

## The Gods 1681

### [Chapter 1681 - A Brutal Tragedy](#)

Yan Wanchi lost his balance when the light profound energy started shining in the air. The profound energy he was releasing from his body completely dissipated and his body collapsed to the ground in a heap. His limbs were spastically convulsing and hoarse wails of pain ripped from his throat.

Yan Wanhun and Yan Wangui also fell to the ground. They writhed on the ground in pain as their wails filled the air. It was as if they were wild dogs that had been thrown into a pot of boiling oil and were frantically trying to escape.

Yan Wanchi was only an instant away from unleashing his full might when he felt his strength drain away. This caused him to experience an incredible energy backlash and as his own chaotic energy and sacred light wracked his body, he howled like a despairing wild beast that had lost all of its limbs. He writhed on the ground in incredible despair and frenzied agony.

If the area were illuminated, any spectator would be able to see that the bodies of the Three Yama Ancestors were swiftly rotting away and disappearing into the air itself. Their skin looked like layers of scorched leather which was peeling back and their stark white bones were soon revealed... Their exposed skulls even started smoking after that, as white tendrils began to float into the air.

“Just as expected.”

Yun Che ignored Yan Wanhun and Yan Wangui, who were both wildly fleeing in panic. Instead, light profound energy continued to radiate from his body as he unhurriedly walked toward Yan Wanchi. “Your lives and souls rely on the darkness profound energy in this place to keep existing so the very moment they came into contact with light profound energy, both of them instantly started burning up like a lit candle. It must be very painful, huh.”

Light profound energy and darkness profound energy were in direct opposition to each other, but a normal person who possessed darkness profound energy would not be pushed to this extent by pure light profound energy.

However, the Three Yama Ancestors were different.

This was because their vitality and soul force had become connected to the dark yin energy in this place over the last eight hundred thousand odd years. They were now completely reliant on the dark yin energy for their continued existence; their bones, flesh, and blood had assimilated with it. They had completely and utterly become beings of darkness.

The moment they transformed into pure creatures of darkness, light then became the most frightening existence to them, something they could not come into contact with at any cost.

Normally, it was not completely impossible for the Three Yama Ancestors to leave the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness. Chi Wuyao had also said that they could leave this place for about an hour.

However, they never seemed to step outside. Because even the natural light outside of their “tomb”, which was already incredibly dim, would cause them to feel pain and discomfort.

Meanwhile, the light shining from Yun Che's body was the sacred profound light that could only be released by light profound energy! When it fell on the bodies of the Three Yama Ancestors, they felt as if thousands of blades were piercing their bodies, as if thousands of needles were stabbing into their souls...

No, having one's life force and soul devoured was an entirely different concept from having one's body destroyed. The pain of such devouring could not be described, and it could not be overcome simply by willpower..

You'er fell into a deep slumber as Hong'er woke up and the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor Sword in Yun Che's hand was transformed into the Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword. The sacred profound light spread from Yun Che's body to the body of the sword as it pierced toward Yan Wanchi.

"Ssss-aaaaaaaahhhh——"

Yan Wanchi's body was far too strong so Yun Che's casual thrust naturally could not run him through and only the tip of the sword pierced his flesh. However, the Heaven Smiting power of the sword had merged with the light profound energy coming from Yun Che's body, so this tiny wound elicited a wail of misery from Yan Wanchi that was far more shrill than the wailing of ten thousand ghosts.

This extreme pain provoked a furious response from Yan Wanchi, a reaction borne out of pure despair. He flipped backwards through the air before ruthlessly thrusting a clawed hand at Yun Che's chest.

At this time, Yan Wanchi felt as if his body and soul had been bathed in lava that came from the depths of purgatory. Under the suppression of that holy light and the pain which transcended the realm of willpower, his spasming arm could not even produce one-tenth of his normal power. However, it still blasted Yun Che far away.

Yun Che's body flew explosively through the air. But the moment he regained his balance, he shot back toward Yan Wanchi like a bolt of lightning. He used his light profound energy to perform the Heavenly Wolf's fourth sword form, "Instantaneous Hell Calamity", and his sword swiftly shot toward Yan Wanchi, who had sunk to the ground limply.

Crack!

His streaking sword shattered the space around it as it drove through Yan Wanchi's body like it was a plank of rotten wood. It pierced through his right breast and exited the left side of his back, completely transfixing the body of this Yama Ancestor.

"Ssss... Arghhhh... Uwaaaaahhhh!!"

Light profound energy exploded from within his body and it was undoubtedly equivalent to creating a hell right inside of him. Yan Wanchi's hoarse scream ripped his throat apart as his profound energy wildly erupted.

Rumble!!

A miserable scream echoed amid the thunderous explosion. Yun Che's body was blasted hundreds of meters away but the Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword remained firmly lodged in Yan Wanchi's body.

The flesh and bone surrounding the sword was swiftly being destroyed, causing an expanding hole to appear in his chest.

As he wailed desperately, Yan Wanchi smashed a palm against his chest, violently dislodging the Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword that was stuck in his body. However, Yun Che's figure suddenly appeared in front of him. The Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword was sucked into his hands as he unleashed another brutal "Instantaneous Hell Calamity" against Yan Wanchi.

This time, his sword thrust into Yan Wanchi's left breast and exited from his right shoulder blade. Another gaping hole created by the destructive power of light appeared in Yan Wanchi's body.

"Aaaaaaaahhhhhhh!!!"

Yan Wanchi's screams were so shrill that even the cruelest person in the world would find them hard to listen to. He had lived for more than eight hundred thousand years but the accumulated pain he had experienced over his entire lifetime couldn't compare to the pain he was experiencing in this moment.

His profound energy did not obstruct any of Yun Che's attacks. It was released in an incredibly haphazard manner and it could not suppress the light or blast Yun Che away. Finally...

Bang!!

His knees heavily fell to the ground and blood sprayed from his mouth as he screamed with the last bits of his consciousness, "Old ghosts... save... me... Save me... Arghhhhhh!"

His despairing roar elicited an immediate response. Yan Wanhun and Yan Wangui, who had both fled into the distance, suddenly turned around and unleashed Yama Ghost Hands toward Yun Che. These Yama Ghost Hands streaked through the air as they tried to grab Yun Che's head.

A cruel smile ghosted across Yun Che's face as he abruptly yanked the Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword from Yan Wanchi's body. He suddenly swiveled around and he swept his sword through the air, a gigantic sword formation swiftly forming around him.

The Heavenly Wolf's Sixth Sword Style—Bloodmoon Immortal Slaying Sword!

This was the Immortal Slaying Sword Formation. An attack which he would normally need to expend an extremely large amount of profound energy to perform. In this world of darkness, however, it had materialized in a few seconds, a speed that even Caizhi could not match.

The sword formation erupted and countless shining energy swords appeared in this dark world. There were enough of them to form the image of a bright full moon and the sacred profound light radiating from these energy swords were thousands of times stronger than the light that had been radiating from Yun Che's body.

This had undoubtedly plunged the Three Yama Ancestors into a purgatory that was a million times more excruciating than the last.

Chii———

It was as if countless clusters of flames had ignited on the Three Yama Ancestor's bodies. Their flesh swiftly shriveled up and disappeared, even their bones started turning to ash. However, their true trial of purgatory had only just begun...

