

Beyond the Timescape

Chapter 1311: Grand Emperors

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The vortex above rumbled more loudly than thunder. The sound of it filled Revered Ancient. It was like a heartbeat slamming into the hearts and minds of all living beings.

At the same time, poisonous plants in all regions of the Revered Ancient mainland, which had previously been withering... suddenly swayed as if they were dancing. It was as if they were offering a welcome! A deeply purple pestilential energy swept out of the vortex with mountain-toppling, sea-draining force. As it surged into the world, it obscured the sky and blocked the sun.

Within the pestilential energy was a tall figure, as black as a shadow. The moment he appeared, all the poisonous plants in Revered Ancient bloomed! A will of poison flourished within the natural and magical laws. The source of it was that figure in the pestilential energy.

He stepped out into the open. His robe was as black as the deep of night. It was decorated with frosty crystals made from the canon of poison, all of which glittered with a bizarre light. His unbound black hair swept out like the wings of a crow, shimmering with dark green fire that looked like millions upon millions of tiny, hissing vipers.

Most shocking of all were the twelve flower petals on his forehead, which intertwined with each other to create the distorted face of a beautiful woman. It was extremely ghastly!

This person was none other than Li Mengtu!

His arrival was deeply shocking to both the countless species of Revered Ancient and the many cultivators from the holy lands.

A second Quasi-Immortal! In the imperial capital, Ningyan inhaled sharply.

In Sea-Sealing County, Marquis Yao and the other powerful experts could sense what was happening thanks to their unique techniques, and they were equally stunned.

The Heir Apparent and his siblings in the Moonrite Region, as well as the cultivators of numerous species there, were shaken deeply.

Empress Summer Departure's pupils constricted. *This person is also a Quasi-Immortal! Although he's not on the same level as the first one, his aura is definitely far beyond that of Sir Primestone!*

The empress' heart tightened with anxiety.

Meanwhile, Li Mengtu looked around at the new world he had stepped into. "Is this place Revered Ancient...?"

He took a deep breath. Based on the ancestral registry back at home, he knew... that his original ancestor actually came from Revered Ancient. His heart was filled with deep emotion, and he was about to continue speaking.

However, that was when Sir Star Ring coldly interrupted. "You're blocking everybody else! Get out of the way!"

Li Mengtu snorted coldly, but at the same time, moved out of the way. As soon as he did, the vortex behind him began rumbling again.

This time, a host of mountains appeared. They were illusory mountains that formed just outside the vortex, and immediately caused the various mountain peaks in Revered Ancient to shake back and forth.

Amidst the illusory mountain peaks outside the vortex, a young woman appeared. She had beautiful facial features, with an aquiline nose, cinnabar-colored lips, and a coolness like the snowy summit of the tallest of mountains. Her flowing immortal skirt was as white as the full moon, and was embroidered with the images of distant mountains. The gray stitching seemed to flow, like clouds and mist caressing the mountain ranges. As she walked out, a cobbled footpath appeared in front of her, and the surrounding mountains rumbled as if in worship.

She was none other than Yuanshan Su![1]

She was not alone. Behind her, amidst the numerous mountains, was a figure who seemed like he had just climbed out of hell with a broken sword strapped to his back.

He wore a tattered, dark blue robe, and his hair was mostly gray, but interspersed with strands of scarlet, and it was casually bound atop his head with a hairpin made of gleaming white bone. The tips of his hair were encrusted with scabs of blood, as if someone had cut the hair haphazardly with a sword, causing it to bleed before it started growing back out. His expression was grimly cold, and his eyes seemed to pulse with malice and savagery, as if there were evil ghosts within him that could damn his enemies to myriad tribulations.

The broken sword at his back was particularly noteworthy. The hilt seemed to have been bound with decaying human flesh. The blade was crisscrossed with nicks and cracks, out of which emanated a dull purple wretched energy. As that energy spread around him, it seemed to contain the screams of countless living beings, and a deadly curse.

This person was, of course, Sir Vilespirit!

The people of Revered Ancient were yet again stricken with deep astonishment.

Empress Summer Departure instinctively took a few steps back. The first person who had just appeared was incredibly strong, and the second was no weakling. The third... was breathtakingly beautiful. But this fourth person seemed like the pinnacle of evil and wickedness!

All of these people were Quasi-Immortals! They were Grand Emperors!

Of even greater significance was the energy pulsing out from the vortex. It was a powerful energy that shook the world and caused brightly colored light to flash in heaven and earth. All cultivators in Revered Ancient were trembling, and regardless of their species, they felt the instinct to offer deep respect.

As for the holy lands cultivators, they were feeling increasingly gripped by fear.

That was especially true of the Quasi-Immortals who had scattered only moments ago. All of them could sense that, whether it was the people who had already appeared, or the energy of whoever was still in the vortex... they all surpassed Sir Primestone significantly! And yet... more people were still emerging!

All of Revered Ancient was shaken! Everyone was nervously watching in unison as the hum of swords emerged from the vortex.

Hordeslayer and Rampart shot out in their sword forms! Heaven and earth shook, and the world was filled with a light like the combination of the sun and moon. All swords in Revered Ancient thrummed in resonance.

Numerous people stared in astonishment, and even the gods who were observing with divine will were astonished.

The immortal energy surging off these two swords definitely surpassed anything else! They were clearly like treasures of an entire generation!

The sword that was Hordeslayer was three feet and three inches long. It looked like crystal made of melted snow, and shimmering starlight glittered within it. On the surface of the blade were silver etchings that resembled storm clouds.

The sword that was Rampart was shorter by about an inch. It was the color of green jade, and it was covered with images of wild mountains and raging waterfalls. At the same time, the blade was as thin as the wings of a cicada.

The two swords spiraled around each other, causing the air to freeze around them, and leaving behind blue streaks. The thrum of the swords reached high into the heavens, and it resounded with the heroic words Hordeslayer and Rampart had prepared for this exact moment.

“Hordeslayer is the killer!”

“Rampart is the defender!”

“When together we can pierce the defenses of all worlds in the star rings. When apart, we can safeguard humankind from the most mystical attacks of the gods!”

Their words echoed in all directions, leaving the onlookers stunned. And yet, the vortex continued to rumble. This time, four figures emerged at the same time.

One of them was a burly man with a huge saber slung over his shoulders. He looked as sturdy as an iron pagoda, with his hair casually bound into a ponytail with a strip of animal hide. His eyes were as sharp as one could imagine. At his waist hung a pendant made from nine teeth, each one taken from a different Altar God that he had personally killed. His name was Wang Peng![2]

Next to him was a slender middle-aged man with a very slender sword sheathed at his side, the hilt of which was covered with a layer of ice that never melted. This person's name was Li Hanfeng! His canon was that of the sword![3]

The third person looked like a refined scholar who spent all his time reading ancient classics. He wore a gray robe, had fair skin, and emanated a sensation that thirty percent of him was bookish, but the remaining seventy percent was pure danger hidden beneath his gentle exterior. In his hand was a bamboo scroll covered with dense lines of script. His canon was that of writing! His name was Li Xuan'ce.[4]

The fourth person was Daoist Bloodcloud. His hair was as red as burning fire, and it hung haphazardly down his shoulders. His face was gaunt to the point of being skeletal, and he seemed like an evil ghost that had just climbed out of a sea of blood. As he strode forward, a cloud of blood billowed around him, and he grinned in a very bloodthirsty fashion. Combined, it made it seem like he was a cloud of blood that could devour the world.[5]

These four were all Quasi-Immortals!

Ten Quasi-Immortals had arrived in Revered Ancient, shaking everyone and causing heaven and earth to tremble.

Anxiety and fear bubbled in the hearts of all living beings. Even the gods were no exception! The Quasi-Immortals from the holy lands felt their hearts pounding in their chests as tsunami waves of astonishment smashed into their minds.

Although the nine individuals who had emerged were not quite as strong as the first, every single one of them was a Quasi-Immortal Grand Emperor, and all of them caused the natural and magical laws of Revered Ancient to vibrate. Their mere presence affected all things around them!

From what the holy lands Quasi-Immortals could tell, these people all had battle prowess that was very close to that of a Summer Immortal. All of them were definitely stronger than Sir Primestone!

Of even greater significance was the fact that although none of them had their own canon, the fact that the ancient immortal had given Sir Primestone a bit of canon ensured that they knew what it was. And they could tell that these new arrivals... all had canon! These people existed in a level so high it struck fear into their hearts!

What was even more destabilizing to their minds was the age of these new arrivals. These ten Quasi-Immortals were all relatively young! Obviously... they were spectacular chosen cultivators! Each of them was the kind of person who could shock an entire world. Except... there were ten of them! Ten Grand Emperors!

Revered Ancient was shaken, all living things were astonished, the holy lands were rocked, and the gods looked on gravely! No one knew where these ten Grand Emperors came from or why they had come!

Empress Summer Departure still felt like it wasn't real, but finally took a deep breath and prepared to speak.

And yet, that was when someone in the vortex cleared his throat. That small sound became like the most violent of tempests.

There's more? The empress' pupils constricted.

An eleventh person emerged. This person wore a silver robe. His black hair was bound with a jade crown, but it still hung down to his waist. He had a kind face and warm eyes that would instantly disarm anyone who looked at him. He seemed like a genial young prince from an aristocratic clan. He was none other than Zhou Zhengli.

Though he wore what seemed like a humble smile, Li Mengtu and all the others instinctively looked at him deferentially. Everyone, from holy lands cultivators to the people of Revered Ancient, noticed that. Empress Summer Departure looked at Zhou Zhengli, and immediately guessed that he was the leader.

Meanwhile, Zhou Zhengli laughed warmly and said, "My apologies. We ran into a situation along the way. A few God Lords tried to block His Majesty's path through the Primeval Sea. His Majesty was very concerned about the safety of Revered Ancient, so he sent us along ahead. And thus... we ended up being late. His Majesty is still on the way. He should be here soon."

1. By way of reminder, Yuanshan Su's surname literally means "distant mountain(s)." 远山

2. Wang Peng: Wang is the #1 most common surname on the list of 100. It also means "king." Peng is a mythical bird of enormous size. Madam Deathblade says that it sounds like an ordinary name to her. I actually knew a guy in China named Han Peng, different surname but the same given name, so that tracks with me as well. 鹏

3. Li Hanfeng. Li is the #2 most common surname on the list of 100. Han means "freezing, frigid" and Feng means "wind." So combined, his name means "freezing wind." Madam Deathblade says that it sounds like a typical wuxia/xianxia name. 寒风

4. Li Xuan'ce. Li is the same #2 common surname as the other character that was just introduced. Xuan means "dark, mysterious" and Ce, among other things, is another word for "bamboo slip." Madam Deathblade says that this guy sounds like "a secretive/mysterious wannabe guy who is just PURE DUMB." Lol. Take that for what you will. 玄策

5. Daoist Bloodcloud was previously mentioned in [chapter 1240](#). 血云

Chapter 1312: The Ancient Emperor Descends!

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All of the imperial capital. All of the region. All of Revered Ancient.... At that moment, everyone was dumbstruck.

There were many ordinary cultivators who couldn't perceive what was happening in the Imperial Region. But the pressure weighing down, and the divine will from the Quasi-Immortals, caused tempest winds to form. Everyone was struck with a sense of profound solemnity. People began to shake uncontrollably, an instinct that came from their very life force.

