

Beyond the Timescape

Chapter 1341: Seizing the Clone, Seizing Destiny Aura!

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Inside of the imperial palace of the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan, Zi Qing sat on the Dragon Throne. Outside, Xu Qing stood in the square. Their gazes locked.

Xu Qing remembered that the last time they had exchanged a glance was when he had died outside of the imperial capital of humankind.

The time before that was in the rain in Emperor-Receiving Prefecture. At that earlier time, Zi Qing had just killed Master Sixth.[1]

Those images were currently flashing through Xu Qing's mind. However, compared to those previous instances... this time, Xu Qing's gaze was very calm.

He looked at the Crown Prince of Violet and Cyan. Given their proximity, he could tell that Zi Qing was only an Altar God. Years ago in the imperial capital of humankind, Zi Qing had used Empress Summer Departure's breakthrough to carry out his own ceremony and step into the Altar God level. From the look of it, even after all the years that had passed, he had not progressed past that point. He was still an Altar God.[2]

However, Xu Qing would not be careless because of that. He knew... that with the statue of the broken face of Eminent Desolation present, cultivation levels didn't really matter.

Zi Qing was a clever schemer, and would have many contingency plans in place.

Facing Zi Qing, Xu Qing coolly said, "It doesn't matter if I fuse with my god clone or not. If I brought it into your presence, then... Considering it was made from the flesh and blood of Eminent Desolation, it's hard to say if it would continue to belong to me."

Zi Qing smiled warmly. "Very clever, lil' bro. I can see that you've prepared well."

The Crown Prince of Violet and Cyan lifted his right hand toward the sky and made a beckoning gesture. The canopy of heaven rumbled as a huge vortex appeared. All of the black fog was swept into it. And then an image formed in the middle of the vortex.

Within the image was... Mount Daybreak! It was clearly visible. And thus, it was easy to see that, seated cross-legged inside Mount Daybreak, was a figure that pulsed with a godly aura. It was none other than Xu Qing's god clone!

The clone was surrounded by a complex spell formation, which was active, and filled the area with a terrifying power of suppression. Beyond the spell formation, and outside of Mount Daybreak, were several people. They were Zhou Zhengli, Sir Star Ring, and the others. All were seated cross-legged and performing incantation gestures, which sent power out to bolster the spell formation in Mount Daybreak. As a result, the power of suppression was augmented.

However, none of that was very important. The primary force suppressing Xu Qing's god clone... was Master Seventh! He sat cross-legged at the summit of Mount Daybreak, his full strength focused on the god clone.

Everything seemed to be going normally. But then Zi Qing made that beckoning gesture, and the god clone shivered within the midst of the spell formation. Then the clone's eyes opened! Golden light spilled out... as well as something vile and nefarious. It was as if the clone was not Xu Qing!

Terrifying power surged out of the clone, clearly seeking to destroy the spell formation and smash through the mountain toward the source of the beckoning gesture. As soon as that power hit the spell formation, it began to decay and crumble. Zhou Zhengli and the others trembled violently as they did everything possible to bolster the formation. Blood sprayed out of Zhou Zhengli's mouth. The same happened to Sir Star Ring. Sir Vilespirit, Li Mengtu, Yuanshan Su, and all the others felt their minds reeling as blood oozed out of their eyes, ears, noses, and mouths.

Even as it seemed impossible to maintain control, Master Seventh snorted coldly and pushed his right hand down onto the mountain. That gesture caused the power of Deep Earth to pour forth, isolating the mountain! Then he lifted his left hand, revealing an item within it. It was a mirror shard! It was the very same gift Immortal Lord Mi Ming had given to Xu Qing, and it contained the might of his canon and statute.

In combination with Master Seventh's Deep Earth power, it could isolate Mount Daybreak and ensure that the god clone... had no way of breaking free. Although it would only work temporarily, it was at least enough to block Zi Qing's first summons.

This was one of the preemptive measures Xu Qing had taken before coming to the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan.

He had long since come to a realization. There was a deep connection between Zi Qing and Eminent Desolation. Therefore, a clone that had been made from the flesh and blood of Eminent Desolation... would definitely reveal flaws in the presence of Zi Qing! Xu Qing had been well aware that he needed to suppress the god clone before coming to the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan, just to make sure nothing unexpected happened.

At the same time, without his god clone, he couldn't enter his immortal-god fusion state, which was the strongest state he could achieve. Instead, he would have to rely only on his immortal body.

That was one of the reasons he had gone into seclusion! He had hoped to achieve a breakthrough! Unfortunately, the decades in seclusion had not been enough to become an Immortal Lord, not even after fully absorbing the light that had been worshiped by the Brilliant Heaven Godfolk! His canon

and statute was sufficient, but rising from Summer Immortal to Immortal Lord just required too much ringsource.

After decades absorbing the mysterious light worshiped by the Brilliant Heaven Godfolk, it finally ran out. The light had ringsource, but it wasn't enough for Xu Qing. And what he didn't take was the part of the light that served as a key. It could not be taken away by an outside force. That was why Xu Qing had left seclusion and come to the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan.

The image of Mount Daybreak within the vortex wavered. Down in the square, Xu Qing looked up. Eyes glowing brightly, he waved his hand toward the sky. The vortex above surged, then trembled as it started spinning faster and faster in the opposite direction.

At the same time, Xu Qing's cultivation base began to rise. The fluctuations of late Summer Immortal spread through heaven and earth, filling the Heaveneater Region, and turning into an external force that controlled the vortex.

Xu Qing looked at Zi Qing and spoke in a booming dao voice. "Seize!"

His voice marked the beginning of a grand ceremony in the imperial capital of humankind. All of the powerful human experts had gathered for the ceremony, which called on destiny aura and heeded the commands of Empress Summer Departure. As the ceremony activated, intense light rose up from the imperial capital and shot toward... the Heaveneater Region.

Upon sensing the human ceremony beginning, the species in all the other major regions in Revered Ancient began ceremonies that they had prepared. All of them called on the full power of their species.

Streams of light shot high, then screamed in the direction of Xu Qing in the Heaveneater Region. These things take time to describe, but in reality, happened in an instant. Beams of light from countless species joined that from humankind to pierce through the air, becoming like shooting stars that appeared over the Heaveneater Region.

There, they became one. The heavenly daos of Revered Ancient were manifest in the light. Emperor Ancient Spirit was there, as was Xu Qing's heavenly dao son.

When all of that light combined, it turned into... a huge mirror hanging over the Heaveneater Region. The surface of the mirror reflected all of the lands of the Heaveneater Region, including every mountain and river! It also reflected the imperial palace! As the mirror reflected the Heaveneater Region, and as the vortex spun in reverse, blurring, streams of destiny aura materialized, becoming streams of gray energy that were pulled into the mirror!

As a result, the blurry image of the region in the mirror quickly began to turn clear! This was a case of... heavenly daos seizing the destiny aura of a kingdom!

Xu Qing had converged the power of countless species to form the Mirror of Revered Ancient, which hovered above the Heaveneater Region and took its destiny aura.

This was only one part of Xu Qing's plan. The Crown Prince of Violet and Cyan wanted to seize his god clone. So he chose to use his half of the destiny aura of the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan to seize the other half of the destiny aura.

Inside the imperial palace, atop the Dragon Throne, Zi Qing looked at what was happening, and his smile broadened. He gave Xu Qing a slight nod.

“How amusing. You’ve grown up, lil’ bro. You even understand that you should steal the family fortune from your big brother. Except, do you know how much of the family fortune there is?”

Zi Qing smiled.

1. The scene in the rain was in [chapter 315](#). The author mistakenly said that Zi Qing was holding Master Sixth’s head, which actually did not happen. ❹
2. For whatever reason, the author does not use the divine pronoun for Zi Qing. This does not seem to be an accident or oversight. ❹

Chapter 1342: The Lands Become a Book, Fate and Destiny Intermingle

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“Our family riches are many.” Zi Qing smiled and waved his hand.

All of the Heaveneater Region rumbled with even greater intensity than before. Then, something completely unbelievable happened! The lands... transformed. Whether it was the mountains, rivers, buildings, or even the imperial palace itself. Everything transformed into a book! The lands became a book!

Because of the enormous Mirror of Revered Ancient hovering above the Heaveneater Region taking the destiny aura, all things below had started turning blurry. However, once the lands turned into a book, a page flipped! When that page flipped, the mountains and rivers appeared again. All things returned. The kingdom was there, and so were all the citizens!

Within that page was the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan! And it was completely intact!

There was no attempt to stop the mirror from taking the destiny aura, nor to prevent Xu Qing from reversing the vortex. In fact, the images in the mirror became clearer than ever. However... the lands also appeared clearly within the pages of the book.

Even stranger, the images in the page then started to blur as the Mirror of Revered Ancient took the destiny aura. And yet... that was when the lands in the form of a book actually turned to a second page! That second page was also the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan! There was no change to it.

“How much do you want, lil’ bro? Your big bro can give you whatever you need.” Zi Qing smiled. “You see, I took every moment of the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan and turned it into an individual page of fate. In the end, each page has its own life force, constantly growing and multiplying.... In fact, not even I’m sure how much there is in total.”

This was the godly authority he had unleashed long ago.

Fate!

But there was no doubt that Zi Qing's use of this godly authority was far more bizarre than in years past. And the range and scope was off the charts!

When he spoke, the giant book formed from the lands of the Heaveneater Region began flipping through pages more quickly. And now, the Mirror of Revered Ancient didn't have time to blur the contents and absorb all the destiny aura. Every single page was the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan!

As a result, the absorption process of the Mirror of Revered Ancient was increasingly in a passive position. As the pages flipped and flipped, the destiny aura of the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan... seemed to become infinite! Anyone dealing with something like this would quickly start to feel powerless.

The Mirror of Revered Ancient made that very clear. It could not absorb destiny aura forever, and the vortex couldn't spin endlessly. In fact, popping sounds started echoing out, and a crack even appeared on the surface of the mirror.

The crack got bigger and bigger. Then a series of popping sounds rang out as the crack went all the way through the mirror. Finally... the mirror started falling apart. So many cracks filled the mirror that great shards started splitting off and falling down.

At the same time, down in Revered Ancient, Empress Summer Departure coughed up blood and withered significantly, then turned to look dispiritedly in the direction of the Heaveneater Region. The other humans surrounding her powering the ceremony reacted similarly. It was the same with the powerful experts in the other species. Countless cultivators were coughing up blood. In the blink of an eye, Revered Ancient fell into a deep silence.

And yet the pages of the book just kept flipping faster and faster. It was as if space-time had become an illusion.