As Yun Che's sword fell, the energy swords filling the air slashed down like furious rain.

Even though the Immortal Slaying Sword Formation was powerful, it was nowhere near enough to suppress the Three Yama Ancestors. They could resist it with brute strength or dodge the rain of swords that were whistling toward them.

However, this was an entirely different story when their bodies and souls were being mercilessly consumed by the light.

When a person experienced a pain so extreme that it even swallowed up their willpower, there was no way they could completely control their bodies or powers. As a result, once this rain of radiant sword beams fell upon them, their bodies were being mercilessly sliced and pierced by them. Each sword even left behind a scar of light which continued to gnaw at their souls and vitality.

The Three Yama Ancestors wanted to resist these attacks or flee, but they were like blinded bugs whose legs had been cut off. Their bodies rolled and twisted on the ground and their shrill screams grew more hopeless as time went by.

They had toyed with countless opponents and prey throughout their long lives but even the most pitiful of those was not as miserable or pathetic as they were at this moment... Perhaps they had not even experienced a fraction of the Three Yama Ancestors' current misery.

As the light consumed him, Yan Wanchi's arms and legs had already started to disappear. His thigh bones stuck out of the stumps of his legs and even they were slowly beginning to turn to ash under the radiant light.

Yan Wanhun and Yan Wangui were not much better off. Their fingers were swiftly melting away under the light and seventy percent of their flesh had been burned away already. Their heads were practically skulls at this point.

Despite their horrible state, their miserable wails still reverberated throughout the entire Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness.

One could well imagine the hellish pain they were experiencing right now.

Yun Che's face was cold and impassive as he stood in the center of the sword formation. His lips curled up in a smile... that was utterly incompatible with the brutal tragedy that was occurring in front of him, the heart-wrenching screams that echoed through the air.

The Immortal Slaying Sword Formation would last for as long as he wished. If he so desired, it would continue forever.

The dark yin energy of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness continued to surge into his body. His profound veins were transforming it into light profound energy, something that was its polar opposite.

He was taking in the darkness while releasing light. Even the ancient Creation Gods and Devil Emperors would be utterly flabbergasted if they witnessed this scene.

As he watched the bodies of the Three Yama Ancestors slowly vanish under his radiant sword energy, Yun Che suddenly withdrew his sword.

Instantly, the energy swords which could span the blue dome of heaven disappeared along with his light profound energy, plunging the world around them into darkness once more.

If it had continued, the Three Yama Ancestors would have dissolved under the light.

But how could he bear to let them die just like that!?

The light dissipated and the tortured wails of the Three Yama Ancestors finally stilled. Their destroyed bodies lay limp on the ground and some of their parts still continued to furiously twitch.

The distinguished founding ancestors of the Yama Realm, these individuals that even the strongest god emperor of the Northern Divine Region had to behave deferentially toward, currently looked as if countless wild beasts had taken a swipe at their bodies. They shuddered and twitched on the ground like a bunch of dying bugs. The entire scene was unspeakably desolate and bleak.

The darkness gathered around them once more. It started to undo the devastation that the light profound energy had wreaked on their bodies, life force and souls. Their flesh and bones were regenerating at an astonishing pace and Yun Che could even see their limbs growing back right in front of him. Even though their recovery speed was not as freakish as Yun Che's, it was still shocking enough to astound the entire universe.

Once around eighty percent of their bodies and minds had been restored, Yan Wanchi was the first to get to his feet. But his body and soul still continued to shudder in an incredibly violent fashion. The hell of light that he had just experienced was enough to haunt his dreams for the rest of his life.

"You... you... just who are..." He pointed at Yun Che as he stumbled backwards involuntarily. His ancient eyes were filled with fear and fear alone.

On the other side, Yan Wanhun and Yan Wangui had stood up as well. However, they no longer looked at Yun Che as if he was merely a "little brat" anymore. Instead, it was as if they were looking at a vicious and cruel demon who had climbed out of hell.

"It looks like you've more or less recovered," Yun Che said with a quiet laugh. Light profound energy began to shine from his body once more.

To the Three Yama Ancestors, the reappearance of this sacred light was no different from being plunged into the hell they had just escaped from a moment ago. Completely hoarse and warped cries of pain rang out in the air as the light began to gnaw away at their vitality and souls once more.

This time, they no longer cared about anything else. They desperately circulated all of the energy they could muster as they crazily sped off in three different directions.

Trying to run?

Yun Che thought as he sneered at them mockingly. He did not even bother to glance in the direction of any of the Yama Ancestors.

A black light flickered in his eyes.

Instantly, the dark yin energy surrounding him started to swiftly circulate in the air. Before any of the Three Yama Ancestors could escape the area enshrouded in light, they had already been smashed backwards by huge tides of darkness. The impact had been so great that they had been pushed all the way back to where Yun Che was standing... which also happened to be the center of all of this light.

Their wails instantly grew several times more miserable. Even though they were right next to Yun Che's feet, their wills had collapsed so completely that they could not even muster the slightest willpower to resist. They still tried their best to flee the area. They would do anything to escape this purgatory of light, a purgatory that was far too cruel for them to endure.

However, every time they tried to escape, they would be forcefully pushed back by a storm of darkness that they had no way of resisting. They had tried multiple times, but they never managed to escape from this hellish light for even a single instant. Most of their flesh had already been consumed by this light and their arms and legs had started disappearing again.

The pain of having their soul destroyed bit by bit was like being plunged into a hell within a hell!

They had finally started to beg. They used the very last shred of consciousness and will to beg Yun Che for their lives desperately.

Perhaps they had never once imagined in their lives, which spanned nearly a million years, that there would actually come a day where they would be reduced to this lowly and pathetic state.

"Oh?" Yun Che languidly turned in their direction as he chuckled dryly. However, the sacred profound light that radiated from his body did not weaken one bit. "Does this mean that you finally know who your master is?"

"We are willing... Arghhhhh... are willing to accept you as our master... Uwaaaah... Spare me... Spare me... Arghhhhh..."

He would rather die than be forced to endure this pain.

However, in the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness, even suicide was nothing more than an extravagant wish for him right now.

"We are willing... to recognize you as our master!" the other two Yama Ancestors yelled desperately.

"Very good." Yun Che withdrew his arm and the light vanished.

Their miserable wails stilled once more and the Three Yama Ancestors slumped to the floor. They gasped violently for breath and every drop of blood, every strand of hair on their bodies, continued to shudder and spasm uncontrollably. Murky liquid had also soaked the front of their pants and formed a large puddle beneath them.

Yun Che's gaze swept across them before settling on the leader of the Three Yama Ancestors, Yan Wanchi. He walked toward Yan Wanchi and stopped right in front of him. As he stared at Yan Wanchi's miserable and sorry figure, he slowly extended a hand towards the top of his head.

"Wha... What are you going to do?" Yan Wanchi asked in a feeble voice.

“I am going to bestow a slave imprint on all of you of course,” Yun Che said with slanted eyes. “Do you three old ghosts think that I will believe your words? Heh... Could it be that you still want to resist?”

The two words “slave imprint” caused the bodies of the Three Yama Ancestors to go stiff and rigid.