Some powerful experts could use special means to sense what was happening, but the result was that they were nearly struck senseless.

It was as if all heaven and earth had slowed down, and all the natural and magical laws were crumbling. Everyone felt as if they were being hit by millions upon millions of bolts of lightning. The level of incredulity was unimaginable.

"Eleven... Quasi-Immortals!"

"Eleven... Grand Emperors!"

"Every single one is obviously the strongest type of Grand Emperor!"

"They... actually look human!"

The powerful experts who could see what was happening had a hard time believing it was real. After all, even among all the countless species in Revered Ancient, the strongest cultivators were only Imperial Sovereigns. And Empress Summer Departure was a god, not a cultivator.

Among cultivators... for tens of thousands of years, there had been only one Quasi-Immortal, and that was Grand Emperor Swordsage. And he came from the time of Dark Serenity. You could say that after Dark Serenity's time, there were no Quasi-Immortals!

But right now... the holy lands' Quasi-Immortals seemed insignificant. These eleven newcomers were mysterious chosen who shook all of Revered Ancient. Even the gods of the powerful species in Revered Ancient were taking the situation very seriously.

However, gods and powerful experts alike, including Empress Summer Departure, were even more shaken by the specific words spoken by the last of the Grand Emperors to arrive. He had used the term 'His Majesty.'

Those words astonished the empress and the others more than anything up to that point. The gods' guard went up, and the empress' pupils constricted. Everyone could guess what kind of individual eleven Grand Emperors would refer to as 'His Majesty.' Just what kind of dignity and power would such a person command?

What was more... contained in the information was an even more explosive tidbit. On their journey, 'His Majesty' had been intercepted by multiple God Lords! That information left the gods of Revered Ancient in a daze.

The cultivators of Revered Ancient didn't know what God Lords were. But information about them was part of the souls of all the gods. They knew what God Lords were and how powerful they were.

Entities like that occupied an unimaginably high level. In fact, even back in the time of the Brilliant Heaven Godfolk, there had only been one God Lord. That was the god emperor of the Brilliant Heaven Godfolk!

But now, the person these Grand Emperors referred to as His Majesty... had been intercepted by multiple God Lords! Because of what it all implied, Revered Ancient fell into an even deeper silence.

Then, Empress Summer Departure looked at Zhou Zhengli, who stood in front of the ten other Grand Emperors. After a moment of hesitation, shē asked, “Fellow Daoist, might I ask who His Majesty is?”

The ‘young prince from the aristocratic clan,’ Zhou Zhengli, smiled in response to the question. “His Majesty’s respected name is not to be spoken casually. We really aren’t in the position to reveal it. You’ll likely recognize him when he arrives.”

Stunned, the empress searched her memories but could not think of who this person might be. Shē was about to ask further questions, but then Zhou Zhengli frowned and looked off into the distance.

“Hordeslayer. Rampart.”

The two immortal swords Hordeslayer and Rampart weren’t paying attention, and were instead just flying around in the area just like before. As immortal light shone out from them, causing heaven and earth to shake violently, the two brothers communicated by divine will.

“Big brother, these people are so weak!”

“It’s not that they’re weak. It’s that were too strong! Hahahahaha!”

“Hahahahaha! Yeah, you’re totally right. That said, big brother, the mutagen levels here are crazy high! And what’s that up above? Is that Eminent Desolation?”

“Don’t look up! That’s something we can’t afford to provoke! Er, hey. Everybody’s looking at us, little brother. Maybe we should pay attention a bit?”

“Screw paying attention!”

The two swords just kept sailing around blithely. And thus, Zhou Zhengli smiled and took out a jade slip.

“On the way here,” he said quietly, “I suggested that His Majesty put me in charge of recording your behavior. If you insist on fooling around, I guess I’ll just put that into the record.”

Before he could even activate the jade slip... Hordeslayer and Rampart shot over to his side. Even in sword form, they still seemed flustered and exasperated.

Zhou Zhengli’s expression didn’t change at all. Speaking in a voice as gentle as a spring breeze, he said, “The two of you will go on patrol in the west and east. Kill all the holy lands Quasi-Immortals you find! Wang Peng, Bloodcloud, the two of you will patrol the south and north and do the same!”

Wang Peng grinned. Daoist Bloodcloud licked his lips. And then the two of them blasted off, one toward the north, the other to the south. Hordeslayer and Rampart seemed a bit sullen, but they feared Xu Qing, and thus had no option but to fly to the east and west, respectively. The four struck like lightning. Rumbling sounds filled heaven and earth as they began to attack the weaker holy lands Quasi-Immortals.

The humans below were slowly shifting from being nervous to excited. Though they had no idea where these people were from, nor the identity of His Majesty, it was already clear that these chosen cultivators were not enemies!

Smiling, Zhou Zhengli was about to give further orders.

But then something dramatic happened! A cold snort echoed out with heaven-shaking, earth-shattering force. It was like heavenly thunder filling all of Revered Ancient. Minds reeling, all the people trembled and looked up.

Zhou Zhengli and the others had very serious expressions on their faces as they similarly looked up. That cold snort came... from beyond the canopy of heaven! The heights of heaven seemed to solidify as a cold will spread down. Deathly silence ensued. Majestic might arrived that could shatter the many heavens, as explosive as a volcano!

It was the ancient immortal that was outside of Revered Ancient. He... had chosen to descend! At first, he was nothing but a blurry outline. But even still, he seemed as weighty as the starry sky, which caused the air to ripple like the surface of a lake hit by a boulder.

As the ancient immortal became clearer, the surrounding natural laws were ripped apart. Ghastly black rifts opened up, like the maws of vicious beasts. As they spread, spine-tingling screaming sounds echoed out.

As the immortal strode forth, all parts of Revered Ancient trembled. A wind swept out like a doomsday executioner, so powerful that it sliced tall mountains in half, sending boulders plunging down to the ground, where they smashed everything into dust. Rivers and seas fared no better. It was like a huge hand was ripping at them, causing massive waves to smash into the banks and cliffs, and sending water out to drown everything in Revered Ancient.

The ancient immortal had arrived, and it signaled a death knell for all living beings in Revered Ancient.

Everyone was shaken and trembling. The hope that had come because of the arrival of the eleven Grand Emperors was instantly smashed!

Chapter 1313: Qing and Niu Return!

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The developments, one after another, shook Revered Ancient to the core, and left all people astonished. Empress Summer Departure felt bitterness. In the Moonrite Region, silence reigned. A

pall had struck Sea-Sealing County. Species throughout Revered Ancient felt despair filling their souls.

Zhou Zhengli and the others sent their canon out in full force to defend against the pressure. However, their expressions were not of respect. They looked ready to kill.

All eyes were on the canopy of heaven, which was turning crimson as the ancient immortal descended!

He was an old man! His white hair had thinned so much his pale scalp was visible atop his head. He wore a shabby daoist robe that looked like it had lost its color thanks to being tens of thousands of years old. His face was cracked and weathered by the passage of so many years his skin almost looked like tree bark.

He emanated an aura of rot and poison, as if he was a living corpse that had just crawled out of the Yellow Springs. But at the same time, his aura was so terrifying it seemed capable of commanding the auras of all other living beings.

As that aura spread through Revered Ancient, all living beings were forced to incline their heads and bow at the waist. Even the gods chose not to look at him. This was power that surpassed the level of Quasi-Immortals and Altar Gods. This was the might of a Summer Immortal or a True God!

And he was no ordinary Summer Immortal. He was at the peak of Summer Immortal, just half a step from the next level! In other words, he could be called...

“Half a step into Immortal Lord!” Sir Star Ring murmured, his eyes shining.

As everyone felt despair, the ancient immortal turned his head and looked with turbid eyes at Zhou Zhengli and the others. He had hoped to avoid descending into Revered Ancient. But the developments had required that he personally interfere.

“I’ll wait here for the person you call His Majesty,” he said in a raspy voice. His eyes contained great power, but so did his voice.

Zhou Zhengli and the others trembled and even coughed up blood. All of them could sense the terrifying strength of this Summer Immortal.

Then the ancient immortal turned his attention away from Zhou Zhengli and the others. Instead... he looked toward the continent of South Phoenix. His eyes seemed to shimmer.

“I have arrived, my apprentice. Come pay respects to your Master!” His voice seemed to contain something unusually domineering, and as it echoed through Revered Ancient, it became part of the natural laws.

A huge, rumbling wind smashed into South Phoenix. There, in Seven Blood Eyes, Master Seventh began to blur. Then he disappeared from the meditation facility in his mansion grotto. When he reappeared, he had spanned the void, crossing many regions until he was in midair above the imperial capital.

His arrival caused the air to shatter. Infinite light shone out from him, spreading in all directions and causing the destiny aura of Revered Ancient to roil. Behind him floated his many past lives, which combined with him, causing his power levels to surge.

Astonishingly, one of those past lives wore an emperor's robe, and seemed ancient and domineering. That was... the very first emperor of Revered Ancient, from long ago! That was Master Seventh's true identity!

As the past lives returned to Master Seventh, an aura that surpassed that of Quasi-Immortal built up on him. It was the might of a Summer Immortal! And his battle spirit surged!

Unfortunately, not all Summer Immortals were the same. Though Master Seventh emanated scintillating light, as well as a readiness to do battle, in the face of the plentiful and terrifying aura of this ancient immortal, he was like a leaf floating amidst massive waves. What was worse was that there was something causing Master Seventh's aura to deteriorate. It was something he couldn't suppress. And yet, Master Seventh's eyes were as decisive as ever as he looked at the ancient immortal and shook his head.

"You are not my Master."

As he spoke, he lifted his right hand, and a spear materialized in it. Gripping the spear, he pointed it at the ancient immortal.... His battle spirit erupted! From the murderous look in his eyes, he was clearly ready to put everything on the line in a fight to the death.

It looked like fighting would break out at any moment. However, that was when the vortex that had brought Sir Star Ring and the others started rumbling again. A terrifying aura erupted from it, something that could rip everything to shreds.

The ancient immortal looked up at the vortex. Master Seventh's eyes glittered.

Smiling, Zhou Zhengli ignored the ancient immortal, took a step forward, and bowed in the direction of the vortex!

"We offer respectful greetings, Your Majesty!" he said in a loud voice.

Sir Vilespirit, Li Mengtu, and all the others solemnly bowed as well. Even Sir Star Ring joined in.

As everyone instinctively looked over at Zhou Zhengli and the others bowing... An aura swept out that seemed like it could span the boundless River of Time. It was like a screaming tsunami that could break through all obstacles and penetrate the barriers between dimensions.

A blurry figure appeared, surrounded by that aura that seemed to be a materialized primal-chaos energy flow. Within it echoed dao reverberations. It contained the roaring of primeval beasts, heaven-sundering and earth-crushing explosions, and weeping from epochs in the past, all mixed together to create something that could terrify the soul.

Where the energy flow and the dao reverberation passed, space reacted like a flimsy piece of paper that could be ripped apart, crumpled together, and transformed into empty darkness. Even more terrifying was that as the figure emerged from the vortex, his footfalls were like millions of heavenly bodies collapsing and sending out a flow of dazzling starlight like rain.

To the shock of all in Revered Ancient, this was something that surpassed the eleven Grand Emperors and even the ancient immortal!

