

Beyond the Timescape

Chapter 1321: Wishes and Stories

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In the star ring beyond Revered Ancient in the Ninth Star Ring, the God Lord who had been snatched away by the mother river was still fleeing, but at the same time trembled in heart and mind. Hē could sense the fluctuations behind him, and could also feel the terrifying aura rolling in his direction.

“God Lord?” Hē turned to look in the direction of Revered Ancient.

In the pitch black depths of the starry sky, there was a boundless gold and silver glow, like a sea of light spreading out in all directions. It almost seemed like the blooming of some strange and bizarre flower.

The god’s gaze hardened. Earlier when in Revered Ancient, hē had sensed that the mother river’s injured human pawn wasn’t the only one with a Summer Immortal aura. Canon and statute also existed in the cultivator system, specifically, with the Immortal Lords! It was extremely rare of anyone to reach that level.

Beyond that, hē currently wasn’t at his strongest, and also had to worry about the broken face. That wasn’t to mention the mission at hand from the mother river. As a result, hē had chosen to not continue fighting, but rather, to flee. But now....

This guy isn’t just an immortal. He’s also a god! And that specific godly aura....

The God Lord who came out of the mother river was even more shaken.

That’s the aura of paramount godhood stolen from Eminent Desolation by the God Paragon of the Fourth Star Ring, which was subsequently taken by the Fifth Star Ring! That’s half-step Living God godhood, connected deeply to unbounded karma.... He actually fused with it! He and Eminent Desolation....

The God Lord fell back at top speed, moving even faster than before in an attempt to get into the depths of the starry sky. Hē instinctively felt an immense sensation of danger. While speeding along, his personal godhood unleashed a unique godly authority.

“I wish to already be back at the mother river!”

As the godly voice echoed out, the God Lord began to blur. But then, just before hē vanished from sight, hē became perfectly clear once again. The wish had failed. *The range of influence of the broken face is putting too much pressure on my godhood....*

“I wish for a smooth journey back to the mother river!” This time, the godly voice spread out with a mysterious power in it. It swirled around hīs body, and in the blink of an eye, provided a huge blessing of speed. There was also a mysterious force that created a further boost, ensuring that hīs heart and mind became very calm. The starry sky underfoot seemed to suddenly shrink down. As a result, hīs destination at the mother river got closer and closer.

However, even as the border neared the range of hīs divine will, and hē was just about to reach the target.... Dramatic things happened!

Behind hīm, that explosive gold-and-silver sea of light swept through the starry sky in grandiose fashion. In the shortest of moments, it spread rapidly in all directions. Nothing could stop it. Rumbling echoed out endlessly.

The absolutely astonishing mightiness surpassed space-time and the universe to directly reach the God Lord. To hīs deep astonishment, it screamed directly toward hīm! It enveloped hīm! Even as hē hoped to span the final distance through the starry sky and cross the border to safety, the raging sea of gold and silver became like a wall blocking hīs path.

And then a door appeared! Glittering light shone everywhere as a figure strode out that caused all living beings to gasp.

The moment that figure appeared, the entire surrounding universe seemed to go still, and the starry sky started to vibrate. It was as if some terrifying force were bringing it to the point of destruction, to shred it out of existence, to wipe out completely.

This was none other than Xu Qing in his fused state of god and immortal!

The God Lord’s pupils constricted, and hē lurched backward, soul trembling. Hē could sense that this human was already an integral part of the magical and natural laws of the higher star ring, filling him with terrifying power. The striations of godly authority covering him were like the convergence of endless universal rivers.

Astonishingly, every striation seemed to contain a complete world. And each world contained what seemed to be countless living beings, who constantly proliferated and founded civilizations and empires. At the moment, the striations covered him like decorations, crawling around to cover every inch of his skin.

That was the mark of a God Lord! Ultimately, in the core spot where the striations originated... was the godhood of fate! Dazzling light flickered reminiscent of the creation of worlds.

At the limits of where the light reached, the River of Time went still. The wall of space became like weak paper about to crumble. It was as if fate itself were willing to acknowledge allegiance to this light, to allow it to guide the predestination of all things.

When it reached the godhood of the God Lord, hē started shaking, and once again fell back.

“Wishes?” Xu Qing said, looking up calmly at the God Lord. “How amusing.”

His voice was like that of a god, but also contained the dao. Those two things combined, filled with instability and destruction, ultimately creating a sound that could eradicate worlds and souls. It was like a series of waves that swept out boundlessly, and wherever they passed, they smashed everything from physical objects to natural laws.

The God Lord yet again fell back. Hē was shaking in heart and mind, even more so after what Xu Qing had just said. At the moment, his senses were telling him that Xu Qing was very, very dangerous!

As Xu Qing hovered there, the godly striations and immortal laws that pulsed around him were noteworthy, but also, his river of violet hair was particularly eye-catching. That hair became like a truly universal sea, with every strand a conglomeration of dazzling starlight turned into a river. As his hair drifted about him, the rivers of stars collided, fused, transformed, and unleashed constant tribulations and destructions on the worlds within them.

And the effects spread! It was as if the insane effects were going to devour the entire starry sky, and turn everything into nutrients for Xu Qing.

Eminent Desolation....

That was the moment in which the mother river’s God Lord understood why Xu Qing was so reminiscent of Eminent Desolation! It was the fusion of the godhood of fate, and the resulting will it let off. That was the temporary path that Xu Qing had chosen.

On his return trip, he had already decided on that dao, the reason being that he was aware that his strongest state... was that of the statute of Immortal Lords! Because of the limitations of his fleshly body, he could not fully release that statute.

And thus, he chose godly fusion. That god body was actually made from the flesh and blood of Eminent Desolation, and it was full of gods and spirits. It was like a True God fleshly body version of Eminent Desolation. That was the most powerful type of fleshly body there was!

The immortal body, with its source a Summer Immortal, formed an immortal soul that provided the strongest level of statute. By combining the two, with the god as the body and the immortal as the soul, the godly might that could be unleashed contained the strongest level of canon and statute of an Immortal Lord.

With a thought, he was a god. A God Lord.

With a thought, he was an immortal. An Immortal Lord.

In that state of fusion, he was truly at the Lord level.

“It seems... that the individual who made contact with me when I made that wish all those years ago is actually connected to you.”[1]

Xu Qing's golden and silver eyes swept over the God Lord, and as his violet hair swayed, the friction between the hair caused the starry rivers to rumble. The golden and silver light around him seemed to follow his gaze directly toward the God Lord.

A sense of deadly crisis erupted. The golden light surrounding the God Lord stirred all of his godly might, causing a dramatic transformation. Within the godly striations appeared his own godhood.

Then a godly voice rang out. "I wish to be undying and unharmable to any power other than that of a God Paragon!"

The words became a godly will that formed natural laws instantaneously. When the sea of silver and gold made contact with the God Lord, he wasn't harmed. It swept over him. However, his aura clearly declined a bit, which meant his godhood had been dissipated to a degree!

"I wish that all enemies of mine will suffer a backlash!" Ignoring that dissipation, the God Lord again unleashed the power of godhood. An instant later, the sea of gold and silver turned on Xu Qing in a backlash attack.

"I wish that the wall blocking me didn't exist at all, and that a single step would take me out of this world!" The God Lord's voice affected the entire starry sky as he lifted his foot and took a step forward.

Xu Qing's expression remained cold as he lifted his right hand and pushed it forward. That gesture caused canon and statute to surge. It didn't simply swirl around him; instead, it rumbled explosively, like an extreme tempest that could affect multiple universes.

The power of the tempest kneaded and reconstructed space-time. Parallel worlds were like frothy bubbles that popped and then became whole again. The terrifying effects rapidly spread everywhere. The power of unification caused all of the shattered space-time and chaotic natural laws to become a chain that surpassed all dimensions, and could pierce from ancient to the future, all to lock onto the God Lord. Overlooking everything, it locked onto the god as he took his first step.

The God Lord shivered inwardly. His perception made it clear that this chain contained indescribably terrifying power. That was especially true considering that every tiny movement of the chain resulted in an explosion of fate that improved its power of statute.

Ripples flowed out that became Xu Qing's voice.

"Godhood reconstruction!"

In the outer sea of Revered Ancient, a little boat bobbed on the pitch-black surface of the sea. Within the boat sat Yu Liuchen, who was looking up into the dome of heaven, eyes gleaming with anticipation and heart pounding.

I never could have imagined that the destined opportunity I've been waiting for all this time is actually him! Contrary to expectation, the random pawn I put into play years ago has bloomed into an inconceivable flower that has attracted the god of wishes....

My story told of a cultivator named Xu Qing who left and returned.... In the story, he returned with spectacular power! The elements of the story have already happened. They succeeded! So next....

In the future of the story, he... will conquer Revered Ancient!

A look of struggle appeared in Yu Liuchen's eyes. Hē could sense hīs godly will surging, and sensed an impending breakthrough. After all the years hē had been waiting, hē had finally reached the boundary of the True God level. In the end, hē gritted hīs teeth. Eyes flashing with madness, and heart filled with incomparable determination, hē made a huge bet.

“In my story, he conquers the Ninth Star Ring! In my story, he defeats the God Paragons of the Ninth Star Ring! In my story, he becomes the paramount entity in the Ninth Star Ring!”

Having said those things, Yu Liuchen shivered from head to toe. Sweat soaked hīs garments. And that was when hē threw caution to the wind and made the biggest bet of all!

“In my story, he... supplants Eminent Desolation!!”

Then, golden blood sprayed out of hīs mouth, and hē slumped down until hē was lying down on the boat. Looking up at the sky, hē murmured, “They say gods don't have emotions, ya little punk. But I do.... You... had better work hard. I'm putting my future in your hands.”

1. Xu Qing made the wish in [chapter 1077](#), but didn't get the message from the individual mentioned here until [chapter 1090](#). Incidentally, the specific characters for ‘I wish (for)’ are exactly the same, and they are a bit unique, so they stand out. ㄟ

Chapter 1322: Using Wish to Chase Essence!

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Beyond Revered Ancient, out in the starry sky, the gold and silver sea of light rippled through the void, becoming an immense pressure that bore down with devastating force on the God Lord from the Mother River. The entire starry sky trembled as the God Lord fell back in retreat.

However, the chain that could surpass dimensions and penetrate from ancient to modern had completely locked onto the God Lord. The power of the chain became an infinitude of silver threads that shot right into the god's godhood to corrode it!

An unsightly expression appeared on the God Lord's face, causing hīs pupils to constrict, and fear to well up in hīs heart. How could hē ever have imagined that something like godhood reconstruction would occur to hīm personally? This was a type of power hē had never even heard of before!

This is bizarre. How could Eminent Desolation's karma be so easy to work with? There must be negative side-effects for him!

Furthermore, fusions between immortals and gods are very rare, even going way back into history. That said, such things have happened before. And whenever it does happen, it requires complicated

rites and preparations, not to mention the fact that there are great risks. Most of the time, such fusions are incredibly unstable.

But this guy succeeded almost instantly. I... I refuse to believe this!

As such thoughts flashed through the God Lord's mind, his godhood was being invaded. Golden light flashed from it as it fought back against the statute power of the chain.