They, the Three Yama Ancestors... were going to be marked with slave imprints!?

What a humiliation that would be! What a huge joke that would be!

How could they accept it!?

A shudder ran through Yan Wanchi’s body before he launched his body toward Yun Che like a raging bull. He hoped that he could tear Yun Che apart with his devil claws and his partially-recovered strength.

But what welcomed him was another flash of light profound energy.

“UWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH...”

It was as if an invisible hand had swatted Yan Wanchi to the ground like a fly. He writhed on the ground in pain and the death screams of the Three Yama Ancestors melted together into a grim funeral dirge which reverberated in this boundless darkness.

Yun Che stood up straight as he grinned and said, “Very good, it is time for you Yama Ancestors to prove your honor. If you absolutely have to struggle a little longer, I have something to tell you. I’ve got all the time in the world.”

#### [Chapter 1682 - Destruction of Beliefs](#)

The Yama Realm, the Devil Palace of Eternal Darkness.

“Royal father,” Yan Jie respectfully greeted the back of the Yama Emperor, Yan Tianxiao.

Yan Tianxiao turned around and asked, “Have we heard anything from our three ancestors?”

Yan Jie shook his head. “Nothing yet.”

“Has the sealing profound formation been attacked?” Yan Tianxiao asked.

Yan Jie replied, “This child has personally observed it for the past few days. The great formation sealing the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness has not been impacted by any form of energy.”

After he said those words, he stood up and continued, “However, this isn’t anything unexpected. Now that he has fallen into the clutches of our three venerable ancestors, he won’t even be able to struggle. Even if the barrier was opened wide, there’s no way he’d even have a chance to escape.”

Yan Tianxiao’s brow furrowed deeply and he looked like he had recalled something.

“Royal father, do you want this child to go in and take a look?” Yan Jie asked.

“No.” Yan Tianxiao raised a hand. “At the very least, there is one thing about Yun Che that is true and it’s the fact that he inherited the power of a Devil Emperor. Our three venerable ancestors have been trapped in the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness for the longest time and their greatest desire is to be able to reach the domain of darkness that lies beyond our limits. After they capture Yun Che, I am sure that

they are using all of their methods to extract all of the secrets concerning the Devil Emperor's inheritance from his body."

"They might even be able to plunder it from his body."

Even though he knew that this possibility was extremely faint, no one would pass up such an opportunity if they had the chance. In fact, they'd use every method at their disposal to try to extract it from him.

"Whether they succeed or fail in the end, the venerable ancestors will come out on their own volition once the matter is settled. If you didn't sense any activity within the 'tomb', that means they're currently pouring all of their effort into this matter. If you simply enter the 'tomb' without thinking and disturb them, there will be a heavy price to pay."

Yan Jie shuddered as he hurriedly said, "Royal father is right. This child spoke rashly."

"However..." Yan Tianxiao raised his head to look into the distance. "It has already been six days but the Soul Stealing Realm has shown no signs of movement. Do they believe that Yun Che has cowed all of us and is currently using the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness to cultivate? Hmph, how laughable."

"Dispatch some men to keep a tight watch on the Soul Stealing Realm. They are to report back immediately if they detect any suspicious movements."

"Yes."

Yan Jie acknowledged his orders and left.

Yan Tianxiao lapsed into silent thought for a long period of time but he could not think of any scenario where Yun Che could have managed to turn the tables on them. In fact, he was even starting to suspect that Yun Che might just be another one of Chi Wuyao's disposable pawns.

Given Chi Wuyao's incomparably merciless and vicious methods, this was definitely something that she would do.

So Yan Tianxiao also assumed the same thing.

It was just that...

He would never have imagined the treatment the three ancient founders of the Yama Realm had been suffering for the last six days...

Rumble! Rumble! RUMBLE!!

Huge explosions thundered in the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness. However, these earth-shaking explosions of energy were completely engulfed by hoarse screams that were far too miserable.

Pure white light shone from Yun Che's body and the Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword weaved through the air without end. His tyrannical sword might was infused with light profound energy, which was both incomparably sacred and cruel in this situation, as it continuously battered the bodies of Three Yama Ancestors.



Heavenly Wolf Slash, Wild Fang, Heavenly Star Lamentation, Instantaneous Hell Calamity, Azure Wolf Claw, Bloodmoon Immortal Slaying Sword!

The first six forms of the Heavenly Wolf Hell God's Tome continuously bombarded the Three Yama Ancestors.

As the current era's most tyrannical and overwhelming heavy sword style, even the very first form of the Heavenly Wolf Hell God's Tome, the Heavenly Wolf Slash, exhausted a huge amount of energy. Yun Che would normally feel exhausted after practicing it a few times during his normal cultivation.

However, he could wildly swing his sword to his heart's content in this place. In the last six days, he had slowly strengthened his mastery over the Heavenly Wolf Hell God's Tome.

And the Three Yama Ancestors had become mere punching bags to practice his sword skills on! Furthermore, they were punching bags who couldn't even die! Even if they had been slashed in half by the frenzied sword might and light profound energy, they would swiftly regenerate once he withdrew his light.

This sort of indestructibility was the unique, heaven-defying ability that the Three Yama Ancestors had obtained in the past.

But it had now turned into their greatest nightmare due to Yun Che's light profound energy.

They had used their own power and ghost claws to strike their own bodies and snap their own throats countless times by now. They had even tried to detonate their own meridians and life veins... They wanted to die. All of their thoughts and will were begging for death.

However, their lives and auras were linked to the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness. Their only escape was if they could leave and destroy the entire Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness or if they were completely erased from the face of this earth by Yun Che's light profound energy.

Otherwise, dying was nothing more than a beautiful fantasy for them.

But why would Yun Che truly want to kill them or give them an opportunity to leave?

In this purgatory of light, the only things that were left to them were boundless despair and endless torture.

Occasionally, Yun Che would transform this light into fire and he would continuously unleash Nine Suns Heaven's Fury and World Illuminating Red Lotus, attacks that would normally take him a long time to launch, to burn them. But this scorching hellfire was a great reprieve for the Yama Ancestors.

This tragic and brutal torture was repeated over and over again for the past six days. Their bodies and souls had been consumed and restored countless times. Their torn throats had knit together before their screaming tore them open again...

Clang!

Yun Che withdrew his sword and all of the light profound energy that was radiating from his body vanished.

The Three Yama Ancestors crawled around in the darkness. As their bodies twitched and their souls shuddered, they began to restore themselves once more.

However, they no longer tried to escape, because it was useless... utterly useless.

That person was just like a devil... no, he was millions of times more terrifying and cruel than any devil. He was the true ruler of darkness! All of the dark yin energy in this place was under his control. There was nowhere the three of them could run.

“Kill me... I beg you, please kill me...”

At first, they cursed him furiously and roared their defiance at him. Even if they begged for death, they would still yell something like “Kill me if you have the guts!”

But now, they were reduced to begging him in the most pathetic manner possible.

Death... In this hell of light, they could think of nothing sweeter and more beautiful than the release of death.

If it was any other trio, this sort of torture would have driven them crazy a long time ago.

However, their bodies were not the only thing that was regenerating, their souls were as well. Even collapsing into a vegetative state was nothing but a pipedream for them.