Xu Qing sighed in his heart. Zi Qing had failed to seize Xu Qing's clone. Similarly, Xu Qing had clearly been unsuccessful in seizing the destiny aura of the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan. Yet in the moment of failure, as Xu Qing stood in the square outside the grand hall, his eyes turned cold, and he burst into motion. If seizing the destiny aura wouldn't work, then he would just have to fight personally to settle everything!

Inside the hall, Zi Qing gently flicked his finger. A ripple of fate flowed out from his fingertip, which blocked Xu Qing from entering.

"Your opponent will be another possible version of me, extracted from fate."

As the words left his mouth, the pages suddenly stopped flipping. As a result, one subsidiary branch of fate became prominent. When that branch appeared, it subverted reality. Or perhaps it was most correct to say that it appeared at the same time, right there in the hall!

The Crown Prince of Violet and Cyan still sat on the Dragon Throne in the hall. But outside the hall, dramatic things were happening!

A second Zi Qing had appeared in the square! He stood atop the statue of Eminent Desolation's broken face. His arms were stretched wide, and his expression was evil and cold. And he had just completed saying something that he had begun to speak while in the subsidiary branch of fate.

"... sacrifice!"

As that final word echoed out, countless fanatical responses came from within the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan in that branch of fate.

"I'm willing to meet death for the sake of the crown prince!"

"I'm willing to meet death for the sake of the crown prince!!"

All citizens of the kingdom from that branch of fate shouted the same thing, including cultivators, mortals, men, women, young ones, and the elderly. There were no exceptions, and their faces were completely fanatical.

And in response to Zi Qing's words, all of them burst into flames... to sacrifice themselves! They were sacrificing themselves... to the Crown Prince of Violet and Cyan! And then, the Zi Qing from that branch of fate took the sacrifice of the entire kingdom and absorbed it into himself! Countless streams of sacrificed life force shot toward the statue of Eminent Desolation's broken face, where they merged into Zi Qing. There seemed no end to them.

Xu Qing did nothing to stop them. Doing so would have been pointless. With his canon and statute, he could sense that what was happening had already occurred in the past. Trying to change it would have been impossible.

But if he waited until the act was complete, he could reverse the karma. Therefore, he paid very close attention to every detail of what was happening.

As Zi Qing atop the statue of Eminent Desolation rapidly absorbed all the sacrifices, his body began to melt into drops of blood that fell onto the statue. The process only took a few breaths of time....

Xu Qing watched as all of the citizens in the branch of fate disappeared. What was more, that version of Zi Qing melted, and his blood... eventually covered the statue and everything surrounding it. Then, a terrifying aura erupted from the statue, which shot up and turned into a majestic godly might!

Heaven and earth flashed with wild colors. Winds screamed in every direction. Mutagen filled the world. Natural laws actually disappeared, and magical laws ceased to exist. This godly authority became the only thing that existed! This was the majesty of the God Lord level!

Because of that majesty, the statue of Eminent Desolation transformed, as if waking up. It turned into a body of flesh and blood! The flesh and blood wriggled and began changing appearance. It became humanoid in shape! In the blink of an eye, the facial features... became an exact copy of Zi Qing!

The figure took a single step and vanished. Upon reappearing, hē was right in front of Xu Qing, pulsing with mutagen and the pressure of a God Lord. Reaching out, hē pushed hīs hand in the direction of Xu Qing.

Xu Qing’s canon and statute collapsed due to Zi Qing’s touch. Rumbling sounds filled heaven and earth! The entire world trembled as a massive attack hit Xu Qing. He was shoved backward, stopping after only about 300 meters. There, he looked calmly at Zi Qing standing outside the hall.

That version of Zi Qing was looking back at him. Behind hīm was the other Zi Qing, also looking at Xu Qing.

Both Zi Qings spoke at the same time.

“This time, lil’ bro, if you haven’t prepared in advance, then... you’re going to die.”

As both of them spoke, two fates intertwined and echoed out through space-time. Zi Qing’s godly authority was that of fate!

The idea of materializing a possibility from fate and using it in reality... was something Xu Qing had some experience with. He had done the same thing in the chaotic flow of space-time in the Fourth Star Ring. He had unified everything into a final singularity, which was when he had appeared next to the painter version of himself. That painter was another possible version of himself from a different space-time.

Xu Qing just went about it in a slightly different way than Zi Qing. Zi Qing relied on fate, while Xu Qing relied on canon and statute to form ontology, and then pierce through other space-times.

But at the same time... reaching this level meant being at the “Lord” level. For gods, that meant God Lord. For immortals, it meant Immortal Lord.

Chapter 1343: Fate Unified

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“Gods and immortals aren’t really different,” Xu Qing said calmly to Zi Qing. “But upon abandoning the journey of Deep Earth and choosing the higher star rings... the substructure changed. In the higher star rings, gods and immortals seem totally different. But really, they have the same origin.

“Therefore... if I die, so will you. What interests me more than death, though, is seeing whether your fate is more profound, or my ontology is more infinite!”

As his voice rang out, Xu Qing took a step which spanned 300 meters. It propelled him directly toward the Zi Qing outside the hall.

That version of Zi Qing looked coldly at Xu Qing and didn’t say a word. Further back was the Zi Qing inside the hall, whose expression was as gentle as before as he spoke in a soft voice that could pierce through the primary fate and echo into the branch of fate outside.

“You’re thinking the same thing I’m thinking, lil’ bro. Fates... overlap!”

The expressionless Zi Qing outside the hall raised his right hand and pushed it toward the incoming Xu Qing. That gesture caused the power of fate to quietly descend. It created an indescribable will that surrounded Xu Qing and filled the area with pulsing ripples.

Within the ripples were many scenes. The scenes featured Xu Qing, not by means of the parallelism of space-time magic, but rather... branches of fate stripped from the primary fate of Xu Qing. It was also possible to say that they were possibilities that had eventually decayed away in his life! Every single possibility was an image.

From within the hall, Zi Qing softly said, “Time fundamentally doesn’t exist. It’s a fabrication of living beings as they struggle to calculate their own decay, and that of all other things. Because of that, your space-time is flawed. As for me, I don’t define myself by means of space-time.”

All of the images were very conflicting. In some, Xu Qing fought and killed other people. In other images, the Xu Qing in those exact linchpins of fate just sat in meditation. In certain images, he would die at certain points in fate, while in other images, he gained good fortune and destined opportunities. In yet other images, his friends and loved ones weren’t present, while in others he was surrounded by comfort. This was the overlapping of fates!

As a result, Xu Qing was full of contradictory fates. The intersection of fates caused Xu Qing’s surroundings to look like they were shattering. Within that shattering, his true form blurred as if it were about to be erased from existence. Every time he moved forward, the shattered surroundings would fill with unending transparent afterimages. Those afterimages were new possibilities within fate.

There was no end. It was as if he was experiencing an unending amount of lives, all of them different versions.

In this state, Xu Qing’s every move, even his heartbeat, created a storm of possibilities and probabilities, which in turn made fate very unstable. At any moment, other fates could take over. It was hard to maintain control!

The main fate and the subsidiary branches were in complete chaos. This was a conflict between the true self and usurper selves.

However, a calm voice then echoed out into the chaos and conflict.

“I’ve experienced something similar to this before. My cultivation does not take place in only one space or time. The canon and statute I gained enlightenment of... is that of unification.... Unify! Unify time, unify space, unify space-time, unify parallels, unify... fate!”

As his voice rang out, the increasingly illusory version of himself lifted his right hand. A will of canon and statute exploded from his hand, turning into threads of unification that stabbed through everything around him. They pierced the shards of fate, stringing them all together in an instant....

Then Xu Qing viciously clenched his right hand into a fist. All of the fragments of fate rumbled, and the images within them transformed to become exactly the same as the current version of himself! Then, all the images swept toward Xu Qing and superimposed with him.

Because all of those images looked exactly like him, they became like projections that quickly fused together. Xu Qing had previously looked blurry, but then all of the outlines combined and became corporeal. In the end, all the images disappeared, and Xu Qing stood there as true and real as ever!

Then he spoke.

“Reduce!”

Instantly, the surroundings rapidly transformed! Heaven and earth filled with loud rumbling sounds, all while the area around Xu Qing became like an ink painting! Xu Qing was in the middle of the painting, engulfed by rapidly expanding canon and statute. Everything was being affected!

The imperial palace, the imperial capital, the Heaveneater Region... all of it was pushed away as Xu Qing grew more true and real! The concept of height was stripped away, making everything flat. All things became like an ink painting. This was... ontological reduction!

Even the hall in the imperial palace, as well as the cold-faced Zi Qing on the outside were affected. All things became part of the image!

Only Xu Qing remained in full color, standing on top of the ink painting! He lifted his right foot, which overtook the dome of heaven. And then he stepped down onto the grand hall of the imperial palace in the painting. This was another manifestation of Xu Qing’s canon and statute.

However, as Xu Qing’s foot descended, the version of Zi Qing outside of the hall in the painting looked up into the shadowy dome of heaven.

Voice cold, he said, “Back in Peerless City, the first time you died, your predestined age was seven!”

As he spoke the words, the image of Xu Qing as a child back in Peerless City appeared in his eyes. Then the image shattered, materializing into seven silver threads. Each thread represented a year of age.

“In Seven Blood Eyes, the instances of good fortune and blessing you experienced numbered five!”

As his second statement rang out, Zi Qing’s right eye filled with an image of Xu Qing in Seven Blood Eyes. Then they emerged in the form of five golden butterflies. Each butterfly represented one destined opportunity!

“When the empress changed her fate, you died a second time, marked by two tribulations!”

As this third statement was uttered, an image formed in the air in front of Zi Qing. It was the scene in the imperial capital of humankind when Xu Qing died. In his moment of death, two black chains flew out!

“Today, the silver threads of your predestined age meet the golden butterflies and the chains of tribulation. Together, they become your butterfly of fate....”

The images combined. The gold, silver, and black merged, turning into a single three-colored butterfly! The moment the butterfly appeared, the entire ink painting swelled and rippled! As the

three-colored butterfly flapped its wings, color spread out from it into the ink painting! As a result, the ink painting was no longer simplistic, but actually contained life force! Then the butterfly shot up toward the dome of heaven!

Where it passed, the painting melted. Higher and higher it flew, eventually breaking out of the world of the painting. It shot out into the open. As soon as that happened, the entire ink painting started to collapse.

The three-colored butterfly split into innumerable versions that spread out in a sky-obfuscating, land-enshrouding mass that rushed toward Xu Qing!

Xu Qing could sense that every single one was deeply connected to him. It was as if... they were all him!

When the ink painting collapsed, the Zi Qing in the hall said, “Let your butterfly of fate become your cage of fate! Be imprisoned!”

Chapter 1344: Oh, God, We Pray... That You Not Open Your Eyes!

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As Zi Qing’s voice echoed out, countless butterflies swarmed out of the ink painting and obscured the sky around Xu Qing. As they flew, they scattered three-colored powder in all directions.