Powerful experts from all the species in Revered Ancient, regardless of what amazing things they had seen or what incredible things they had experienced, felt weak in the knees. Some even fell to the ground, their eyes filled with abject terror. It was as if their souls had been forcibly extracted from their bodies.

Even gods who normally could *call the wind and summon the rain*, were now sweating profusely. The gods started trembling as their god power went into chaos. It was as if destruction was looming right over them. Their faces were as white as a sheet of paper, and they felt completely powerless. Their life force was telling them on an instinctual level that the figure who was emerging from the vortex was a paramount being that they could not defy.

At that moment in which it seemed like doomsday had arrived, and everyone could barely breathe, Master Seventh seemed to be in a daze, and the ancient immortal had a very serious look in his eyes.

And then, a stream of light shot out from the hair of that terrifying but still blurry figure. That light arrived first! It was none other than Erniu.

Looking extremely arrogant, he loudly said, “The Qing and Niu combo is back in Revered Ancient! Hello, ladies and gentlemen!”

Chapter 1314: I’m Back, Master!

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The familiar voice struck the imperial capital of humankind like a bolt of lightning from ancient times! All of the human cultivators were instantly shaken to the core.

Ningyan had been standing on a beacon tower, wracked with anxiety and pessimism. For Revered Ancient to face catastrophe and then have a host of unknown cultivators show up had filled him with profound unease. But as soon as he heard those words, he looked up, his face and eyes full of a level of unprecedented shock that surpassed anything he had ever experienced in his life.

Staring up at that blurry figure with a look of blank incredulity, he blurted, “Captain!”

A buzz began to build among the humans in the imperial capital. Countless cultivators stood there, stunned, their minds reeling. Every person who had ever come to know Erniu felt immeasurable shock, and looked utterly taken aback.

Only a moment before, they had been facing catastrophe, and had felt incredibly nervous. Erniu’s arrival on the scene was just too unexpected. And they simply couldn’t understand how Erniu could be connected to the eleven Grand Emperors. They just didn’t know how to react.

Erniu hovered above, looking incredibly pleased with himself. This was exactly why he had rushed to jump out first. Eyebrows dancing up and down, he cleared his throat, clasped his hands behind his back, and opened his mouth to launch into a speech.

But then, Zhou Zhengli, looking incomparably solemn, flew forward, clasped his hands together, and bowed deeply.

“Zhou Zhengli offers respectful greetings, Your Majesty!”

He spoke loudly and with great force, his eyes shining brightly as if he were the most sincere believer imaginable.

As his voice drifted out, Li Mengtu flew forward and offered a similarly deep bow. Looking very serious, he said, “Li Mengtu offers respectful greetings, Your Majesty!”

Sir Vilespirit didn’t want to fall behind the others. Wiping the wicked expression off his face, which made him look a lot more normal, he stepped forward, his eyes burning as if with fire, and his cultivation base surging. As a result, fluctuations swept out from him, carrying his voice even further as he said, “Sir Vilespirit offers respectful greetings, Your Majesty!”

Yuanshan Su calmly bowed her head. Then came Sir Star Ring. He was still as proud as ever. But after everything he had experienced in his journeys with Xu Qing, the arrogant look on his face actually didn’t match his feelings inside. In reality, he deeply approved of Xu Qing. Therefore... thinking back to what Xu Qing had done back in his own home, the Fifth Star Ring, he took a deep breath and bowed.

“Sir Star Ring offers... respectful greetings, Your Majesty.”

The words uttered by the Grand Emperors sent shock into the hearts of all the people. And it wasn’t just them. Daoist Bloodcloud and the other chosen who had left to deal with the holy lands Quasi-Immortals also bowed respectfully wherever they were. Their voices echoed out as well.

“We offer respectful greetings, Your Majesty!”

In another direction, Hordeslayer and Rampart, the immortal swords, were trembling. The voices that echoed out from the two brothers seemed filled with an excitement they had prepared long in advance.

“Your Majesty shakes the ancient and illuminates the present! You are the number one in the kosmos! Your immortal bearing and bones of jade surpass all that is mortal! Your daoist magics and divine abilities shock the soul of the world!”

“Your Majesty can dominate all heaven and earth! You are invincible in the world! Your pupils are stars that contain the cosmos, and the tip of your sword can pierce the highest clouds in the dome of heaven!”

To add to the effect, they sent immortal light streaming out of the immortal sword forms, which became a five-colored halo that spread in all directions.

Revered Ancient was shaken to the core! It had been shocking enough for these eleven Grand Emperors to suddenly show up. But the way they were bowing and offering respectful greetings was simply mind-blowing. All of the people of Revered Ancient and all of the holy lands cultivators reeled as they used their various methods of looking at the person these Grand Emperors were showing respect to.

An instant later, a figure strode out behind Erniu. As he approached, his features became increasingly clear. And when everyone could see him....

Heaven and earth seemed filled with radiant brightness. All cultivators who saw him were astonished. This person's aura could overthrow anything from before. The gods who sensed it were stupefied.

Some people recognized Erniu, others did not. But... the person who walked out behind Erniu and was offered respect by the Grand Emperors could shake heaven and earth. There was not one individual who didn't know him! It was as if the arrival of Erniu, and the attention he attracted, was nothing but a foil for the person who came out after him.

Empress Summer Departure was a god, but at the moment, shē couldn't suppress the shock within hēr, to the point where an expression of utter disbelief covered hēr face.

"Xu Qing!" she blurted.

The buzz got louder.

Up in the sky, Master Seventh smiled.

On the beacon tower in the imperial capital, Ningyan stared blankly. He was trembling. Erniu's arrival had been a shock, but seeing the person behind him left Ningyan's mind empty. "Th-that... that...."

The members of the nobility in the imperial capital looked on with disbelieving eyes.

The reactions in Sea-Sealing County were similar. Marquis Yao had pooled the various powers in Sea-Sealing County to create a huge mirror that showed what was happening in the capital. And when Marquis Yao saw who stepped out, his jaw dropped. Standing next to him was his sister, Yao Yunhui, who was equally stunned.

All of Xu Qing's old friends, such as Kong Xianglong, struggled to breathe steadily. Wu Jianwu was there in the crowd, his mouth open as if to speak. And yet, at the moment, not one word of poetry would come out of his mouth. Also present were Zhang San, Ding Xue, Zhao Zhongheng, and all of the other people he knew in Sea-Sealing County. All were flabbergasted. They felt like they were in an illusion.

"Is that...?"

"He looks so familiar...."

"Th-that... that...."

Underneath Sea-Sealing County in the phoenix palace, a sharp exhalation broke the silence. At the same time, an iron skewer flew out and took the form of Patriarch Golden Vajra Warrior, who gasped and rubbed his eyes.

Of course, there was Seven Blood Eyes and also... there was the Moonrite Region! The Heir Apparent and his siblings were visibly stunned. Ling'er's eyes were shining.

“Big Bro Xu Qing....”

All of the species in Revered Ancient reacted similarly, including the gods. Sunfire, Moonfire, and numerous other gods worshiped by various species, and even hidden gods unknown to anyone, were all trembling.

Divine will and physical gazes gathered from all directions, converging on the person who was still in the middle of walking out into the open. Every step he took seemed to carry immense weight, shattering the air and prompting heavenly daos to offer allegiance to him.

He was like an emperor on patrol! He walked with an invincible momentum that came from having experienced countless hardships. As he passed, spirit energy and mutagen alike seemed to offer obeisance, and cleared the way for him.

As he appeared, his hair cascaded down like violet ink, giving him an unmatched grace. A few strands of hair crossed his face, creating a slightly messy but incredibly enticing image. He was like the most prominent figure in all heaven and earth, someone that nobody could look away from.

His eyes were like deep, cool abysses of water, incredibly cold, but also full of infinite heavenly bodies that few people would dare to look into. Every time he blinked, those eyes glittered with incredibly sharp light. It was something that could pierce into the hearts of all people, so that wherever he looked, people were urged to bow their heads in respect.

It seemed as if he could seize control of the fates of all things in existence, all by exercising a mere thought. A wild wind swept around him, causing his black robe to sway with undeniable mightiness.

The material of the black robe was so luxurious that it seemed to bend darkness and light, as if it brimmed with mysterious power. It was as if the night itself was willing to be foil to him, and place all mysteries and profundities in contrast to his transcendent nature. Everything about him, from his aura to his physical appearance, was perfect.

And then, as everyone looked on, he took a few steps out, only to stop and look right at the ancient immortal and Master Seventh. When he stopped moving, all living beings seemed to fade. Mountains and rivers lost their color, and time itself stopped. Everything went completely and utterly silent. It was as if his return made him the only heaven to actually exist! He controlled who lived and died, and none could defy him.

He was Xu Qing!

He did not look at any of the people present except for one. Master Seventh.

Bowing deeply, he softly said, “I’m back, Master. When I became your apprentice, the oath mentioned that you would keep me safe. But today, I’ve come back as your apprentice... to defend *you*, Master!”

He was back! And the words he spoke echoed out into heaven and earth, into the ears of all species, and to all corners of Revered Ancient. Countless emotions surged, and in all regions of the land, people from all species joined their voices together in exultation. They were voices of excitement, anticipation, and hope!

“It’s Xu Qing!”

“The eleven Grand Emperors were bowing to him!”

“If Grand Emperors addressed him as Your Majesty, then... what cultivation base does he have??”

“Could it be...?”

“Could it be...?”

“Summer Immortal!!!”

Master Seventh roared with laughter.

Xu Qing looked at the ancient immortal who had brought catastrophe to Revered Ancient. His expression was extremely serious and forbidding.

“Now, about you. I’ve been waiting to meet you for a long time.”

Xu Qing’s pupils narrowed to pinpricks as something like starlight shot out from them. Boundless spirit power surged, like a heavenly river that spread in all directions. It turned into a huge immortal body!

The Grand Emperors bowed, and all living beings gasped. The air shattered. All of Revered Ancient trembled, and crevices spread out in the land.

The sky instantly filled with dark clouds, lightning danced, and everything shook. Canon and statute became the new laws in Revered Ancient! Time. Space. All magics. Space-time. All daos. Parallelism. Unification... and they all led to ontology!

Chapter 1315: All of Revered Ancient Battles an Ancient Immortal!

Chapter 1315: All of Revered Ancient Battles an Ancient Immortal!

Things had built up to a crescendo! Heavenly gales battered everything left and right.

Meanwhile, Xu Qing hovered in midair, his expression cold, his gaze placid as he looked at the ancient immortal. Even as the words he had just spoken drifted out, he waved his right hand. That action sent ripples through Revered Ancient, causing the dome of heaven to tremble.

“Seal the space above earth!”

When Xu Qing spoke, his words were a command that could not be ignored, and contained his independent ontology! They became a sealing power that... separated heaven from earth! They made it impossible for things on the earth to fly up into the sky!

As a result, gods and cultivators alike, whether they were from Revered Ancient or the holy lands, instantly lost their ability to fly, and fell trembling to the ground. And that was because this power to separate heaven and earth came from a Summer Immortal! Therefore, anyone under the level of a Summer Immortal or a True God could not defy them!

In the shortest of moments, only three figures were left in the air above the imperial capital of humankind.

Xu Qing.

The ancient immortal.