As he fought back, he shouted with great force, "I wish that the soul of my enemy would decay! I wish that any whose godhood interferes with me would be rendered immobile! I wish that any who wish to harm me would find their longevity burning up! I wish that whoever attacks me suffers instant injuries! I wish my godhood to be deathless and everlasting! Let's see how you reconstruct my godhood now!"

The God Lord spread out to cover the starry sky, his godhood power fully unleashed. It formed a terrifying power of wishes that influenced both natural and magical laws. It even allowed him to influence the star ring itself to a certain degree.

The external manifestation... was Xu Qing, who lurched to a halt. His soul immediately showed signs of decay. He slowed down dramatically. His life force seemed like it would start burning. Similar things happened to the chain binding the God Lord; cracks started to appear on it, as if it was also being damaged.

In the end, this god from the mother river was indeed a God Lord! That put him on the same level as Xu Qing's canon and statute! Even though he was only here as a clone, with only a portion of his true god power, he was still extraordinary.

What was more, the authority of wishes actually surpassed that of karma, as it actually contained a bit of the power needed to trace something back to the essence. After all, a wish was not just a type of power among living things, it was also an integral component to the god cultivation system.

And yet, Xu Qing's expression had not changed because of that. He simply looked a bit curious.

Keeping his eyes fixed on the God Lord, he calmly said, "The authority of wishes is something I studied in the past. It's an amazing authority... with the ability to trace things back to their essence. Besides, I didn't really want to reconstruct your godhood. I just wanted to lock you down and make sure you couldn't escape. And then... I could use the essence of wishes to clear up some confusion."

Xu Qing lifted his right hand and pointed at the God Lord.

Then he spoke, using a godly voice full of ancient meaning. "Golden Crow!"

The moment the words were spoken, the sea of gold and silver light seethed, and Xu Qing's canon and statute tapped into the God Lord's godhood, then activated the traceback power. When it reached the gold and silver sea, the cry of a golden crow pierced the void and emerged.

And then, from within that sea of light emerged... the dragon chariot from Xu Qing's memories! There was also a giant, right in front of the chariot, pulling it up. It was a magnificent sight. The surroundings filled with natural music, beautiful and graceful.

Just barely visible within the chariot was a seated figure. The figure wore imperial robes and an imperial crown, and yet was no emperor. Hē was... a crown prince! Hē was none other than... Crown Prince Golden Crow of Brilliant Heaven, who had been willing to transform into a sun!

Xu Qing had used his canon and statute to reconstruct hīm, and was borrowing the authority of wishes to resurrect hīm from within space-time. Simultaneously, hē was being given the mightiness of canon and statute.

The moment hē appeared, the light of a golden crow erupted from the dragon chariot. At the same time, Crown Prince Golden Crow rose and took a step forward. Hē transformed... into the golden crow sun. And that sun shot directly toward the restrained God Lord!

From a distance, it was possible to see the golden crow sun shining brightly. It was a sun, but also a golden crow, and at the same time... a taboo spear that could pierce through anything and everything! The God Lord trembled, sending out godhood in all directions to block Golden Crow.

Meanwhile, Xu Qing continued to attack. After fusing with his god clone, some of the powers that he hadn't been able to use in the Fifth Star Ring... came back.

What was more, due to being reconstructed and improved by statute and canon, and used in combination with the power of wishes, some of the hidden substructure of those divine abilities and magical techniques became manifest.

“Taboo poison!”

When those two words left his mouth, a third color appeared within the sea of gold and silver. It was black! Streams and threads and sheets of black turned into a mist!

Within that fog, it was just barely possible to see the shadow of a huge creature. It was just an outline, and it was very blurry, but it seemed very much like a God Paragon! Of course, it was not real. In fact, it didn't even really count as a projection. It was more like a substructural phenomenon caused by an ancestral awakening within the taboo poison. It instantly spread toward the God Lord from the mother river.

The scene playing out caused Xu Qing's expression to harden. Xu Qing had various clues and speculations regarding the origin of the taboo poison. But no research had provided any conclusive explanation. But now... after seeing that huge beast, Xu Qing got the answer he had always been looking for. *Now I get it....*

As Xu Qing experienced sudden enlightenment, the God Lord saw the beast in the mist of poison, and hīs heart pounded. *That's God Paragon Titan Spirit, or rather, the external godly authority of God Paragon Titan Spirit!*

Naturally, hē was aware that there were four God Paragons in the Ninth Star Ring! In the east of the star ring was a gigantic slumbering beast. In the north was a flowing golden river. In the south was an astonishing black pagoda. And in the west was the terrifying paper person seated cross-legged.[1]

At the moment, the power of wishes had drawn out and formed this God Paragon, leaving the God Lord from the mother river trembling in terror. Even hīs godly authority was shaking. An intense

sensation of imminent danger erupted within hīm. Hē wanted to break free or do something to stop what was happening, but couldn't.

Xu Qing wasn't paying attention to the God Lord. Instead, he was looking at the projection of the huge beast, his eyes narrowed.

Just like the Mother River, hīs machinations have reached Revered Ancient....

Xu Qing then waved his hand again. "Red moon!"

Those words caused the Moonrite Region in Revered Ancient to tremble. And in the starry sky over it, a crimson moon appeared that radiated a gruish scarlet glow. Within that moon, it was possible to see the image of Crimson Mother. The entity that had put such terrifying pressure on Xu Qing all those years ago was now nothing but a High God. That said, given Xu Qing's canon and statute, he could bestow more levels on this god!

However, Xu Qing didn't do so immediately. Instead, he looked to the side of Crimson Mother.... Thanks to the resonance between canon, statute, and wish power, there was another person there! He was... Li Zihua![2]

That was the substructure of the divine ability, plus the addition of the wish power. Li Zihua was only there in blurry form, and hīs will wasn't present. But hīs aura... was that of a God Lord!

Senior Li Zihua truly is spectacular!

After a brief moment of thought, Xu Qing sent the authority of the red moon rushing toward the God Lord from the mother river.

The God Lord was getting extremely anxious, and was putting up plenty of defenses. However, hē was also starting to breathe easier as hē realized that hē was fine as long as hē wasn't dealing with a God Paragon....

But then Xu Qing waved his hand again. "Let's see where my other divine abilities actually come from! Ghost Emperor mountain!"[3]

Within the gold and silver sea arose an enormous mountain! It was made from a humanoid figure seated cross-legged, pulsing with extraordinary energy. However, after being bolstered by Xu Qing's canon and statute, something appeared behind the mountain. It was... an enormous black pagoda made of bronze!

When that bronze pagoda appeared, the will of a God Paragon became manifest. Xu Qing's eyes glittered as he saw the true background of the Ghost Emperor mountain. Similar to the taboo poison, the entity behind the mountain was one of the Ninth Star Ring's God Paragons, also unleashing machinations.

The God Lord from the mother river was overwhelmed with shock, and hīs godhood was starting to crack.

"You... you...." This God Lord could never have imagined that, on this day, hē would see evidence of the machinations of so many terrifying entities.

He's wrapped up in the machinations of multiple God Paragons.... But why? Are the God Paragons targeting him for their machinations, or is he pulling them in?? And if this keeps going on, he won't have to try to reconstruct my godhood. It won't be able to take it!

The God Lord was trembling.

Meanwhile, Xu Qing's emotions were astir, and his eyes were shining.

"And now... daybreak light!"[4]

Xu Qing shone with dazzling light as the daybreak light he had gained enlightenment of shone forth. It swept out instantly in all directions.

Xu Qing had previously not understood that light, but knew it could be used to duplicate countless magics, and imitate innumerable divine abilities. But now, with the blessing of his canon and statute, he could see everything clearly. It was actually a 1/10,000 portion of a mysterious light worshiped by the Brilliant Heaven Godfolk! Tracing it back, it was actually the first ray of light to form in Revered Ancient.

The God Lord from the mother river wailed in agony. Cracking sounds echoed out from his godhood, and he felt more anxious than ever. He really wanted to break free.

Finally, something other than the machinations of a God Paragon!

Xu Qing still wasn't paying any attention to the God Lord.

"D-132!"[5]

A shriek rang out from the God Lord as the D-132 cell block appeared out of time. Figures could be seen inside all of the cells, including the painter, the brain, the stone lion, the scarecrow, the millstone, and the finger of a god. Beyond all that, there was something else very unique within D-132.

It was... the boy! He seemed to materialize out of a mist, and as he stood there blankly, the distant Revered Ancient mainland trembled. Destiny aura seethed! Xu Qing's eyes glittered. As he knew, the boy in D-132 was actually destiny aura! Now, with the power of wishes, as well as the reconstructing powers of canon and statute, the boy was forming again!

"Not bad. But now... the most mysterious of them all!"

Some time ago, Xu Qing had acquired something in a necropolis, something with a very mysterious origin. As he had come to find out, successive generations of the imperial clan in Revered Ancient had all been looking for it. Supposedly, it contained the secret of how Revered Ancient had been formed!

"Now, with the power of wishes, I will see what secrets lay in this thing!"

Xu Qing's eyes shone. The God Lord screamed. Xu Qing thrust out his hand.

“Timescape bottle!”[6]

1. We originally saw these four figures in [chapter 1039](#). ㊟
2. Li Zihua was first mentioned by name in [chapter 640](#), and was last mentioned in [chapter 1015](#). He was mentioned other times in the context of being the father of the Heir Apparent and his siblings. ㊟
3. The Ghost Emperor mountain was first mentioned in [chapter 306](#), and was last mentioned in [chapter 1122](#). ㊟
4. Daybreak light was first mentioned in [chapter 478](#), and was last mentioned in [chapter 1061](#). ㊟
5. D-132 was first mentioned in [chapter 405](#), and was last mentioned in [chapter 901](#). ㊟
6. Timescape bottles were first mentioned in [chapter 523.1](#). Xu Qing’s timescape bottle was last mentioned in [chapter 887](#). ㊟

Chapter 1323: Primordial Gruish Sacrificial Altar

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Within the sea of gold-and-silver light, waves seethed as the timescape bottle emerged from Xu Qing’s personal time. It looked like just an ordinary bottle, though it pulsed with a very wild and ancient aura.

It seemed ancient and decaying; even with the traceback of the wish power, it didn’t seem possible to pull it back in its entirety. Even with the blessing of Xu Qing’s statute and canon, which caused space-time to flow on the surface of the timescape bottle... the image carved on the surface of the little bottle was difficult to see clearly.

The carving almost seemed alive, its various lines intertwining and twisting into the shape of a sphere. As it rotated, it released a strong aura of life force.

Is that... a planet?

Xu Qing’s pupils constricted. As the planet spun, a beam of light like that of daybreak appeared and covered the entire bottle.

Xu Qing’s pupils constricted further as he closely observed what was happening.

However, the scream of the mother river God Lord interrupted everything. Hē held nothing back to unleash his godhood, and thus, never-ending godlight spilled out, eating away at the chain of statute power until it wasn’t pulling on him. The image that had been forming moments before vanished, and the timescape bottle went back to normal.

The God Lord fell back at top speed, his face pale, his body weak, but his eyes and heart bubbling with killing intent. His injuries were severe. Despite only sending one-third of him here as a clone, the damage to his godhood was so bad that it had already affected his true form.