It became... a cage of fate! In this so-called cage, a person’s life was like the orbit of a planet. By means of the godly authority of fate, that planet’s orbit was intercepted and changed into a hexagonal cage. Anyone trapped inside, would find that the power of fate could tamper with anything they did.

Divine abilities. Magical techniques. Any actions taken would return along the orbit of fate and become a closed loop of “self-return.” It was like being stuck in a maze with no way out, and no exit in sight. When you took that concept of a cage and combined it with fate.... The cage was just the foundation, and the addition of fate created the cycle of the self!

Dense three-colored powder filled the area surrounding Xu Qing. He was clearly going forward, shattering everything in his path. But whenever he made progress, he would appear where he had just been. It was the same with his canon and statute. All of his actions became a closed loop.

Xu Qing’s brow furrowed slightly and he stopped walking or doing anything else. He stood in place, his eyes glittering as he sensed the cage of fate around him.

At that exact moment, the cycle of fate within the cage quietly became manifest. Scenes from history replaced the three-colored powder, forming images with Xu Qing in the middle.

Vague figures appeared around him, more and more of them including men, women, young ones and the elderly. The environment quickly transformed, until there was no fog of powder. Instead,

images of buildings took shape. The people and the buildings filled in quickly. In the space of only a few breaths of time... a city from Xu Qing's memories appeared all around him!

It was soon so complete that he heard the buzz of conversation!

"Fresh candied fruit skewers!"

"Hopefully next year will be a good year...."

"Maintain order, everyone! No crowding and jostling!"

"Passersby and fellow villagers, please come take a look at my shop! The sacrificial paper here actually burns with three-colored smoke!"

Countless voices reached Xu Qing's ears as he stood there, shivering. A short distance away, a few kids jogged along, shouldering a wooden statue together.

"It's almost time! We have to hurry!"

Xu Qing looked around and shivered. These were his memories of Peerless City! He was no longer a grown adult. Upon appearing in this city, he had gone back to being seven years old. As he looked around, the tender voice of a woman reached him from behind.

"Qing'er, why haven't you left yet? Are you waiting for your big bro?"

The voice seemed both familiar and unfamiliar at the same time. It was familiar because it was a voice that Xu Qing couldn't ever forget. It was unfamiliar because... he hadn't heard that voice for a very long time. The woman's tender voice hit Xu Qing's heart and mind like a boulder from heaven, sending massive waves rolling out in all directions.

Trembling, he turned around. Standing there behind him... were the two most important people in all of the memories of his entire life.

"Dad... Mom..." Xu Qing murmured.

The man was middle-aged. He had clearly gone through a lot in his life, but he still looked quite handsome. The woman was a bit frail, with a very tender look in her eyes. Both seemed concerned as they looked at him.

"Aww, kid, why are your eyes so red and puffy?" the man asked.

The woman squatted down and tousled Xu Qing's hair. Then, with her voice full of love and caring, she said, "You're a tough guy, Qing'er! You can't start crying the moment your big brother leaves! Come here... let mommy give you a hug."

The woman wrapped her arms around Xu Qing and picked him up. Kissing him on the cheek, she said, "Don't cry, Qing'er. Your big brother will be back in just a moment with that candied fruit skewer. Look around! Today's the Prayer Festival, and the sacrificial offerings will start soon."

Off in the distance, in the middle of Peerless City, a wooden sacrificial altar had been erected. A hundred prisoners knelt there, and in front of them was a person in a red robe, crying out to the sky in a very unique cadence.

“It is the year 135 of Heavenly Wonder, a date aligned with South Phoenix, with the moon traversing the Ghost Constellation in the night sky. We lot are like ants, prostrating here in Peerless City, offering this gory gift to send a message to the god of the broken face:

“In ancient times, when azure jade fell to the lands, when the xuanwu turtle’s leg was broken, your eyes first opened, melting the crimson sun into iron slag, boiling the five lakes and shattering myriad stars into arrows that pierced the nine wilds.

“Now the ruined walls flicker with ghostfire, living beings devour the dirt of graves, and the blood congealed on your lashes reveal the remaining gasps of living things.

“Oh, god!

“We hereby pray that the faint breath escaping your lips might be the kindling that stokes our survival; we pray that the shadow cast by your brow be the shelter for the commoners to persist in life.

“We hereby offer a hundred prisoners, gouging out their eyes to cauterize your eyelids; let the fat of their bodies serve as wax to seal the corners of your eyes.

“Oh, god, may your eyes remain closed!

“Oh, god, may you sleep forever!

“Oh, god, we pray... that you not open your eyes!”

As his voice rang out, the citizens of Peerless City bowed their heads and repeated his words.

“Oh, god, we hereby pray... that you not open your eyes!”

However, even as all of their voices joined together.... High above in the dome of heaven, the boundlessly holy and infinitely terrifying broken face... suddenly opened hīs eyes by a crack! And hē looked directly at Peerless City!

Misery came to the world. All of the buildings vanished, as if they had passed through millions of years in an instant, and had been wiped away by erosion. Countless mortals instantly mutated, causing the bloodthirsty screams of mutant beasts to ring out everywhere.

Life faded at an alarming rate. Death spread everywhere. Those who didn’t mutate experienced a more horrible fate. Their bodies were ripped to shreds as they became tributes in the sacrifice.

As Xu Qing watched, countless people struggled in vain as the world turned crimson. Innumerable individuals died screaming in terror and despair as a rain of blood began to fall on Peerless City.

Xu Qing's mother and father were no exception. Xu Qing watched as the middle-aged man was ripped apart. Then Xu Qing fell to the ground as the tender woman who had been holding him melted into blood....

Peerless City became like the Yellow Springs, and blood... fell everywhere.

Seven-year-old Xu Qing stood in the rain, blood soaking him as he looked around blankly. This was exactly what he had really experienced.

"Dad... Mom..." The infinite grief welled up like a storm in his heart, so intense it defied description. Tears streamed down his face as he looked down at the blood soaking him. It was all that remained of his mother.

As buildings eroded, countless mutant beasts and corpses collapsed, and the blood rain fell, a figure appeared in the distance. He held a skewer of candied fruit as he strode through the dust and blood rain until he stood in front of Xu Qing. Blood fell onto the candied fruit, turning it bright red.

Bending over, he reached out and tousled Xu Qing's hair.

"Don't cry, lil' bro."

In the imperial palace in the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan, Zi Qing muttered something. The other space-time version on the outside was now standing in front of the cage of fate, hand inserted into the three-colored powder. Inside the hall, Zi Qing looked on with glittering eyes.

"And now I'll just take your god clone." Zi Qing's eyes shifted to a different location off in the distance.

It was the direction of Mount Daybreak. The moment he looked toward Sea-Sealing County, Mount Daybreak... began trembling! An unstoppable godly might erupted from the mountain, like a volcano, a force of endless struggle. As it surged out, Zhou Zhengli and all the others maintaining the spell formation sealing mark ended up trembling, coughing up blood, and tumbling backward. The augmentation to the seal had failed!

Xu Qing could do nothing to stop what was happening. This attack by the Crown Prince of Violet and Cyan contained astonishing godly might. As Zhou Zhengli and the others failed, Master Seventh atop Mount Daybreak shivered.

But despite being a Summer Immortal, not even he could fight back for long. The spell formation under him crumbled, no matter how hard he tried to bolster it. And finally, it just collapsed completely.

The aura of a god erupted from within the fragmented remains of the formation. Along with that aura came Xu Qing's god clone!

The clone shot up into the air, radiating terrifying pressure and astonishing momentum. The clone flew toward the Heaveneater Region and the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan, becoming a

streak of prismatic light that disappeared in a blur! Upon reappearing, the clone was in the Heaveneater Region, right in front of Zi Qing in the hall of the imperial palace.

Zi Qing looked at the clone and sighed. “Your preparations have finally fallen short, lil’ bro.”

Zi Qing reached out from the Dragon Throne and made a grasping gesture. Xu Qing’s god clone shot forward to be grabbed by the throat by Zi Qing. Zi Qing was already prepared to absorb the clone.

But then something unexpected happened! Zi Qing’s expression flickered dramatically! It was the first unusual expression to appear on his face since the battle began. Without a moment of hesitation, hē loosened his grip and shoved Xu Qing’s god clone away.

Unfortunately, hē acted too late! Hē had already started absorbing the clone, even for just a moment. Hē began to tremble violently as the god clone erupted with dazzling light and changed form.

The clone turned into a mirror shard! It was Mi Ming’s canon!

The moment the mirror shard appeared... a finger stretched out of it with astonishing speed, moving like a bolt of lightning right toward Zi Qing!

All of this takes a bit of time to describe, but happened in the briefest of moments.

An intense sensation of deadly crisis filled Zi Qing, the likes of which hē had not experienced since being resurrected. At the same time, the version of Zi Qing on the outside, whose hand was inserted into the cage of three-colored powder... suddenly vanished.

Upon reappearing, hē was in the hall right in front of the original Zi Qing. Hē... was there to block the finger coming out of the mirror shard! The moment the finger made contact, the second version of Zi Qing shivered, then began crumbling into nothing. It took only one breath of time... for hīs body and the finger to both be wiped out.

The Zi Qing seated on the Dragon Throne coughed up a huge mouthful of golden blood. Panting heavily, hē looked in the direction of the cage of fate on the outside.

The cage was already crumbling! Three-colored powder collapsed in all directions.

As that happened, a seven-year-old child walked out into the open. With each step he took, he transformed. By the time all the three-colored powder had dissipated, the adult Xu Qing was standing there!

Looking at Zi Qing in the hall, he said, “What a pity.”

Zi Qing wiped the blood from hīs chin and mouth. As hē looked at Xu Qing, hīs gaze was first full of astonishment, then admiration.

On a huge planet in the Fourth Star Ring, Immortal Lord Mi Ming sat cross-legged in meditation. Then he opened his eyes and retracted his finger. He sighed.

“Almost got him.”

Behind him was another figure seated cross-legged. It was none other than... Xu Qing’s actual god clone, which he had been suppressing!

Chapter 1345: Slicing Open a Door!

Chapter 1345: Slicing Open a Door!

During Xu Qing’s years on Mount Daybreak, he had used certain methods to send his god clone out of the Revered Ancient mainland. At the same time, he had used Immortal Lord Mi Ming’s canon to create a mirror image of the clone. Naturally speaking, it had required the help of Mi Ming himself in order to keep the whole matter secret.

There had been two purposes. One was to prevent Zi Qing from taking control of the clone and using it for his own purposes. Another was to provide a trump card for Xu Qing. The idea was to take advantage of a moment when Zi Qing seemingly achieved success, only to allow Immortal Lord Mi Ming a moment to attack him!