“Kill me... kill me... please, I’m begging you...”

These moans of pain came out of every Yama Ancestor’s mouth. Their despair and misery were so extreme that even the dark yin energy in this place seemed to lament with them.

“Death?”

Yun Che narrowed his eyes as he said unhurriedly, “You are all such useful old ghosts. I wouldn’t be able to find another trio like you into the entire God Realm. If I were to let you die, it would be much too wasteful.”

“You...” Yan Wanchi turned around but when Yun Che’s figure entered his eyes, every single part of his body quaked in fear. “You... Who exactly are...”

“It’s simple,” Yun Che said. “Either you accept the slave imprint or... we continue to play this game.”

“Huff... huff...” Yan Wanhun panted heavily. His entire body was trembling but there was still a trace of cruel decisiveness in his voice. “The three of us... conquered the Bone Sea... Established the Yama Realm... Stood above all of creation...”

“Even if we are consigned to eternal damnation... we will never... ever... become your dogs!”

They were the founding ancestors of the Yama Realm, the most exalted existences in the Northern Divine Region. If they were to allow someone to plant a slave imprint on them, all of the glory and honor they had won throughout their lives would turn into shame!

The entire Yama Realm would also be utterly disgraced by this event.

Even their powers would become someone else's possessions and the very first thing they would be pointed toward would be their very own Yama Realm, the realm they had dedicated their entire lives to, along with their countless descendants.

Thus, even if they were pushed to the very brink, they would never be willing to surrender.

"Dog?" Yun Che laughed. "To the normal people of this world, it would indeed be shameful to become someone else's dog. But you three old ghosts have spent hundreds of thousands of years holed up in the darkness. I can't even tell if you are human anymore! How the hell are your lives even comparable to the life of a dog who is living freely outside?"

"If I went outside and grabbed a guard dog, it definitely would not want to swap places with you three. Isn't your skin a bit too thick? That you'd even think that you could compare yourself to a dog in the first place. Are you lot even qualified to be compared to a dog?"

The heads of the Three Yama Ancestors hung low as they gasped for breath. They didn't even bother responding to Yun Che. Before that purgatory of light, these sort of verbal insults no longer meant anything.

"Oh, that's right." Yun Che seemed to have suddenly recalled something. He continued in a languid voice, "I've been having too much fun toying with you three for the past few days, so it seems like I forgot to tell you one thing."

He raised an arm... and this movement caused the bodies of the Three Yama Ancestors to convulse violently. However, there was no nightmarish white light shining from Yun Che's hand this time. Instead, a cluster of dark profound light pulsed in his palm.

"The Eternal Calamity of Darkness that I inherited from the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor has no equal when it comes to controlling the darkness. That naturally includes... helping you break apart the shackles of darkness that bind you to this Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness."

Yun Che's words caused the Three Yama Ancestors to go stiff. They slowly turned their heads towards Yun Che as they gasped in unison, "What did... you just say?"

"Right now, you lot can't even be considered human. You're nothing more than pathetic puppets made of the darkness within this Bone Sea. But I can help transform you back into humans again."

"Not only will you retain all of your power, you will also have control over your life force and souls once more. In fact, you'll even be able to live for up to ten thousand more years once you leave this place!"

Yan Wangui twisted his body around as he spoke in a tremulous voice, "Is... is... what you're saying... true?"

Their life force and souls would become independent of this place and they'd be able to live up to ten thousand years after leaving!?

What an outlandish and beautiful dream!

"But the price is to become my dog." Yun Che's calm words were incredibly cold as they heavily smashed against the Three Yama Ancestors' souls.

“Don’t... don’t fall for his trick!” Yan Wanchi shouted in a hoarse voice. “We’ve already been stuck in this place for more than eight hundred thousand years. That sort of thing... doesn’t exist! It’s impossible! He’s only playing with us... tempting us to take his bait.”

“Heh, how ridiculous,” Yun Che scoffed at Yan Wanchi. “If I didn’t have the ability to bring you out of this place, what use would I have for three crippled dogs who are chained to this place? To use as my punching bags?”

“Is it very humiliating to be someone’s dog? That really depends on who your master is, right?” Yun Che chuckled coldly. The cluster of dark energy fizzled out as he closed his fingers. “You should have already heard this news. The Burning Moon Realm, a king realm which stood on equal footing with the Yama Realm for hundreds of thousands of years, has already fallen into my hands. And now, I have come to claim this Yama Realm.”

“I believe that none of you will doubt my ability to easily accomplish this any longer.”

The bodies of the Three Yama Ancestors’ convulsed yet again.

“Once I unite the dark forces within the Northern Region, I will point my sword at the other three divine regions and release the darkness from its cage. It will flood every corner of the three divine regions and allow darkness to become the new master of the God Realm!”

“I will not only be the ruler of the darkness. In the future, I will be the master of everything under heaven!”

“...” The Three Yama Ancestors were now staring at Yun Che fixedly. They were hanging on his every word as he made those outrageously outlandish statements, as he displayed an ambition that they had never had in all of their long lives.

“You will be my loyal dogs who will help the Yama Realm, help the entire Northern Divine Region, realize this dark design. You will be the loyal dogs of the future ruler of the world!”

Yun Che’s voice was low and deep and he spoke in a slow and unhurried manner. A deep dark light shone in his eyes as he said those words, a darkness that even the Three Yama Ancestors could not see through.

Whether it was the fact that he could help them escape this place or the grand tapestry of darkness he had woven for them, to the Three Yama Ancestors who had been trapped in the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness for the longest time, every word that had come from Yun Che’s mouth had undoubtedly impacted them greatly.

Yun Che definitely had not forgotten to tell them about this first.

Once a slave imprint was planted on a person’s body, they would become the loyal dogs of the one who planted the mark on them for the rest of their lives. For existences like the Yama Ancestors, they would not be able to accept this, no matter what the circumstances were.

But...

After they had been brutalized in this tragic manner again and again, after they had been through this hellish torture where they could not even die, he had suddenly chosen to dangle a gift they had not

even dared to dream of in front of them. He had even laid out his majestic plan to them. A plan that would fire up the hearts and souls of any dark profound practitioner...

In such a case, even the most stalwart of wills and most steadfast of convictions would easily crumble to dust.

As the gazes of Three Yama Ancestors' fiercely wavered, Yun Che slowly raised a hand and said, "You can either choose to continue to be bedbugs stuck in this abyss or you can choose to be the loyal dogs of the future ruler of the Primal Chaos!"

"Right now, I'll give you another chance to make this choice."

"Of course, you still have the right to refuse. I really haven't had my fill of playing yet, so I have all the time in the world to accompany you."

His words were like an emperor's heavenly edict, but they also resembled the mocking words of a demon.

"Ooh!"

Yan Wangui started to move. He struggled to his feet and slowly walked towards Yun Che on trembling legs. After that, he stopped in front of Yun Che... and sank to his knees limply.

"Old ghost, you... what are you doing!?" Yan Wanchi roared as his eyes bulged out furiously.

"He's right..." Yan Wangui spoke with much difficulty. Every word he uttered seemed to be accompanied by the shattering of a tooth. "Compared to holing up in this place for the rest of our days as something neither living nor dead, I'd rather be a dog that can frolic under the light of the sun!"

