the cultivators excitedly bowed in greeting.

Xu Qing felt slightly embarrassed at how his Eldest Brother reacted, with his jaw dropping and eyes going wide. The cultivators were made up mostly of Imperial Sovereigns, but there were also some Quasi-Immortals.

Erniu was so flabbergasted he felt like his mind was blank. However, there was always his dignity as the Eldest Brother to think about. So he quickly gave a hearty laugh and opened his mouth to speak. But then....

The star domain that this particular universe was part of trembled. A terrifying stream of divine will that surpassed the level of a Summer Immortal rushed through the starry sky, filled with mountain-toppling, sea-draining force. It came from a spot where the Fourth Star Ring was rippling.

Countless cultivators from the supply depot planet prostrated respectfully.

When Erniu sensed the divine will, his heart and mind reached a peak state of stupefaction.

Xu Qing's cultivation base had seemed enigmatic and mysterious to him. But this stream of divine will gave him the sensation that its owner could destroy Brilliant Heaven in an instant.

"Th-that... that...." As Erniu trembled, the divine will which had just arrived thrummed with the voice of Immortal Lord Mi Ming.

"Lil' bro, your sister-in-law told me you like assimilating goddesses. Well, I just captured one. Specifically, the daughter of God Lord Brightwise. Consider this a gift from me."

A sealed goddess then appeared out of nowhere. The goddess looked human, and exuded a sensation of profound holiness. Hēr cultivation base was at the True God level, and yet, shē had been sealed tightly and offered up as a gift....

A strange expression could be seen on Xu Qing's face as he clasped hands and bowed.

Erniu, meanwhile, had a blank look on his face as he thought, *The daughter of a god, given as a gift?*

The voice in the divine will then seemed to laugh. *"I was just joking around. This goddess' innate abilities and godly authority are very unique, and should help you as you seek enlightenment of your canon."*

With that, Immortal Lord Mi Ming's divine will retracted, leaving behind the goddess.

The entire experience left Erniu feeling like a hole had been punched in his heart cavity, and he couldn't help but turn to look at Xu Qing. "What exactly is going on here, little Ah Qing! What is this place? Who are you here? And whose divine will was that...? And what's this 'canon' he talked about??"

Xu Qing smiled. He didn't feel the need to hide things from Erniu. It was just that the situation couldn't be explained in only a few words. And thus, Xu Qing waved his hand and took all of the things he had done after arriving in the Fifth Star Ring, put it into a sealing mark, and then fused it into Erniu.

Erniu cooperated with the process and let the sealing mark merge into his forehead. The sea of information poured into him. He saw everything. His expression started out blank, then turned into one of surprise. Then it changed several times, until finally all the information was there.

“When I arrived, the treasures I encountered were all things you didn’t even want!” Erniu beat his chest in frustration. “If I’d known earlier, I would have come with you! If I had, I might already be a Summer Immortal!! I made the wrong damn choice!!”

Erniu was nearly going mad at the thought of how many spectacular destined opportunities he had missed out on. And then he thought about the misery and suffering he had endured after going to Brilliant Heaven, and he could only come to the conclusion that life just wasn’t fair....

Xu Qing could see how Erniu was reacting, so after a moment, he decided to comfort him.

But before he could, Erniu looked up, his eyes crimson. Pulsing with an indescribable energy, he said, “No. I have to do something big here! That’s the only way I can make up for this monumental loss!”

Ignoring the fact that he was right in front of Xu Qing, he ripped open one of his seals, causing his cultivation base to surge. At the same time, he suddenly was able to sense all hidden treasures nearby.

To Xu Qing’s astonishment, Erniu focused on one specific location and then erupted with a crazy laugh.

“Let’s go, little Ah Qing. I’m taking you on a *really* big job!”

Chapter 1293: Erniu’s Big Treasure

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Erniu licked his lips as crazy light burned in his eyes. And then something completely ghastly happened. The body beneath his head had already started to recover a bit. But now, the flesh and blood squirmed and wriggled as the recovery sped up rapidly. Within the space of a few dozen breaths of time, Erniu was back to normal.

And now, he pulsed with an aura that vastly surpassed anything from before. He was no longer in early Imperial Sovereign. He had reached mid Imperial Sovereign!

Xu Qing hadn’t seen his Eldest Brother do this in a long time, so the sight of it brought back many memories.

Eldest Brother’s cultivation base doesn’t improve by practicing cultivation. He progresses by undoing seals! Unfortunately, releasing the seals requires him to pay a price. And the further along he goes, the bigger the price he has to pay....

As Xu Qing considered that, Erniu’s body became whole again, and frigid coldness pulsed out in all directions, along with flickering blue light.

Beneath the flesh and blood, Xu Qing could see that there was a bodily structure inside his Eldest Brother. It was pure blue, and looked like it was made from ice. It was vicious and ancient, and looked very similar to the sourcefiends Xu Qing had encountered on the primeval motherworld. Seeing it caused all of Xu Qing's speculations about his Eldest Brother to resurface.

There are some differences between Eldest Brother and the sourcefiends I saw. He has lived many past lives, and whenever he dies, his next life takes a different form upon being reborn. That characteristic is actually reminiscent of the gods.

Now that his cultivation base had advanced, Xu Qing was able to pick up on many more clues. And yet, there was still plenty about Erniu that Xu Qing didn't understand.

I imagine things will become a lot clearer after we get back to Revered Ancient.

Erniu, whose aura and cultivation base were skyrocketing, had eyes that looked even crazier than before.

"You listen to me, little Ah Qing. I can sense that there's a treasure in *that* direction!! This is a foreordained invitation! It's a destined opportunity set by fate! I have a very strong feeling that this treasure is waiting for me specifically! At the same time, it's also a chance for me to remove several of my seals!

"After we accomplish this big job, little Ah Qing, then you won't have to rely on strangers to give you goddesses to absorb. Your Eldest Brother will go catch several for you! In fact, I won't stop at the daughters of gods. If you like the sons of gods, I'll get them too!"

Erniu suddenly looked very proud. After all, he valued nothing more than his dignity as the Eldest Brother. That dignity had two aspects. The first was that he needed to surpass his Junior Brother, and the other... was that he couldn't let anyone treat little Ah Qing better than he himself did! That was intolerable!

"Let's go!" Erniu said, blurring into a streak of light that shot off into the distance.

Grinning, Xu Qing followed. He knew that the Immortal Paragon was the most paramount entity in the Fourth Star Ring, and that the Immortal Lords were all here. Other than the place the God Paragon had left to, there were no places that could harbor major secrets.

At the most, there were a few so-called forbidden regions.

Thanks to all of the things Xu Qing had experienced as he grew, he had come to his own understanding of what 'forbidden regions' were.

Normally speaking, forbidden regions are mysterious places with long histories. Because of being cut off from the outside world, they've eventually come to be known as forbidden regions. But the degree of danger associated with any given one of them is actually the product of two things: what's inside, and what's outside.

Nowadays, everyone knows that forbidden regions are dangerous. But from the perspective of what's inside the forbidden region, the outside world is just as dangerous. Otherwise, there would be no need to maintain a barrier of isolation.

Of course, there are exceptions... such as the Revered Ancient mainland. But this is the Fourth Star Ring, and there shouldn't be anything like that here. Since Eldest Brother wants to go explore this place, I might as well just see what happens.[1]

And thus, Xu Qing followed along.

Time passed. This time, it was several months. Although the destination wasn't necessarily very far away, the star ring was massive, so it took time.

Along the way, they took advantage of teleportation portals on the supply depot planets. As a result, it was only about four months later that they spotted their destination.

From a distance, it was possible to see a majestic rift in the starry sky. It looked like a wound that spanned several universes. The rift was filled with endless mist, and was surrounded by drifting, crimson dust.

This was one of the Fourth Star Ring's four major forbidden regions. From ancient times until now, hardly anyone had ever been there. Not one god who went inside ever came out.

Erniu eyed the rift, his crazy look getting more and more intense. During their months of travel, he had seen what position Xu Qing occupied among the cultivators here. He had seen countless powerful experts, as well as many fights between cultivators and gods. In terms of goddesses... he had seen two get captured.