After all, the broken face of Eminent Desolation was very close to Revered Ancient, and that was a very dangerous circumstance. In the Ninth Star Ring, God Paragons didn’t dare to get too close, and God Lords had limits. Powerful experts from other star rings who wanted to come to Revered Ancient had the aura of those other star rings on them, and that put them at great risk.

In other words, Immortal Lord Mi Ming would have only one chance to launch an attack; he couldn’t get involved in a protracted fight. And thus, a whole series of developments led to the current situation.

“Sadly....” Xu Qing sighed inwardly. That said, he had considered that this would happen, so he quickly cleared his thoughts. Eyes flashing coldly, he took a step that placed him just outside of the hall. Another step... took him inside.

Zi Qing was still seated on the Dragon Throne, golden blood smeared on his mouth. Xu Qing stepped toward him.

Xu Qing was like a spear that could pierce heaven and earth, moving with unstoppable momentum as he shot... directly toward Zi Qing. However, as he neared, Zi Qing’s eyes suddenly radiated golden light. All of a sudden, he shot to his feet and shoved his hand up toward the sky. At the same time, he spoke in a godly voice!

“God!”

The moment the word left his mouth, all of the Revered Ancient mainland trembled. Intense fear exploded into the hearts and minds of all living beings.

The reason was that the broken face which took up half the canopy of heaven shivered and turned in the direction of the Heaveneater Region. Strands of hair shifted as the face moved, like rotten vines following destructive orbits. His sickly gray skin, which looked like soil that had been frozen for millennia, suddenly filled with cracks. Then, his eyelashes, which resembled long, rusted strips of iron, fluttered.

Heaven and earth trembled. All breathing in the world ceased.

In the grand hall in the Heaveneater Region, Zi Qing stood in front of the Dragon Throne. As Eminent Desolation's eyes twitched, an astonishing godly might erupted from his carrier... and exploded out into the world! A violent tempest swept out, shaking the hall so violently it shattered, becoming ash that drifted out everywhere. It abounded with force that could not be resisted!

As it neared Xu Qing, he lurched to a halt before being swept aside. He tumbled backward several hundred meters. When he finally skidded to a halt in standing position, he coughed up a mouthful of blood, then looked up into the sky.

As he did, he saw that, high in the canopy of heaven, Eminent Desolation... was opening his eyes!

The earth trembled. Heaven distorted. Within those eyes, there were no irises. Instead, there was a shattered sea of stars. It was as if millions upon millions of stars were burning in his eyes, which caused golden light to spill out. Where it passed... the clouds became like sticky tar, and the lands below became a spider web of cracks. Space-time distorted.

This was not even a complete opening of the eyes. And yet within the Heaveneater Region, all cities trembled, like potter's clay under the force of an enormous hand. Corpses floated up into the air, their greenish-black skin erupted with tongues of fire. Where the palace had existed, there was now just dust. Zi Qing stood there, long hair whipping about, eyes shining the color of gold.

It seemed that, to him, cultivation base level didn't matter. He was like a vessel to contain Eminent Desolation's will. As a result, his gaze was no longer gentle like before. And his face had turned cold and apathetic. It was as if, right then and there, he had ceased to be the Zi Qing that Xu Qing was familiar with.

"Look down!" he said in a cold voice that lacked even a hint of emotion.

The moment the words rang out, Eminent Desolation's eyes opened! The pupils seethed like vortexes of primal-chaos, and with every pulse, all light in heaven and earth was absorbed. When the vortex was spinning fast enough, a beam of dark golden light became a pillar that enveloped the entire Heaveneater Region!

Plains seethed. Soil, rubble, and corpses collapsed into particles. Only some glittering crystalline fragments retained their original form, but they didn't seem like they would last for long. Animals and grues were ripped to shreds and became nothing but dust. This was not some ordinary destruction. This was a multidimensional infection.

As the broken face looked down, the border between reality and illusion was broken. The boundary between the living and the dead began to blur. Gradually, figures started to become visible.

The true focus of Eminent Desolation's gaze... was the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan, the palace and... Zi Qing, the Crown Prince of Violet and Cyan! Within Eminent Desolation's gaze, Zi Qing watched... as a god descended.

Then, hē lifted hīs hand and pointed at Xu Qing. The movement of hīs finger caused ripples to spread in all directions, and caused the forming figures to instantly become very clear. Astonishingly, they were... projections of gods! Most were from antiquity, and had actually been devoured by Eminent Desolation!

Though thēy had perished, thēy remained within the gaze of Eminent Desolation. And as soon as Zi Qing moved hīs hand, thēy manifested. Among them was the very same God Paragon Xu Qing had seen in the bronze coffin in the Fourth Star Ring! Thēy did not have life force power, but thēir instincts ensured that thēy could still unleash intense mutagen invasions.

As soon as thēy appeared, mutagen surged dramatically. Then the projections raced toward Xu Qing, with the goal of infecting him to the core.

This was not Xu Qing's first time dealing with the eyes of Eminent Desolation, but it was the most intense of all those instances. In the past, Eminent Desolation's eyes had opened, not intentionally, but instinctively. But this time, there was a will behind the opening of the eyes, and that was why the gaze contained innumerable projections!

It was true that Xu Qing's canon and statute had reached the level of an Immortal Lord. His own cultivation conformed to that of immortals. But when hit with Eminent Desolation's gaze, he still started to turn greenish-black. Filth swept through his body, and boundless mutagen burrowed into him. His canon and statute were affected as the fate power of Eminent Desolation tried to transform them forcibly.

All of a sudden, Xu Qing was struck with an intense sensation of deadly crisis. His eyes were deeply bloodshot, and every scrap of his flesh seemed like it had become independent of him, and wanted to peel off on its own.

At that critical moment, Xu Qing raised his right hand and pushed it off into the distance.

"Mirror of Revered Ancient!"

The moment the words rang out, the crystalline shards that had shattered... suddenly vibrated, then rose into the air and flew toward Xu Qing. An instant later, they appeared all around him! They were the fragments of the shattered Mirror of Revered Ancient!

As they glittered, the captured destiny aura of the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan they contained spread outward! That destiny aura then bolstered Xu Qing!

However, that alone was not enough to resist the gaze of Eminent Desolation. And so, without any hesitation, Xu Qing unleashed the strongest trump card he had. It was a bronze lamp! Inside the lamp was the eye of a God Paragon, and right now, it was open!

A golden gaze poured out like a flood, and combined with the bolstering of the destiny aura from the Mirror of Revered Ancient, it was enough to resist the numerous figures in Eminent Desolation's gaze.

Rumbling sounds echoed out, and Xu Qing trembled. Thankfully, the feeling of his flesh peeling off, plus the injuries caused by the mutagen invasion, were all alleviated slightly. The gaze of the God Paragon shining out from the bronze lamp formed a protective barrier around Xu Qing. It neutralized Eminent Desolation's gaze, and blocked the advance of the projected figures.

However... Eminent Desolation was far, far stronger than a God Paragon. Even though the eye of the God Paragon had been augmented by Grandmaster Bai, and despite the blessing of the Mirror of Revered Ancient and the destiny aura, there was no way to fight back completely.

Golden cracks were already spreading rapidly through the god's eye.

At the most I have ten breaths of time before the bronze lamp shatters! That... should be enough time!

Xu Qing didn't hesitate for a moment. He released the bronze lamp, allowing it to float on its own. Then he dropped into a cross-legged position, all while his hands flashed in a double-handed incantation gesture. A fierce will suddenly erupted. It was... a sword will!

Before coming to this fight, Xu Qing had made copies of many things back on Mount Daybreak! He knew full well that during this battle, Zi Qing would likely call on Eminent Desolation, and that it was possible Eminent Desolation's eyes could open. Therefore, he had tried to think of every possibility, then prepare a unique and special way of fighting back.

When Eminent Desolation's eyes opened on Peerless City and Supreme Ancient City, I didn't die. It was after those things happened that I discovered the violet crystal, so my survival doesn't have anything to do with the crystal. The true reason has to be something to do with Zi Qing.

Unfortunately, I have two sets of memories about Peerless City. In one memory, I didn't die. But in another, I did. There's something very suspicious going on! Therefore... there must be some other factors explaining why I survived!

I've come to understand every aspect of my cultivation up to this point, with two exceptions. One is the violet crystal. But I'm not going to worry about the crystal for now. That leaves only one mystery!

On two occasions in the past I sensed that there's a mysterious tunnel in my soul, filled with innumerable doors. And at the very end of it, almost impossible to detect even now, is an untouchable chair! I have the feeling that chair... is the way I can fight back against Eminent Desolation!

The moment that thought went through Xu Qing's mind, his eyes flashed with determination. Reaching up with his right hand, he smacked his palm viciously onto the top of his head.... Instantly, sword energy emerged from that spot, turning into The Emperor's Sword! He grabbed it, and then used the sword... to slash at his own forehead! Instantly, his skin was sliced apart... opening a huge wound!

Zi Qing, who stood within the gaze of Eminent Desolation, looked on with a grim, cold look that quickly turned into amazement.

"You're... cutting yourself apart?"

Chapter 1346: Eminent Desolation's Right Eye!

Chapter 1346: Eminent Desolation's Right Eye!

Xu Qing really was slicing himself open!

It originally wasn't possible for Xu Qing to voluntarily reveal the tunnel that existed in his soul. But in his years spent on Mount Daybreak, he had used special means to plan a way to do so! And that was... using the Primordial Gruish Sacrificial Altar to turn himself inside out!

The tunnel was inside his soul, so if he turned himself inside out and carried out a sacrifice, then according to his calculations, he could use the deadly crisis... to succeed at revealing the tunnel. It was a rather brutal method, though, something that most people couldn't go through with. But it was Xu Qing's only option.

Thus, The Emperor's Sword's swept down, slicing him from the forehead down through the rest of his body, opening a huge wound and causing his cultivation base to tremble. An instant later, red moon authority provided an external force, causing Xu Qing to become a blood mist that converged into the shape of a blood-red sacrificial altar! The Ghost Emperor mountain became the framework for the altar, lifting it high into the air! Golden Crow became swaying chains that connected to the mountain and the altar. Taboo poison power ascended, turning into a roiling black mist that bolstered Xu Qing.

Finally, D-132 was called to join. The painter frantically emerged. The millstone shattered daybreak light, and color was added to the altar. Cackling from the south corner of the altar, the painter stabbed his paintbrush into his own forehead. The stone lion shivered and let loose a mournful howl. Within the poison mist, the scarecrow hobbled forth, cackling, to the east corner of the altar, then prostrated with the timescape bottle in hand. On the west corner of the altar, the god's finger appeared, offering the head of D-132.

The head howled, "You're dead! You're dead! You're dead!"