And Master Seventh!

“Master, please hold the rear line for me!” he said respectfully.

Master Seventh smiled, and the gratitude in his eyes grew deeper. With a slight nod, he fell back and landed on the ground next to Empress Summer Departure.

The empress still looked somewhat dazed as shē stared up at Xu Qing. Incredulity grew stronger in hēr heart, until shē couldn’t hold back from turning to Master Seventh and asking, “His cultivation base...?”

Master Seventh didn’t respond immediately. He waved his hand and made a grasping gesture, and the air rippled as Erniu appeared. Master Seventh quickly grabbed him by the throat and dragged him forth.

“Hey, be gentle, ya old fogey! That hurts! Ouch!” Erniu was soon dangling in Master Seventh’s hand like a baby chicken. All he could do was wave his hands and legs, and yell a bit. Yet he didn’t forget to smile apologetically and plaster an ingratiating look onto his face.

“Master,” he wailed fawningly. “I missed you so much!”

Master Seventh looked at Erniu. “Talk. What’s Fourth Sib’s cultivation base now? And who are those people?”

Erniu’s eyebrows danced up and down. He knew exactly which ‘people’ his Master had just referred to, and he was already prepared to launch into some grandiose bragging.

Before he could, Master Seventh interrupted, “Talk normally.”

Scowling on the verge of tears, Erniu finally sighed. “They’re from the Fifth Star Ring, and they’re all the subordinates of little Junior Brother. You listen to me, Master. Little Junior Brother really rocked it in the Fifth Star Ring. If you went there, you wouldn’t even come *close* to being as important as him. As for his cultivation base... well, I actually just ran into him again recently. At that point he was a Grand Emperor, and also happened to be good friends with an Immortal Lord.... I get the feeling that guy wants to steal your apprentice!”

When Master Seventh heard the term Immortal Lord, he shivered inwardly, but managed to prevent it from showing on his face. Except that Erniu’s next words were even more shocking.

“That Immortal Lord friend of his gave little Junior Brother a few goddesses. Apparently, each one of those goddesses has a God Lord as a dad.”

Master Seventh struggled to control his breathing. Next to him, the empress’ eyes went wide.

“Well,” Erniu continued, “I couldn’t be outdone in that way, so I took little Ah Qing to the tomb of a God Paragon.... As it turned out, that God Paragon was still alive...” All of a sudden, Erniu realized that Master Seventh was gripping his throat a lot harder than before. “Aiyaaaa. That hurts! Agh! Gentler, please, Master!”

Master Seventh loosened his grip. He had taken the story about the Immortal Lord in stride, and even the mention of the God Lord. But then he heard ‘God Paragon.’ That was a level he had only speculated about, and he was aware that it was basically the most paramount level attainable in any given star ring! But apparently, his disaster of an apprentice had actually gone to the tomb of a God Paragon!

Taking a deep breath, Master Seventh growled, “Keep talking!”

Erniu blinked a few times. Inside, he was feeling very pleased with himself. *The old fogey is definitely going to look at me in a new light now!*

He cleared his throat. “I didn’t really do much in that tomb. I just accidentally devoured a God Lord. Supposedly he was a pretty ferocious God Lord, though. Anyway, Eminent Desolation showed up, and things got really dicey. So I quickly saved little Ah Qing and took him into a space-time vortex....

“Inside the vortex, we split up. Later on, I got worried about little Ah Qing, so I put everything on the line to find him. After I found him, little Ah Qing was crying and whatnot. I felt so bad. Being as soft-hearted as I am, I helped him reach immortal ascension. And that was when he stopped crying.”

Master Seventh frowned and was about to say something. However, that was when something really dramatic happened overhead!

Master Seventh, the empress, and Erniu alike all looked up. They weren’t the only ones. The powerful experts of countless species, regardless of where they were, used divine will to look at the imperial capital of humankind! Specifically, they focused on Xu Qing, and they focused on the battle that would determine what happened to Revered Ancient!

High in the canopy of heaven, surrounded by boundless radiant light... was the ancient immortal! The ancient immortal took a step forward, and ripples spread through the sky. Astonishing momentum caused Revered Ancient to tremble, ripping apart the dome of heaven to reveal the starry sky. The ancient immortal hovered underneath that starry sky, a sea of stars behind him, as if he were fused with that sky. And then his grim gaze landed on Xu Qing.

“A young Summer Immortal...” he said in a raspy voice. “Well, since you’ve been waiting for me, then... I’d like to see how strong you are, and whether or not your words live up to their implication!”

The ancient immortal, who looked like a corpse that had just climbed out of a grave, lifted his hand and pointed at Xu Qing!

That gesture caused his canon to build within him. Instantly, wild colors flashed and winds screamed. The sky shook, and the starry sky seemed to become more profound. Heaven-shaking, earth-shattering power surged from the ancient immortal, becoming an unstoppable momentum, stirring countless natural and magical laws, and ultimately turning into a blue drop of water!

That drop of water pulsed with a hair-raising mightiness, that caused anyone who sensed it to shake in body and soul. It felt like the mightiness might crush them out of existence, or rip them to shreds.

Even species who were a great distance away felt the same effects, and experienced a sense of impending catastrophe.

That drop of water came from a Summer Immortal, and contained immortal might! The moment it appeared, the ancient immortal flicked his finger, and the drop of water shot toward Xu Qing!

Even more terrifying to all of the living beings in Revered Ancient was that as the water drop neared Xu Qing, it multiplied! It started as one water drop, but became two. The two then became four. The four, eight. In the blink of an eye, one water drop turned into too many water drops to count. It was an astonishing blue sea! One drop had become a sea!

The sea swept forth, growing ever closer to Xu Qing. Where it passed, the air shattered, the sky was obfuscated, and the starry sky blessed it. As a result, the sea contained a will of space-time and the stipulations of parallelism! It was as if... it contained everything!

The outer layer was a tide of space-time. The sea seemed to come from an infinite number of worlds! This was the might of a Summer Immortal. Even though he did not cultivate the canon of space-time, after reaching a certain level, all daos become the same thing!

All living beings were stunned. And that was because, in their eyes, there was no sea!

The actions of Summer Immortals surpassed their perceptions. Not even the empress could see everything that was happening. It was all a blur. And thus, all onlookers, be they in the imperial capital or Revered Ancient as a whole, saw nothing but a host of abstract, complicated vortexes!

Only Master Seventh could clearly see the great sea, and his expression was incomparably serious.

And yet, despite all that, Xu Qing remained calm the entire time. He looked at the destructive sea of canon screaming toward him from the Summer Immortal, and he wasn't surprised at all. Nor did he shrink back. Instead, he extended his right hand... and gently lowered it!

The tips of his fingers brushed the boundless sea waves! The moment they made contact, something completely unimaginable occurred in front of the eyes of the people of Revered Ancient! The numerous abstract vortexes began to crumble as if they were melting!

To Master Seventh's astonishment, things changed in his view as well. When Xu Qing's fingers touched the blue sea, Master Seventh clearly saw a huge rip appear in it. It was as if the elements making it up were being extracted! And that was exactly what was happening!

Xu Qing was doing the extracting! First he extracted space-time, then he extracted parallelism. And then the sea, having been stabilized, only existed in the surrounding world! It was cut off from the outside. And the so-called 'countless' wills were transformed. Having become countable instead of countless, they ceased multiplying!

Master Seventh gasped as he saw the previously magnificent blue sea affected by Xu Qing's mere fingers. It lost all of its previous blessings! It transformed from a collective to individuals! The sea broke apart into different drops of water! The water drops that had been fused together were now split apart.

And then something happened that provoked a reaction from the ancient immortal. The changes to the sea continued. After becoming individual water drops, those water drops... also experience extraction!

No longer were they single water drops. They became... flat slips of water! And that was because Xu Qing had extracted their height! The water droplets completely lost any concept of height. They became just like the images he had seen in the second world in the Aurora Immortal Palace!

And yet, the transformations continued! The flat slips of water transformed again, becoming threads. Then they became singularities, after which they were completely and utterly wiped out.

None of them existed any longer.

All of this takes a bit of time to describe, but in the time it takes a spark to fly off a piece of flint, the entire sea became nothing.

No one other than Master Seventh understood what had just happened. Only he knew that, although it simply looked like a water drop had become a sea, the reality was that the presence of canon made the entire thing extremely deadly and dangerous. Not even he was confident that he could have dealt with that threat. And he knew that if Xu Qing hadn't been able to deal with it, he would have become just one of the drops of water in that sea.

The more Master Seventh understood about what was happening, the more astonished he was. And that was because... he had no idea how Xu Qing had dealt with the canon in the sea!

The ancient immortal's pupils constricted. He was now looking at Xu Qing as if he were an extremely dangerous enemy. "Your canon...?"

Xu Qing's expression was the same as ever as he lifted his foot and took a step toward the ancient immortal. "If your canon has nothing but the concept of 'countlessness,' then... you might as well prepare to die!"

Chapter 1316: What Is Ontology??

Chapter 1316: What Is Ontology??

As the words left Xu Qing's mouth, he took another step toward the ancient immortal, causing ripples to spread through the dome of heaven in concentric rings. Contained within them was a chaotic, primeval sensation.

That sensation was the hallmark of Fishing the Moon in the Well! Xu Qing had been using that divine ability for many years now. However, as his cultivation base climbed higher, it became increasingly ineffective. Using it against enemies under the level of an immortal was fine, but... it just wasn't something that could be used on Summer Immortals.

However, this time, Xu Qing was unleashing it in a way that was different from before. In fact, in some ways, it was now substructurally different in a fundamental way! And that was because it contained... Xu Qing's canon and statute!

On the way back to Revered Ancient, Xu Qing had taken some time to familiarize himself more deeply with his canon and statute, in some part due to encountering unexpected resistance. That was why he had arrived a bit late.

However, thanks to the fight with that unexpected enemy, he had suddenly gained a deeper understanding of his canon and statute. He knew that his canon was different from other Summer Immortals. After reaching a certain level, his canon... could produce statute!

Canon came first, statute came after. And statute... was something that only Immortal Lords could truly command.

"My canon and statute is that of ontology!"[1]

This so-called ontology was deeply profound and mysterious. Xu Qing's enlightenment revealed to him that it was all-encompassing, and something that outsiders couldn't possibly come to understand. Only the person commanding it could perceive the fundamental nature of the canon and statute.

Ontology is about disassembling complex structures and turning them into unique individualities.

Each step Xu Qing took caused more ripples to spread. All the while, his aura rose to heaven-shaking, earth-shattering heights as new understanding of his canon and statute swirled within him.

The number of those individualities is tied to the fundamental definition of 'ontology.' Unleashing it is about both disassembling and integration. It's like taking one thing and disassembling it into many things.

That perception came from Xu Qing's deep enlightenment. At the same time, it corroborated the direction of enlightenment he had pursued in the chaotic flow of space-time. After all, what he had called 'unification' was actually part of that process, as it took all of the independent parts and integrated them into a whole. It took countless things and unified them.

As a result of all the things he had done in the chaotic flow of space-time, he had taken that concept and used it to develop his canon and statute of ontology.

Take countless things and integrate them into one. Take one, and disassemble them into countless things. The process of disassembling and integration involves adjusting the components. It's about increasing and decreasing them. And that is how ontology is made manifest!