The provocation he felt was like a whip slashing against him repeatedly, and it caused him to sink further into craziness. The urge to accomplish a big job was getting stronger and stronger.

Eying the distant rift, he licked his lips and shouted, "It's there! I can sense that there's treasure in there, little Ah Qing. A big treasure!!"

Xu Qing said nothing. His gaze pierced through the starry sky, passing through the crimson dust and entering the rift to examine the interior. He could just barely make out an altar. During the journey, he had made certain inquiries and learned a bit about the forbidden regions in the Fourth Star Ring.

This is where the very first God Paragon was sealed up! Hē was killed by the current living God Paragon, and sealed here, imprisoned for all eternity. Furthermore, hē is rejected by the new natural laws woven from the fate in the Fourth Star Ring, and thus can't leave the place.

Xu Qing's eyes narrowed. That was the extent of the information he had received, and he knew nothing about what karma could be tied up in it all. There was a God Paragon sealed here, so normally speaking, Xu Qing wouldn't go inside. But right now....

Xu Qing glanced at Erniu.

I did come to the Fourth Star Ring to look for my own destined opportunity, which is to walk the path of the pain god's illusion. Although that path of pain didn't involve coming into this place, I guess... anything is possible.

Xu Qing waved his hand out in front of him. That motion caused all of the terrifying pressure coming out of the rift to be suppressed. The starry sky around the rift became like a mirror that then shattered. Rubble rained down. The crimson dust around the rift was also affected. It was as if some powerful force just peeled it away.

Then Xu Qing lifted his right hand, causing the rubble in the starry sky to converge in a new form. At the same time, the crimson dust parted. Eventually, something like a series of tunnels appeared in front of the two of them.

“Let’s go in, Eldest Brother. Just keep in mind there are some dangerous things inside.”

“....” Erniu looked at the tunnels going through the mist. The sight of Xu Qing shattering the starry sky and making those tunnels left him feeling a bit defeated. That said, he was determined to get stronger. And thus, he... didn’t rush forward. Instead, he stuck close to Xu Qing and nodded. “You lead the way.”

Erniu was no fool. Given the level of Xu Qing’s cultivation base, whatever things he thought were dangerous would definitely be fatal to Erniu. He wasn’t the kind of person who feared death, but if he died, he wanted it to be after he stuffed himself to the gills, not when he was on the way to eat. Although dignity was important to him, his Junior Brother wasn’t a stranger. When he thought about it that way, he felt a bit less defeated.

Xu Qing’s expression was serious as he strode into one of the tunnels and headed toward the rift. Erniu followed. The two of them quickly sped through the tunnel. They ran into a few dangerous situations, but Xu Qing resolved them easily.

A few days later, they were through the crimson mist! The rift was right in front of them.

As Xu Qing looked around, his pupils constricted. In the misty interior of the rift it was possible to see an entire world.

In the middle of that world was a magnificent altar. Astonishingly, the altar was built from a massive pile of god bones. There were also a host of vicious-looking bugs crawling around on the bones. On top of the altar was a bronze coffin! Countless chains filled the interior of the rift, all of which served to secure the coffin tightly in place!

An ancient will and a profoundly wild aura pulsed from the coffin. There was something boundlessly mysterious and majestic about it, as well as something that seemed to tell all living beings... that this place was forbidden!

This forbidden region didn’t just have an altar, a coffin, and some chains. In another part of it was a hulking figure. It was not a cultivator, but rather, a god. Put precisely, it was a corpse. The corpse of a god. Only the top half of the corpse was there.

After looking closely at the corpse, Xu Qing’s mind started spinning. He knew who this was!

God Lord Death Departure!

Based on the war reports he was familiar with, God Lord Death Departure had been seriously injured, and then fled to parts unknown. But here hē was, and hē was... already dead!

While Xu Qing's mind spun, Erniu pointed into the mist, a crazy, greedy expression on his face. "I can't see clearly into there, little Ah Qing, but I can sense that the big treasure is there. Can you help me figure out which direction to go in?"

Xu Qing looked like he wanted to say something, but was holding back. Erniu was pointing right toward the corpse....

"What is it?" Erniu asked urgently.

Xu Qing looked at Erniu. "It's the corpse of a god."

Erniu seemed disappointed, but he asked, "A god corpse? You mean it's not a big treasure? What level is the corpse?"

"God Lord..." Xu Qing said softly.

Even as the words left his mouth, Erniu became a string of afterimages that blurred toward the corpse. He was already going completely crazy.

1. To be honest, this entire passage about forbidden regions was very frustrating because I struggled to determine if he was using "forbidden region" in the same sense as the forbidden regions earlier in the story, or if he was using the term in the more generic sense. Considering that he mentions Revered Ancient, it seems to me he is correlating the location here to the forbidden regions from earlier. What makes it more confusing is that he throws in a slightly different term (the one I rendered as forbidden ground) as well. This problem pops up occasionally when he uses a sort of common term with real-life definitions, but assigns a unique fantasy definition to it as well, then feels the need to explain the similarities and/or differences between the different definitions. In any case, I'm going with "forbidden region" for this place because it does seem that he wants to compare the two. At the same time, the forbidden region in this chapter is clearly not something created the way the forbidden regions in the earlier part of the book were created (being looked at by the broken face). They bear the same name but are fundamentally different, although they do have similarities. ㊦

Chapter 1294: I Was Just Lying In My Coffin When Disaster Struck From Outside

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Erniu was going crazy.

Xu Qing's words from moments ago had been just too much of a provocation. In fact, the only temptation greater than what he had just mentioned was the time they stole some of Eminent Desolation's flesh and blood. That job had come down to destined opportunity and pure chance. By taking advantage of the power that came from a god domain upgrade, they managed to get a few scraps. But right now... there was half of an entire God Lord available!

And considering the provocation of Xu Qing having developed such an incredible cultivation base, Erniu's greatest hope right now was in that half of a god corpse.

The power in Eminent Desolation's flesh and blood can only be chipped away at slowly. I can lick it up in bits and pieces. And if I lick too much, I'll explode. But a God Lord... though I can't just digest something like that, it will at least be easier to work with than Eminent Desolation's flesh.

If I add in the True God corpses little Ah Qing gave me, then I could almost piece together a full god! Good times are just around the corner!

Erniu's eyes were bloodshot, and his gaze made him seem like a wild dog barreling through the misty interior of the rift. At the moment, he wasn't paying attention to anything. Nothing in heaven or earth could be more important right now than eating!

"I'm coming, my big treasure!!"

As soon as Erniu burst into motion, the countless god chains connected to the bronze coffin began to sway. As they swayed, the god talismans on them glittered, causing them to release indescribable mightiness. And yet, for some unknown reason, the power was all directed inwardly. It was as if it was a message to outsiders that, as long as they didn't touch the chains... they wouldn't be harmed.

Erniu, whether in past lives or this one, was very adept at accomplishing big jobs. Though he didn't know much about the Fourth Star Ring, he had more than enough experience at this type of thing. After all, in many of his past lives, his failures had resulted in him dying.... It was only natural that all of that built up into a plentiful reservoir of experience. Because of that, the moment Erniu entered the rift, he instinctively realized which things he could touch safely and which things would kill him.

Erniu couldn't see everything in the mist, but he had shocking instincts, and was able to speed along without touching any of the chains. He was like a big rat, scurrying along, going in and out of the chains... and heading right toward the corpse of God Lord Death Departure.

Seeing that, Xu Qing realized he didn't need to worry about Erniu. So he stepped forward into the rift. The chains glittered again, and Xu Qing could clearly sense the danger posed, both by the chains, and by the entity in the coffin.

He stopped in place. His hair was currently standing on end. The mutagen levels were very high thanks to the coffin, the chains, and the corpse of God Lord Death Departure. The combined mutagens created a terrifying godly aura in the rift, and as a result, Xu Qing's skin almost instantly started showing signs of mutation.

Pressure weighed down on him with mountain-toppling, sea-draining force. It sought to rip all outsiders to shreds!