This guy doesn't just come with the machinations of God Paragons. He has assets even more mysterious than that! And almost all of those assets are directly connected to the Revered Ancient mainland....

I'd say there's an eighty to ninety percent chance... that this guy has become the final resistance of Revered Ancient as it's being devoured by Eminent Desolation! He has Revered Ancient destiny aura, heavenly daos, and its light, and thus, that strange little bottle is connected to him!

Someone like this... well, no wonder he's tied up in the machinations of the God Paragons! That said, though his chain of statute has limited me, it also allowed me to form a direct connection to him, and thus... see his weakness!

The God Lord's eyes glittered with golden light, and in fact, golden fire erupted from them and spread out over him, hissing and popping as it burned. Within that golden fire, he looked like a holy figure. However, his eyes shone with a distinct determination that couldn't be hidden.

"You have the exact weakness I anticipated. A fusion between immortal and god can't possibly be that easy! You're struggling! Your current state is temporary. That state of fusion between immortal and god won't last for long!"

As the God Lord's godly voice echoed in the starry sky, he lifted his right hand, and the flame from his eyes surged. Then... his godhood ignited! An instant later, even more abundant fire erupted from him, turning the entire starry sky around him into a conglomeration of godfire.

It burned everything, creating a void, and providing immense nutrients to him. The heat and light turned into godly might that threatened to incinerate the entire surrounding universe. In an instant, his godly will filled the starry sky. Then, as he put everything on the line, the God Lord lifted his hand and pointed at Xu Qing.

The moment he spoke, his voice became the natural laws of the star ring!

"I wish for your immortal-god fusion to become unstable, and to collapse within three breaths of time! I wish for your immortal soul to become independent, and to then fall apart! I wish for your god body to devour your soul and make it an illusion!"

As the wishes were spoken, the natural laws of the Ninth Star Ring echoed within that universe, causing all living beings to tremble. At the same time, they formed three closed eyes of natural law. The first eye opened on the forehead of the God Lord.

The moment that eye fixed on Xu Qing, the sea of gold and silver around him emitted cracking sounds. And then the two colors, gold and silver, began to separate from their fused state. On the left was silver, on the right was gold. Xu Qing was in the middle. And his body seemed to be on the verge of splitting apart. The instability which had already existed grew dramatically more apparent!

A vicious expression appeared on the face of the God Lord as a second eye opened on his forehead. Natural laws erupted. The star ring trembled. Xu Qing's soul began to fluctuate.

And yet, Xu Qing didn't seem bothered by the developments. Whether it was the sea of light splitting apart or the fluctuations striking his immortal soul, nothing seemed to affect him. He just let the God Lord's eyes open. Meanwhile, inside Xu Qing's mind, magical techniques combined to form a divine ability.

It was the legacy of Li Zihua, the divine ability known as the God Decapitation Altar!

It belongs to someone else, but I can use it as a frame of reference to make... my own divine ability.

Xu Qing lifted his hand and made a beckoning gesture. The red moon flew to him and became an endless blood mist underfoot. And that seething mist then turned into a blood-red altar! It was a red moon sacrificial altar!

Next, he took the black, bronze pagoda that was the origin of the Ghost Emperor mountain and knocked it on its side to make a supporting frame for the altar.

Then he hoisted the altar up! The chains from Golden Crow bound the frame to the altar, then swayed beneath it.

It was a strange sight. Xu Qing closed his eyes. His thoughts stirred again, and the power of taboo poison surged, becoming a roiling black mist, within which could barely be seen the image of a gigantic beast. And that beast lurked there, on the west side of the altar.

Next, Xu Qing summoned D-132. The painter emerged, a wild expression on his face. Using the millstone, he ground daybreak light into material to add color to the altar. Then he mixed in the destiny aura blood of the boy, using it to paint eyes onto the stone lion. Trembling, the stone lion let loose an ear-splitting roar. Cackling, the painter took his paintbrush and stabbed it into his own forehead. Just before dying, he crawled to the north of the altar.

After that, within the blood mist on the altar, the gruish scarecrow strolled out, went to the south corner of the altar, then bowed to the center with an object held in its hands. It was the timescape bottle.

Finally, in the east of the altar, the god's finger appeared, with the D-132 head in front of it.

The head was moaning, "You're dead! You're dead! You're dead!"

The God Lord from the mother river looked at all of this and trembled. Hē felt an intense sensation of deadly crisis, and it was only growing stronger. It felt like catastrophe was about to strike, and there didn't seem any way to stop it.

"What is that thing?!"

As that voice echoed out, Xu Qing, who sat in the middle of the altar, opened his eyes. He looked at the mother river God Lord.

Voice cold, he said, “I’ve gathered and combined all of the gruish things I’ve collected in my life. And with the traceback function of your wish power, I’ve formed this altar. I think I’ll call it... the Primordial Gruish Sacrificial Altar!”

When the final word left his mouth, the echo of Xu Qing’s voice caused the starry sky to tremble.

At the same time, the space around Xu Qing rippled as a massive force began to form a boundary that ripped apart reality and illusion. Sinister shadows that surpassed taboo poison drifted in sinister winds, spreading out to converge around the altar.

Within those shadows were the outline of freakish, gruish entities, and they pulsed with hair-raising auras that were profoundly ancient! From the look of it, they were more ancient than the gods! The aura caused even the God Lord to tremble. Sounds like wailing or weeping echoed in the surrounding starry sky, as if evil entities were being born, and they wanted to devour everyone!

As they struggled endlessly in the darkness and gloom, Xu Qing’s gaze shifted to the God Lord. They surged toward the god. That endless stream of darkness would cause any onlooker who observed it to shake to the core of their being. Wherever the darkness passed, the starry sky decayed, and skin melted.

The God Lord’s face fell as the sensation of deadly crisis intensified. Hē fell back, unleashing every god magic hē could think of. Dazzling light formed in front of hīm, as various forms of the godhood of wishes created a defensive barrier. At the same time, hīs body became nothing as hē used a god magic to flee off into the distance!

The gruish things from the Primordial Gruish Sacrificial Altar seemed to smell blood, and they rushed forward even faster, unleashing terrifying howls.

Regardless of voids, space-times, or parallel universes, they were able to lock down onto the God Lord. In every dimension, every thought, and every story, they chased the God Lord, dragging hīm from wherever hē was until hē was back in the middle of the altar.

There, the God Lord appeared. And then hē screamed as... the sacrifice began!

The altar surged, locking onto the body. The black tower thrummed, suppressing the soul! Taboo poison surged, sealing the mind! The entire altar trembled to mark the beginning of the sacrifice!

Innumerable gruish things pounced ravenously.

The dead painter’s gruish laughter rang out as his dead hand frantically painted.

The stone lion roared, “What are grues, born before the gods; in the higher star rings, the Grue World precedes the godly!”

The head danced and sang, “At fifteen minutes before midnight, break the finger of blood; offer the seven orifices as a sacrifice to the grue lord.

“Dig out the left eye for the cursed sparrow; give the right eye as an offering to the timescape.

“Hang both ears on the black crow; stuff the tongue into the bronze chalice.

“Take the godly marrow and godhood, the spirit body and god soul, and toss them in the River of Forgetfulness!

“Bury the others in the Mountain of Sin, the god kingdom collapses, illuminated by blinding light!

“Finally, the millstone turns thrice; the grue offering reveals its true face!”

The voice was piercing, like a dirge of death! No matter how the God Lord struggled and howled, there was no way to escape the terror. The gruish power of the Ninth Star Ring seemed to be converging in that area, then erupting dramatically.

Hardly an instant later, the might of the Primordial Gruish Sacrificial Altar caused the God Lord to completely and utterly vanish. Along with the altar, hē became nothing. Only a bit of the gruish aura remained in the starry sky, as well as a sigh from the ancient immortal, who also died.

The starry sky went still. Xu Qing hovered in the peaceful silence. Finally, he looked up at the distant universe.

A moment passed, and then he waved his hand to produce the Immortal Paragon’s treasure. He waved his hand at the starry sky below. A thin line appeared beneath him, which became a circle that wrapped around Revered Ancient. It created a line of demarcation. And within it, Xu Qing’s voice echoed to fill the Ninth Star Ring.

“From now on, outsiders who cross this line will do so at their own peril!”

Chapter 1324: Ancient Immortal Tribulation... Passed!

Chapter 1324: Ancient Immortal Tribulation... Passed!

Beyond Revered Ancient, at the line of demarcation, Xu Qing held a seven-colored lamp as he hovered in the starry sky. In front of him was a vast, boundless universe. Behind him was the Revered Ancient mainland, encircled by Eminent Desolation.

He was at the line of demarcation, his gaze sharp and cold. He lifted the lamp in his hand.

“Furthermore, all of the pawns you people set up in Revered Ancient will leave immediately! Those who do not will be extracted by me, one by one!”

Xu Qing’s voice echoed out like ripples on a pond. That voice contained the godhood of fate from his god clone, as well as the authority of fate, which was now part of the natural laws of the Ninth Star Ring. He also used the power of his canon and statute, and the methods of ontology, to spread his perception through past, present, and future, as well as all parallels. That included all living things.

The lamp in his hand conformed perfectly, and shone with dazzling light. Countless streams of divine will spread through various space-times, converging on Xu Qing and then gathering on the lamp.

The lamp was made from special clay, and was covered with natural striations, within which flowed mysterious light. The exterior lampshade was made of interwoven, seven-colored spirit threads that flowed, glistening, like a dream or illusion. It was like the convergence of all the dazzling glory of the many heavens and sundry worlds.

The lamp was the Immortal Paragon's precious treasure, given to Xu Qing by Grandmaster Bai on the eve of his departure from the Fifth Star Ring. The terrifying aspect of it was the wick within the lampshade!

It was the eye of a God Paragon! It was horrifyingly mighty, and as soon as it sensed the various streams of divine will on the outside, the eye glittered. That glittering caused the godhood of a God Paragon to spread out.

It was entropy! So-called entropy was the process all things went through, a transformation from order into chaos. And that godly authority could add or subtract from all things to change them. As the power of the God Paragon swept out, ninety-nine percent of the streams of divine will shattered. Countless shrieks and howls echoed out into the void.

Face expressionless, Xu Qing kept the lamp in hand as he turned and made his way back toward Revered Ancient.

Lamplight flickered around him in the darkness of the universe. As he strode forward, the powerful experts of the Ninth Star Ring saw him like a heavenly flame in the night! He was dazzling and astonishing.

Waves crashed on the surface of the golden river that flowed in the universe in the north of the star ring. Inside the river, huge golden eyes opened. All of them were looking toward Revered Ancient, at Xu Qing. The eyes were all cold.

Within the waves were many multi-colored lotuses, atop which sat a host of blurry figures. They seemed to be waiting for the divine utterances of the mother river. Most of the lotuses were five-colored. Some, though not as numerous, were six-colored, with even fewer being seven-colored. There were only four that were eight-colored.

In one of the eight-colored lotuses, the god of wishes looked up, eyes gleaming with golden light.

Eventually, as all the gods there waited, the mother river's eyes all closed. The surface of the water calmed. However... shē did not sever hēr connection with hēr pawn in Revered Ancient!