All of this... was the Primordial Gruish Sacrificial Altar! There were already sacrificial items in the east, west, and south corners. But Xu Qing was alone in the north corner.

The moment the altar took form, Xu Qing suddenly shivered. Instantly, immortal power from within him took the invisible form of the sharp blade, and began to slice down through him, starting from the already open wound in his forehead. Intense pain ripped through him.

Xu Qing was directly... being skinned alive! His flesh and blood remained inside, while his skin... became like a set of clothing!

As the immortal power rippled, the skin fell down away from him on either side, ultimately separating from him completely and falling down in front of him on the north corner of the altar. Astonishingly, Xu Qing was using his own skin as the sacrificial object.

At the moment, he lacked even a bit of skin. He was pure, blood-soaked muscle, crisscrossed with veins, a shocking and ghastly sight. And yet, his sacrifice still wasn't complete!

The Emperor's Sword flew up to his forehead again. Sword light glimmered as... the sword slashed through his flesh! The sword energy was bolstered by the immortal power within him, making it incredibly sharp, so that it also sliced the flesh right off the bone.

All of his flesh was cleaved from his bones! The flesh flew off and landed atop the skin on the north corner of the altar!

And things still weren't over yet! Having lost his skin and flesh, Xu Qing sat on the altar as The Emperor's Sword flashed again. Sword energy thrummed as his bones and organs were all separated!

All of them fell onto the north corner of the altar. The bones fell onto the flesh, and the organs fell onto the bones! In the middle of the altar was all that was left of Xu Qing... his soul!

As his soul floated there, it trembled.

"Sacrifice!"

And thus, the Primordial Gruish Sacrificial Altar was activated. The altar vibrated. The air rippled formlessly, as if an invisible force was ripping apart the boundaries between illusion and reality. Numerous black shadows appeared, which became gruish outlines in many forms. At the same time, a gruish aura was born within the sinister wind.

A sound of crying and wailing rose up, drifting out without end. Then, like a bloodthirsty and vicious beast.... it pounced on Xu Qing's soul. In all dimensions, in all thoughts, in all stories, whether they were in the void, in space-time, or in other parallels... they locked on to him.

As a result, Xu Qing's soul was instantly surrounded. They began to ravenously rip him to shreds.

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 gruish world precedes the godly!"

The head danced and sang a dirge in a high-pitched voice.

Outside, the projected gods within Eminent Desolation's gaze were prompted by Zi Qing's own hard look to converge on the area. Nothing seemed capable of standing up to that force.

At that critical moment, when Xu Qing's soul seemed like it couldn't sustain the ripping force any longer, The Emperor's Sword glittered, and sword energy slashed onto his soul! Finally, the sword energy sliced his soul open! The power of the altar now had somewhere to go, and it poured into his soul! His soul was completely opened up!

As that happened... an infinite black mist poured out from inside his soul. Within that black mist was a host of doors! They were not of uniform shape. Some were big, some were small, and as they

swirled out, they created a long tunnel! And in the depths of that long tunnel... was a massive chair!

As the primordial grues and the god projections neared the black mist... the doors in the tunnel all started shaking. And then... all of them began trembling violently! Heaven-shaking, earth-shattering thumping sounds rang out. It was the sound... of doors being knocked upon!

The doors were all shaking, as if some unknown entities behind them had sensed what was happening on the outside, and were going mad trying to break open the doors.

They... wanted to get out! The noise grew louder, filled with terrifying pressure. Mixed in with the sound was howling that could shake the mind and heart. The grues and gods pouring inside all shivered, and then began to back up in terror as if to flee. It was too late....

The doors were incredibly solid, as if the screaming from inside couldn't do anything to open them. But... that wasn't the case with all of them. As the grues and gods tried to flee, the intense attack caused one of the doors at the very end of the corridor, a wooden one right next to the chair, to resound with a banging noise louder than anything from before.

BAAAMMMMM!!

The howling from all the other doors ceased. And then... the wooden door in the depths of the tunnel creaked as... it opened by a crack!

When the crack appeared, a stream of rotting black hair flew out from inside, filled with brutal greed as it spread in all directions. It was as if something that had been hungry for countless years was now out in the open. Immediately, the black hair shot toward the grues and gods.

No amount of struggle did anything. The long, black hair quickly wrapped around the grues and gods, and then pulled forcefully.... All were pulled back with the hair! It happened incredibly quickly. Within a moment, all the grues and gods were dragged through the crack and into the door!

The wooden door shut. The black mist swept back into the tunnel and covered everything. What was more, the Primordial Gruish Sacrificial Altar began to spin! The altar was returning a favor to Xu Qing.

An instant later... Xu Qing's soul closed up, and his organs, bones, flesh, and skin all returned to their spot. The altar began to disappear. Meanwhile, Xu Qing looked up, his face ashen, in the direction of Zi Qing standing in the middle of Eminent Desolation's gaze.

He said nothing. Zi Qing likewise said nothing. The only thing other than the silence were brutal chewing sounds that drifted about.

Finally, Zi Qing's eyes glittered. "You really took a step forward. I've been waiting for this day for a long time, lil' bro. Now that you've reached this level of ability... you must already realize that the Living God Eminent Desolation has paramount control of fate.

“You must also know that the Living God Eminent Desolation can see the future with his left eye and the past with his right. But as of this moment, the Eminent Desolation up above only has a left eye. That’s because his right eye... is right here.”

Zi Qing pointed down. The ground below quaked and began to split open. Instantly, all of the Heaveneater Region trembled. It wasn’t just in that spot. Many nearby regions trembled. In the Heaveneater Region and all those other regions, mountains collapsed, as if a huge subterranean dragon were ripping open the lands.

A crevice opened, so terrifyingly large it spanned many regions! It turned into a terrifying valley.

It looked like a wound on the surface of Revered Ancient! In the middle of it all was the imperial palace of the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan! Then the lands on either side of the palace shook violently! Golden light shone up from inside, rising high into the sky!

If one could look down on the Heaveneater Region from a very high vantage point, the scene would be clear to see.... The valley spanning many regions was actually a massive eye opening up! Astonishingly, that eye looked exactly like that which belonged to the broken face in the dome of heaven!

This was... Eminent Desolation’s right eye! Hē had buried it deep below, and now it was opening!

Zi Qing was located exactly at the pupil. Zi Qing now stood in a gaze that came from Eminent Desolation’s left eye above and the right eye below. Both eyes were open, with him in the middle!

As the gazes converged, Zi Qing lifted his right hand! Within that hand was an object. It was a very ancient skull. It was... his skull from years ago! Hē had taken it back on the day Empress Summer Departure reached godly ascension. Right now, hē lifted the skull overhead. [1]

As Eminent Desolation’s gazes intersected, the skull abounded with a sensation of ancient time, affecting all heaven and earth. With Zi Qing in the middle, the time in the surroundings seemed to change, and countless figures stepped from death into life. The power of the skull created a void, melted time, and dissolved anything and everything.

That included Zi Qing. Laughter rang out.

“Space-Time Reversal; Return to Antiquity. I’ll be waiting in the ancient past for our final battle, lil’ bro!”

1. Skull references: [chapters 530.2](#), [536.2](#), [751](#), and [955](#). Unless I’m missing something, I don’t think it specifically mentioned him taking it back, although I feel like I remember that happening. If it did happen, it was mentioned in passing and I couldn’t find the reference. 📖

Chapter 1347: Primeval Motherworlds

Chapter 1347: Primeval Motherworlds

It was clearly some sort of ceremony, governed by universally shocking laws. With the left eye of the broken face as heaven, and the right eye of Eminent Desolation as earth, the position of heaven and earth were established, the void was pierced, and time was shattered.

They swept about Zi Qing and converged on the skull. The skull served as a space-time anchor, while Zi Qing's power of fate was the foundation for a very special type of return. If you thought of space-time as clear water, then Zi Qing's old skull was like a drop of ink.

That ink had just landed in the water. And it spread to cloud everything. It infected the world and altered its color. All of the Heaveneater Region turned dark. As the ink spread, as that darkness spread, all traces of the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan disappeared, as if the place had never even existed.

The dust of space-time was shed, and the region returned to its original form. Ultimately, the kingdom was taken by the wind, leaving behind nothing in its wake.

That included both Zi Qing and Xu Qing, who were in that kingdom's imperial palace. An instant later, their auras were gone, and there was no evidence of their existence.

They were isolated outside of the world. They had entered the ancient past.

The wind blew across heaven and earth. An ancient aura abounded, filled with faint traces of blood. It swept over shattered lands and withered forests. And then, like a brush painting the works of heaven, it formed the Xu Qing who wouldn't come to exist for tens of thousands of years.

The moment he appeared, his eyes glittered, and he looked around, stunned.

The aura here... is definitely what I was looking for!

He looked up into the sky. It was a lot grayer than he remembered. A dense mutagen filled heaven and earth. It had not been diluted in this time period, and in fact, occasionally manifested as a dusky haze. This was Revered Ancient, but it was not the Heaveneater Region.

This is the Holytide Region....

This was the Holytide Region of antiquity. At the same time, this was the original location of the true Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan!

War raged!

Xu Qing's senses were telling him that in this ancient version of the Holytide Region, there were a host of ancient cities that had been set ablaze. Citizens of the countless species had besieged those cities. This was the point in history when the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan ended up being destroyed.

Cultivators from the countless species had come from many regions, and now they were like a tide smashing into the cities of the kingdom and destroying them. The citizens were being massacred.

Forces behind the scenes were pushing them to completely wipe out the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan! Humans were rising to prominence, and they needed to be crushed!

Xu Qing looked on silently.

Then, a tranquil voice echoed in his mind. “See, I wasn’t lying. That Crown Prince of Violet and Cyan really used a fate magic to go into the past! Using his own fate, he returned to a specified point in space-time!”

As the voice drifted out, blood-red light shimmered around Xu Qing. Then, a blood mist separated from him, then came to float in front of him in the form of.... a blood-red mask! In the eye-holes of the mask was something like underworld fire, far off in the distance.

The mask looked at Xu Qing. “Now, I need you to take the initiative to sever the karma between the two of us when we completed our deal.”

There was no facial expression on Xu Qing as he looked at the mask, but his eyes shone with profound light.

Back before he fought with Zi Qing, he had spent time on Mount Daybreak researching the mysterious light from the Brilliant Heaven Godfolk. But even after absorbing all of it, his cultivation base had been unable to achieve a breakthrough. The light couldn’t do anything more.

All that had remained had been its core, which was a key. Of course, Xu Qing had taken plenty of time studying the key. After many such sessions of study, he came to realize that it was the key to the door of the primeval motherworld. It was only with that key that the door could even be found!