Xu Qing quickly released the destiny aura of the Fifth Star Ring, which bolstered him and relieved some of the pressure. At the same time, his true name glittered within his soul. Back on the primeval motherworld, Young Lord Aurora had given him a destined opportunity for his true name, and now it was coming in handy.

The glittering of the true name dispelled the invading mutagen, and Xu Qing could breathe a sigh of relief. But now he was even more curious about his Eldest Brother's background. After all, despite the pressure in the area, Erniu was speeding along quite quickly through the mist.

Despite being only an Imperial Sovereign, the glittering light that covered him kept him safe from the mutagen.

Eldest Brother's background is definitely full of a lot of mysteries. Could he really be a sourcefiend? Based on my experience, only sourcefiends can completely ignore the aura and mutagen of the gods.... Because of being born from gods, the sourcefiends have a deep connection to them.

The strange thing was that, based on what Xu Qing understood about sourcefiends, they couldn't leave the motherworld.

Could it be that the Revered Ancient mainland... is the primeval motherworld of the Ninth Star Ring?

It was an astonishing possibility. However, it didn't seem possible that it could be true.

There's something else strange. If he's really a sourcefiend from the Ninth Star Ring's primeval motherworld, then how could Eldest Brother leave...?

Now wasn't the time to sit around pondering his Eldest Brother's background. As he looked on, the crazed Erniu zipped through the gaps in the chains and closed in on the corpse of God Lord Death Departure.

Only a moment later, something strange happened. Although it seemed Erniu had picked the correct path, as soon as he neared the corpse... a deep rumbling sound echoed out, and then Erniu exploded into a host of endless blue worms that all had Erniu's face.

Xu Qing's gaze hardened, and he was about to rush over.

Except, in the blink of an eye, the worms crazily continued on their way to the corpse. As they neared, the worms started exploding, resulting in a cloud of dust. Erniu's craziness continued. Blue light shone as the dust turned into a horde of smaller blue worms that kept racing toward the corpse.

It was like a cycle. They would explode and collapse, causing even smaller worms to appear. In that manner, he got closer and closer to the corpse!

Eventually, the blue worms started to cry out, "Help me, little Ah Qing!!"

By the time they cried out for help, Xu Qing had already taken action. Immortal embryo power erupted out. Canon filled with overlapping universes surged. The dao weapon in the form of a fingernail sent astonishing force out. All of it crushed down onto the corpse.

Next, the horde of blue worms that was Erniu bore down on the corpse. As they closed in, God Lord Death Departure's corpse glittered with a faint golden light.

That glittering light unleashed a terrifying pressure. Xu Qing was there to counteract it with his immortal embryo and canon. But this was the corpse of a God Lord, and it was astonishing.

Thankfully, it was the power of the dao weapon that proved most effective, and caused the golden light to waver.

Despite all of that, Erniu's cultivation base couldn't stand up to the force. In the blink of an eye, the golden light shattered the blue worms, once again turning them into dust. And this time it seemed like the dust would even be wiped out. And yet... Erniu didn't actually disappear.

Having been pushed to this point within his greed for the flesh and blood of a God Lord, Erniu... somehow used a technique that caused a sudden change! Thin blue threads shot out from the spot where the worms had been shattered. And the blue threads ultimately took the shape of a blue hand of ice. It was covered with spurs, and pulsed with a very primeval aura. It was something wild and ancient.

Then the palm of the hand split open like a mouth, and it lunged toward the corpse. When it hit the golden light, the hand of ice melted, turning into innumerable blue threads. Combined with the power of Xu Qing's dao weapon, those threads burrowed into the golden light.

About ninety-nine percent of them were destroyed in the process, but a few got through. Bursting with greed and craziness, they swept out over the corpse, covering it. Although it looked like something difficult to do, that was only from Erniu's perspective. Xu Qing was thinking something completely different.

A very strange feeling had risen up in his heart.

It's just a corpse, but in life, it was a God Lord. What's more, God Lord Death Departure had a very unique type of godhood. Normally speaking, it wouldn't be easy... even despite Eldest Brother's uniqueness.

Xu Qing's eyes narrowed as he looked up at the void above the corpse. There was nothing there, but because Xu Qing was bolstered by the destiny aura of the Fifth Star Ring, he could see some clues about what was going on.

"Hurry up, Eldest Brother!" he said.

Within the golden light, the blue worms spreading over the corpse responded with a thrumming sound.

Xu Qing's senses were not deceiving him. Just now when he had looked at the void above the corpse, Xu Qing had seen someone. It was someone very specific and unique, in illusory form.

Based on appearances, it was God Lord Death Departure! Hē was already on his way back. After being severely injured, hē had relied on his karma with the entity in the coffin to come to this place and use it as a hiding spot. Hē had also planned to recover here.

It was a very unique recovery process. Hē used death as an attractant to unleash the recovery magic. That would make it possible to fully recover and return to his peak. That was his innate ability, and the might of his godhood!

The corpse was the anchor, and was also the body hē had prepared for his return. If that corpse were to be taken away, it could interfere with the anchor and affect his return.

His plan had been a good one, and this place was the perfect location to carry it out. But then unforeseen variables had popped up. His omniscience did not cover Xu Qing, who could use the godhood of fate. Nor did it cover the extremely grish Erniu. And now, someone was about to snatch that corpse.... As the critical moment arrived, God Lord Death Departure's consciousness landed on the coffin.

"God Paragon, please, lend me assistance!"

The coffin didn't respond.

"God Paragon...."

"Silence!" snapped a voice from within the coffin. Xu Qing and Erniu did not have the personhood to hear it, but it struck God Lord Death Departure like a tempest.

"I don't want to be contaminated by karma like that! Stop your jabbering! It's half of a body, that's all. Who cares?"

Death Departure said nothing.

The entity in the coffin thought furiously, all while maintaining maximum vigilance. *One person with Eminent Desolation's karma would be difficult enough. But now there are two here? Eminent Desolation has been hungry all the time, and could definitely make use of these two to spy on me here.... The schemes of the Immortal Paragon of the Fifth Star Ring are also involved. The best option to keep things stable would be to give Death Departure's corpse to these two to get them out of here!*

As the God Paragon considered the situation from inside the coffin, Erniu in the form of the blue threads was rapidly spreading out to cover God Lord Death Departure's corpse. Xu Qing was backing him up. Finally, a blue sea of light filled the area.

"I did it!" Erniu shouted joyfully. "Let's go, little Ah Qing!"

Xu Qing turned to leave. But then, he suddenly felt the urge to do something. Stopping in place, he looked at... the coffin at the end of all the countless chains.

The God Paragon had just been breathing a sigh of relief. But now his heart started pounding.

In the Ninth Star Ring, above the Revered Ancient mainland, there was a huge broken face that meant disaster for all living beings. That face's eyes were closed. But now they were about to open!

Chapter 1295: Death Departure Awakens

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The situation in the Revered Ancient mainland in the Ninth Star Ring instantly struck deep fear into the heart of the God Paragon in the coffin atop the altar in the Fourth Star Ring. Because of his personhood, he instantly understood the karma at play, which led to that sense of fear.

These two are attracting the attention of Eminent Desolation!!

The God Paragon was taking this development extremely seriously. The sense of peril rising up from his god soul was rapidly turning into a massive wave that could shake heaven. As the crisis mounted, the God Paragon didn't hesitate for a moment to conceal every scrap of his aura. The will of his god soul vanished, and thus, he eradicated every trace of himself from space, time, karma, and all other things.

It was as if he had never existed to begin with! And yet not even that was enough to ease his fear. Therefore, in addition to erasing all aspects of himself, he also issued an imperial decree to the returning God Lord Death Departure.

"You must drive these two out of here!"

The godly voice that delivered the imperial decree was backed with incomprehensible power. The returning God Lord Death Departure was instantly shaken by it. It was as if he had been blessed with an even more holy level of personhood, such that his return, which previously would have taken much longer, was now forcibly accelerated.

Beyond that, the godly voice also functioned like an anchor, so that God Lord Death Departure didn't even need a fleshly body. He could use the godly voice alone! An instant later, the void surrounding God Lord Death Departure's corpse exploded!