Similar things happened in the universe in the east of the star ring. There was no starlight in the east, nor were there any planets. There was just a dark void. Neither sound nor color existed there. There was only an endless curse, filling the void, having been accumulating for aeons.

In the depths of that voice, where the curse originated, was the dwelling place of an indescribable beast. At the moment, hīs eyes were closed, but the curse surrounding hīm was active.

In the south of the Ninth Star Ring was a black tower, out of which emanated the chanting of gods. The sound was difficult to describe, and did not carry inherent meaning. It was more like a resonance that existed between countless gods. Within the sound were numerous strands that connected to the Revered Ancient mainland. Every single one was a manifestation of the machinations of the black tower. From ancient times until now, it had placed many pawns into place in Revered Ancient.

But now, the threads began to tremble. An instant later, they exploded. At the ends of the threads were many illusory figures, including humans, nonhumans, magical treasure and items. It was now severing karma with all such things. The choice of the black pagoda differed from that of the mother river or the giant beast. It was choosing to give up.

Among the many figures visible, astonishingly, was... Xu Qing's Third Elder Brother!

Other than Eminent Desolation, Revered Ancient actually had four God Paragons. The mother river, the huge beast, and the black pagoda had made their choices already. The only one who had not was the paper person seated cross-legged in the west of the star ring.

However, inside the paper person were endless universes and unending planets. Within them were an infinitude of paper people, all of whom floated up and began to gather in the middle of the universe.

"Things are different between him and me.... There's no backing down!" A voice like crumpling paper echoed out as the gathering continued.

Meanwhile, in the Revered Ancient mainland, cultivators and mortals alike were unable to perceive what was happening beyond the sealed dome of heaven. They had no idea what was happening out in the starry sky.

It was only the gods, whose cultivation system was different, who were able to detect the outside. And given what happened out there in the starry sky, the gods of Revered Ancient were shaken deeply. They retracted their auras, as did all of the experts from the species who worshipped

Xu Qing's display of power had truly frightened

Revered Ancient... is going to experience a change in rulership. That was what everyone was thinking.

As countless species in Revered Ancient stewed in anxiety, the cultivators waited in anticipation. And then ripples appeared in the sky above the imperial capital of humankind. The light of dawn shone down on all living beings.

Within the glow, Xu Qing appeared, slowly striding forth from the starry sky, through the seal, and into the canopy of heaven. As he hovered there, he looked down at the many familiar faces.

"The tribulation of the ancient immortal has passed," he said.

At first, the countless species were silent. But then an unprecedented cheer erupted. Anxiety gave way to excitement. Pressure became exhilaration. Despair turning into the light of hope.

Zhou Zhengli and the others immediately bowed to Xu Qing. Then came Empress Summer Departure and all of humankind. Then all the other species bowed to the sky.

Master Seventh felt relieved as he looked at Xu Qing. There was endless gratitude in his heart, and he knew that, in the future, this apprentice of his would tread an unprecedented path, one foreordained to be filled with difficulty. Though he felt relief, he also felt worry. Reaching out, he smacked the excited Erniu on the head.

“All you do is eat stuff all day! How could you be so wimpy after eating that much??”

Erniu grumbled in response.

Xu Qing saw all of that. However, his divine will was already spreading through the entirety of Revered Ancient. He checked Sea-Sealing County first, where he saw old friends, as well as Plumdark in the phoenix palace, her eyes open....

He checked Emperor-Receiving Prefecture and then the Moonrite Region. In the old medicine shop, the Heir Apparent and his siblings were there, as well as Ling'er.

Next he looked toward the outer sea. There, he saw a little boat. The boat pulsed with fluctuations that indicated a True God would soon appear there. Yu Liuchen's story was largely complete. He had previously been at the peak of Altar God, and had completed most of the ceremony necessary to become a True God. Next... he just needed to complete the process.

Xu Qing checked briefly, then looked in a different direction....

A dense fog covered the Heaveneater Region! Within that region was a mysterious kingdom that had been brought back from ancient times. All of its people had been brought back out of reincarnation as well.

It was called... the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan! In the imperial palace of that kingdom was an astonishing statue. It was a statue of Eminent Desolation. Behind the statue was the grand hall of the imperial palace.

In that hall, seated on the Dragon Throne, was a person clad in an imperial robe, his head resting on one hand as if he was dozing. He looked similar to Xu Qing, except that he seemed uniquely evil. When Xu Qing looked at him, he smiled. Slowly lowering his hand, he stretched and then looked up into the dome of heaven. He laughed softly.

“You finally grew up, lil' bro.... I've been waiting for this day for a long time. I'm waiting for you.”

Chapter 1325: Tidying Up Revered Ancient

Chapter 1325: Tidying Up Revered Ancient

As human cultivators reveled in excitement, and the many species of Revered Ancient cheered, Xu Qing hovered in the sky above the imperial capital looking in the direction of the Heaveneater Region. His right foot slowly lifted up, but... he did not take a step forward.

Just now, when he sent his divine will into the Heaveneater Region and made contact with the Crown Prince of Violet and Cyan, his heart leaped. He wanted to go to the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan and fight with his older brother, Zi Qing, the Crown Prince of Violet and Cyan. He wanted to resolve the karma.

But in the end, he pulled his foot back.

It's not time yet....

He looked away. He knew that he could not sustain his current state for very much longer. The terrifying fusion of immortal and god could only be maintained temporarily. Before long, it would start becoming difficult to maintain harmony between the body of a god and the soul of an immortal. When that happened, he would be forced to split, lest his soul be permanently absorbed.

Xu Qing also knew that the reason he couldn't maintain the fusion was that he had not performed the ultimate ceremony required to perfectly complete the process.

Most importantly, Eminent Desolation was still present. The flesh and blood of Xu Qing's god clone, as well as his godhood, both had their origin in Eminent Desolation. A temporary fusion with his immortal soul was fine as long as it didn't last too long, otherwise, his karma with Eminent Desolation would start to play a role.

A true assimilation would be irreversible. What's more... although the fusion raises my cultivation level and battle prowess, I can't fully take advantage of this state. Until I resolve these issues, I can't get into a fight with Zi Qing.

Xu Qing needed to get his cultivation base to a higher level, and until then, he couldn't afford to underestimate Zi Qing. He needed a better cultivation base and more experience.

Zi Qing is Eminent Desolation's chosen representative, and is carrying out his will in Revered Ancient. I just don't understand why he and I are so deeply connected, and what he wants to accomplish....

Of course, looking back at his life, there were clues. For example, why had Zi Qing done so many things to provoke him? And then there was what happened when Empress Summer Departure reached godly ascension. Xu Qing had seized some of the destiny aura that Zi Qing had been aiming to collect. Of course, it had all been due to the help of Master Seventh. But without the foundation to build on, it would never have happened. So why did he and Zi Qing have foundations that were so interconnected?

Then there was the karma of Eminent Desolation's flesh and blood. It was certainly extraordinary that he could sustain it. As for Zi Qing's connection to the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan, Xu Qing's suspicions only continued to grow. At the bottom of his heart... there was a possibility that he didn't even want to consider.

What do Eminent Desolation, Zi Qing, and I have to do with each other...?

Xu Qing couldn't forget that long tunnel inside of himself, and the chair at the end of it. And then there was Zi Qing's strange reaction all those years ago when he sensed that chair.

Soon.... It won't be long before I go to the Heaveneater Region and find out the truth about everything!

Suppressing his thoughts of Zi Qing, he looked out at the Revered Ancient mainland. There were things to accomplish before he confronted Zi Qing.

Revered Ancient just went through a big catastrophe. What it needs now is some stability. There are still outsiders here, though.... Since I still have some time left in this fused state, I should go pluck them out and put an end to the machinations that they've forced Revered Ancient to endure for many years. Revered Ancient needs to be tidied up a bit.

Eyes glittering, he looked toward Sea-Sealing County, and specifically... the Wood Spirits! If he was going to tidy things up, his first stop was going to be Emperor Ancient Spirit!

Emperor Ancient Spirit came from a generation preceding Ancient Emperor Dark Serenity, and had once conquered Revered Ancient as the leader of the Ancient Spirit species. The fact that hē had somehow survived down to this point made it seem very likely that hē had outside backing!

If hē does, I'll sever that connection! And even if hē doesn't... Emperor Ancient Spirit is currently not an asset to Revered Ancient.

Having reached this point in his train of thought, he bowed to Master Seventh, then looked at Empress Summer Departure and Erniu.

"Please wait a moment," he said. "I have something to take care of." Then he looked up, his eyes cold. "Zhou Zhengli!"

Zhou Zhengli, who had been observing everything closely, immediately stepped forward and bowed. "Your Majesty!"

"All of you, come with me." Xu Qing took a step forward, and ripples spread out as he began a major teleportation.

Zhou Zhengli, Sir Star Ring, Sir Vilespirit, Li Mengtu, Yuanshan Su, and all the others flew over and teleported away with him. Their cultivation bases were so advanced that to low-level cultivators, they were like stars in the sky.

An instant later, the sky above the Wood Spirit territory outside of Sea-Sealing County filled with thunderous rumbling. As the sky split open, the Wood Spirits trembled. All of the huge trees opened their eyes and assumed humanoid form. The Wood Spirit grand elder trembled and bowed as Xu Qing emerged. Behind him came Zhou Zhengli and the others.

Xu Qing didn't pause for a moment. He continued forward, and was soon at the entrance of the Spirit Abyss in the restricted area beneath the Wood Spirits' lands. It was a gaping hole, pitch black and pulsing with a cold aura that seemed capable of freezing all things.

This was not Xu Qing's first time here. As he stood at the edge of the Spirit Abyss, he looked down.

The others arrived, and Zhou Zhengli opened his third eye.

“Your Majesty,” Zhou Zhengli said, “there’s... a huge decomposing snake down there!”

Sir Star Ring looked down. “The power of order within that snake is crumbling.”

“There’s a lot of poison as well...” Li Mengtu said with a grin.

“Forget all that,” Sir Vilespirit said, licking his lips. “My sword is telling me that the thing down there is pure evil.”

Zhou Zhengli looked at Xu Qing. “Your Majesty, where does this passage lead to?”

“Before Eminent Desolation came,” Xu Qing said, “there was a species that conquered all of Revered Ancient. They were called the Ancient Spirits.

“Their emperor had a cultivation base at the level of an immortal. As that emperor’s dynasty came to an end, he gathered all the power of his species, all of their destiny aura, and plotted against the heavenly daos. He wanted to possess one of them, and ultimately become the only heavenly dao in Revered Ancient. Now I see that, ultimately, he wanted to use the natural laws of Revered Ancient to achieve his dao and become an Immortal Lord!”

Having said that, Xu Qing stepped into the Spirit Abyss. Zhou Zhengli and the others didn’t hesitate to follow. As they proceeded, Xu Qing continued with his explanation.

“His possession attempt failed. The heavenly daos of Revered Ancient fought back. However, he forced his people to share the backlash. And thus, the Ancient Spirits as a species were devastated in a single night. Their kingdom became a world of death, and most members of the species turned into deceased souls that howled in grief constantly.

“All of them shared in the torment that Emperor Ancient Spirit suffered because of the backlash. The Spirit Abyss beneath the Wood Spirit lands is actually just one of the entrances to the Ancient Spirits’ kingdom of death.”