"Furthermore... he has the power to leave us, three old ghosts who thought we were invincible, begging for death... He is the successor of a Devil Emperor... He has the ambition to dye this world in darkness... Being his dog doesn't sound so bad after all."

"As for whether it is true or false... I will be the one to test it!"

Crack!!

He had shattered yet another one of his teeth and black blood spilled out of his mouth. He stared at Yun Che furiously as he said the most difficult words he had ever uttered in his most merciless and resolute voice, "Plant... your seal!"

### [Chapter 1683 - The Crisis of the Yama Devils](#)

"Old Gui, you..."

Yan Wangui's resolute declaration caused Yan Wanchi and Yan Wanhun's eyes to widen in shock and fear.

However, neither of them were trying too hard to stop him.

All three of them were suffering from the same fate and torture. If Yan Wangui's convictions were shaken, so were theirs.

So when Yan Wangui volunteered to be implanted with the slave imprint... they too wanted to see if Yun Che could actually fulfill what he promised.

“Very good.”

Yun Che looked down on Yan Wangui approvingly before covering the latter’s head with his palm.

Yan Wangui started shaking more and more violently, but he didn’t try anything stupid and discarded his soul defenses one by one until he was completely defenseless.

He was clenching his teeth so strongly that they were breaking one after another.

Yun Che concentrated and created a slave imprint that passed right into Yan Wangui’s soul.

Yan Wangui shivered like a leaf, and Yan Wanchi and Yan Wanhun instinctively held their breaths. But Yan Wangui allowed the slave imprint to enter the deepest part of his soul without any resistance.

From this point onward, the slave imprint would always be a part of him unless Yun Che removed it himself, or his soul was destroyed completely.

Yan Wangui was the first generation of his people to inherit the Yama bloodline. Today, he became the first of the Yama Devils to be implanted with the slave imprint.

Yun Che slowly removed his palm from Yan Wangui’s head.

Thump!

The stiffness in the old devil’s movement vanishing suddenly, he groveled on the ground and said, “Your old servant Yan Wangui greets you, master.”

His fury, reluctance and hatred vanished like they were never there. The only emotion that remained in his mind was absolute devotion and reverence.

From the moment he was implanted with the slave imprint, the only thing he cared for in his life was to serve Yun Che loyally. He would never even think to disobey his master’s words, much less act directly against his will.

He was now Yun Che’s loyal dog in every sense of the word.

For a long time, Yan Wanchi and Yan Wanhun couldn’t say anything. They watched Yan Wangui grovel on the ground like he was born to it and wallowed in an indescribable sense of sorrow and misery.

Not even in their wildest dreams did they imagine that they, the Yama Ancestors, would be turned into another person’s slave one day.

Ignoring the saddened duo, Yun Che summoned black energy to his palm as he released his grip on Yan Wangui’s head. Then, he grabbed Yan Wangui strongly on the shoulder.

Buzz!

Yan Wangui would never resist against his master’s power, so it took only an instant for the dark profound light to spread throughout his body and devour him.

“Aah... uahhhhh!”

Yan Wangui’s intermittent screams extinguished any expectation Yan Wanchi and Yan Wanhun had and filled them with shock and outrage.

“Wh... what are you doing!?”

“You really are...”

Bang!!

But before they could finish speaking, the dark light suddenly exploded and sent Yan Wangui flying. The Yama Ancestor landed at their feet.

Yan Wangui hurriedly climbed back to his feet, but he froze when he rose to full height. Staring at his hands and shaking slightly, the old devil looked like he was absorbed in an impossible dream.

Yan Wanchi and Yan Wanhun also froze in mid-step and stared at their enslaved companion with bulging eyes. It took them a long time before they finally convinced themselves that their eyes and their spiritual perceptions weren’t fooling them.

Yan Wangui’s life aura and soul aura had changed completely. They were powerful, murky, and completely distinct. More importantly, his connection to the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness was fully severed. Previously, they would be dead and powerless if the flow of yin energy was cut, not that they ever found a way to stop it from entering their bodies against their will before Yun Che arrived. However, not only was Yan Wangui alive, his power, soul and life force were impossibly powerful and stable.

“Ah... ah... ahhh...”

A strange groan escaped Yan Wangui’s throat as he stared at his own hands.

When he finally came back to himself, he dropped to his knees again and kowtowed to Yun Che even harder than before. “Thank you for the favor, master! Thank you! Thank you!”

His head hit the ground again and again. His old, wrinkled face was actually covered in tears.

A slave imprint made the subject perfectly loyal and obedient to their master, but didn’t alter their memories or interfere with their desires.

Therefore, Yan Wangui knew exactly how big of a transformation he had undergone.

“From now on, your name is Yan Three,” Yun Che said indifferently.

A loyal dog was expected to discard their original name in exchange for the one granted by their master, but he supposed he could allow Yan Wangui to keep his surname; the first gift a master grants to his dog.

Yan Three kowtowed again in gratitude, “Thank you for granting your old servant a name, master! From now on, this old servant is Yan Three!”

“Very good.” Yun Che nodded approvingly.

Meanwhile, Yan Wanchi and Yan Wanhun were still in a daze. The shock of Yan Wangui's drastic transformation from almighty ancestor to loyal dog didn't even come close to the shock they felt when they noticed the change in their companion's aura.

"Old Gui, are you truly... truly..." Even now, Yan Wanchi couldn't find it in himself to believe his own senses.

Yan Three turned toward him and blurted excitedly, "That's right! Master is telling the truth! I'm now a completely independent entity, and I don't need to live in this rotten abyss to stay alive anymore!"

"What are you two waiting for? Let master implant the slave imprint in your already so we may serve our master together! Not only will you be reborn, you will have the honor of serving our master! There's no reason to hesitate!"

He sounded impossibly excited and eager. It was as if he couldn't wait to drag Yan Wanchi and Yan Wanhun to Yun Che himself.

After he was implanted with the slave imprint, there was nothing else that made him happier than serving Yun Che.

Before Yan Wanchi and Yan Wanhun could muster a reply, Yun Che suddenly grinned and summoned his light profound energy again.

The terrible torture began once more, and both Yan Wanchi and Yan Wanhun screamed like their souls were pierced by a thousand blades; like pigs in a slaughterhouse. They writhed and rolled all over the ground like worms.

Yan Three himself was tensing up like a loaded spring and opening his mouth to scream, but he immediately stopped himself and raised a hand to stop the light from reaching his eyes. He looked completely and utterly dumbfounded.

The light shining against his body still made him feel extremely uncomfortable, but compared to the torture he was subjected to a moment ago, it was like he was standing in paradise.

His body still felt like fire was scorching against it, but he wasn't nearly as vulnerable as he was before. The moment he circulated a small amount of darkness profound energy, the uncomfortable feeling disappeared as if it was never there.

Yan Wanchi and Yan Wanhun writhed in pain as light profound energy burned away at their life and soul. But even through the hellish haze of pain, they could see that Yan Three was completely untouched and unharmed by the light. Their screams turned distorted, and their struggles became a touch more conscious than before. A blind person could've seen the desire and the distress in their eyes.