The godly will became bones, while the godly voice became the flesh. A dark golden corpse was weaved right there in the middle of nothing. Then, beneath the dangling tassels of the crown, two crimson points of light appeared.[1]

Terrifying mightiness swept out. All of the dust in the rift vibrated. The destiny aura of the Fourth Star Ring seeped into the rift as well, and it thrummed in resonance.

And yet, he had no godly consciousness! Despite the high level of the God Lord, when compared to the God Paragon, he could not simply do whatever he wanted. His will was being controlled by the imperial decree!

The two scarlet eyes shifted to focus on Xu Qing. Then, the chest began to heave to an indescribable rhythm that matched the eyes. Intense rumbling echoed out!

Xu Qing's gaze hardened in response to this sudden development. His five yin organs and six yang organs trembled in cadence with the rhythm of the corpse, and blood rose up in his throat. Then blood oozed out of the corners of his mouth.

A boom rang out as Erniu exploded again, turning into a never-ending swarm of blue worms. The worms exploded yet again, and then again and again. Each time, the worms' eyes were full of astonishment.

All of this takes a bit of time to describe, but it actually happened in the time it takes a spark to fly off a piece of flint. An unexpected turn of events had come without any warning at all!

At that critical juncture, Xu Qing didn't hesitate to tap fully into his cultivation base. He released his immortal embryo, unleashed all of his canon, and called on his true name. Even still, blood sprayed out of his mouth, and his flesh and blood writhed. The pressure of a God Lord was overwhelmingly spectacular. And yet, Xu Qing's eyes shone with silver light. The dao weapon glittered in his hand; a fingernail like a curved blade that shot toward the corpse.

The moment the dao weapon shot forth, Xu Qing unhesitatingly yelled, "Detonate!"

The curved blade shone with dazzling light that filled the entire rift. Destructive force built within it... and then it exploded! Xu Qing was detonating the dao weapon to block the incoming force! The explosion instantly affected the entire world inside the rift, as a terrifying shockwave spread out with mountain-toppling, sea-draining force.

Xu Qing shook from head to toe as blood sprayed out of his mouth again. However, he used that opportunity to reach out toward the exploding Erniu. By protecting him with the power of the immortal embryo, he gave Erniu the chance to recover. Erniu again appeared in the form of a human.

Then Xu Qing grabbed Erniu by the arm, drew on every ounce of power he could muster from his cultivation base, and shot backward at top speed.

The ground shattered beneath him as he fell back. Countless streams of silver light spread out, each of them pulsing with the power of his immortal embryo. It became a shield of light filled with Quasi-Immortal power that raced toward the corpse of God Lord Death Departure that had just appeared.

The corpse's eyes were red, but everything else about him was turning golden. Covering the corpse were one billion godly rings, each of which represented a broken universe. And when combined, they were his godhood!

Hē looked expressionlessly at the two fleeing humans, then took a step forward. When his foot landed, all of the godly rings exploded, then combined into a sea of golden mist that raced toward Xu Qing and Erniu like a sea of gold. His goal wasn't just to drive them away, but also, to seal the exit closed the moment they left.

As Xu Qing neared the exit and sensed what was happening, his pupils constricted to pinpricks. As he looked back, he saw that the golden mist made of shattered godly rings was emitting howls that could only come from living creatures.

Those living creatures were the citizens of God Lord Death Departure's god kingdom. They were now being sacrificed.

The golden mist roiled into a terrifying storm that slammed into Xu Qing and Erniu, causing blood to yet again spray out of their mouths as they were shoved toward the exit.

"Why does this feel like we're being escorted out?" Erniu licked the blood off his lips and laughed. "I guess... that's just what you'd expect from a God Lord. Very hardcore!"

Laughing even more crazily, Erniu sliced open his chest to reveal his heart. The heart was covered with a gruish veined pattern that pulsed with blue, fluorescent light. Streams of blue light were flowing through the veined pattern, all of which contained elements that seemed similar to godsource. The veined pattern and the blue light were worlds, all of which contained world hearts. It was like a huge universe.

“Little Ah Qing, help me dig this out and throw it back there!” Erniu let loose a vicious roar.

Xu Qing had worked with his Eldest Brother for years, so he knew how useful his various body parts could be. After all, he had even used his skin very effectively once.[2]

Without any hesitation, Xu Qing shoved his left hand into Erniu’s chest, grabbed his heart, and yanked it out. Blood vessels snapped, and blood sprayed everywhere. Erniu let loose an agonized shriek as his aura instantly declined. In fact, his body couldn’t sustain itself, and began to collapse.

Little blue worms wriggled into Xu Qing’s hair, huffing and puffing but their eyes gleaming.

Meanwhile, Erniu’s heart was beating like mad in Xu Qing’s hand. It was already building up with an astonishing aura.

Xu Qing chucked the beating heart as hard as he could toward the stream of golden mist. As it flew forth, it caused the air around it to freeze solid. And when it hit the golden mist, the mist also started to show signs of freezing. Blue light spread out like crazy.

Inside the mist, the corpse strode forward, shattering ice with each step, and yet covered with blue light. The corpse was clearly being frozen. Then, the corpse’s empty eyes focused on Erniu in Xu Qing’s hair. The red eyes widened, and the corpse’s hand rose up....

But then, something very dramatic happened!

1. Presumably most of you know what Chinese imperial crowns look like, and thus understand what it means by “tassels.” But in case you don’t, [here is a picture](#) (same picture I shared many chapters ago because of a similar Chinese imperial crown reference). ❹

2. Erniu made talismans from his own skin in [chapter 635](#). I believe there was at least one other occasion, maybe two, in which he used his skin to do things, but the exact references are escaping me at the moment. ❹

Chapter 1296: Eminent Desolation’s Eyes Open!

Chapter 1296: Eminent Desolation’s Eyes Open!

Vibrations rolled out that filled, not just the Fourth Star Ring, but all of the thirty-six higher star rings. Within the rift, the skeletal corpse of Death Departure’s red eyes flickered like a candle flame in a stiff breeze.

Then... the skeletal corpse retreated without hesitation. However, hē wasn't fast enough.

All of the higher star rings suddenly went completely silent! Gods. Cultivators. Living beings. Inanimate objects. Innumerable planets. Anything and everything went completely still.

It was as if a pair of eyes from a much higher dimension had shifted focus to look at... the starry sky! This was a gaze that surpassed space-time. This was because in the Ninth Star Ring, above the Revered Ancient mainland, the huge broken face in the dome of heaven... had looked up! The face's eyes were completely open!

And thus, in the Fourth Star Ring, in the space-time rift, two golden eyes appeared. The eyes gazed upon the entirety of the rift.

The moment that happened, Death Departure's skeletal corpse started trembling. Then hē screamed shrilly as the remaining godly rings on him exploded one after another. The God Paragon's control over Death Departure's god consciousness crumbled at that moment, and thus, the God Lord regained his senses.

The moment hē recovered, his heart and mind were overwhelmed with death. His body disappeared, as if it had been erased, or devoured by the void.

Dramatic events continued to unfold within the rift! A deep grating sound echoed out, and a spider web of cracks spread across the ground. From each of those cracks echoed a sound similar to shattering glass.

The entire dimension began to peel apart layer by layer, like an egg being peeled by a giant beast.

Everything started collapsing. The god chains shook violently, and the god talismans on them exploded. Shockwaves rippled through space-time. Shrinking black holes became vortexes that distorted everything dramatically. This instance of space-time was being torn apart madly, and then fused back together in a way that defied logic. They turned into the projections of numerous worlds that didn't exist.

As a result, Xu Qing, who was still there in the exit of the rift, was stricken by massive levels of shock. That was because, to his astonishment, he saw himself in one of the projected worlds. That version of himself was drinking with Erniu, and his expression... was one of terror. Before Xu Qing could get a clear look at the image, the space-time in the rift became like a piece of paper that had been folded over many times. At the same time, the space-time fragments were overlapping.

Erniu, who was in Xu Qing's hair, was completely taken aback as he apparently spotted a young version of himself from this current life. Then he spotted an adult version of himself in a different world, a version that was experiencing profound pain deep in his soul. All sorts of sensations erupted within him, turning into complete chaos that threatened to overturn everything.