Xu Qing had looked for the door. But whether he searched in Brilliant Heaven or called on the help of the heavenly dao, he had failed. He could not find the door leading to the primeval motherworld. He couldn’t even find any clues.

Given his experiences, he knew that primeval motherworlds were very special. For example, in the Fourth Star Ring, the primeval motherworld only existed in the memories of the gods. The primeval motherworld of the Ninth Star Ring had even more unique qualities.

Three years before the date he had chosen to fight Zi Qing, Xu Qing’s study of the key prompted him to consider some memories in which he finally found a clue.

It was Zi Qing!

Zi Qing, the Crown Prince of Violet and Cyan, was the salvation of human destiny aura, as well as the salvation of Revered Ancient. Compared to Brilliant Heaven, Revered Ancient actually hadn’t existed for very long. And in some ways, Revered Ancient was actually Brilliant Heaven.

In that case... the Crown Prince of Violet and Cyan was also the savior of Brilliant Heaven. And the precursor to Brilliant Heaven was the primeval motherworld.

That was the only clue Xu Qing had discovered pertaining to the primeval motherworld. Zi Qing was the savior of Brilliant Heaven. Thus, one could logically deduce that there was a high

likelihood that Zi Qing was also the savior of the primeval motherworld! If that turned out to be true, then Zi Qing's fate lay within the door to the primeval motherworld.

Unfortunately, that was not the current Zi Qing. Rather, it was the Zi Qing who had not sacrificed anything to the broken face. It was the Zi Qing of antiquity! It was his fate!

As such, Xu Qing actually wanted to return to antiquity! It was a type of return that wasn't possible for him using his space-time canon. He could use that canon to enter space-time whenever he wanted, but it was only *his* space-time. He needed to get into the space-time of Zi Qing's fate!

The big downside to that special requirement was that he wasn't certain that Zi Qing would do such a thing during the fight.

That was when he had thought of the Mask of Wishes.[1]

He had made a deal with the mask a long time ago. His wish had been to reform his immortal body. After that, the mask told Xu Qing the price. It told him that it wanted the statue of the broken face located in the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan in the Heaveneater Region. After everything Xu Qing had gone through, including fighting the subordinate god of the mother river, Xu Qing had guessed what the Mask of Wishes was up to. Therefore, he had struck another deal with the mask.

With such thoughts in mind, Xu Qing waved his hand, severing the connection between himself and the mask.

"Our deal is now complete," he said calmly.

With the karma severed, the blood-red mask trembled. The facial features of the mask distorted, revealing a grish smile. Then the mask vanished from the ancient space-time of Zi Qing's fate.

After it was gone, Xu Qing's eyes narrowed. *You want to use Eminent Desolation to gain freedom, huh...?*

A few breaths of time passed, then Xu Qing retracted his gaze. He could sense all the fighting going on in the distant Violet and Cyan Region, as well as in the capital.

Ultimately, his eyes glittered as he lifted his right hand and... revealed a beam of light! The color of light was the same as daybreak. It was daybreak light, the very same mysterious light worshiped by the Brilliant Heaven Godfolk.

After producing the light, Xu Qing took a deep breath, and his heart and mind filled with determination. He was ready to try to open the door to the primeval motherworld! Just like Mi Ming, he wanted to use the primeval motherworld to achieve a cultivation base breakthrough.

He knew time was limited, so without any hesitation, he waved his hand. The beam of light shot up into the sky, spreading dazzlingly until it was like a huge rainbow. The light glittered, like a huge, rippling river. As it spread, it was within the daybreak light that... a very unique aura appeared. It gradually turned into a rift in the light!

Xu Qing's gaze hardened as he spotted something within the light. It was a location that was not completely isolated, something just barely visible through the rift! This was not something that

existed in the memories of the gods, nor in the memories of other living things. It was a dream world of Brilliant Heaven!

Astonishingly, there were two mysterious and illusory primeval motherworlds there! One was black, the other was white. The moment they became clear, Xu Qing shot into motion, entering the rift! After he was inside, the light and the rift had accomplished their purpose, and they vanished.

The primeval motherworld of the Fourth Star Ring existed only in the memories of the living beings in that star ring. In the Ninth Star Ring, the primeval motherworlds existed in a dream realm of the will of Brilliant Heaven itself. The world of Brilliant Heaven existed in the ancient past. Later, Deep Earth came along and established Revered Ancient, with its cultivators linked to the heavenly daos. As a result, the will of Brilliant Heaven had gradually faded.

Then the broken face came, and that fading turned into a pure shattering. Ultimately, as the dream world drifted into nothing, the world of Brilliant Heaven issued a final call for salvation, which entered Revered Ancient and became humankind.

Later, Zi Qing shouldered the responsibility of humankind, and thus the salvation of Revered Ancient and Brilliant Heaven came to be born.

Xu Qing understood all of that the moment the primeval motherworlds formed.

At the moment, he was in a realm of fantastic light and unending color. In the boundless light off in the distance were two huge primeval motherworlds, one black, one white, endlessly orbiting each other. They pulsed with the colors black and white, which intertwined with the colorful surroundings to deepen the dreamlike feeling.

Xu Qing looked at the primeval motherworlds, his eyes gleaming.

He had picked a path thanks to the inspiration from Mi Ming! Mi Ming's breakthrough had come thanks to the Fourth Star Ring's primeval motherworld. He had inserted himself into the motherworld and ultimately fused with it. By using the power of the motherworld, he became a God Lord. Only after leaving his true name behind did he convert from god to immortal. Because Mi Ming had used that method, he could be considered both god and immortal! That also gave him a unique power of suppression over gods.

After later analysis, Xu Qing came to the conclusion that there was actually a superior way to break through than to rely on a primeval motherworld. And that was to... devour a primeval motherworld!

Mi Ming might have considered that, but what ended up happening was that he just temporarily fused with it. He did not actually devour the motherworld! The reason was that there were too many obstacles to making such a path a reality. The Fourth Star Ring's God Paragon could have tried to stop him, not to mention that the primeval motherworld itself would have fought back. There was also the simple fact that he would have risked losing himself in the process.... The slightest mistake in any of those regards could have resulted in him losing himself.

It was like walking on a thread of spider silk! That was why Mi Ming had chosen the safest option, and the one most likely to lead to success. After using the state of fusion to succeed at the breakthrough, he took the initiative to break apart.

Xu Qing's plan used Mi Ming's idea as the starting point. But he pushed it to completion to do something that Mi Ming had not done!

There are three areas of difficulty. They can be divided into the internal and the external aspects.

There are going to be two difficulties externally. First, the other God Paragons of the Ninth Star Ring might provide opposition. Second, there's no way to know what the broken face of Eminent Desolation will do.

Third is the internal difficulty. And that will be resistance from the two primeval motherworlds!

Xu Qing looked at the motherworlds, his eyes shining.

Due to the unique location of the two motherworlds, plus the existence of the broken face, Xu Qing actually didn't think that the first external difficulty was anything to worry about. The other God Paragons of the Ninth Star Ring couldn't reach this place. Besides, the broken face would make it difficult even to approach.

But the broken face could be a problem....

Without any hesitation, Xu Qing made all the appropriate preparations, including for if he failed. Regardless of anything, he was going to try to make it work! With that thought in mind, he unhesitatingly blurred into motion, heading directly toward the twin primeval motherworlds!

The ancient wind dispersed the daybreak light from the dome of heaven, leaving behind only a lingering aura that fell to the ground. It passed shattered mountains and rivers, as well as the ruins of cities. Eventually, it reached the middle of the Holytide Region, and the capital city which was the pride of humankind.

It was... the capital of the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan! Outside of the kingdom, whether in the sky or land, countless cultivators from innumerable species had facial expressions of brutality and madness. Killing intent surged as they converged on the city from all directions.

The city walls had already been breached! Inside the city, the nonhuman cultivators smashed everything in their path. Their opponents... were the cultivators of the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan. None said a word. They just fought and died. It didn't matter how badly they were injured, or what emotions they felt. None of them cried out.

That was not the custom of the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan. No matter how many companions died next to them, they did not feel despair or grief. They were unyielding. And that was because their crown prince was still around!

A figure stood in the imperial palace behind them. As powerful experts from the countless species converged on the palace, his personal guard fought to the death.

Deaths occurred constantly.

Corpses littered the ground everywhere.

Blood flowed like rivers.

1. Mask of Wishes references: chapters [1037](#), [1038](#), [1042](#), [1050](#), [1060](#), [1090](#). 天

Chapter 1348: I'm Zi Qing

Chapter 1348: I'm Zi Qing

The eternal good fortune of the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan was shattered like glass by the cultivators of the countless species.

I personally saw my father, the emperor, ripped to shreds. My wife was impaled through the head, and my child huddled, weeping, until he was as cold as ice. I was too late to save them.... Nor was I strong enough to save them....

As I fought the battle, the countless species unleashed a magical curse to seal my cultivation base and turn me into a mortal.

I watched in grief and indignation as my younger brother met the enemy troops head-on, and detonated the last of our destiny aura. That blast of destiny aura entered me. When it did, I saw countless pairs of eyes. They were the eyes of my dead relatives and ministers, watching me from beyond the timescape.

I had to get revenge!

The Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan, which had lasted for a thousand years, shattered more easily than glass. The majestic, auspicious violet energy had already been ripped apart by the gory, infected magics of the countless species. Outside the imperial city, the jade columns which had long stood unsullied were now like a crumbling graveyard that trembled amidst the ear-splitting, bone-shivering sounds that rang out.

I stood for a long time on the shattered steps leading to the throne. Beneath my feet was sticky gore, and a pungent smell assailed my nostrils with every breath I took.

My father, the emperor, a figure who had once towered like a heavenly pillar, had been snatched by a shadow that could rip apart the air. I never heard his final cry. His powerful frame, clad in the violet-gold dragon robe, a symbol of infinite majesty, was ripped apart right in front of me!

Blood and bone fragments rained painfully onto my face. The scalding blood of my father turned my field of view into a crimson blur. As the rain of blood fell, the violet and cyan dome of heaven collapsed.

I was completely and utterly powerless. My cultivation base, my divine abilities, my fleshly body power... all of them had been sealed by the curse of the countless species. I was left without a scrap of battle prowess. I had been reduced to the level of a mortal.

At that moment, I realized that I was not as strong as the stories had made me out to be.... I was weak. In fact, I was weaker than just about any human around.

“Your Majesty! This way!” A hoarse cry pierced through the suffocating rumbling sounds that surrounded me. It came from one of my few remaining personal guards.

Numb, I followed after him as if being dragged by invisible bonds. Upon emerging from the rubble of the palace, a binding pillar of light caught my eye from off to the side.

It was coming from the direction of the Hall of Phoenix Rites! The entire place was a sea of flames! My heart pounded as I staggered in that direction. As the flames intensified, I saw her.... My wife.