Zhou Zhengli and the others were shaken by what they heard.

According to what Xu Qing had just said, this Emperor Ancient Spirit had once been a full-fledged immortal. Even in the Fifth Star Ring, there were stories about people becoming immortals by possessing heavenly daos and using their natural laws. However, compared to the method of gaining enlightenment of canon and statute, that method was rare. It was just too risky. What was more... in the Fifth Star Ring, no one would ever consider using that method to become an Immortal Lord.

“This Emperor Ancient Spirit...” Sir Star Ring said, but then he shook his head and stopped talking. In the end, this person had once been an immortal, and thus, deserved a bit of respect.

Xu Qing offered no further information, and they continued into the Spirit Abyss. It pulsed with a force of rejection, but to Xu Qing and the others, it was like nothing more than a faint breeze.

Xu Qing led them into the depths. Soon, something huge appeared in the darkness in front of them.

It was a gargantuan, decomposing snake that pulsed with a strong aura of death. It had a world resting on its head. The world was blurry with mist, and piercing howls of anguish echoed out from it. In the past, this snake had appeared endlessly massive to Xu Qing, and the pressure from it had shaken him in body and soul. But that was all in the past.

As he looked at it, the decomposing snake shivered and backed away from him, as if it planned to flee.

But then, Sir Star Ring's eyes glittered coldly, and he shot forward. Zhou Zhengli and the others followed. Xu Qing stayed in place. The group descended like shooting stars into the rotting world with no sun or moon.

Rumbling sounds echoed out in all directions as countless deceased souls were ripped to shreds. The mists of the world were wiped out.

Sir Star Ring and the others appeared in a world lit only by pale starlight. They were like generals from heaven as they raced forward. The Underworld River was devastated. Mountains of flesh and blood were ripped apart. The entire world shook.

That was when the many eyes of Emperor Ancient Spirit opened. Apparently, he had been asleep for a long time, as the eyes were filled with alarm and fury.

"You people—" he roared, but then he stopped talking. The pupils in the eyes constricted, as they had just caught sight of a figure striding forth, a person with long, flowing hair. Unprecedented astonishment and terror became like tsunami waves that filled the various eyes.

"You... you're...."

Xu Qing hovered in front of the huge snake, and instead of looking at Emperor Ancient Spirit's eyes, he was looking at something else in the depths of the darkness and mist. Xu Qing's gaze grew cold. Then he looked back at the world atop the huge snake.

"Long time no see, Emperor Ancient Spirit."

Chapter 1326: Bitter Emperor

Chapter 1326: Bitter Emperor

In response to Xu Qing's words, the huge snake trembled violently, and let loose a howl that could pierce the soul. It echoed in the darkness of the Spirit Abyss, spiraling out like enormous waves.

At the same time, within the world atop the snake's head, Emperor Ancient Spirit's eyes went wide, and he began to tremble inwardly. His instinct was to flee. At the same time, fluctuations sprang up around all of the eyes. As soon as the fluctuations erupted, the eyes all vanished.

Xu Qing's expression remained calm as he said, "Get back here."

The reality was that all space-time in this area had been locked down as soon as Xu Qing arrived. Only someone at a higher cultivation level than him could leave freely.

And thus, as soon as he spoke, Emperor Ancient Spirit's eyes all reappeared. This time, they weren't inside the world. Instead... they were on the snake. One by one, eyes opened on the decomposing snake, inside of its flesh. They were unable to leave. Terror was visible within each of the opened eyes.

But Emperor Ancient Spirit didn't dare to fight back. Hē had no choice but to let Zhou Zhengli and the others do as they wished in the world above.

"I never did anything to offend you, Xu Qing!"

Divine will emerged from all of the eyes, converging into a godly voice that spoke to Xu Qing. The voice sounded anxious, even scared, and lacked any majesty that it had contained in the past.

As Xu Qing hovered there, he reached out to grab the snake. The huge snake trembled violently, body blurring. A wail of agony rang out.

The snake's body was melting. The eyes screamed as they popped out of the flesh and gathered in front of Xu Qing. A sensation of death grew strong.

Emperor Ancient Spirit instinctively began to scream and beg. *"I helped you in the past, Xu Qing! Back when you were weak, you provoked me over and over again, but I never harmed you!"*

Xu Qing said nothing in response. All of his dealings with Emperor Ancient Spirit in the past had involved very dangerous transactions. The only reason Emperor Ancient Spirit had not killed him was because of fear, and also because Xu Qing brought value. And the only reason Xu Qing had brought food was because he needed help fighting Crimson Mother.

He squeezed down harder. A ripping sound rang out, and Emperor Ancient Spirit screamed more. The many eyes on the snake were popping off one after another. Soon, a total of ninety-nine eyes hovered in front of Xu Qing. And then, immense pressure crushed down on them, mashing them together into a ball of flesh made of eyes. But the pressure didn't stop.

"Xu Qing, I helped your daoist partner! I can still help you! With me around, she won't suffer the effects of the curse! I know what you're capable of but, I can... I can substitute for her in tribulations! You know that Ancient Spirits have bloodline tribulations. I can stand in for her!!"

Emperor Ancient Spirit's eye shivered as the pressure crushed down. For a moment, it seemed that his line of reasoning was working, as the pressure eased up slightly.

But before he could breathe a sigh of relief, Xu Qing's other hand shot out. To Emperor Ancient Spirit's astonishment, Xu Qing's hand latched down onto a spot right in front of the eye. The pupil of the eye constricted.

Xu Qing's eyes glittered with cold light. As his hand clenched down, a golden thread appeared that no one had noticed before. Bizarrely, it both existed and didn't exist, at the same time. One end was attached to Emperor Ancient Spirit's eyes, while the other... stretched off into the darkness and gloom.

So, it's just as I predicted.

Xu Qing had guessed that the reason Emperor Ancient Spirit had survived for so long wasn't just due to his own unique nature. He had outside help. Perhaps Emperor Ancient Spirit's personhood was what made him a good choice of a pawn.

This hair makes it clear who the backer really is.

As Xu Qing gripped the thread, he sent divine will through it and into the darkness. The gloom of the Spirit Abyss became illuminated as if with heavenly fire, allowing him to see everything clearly. It was easy to lock down on what was at the other end of the thread.

In the shortest of moments, Xu Qing's divine will saw what existed in the depths of the Spirit Abyss. There was a beast lurking in the mist there. It was a beast that looked somewhat like a golden lizard. And the beast was asleep.

However, when Xu Qing's divine will approached, the beast's eyes opened. The gaze made contact with Xu Qing's divine will. Formless fluctuations erupted in the Spirit Abyss. Boundless curse power emerged from the awakened beast.

It was actually the fourth God Paragon that existed outside of Revered Ancient! Of course, what was manifested here was only a stream of divine will. Even still, when it and Xu Qing faced off, the void shattered, causing rifts to fly out through the Spirit Abyss.

Xu Qing ignored that, and instead looked coldly at the beast. The golden beast looked back just as coldly.

"Give me that Ancient Spirit behind you and I'll leave."

The golden beast's godly voice caused all wills, souls, and everything else to tremble. The words even caused Xu Qing's canon and statute to tremble. After all, this was the divine will of a God Paragon!

That said, Xu Qing was by no means unfamiliar with God Paragons. Despite how his canon and statute were affected, the fire of a lamp ignited in front of him.

Then came the lampshade. Xu Qing grasped the lamp and held it aloft. The lamp had been crafted from the eye of a God Paragon, and that eye now opened. Boundless golden light turned into a vast sea that rushed toward the beast. That one glance caused the void to shatter, and brought signs of destruction from every direction.

The golden beast shook violently as cracks spread out over him. The beast even backed up, gaze cold. It looked at the lamp, then at Xu Qing. As the beast backed up, the surrounding air collapsed. In the end, it chose to give up on the idea of probing for further information, and instead decided to leave Revered Ancient and go back to his true form.

But....

Before Xu Qing drew that line of demarcation, he would have let the beast leave without interfering. But he had made that line, and the beast had chosen to stay. Therefore, it was not

going to leave casually.... If it succeeded, it would obviously cause irreparable damage to the credibility of Xu Qing's earlier ultimatum! Regardless of which angle he looked at it, Xu Qing knew he had to act. He needed the outsiders to understand the ramifications of choosing to stay.

Therefore, he lifted the lamp, looked at the departing golden beast, and calmly said, "Entropy!"

The lamp vibrated, and it was just barely possible to hear something like labored breathing from the ancient past. It was the departing breath of the former God Paragon of the Fifth Star Ring.

When the sound echoed into the void, the eye in the lamp emitted a golden light that was vastly superior to anything from before. In the blink of an eye, the entire surrounding void turned golden!

Next, the entire world turned golden. That breath affected the void. The mist. All things... including the beast that was trying to leave.

The beast shivered. Hē could sense... the godly authority of a God Paragon!

So-called entropy was the process all things went through, a transformation from order into chaos. But by tapping into that godly authority and using the bolstering aspect of it, any and all things could be transformed.

Chapter 1327: Reconstructing the Heavenly Daos

Chapter 1327: Reconstructing the Heavenly Daos

The previously pitch-black Spirit Abyss was now full of golden light. It was a world of gold.

Within that golden glow, the might of godly authority radiated from the God Paragon's eye in the lamp. It surged like mighty waves atop a mighty sea.

Wherever it passed, all things disappeared within the golden color. They weren't destroyed. Nor were they dismantled in the way that Xu Qing's canon and statute would do. They were reduced over and over again in a gradual process. It was a process that could not be reversed without godly authority. All things transformed. Every life form, all auras, whether they were illusory or corporeal, and regardless of where they existed in space or time. Everything was reduced, and was thus foreordained to disappear.

Naturally speaking, that included the golden beast. It was a God Paragon, but was not present in its true form. It was only a manifestation of divine will, and was thus very limited. Despite possessing God Paragon personhood, hē was up against the personhood of another God Paragon, and therefore, was unable to hold out for long.

After all, the eye of the God Paragon didn't just have its own power. It had been blessed and bolstered by Grandmaster Bai. Because of that, this lamp was the most dangerous tool at Xu Qing's disposal.

As the light spread, the golden beast was soon the only thing remaining in the area. However, its divine will manifestation was slowly but surely fading away. Finally, it turned and looked at Xu Qing.

“You,” he said coldly, “will eventually have to leave this place.”

Then the golden beast’s eyes closed, and it disappeared within the golden light. It had been erased.

Thus, the beast was driven away. The only thing that remained was the echo of his voice, which was already fading away.

Xu Qing’s gaze was cold. He knew what was implied by the beast’s words. Even with the lamp made from the eye of a God Paragon, he was as far removed from the God Paragon’s true form as the land was from the sky. It wasn’t even worth mentioning trying to fight such a being.

The only reason the four God Paragons of the Ninth Star Ring had agreed to a compromise, and were allowing Xu Qing to do what he wished with Revered Ancient, was Eminent Desolation. They feared Eminent Desolation, and didn’t dare to show up in their true forms. They would only send in clones, arrange for subordinates, and use divine will to manipulate things.