Xu Qing felt like he was going mad. However, the chaos in space-time was beneficial for his canon, and within the vortex, he could see his past, present, and future. Innumerable clones of himself made different decisions. However, all of those decisions caused slight universal changes. Seeing those images caused his canon to start fluctuating rapidly.

And then something extremely grisly happened. In one of the fragmented worlds, atop an altar made of god bones, a tree branch made of crystal grew up. And then, fruits began to form on the branch.

Astonishingly, the fully grown fruits were all miniature versions of Xu Qing and Erniu. Then, one of the miniature versions of Erniu looked over, a smirk on his face.

The moment that smile appeared, Xu Qing's left ear was deeply injured, and blood erupted out from it into the surrounding space-time dust. It instantly froze. Then, after three breaths of time passed, an agonized shriek echoed out. It was a brutal sound from the future. Space-time was in chaos.

Off in the distance, the bronze coffin was shaking violently. It looked like it was trying to fight back. The designs covering the coffin started to collapse, revealing a flowing, liquid godsource beneath.

As the godsource vanished, an ancient, pallid pair of hands struggled to emerge from the coffin. However, because of the gaze from beyond the rift, the hands were shredded into ashes.

An instant later, a burning white light shot out of the coffin, along with a huge bang. The bronze coffin exploded! It turned into millions of bronze falcons that flew out in all directions.

Then, a decaying figure rushed out! It was impossible to make out the figure clearly, but in addition to emanating a sense of rot, hē was surrounded by a band of light like a golden river, which shimmered with paramount godhood. Without pausing for a moment, and without making a single utterance with his godly voice, hē fled at top speed!

All paramount entities in the thirty-six higher star rings were shaken to the core. All were looking in the direction of that rift with its chaotic, collapsing space-time. Everything was disappearing.

Xu Qing, who had karma connecting him to Eminent Desolation, and had survived multiple instances of him opening his eyes, was in incredible danger due to the space-time chaos. He had no way to flee. And the numerous black hole vortexes were the source of all the space-time chaos.

Xu Qing knew that if he got sucked in, he would probably never get out. Thankfully, his canon contained a space-time will, and the power of overlapping universes. Thus, he was able to struggle against the chaotic flow. Unfortunately, his soul was out of control, and was slowly being pulled back by the distorted space-time. The cries of Erniu began to turn into something like a distant illusion. Xu Qing's body was crumbling into motes of light that were fusing with the chaos.

Erniu was also in great danger. His body was fading away, and though he kept his teeth clenched firmly down onto Xu Qing's hair, he was still screaming.

Then, a chunk of the crumbled coffin slammed into Xu Qing, piercing his flesh and blood. Xu Qing couldn't pay attention to that. He knew that considering the chaos, if he continued to crumble, he would be in immense danger.

At that moment of crisis, something occurred to Xu Qing suddenly.

This is similar to something from before!

His mind reeled as he thought back to the illusion of the god of pain. He remembered the God Lord chasing him down and having no choice but to enter space-time chaos. That was where he found the destined opportunity to become a Summer Immortal. This scene was not exactly the same, but was definitely similar.

There was truth in the illusion... no wonder....

With that thought in mind, determination filled him. Taking control of his canon, he sent numerous threads spreading out over him like a cocoon. Then he shot toward the nearest black hole vortex. He plunged right into the chaotic flow of space-time!

Chapter 1297: Personally Getting Involved

Chapter 1297: Personally Getting Involved

What had once been one of the four great forbidden regions in the Fourth Star Ring was now collapsing. Nothing therein would exist ever again. It had become empty and void.

The ‘existential conception’ within it was peeled away and smashed into oblivion. The chaotic flow of space-time within it came to be nothing. It was like an unchangeable constant that would exist for all eternity.

However, on the outside, paramount entities like the Immortal Paragon in the Fourth Star Ring and the God Paragons in the other star rings were currently deeply focused on another location.

The spot they were looking at was a location where the Fourth Star Ring abutted the Third Star Ring. Ripples flowed in that area. It was as if some entity were moving through that area by some unimaginable means, and in a way that someone without the personhood of a God Paragon could not perceive.

The living beings who resided in that part of the starry sky couldn’t see it or sense it in any way. It was something that they weren’t capable of understanding. Even gods hiding in that area were unaware. Whatever that unique entity was, it surpassed the limits of their perception. It was almost like an abstract conception.

And that conception... was the old God Paragon who had just fled from the rift! His body encompassed the starry sky, and his consciousness surpassed space-time. His existence became a part of all living things, and his speed could not be described.

What was more, he was fleeing. As he moved along, a tempest swept through the star ring. Countless gruish beings proliferated within the tempest, then died an instant later, becoming a beginning and end, or fate and destiny. They became part of that conception, and part of his forward momentum.

As a result, he was rapidly approaching the Third Star Ring.

However, his consciousness was trembling. It was because he was fully aware that there could be great differences between different God Paragons. And though Eminent Desolation had obviously

suffered a severe injury, hīs personhood was half a step into the Living God level. And that was the highest there could be in the higher star rings.

Because of that, Eminent Desolation would cause fear to rise in the heart of any God Paragon. Hē was an unstoppable force!

What was more, the fleeing God Paragon knew that hē was far from being in a peak state. In a battle of godly authority years ago, hē had lost to the current God Paragon of the Fourth Star Ring. For countless years after that, hē had been imprisoned, and had slowly drained until he was incomparably weak. The idea that hē could escape from Eminent Desolation, who was half a step into being a Living God, was simply ludicrous.

The Living God Umbilical Cord won't open for me.... The only option for me right now is to go to another star ring. If I use the godly aura of that star ring to contain my conception, in that way I can hide! Unfortunately, there are immortals everywhere in the Fifth Star Ring, so that's not a suitable place for my godly authority and conception.

Within that conception within the starry sky, the old God Paragon's divine will surged. After Eminent Desolation arrived, all karma collapsed. Countless secrets were revealed, including all evidence of external forces. As a result, hīs omniscience was finally able to form a complete sense from all the disparate bits of information within the broken karma. When all the information came together, the God Paragon smiled.

That Immortal Paragon... is a more profound schemer than any god. Just what I would expect of the only immortal to ever become a Paragon in all history!

At first, his scheme included me.... First was to get on the same page as Nan Ke. By borrowing karma, he forced God Paragon Nan Ke to sacrifice everything to enter the Living God Umbilical Cord. Then he got Eminent Desolation to drive me away.... He wanted me to go to the Third Star Ring to pave the way for the next part of his plan.

He knew that I would flee to the Third, because that would be my only shot at surviving. He also knew that I wouldn't go to the Fifth... because I would definitely die there! Every step of the way. Every turn of events. All of it revolves around the karma tying those two people to Eminent Desolation! [1]

The old God Paragon's divine will within the conception was pulsing. Laughter rang out within the conception.

However, Immortal Paragon, even using Eminent Desolation from a distance will keep the karmic connection to a minimum, are you sure... that I have no other options at hand??

Next, in a development that shocked all observers, something erupted from within the conception. The old God Paragon suddenly shifted directions! The conception turned... and appeared in a different area in the Fourth Star Ring!

It was a spot very close to the Fifth Star Ring! This development astonished everyone in the other star rings.

You think I'm some pawn you can manipulate...?

By some indescribable method, the conception spread over the border, invading the Fifth Star Ring. At that exact moment, the divine will of the old God Paragon echoed throughout the thirty-six higher star rings.

“I am a preheaven god, respected my whole life, a slaughterer of countless hordes, and after becoming a God Paragon, I now ponder the path to Living God...”

The divine will caused all of the God Paragons to tremble inwardly. And then, the old God Paragon in the form of conception truly entered the Fifth Star Ring. Because of hīs arrival, the immortal energy fought fiercely, becoming ripples of rejection. As a result, the conception was forced to change form.

The hidden God Paragon was forced to reveal hīs terrifying form. Hē was an entity covered with countless heavenly bodies, as well as endless writhing tentacles. Stars and planets were born upon hīm, and they also died. It was as if hē was a part of the operation of the star ring itself.