She was propped up against a scorched column, a silver hairpin stabbed into her forehead. The delicate hands that had once bound my hair atop my head now lay limp at her sides. Her vacant eyes stared into the smoke-filled sky, yet her pupils seemed to glimmer with unending concern.

My outstretched hand came to a stop in front of me, and my chest pounded as if something was about to burst out from within. I let loose a soundless cry of anguish. The ancient lotus symbol on my palm, which symbolized the imperial house of Violet and Cyan, burned like a branding iron into my soul.

“Father...” a weak, trembling voice cried from beneath the shadow of a toppled roof beam.

A small form huddled there, my little prince, who was only seven years old. His body was already as cold as ice. He was clutching the little wooden sword I’d carved for him, holding it against him as if it was the only source of warmth left in the world. Trembling, I scooped him up, but what little bit of warmth remained in him left, leaving behind nothing but icy cold. The wooden sword slipped out of his limp hand and clattered on the ground tiles. The howling of the cultivators of countless species echoed in my ears and deep into my heart.

My father, my wife, my prince, and my kingdom... were as cold as ice.

“Let’s go! Your Majesty!” The few remaining armored warriors formed something like a metallic dam that blocked the terrifying torrent of attacks from outside. Their faces flitted with despair and the willingness to die.

I was like a puppet with its strings cut, swept along by the force of inevitability as I staggered out of the palace and into the unknown darkness. Behind me was a dying world. The palace uttered a groan and collapsed.

Then a cold, destructive divine will stabbed into my bones, like a maggot gnawing at me. Death seemed to freeze my marrow.

“You are not as high-spirited and full of mettle as usual, Crown Prince of Violet and Cyan.”

The unctuous voice ridiculed me like a cat that had caught a mouse. As the destructive power was about to overwhelm me, a familiar and resolute figure shoved against the flow of the crowd to stand between me and the divine will!

It was my little brother! My father had not loved him, and he was normally taciturn. He existed in the shadows cast by my light, and I rarely interacted with him. But he was my little brother! He held an official jade seal, and the pressure weighing down caused his tattered robes to flap loudly. His hair whipped about him chaotically.

He turned and glanced at me. His eyes were full of the type of madness that came with staking everything on one move! His emaciated frame suddenly seemed to swell like an inflating balloon. Blinding, violet light shot out of both the jade seal and every pore in his body!

The light was pure, solemn, and stirring, like the final scraps of destiny aura from the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan. And it ignited the last bit of his fate and soul!

BOOOOM!

An indescribable explosion ripped through the world. All beings in heaven and earth seemed to go deaf.

The power caused by the igniting of the destiny aura created something like a huge, invisible hammer that swept into me. Rumbling sounds filled me. They broke through the powerful curse laid on me by the countless species. It blasted through the seal that they had put on my cultivation base. Majestic power swept through me like spring breaking through the rotten shell of winter. My cultivation base woke up.

And yet, even as cultivation base power coursed through me, my mind was still a haze of blood filled with countless astonished eyes! My father, my brother, my wife, my child... and countless familiar faces were there. There were soldiers and citizens who had shed every last drop of blood for Violet and Cyan.

Their gazes contained a look of farewell, like something from beyond the timescape. It was like the other shore of pāramitā that could never be touched. As I looked at them, a tear of blood formed out of nowhere and fell down my face into the infinite darkness. It plummeted to the crumbled corpse of the kingdom, stained with blood and licked with fire. It fell into eternal silence.

Behind me were the flotsam of the past, and the degraded jetsam of the timescape. But in front of me, there in the void, was a long, dark, blood-soaked path.

I had to get revenge!

Chapter 1349: I Would Never Have Another Friend

Chapter 1349: I Would Never Have Another Friend

Blood-red light shone into my eyes. I saw endless corpses. They were corpses of the countless nonhumans!

After my cultivation base returned, I went mad and unleashed slaughter. Unfortunately... there was no end to the enemy forces.

I now stood in the ruins of the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan, sticky blood covering my face, my nostrils filled with the acrid tang of gore. Every breath felt like knives slashing through my lungs, and yet, that flame which had long been extinguished in my heart was finally sparking to life again.

Then, a hoarse shout cut through the gory atmosphere. “Your Majesty... please suppress your grief! We cannot stay here any longer. We must seek refuge with Bai Xiaozhuo in Sea-Sealing County.”[1]

It was Ol’ Luo, captain of my personal guard. His grizzled face was covered with blood. Whether it was his own or the enemy’s, I knew naught. His left arm hung limply at his side, obviously broken. In his right hand he gripped a battle-worn saber that dripped with blood.

Behind him were a few dozen soldiers, all of them so covered with wounds they looked like they had just climbed out of a river of blood. Their armor was battered, their robes soaked in blood. They looked exhausted beyond measure, yet their eyes gleamed like fire-tempered blades as they looked past me at the smoke and dust roiling on the horizon. It was a tempest closing in, the armies of the countless species.

As the tempest neared, I looked at the ruins where all of my loved ones were buried. And then... I looked at my personal guard.

“Come with me to South Phoenix! Mirrorcloud will activate the regional teleportation portal there that connects to his location in Sea-Sealing County. When the time comes, he’ll join us!”[2]

“Emperor Mirrorcloud!” The name struck them like a thunderclap, piercing through the haze of death that filled the area. Their eyes lit up, just like a drowning person’s eyes would shine upon encountering a piece of driftwood.

The continent of South Phoenix was the spot Mirrorcloud and I had selected as our fallback position.

Mirrorcloud was my lifelong best friend. Long ago, the two of us had sworn a solemn oath to do everything in our power to revitalize humankind! The countless species were in a position of overwhelming power, and Mirrorcloud couldn’t deploy his main armies without courting disaster. But he had prepared in advance! There was a teleportation portal ready in an out-of-the-way corner of South Phoenix.

I trusted him! In fact, I trusted him as much as my own beating heart! It was a trust that, having been refined by the fire of countless battles, had become like the purest of gold.

I understood what held him back in certain areas. As the emperor of humankind, he was responsible for the lives of millions upon millions of humans. With the two of us split between south and north, we were like two pillars holding up all of humankind. We worked apart, but were always in unison.

The secret teleportation portal was my ticket to passing through this tribulation. It was a light pointing the way through the darkness and gloom. Only the two of us knew of its existence; the countless species were completely unaware of it!

Taking a deep breath, I said, "Let's go!"

My voice resonated with the utmost determination, becoming like a flowing beam of light leading us to the south. Ol' Luo and the handful of survivors mustered their strength and followed close behind me. We pierced through the gory air like arrows loosed from a bow, seeking life.

The forces of the countless species pulsed with terrifying fluctuations as they followed us. They refused to let us get away, and the ground shook beneath their might as they gave chase.

It was a blood-soaked journey. We eventually crossed the Forbidden Sea and arrived in South Phoenix. If we stopped to rest, it meant that comrades would fall and be consumed by the unstoppable tempest of death behind us.

Eventually, as evening fell over the interior of South Phoenix, we caught sight of our destination on the Peerless Plains. That was when the spark of hope finally lit up in my heart. But then an unprecedented sense of danger pierced my sea of consciousness like an icy awl.

"Stop!" I lurched to a halt in midair.

Even as I did, the air up ahead rippled and then tore open! Piercing howls shattered the evening calm. The air was ripped open by a massive pair of claws. Then, hundreds of terrifying figures appeared, all of them pulsing with perverse energy.

Their leader was nine meters tall, covered with a gleaming black exoskeleton, the joints of which featured razor-sharp spurs. The thing had a long, narrow head and compound eyes that glittered with merciless crimson light. This was the emperor of the Voidcleavers, who were renowned for brutality among the countless species.

Flanking him was a giant whose body was made of rough stone interspersed with magma, whose every step caused the land to shatter and ooze lava. He was the emperor of the Lavagiants!

Further off, other figures were appearing, all of whom emitted pressure that could make the soul tremble. We were surrounded. Their auras were like unbreakable fetters that locked down everything, making it impossible for us to retreat. The killing intent was colder than the chilliest autumn wind in South Phoenix.

"This is where your path ends, Crown Prince Zi Qing." Emperor Voidcleaver spoke by means of psychic fluctuations that smashed into my mind. He made no attempt to hide his disdain and greed.

There was no path of retreat available. The enemy had caught us! It was a desperate situation!

"Get into formation!" Ol' Luo shouted, stepping forward and brandishing his saber in his one good arm. The surviving soldiers didn't hesitate. They quickly got into a defensive formation around me. There was no terror in their eyes, only the mad, burning desire to fight. They were like torches who were about to burn out, and wanted to let loose one last blaze of heat and light.

I looked around at them, and then looked through the experts from the other species. The plain just ahead was the fallback position Mirrorcloud and I had set up! The secret teleportation portal was right there. But... why were these experts from the other species waiting in this very specific spot...?

Mirrorcloud... I thought bitterly. Not ready to believe what was happening, I took out a jade pendant. It had been personally given to me by Mirrorcloud, and it contained some of his essence aura. It was the key to activating the teleportation portal.

All I had to do was get to the Peerless Plains, activate it, and teleport away. Without any hesitation, I sent some spirit power into the pendant!

WHIZZZ!

The pendant lit up! Faint strands of mysterious light, like life-saving spider webs, rose from the pendant, as if they wished to connect to the teleportation portal in the area. But then... the light twinkled like a candle flame in the wind. The light dimmed! The essence aura in the pendant, oh so familiar to me, faded away and disappeared! My heart sank.

“Try again,” someone said from among the experts of the other species. “See if that human Mirrorcloud will activate the portal. Crown Prince Zi Qing, you... have been abandoned. Perhaps that good friend of yours... wants you dead more than we do!”

The light of the pendant went out. It became as cold and lifeless as an ordinary stone.

The string connecting to the north was severed. It had not been tampered with externally. Rather... it had been decisively severed from the other end. And authority over the portal had been given to the countless species.

Time seemed to stand still. My subordinates panted for breath. The experts of the countless species grinned viciously. The deathly silent Peerless Plains... became blurry and distant.

My heart felt like it was being gripped by a massive hand, crushing it painfully. Torment filled my body.

“Hahaha... hahahahaha...” Bitter laughter erupted from my throat, hoarse and tinged with blood. The sound of the laughter grew louder and louder in the still evening.

I looked up, my gaze piercing through the countless tribulations I had endured as I looked toward the heart of humankind, the spot where Mirrorcloud ruled.

Mirrorcloud.... The only friend I had in life.... Right then, I swore that if I was ever born again, I would never have another friend!

My laughter grew louder.

The experts from the other species did something. The teleportation portal in the Peerless Plains activated. Light shone as innumerable nonhumans poured out! Raging power bore down on me with mountain-toppling, sea-draining force!