And yet, as Xu Qing realized these things, he also came to the conclusion that he still didn't realize the true nature of unification! Put precisely, the unification he was capable of now was likely a unification limited to a very specific scope.

If I consider the 'one' to be my dao, then my canon and statute will only be able to disassemble 'one.' But beyond that 'one,' there are even more 'ones.' It's like how there are different godhoods among different gods, and different canons and statutes among cultivators. They... are all different 'ones' beyond my own dao of 'one!' To truly implement integration, and to become the actual 'one and only,' I need to reach a much higher level!!

A profound look appeared in Xu Qing's eyes as he realized what direction he needed to pursue in the future.

If he succeeded, then the star ring would have no truly independent entities. It would be truly integrated, including all the canons and all the authorities. At that time, he would be the true 'one and only,' and would be the ultimate source of all.

Right now, there was no way for Xu Qing to truly grasp what that would mean, but he knew the direction to follow.

That must be my path to the level of Immortal Paragon! Right now, I have no way to be the 'one and only.' But... my canon and statute of ontology can adjust the disassembly and integration of all things, and upgrade them to an unimaginable level!

I can even change my divine abilities with that method! It's the same for my magical techniques and all of my magical treasures! So at the moment....

Xu Qing's eyes glittered. He had taken seven steps toward the ancient immortal, who looked like he was facing down the most deadly of enemies. At that point, Xu Qing stopped and waved his right hand.

Wild colors flashed in heaven and earth, all while deep rumbling sounds echoed out in all directions. Behind him, the void seemed to rip apart, and ripples spread from beneath his feet.

The dome of heaven seemed to turn into the surface of a well! Mighty waves kicked up, spreading through the sky, and turning the well into a heavenly sea. The water had reflections on it.

One reflection was of Xu Qing's personal canon and statute of ontology! Another was the painter version of Xu Qing from that parallel spacetime, and of the final work he produced before he died! The painting in the divine ability caused the ripples on the well to calm down.

Next, Xu Qing exercised a thought, and his canon and statute became like ink which began to disassemble the divine ability. Fundamentally speaking, the divine ability known as Fishing the Moon in the Well was made of: space; an image of a moon; illusory reality; and conviction!

By using the canon and statute of ontology, all of that was being broken apart. The space was the world of a well, created out of nothing. The image of a moon was a reflection of the soul of an enemy, on the surface of the water. Illusory reality contained the transposition of what was real and what was false. It contained the power of rotation to turn the false into real, and to then fish out the true soul from the image of the moon. And then came conviction. The power of conviction turned into a huge hand which reached into the water and fished something out.

Before becoming a Summer Immortal and coming to understand the canon and statute of ontology, Xu Qing knew a bit about Fishing the Moon in the Well, but couldn't truly explain the divine ability. But now, the true substructure of Fishing the Moon in the Well was clearly visible in Xu Qing's heart and mind, and he could break it down into its components. And by making adjustments to it, he could upgrade the divine ability!

The very first thing he adjusted was the spatial power within it! He added to it! The previous spatial limitations instantly expanded. Instead of a well that contained heaven and earth, it was now a well that contained all parallels and all space-times. As a result, the personhood of the divine ability could encompass Summer Immortals!

And thus, Xu Qing's ontology became like a well!

The moment the adjustment was complete, the sky in Revered Ancient blurred. It fused with the starry sky, and the ripples filling it overlapped, revealing a host of worlds. Terrifying mightiness weighed down, causing mountains to shake and rivers to flow backward. Fear filled the hearts of all living beings. Countless species were overwhelmed with amazement, and even gods were secretly moved.

Master Seventh inhaled sharply.

Even the ancient immortal was visibly taken aback. An intense sensation of deadly crisis hit him, which came from Xu Qing himself. And thus, he blurred into motion directly toward Xu Qing. His hope was to interrupt the divine ability before Xu Qing could bring that deadly crisis to fruition. All it took was a step to bring him very close to Xu Qing.

However, though it seemed like Xu Qing was slow in making the adjustments, the reality was that they occurred in the span of a single thought!

Even as the ancient immortal closed in, Fishing the Moon in the Well experienced the spatial bolstering, and the image of the moon was blessed by it!

It was instantly upgraded! It directly climbed to a higher level! Now it didn't just create a reflection of the soul. The reflection included karma, fate, time, parallels, and all other traces of the target. This was... a reflection of omniscience!

Add in the blessing of conviction from Xu Qing's immortal will and the power of parallelism to reverse illusion and reality, and the result was that Fishing the Moon in the Well truly was upgraded! In the blink of an eye, the divine ability Fishing the Moon in the Well changed dramatically!

Heaven and earth surged. The space-times of countless worlds, and also all parallels, became the surface of a well!

And it was all locked onto the ancient immortal threatening Xu Qing! Astonishingly, the soul of the ancient immortal was now visible in the water of the well! He was illuminated fully! What was more, all of his karma, fate, life trajectory, and everything else were revealed in the omniscience of the well water.

This was no longer just Fishing the Moon in the Well. This was a new divine ability that could eradicate immortals!

Xu Qing's voice rang out into Revered Ancient, with a paramount will like the voice of heaven.

"Pluck stars from the vault of the universe!"

As he spoke, he reached out with his right hand. His immortal will thrummed, becoming a huge hand. Instead of entering the well... it reached toward all traces of the ancient immortal, as if it were about to pluck a star from the sky...

Then it fished out the immortal! The ancient immortal trembled as he sensed his karma being influenced, his fate being interfered with, his life force being affected, and his soul being peeled away. The sensation of deadly crisis grew more intense. He knew that an immortal magic which could pluck stars from the vault of the universe could encompass all aspects of himself. That included all versions of space-time and all parallels.

He couldn't hide. But... instead of fighting back, he simply released his immortal will and allowed Xu Qing to fish it out. As the sensation of annihilation grew stronger, and as his karma, life force, and fate were fished out by Xu Qing, a critical momentum built. But the old man who looked like he had just crawled out of the grave actually looked at Xu Qing with glittering eyes.

"Before getting personally involved, I had no way to know what your canon is like.... But now that I'm immersed in your canon, I can tell that you're truly a chosen. However...."

The ancient immortal looked at Xu Qing through the surface of water, and all of a sudden, a more intense aura of canon erupted from him.

"Back in the day, I was also a chosen! In the half of a sixty-year-cycle that's passed, you might have matured, but I also gathered my thoughts from beyond. Furthermore, my canon... isn't just that of countless concepts! You wanted to see, right? Then pay attention and see what my canon is really like!"

Immortal energy surged, causing the void to collapse, and influencing, not just Revered Ancient, but all of the areas and space-times affected by Xu Qing's divine ability.

Beyond that, as the ancient immortal's canon seethed, something completely outrageous happened to the reflection in the well! It was as if the reflection of his soul was an unbounded entity! Though Xu Qing had fished it out, the reality was that he had not!

It was the same with all of his karma. It was as if... his karma was unbounded! Similarly, all traces of his fate were also unbounded!

1. To reiterate the information from a few chapters ago, the Chinese character here can be interpreted many ways. The most common, in modern times, is 'dimension,' and later on, the author will even reference that 'dimension' meaning obliquely in certain wordplay and narrative elements. But the author's explanation in this chapter makes it clear that he intends for this word to be more akin to the deep metaphorical/theological/cosmological definition of the word as it pertains to Chinese philosophy and belief systems. In terms of English, you can find [information about ontology here](#). However, the meaning (both in Chinese and English), is devised by and explained by the author, and isn't exactly what the dictionary definition is. ㊦

Chapter 1317: Infecting Fate, Straightening with Chaos

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Unbounded! Xu Qing thought.

Xu Qing hovered in the sky, peering into the well of myriad worlds, and the ancient immortal's reflected fate, karma, and everything else. He had to admit that this ancient immortal definitely deserved to be called a chosen of his time. In fact, during all of his many battles in the Fifth Star Ring... he had never encountered someone with this kind of canon. It had reached a level beyond the control of ordinary Summer Immortals, and it was no exaggeration to say that it was very close to the level of an Immortal Lord.

He's significantly stronger than when we met, half of a sixty-year-cycle ago!

Within the well, the ancient immortal looked up at Xu Qing. They were separated by the surface of the water, one being above it, the other below it. When their gazes met, the Revered Ancient mainland trembled. Mountains split open, the wind screamed, and increasingly intense pressure weighed down onto the hearts and minds of all living beings, turning into indescribable terror.

Meanwhile, the ancient immortal spoke in a raspy voice. "Countlessness is only the beginning of my canon. To complete the canon, I scatter countless streams of divine will to become countless clones. I even abandon my autonomy and allow a clone to become my main form. Then, I let the clones mature, devour each other, and fuse....

"The process caused the old me to dissipate. But my dao remains! Then, in the end, when my dao is complete, my canon is unbounded! I reconverged here, forming the power of statute. And now, the final leap requires only one thing. As for you... I can tell that you have not yet made the final leap."

The ancient immortal's profound eyes contained neither joy nor sadness. As he spoke, he lifted his right foot and then took a step forward. The moment he did, the surface of the well rumbled, and huge waves appeared.

It was like a massive tempest. Heaven and earth shook. The dome of the universe trembled. Everything was rocked.

The space within Xu Qing's Fishing the Moon in the Well divine ability also vibrated. The true and false within, the illusory reality, distorted, and all the independent aspects of the divine ability showed signs of complete collapse. It didn't seem like it could stand up to the force!

"I've seen canon like yours before," the ancient immortal continued. "Ten thousand years ago in the Twenty-Seventh Star Ring, there was a god... who had something very similar to your canon. One thought to cover a myriad of worlds. Universal parallelism. Converge it into a flower of space-time, and wait for it to bear dao fruit." [1]

As his voice drifted out, he took a second step. When that second footfall occurred, cracking sounds rang out from the surface of the well. Fissures appeared, snaking through the void, through space-time, and through parallelism.

The water of the well churned, becoming more turbid. What formed that turbidness... was the unbounded karma and unbounded fate of the ancient immortal! The true and false, the illusory reality, had reached their limit, and began to crumble.

The upgrade to the divine ability of Fishing the Moon in the Well was showing signs of irreversible collapse.

"In the end, you're just too young and inexperienced." Shaking his head, the ancient immortal took a third step. Heaven trembled and earth shuddered. The myriad worlds in the well collapsed. The true and false, the illusory and the reality, scattered further.

The world created by Fishing the Moon in the Well looked like a shattered mirror, and the fragments began to drift apart.

The image of the ancient immortal became complete once again beneath the shattered bits of the divine ability. But he looked very different. Though his face was still wrinkled and ancient, his eyes shone with unprecedented vitality! His long, flowing hair became flowing silver behind his back, like a galactic river pulsing with a unique aura. Outside of his body, seven-colored immortal mist swirled, the outworking of immortal might! His energy towered, provoking tideflows of heaven and earth, and dragging starlight down toward him. More than ever, he seemed like an unbounded entity.

A terrifying pressure erupted with mountain-toppling, sea-draining force, crushing everything in its path. The immortal prepared to take a fourth step.

"You talk too much," Xu Qing said calmly. "Honestly, it's annoying."