Then hīs voice echoed out again.

“Anyone who plots against me will have a hard time escaping the constant. It was like that with Nan Ke, and as for you....”

The divine will echoed into the minds of the populace of the Fifth Star Ring, hitting them like endless bolts of lightning. Countless living things howled in agony, and endless beings withered. As hīs divine will spread out, hīs physical form became manifest fully, making hīm completely visible there in the Fifth Star Ring.

The destiny aura of the Fifth Star Ring couldn’t sustain the fluctuations. Innumerable universes and planets began to tremble and sink into instability. The moment the God Paragon revealed himself, evidence of hīs existence shone brightly everywhere.

It was extremely eye-catching. And it caught the attention of that which was pursuing hīm.

An instant later, two golden eyes appeared in the void behind hīm. They reflected all living beings, contained infinite universes, were profoundly majestic, and were inviolably holy. They were none other than Eminent Desolation’s eyes!

Hē had arrived in the Fifth Star Ring! And the moment it happened, all cultivators in that star ring reeled. It led to indescribable astonishment, unending fear, and it caused all flesh and blood to writhe.

The terrors which had been visited on the Revered Ancient mainland were now occurring in the Fifth Star Ring. As mutations began to flourish, Eminent Desolation’s gaze locked onto the God Paragon!

The God Paragon didn’t seem to care. Hīs eyes were apathetic and hīs expression was one of determination. As hīs divine will raged, hē imbued his voice with it to create a sound that could shock immortals!

“There isn’t anyone who can turn me into a pawn! And since you tried... I’ll destroy the game board!”

The God Paragon turned to face Eminent Desolation's eyes. Hē allowed Eminent Desolation's gaze to lock onto hīm, and even as hē started melting, hē did nothing to evade. But hīs divine will rocked the higher star rings.

“Immortal Paragon, I have abandoned any hope in the Third Star Ring. I have instead chosen to die to ensure that Eminent Desolation's aura remains in the Fifth Star Ring forever!”

Hē seemed to pulse with derision, which became countless aspects of conception, like an easy path leading right to the Fifth Star Ring. Eminent Desolation's gaze covered hīm, then followed that path to spread out into the starry sky.

It was such a large area it covered a third of the entire Fifth Star Ring! And then something happened that shocked all living beings and all gods.

1. I made an executive decision to do an editing change here. The God Paragon was referred to by a different name in this passage, but I'm 99.9% sure it's the same one mentioned previously, who was called Nan Ke. So I edited this passage to maintain continuity. There is never any further elaboration about the name, so we have very few clues to go on other than the story as presented. I did not want to bother the author asking about this tiny thing. In the end, what makes most sense is that the God Paragon here is the same one as mentioned before. ॐ

Chapter 1298: The Game Continues

Chapter 1298: The Game Continues

The endlessly majestic, infinitely mysterious starry sky was experiencing an extremely disturbing collapse. As every second passed, it was like a painting full of the most extreme levels of destruction filling the field of view and attacking all things in existence.

If one could view the collapse in slow motion, it would be possible to see that, starting in the distant, never-ending horizon, there was something like a golden thread floating there. It was almost like someone had casually painted a mouth in the darkness of the painting. It wasn't particularly eye-catching, but it did contain an unspeakably dangerous aura.

It was the old God Paragon's conception. And that was attracting the gaze of Eminent Desolation.

In the blink of an eye, the golden thread became many golden threads. They madly spread out in all directions like a greedy web. Where they passed, the previously tranquil starry sky became like the surface of a lake that a boulder had smashed into. Rippling waves surged out everywhere. As the ripples spread, the distortions became reality, bending even the light cast by the heavenly bodies.

Next, the heavenly bodies, which were like jewels set into the dark canopy of the various universes, began to dance wildly. Huge suns that normally burned like universal furnaces, unleashing never-ending light and heat, reacted as if they had been hit with gigantic, invisible hammers. Their external surfaces exploded, sending out angry crimson fire like savage dragons.

The light was so brightly red it was blinding enough to illuminate entire universes. The heat waves were so intense that entire planets were vaporized, leaving behind not a trace of their existence, other than shimmering lights that flowed into chaos.

The interior of the suns couldn't stand up to the violent force, and collapsed into countless bizarre bits of glowing rubble that blasted out in all directions. Each bit of rubble seemed to contain the final defiance of the suns, as they streaked through the darkness like sharp swords to slice apart the rest of the starry sky. It was as if profoundly deep wounds were being ripped open in the starry sky, as if an epic poem were being written about the destruction of everything.

At the same time, the planets that were like millions upon millions of jewels inset into black silk fabric, began to experience the devastating force. Planet after planet exploded. Dazzling light spread out, becoming a blinding waterfall of light that spread with mountain-toppling, sea-draining force. Wherever it spread, space became like pure primal-chaos.

Before, there were planets and galaxies that had been clearly visible, but they were soon overwhelmed by the chaotic convergence of darkness and light. They were ripped apart like a scene from hell itself. With every beam of light that shot out, the universes seemed to issue despairing cries to form a last-ditch defense.

Galaxies could not escape the destruction. Innumerable galaxies, and even star domains, which had once been like majestic and mysteriously orderly islands in the sea of darkness around them, were now like piddling sandbanks collapsing beneath a strong tide. They were shattered, and heavenly bodies collapsed in all directions as the galaxies' structures were destroyed.

In a very short period of time, the boundless starry sky became a wasteland of primal-chaos! All the heavenly bodies were crushed. Their light went out, all while darkness and gloom spread. It was as if all traces of things from before had been devoured.

There were a few scraps of defiant light that shone, which were the final, lingering effects of the collapse. They were short-lived. Eventually, everything was overwhelmed, and the only thing left behind was deathly silence.

Nothing existed.

In only a few short breaths of time, the majestic starry sky had lived an entire lifetime.

Even the old God Paragon and the gaze of Eminent Desolation became nothing. All of the universes, all of the planets, all of the living beings and inanimate objects were like the Peerless City of the past. They became nothing.

A final stream of divine will from the God Paragon was a howl that echoed coldly through the destiny aura of the Fifth Star Ring.

"I can't beat you, Immortal Paragon, but neither can you prevail!"

That divine will became imprinted in the destiny aura of the Fifth Star Ring, becoming an indelible natural law, something that shook all other magical laws. It would last for all the aeons.

The God Paragon perished!

All entities with paramount personhood in the higher star rings were shaken down to their god souls.

The biggest reaction came in the Ninth Star Ring. In the east of that star ring, a gigantic sleeping beast's golden eyes opened. In the north of the star ring, trembling figures could be seen atop blooming lotuses that floated atop the golden mother river. In the south of the star ring, in an astonishing black tower, a fire was lit. In the west of the star ring was a terrifying paper person seated cross-legged. The paper person licked his lips as he looked in the direction of Revered Ancient.

In Revered Ancient, Eminent Desolation's opened eyes finally closed.

Time passed.

A figure strode through the star ring of the Fifth Star Ring, a tall old man with hemp sandals, with a golden rat on his shoulder. He was none other than the Immortal Paragon of the Fifth Star Ring.

He walked forward silently until he reached the spot where the God Paragon had died. Ruin stretched out everywhere. As he surveyed the surroundings, he could sense the strong aura of Eminent Desolation.

The Immortal Paragon said nothing. He knew that, going forward, the Fifth Star Ring would forever be missing thirty percent of itself. The ring... would never be whole. And whenever the eyes of Eminent Desolation's true form opened, light would pour out from this location. The Fifth Star Ring's karma was forever tainted.

Grandmaster Bai appeared. "This is the cost of using Eminent Desolation. You could have chosen not to lead Xu Qing and that other fellow over to him."

The Immortal Paragon had nothing to say in response. Some time passed, and then he spoke in an ancient voice. It seemed as if his words were directed less to Grandmaster Bai and more to the other God Paragons in the other higher star rings.

"Do you remember what Eminent Desolation said upon failing to become a Living God? His words filled all of the higher star rings. *Fate can be broken, but constants must be respected.* Isn't it possible that the word that spread was wrong? What if he didn't fail? What if... everything that's happened is just part of the process of rising to a higher level?"