"So? What is your choice?" The devilish whisper that exited Yun Che's lips didn't fit the sacred light surrounding his body at all.

"PLEASE!!" Yan Wanhun shouted on top of his lungs right after Yun Che was done. "PLEASE... GIVE ME... GIVE ME THE SLAVE IMPRINT! AAAAH!"

Yan Wanhun's collapse also became the last straw that broke Yan Wanchi's back.



Once a person's faith was destroyed, their pride and honor were but trivial obstacles that could be blown away like dust. Yan Wanchi actually started crawling toward Yun Che's feet as he shouted madly, "Give me... the slave imprint... mercy... MERCYAAHHHH!!"

Yun Che folded his palm, and the light winked out like a light bulb.

It was impossible to tell if the grayish white complexion of Yan Wanchi and Yan Wanhun's faces was the color of despair or relief.

Yun Che slowly made toward them as they stared at him with trembling eyes. They felt like he was stepping on their souls every time he took a step.

Finally, he stopped in front of the duo and grabbed both their heads with his left and right hands.

"Relax." Yun Che smiled gently at them. "Resist all you want if you feel like changing your mind. I'm not going to stop you, and I don't have the ability to forcefully implant a slave imprint in another person's soul anyway. I still have plenty of wonderful tricks up my sleeves, and it would be a shame to end it here before I got to show you all of them, am I right?"

Both Yan Wanchi and Yan Wanhun started trembling uncontrollably. They couldn't raise their voices no matter how they tried.

Although it had only been six days since they met Yun Che, their fear of him had reached a point no ordinary person could possibly imagine.

If there existed true devils in this world, then the man before them had to be one of them.

Yun Che concentrated for a bit and created a slave imprint in each hand. Then, he implanted them into Yan Wanchi and Yan Wanhun's souls.

Although the two Yama Ancestors could feel the slave imprint being created and injected into their souls clearly... neither of them tried to struggle in the slightest.

When the slave imprints were fully implanted, a bit of joy and excitement finally lit Yun Che's eyes.

Starting this second, the most mysterious and terrifying beings in the Northern Divine Region, the three founders of the Yama Realm themselves were his loyal dogs!

They were a power that truly belonged to him and him alone!

From the moment Chi Wuyao told him about the three Yama Ancestors, the plan was already starting to take form inside his head.

Now, in just a few days' time, he had successfully carried out the plan without a hitch... a plan that only he could even think of executing.

Three ancient god emperor beings... words couldn't even begin to describe how great a power he currently held in his grasp!

Next, Yun Che circulated the Eternal Calamity of Darkness and did the same thing he did to Yan Wangui earlier. He corrected their connection with the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness.

Just as he stated earlier, after the three Yama Ancestors were freed from the laws of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness and became independent entities again, they could live for another ten thousand years at most.

But this was more than enough time for Yun Che to carry out his plans.

“Thank you for the favor, master!” Just like Yan Wangui, Yan Wanchi and Yan Wanhun were crying with joy after they were freed from the shackles of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness.

From now on, you are Yan One,” Yun Che said to Yan Wanchi before moving onto Yan Wanhun. “And you are Yan Two. Do you understand?”

“Thank you for granting us names, master.” Both Yama Ancestors thanked Yun Che and kowtowed to him.

“Now...” Yun Che extended his hand to them. “Give me the Yama Devils’ devil origin artifact.”

Yun Che had no idea what the Yama Realm’s devil origin artifact was. He had never heard any information about it from anyone either.

But even if he thought with his toes, he could still figure out that it had to be with the Three Yama Ancestors.

The Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness and the Three Yama Ancestors formed the core of power and inheritance of the Yama Realm. They were also the best people to protect the devil origin artifact. Naturally, it had to be in their possession.

Besides that, trapped as they were in the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness, the Three Yama Ancestors were still alive and well. There was no way they would give up such a precious treasure to their descendants.

Unfortunately for them, they lived long enough to encounter Yun Che.

“Yes, master.”

Unsurprisingly, Yan Wanchi walked up to him and held up a black, square-shaped cauldron about two feet long with both hands reverently.

Yun Che grabbed it with one hand and examined it with half-narrowed eyes.

After obtaining the Burning Moon Exquisite Devil Jade at the Burning Moon Realm, the lifeline of Yama Realm had fallen into his hands as well.

Everything was quiet in the Devil Palace of Eternal Darkness.

It had been ten days since the day Yun Che had visited the Yama Imperial District.

Yan Tianxiao had heard nothing from the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness so far, and he thought nothing of it. However, the Soul Stealing Realm’s complete silence did make him worry a little.

There was the saying a devil is behind every unusual occurrence, not to mention that Chi Wuyao was much scarier than the average devil.

Logically speaking, the Soul Stealing Realm should've made a move by now, but they hadn't. In the end, it was he who lost his patience first and decided to take action.

"Royal father, are you leaving on a trip?"

When Yan Jie came over to make his daily report, his father was just about to pass through the barrier of the Devil Palace of Eternal Darkness.

Yan Tianxiao said seriously, "It's been a long time since we saw the Soul Stealing Realm. It's time."

"Jie'er, you will come with me."

"Yes, royal father."

Both father and son were about to step out of the barrier when a deafening explosion suddenly erupted behind them.

When they turned around to see what was happening... they saw a column of black light flying out from the maw that was the entrance to the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness.

At the same time, a storm of darkness destroyed all thirty-six sealing barriers over the entrance.

#### [Chapter 1684 - Stunned Yama Emperor](#)

BOOM

This was probably the most terrifying explosion the Yama Devil Realm had ever experienced since it was founded. The entire Devil Palace of Eternal Darkness was shaking, and the shockwave reached as far as thousands of kilometers away from the explosion.

"Wh... what's going on!?" Yan Jie exclaimed in shock. But before he could do anything else, his terror was magnified tenfold by the next thing that happened.

Rumble!

Crack

Black-colored cracks suddenly appeared across the gray sky above their heads. It barely took a second or two for them to spread throughout the globe that enveloped the entire Yama Imperial District.

The central palace was collapsing, and dark storms were ravaging its remnants. But Yan Jie, Yan Tianxiao and the rest of the Yama Devils were too stunned by the black cracks above their heads to care right now.

It was because the breaking "sky" was none other than the great protective formation of the Yama Imperial District!

The core region of every star realm was protected by a powerful barrier, especially the capital city where the god emperor of a king realm resided. They were the strongest barriers in the world, and it took a gargantuan effort to break any of them by force.

It was the final rampart that separated a king realm from its enemies.

But now, the great protective formation of the Yama Imperial District, the strongest defensive barrier of the entire Northern Region... was falling apart!?

The Yama Imperial District was shaking. The hearts of every man and woman who were watching this were also shaking. Even Yan Tianxiao's eyes were covered in red and black veins.

"Royal father!" It was at this moment Yan Wu appeared next to him and asked, "What's going on!? Why is the Great Yama Formation..."

"..." Yan Tianxiao couldn't say anything. He wanted to know what the hell was going on more than anyone else.

Rumble!

Another loud explosion came from the Devil Palace of Eternal Darkness, and the disastrous black storm suddenly began dissipating quickly. The cracks that covered the entire Great Yama Formation stopped just before it could collapse completely.