As far as Xu Qing was concerned, his opponent did have a spectacular canon. That canon of the unbounded had put limitations on Xu Qing's divine ability, to the point where it started to collapse,

allowing the immortal to lunge out like a tiger released from a cage. But sometimes, the best way to deal with a tiger isn't a strong cage! Sometimes, flexible ropes can work just as well!

Eyes glittering, Xu Qing lifted his right hand and then dropped it down. The shattered pieces of the divine ability began to transform.

“Activate parallel worlds!”

Instantly, the countless fragments of the shattered divine ability became mirror shards. As they spun out in all directions, they reflected the karma and fate of the unbounded ancient immortal, revealing a host of scenes.

In every single mirror shard, it was possible to see traces of the ancient immortal! That was parallelism, in other words, different space-times and different worlds!

In those many worlds, the ancient immortal wasn't always a cultivator! In some, he was mortal. In others, he was an animal. In other cases, he was a plant. He wasn't always the same gender, either. Sometimes he was a man, sometimes he was a woman! Then....

Xu Qing suddenly rotated his hand. Eyes glinting coldly, he said, “Change!”

That one word caused the parallels to change. Myriad worlds were thrown into chaos! The mirror shards rippled and distorted as astonishing and unbelievable changes occurred.

The reflections of karma and fate in the shards were forcibly reversed and transformed. Men became women. Women became men. In some cases, cultivators became mortals. Humans became animals. Animals became plants. Everything changed.

And there was more. In the parallel worlds, natural disasters began to play out! Meteors fell and volcanoes erupted, evaporating seas! Rivers ran in reverse, devouring entire cities. In one mirror shard was an immortal tree that protected the entire world, which was a reflection of the karma of the ancient immortal. The tree started to wither from the roots, and the leaves fell like blood-red tears.

This was the power of Xu Qing's canon and statute of ontology. In all of the parallels and space-times, he was making adjustments to the various independent versions.

All of those changes led to a large-scale overturning of the cage, turning it into a pliable rope! And that affected the true form of the target! It used chaos to set something straight!

All of a sudden, all of the faces of the mirrors shifted to face the ancient immortal, whereupon Xu Qing's right hand closed.

“Unify!”

The words echoed out and the mirrors shattered. All of the overturned karma and fate spread out, then rolled toward the ancient immortal like a wave of doom. It brought with it boundless tainted karma and boundless infected fate.

The ancient immortal had been about to take a fourth step, but now he stopped in place. He saw his karma threads being devoured by that intangible power, and he saw his fate being infected. The previously smooth and glossy threads of fate were on the verge of being destroyed.

It was like a spirit spring contaminated by a bloody corpse. Gold became brown, and ugly tumors spread. It didn't seem reversible! As those things happened, the wrinkles covering his ancient face became real crevices that started crumbling!

The silver light of immortals in his eyes started to dim, eventually turning into silver dust that drifted to the ground, leaving behind nothing but his turbid gaze. The long, silver hair behind him withered and curled. The glittering starlight turned into darkness, as though to signify the impending destruction. The seven-colored immortal mist swirling around him became sticky, like a corrosive spirit fluid that clumped on his clothing.

The same type of thing happened to his immortal power. Striations appeared all over him, which leaked dark, impure vital energy. Some of it flowed in reverse within him, becoming like magma within his bones. A spurt of black, crystalline blood sprayed out of his mouth and he staggered backward.

He struggled to circulate immortal power within him. However, the immortal might which he could usually manipulate with a mere thought seemed cut off from him by some vague barrier. The immortal light that formed on his fingertips became like dying moths that drifted to the ground below.

Ultimately, the depths of his soul were infected. Countless chaotic memory fragments assailed his sea of consciousness. The infected karma and fate brought a tempest with them. Everything rippled and distorted, like a painting dusted with poison powder. Even the color became poisonous, stabbing directly into his soul.

Veins bulged on his forehead, and his ears seemed to fill with millions upon millions of echoing curses. They were the wills of all those he had devoured in his life. Because of karmic infection, they had forgotten about their dao oaths, and only remembered the defiance they felt before being devoured.

And thus, the ancient immortal began to decline, turning from an immortal into a mortal. It looked as though even a slight push would cause him to disperse, and would result in the flame of his life force being wiped out.

And yet... Xu Qing didn't advance. He just stood calmly in place observing.

Eventually, the ancient immortal shook his head. Speaking in a raspy voice, he said, "Quite an impressive toppling and transformation! Your infection succeeded. But you still face limitations. You're not quite on my level..."

As calm as ever, Xu Qing replied, "Your canon starts out as countlessness. Upon completion, it becomes boundlessness. But I'm not convinced that you've failed to produce statute. You... are still hiding your statute. I supposed you don't want to use it casually. So the question is... are you going to use it now, or not?"

The ancient immortal said nothing at first. A moment later, he smiled. “Well I’m involved now. And having observed you push your canon of parallelism to the limit, I have an idea of what your statute power is. And now you’re trying to pressure me into revealing my statute so that you can observe it. However, I have the feeling that observing my statute is just a pretext. In reality... you’re waiting for something, aren’t you?”

All of a sudden, silver began to shine through the turbidness in his eyes. “What are you waiting for?”

Xu Qing shot a meaningful look back at the ancient immortal. “I’m waiting for the same thing as you. And time is on my side.”

The ancient immortal’s pupils constricted.

1. If you’re like me and forgot if the Twenty-Seventh was mentioned among the current gods with space-time canon and statute, then you’ll want to go back to check [chapter 1305](#). 

Chapter 1318: A Battle of Statute and Daos

Chapter 1318: A Battle of Statute and Daos

Xu Qing’s voice echoed out over the imperial capital of humankind, filling the sky and reaching the hearts and minds of powerful experts from countless species. Without exception, they were shaken to the core.

They had originally assumed that this battle was going to be a tribulation brought by this ancient immortal. But given what they had just heard Xu Qing and the ancient immortal talking about, it seemed... that the battle, while seemingly simplistic in nature, was actually a lot more complicated than anyone realized.

Empress Summer Departure sank deeper into silence. Master Seventh looked up into the starry sky until his gaze ultimately came to rest on the broken face of Eminent Desolation. His expression was thoughtful. As for Zhou Zhengli and the others, their eyes glittered, and they thought back to that mysterious, unknown enemy they had encountered on their way back. It was correct to say that if Xu Qing’s battle prowess hadn’t been sufficient, then their return trip... would have been a very difficult one, and they would all likely have perished.

People were thinking many things as of this moment on Revered Ancient.

As for the ancient immortal, he hovered in the air just looking at Xu Qing for a long moment. Then he smiled.

“How amusing. Apparently you really did your homework on me. Well, that’s fine. There are some things that are simply beyond my control. Let’s limit this discussion to the fight between me and you. And since you want to see my statute, then... I might as well give you a glimpse!”

He lifted his right hand and then smacked his own forehead.

That slap resounded like heavenly thunder. Intense rumbling sounds smashed through the dome of heaven, and the ancient immortal trembled violently. Something like dust seemed to cascade off him. His twisted, withered hair became as lustrous as it had been before, and the cracks all over his face turned into mere wrinkles.

The immortal bones within him instantly became like glowing ceramic. Thirty-six thousand hidden meridians within him glowed with brilliant silver, and the crevices tainted by karma shone with a fire of canon and statute that was brighter than any daylight.

The fire was like the explosion of a dying sun, and it caused his withered frame to suddenly straighten. He became like the picture of a sky-obscuring, sun-blocking statue of an immortal! It was boundlessly magnificent!

His aura, his cultivation base, his soul, and his karma all reverted from their previous decline. He was back to how he had been before!

When Xu Qing saw that, his gaze hardened. Given the level of his cultivation base, he knew that this was no simplistic transformation. This was a true recovery! Although his previous injuries had been a trap, they were still real, not faked. The reflection of the myriad worlds really had damaged him substructurally. Unless he was actually an Immortal Lord, he shouldn't have been able to resolve that situation.

And yet, this ancient immortal had done it.

Actually, he didn't resolve anything, nor did he recover. He molded a new version of himself!

It was creating something from nothing, or building without any foundation. It was taking the impossible and making it possible!

"Your statute..." Xu Qing said grimly, looking at the ancient immortal.

The immortal looked down at Xu Qing. "Now do you see what my statute is? If you don't understand completely, then I can explain! Let the heavens be opened!"

His voice boomed as the fire of statute and canon raged around him, sending out dazzling light in all directions. At the same time, the image of that enormous immortal was suddenly covered with a host of cracks. From within those cracks emitted a violet energy like something from the most primordial chaos.

The primal-chaos violet energy swirled around before turning into a host of dao clones around the immortal. They proliferated by the thousands and tens of thousands, spreading as far as the eye could see! And every single one looked just like the ancient immortal. Although they were not true and real, just illusions without battle prowess, every single one could take damage in the place of the true form.

Revered Ancient trembled. All living beings were astonished and filled with despair. This ancient immortal was terrifyingly powerful!

"Life and death are under my control."

The ancient immortal lifted his right foot and then dropped it down. The void beneath that foot shattered. Millions of silver magical symbols sprang forth, forming underfoot to form a 3,000-meter-wide “dharmic wheel of karma.”

All of the stories of his life were inscribed on the surface of that wheel! Dharmic fire raged, turning into stellar debris that caused his already dazzling immortal form to glow more brightly.

“The cause and effect of karma is also under my control!” He lifted his right hand. The karma threads that had been infected before reversed and formed anew. The ugly tumors exploded, turning into dazzling immortal light that surged back into him.

All of Revered Ancient trembled. Spirit meridians everywhere went wild, and the surviving heavenly daos began to prostrate in worship. At the same time, the myriad worlds formed from the canon of parallelism began to appear.

The myriad worlds that Xu Qing had overturned were coming back. The immortal tree which had protected one world, but had withered up, now began to grow again. The tree became a crown for the immortal statue, and the leaves chanted the dharmic words that he chanted.

Other things happened in the myriad worlds. Spirit springs became huge silver rivers. Black ice shattered to form rains of swords. Everything that had gone wrong now went right. And because of the karmic chant uttered by the ancient immortal, all of it conformed to his mightiness.

“Even your parallelism is controlled by me! Let’s not even talk about the heavenly daos.”

The ancient immortal’s tattered robe began to shine brightly, and upon it formed mysterious designs that seemed even more ancient than the heavenly daos.

In that peak state, he looked at Xu Qing. “Child, my canon started out as countlessness. Then it became unbounded. And that led to the birth of the final power of statute! This statute... never existed before me! And I have come to call it... omnipotence!”

The ancient immortal’s voice was stupefyingly majestic. It already surpassed anything mortals could understand, and directly entered their seas of consciousness with explosive force.

Cultivators from countless species coughed up mouthfuls of blood. Unable to control their own actions, they bowed their heads. At the same time, the flesh on their foreheads wriggled as an image of the immortal appeared there.

“I am eternally indestructible. Undying. I can become countless canons and innumerable authorities. I can create myriad things. How can you... fight against me?”

The ancient immortal lifted his right foot and dropped it down.

An immensely terrifying force raged toward Xu Qing, crushing anything in its path as it prepared to wipe him out of existence. Xu Qing was like a rowboat in a stormy sea, tossed about by the raging winds. And yet his expression was as calm as ever. Despite how his garments flapped wildly around him, he looked less like a little rowboat and more like a coral reef.