Thankfully, Xu Qing’s battle prowess was sufficient to allow him to wipe out the divine will that they had sent. That was why they had chosen to just wait and see how things would play out.

But as the golden beast had said, eventually Xu Qing would have to go out into the open. If he ever left the vicinity of Revered Ancient, then he wouldn’t have the threat of Eminent Desolation to keep him safe. And then the God Paragons would have many ways to see him dead.

While it was true that Xu Qing had the karma of Eminent Desolation on him, and had even provoked Eminent Desolation into action in the Fourth Star Ring, the God Paragons didn’t need to personally take action against him. They could easily send hosts of God Lords to fight on their behalf.

“Will I go out...?”

Xu Qing’s eyes narrowed as he put the lamp away. When the godly might of the lamp vanished, he shivered, and his face seemed to go slightly pale. Even being in a state of fusion between immortal and god, using that treasure was difficult. Every time he did... it was extremely draining. And this time, he had used a lot of the godly authority of the God Paragon.

As soon as the golden beast was gone, he retracted his will and tightly sealed the God Paragon lamp.

Not a bit of golden light remained in the Spirit Abyss. Everything was dark again. However, this time, that darkness was complete. Things had played out in a very neat and tidy manner. As of now, nothing existed in the Spirit Abyss, other than the trembling, decomposing snake.

Xu Qing had controlled the golden light so that the eyes of Emperor Ancient Spirit were unaffected.

Zhou Zhengli and the others flew out from the world atop the snake. They had been able to sense everything that was happening, and it left them in even greater awe of Xu Qing. Even Sir Star Ring quietly bowed his head.

If that was true of them, there was little need to mention Emperor Ancient Spirit. He saw that the Spirit Abyss was empty, and the terrifying entity he had dealt with in the past was gone. The astonishment and fear in his eyes was evident.

When Xu Qing saw the huge snake trembling, and looked at the fear in Emperor Ancient Spirit's eyes, he shook his head. "It must have taken a lot of courage for Emperor Ancient Spirit to conquer Revered Ancient all those years ago. But in the end, he failed and perished. As for you... you're just a manifestation of his obsession, which ended up being used by a God Paragon. That's how you stayed alive. Unfortunately, you are not the Emperor Ancient Spirit of the past."

Emperor Ancient Spirit said nothing, but his eyes were full of bitterness. Eventually, he closed those eyes. He knew that he couldn't fight back. And he had to admit that what Xu Qing said was true. He really was not the Emperor Ancient Spirit of the past. He had been woken up by an external force, and had been struggling on death's door the entire time he lurked in the Spirit Abyss.

"However," Xu Qing continued, "you have the same personhood as before. Maybe you are a clone, but you're connected to Revered Ancient.... You're the manifestation of an obsession focused on possessing a heavenly dao, right...? Well, today I'm going to make you into a heavenly dao."

Xu Qing reached out, grabbed Emperor Ancient Spirit's eyes, as well as the huge snake, and then teleported away. He reappeared in the sky over Revered Ancient. The words he had just spoken had understandably caused all of Emperor Ancient Spirit's eyes to open wide with shock.

Xu Qing looked up. "For Revered Ancient cultivators, the path beyond Smoldering God has been severed. It is only because of very unique and special legacies that Imperial Sovereigns can appear. It's because Eminent Desolation devoured so many heavenly daos that the dao of cultivators became incomplete."

Xu Qing's eyes suddenly glittered coldly. "Heavenly daos!"

The words he spoke surpassed any heavenly daos or heavenly voices. They filled Revered Ancient. Rumbling sounds echoed out as figures began to materialize in front of him. Some looked human, some were other species. They were the fragmented remains of the heavenly daos of Revered Ancient. Most were in shabby condition, with scattered auras.

"Today, I carry out a righteous bestowal. Going forward, the ninety-nine eyes of Emperor Ancient Spirit are ninety-nine heavenly daos of Revered Ancient!"

Xu Qing's voice thrummed with the power of righteous bestowal. As soon as it echoed out, the destiny aura of Revered Ancient surged, and auspicious signs proliferated in all directions. The bedraggled heavenly daos bowed their heads, stepped back, and yielded their personhood.

Xu Qing's gaze fell onto Emperor Ancient Spirit. Emperor Ancient Spirit's eyes glimmered with excitement.

“Many thanks, Lord Revered!”

The eyes spread out and sped toward the snake. When they merged, the huge snake shivered, and ninety-nine wounds appeared on its surface. Within each wound, an eye developed. The eyes opened. Howling, the snake rose up into the sky. Each eye was a dao, and combined, they formed ninety-nine heavenly daos that became part of Revered Ancient.

Revered Ancient trembled.

Countless species could sense what was happening. And the scattered cultivators stuck in late Smoldering God gained sudden enlightenment that filled them with excitement. They now sensed the tug of the path to Imperial Sovereign! It was all because of Emperor Ancient Spirit’s personhood and cultivation base!

“Unfortunately,” Xu Qing said softly, “the heavenly daos are still incomplete. There should be a full hundred.”

His gaze... left Sea-Sealing County. In the lands beyond was something that mortals would see as a huge infant, grinning as it rushed toward Xu Qing. Unfortunately, it was covered with many gaping wounds. Those were thanks to the contamination brought by the ancient immortal.

Xu Qing’s gaze softened as he looked at the infant. “Let the damaged daos return!”

As his voice spread, the damaged daos that had given up their personhood became streaks of light that shot toward the infant. One by one, they fused with it. The infant’s aura grew stronger and stronger, all while the wounds began to close.

In the end, the infant glowed with many-colored light. And it began to mature. As Xu Qing watched, it turned into a boy of about six or seven years old. He had a fair face and skin as white as snow. Overall, he looked like pure, glistening jade. His eyes were as black as lacquer, and they glittered like deep pools of water, or like dazzling stars, making him seem pure, without a spot of evil within him. Like a spring flower, he was a delight just to look at.

It seemed like he was the embodiment of auspiciousness. Slowly standing up, he clasped his small hands together and bowed.

“Hello, Father.”

Xu Qing smiled. “You were originally formless, descended due to a destined opportunity, born as a heavenly dao, and endowed with the personhood of an ancient dao. Today, I carry out a righteous bestowal. You are now the number one heavenly dao of Revered Ancient! You command the ninety-nine daos of the Ancient Spirit! Going forward... you shall safeguard Revered Ancient!”

Xu Qing’s voice carried the might of canon and statute. Bolstered by destiny aura, it caused Revered Ancient to tremble. Countless species could sense the righteous bestowal of the new heavenly dao. Daybreak light spread, bright and auspicious.

Within that light, the child nodded at Xu Qing, looking like the picture of earnestness. “I shall obey you, Father. I will definitely safeguard Revered Ancient. As long as I remain, Revered Ancient will

remain. But even if I do not remain, I will still do everything in my power to make sure that Revered Ancient does remain.”

Xu Qing inclined his head.

The child took a deep breath then looked in another direction, toward his second father. He bowed.

Then he floated up into the sky, surrounded by dazzling, auspicious light. As the ninety-nine Ancient Spirit daos bowed their heads, the child stepped into the personhood of the number one heavenly dao of Revered Ancient!

As it happened, the natural laws of Revered Ancient thrummed.

Chapter 1328: Waiting for Six Lifetimes

Chapter 1328: Waiting for Six Lifetimes

The heavenly daos of Revered Ancient were reconstructed, whereupon... one eternal dao and ninety-nine additional daos allowed the path of cultivation to continue. It was a truly virtuous achievement for Revered Ancient. It meant hope for countless species. The path of cultivation had been extended!

Emperor Ancient Spirit, who had once possessed Summer Immortal personhood, brought an obsession that was like a bright lamp in the darkness that covered all species. The fog of confusion was dispelled, and the lamp lit the way to the other shore of pāramitā.

There are a few more things to take care of.

Xu Qing looked out over the lands briefly, then took a step forward. Zhou Zhengli kept pace with him.

Time passed. Three days went by. During that time, Xu Qing went to several locations. For one thing, he visited all of the species who worshiped gods. And he went to other places where evidence existed of outside influence. In the end, he extracted all the pawns, one by one.

By the time he finished with that effort, his immortal-god fusion had reached the limit, and he couldn’t maintain it anymore. On the evening of the third day, he ended the fusion at the foot of the Ghost Emperor mountain.

The god clone became separate and took in all the godhood. To some extent, his god clone... was really a clone of Eminent Desolation. Hē was made from the flesh and blood of Eminent Desolation, and also had Eminent Desolation’s godhood. Although hē was still closely tied to Xu Qing, that connection couldn’t be considered completely reliable.

Because of that, Xu Qing didn’t have hīm return to the necropolis. Instead, he sent hīm into the interior of Revered Ancient.

As the evening light shone down on his immortal body, he stood there looking up at the looming Ghost Emperor mountain. Zhou Zhengli and the others stood behind him silently.

Ahead of him on the mountain... was a person. He sat cross-legged on the summit of the mountain, his clothes a bit dirty, his expression haggard, his eyes closed as he sought enlightenment.

“Third Sib,” Xu Qing said softly.

This person was Master Seventh’s third apprentice, who was Xu Qing’s Third Elder Brother! When catastrophe struck Revered Ancient years ago, Master Seventh went into seclusion, Xu Qing left the mainland, Erniu went to Brilliant Heaven, and Second Elder Sister took charge of Seven Blood Eyes. As for Third Sib... he went to the Ghost Emperor mountain.

He had sat down cross-legged on the summit, and had meditated there for half of a sixty-year-cycle. He had hoped to use the power of his past lives to defend the people he cared about.

After all, he was the reincarnation of the Ghost Emperor! As a result, he had a deep connection to the Ghost Emperor mountain.... Master Seventh was aware of that, of course. And when Xu Qing thought back, he realized there had been clues pointing to that fact all along.

Long ago, the Ghost Emperor passed away into meditation in Emperor-Receiving Prefecture, whereupon his three spiritual souls became the spirits and his seven physical souls became fiends. As for his spirit power, it dispersed into his surroundings, providing nourishment to all living beings in Emperor-Receiving Prefecture. Obviously, his life essence still existed.

Whether it was because of Third Sib’s reincarnation or because of outside forces, he was destined to return to Emperor-Receiving Prefecture eventually. He had a rough youth, and developed a powerful animosity, but eventually one of his servants got him to Seven Blood Eyes. That was when he became the third apprentice of Master Seventh.

Of course, there was a gap between his past life and his present life. Truly returning, and truly tapping into the power of his past life, was not going to be an easy task. The three spiritual souls had not returned, and the seven physical souls weren’t cooperating. His life essence... was just life essence, nothing more.

And as a result, even after meditating on the Ghost Emperor mountain for about thirty years, Third Sib had not yet succeeded.

If Xu Qing had not returned, then when catastrophe struck Revered Ancient again, it was possible his backer, the black pagoda of the Ninth Star Ring, would have helped him to fuse with his past life. Then he would have become the black pagoda’s most powerful pawn. However, if that had happened, he would no longer have been himself.

But Xu Qing did come back, and he did draw the line of demarcation. He ended the tribulation of the ancient immortal, and the black pagoda became the only one of the four God Paragons to sever karmic connections to all pawns in Revered Ancient.