Ol' Luo howled as he charged forth to death. He was the first to meet the onslaught! My other subordinates were like moths flying into the flames. Enraged roars echoed out as they threw themselves toward an enemy that could never be defeated.

The demented smile on my face was replaced by icy killing intent. Death lay before me. Death lurked behind. Therefore... I would fight!

My cultivation base surged, and I held nothing back! Violet light surged, like the lingering glow of a dying star. I became like a bolt of violet lightning smashing into the slaughter!

The Peerless Plains became a grindstone of flesh and blood!

1. Bai Xiaozhuo's story was originally summarized in [chapter 533.2](#). ❸

2. The story of Mirrorcloud and Zi Qing was originally told in [chapter 401](#). Don't forget that the person telling that story was actually Bai Xiaozhuo, although we didn't find that until many chapters later. ❹

Beyond the Timescape

Chapter 1350: Sacrifice!

I fought! My personal guard also fought! Sadly, they were so exhausted that they had no strength left.

Ol' Luo's blade managed to slice off a corner of Emperor Voidcleaver's exoskeleton. But then a huge black mandible, pulsing with the power to cleave the void, slashed into his chest and ripped his heart out. Emperor Voidcleaver devoured it in a single gulp.

Among the personal guard was a female cultivator who wielded a bow. With a lamenting cry, she let loose an arrow that pierced a Lavagiant through the eyes, only to have her arms lopped off by the gruish blade of one of the nonhuman experts. She staggered back, blood spraying out of her mouth, a look of despair in her eyes. Biting the tip of her tongue, she spat some blood onto her broken bow. The bow thrummed and turned into an arrow of blood which shot with blinding speed into the back of another nonhuman expert. The arrow exploded! Innumerable shafts of light slammed into her, shredding her into ashes....

Each of my subordinates who fell became like a branding iron leaving a searing mark on my soul.

I attacked with pure madness! I held nothing back! I killed one nonhuman expert after another!

Violet flames swept back and forth. Sword energy slashed at the void. Corpses fell on the Peerless Plains. As my people fell, the corpses piled up.

I was soon covered in wounds. Burning magma scorched my bones. The razor-sharp blades of the Voidcleavers slashed bone-deep furrows into my back. Countless species of grues cast magical spells that dug into my marrow like maggots, eating away at my life force. Blood soon soaked my

tattered robe, and my vision was dim with redness. My cultivation base drained away like water without anything to contain it. Every breath I took caused excruciating pain to assail my organs.

I killed many, but there were always more to come. There was no end....

Gradually, my consciousness began to descend into darkness and gloom. However, just when the world was about to turn pitch black....

Something massive and complex arrived. It was something filled with infinite grief and determination, like a gigantic wave that swept forth from all directions to slam into my sea of consciousness!

This was not an enemy attack. It was some sort of... resonance! It was like the final dying cry of all the countless souls of the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan! My field of vision suddenly soared. It extended infinitely!

It was as if my soul had broken free from its shell, and I was now looking down on the shattered lands below. I saw all of the formerly glorious cities in the Violet and Cyan Region, which were now little more than burning, smoking husks! Countless figures struggled in the flames, and when they fell, their calls of despair echoed in my ears.

The flags of the countless species flew over the capital city of Sea-Sealing County, pulsing with an aura of destruction. The city walls had long since fallen, and the interior was mostly rubble. I spotted my apprentice, Bai Xiaozhuo. He was soaked in blood, and his left arm had been severed. But, held aloft in his right hand was the governor's seal!

He was surrounded by the bodies of commoners! There were men, women, old, and young. Their clothes were tattered and they were emaciated, but tears did not stain their faces. They looked numb and full of pure, unadulterated despair!

I looked to the western frontier and saw that what troops remained were closing their eyes. I looked to the northern ice plains and saw scout troops frozen and dying. The things I saw filled me with indescribable pain and grief, as if millions upon millions of needles were stabbing into my soul!

It was more intense than the military offensive of the powerful experts of all those species! My kingdom... my people!

At that moment, unending grief turned into a determination that surpassed life or death! It was as if black ice had completely frozen over all pain and sorrow!

I looked up. My blood-soaked gaze passed beyond the ferocious glares of the enemy, out of the Peerless Plains, through the mountains of South Phoenix, and above the highest heavens. There, cold and apathetic, was something that had not changed for aeons: the massive broken face!

His face was as apathetic, cold, and dead as ever. It was like a face that had been ripped almost in half, cold and detached, plastered high in the dome of heaven. He was fundamentally a mockery to all of the joys and sorrows of life, and in fact, the very struggle to live. But right now, that ancient observer, that cold embodiment of natural laws... might be the only force capable of turning things around.

The last remaining citizens of the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan were dying. And I, Zi Qing, the exiled and powerless crown prince, had only one option....

“I... am Zi Qing!” I said hoarsely, my voice filled with a power that caused heaven and earth to tremble as it filled the kingdom. “And I am the crown prince of the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan!”

I threw my arms wide. My tattered robe flapped in the wind. Wounds opened, causing blood to gush forth. Strangely, that blood did not fall. Instead, it turned into blood-red flames that surrounded me!

“I hereby sacrifice my ravaged body! I ignite my soul! I burn my dao foundation! I incinerate all that is me! I set ablaze past, future, and... all karma!”

As the words left my mouth, every last scrap of my life force essence burned! My flesh and blood began to vanish. My bones moaned piteously. My soul was thrown into something like an eternal furnace. My cultivation base, which had just been restored, and every other aspect of my foundation, turned into pure, blazing essence!

“Call forth thine mightiness! Purge this foul taint! Burn down this world of chaos! Protect my Kingdom of Violet and Cyan... that its final ember ne’er be quenched! Life shall continue again! And when I awake, I will offer all that mine eyes behold!”

RUMBLE!!

A pillar of violet-gold light exploded up furiously, purer and more condensed than the destiny aura of Violet and Cyan, and filled with the personhood of a human emperor! It tore apart the blood-red curtain that the countless species had used to cover the Peerless Plains! It contained a decisive will that was willing to end all things in mutual destruction. It was like a violet river of stars piercing through the void and battering its way toward the broken face!

At the same time, Bai Xiaozhuo apparently sensed it, and looked in the direction of South Phoenix. Tears of blood streamed down his face as he cackled madly and mutilated his own face until only half was left, just like the broken face.

“I was born in these lands! I will die in these lands! My soul will guard over them! I will accompany the crown prince in death. Then I will awaken a thousand years before him, to pave the way for him as his dao protector. Sacrifice!”[1]

As he carried out the sacrifice, the people of Sea-Sealing County lent their support. They gathered around their governor, forming a large ring. Elderly ones. Wives. Children.... They looked up into the sky... at the cold, apathetic broken face that constantly looked down at the misery of the mortal world! And then, madness filled their faces as they all cried out the same thing together!

“Sacrifice!”

Countless voices became a flow that could rip apart heaven and earth!

Elderly ones. Wives. Children.... all of the surviving people of Sea-Sealing County, regardless of their age or how strong or weak they were, simultaneously... mutilated their faces to resemble the broken face! They did not hesitate or cower. There was only a kosmic determination to embrace death for the sake of rebirth.

Innumerable weak but incomparably pure motes of life force became like flowing starfire that ripped away from their mutilated forms!

Together, they formed a river that then became a sea! The final will of the discarnate souls of the people turned into a stream of life force, filled with silent determination and a lament that could incinerate all things...and joined the crown prince to fly high into the sky!

In the west of the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan, the scattered troops who still lived lit the signal fires. As the fire raged, they looked up at the broken face and mutilated their faces, whereupon they collapsed into motes of light....

In the ice plains in the north of the kingdom, the freezing scout troops used the last of their strength to stab their flags into the frigid soil. Turning toward their home, they looked at the broken face and, as one, mutilated their own faces. Blood red-light swept toward the rising tide of souls....

In countless locations in the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan, in the far corners, in the remote locations, countless feeble expressions of will chose the same path! They sacrificed themselves! They used their discarnate souls as the spark! In the end, the Sovereign Kingdom of Violet and Cyan sacrificed everything to that broken face who looked down upon all and hovered above the boundless timescape!

It was like hundreds of rivers returning to the ocean. The people of the kingdom surpassed all obstacles, to swirl around and converge on the violet-gold pillar of light shooting up from the crown prince!

They and the crown prince together... sacrificed themselves! They only requested... that in the future, Zi Qing, Violet and Cyan, would once again come to Revered Ancient!

Time seemed to slow to a standstill. The fighting and killing on the Peerless Plains crawled to a halt. The looks of brutality on the faces of the enemy experts froze, to be replaced by instinctual astonishment and terror that came from deep within. The only thing left in the world was that fiery, violet-gold light rising up against all odds, accompanied by endless sacrificed souls, heading toward... the cold broken face above the dome of heaven.

And then....

That cold broken face who had not moved for aeons opened his eyes. Within those eyes burned a fire of infinite coldness and chaos in the form of a blood-red vortex! It was a sun of extermination!

A gaze akin to the magical laws of a star ring descended, bringing indescribable pressure that surpassed the comprehension of living beings. That gaze, icy and apathetic, could look down on countless ancient things, and could penetrate all fabricated wills.

The gaze focused! It looked at... the source of the violet-gold pillar of light.

It looked at... me... the person within that pillar of light, rapidly crumbling into nothing.

The moment the blood-red gaze locked onto me, it felt like I had been plunged into a sun made of ice. Then, starting from the tips of my fingers and toes, I started crumbling into violet dust. Blood. Bones. Soul.... Everything that made Zi Qing crumbled into essence due to the gaze of the broken face.

I did not feel pain. There was only cold nothingness. It was as if my consciousness was drifting away. Right before I became nothing, I heard a deep voice speaking within the gaze from the blood-colored vortex.

“Permission granted.”

Then a terrifying aura appeared, something indescribable, from the beginning of the universe. It turned into a destructive tsunami that raged toward the Peerless Plains! It destroyed everything! Time became stretched out to eternity. As the final tempest of primal-chaos raged, my will became like a candle in the wind. Its spark... vanished.

The stream of millions upon millions of discarnate souls was all that remained, and as the blood-colored vortex in the broken face’s eyes churned, they rushed into destruction.... They used death for rebirth as they chanted... a silent dirge of death.

In the year 315 of the Violet Cyan calendar, its crown prince perished in the southern continent.

Bai Xiaozhuo, the apprentice of the crown prince, who had been the last governor of Sea-Sealing County, stood by. Weeping tears of blood, he disfigured half his face to make himself look like the broken face of the god.

Then, he spoke his final words before dying. “I will accompany the crown prince. Then I will awaken a thousand years before the crown prince, to serve as his dao protector.”

1. These words came up previously in [chapter 533.2](#). ❸