The nightmare ended, no, paused as suddenly as it appeared. At the same time, Yan Tianxiao and everyone else turned toward the heart of the Devil Palace of Eternal Darkness, the entrance to the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness and stared.

It was because three crooked and tiny shadows were surfacing from the entrance. Their devilish power was so terrible that the world was frozen by their presence.

Yan Tianxiao finally understood why the Great Yama Formation had almost fallen apart.

The Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness was sealed by dozens of barriers, and he was almost certain that that terrifying explosion of dark energy had destroyed them all at once.

The Bone Sea of Darkness was the most important place in the entire Yama Realm. Its last and strongest sealing barrier was directly connected to the Great Yama Formation!

That was why the Great Yama Formation was severely affected when the barrier was destroyed. Metaphorically speaking, it was like someone had drilled a huge pit into the formation.

However, the discovery only shocked Yan Tianxiao even more.

It was because everything he knew told him that such a power shouldn't exist in the current world!

"An... cestors."

Although Yan Tianxiao was saying his ancestors' name, it was more of a murmur than a greeting. It was because he noticed that their auras were different from normal, although he couldn't tell exactly what was different.

In the past, the three ancestors never left the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness without wrapping themselves in copious amounts of black energy. Moreover, the black energy grew thinner over time, so the three ancestors had to return to the graveyard before it ran out completely.

However, the three ancestors weren't covered in yin energy right now. The dark aura emanating from their bodies was clearly their own power, the power of the Yama Devils.

Besides that, it looked like... they were the ones who destroyed the barrier?

“An... ancestors!?” Yan Jie exclaimed in shock while dropping to his knees. His movement was pure reflex.

Yan Wu also knelt on the floor and said, “Greetings, ancestors!”

The dark storm hadn’t dissipated entirely, and everyone was still in shock. However, no one dared to act rudely in front of the three Yama Ancestors, so they quickly dropped to their knees as well.

Shocked and puzzled, Yan Tianxiao himself was about to kneel on the ground when he suddenly saw a fourth figure rising from the entrance to the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness. The person stepped in front of the three Yama Ancestors before staring at him with a half-smile.

“Yun Che!” Yan Tianxiao exclaimed in shock before furrowing his eyebrows deeply.

“What!?” Yan Jie, Yan Wu, the Yama Devils and the Yama Ghosts all looked up in unison.

But before Yan Tianxiao could do anything else, a thunderous roar suddenly rattled his senses. “You disgraceful little bastard! How dare you address our master directly!?”

“...!???” To say that Yan Tianxiao was flabbergasted would be a massive understatement. The questioning words that were about to escape his throat were swallowed right back into his stomach.

It was because the man who shouted at him was the first Yama Ancestor... Yan Wanchi!

If his senses weren’t playing tricks on him, his ancestor had said something like... “our master”!?

Another roar pierced through his ears before he could make heads or tails of the situation. This time, it was Yan Wanhun pointing a finger at Yan Tianxiao shouting angrily, “Unworthy descendants! How dare you act so rudely to our master! Get on your knees already!”

“...” Yan Tianxiao, the strongest god emperor of the Northern Divine Region, the man who feared nothing and no one, was completely dumbstruck. His vision was turning black, and his lips were trembling. If this was a dream, he hoped that he would wake up right this moment.

Then, he noticed that Yun Che was standing in front of the three Yama Ancestors.

He realized that the three Yama Ancestors had bent their backs a little, lowered their heads and avoided staring at Yun Che directly after the young man had appeared... he also realized that their earlier shouts were painted by a tone of anxiety and respect that one used only when facing their god.

Then there was that shout that tore at his soul, “our master”...

These people were his ancestors! The founders of the Yama Realm!

He was stunned; completely and utterly stunned. He couldn’t comprehend or accept what was happening no matter how much willpower and knowledge he mustered.

The rest of the Yama Devils only fared worse than the Yama Emperor.

Yan Jie, Yan Wu, the Yama Devils and the Yama Ghosts were either staring at the Yama Ancestors with stupefied expressions or blanking out on the spot. It was because the absurdity of the situation was too much for them to handle.

“Tianxiao, are you deaf!?” Yan Wangui shouted. “Kneel!”

“Kneel!” Yan One shouted again.

The Yama Ancestors’ influence ran deep in every Yama clansman’s blood, and Yan Tianxiao was no exception. Although the Yama Emperor still hadn’t recovered from his shock, he shivered and regained just enough clarity of mind to obey his ancestors’ command and drop to his knees. But who was he kneeling to, really? His ancestors, or Yun Che?

“Heh. Long time no see, Yama Emperor. How have you been doing for the past ten days?” Yun Che greeted him indifferently. “The trip to Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness has been an interesting and fruitful one for me. I must thank you for granting me entry in the first place, Yama Emperor.”

Yan Tianxiao looked up, but didn’t give Yun Che a reply. He simply stared at his ancestors—too scared to even lift their heads when Yun Che was speaking—and asked in a shivering voice, “Venerable ancestors, what... what is going on?”

“Tell them,” Yun Che ordered carelessly.

“Yes,” Yan One answered before starting, “Heed my orders, descendants of the Yama Devils! Your ancestors were trapped in the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness for hundreds of millennia, but we have regained their passion for life after accepting Emperor Yun as our master.”

Yan Two said, “As descendants of the Yama Devils, it is your natural duty to obey your ancestors’ commands. From hereon, the will of Emperor Yun is the will of the Yama Devils, and his orders are as inviolable as the Mandate of Heaven itself!”

Yan Three said, “This is a command of the highest order from your ancestors, and no descendants of ours are allowed to question or disobey it! Anyone who tries to will be treated as traitors and dealt with accordingly!”

Every word the Three Yama Ancestors uttered pierced their descendants’ souls like a nine-stage lightning tribulation.

Absolutely everyone—from the Yama Emperor all the way to the Yama soldiers guarding the furthest walls of the Yama Imperial District—was shell-shocked by what they heard. It was as if someone had injected an innumerable amount of black holes into their very souls.

Did the most respected seniors of their country, the three protector gods of the Yama Realm... just declare that Yun Che was their master!?

Not only that, they wanted the entire Yama Realm to obey Yun Che as their master as well!?

Was this a dream, or a ridiculous joke by the heavens?

“Royal father, what...” Yan Jie shot Yan Tianxiao a lost look, but he discovered that the Yama Emperor was shaking from head to toe.

He was the god emperor of the Yama Devils and the closest relative of the three Yama Ancestors. Naturally, the shock he felt was several times greater than theirs.

“Have the three ancestors... gone mad?” Yan Wu whispered softly to herself.

“My three ancestors...” Yan Tianxiao also looked up from the ground and blurted the same thing, “Have you all gone mad!?”

The rest of the Yama Devils might not dare to voice their doubts in more than a whisper, but Yan Tianxiao had no such qualms. He was practically shouting at the three Yama Ancestors.

After all, they were demanding he surrender the entire Yama Realm to Yun Che!

He had attacked himself with profound energy multiple times since the beginning. Again and again, the pain wracking his body told him that what was happening before his eyes wasn't a dream.

If it wasn't a dream, then the Three Yama Ancestors must've gone insane. He couldn't think of a third possibility no matter how he tried.