Because of that, Third Sib... became free. When Xu Qing spoke, Third Sib slowly opened his eyes.

“Fourth Sib...” he said in a hoarse voice.

Xu Qing had never been as close with his Third Sib as he had been with his Eldest Brother or Second Elder Sister. What stuck out in Xu Qing's mind the most was the incident with the Merfolk princess back in Seven Blood Eyes. Xu Qing chased the princess all the way to Third Sib's dharmaboat. She ran right into the gentle Third Sib's embrace, whereupon he killed her mercilessly.[1]

It had been a big shock to Xu Qing. Because of that, his guard had gone up, and he had always done his best to avoid getting close to Third Sib.

Thinking about the past, and taking into account the present, Xu Qing couldn't help but sigh inwardly. He took a step forward, placing him right in front of the haggard-looking Third Sib on the top of the mountain.

"Third Sib," he said, "do you need some help fusing with your past life?"

A look of bewilderment glimmered in Third Sib's eyes. A moment later, he shook his head. "Do you want to hear my story, Fourth Sib?"

Xu Qing nodded.

Third Sib produced a jug of alcohol, took a sip, then said, "I was born here in Emperor-Receiving Prefecture.... But back then, I didn't know about my connection to the Ghost Emperor.

"And yet, I could always hear a faint voice calling out to me.... It was calling me to here, to this very mountain. As I grew older, the call grew stronger. And eventually, I started to get the feeling... that the mountain was actually me.

"When Master went into seclusion, the call grew more urgent. That's why I came here. When both you and Eldest Brother went missing, I assumed you were trying to help Master in some way. I wanted to do the same....

"So I came here hoping to fuse with the mountain. During the process... I saw a black pagoda. The black pagoda told me that the call I'd heard all those years wasn't from the Ghost Emperor mountain. Hē said that it was hīm. Hē was calling to me because hē wanted my soul, my flesh, my blood, and everything about me. Hē said that if I agreed, hē could keep Seven Blood Eyes safe. I agreed.

"The truth is that I wasn't totally sure if the Ghost Emperor mountain and my present life had any connection. But I wanted to try. With the help of that black pagoda, I started to fuse with the mountain. It was a very long process. And in the end, Fourth Sib, I saw you establish that line of demarcation in the starry sky.

"I saw the black pagoda sever the connection to me, giving me my freedom.... And yet...."

Third Sib looked up at Xu Qing. "The moment the connection was severed, I found that the voice that had been calling to me from my youth... was still there! The voice wasn't coming from the black pagoda. But I could also tell it wasn't coming from the Ghost Emperor mountain either. The black pagoda had deceived me. The voice... is coming from that direction...."

He pointed to the north. “There’s someone waiting there for me... someone who’s been waiting for a long time....”

When Xu Qing saw Third Sib pointing to the north, his heart thumped in his chest. That was the direction of the Supreme Beginning Netherflight Pillar, as well as... the ghaſt hollow!

“You asked me if I want to fuse with the Ghost Emperor. Well, Fourth Sib, I don’t. I want to go there, to the ſource of the call... to ſee the perſon calling to me.” Third Sib looked at Xu Qing.

“Okay.” Xu Qing waved his hand, and everything rippled and blurred. An inſtant later... he and Third Elder Brother vanished from atop the Ghost Emperor mountain.

Aſtoniſhingly, when they reappeared, they were on the ice plains north of Emperor-Receiving Prefecture. They were hovering in the air. Snow drifted in the cold wind as the Supreme Beginning Netherflight Pillar roſe in front of them. The immense pillar began to tremble, and faint magical ſymbols began to glow on its ſurface. Eventually, the entire Supreme Beginning Netherflight Pillar was glowing brightly.

However, Third Sib didn’t ſeem intereſted in the transformation to the pillar. His attention was focused on ſomething below. Put preciſely, he was looking at... the ſpot where the pillar connected to the ground! That was the entrance to the ghaſt hollow!

“All of theſe years, the voice calling to me was in there....”

He inſtinctively reached out toward the Supreme Beginning Netherflight Pillar. Whether it was becauſe of the thirty years he had ſpent trying to fuse with the Ghost Emperor mountain, or becauſe of the interference of the God Paragon, in the end, Third Sib had developed a cloſe connection to the pillar.

Rumbling ſounds echoed out from the pillar. To the ſhock of the cultivators in the tent city, the maſſive Supreme Beginning Netherflight Pillar began to ſlowly riſe into the air. The ice plains quaked! Higher and higher the pillar roſe until it emerged from the ground! Powerful winds blaſted out, ſending tents flying and cultivators tumbling. The local ſwordsages were viſibly aſtoniſhed, and flew up into the air to ſee what was happening.

As the Supreme Beginning Netherflight Pillar roſe into the air, a pitch-black cave appeared. That cave... was the ghaſt hollow! Frigid energy pulſed out of it, as well as the ſound of a woman ſinging.

“In paſt lives forlorn, always reborn, ſever lovesickneſs and endlessly mourn....”

“In a life of heſitation, in a future of fruſtration, who is it that waits for me in reincarnation....”[2]

It was ſad and beautiful ſinging that ſounded like mournful weeping. It was a melody that mixed the regrets and reluctance of the paſt life with the confusion and loneliness of the preſent life. Every ſingle word contained lovesickneſs and deſolation, and it ſwirled in the cold, ſnowy wind like long, black hair that could never be cut, until it formed a moſt beautiful and diſconſolate image.

It was almost possible to see into the past, to a love now covered with the dust of time. As that love crumbled in the wind of time, it left behind faint sadness lingering in the heart.

And the song continued....

Three lives' dreams cannot memory sway, but regrets will drift in the breeze unfailing.

Four lifetimes' pain stings, obsession swirled, the Bridge of Helplessness is soaked by wailing.

Five lifetimes' of waiting, destiny gone, only this cave shows my love's unveiling.

Six lifetimes' lone cry, the old dream fades and the beauty of youth is unavailing....

1. The Merfolk incident was in [chapter 98](#). Back then, we knew Third Sib as Third Highness. ❹

2. This song first appeared in [chapter 364](#). It was repeated in a few subsequent chapters, notably [676](#) and [956](#). ❹

Chapter 1329: The Master's Compassion; the Apprentice's Obedience

Chapter 1329: The Master's Compassion; the Apprentice's Obedience

As the song drifted about, Third Sib's expression became one of bewilderment.

"The black pagoda tricked me. It made me think the call was coming from the Ghost Emperor mountain.... Yet all along, the call was coming from here.... But I've been to the Supreme Beginning Netherflight Pillar before, and I didn't feel anything like this...."

Third Sib's voice trembled in the wind. Xu Qing realized now what had played out. It was all thanks to that black pagoda. Hē had wanted Third Sib to fuse with the Ghost Emperor. It wasn't just a situation of the pagoda trying to trick Third Sib by making it seem like the call came from the mountain.

Xu Qing wasn't sure why the black pagoda valued the Ghost Emperor so much.... Although the Ghost Emperor had been strong, that was only from the perspective of low-level cultivators. To truly strong cultivators, the Smoldering God level wasn't very impressive.

There must be another, deeper reason....

Meanwhile, Third Elder Brother seemed to be in a daze as he started walking toward the ghaſt hollow. He didn't ſtop at the edge. He went right in.

Xu Qing followed. In the darkness of the ghaſt hollow, the ſinging became clearer. Paper money drifted everywhere. The mutagen levels were very high.

Third Sib didn't seem to care about that. He ignored the infection of the mutagen and the filtering paper money. He moved down... faster and faster. His heart was also beating faster and faster. The waiting that had stretched from life to life seemed to be culminating right here and now. Lost memories and shadows of the past seemed to slip through time, shine through reincarnation, and form within his mind. A look of excitement was building on his face, and he was physically shaking.

Upon seeing this, Xu Qing found himself thinking about someone.

It was a person he had known in the scavenger basecamp in South Phoenix, just outside that forbidden region. A similar expression had appeared on his face when he heard a certain song and saw a loved one. He had looked excited, and had even started trembling.[1]

"Sergeant Thunder..." Xu Qing murmured. He continued to follow after Third Sib, clearing the mutagen for him and enabling him to move faster and faster.

Eventually, deep in the darkness of the ghost hollow, a red lamp became visible. And then... Third Sib saw a log cabin. It looked very dilapidated, as if it had existed for countless years of time, to the point where the wood was starting to decay. The structure was pentagonal, and each corner had a gray iron chain attached to it that stretched out to the wall of the tunnel.

On the corners of the pentagonal cabin, where the chains connected, were terrifying zombies. One of them was dripping wet and severely decayed. It had a tattered black robe that looked like it had existed for countless years. Another had its hands at its own abdomen. It was in the middle of ripping apart its own belly, revealing the abdominal cavity beneath. There were no organs inside.

The third zombie was different from the other two. It had a red vine wrapped around its waist. The ends of the vine were held tightly in the zombie's hands, as if it had tied the vine around itself and pulled it tight to end its own life.

The fourth and fifth were equally bizarre. The fourth was the skeletal remains of a child, lain beneath an unmarked gravestone. The fifth... had been burned. It... was familiar to Xu Qing. It wasn't the zombie that Xu Qing had fought here. Instead, it was... the dao child Zhang Siyun, who had died here.[2]

"Metal to dissect," Xu Qing said softly. "Wood to strangle. Water to drown. Fire to immolate. Earth to bury."

Then he looked at the log cabin suspended in midair.

Faint red light filled the cabin, casting the shadow of a woman on the paper window. The paper was torn in spots, making it possible to see a woman inside, dressed in a red opera costume. She sat at the window, her fair hand extended as she tossed out paper money. The paper money scattered, caught up in a cold wind as it flowed outward and upward.

But then, all of a sudden, her hand stopped moving. The singing stopped.

"You... came..." she said, her voice soft and full of bitterness.

Third Sib shivered as he looked at the shadow on the paper window. "I'm too late...."

Third Sib tried to open the door of the cabin, but it didn't budge.

"It's fine... just sit outside and talk to me...."

Third Sib nodded and sat down outside the log cabin. As he looked at the shadow on the paper window, his mind filled with vague memories. A love that lasted seven lifetimes had finally reached this point. However, all he could remember was a feeling. He did not remember who this person was.

Xu Qing looked on, sighing inwardly. He did not know the story of Third Sib and this woman from the ghaſt hollow. But he did know why the two of them could not truly reunite.

Her shadow on the paper window was beautiful. But in reality, ſhe was a zombie. This was an altar. A ceremony. And originally, that ceremony didn't involve five zombies. It needed ſix! She was the ſixth zombie, a zombie who had drowned to death in love.

Right now, the two of them... needed time alone.

Xu Qing's gaze ſhifted to what was beneath the log cabin. No other person could ſee, but he could. At the very bottom of the ghaſt hollow was an eye that was currently trembling and reſuſing to open. Years ago, that eye put immense preſſure on Xu Qing. In fact, it had almoſt killed him. Were it not for the outside help he had received, he would have ended up mutating and dying. But now, that eye was puny as far as he was concerned.

"So, you're from Brilliant Heaven," he ſaid ſoftly. He could ſenſe the ſame type of bloodline fluctuations as Crown Prince Golden Crow.