As the wind blew, he looked thoughtfully at the ancient immortal. After becoming a Summer Immortal, Xu Qing had come to know more about what it meant when immortals fought to the death.

Whether it was what Grandmaster Bai had explained, or what he had experienced on his return journey, he understood... that the true nature of a fight between immortals was canon! Battles between canon could manifest in many ways. But generally speaking, they came down to two things: techniques and daos.

The techniques put on display during such a fight were really just the exterior appearance of canon. The dao struggle was the internal clash of statutes, and was a type of annihilation carried out at the most fundamental level. To a certain extent, a clash of statutes... came down to striking a blow to the most fundamental logic governing the opponent's canon and statute, and using that to defeat them!

That internal danger often meant that victory and defeat could happen in the shortest of moments. Of course, the prerequisite... was to be able to understand the opponent's statute!

And right now, Xu Qing understood.

"Omnipotence?" Xu Qing shook his head. "I already understand you. Your canon is not unbounded. It's karma. And your statute is definitely not omnipotence. It's self-consistency. You're right that it's a rare type of canon...."

"What you really need is for all things to have a karmic cause and effect. But in order to make it sound more plausible, you first set down a karmic effect that you call omnipotence. By using that karmic effect to trace back to yourself, you can produce a karmic cause called omnipotence!"

Xu Qing's words caused the ancient immortal's eyes to narrow.

"In reality," Xu Qing continued, "I could have crushed you at any point. I just wanted to make sure you had no way to escape...."

Xu Qing's eyes flashed coldly as he lifted his right hand. Then he pointed his finger through the tempest toward the ancient immortal.

"Therefore, I will sever your canon, and wipe you out of existence from the root up! Your canon and statute actually isn't very hard to defeat."

The moment those words left his mouth, seven lamps appeared around him. This was none other than the Seven Lamps Underworld Fire Curse![1]

It was a curse that Xu Qing had used quite a bit when he was a Smoldering God. It was very effective. It used life force as the target, soul fire as the attractant, karma as power, and the lantern slides as the foundation. Its function was summed up by saying that when the lamp was extinguished, the enemy was extinguished! And that could harm the soul.

But right now, thanks to Xu Qing's canon and statute, it was instantly disassembled and adjusted. Specifically, he had made adjustments to the karmic power of the Seven Lamps Underworld Fire Curse!

“Change the lantern slides into a cage!” The seven lanterns combined, rose into the air, and then became a lamp that covered the entire area.

“Soul fire becomes the wick!” The lamp fire tugged on the immortal soul, causing it to become the wick. Sparks showered as if it were about to ignite.

“Life force as the lampshade, revealing the shadow play of karma!” Xu Qing’s eyes glittered! A lampshade appeared outside of the soul lamp. Soul fire blazed, and as the light was cast within the lampshade... a shadow of the ancient immortal appeared.

It was almost like a shadow puppet! And it was connected to the karma of the ancient immortal!

“As for the contents of this shadow play....” Xu Qing looked at the shocked ancient immortal and calmly continued, “Your statute isn’t omnipotence, is it? Nor is it creation. Your karma is now fundamentally the same as the karma of this divine ability. With a thought, you should be able to project the shadow play. You say you’re omnipotent. So go ahead and create a rock that you yourself are incapable of moving.”

The ancient immortal’s face was ashen as he glared at Xu Qing. The ancient immortal didn’t seem capable of looking away as Xu Qing took a step toward him.

“You say you’re omnipotent. But if you create a rock that you yourself are incapable of lifting, then you really aren’t omnipotent.”

The shadow on the lampshade distorted as a karmic paradox played out!

The ancient immortal took a step backward.

“You say you’re omnipotent. But if you can’t create that rock, then... you’re equally lacking omnipotence!”

Xu Qing spoke in a voice that could not be ignored. He understood this ancient immortal’s canon and statute, and thus, he understood that to sever them, he needed... a paradox!

By bolstering and adjusting the karma of the Seven Lamps Underworld Fire Curse, he was able to form a self-contradiction regarding ‘omnipotence.’ And that turned into a karmic paradox!

Previously, when the lamp was extinguished, the enemy was extinguished. Now, when the lamp was extinguished, karma collapsed! Now, it was not the Seven Lamps Underworld Fire Curse. Rather, it was the Karmic Shadow Puppet Play.

The shadow play rippled and the ancient immortal’s face grew more pale. He began to shake, as his canon... cracked. His statute crumbled. A battle of canon. A fight of statute. This was the foundation of an immortal. He opened his mouth to speak, and his canon and statute stirred within him. Except... it never happened.

Xu Qing shook his head and waved his hand. The soul fire in the lamp was extinguished.

The moment it happened, blood sprayed out of the ancient immortal's mouth. His entire body shriveled, and his energy, his soul, his cultivation base, his immortal body, and everything else about him shook violently. And that was because his canon and statute were collapsing!

1. The Seven Lamps Underworld Fire Curse first appeared in [chapter 688](#) and last appeared in [979](#).

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Chapter 1319: What's Behind the Scenes!

Chapter 1319: What's Behind the Scenes!

More important than the immortal was the canon! When canon collapsed, it was like the mountain 山 component of immortal 仙 crumbling, and leaving behind... nothing but the person 人.

Up in the dome of heaven, the ancient immortal staggered backward. He looked at his hand, which was crumbling away, and he realized that all of his karma and dao lineaments had turned into the rays of a setting sun that flowed across his broken skin. Within that light were an infinitude of glowing butterflies, all of which were manifestations of his past karma and fate. And now... as they flew, they struggled, their essence draining away as they themselves faded.

The ancient immortal saw all of that and smiled bitterly. He seemed to have completely deflated, and his body was once again withering. The wrinkles on his face once again split open, and the karma he had exchanged erupted again, causing his hair to again writhe and fall out! The magnificent immortal statute behind him started shaking.

The momentum he had built up in that peak moment of canon now collapsed like a dam bursting. Out of his mouth erupted mouthfuls of dao blood, full of immortal essence. Even as that blood sprayed through the air, it emitted a noxious fragrance. And as it scattered down, it turned into a blood-red haze that spread in all directions.

Among the countless species of Revered Ancient, many sensed what was happening, and were filled with excitement. Empress Summer Departure struggled to breathe steadily, and Master Seventh was shaken to the core. The eyes of Zhou Zhengli and the others shone brightly.

This type of battle of canon could shake the opponent's very foundation, so most immortals wouldn't go to these lengths unless dealing with a deadly adversary. That was why... battles of canon were exceedingly rare.

The only one who reacted somewhat differently was Erniu, who licked his lips, looked at Xu Qing and the ancient immortal, and started speculating internally.

This is just grandstanding, right? Hey, I'm good at that too. If you think about it that way, then when the day comes that I become a Summer Immortal, won't I be invincible among immortals?

As Erniu's imagination went wild, Xu Qing looked at the ancient immortal.

"You have a choice to make now," he said.

The ancient immortal slowly turned his head, his expression carrying the weight of time, and his eyes wistful. He was not looking at Xu Qing, but rather, at the vast lands of Revered Ancient. It was a world both familiar and unfamiliar to him. He noted all the species, and especially humankind.

In the end, his gaze came to rest on Master Seventh. Master Seventh said nothing.

The ancient immortal closed his eyes as the majestic immortal body he had formed began to fall apart. Cracks spread across it, covering it. When it was completely covered with cracks, the ancient immortal opened his eyes. It looked as if he had made a decision.

Instantly, silver immortal fire flared from within his eyes, spreading out to cover him, filling the cracks and spreading through the void. It was as if he was turning into a celestial sun. Surrounded by endless fire, he clenched his right hand into a fist, within which was his immortal essence that was about to be extinguished. His other hand, he stretched out, and in its palm was all the karma from his hundred thousand years of cultivation.

Sensing his two hands, he took a deep breath. And then, without any hesitation, he turned his immortal essence into kindling and used all of his karma as oil. And he absorbed it!

When that happened, the immortal essence vanished, and the karma was destroyed. The silver fire from his immortal body swelled, blasting out of him and rising in a pillar toward the dome of heaven.

Heaven-shaking, earth-shattering rumbling sounds echoed out. The sound seemed to contain a note of farewell, something that surpassed a thunderclap and shook all heaven and earth. It even thrummed within the bloodline of all living beings!

As the immortal fire climbed, it reached the peak of heaven, where Revered Ancient was sealed off. And thus, the whole sky was painted silver.

Yet, it wasn't the most pure silver; it almost seemed like it was aging. It was almost like a dirge as the ancient immortal reached the end of the road. That was because he wasn't just burning immortal power, but also, all of the achievements and virtues from when he led the Deep Earth star ring to take over Revered Ancient! That previous crown of glory was now like a medallion representing his life.

In this manner... the canon was destroyed, but the person was not! In the final moment of incineration, the silver fire lost its silver color and returned to him, filling in the cracks, and resulting in him looking like nothing more than an ordinary old man. There was nothing about him that made him seem like an immortal.

The fire above dissipated, and the sun rose in the distance. A ray of light penetrated the sea of clouds and illuminated the old man's tattered daoist robe.

"In the end, I lost immortalhood," the old man murmured. "Going forward, I have nothing to do with Revered Ancient." Then he looked at Xu Qing. "Child, I've done as you wished. And now, I have a wish! Back then, a spectacular individual left his mark in the sky with a sword. You were at his side. Did you master the sword techniques he used?"

Xu Qing looked at the ancient immortal and nodded.

The ancient immortal's eyes glowed more brightly. "Draw your sword!"

Xu Qing extended his right hand and pushed it down toward the earth below, all while speaking in a voice that echoed far and wide.

"During different parts of the Grand Emperor's life, he created different sword techniques. There are a total of five. The first stance is called... Earth Treasury." [1]

Human lands trembled as Xu Qing's immortal will entered them. The rumbling grew louder, sweeping through Revered Ancient, and causing wild colors to flash in the sky. Everyone was shaken.

Then Xu Qing spoke again, his voice rumbling across all the lands. "Earth Treasury focuses on the releasing of earth energy to replace the will of the earth with the will of the sword. It takes earth energy and turns it into sword energy. Then it converges to make an earth sword!"

As the words left his mouth, the lands of Revered Ancient rumbled as if countless subterranean dragons were thrashing about. The earth energy rose up, converged...

And turned into an astonishing sword! It was dark yellow, and it rose high into the dome of heaven! However, it did not fall.

"The second sword stance is called Rending the Void!"

Xu Qing lifted his hand and pushed it up toward the sky. The dome of heaven dimmed, and everything turned blurry. A terrifying force descended, covering all of Revered Ancient and extracting the energy from the air.

"The Grand Emperor created this sword move back when he was working with the Ancient Emperor to wage war on the other species of Revered Ancient. The void shatters everything within range, and the shattered remnants are actually sword lineaments. The infinite sword lineaments then converge into a sword that creates the sword move of Rending the Void!"

As Xu Qing spoke the words, the void shattered. Spatial rifts snaked out, filling the sky over Revered Ancient. They were dense and neverending. Those shattered remnants were sword lineaments!

As Xu Qing rapidly clenched his right hand into a fist, the innumerable sword lineaments converged to create a second spectacular sword! Sword light spread, sword light smashed all obstacles, and a sword will weighed down on all heaven and earth.