Having said that, the Immortal Paragon faded from view. The paramount entities in the rest of the higher star rings said nothing. Grandmaster Bai merely sighed and looked at the spot in the Fourth Star Ring where Xu Qing had disappeared.

Time passed. In the blink of an eye, five years went by.

There were now only three years left until the appointed time came for Xu Qing to return. Yet he had not returned.

The Fourth Star Ring had changed a lot in those five years. The gods had been confined to a very small area. Everywhere else... there were numerous supply depot planets pulsing with immortal energy. As the destiny aura of the Fifth Star Ring expanded, more and more cultivators were coming to occupy the Fourth Star Ring.

Immortal Lord Mi Ming had returned to the Fifth Star Ring to take charge. The other Immortal Lords had also returned.

Grandmaster Bai was the only exception. He sat waiting in the spot where Xu Qing had disappeared.

In the five years that passed, something else changed for the living beings. Whenever they practiced cultivation, they would hear the final, echoing words of that God Paragon.

“I can’t beat you, Immortal Paragon, but neither can you prevail!”

Chapter 1299: Space-time Disorder; Karma Inverted

Chapter 1299: Space-time Disorder; Karma Inverted

What exactly was the chaotic flow of space-time? The vast majority of cultivators wouldn’t be able to offer a clear explanation.

To some extent, it was merely a term. Looking at the words that made it up, it obviously described the chaos that existed between space and time, which could be caused by an infinitely large or infinitely small singularity. That was why it could contain anything possible.

Unfortunately, limitations in perception made it impossible to go into finer details using such a description. Only people whose canon related to space-time would be able to offer a truly detailed explanation of the chaotic flow of space-time.

Xu Qing had originally believed in that more simplistic explanation. Before entering the chaotic flow of space-time, he thought that it was something similar to his own Infinite Timelessness, just more majestic and mysterious. Given his own canon, he had a greater chance of coming back out than anyone.

But after going in, things surpassed his predictions. The things he saw left him dazed mentally. Looking up, he saw an infinitude of multi-colored vortexes. They came in all sizes and went on endlessly. Some were orderly, some were chaotic. Some were still, some spun madly. Quite a few of them interacted with each other.

Altogether, they formed an image of a very complex starry sky. One glance would cause a painful swell of information in one’s mind. And after enough time passed, one would feel like their mind was about to crack.

The image wasn't limited to that. Xu Qing and Erniu existed in unusual states thanks to being in this place.

Xu Qing no longer looked human. He was made of innumerable triangular, glowing bugs. Each glowing bug, from birth to death, lived for only 1/10,000th of a breath of time. Upon being born, the bug would become a dazzling light source. After dying, the result was like an image of the chaos that resulted after a firework exploded. The flame would turn into ashes and then cover over all the light. It was an endless cycle.

Because of the change to Xu Qing's state, Erniu was no longer in his hair.

Erniu's appearance was even more abstract. He seemed to be made of a million motes of light, which combined into a kaleidoscopic form that constantly changed. When he spoke, his words came out chaotically.

What he wanted to say was, *"What's going on here, little Ah Qing? Huh? Where are we?"*

But what actually came out of his mouth and reached Xu Qing was something different. It sounded like, "Are what's on, here Qing going? Ah? We are little?"

It was all in chaos. Time. Space. And the two of them. Everything was twisted. It was as if time had no meaning, and that space was pointless.

Xu Qing was stunned. This was completely different from his canon! Moving about and exploring didn't involve any of the ordinary methods of movement.

One couldn't physically move here. In fact, movement wasn't required at all. All that was required was thought. When one exercised thought, the surroundings would spin into motion.

Studying the surroundings worked the same. It was as if all of the secrets in this location just needed to be seen clearly, and could then be understood. The premise, of course, was that one could survive, look around, and gain knowledge.

As Xu Qing numbly studied his surroundings, he saw what appeared to be himself off in the distance. Of course, the so-called distance involved could be time, in other words, the past, present, and future. Or it could be different dimensions and levels of space.

When he focused his thoughts on the distant figure, he quickly realized that he wasn't just seeing one version of himself. He was seeing... countless versions. Countless versions of himself in countless states.

He saw planets covered in water. The planets turned into flowing water chains, twisted and distorted as they floated through his senses. Galaxies became worms in putrid water, flashing past him. Star domains became a host of unmarked graves that seemed to come alive and fight each other. There were also universes. But these universes seemed like tattered shrouds.

There was more. As he and Erniu moved about and studied their surroundings with their thoughts, occasional flashes of dazzling light would appear, along with destructive bursts of darkness.

This was impossible to explain. It was pure chaos. This was the chaotic flow of space-time.

Xu Qing became increasingly dazed. He had no idea how much time had passed. It seemed like ten thousand years, but at the same time, seemed like an instant.

Voice trembling with wonder, Erniu spoke again. "This before a lot seems something seen I've.... It past looks like of my some lives...."

The words came out chaotically, as if they had been stretched out by space-time. When they reached Xu Qing, they were like claps of thunder from heaven, smashing into his body of bugs. Countless triangular bugs exploded, releasing more images of the future, and causing Xu Qing's mind to reel even further. He couldn't settle his thoughts.

But the light grew stronger in between the brilliance and the darkness. Eventually, when Erniu's words faded away, Xu Qing finally stabilized. His thoughts settled, and he looked over to try to find Erniu.

Erniu had vanished. Because he vanished, the words he had spoken were somehow erased from Xu Qing's senses. He could remember hearing them, but had no way to recall the contents.

Xu Qing didn't say anything. He just knew that his thoughts were slowing, to the point where his consciousness was on the verge of fading away.

A feeling of death rose in his thoughts. And yet, it did not come with the sensation of crisis that usually preceded death. The perception came only because of the previous sensation of himself exploding.

What was more, his state changed. His body, instead of being made of bugs, became human again. Then the cocoon weaved of canon appeared around him. It was his canon. After it appeared, a thought entered his mind that seemed to have come late.

I need to use my canon to create Infinite Timelessness, and use that to resist the chaos of space-time that exists outside. Use chaos to fight chaos!

The moment the thought occurred to him, he opened his eyes and looked at the cocoon of canon. Normally speaking, order would come because the thought occurred to him, and he then made it manifest.

But here, it worked the other way around. Karma and logic were mixed up here. Or perhaps it was proper to say that there was no logic, because the cause and effect of karma had been inverted.

This chaotic flow of space-time really is impressive....

Being inside his cocoon of canon, Xu Qing was separated from the outside, and now he was starting to return to normal. His thoughts were gaining a semblance of logic.

As that happened, he thought about Erniu disappearing.

Normally speaking, I should have unleashed my canon the moment I got here....

He tried to recall why he didn't do that. He quickly realized why.

It all happened in an instant.

He realized that everything that happened, including falling into a daze, studying his surroundings, and Erniu speaking, and even the forming of the cocoon of canon, had happened the very instant he entered the chaotic flow of space-time.

Yet many, many things had happened in that instant. Simply put, the moment he entered, events in different timelines proceeded and simultaneously overlapped. Then everything exploded all at once.

Xu Qing didn't say anything. But soon, his eyes shone as he looked at the cocoon of canon, and thought about what he had seen in the outside world.

Everything is chaos, without logic. Karma is inverted. And yet, it all makes sense. To some extent, this is just another way that space-time works. It actually surpasses my Infinite Timelessness....

As he pondered the situation, he suddenly realized why he had been able to successfully gain enlightenment of space-time chaos in the god of pain's illusion.

It's because space-time chaos is actually just a higher-level manifestation of the canon of space-time!

His eyes glittered.

It's not going to be easy to just leave this space-time chaos easily. I have no idea where Eldest Brother disappeared to, and at the moment, I can't go outside. I guess that means I'll just have to seek enlightenment here!

First I need to understand what exactly the chaotic flow of space-time is, and how it compares and contrasts to my canon. I have to gain understanding first before I climb to higher heights.

With that thought in mind, Xu Qing crossed his legs, closed his eyes, and linked his thoughts with the external manifestation of his canon. He was like a little island in the chaotic flow of space-time, motionless amongst the waves. But his thoughts spread, unbounded.