He reached out. The trembling eye of the god inſtantly ſhrank down to the ſize of a fiſt, then flew into his palm. The golden eye trembled violently. All Xu Qing did was put the eye away. Without a ſource, the mutagen levels in the ghaſt hollow immediately ſtarted to drop.

The dilapidated log cabin gradually began to ſhow ſigns of life. He looked at the woman in the cabin, then Third Sib. Then he headed back up the tunnel.

Juſt before he was about to leave, he ſtopped and looked at the tunnel wall. A trembling figure was there, looking at him. It was the centipede woman who had ſaved him all thoſe years ago.[3]

Xu Qing's gaze ſoftened. He waved his right hand, and ſent ſome immortal eſſence flowing into the centipede woman, which rebuilt her foundation. The woman ſhivered from head to toe. When ſhe looked up again, Xu Qing was gone.

The ſnowy wind ſtill blew. Time paſſed. Snowflakes fell. Xu Qing was done putting Revered Ancient in order, and would no longer make caſual public appearances.

Humankind had riſen to prominence. Under the leadership of Empreſſ Summer Departure, many ſpecies flocked to their ſide, even various ſpecies who worſhiped gods. Moſt of the gods decided to ſtay in hiding. One exception was among the Firemoon Darkheaven people. Of courſe, there were ſtill people inclined to rebel. After all, Revered Ancient was full of infiltrators. Many were from

other parts of the Ninth Star Ring, but there were even forces from more distant star rings. Whenever outside agents and pawns were discovered, Zhou Zhengli and the others would quickly deal with them. Things went very smoothly. Revered Ancient was essentially united at this point.

And yet, even as those things happened, Xu Qing didn't spend time on reunions with old friends. Together with a very excited Erniu, he... took a trip to what lay sealed beneath the imperial capital of humankind. It was... the entrance to Brilliant Heaven!

With the exception of the Heaveneater Region, there was nowhere in Revered Ancient that could pose any threat or obstacle to Xu Qing. The time had come to take care of Brilliant Heaven....

Besides, his Eldest Brother's true form was there.

As they stood at the sealed entrance, Erniu proudly said, "Let me tell you, Little Ah Qing, you might be a badass, but your Eldest Brother is a badass in Brilliant Heaven!"

Even as the words left his mouth, the person standing next to them suddenly smacked Erniu on the side of his head.

Glaring, Master Seventh said, "You? A badass? If you're such a badass why didn't you get out of here on your own instead of squeezing out some lame clone?"

Master Seventh had come along for the trip to Brilliant Heaven. Ignoring Erniu, who looked like his feelings were hurt, he turned to look kindly at Xu Qing. From the kindness in his eyes, it was as if Xu Qing was the only apprentice that he had ever had in his entire life.

"I'm very familiar with Brilliant Heaven, my little apprentice. With me to lead the way, things will go very smoothly. Those old codgers couldn't actually kill the Brilliant Heaven god emperor back then, so they resorted to a sealing.... I doubt hē's dead. In fact, based on my calculations, the god emperor probably isn't at the God Lord level anymore, although hē's probably close."

Nodding, Xu Qing bowed. "Thank you for your trouble, Master."

"Oh, it's no problem at all! Years ago I took you down to that necropolis, and today, I'll take you to Brilliant Heaven!" Master Seventh flashed a very benevolent smile.

Erniu clearly did not like being ignored so obviously. "Master," he said tartly, "you're too biased. Actually, you took both me and little Ah Qing to that necropolis. Yet you didn't even mention me just now!"

"Also... I too am very familiar with Brilliant Heaven. I'm even more familiar with it than you are! Have you ever even seen that god emperor? Well listen to me, you old codger, I personally laid eyes on the exact spot where the god emperor is sealed. And when I did—"

Erniu let out a loud yelp as Master Seventh viciously kicked him through the entrance. "You little rat bastard! Since you like calling me codger, then going forward, you can forget about calling me Master. You're familiar with Brilliant Heaven? You go in and lead the way!"

Erniu's scream echoed out as he tumbled into the entrance. Ignoring him, Master Seventh smiled broadly, reached out, and clasped Xu Qing's hand.

“Let’s go, my little apprentice.”

1. The scene referred to with Sergeant Thunder was in [chapter 16](#). ❹

2. Zhang Siyun did not truly “die” there, as he was accepted as a swordsage and went on to do other important things. However, he was left in a no-win situation, and was said to have used a “life-saving magic” to escape. Perhaps the author made a mistake in this chapter, or perhaps he envisioned Zhang Siyun using some sort of reincarnation or body substitution technique to escape and leave a corpse behind. Go back to [chapters 369](#) and [370](#) if you want to check for yourself. ❹

3. The centipede woman saved him in [chapter 369](#). ❹

Chapter 1330: Brilliant Heaven

Chapter 1330: Brilliant Heaven

A brown wind swept through a dark sky and an overgrown wilderness landscape. It carried death and emptiness. Dust swirled. As faint light drifted down from above, it seemed like ancient time was being crushed by the mottle shadows.

The entire world seemed like it had been cursed with an aura of despair. The sky was like a massive, dark cloth covering everything, but hovering on the brink of collapse. Flows of mutagen swept through the air, drifting with the wind. They were like living tentacles, piercing everything. It was so strong it seemed to be on the verge of becoming corporeal, and in fact, in many places, it was a thick mist that permeated the surroundings.

The lands had long since lost any traces of life, and looked like they were decomposing. Deep gullies were visible everywhere, like vicious mouths howling against fate.

That said, life did exist. Within the gullies were tenacious plants that pulsed with evil energy, perhaps due to their nature, or perhaps due to the environment and the ever present mutagen. Their branches were twisted and distorted, making them look like bitterly struggling animals. And they were covered with thorns, some of which glittered with bizarre light that was a clear warning to stay away.

They had very bizarre leaves. Some were wide like woven fans, but covered with numerous holes, as if some unknown creature had gnawed away at them. Others were long and thin like swords, but with serrated edges. As they swayed in the breeze, they seemed sharp enough to cause serious wounds to anyone who touched them.[1]

Occasionally, hulking beasts could be seen in the dangerous landscape, and they pulsed with godliness. They looked even stranger than the plants. Some were covered with innumerable cold and ruthless eyes that seemed capable of seeing all hidden things in the world. Some were covered with scales as tough as iron, which glowed faintly in the darkness. Every step such beasts took left deep tracks in the land, and caused muffled booms to echo out. Others had immense wings that caused cold winds to blow when they beat, winds full of decay and mutagen.

And yet, what was most eye-catching in the bizarre wastelands... was not any of those things. It was... the numerous immense temples that dotted the landscape.

The temples seemed extremely primeval, as if they had been standing in the same spot since the most ancient of times. Though they were situated haphazardly, they all conformed to the same style. Their walls were made of massive stone slabs covered with cryptic, mysterious symbols. The symbols seemed to contain life of their own, and would pulse with faint light, making it seem like they were breathing. They had immense doors covered with complicated patterns and designs. And though the designs were all different, at the top of each design was a vertical symbol that described light! It was as if light... was being worshiped by all of these temples!

This place was called Brilliant Heaven! It existed beneath Revered Ancient, and was of corresponding size. In fact, back in history... Brilliant Heaven was the true Revered Ancient. When the cultivators came from the Deep Earth star ring, it was the first world they saw.

A decisive war ended up being fought between those cultivators and the Brilliant Heaven Godfolk. And though the cultivators paid an immense price, they ultimately achieved victory! It was a victory both sweet and deeply meaningful. It gave the cultivators the right to enter the higher star rings, and to live there in the Revered Ancient mainland that they created.

Revered Ancient became the heaven over Brilliant Heaven!

The curtain dropped on Brilliant Heaven Godfolk. Most of the gods were suppressed. The imperial clan was sealed, and their crown prince became a golden crow who atoned for the crimes of the Godfolk outside of Brilliant Heaven.

The Brilliant Heaven mainland was buried. Revered Ancient was constructed atop it.

The heavenly daos were erected, and the cultivator system became a dazzling flower blooming in the Ninth Star Ring. That was what kept Brilliant Heaven tightly sealed. As time passed, Brilliant Heaven eventually became a legend. The Brilliant Heaven Godfolk were a thing of the past.

Cultivators did not go there. Until this day!

It was a day that seemed like any other day, yet was destined to be anything but ordinary. The first thing that happened was that a howl of anguish echoed out as a figure fell from the sky. Then a deafening sound rang out as the dark sky opened up!

RUUUUUUUUMBLE!

The sound filled Brilliant Heaven, echoing to the farthest corners. It was as if a huge pair of hands had grabbed the canopy of heaven... and violently ripped it open! An incredibly massive rift appeared overhead!

Two figures emerged from the rift! The moment they appeared, the mutagen in Brilliant Heaven seethed. At the same time, an aura swept forth from the two figures, and it melted all the mutagen it touched! That was because it was an immortal aura!

Brilliant Heaven was being crushed! The moment the aura swept out, all of Brilliant Heaven was thrown into chaos.

The sky distorted. Mutagen vanished. Plants trembled. Beasts prostrated.

But most affected of all were the temples that had, only moments ago, been as silent as death. It was as if life had been poured into them. In the blink of an eye, they started shaking. From the intense rumbling sounds, it seemed as if this ancient world was waking up!

Eventually, enraged roars echoed out. The statues of the gods in the various temples were moving. They pulsed with very strong auras that surpassed anything mortals could comprehend. And yet... many of the statues were trembling as if they couldn't sustain the force from above. In fact, many were beginning to show signs of crumbling. The reason was all because of the two people who had appeared in the dome of heaven.

"This is none other than Brilliant Heaven!" Master Seventh said, looking around at the temples with a gaze that seemed tinged with regret. "Years ago, I came here with various Seniors... to wage war against the Brilliant Heaven Godfolk!"

Master Seventh looked at Xu Qing with a serious expression on his face. "Do not underestimate the Brilliant Heaven Godfolk. Although they might not be as powerful as some of the other gods... they possess very rare innate soul abilities. And it's not just some of them. Every member of their species has that ability! In fact, in the years since then, I never saw anything like it among other gods."

This information caused Xu Qing's eyes to glitter. He had only encountered two gods who had innate soul abilities. One was God Lord Death Departure of the Fourth Star Ring, and the other was Goddess Starryeyes! The former had been devoured by Erniu, while the latter was currently in Xu Qing's bag of holding.

"As a result, we paid a grievous price to wage war with them. All of the Deep Earth star ring was affected.... After the victory was won, the Seniors did a lot of research into the species. Because of my unique status, I was able to participate, so I know what they uncovered. They found... that the Brilliant Heaven mainland was fundamentally important. And it was very unique!

"In fact, back then, we suspected that Brilliant Heaven... was very likely the first planet to be born in all of the star rings! And the Brilliant Heaven Godfolk were the very first inhabitants! Why else would the broken face come here?"

Xu Qing was stunned.

Primeval motherworld?

He immediately thought back to that planet in the Fourth Star Ring. But as he considered the situation, something seemed strange.

A primeval motherworld relates to the gods' secret ability to return after death, and also, they have sourcefiends on them. But this place... doesn't seem exactly right.

1. The type of fan referred to here is usually woven from plant materials. They look like this. 扇子