Humans who saw the two swords seemed visibly moved, and a look of reminiscence could be seen on the face of Empress Summer Departure. Other species reacted in similar ways. Years ago when Grand Emperor Swordsage unsheathed these swords, he had bought half of a sixty-year-cycle for all living beings. Without that extra time, Revered Ancient would have had a hard time standing up to the imminent catastrophe.

The ancient immortal's expression was also wistful. It was true that Grand Emperor Swordsage had threatened to awaken the broken face, which foiled his own plans. But there was no denying that his opponent's sword skills... were the best he had ever seen.

“Continue,” he said in a low voice.

With a meaningful look in his eyes, Xu Qing waved his hand again. “The third stance... is called Heavenly Palaces. It focuses on slaughter, and can only be used to target cultivators.... After the arrival of the gods, the Grand Emperor only used it once. The heavenly palaces mentioned in the name of the technique are the heavenly palaces that Core Formation cultivators create inside themselves!”

As the words left Xu Qing’s mouth, he waved his hand.

All of the Core Formation cultivators from the holy lands who had spread out through Revered Ancient, regardless of where they were, felt their hearts and minds reeling. The heavenly palaces within them trembled. And then, beyond the control of the cultivators, illusory swords appeared within those heavenly palaces. They shot out! They became a sea of swords, like a massive tsunami racing across heaven and earth.

From a distance, it was possible to see three magnificent, gigantic swords in front of Xu Qing!

“The fourth sword is called Star Splendor!”

The dome of heaven rumbled, and the light of day vanished and was replaced by the darkness of night. Within that darkness were innumerable twinkling stars. It was an infinitude of starlight that became beam after beam of sword light. In turn, long swords began to descend from the starlight and into the mortal world. This was the fourth stupendous sword!

The gods of Revered Ancient looked on in silence. The ancient immortal did the same. Empress Summer Departure was trembling.

At that moment, Xu Qing, just barely visible within the starlight and the glow of the four swords... really did seem like Grand Emperor Swordsage.

“The final sword...” he said softly, and in his mind, he could hear the words Grand Emperor Swordsage had spoken all those years ago. “This sword was created by the Grand Emperor to safeguard humankind. Its name is... The Human World!”

The difficulties of the human world after Emperor Eastglory was defeated. The struggles of the human world in the era of Sageheaven. The revival of the human world under Mirrorcloud’s control. The tenacity of the human world when Dao Life reigned. The struggles of the human world for the thousands of years that Dark War ruled. The rise to prominence of the human world after Empress Summer Departure came!

“This is how he safeguarded the human world. He is gone. But I’m still here!”

It was just like how, years ago, during the assessment of the heart, Xu Qing received a 30,000-meter pillar of light! It was truly astonishing. Up in the dome of heaven, the four swords merged together, turning into one single sword. It was... The Human World Sword! It turned in the direction of the ancient immortal, and then... it slashed down!

The ancient immortal closed his eyes. And yet, as The Human World Sword was just about to hit the ancient immortal, it suddenly shifted past him, and instead slashed into the air behind him.

All of a sudden, a golden drop of river water appeared. When the sword hit it, the water emitted a shocking sound, and then suddenly exploded, turning into strips and pieces.... An instant later, it turned into a godly river that shook Revered Ancient and caused the starry sky to vibrate!

The water was not corporeal. It was only a projection. Within that river were countless heavenly bodies as well as innumerable living things. And there were lotuses. Seated cross-legged on the lotuses were innumerable figures, including humans, nonhumans, cultivators, and gods....[2]

Also within the water, it was possible to see an apathetic golden eye that slowly opened. This was... the God Paragon from the north of the Ninth Star Ring, the mother river!

“We’ve been waiting for you!”

Xu Qing’s eyes began to pulse with something spectacularly cold!

1. The descriptions of the stances here are largely similar to when they were initially explained by Grand Emperor Swordsage, starting in [chapter 1084](#). ❸

2. We previously saw this river in [chapter 1077](#) and [1298](#). ❸

Chapter 1320: Xu Qing’s Strongest State Yet!

Chapter 1320: Xu Qing’s Strongest State Yet!

Revered Ancient was buzzing. Wild colors flashed in heaven and earth.

The godly river flowed down into Revered Ancient from the sky, pulsing with unending godly might that filled the mainland, and caused all living beings’ minds to tremble. They couldn’t control themselves. They lost their ability to think, until their minds were blank and they were trembling in both body and soul. The gods were also affected, and bowed heads one after another. This was the type of pressure that came from a superior level of life force!

There was an inexhaustible flow of mutagen that spread from the majestic river, going out in all directions to fill Revered Ancient. However, it lasted only an instant.

And that was because, high in the dome of heaven, the looming broken face of Eminent Desolation suddenly angled down slightly! The terrifying golden eyes in the godly river snapped shut without hesitation. Ninety-nine percent of the aura that had spread out was then retracted.

The mother river might be a God Paragon, but shē didn’t dare to show any more of hērself! Much less was shē willing to show up in hēr true form! In fact, shē didn’t even dare to send all of hēr divine will! This was only a scrap!

When the eyes closed in that tiny scrap of divine will, a figure appeared and was sent out of the drop of water! The figure was blue, and came with a terrifying pressure that erupted in all directions. Though the pressure was not the same as that of the golden eyes, it was still terrifying.

However... it was not something that would attract the attention of the broken face like a God Paragon would.

The mother river had sent forth a God Lord! The moment hē appeared, hē summoned a massive fist that shot without hesitation... toward The Human World Sword!

The moment they made contact, rumbling sounds filled heaven and earth. The Human World Sword shook, and because of the mountain-toppling, sea-draining force of the fist, it had no choice but to give way.

The fist shivered, then shot forward explosively. It became a blue sea, filled with boundless force that shattered the air, split time, and aimed... at stopping Xu Qing. As the godly might in the form of a sea swept over Xu Qing, the God Lord no longer paid attention to The Human World Sword, nor did hē worry about fighting Xu Qing.

Shooting backward, hē grabbed the feeble ancient immortal and then flew up into the sky. Moving at top speed, hē quickly reached the highest point above. Hīs mission was to acquire the mother river's pawn and escort him out! Hē really had no other intentions. Hē didn't want to do anything else, or stay around for any longer than necessary. Though hē didn't understand exactly why all of this was necessary, it was a mission from the mother river.

The pawn had failed, and had severed any connection to Revered Ancient. Therefore, the pawn held no further value. And yet, the mother river had taken a great risk by using a scrap of divine will to teleport hīm here. And hē absolutely had to take this specific cultivator back with hīm. Hē did not know why, but hē had to comply. Hē was not capable of resisting the will of the mother river, even though the very nature of this mission was absolutely terrifying to hīm.

Thankfully, the mother river permitted me to come as a clone that only contains one third of my true form.

With such thoughts in mind, hē swept up the ancient immortal and sped toward the sky. Along the way, hē looked at the broken face of Eminent Desolation. That one glance was enough to cause hīm to tremble in the depths of hīs god soul.

Moving at top speed, and drawing on the power of the mother river, hē broke free of Revered Ancient's seal and entered the starry sky. Hē immediately raced away. Hē didn't want to stay in the terrifying Revered Ancient for a moment longer. In fact, hē didn't even want to be close to it.

Once I get far enough away from Revered Ancient, the mother river will pull me back....

All of this takes a bit of time to describe, but actually happened in the time it takes a spark to fly off a piece of flint.

The instant the God Lord sent by the mother river broke out into the starry sky, Xu Qing's canon and statute erupted in the sky over the Revered Ancient mainland. The godly sea was rejected, piece by piece, bit by bit, ultimately collapsing into mist that scattered in all directions.

Within that mist, Xu Qing hovered, looking up into the dome of heaven. His thoughts were clear now. He had faced an unknown enemy on the way back, and if he hadn't been fully prepared, it would have been extremely difficult.

That encounter had left Xu Qing with some very deep suspicions. That was especially true considering that, although this mysterious enemy had taken steps to conceal their identity, Xu Qing had noticed a few clues.

That was why, after arriving in Revered Ancient, he had not used very many techniques to fight the ancient immortal, but had immediately gone into a battle of daos and canon. His goal had been to push his opponent to the limit as quickly as possible, and force him to sever his connections to Revered Ancient. But also, Xu Qing had wanted to see... who was backing the ancient immortal, and how powerful of an organization they represented.

Part of his reason for doing all that was because of the mysterious attack on the way back. That unknown enemy had obviously wanted to kill him, but upon realizing that wasn't possible, had tried to delay him.

Given all of the evidence, Xu Qing had begun to strongly suspect that the person behind this huge catastrophe for Revered Ancient probably wasn't just the ancient immortal. If he didn't find out who was operating behind the scenes, then it would lead to potential calamities down the line. That was what had led to the dao fighting earlier.

Moments ago, when the ancient immortal severed all of his achievements and virtues, and had lost his place as an immortal, Xu Qing had detected something stirring behind him.

That was why he hadn't hesitated to unleash The Human World Sword. And what was revealed was that drop of water! All of these thoughts swirled in Xu Qing's mind, turning into something astonishingly cold in his eyes.

So, it was you all along!

He had previously speculated that one of the God Paragons of the Ninth Star Ring was the culprit, although he had been unsure which one it was. Now he knew who was behind everything.

That God Lord you sent is just a clone....

Looking up into the starry sky, he blurred into motion, becoming a streak of silver that shot upward. He moved with incredible speed, reaching the height of the sky. There, he spoke, his words echoing throughout Revered Ancient.

"Return to me, god clone!" His words echoed out, building up into something like the crack of heavenly thunder....

Outside of the phoenix palace in the necropolis beneath Sea-Sealing County, a cross-legged figure sat. The figure's eyes snapped open! The golden glow of the gods erupted from the eyes. This was Xu Qing's god clone!

Astonishing godly might erupted from the clone, who, face completely expressionless, became a dazzling golden beam that shot up into the sky. The beam of light smashed out of the necropolis, shot through the lands, and as countless stunned cultivators in Sea-Sealing County looked on, rose into the sky!

The golden glow and the silver light rose together until, as the powerful experts of Revered Ancient looked on in astonishment, they combined.

Without a moment of hesitation... they directly fused together! Gold and silver interlocked! A brilliant sea of light spread through the sky. Godhood was clearly made manifest.

It was... the godhood of fate! With the godhood of fate as power, the god clone was bolstered. And in an instant, immortal and god... merged together!

Then, that light pierced through the dome of heaven to appear in the starry sky outside of Revered Ancient! It turned into... a miraculous and majestic figure! The body was that of a god, branded with many types of godly authority, all of which combined to form the core godhood of fate! The aura of a Summer Immortal spread from the soul, surrounding the figure, becoming striations of canon and statute, every bit of which contained space-time, parallelism, and ontology!

The figure's eyes formed a dramatic contrast. The left eye shone with dazzling silver, while the right eye pulsed with a magnificent golden color. Long, violet hair flowed down the figure's back.

The godly might of a God Lord spread in all directions. The pressure of an Immortal Lord rebuked space-time. This was an immortal god that attracted the attention of all paramount entities in the Ninth Star Ring! This was Xu Qing's strongest state!

When Xu Qing appeared in the starry sky as a fused immortal god, he turned, and his gold-silver eyes locked onto the fleeing God Lord. "You won't escape!"

He took a step forward.