Outside, a dense coat of fur had appeared on the surface of the cocoon of canon. It was a bizarre manifestation of Xu Qing's thoughts in the chaos of spacetime. Though it was on the outside, that didn't interfere with the synaptic functions of his thoughts. Instead, it allowed Xu Qing to perceive the outside. That was how he would fuel his enlightenment.

Time passed slowly inside the cocoon of canon. But the reality was that such a flow of time held no value. There were limits to everything, and it could not be fully manifest outside.

It was just like how Xu Qing did not make any progress with his enlightenment. He was unable to find a single clue in the chaos of space-time. He could not even find a starting point. It was like looking at flowers in the fog, or trying to gaze at the moon in a pond.

The fur on the cocoon grew longer, stretching deeper into the chaos of space-time. He sought more deeply. But the result was the same.

Xu Qing opened his eyes, frowned, and looked toward the outside.

It's pure chaos. I can't even form a train of thought. It's similar to how, without a reference image, you could never put together a host of countless broken puzzle pieces. I need a reference image. I need a way to look at the substructure of the chaotic flow of space-time.

The point of the reference picture is to provide a starting point. I need to be able to see the outline of the space-time chaos.... In that case, what kind of reference picture would actually work....

Xu Qing pondered the situation.

I can't control the chaotic flow of space-time. It contains all possibilities, and yet, it seems as if it's being limited. It actually reminds me of fate....

Xu Qing's heart and mind suddenly seized.

"Fate?" he murmured, his eyes shining. He waved his right hand, causing a dazzling bit of godhood to appear in his hand. It was the godhood that Immortal Lord Mi Ming had given him! The power it contained was none other than fate! As he looked at the godhood, his eyes shone with increasing brightness.

Use fate as the picture. Piece together the chaotic flow of space-time. That will be the starting point of my research!

Fate was abstract. So was the chaotic flow of space-time. If he considered the chaotic flow of space-time to be a host of never-ending puzzle pieces, while the image of fate was a completed puzzle, then for the first puzzle piece... he would choose himself.

Chapter 1300: The Two Sides of Space-Time

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Xu Qing reached up and touched his forehead. The memories of his life became flows of light that swept out and converged in front of him.

They became himself, as a puzzle piece! And that puzzle piece also served as an anchor for enlightenment within the chaotic flow of space-time.

That anchor was also like a seed that grew as it absorbed Xu Qing's life. It used the power of fate to spread out into the chaotic flow of space-time from Xu Qing's cocoon of canon. And from within that chaos, it absorbed what he needed.

And thus, Xu Qing's past appeared on the puzzle. Within it was his youth in Peerless City, where he had been born. It included his life of struggle, his tough training in Seven Blood Eyes, and the Grand Competition in the Merfolk Isles. It also included the process of becoming a swordsage, everything in Sea-Sealing County, the huge battle with Crimson Mother, and his role in humankind's rise to prominence....

It included all matters related to Xu Qing's fate and life. It became a complex network.

What about subsequent pieces....

Within the cocoon, Xu Qing looked at the godhood of fate and sensed the first puzzle piece he had put down. After some thought, he made a decision.

Subsequent pieces will be everyone I've encountered on my journey!

The godhood of fate flickered, forming new puzzle pieces filled with countless figures from his memories.

There were his relatives in Peerless City, and the enemies he had made in the wilderness afterward.... There was Sergeant Thunder, the other members of Squad Thunderbolt, and Master Seventh. There was Erniu, Huang Yan, Second Elder Sister, and Third Elder Brother. Also included were Yanyan, Zhao Zhongheng, and Ding Xue. There was Zhang San and the Mute. Wu Jianwu and Kong Xianglong. Qing Qiu, Ningyan, as well as Plumdark and Ling'er. The Heir Apparent and his siblings, Empress Summer Departure, Grand Emperor Swordsage were there as well.

Eventually, everyone Xu Qing had encountered in Revered Ancient was present.

There was also Sir Star Ring, Li Mengtu, Zhou Zhengli and the others. All were people he had interacted with, and those encounters became like sparks spreading out to become new puzzle pieces. There was a second, a third, and a fourth....

More and more, drawn out by the power of fate. Then they went to the outside to absorb the power of space-time, and to take the chaos as nutrients. The puzzle pieces grew more and more complete. It included everything Xu Qing knew about the lives of everyone he had encountered.

After the puzzle pieces grew to a certain extent, they would send out threads of fate that made additional puzzle pieces. As the power of fate was unleashed, they were being linked to even more elements of karma. And they were all being revealed on the picture of fate that Xu Qing was forming.

Time passed.

Xu Qing looked at the puzzle in front of him. He was like the audience, looking at all of the familiar people in front of him. The picture of fate didn't need him to make it move. It formed a cycle of his own life as it expanded in front of him. And it drew more and more deeply on the space-time from outside.

It grew larger. It expanded. And it didn't just contain elements of his life that he was familiar with. It also contained unknown pasts and futures. There were more and more people that he had never met. It was hard to say if they were real or not, because they were just possibilities.

This is what fate is....

Within the pictures of fate, everything existed.

Xu Qing even got the feeling that if he took this picture of fate into the outside world, and bolstered it with the godhood of fate... everything inside could replace natural law and become a true weaving of fate. It could control all living beings.

The power of Eminent Desolation....

Xu Qing contemplated that. At that moment, he suddenly considered changing his canon to that of fate. This process of borrowing the power of fate had given him a much deeper understanding of that power, and a sense of how terrifying and majestic it was. But in the end, he put aside that idea.

Fate might be good, but it comes from Eminent Desolation.... I can use it as a tool to help me see the chaotic flow of space-time, and thus perceive my path! And I can use it as an attractant....

Xu Qing looked up and waved his hand at the cocoon. It vanished, and Xu Qing appeared again within the chaotic flow of space-time.

As the picture of fate grew, Xu Qing was able to hover in the flow, looking around. He still looked like a human, and his thoughts were still normal. The picture of fate followed a sequential order, while the chaotic flow of space-time was full of disorder. Since Xu Qing was within the order, he could use fate as a guide to measure space-time, allowing him to study this moment and experience something very different from before!

Next I need to do some experimenting.

He looked off into the distance. Determination flashed in his eyes as he put away the godhood and then waved his hand toward the picture formed from the power of fate. His plan was to extract the blessing of fate and cause the picture to explode.

Then, he would tap into the power of that explosion to see how the puzzle of karma had been overturned in the chaotic flow of space-time. And by means of that process, he would gain the perception of canon!

The puzzle trembled. Without the blessing of the godhood of fate, the picture had no way to survive within the chaotic flow of space-time. The moment Xu Qing moved his hand, cracks started spreading out on it. Moments later, it exploded.

The power of the chaotic flow of space-time swelled. Space-time chaos surged, plunging the lives of everyone into chaos, separating time and ripping all experiences to shreds. And then, the chaos that existed in space and time converged. For example, the day of someone's birth was changed, and was placed after the death of their descendants. Or something dramatic that happened to one person suddenly happened to another instead.

It became a chaotic flow of space-time! Karma was inverted and logic was full of logical errors.

Xu Qing remained in place looking at it all. Enlightenment struck him. Countless information occurred to him, which he understood, memorized, and gained instant enlightenment of. Though he still couldn't penetrate it fully, at least his perception was bolstered.

Thanks to that perception, Xu Qing understood that from beginning to end, what he thought was chaos was really just one singular space-time. But because of the struggle that existed in space and time, it looked like this location contained everything. It was similar to the power of overlapping universes.

But the reality was that this really was just one space-time. It wasn't transcendent. Xu Qing felt enlightened.

My space-time is correct. And this space-time is incorrect.... Correct and incorrect cannot be separated. They are the two sides that exist among all things. If they are combined, they become complete, and they become a singularity.

Xu Qing's mind reeled as he was anointed with enlightenment. His eyes shone more brightly than ever. What was more important about this enlightenment was that it corroborated his canon from a different angle. It was like it was being bolstered from the foundation.

Now, on to the next step....

Xu Qing lifted his foot and took a step forward.