“Tianxiao, you little brat!” Yan One shouted angrily. “You're the current Yama Emperor! How could you, of all people, forget how to speak with your ancestors properly?”

“No, Tianxiao will never disrespect his three ancestors.” Yan Tianxiao bowed deeply before begging in a sorrowful voice, “But... you are the highest beings of the world! How can you bow to another person!?”

“The Yama Realm has stood strong in the Northern Divine Region for eight hundred thousand years, and countless people have poured their life's blood into it to make it an invincible realm. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that it is the pride of all Yama Devils, now and forever! So... why are you giving it away to another person like it's nothing!? How... how did you even arrive at such a ridiculous decision!?”

“Ridiculous? Hmph, you fool!” Yan Two retorted. “The Yama Realm was founded by the three of us. You are all our children or grandchildren!”

“The Yama Realm wouldn't exist if we didn't exist. Just the same, unworthy descendants like you wouldn't exist if it wasn't for us! Therefore, why shouldn't we be the ones to decide the fate and future of the Yama Realm?”

Yan Three added, “Emperor Yun is the bearer of the Devil Emperor's inheritance, and his ambition is as great as the infinite sky. Why do you think we've lived like dirt in the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness for eight hundred thousand years? It was for this very day! The very reason we founded the Yama Realm was to carry him to the top and help him fulfill his ambition!”

“Have we not allowed you to enjoy the world we fought with our lives to create? Are you seriously going to go against our orders now!?”

When they spoke to Yan Tianxiao, they could barely get a sentence out without yelling a bad word at him. But the moment they spoke of their “master”, their tone immediately changed to one of unnatural reverence.

Yan Tianxiao felt like blacking out again... he couldn't believe that he, the Yama Emperor, would feel like passing out from sheer shock.

"Venerable ancestors." Yan Tianxiao's tone was three-tenths fury and seven-tenths imploring at this point. He pointed at Yun Che and said sorrowfully, "It is true that Yun Che is the Devil Emperor's inheritor, but... he is just the inheritor! He isn't the Devil Emperor herself!"

"He hails from the Eastern Divine Region, and it is said that he was born a denizen of a lower realm. How... how can you be this foolish, my ancestors!?! There is no way an insignificant boy like Yun Che possibly deserves this level of treatment from you!"

Although Yan Tianxiao was completely distraught, he never overstepped his bounds and used words that were truly rude or disrespectful. Unfortunately for him, his words hit the enslaved Yama Ancestors' reverse scales and enraged them so much that whatever hair they had left on top of their heads was standing on end as dark energy exploded around them.

"Silence!" Yan One said loudly, "How dare you disrespect our master like this!?"

"Bastard!" Yan Two said shrilly, "Who gave you the courage to insult our master!?"

"Unfilial descendant!" Yan Three said harshly, "Kowtow and beg for forgiveness now, or we'll cleanse your filth from the family ourselves!"

#### [Chapter 1685 - Yama Besieged](#)

The Yama Ancestors' berating shouts resounded throughout the Yama Imperial District. No one else's voice could be heard besides theirs.

Everyone was shell-shocked and disbelieving. They didn't dare utter a word or even make a sound for fear of incurring their ancestors' wrath.

Yan Tianxiao's mind turned blank again. His wholehearted persuasion had only earned him a terrible scolding.

His remark about Yun Che didn't even count as criticism, and the three ancestors were so angry that they actually threatened to kill him!

Ashen-faced, he slowly clenched his fists together.

The three Yama Ancestors had changed so much that it was almost as if they were implanted with slave imprints. But Yan Tianxiao immediately wiped that possibility from his mind without considering it at all.

It was because they were the unrivaled and almighty Yama Ancestors. There was no way they would allow anyone to implant a slave imprint in them... he would sooner believe that the Northern Divine Region would collapse the next second.

Yan Tianxiao wasn't being naive. It was something no one would believe unless they saw it with their own eyes.

Moreover, he could never imagine the kind of heaven and hell Yun Che had "generously" shown the Three Yama Ancestors while the young man was down in the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness.



There were two sides to human nature. Even the kindest person had a devil inside them.

As it turned out, the devil inside Yun Che was worse than any villain he had ever encountered in his life.

So far, no one had said a word in defense of their god emperor, the strongest God Emperor of the Northern Divine Region even though he had just suffered a humiliating scolding. It was because the ones who scolded him were the Three Yama Ancestors themselves!

The higher one was in the totem pole of Yama Realm, the more they came to know about the Three Yama Ancestors.

Was the Yama Realm impenetrable? It was.

But that was assuming that the Three Yama Ancestors didn't turn against them.

Yan Tianxiao was without a doubt the strongest and most feared god emperor of the Northern Divine Region. However, he was less than a great-grandson before the Three Yama Ancestors, to put it metaphorically.

These old devils had submerged themselves in the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness for hundreds of thousands of years. Their cultivation had reached the absolute pinnacle they could attain a long time ago.

Even more importantly, the devil origin artifact of the Yama Devils and the lifeline of the Yama Realm, the Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron was in their possession. They had never given it to anyone.

Therefore, the Three Yama Ancestors absolutely had the power to change the fate of Yama Realm if they wanted to!

Countless trembling gazes fell on Yan Tianxiao's back.

The Yama Devils and the Yama Ghosts possessed great power and status in the Northern Divine Region, but none of them had any right to speak to the Yama Ancestors.

Yan Tianxiao continued to clench his fists tighter and tighter. Soon, blood was flowing between his fingers and his teeth.

When he finally looked up to face his ancestors once more, the shock on his face was slowly replaced by ruthless determination. "If I might be so bold, why... have you come to such a decision, ancestors?"

He needed a reason, a reason he could understand if just a little.

Yan One said seriously, "The three of us were trapped in the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness for eight hundred thousand years. It gave us immortality, but it also robbed us of our freedom. It was our master who returned our freedom to us and allowed us to see daylight once more. It is a favor we won't be able to return in a hundred lifetimes!"

Yan Two said solemnly, "Our master is the bearer of the Heretic God's divine power and the inheritor of the Devil Emperor's legacy. He was able to win us over even though he's only a level eight Divine Sovereign. There is no one in the entire world who can be compared to him, and no greater fortune than to become his servant!"

Yan Three said passionately, "The Yama Realm is prosperous, but we have undoubtedly stagnated for the past hundred thousand years or so. We are the strongest king realm of the Northern Divine Region, but in reality we are nothing but prisoners in a cage. However, our master aims to break through this cage and take the God Realm for himself! The day our master unites the three king realms is the day he breaks us out of our cage and reverses the fate of the Northern Divine Region! What greater honor there is than serving a great cause that will be sung for millions of lifetimes to come?"

The three Yama Ancestors' impassioned speech shook the heavens.

Every Yama Devil who heard it was completely dumbstruck.

Yan Tianxiao exhaled slowly. He had asked for a reason, and his ancestors gave him three. Their tone was even righteous, passionate, and unnaturally pious.

However, none of those reasons qualified as a reason to give away the realm they owned for eight hundred thousand years to an outsider for free, even if the scale was magnified a hundred times over.

What a farce. What a joke.

Yan Tianxiao didn't obey his ancestors' order. Slowly, he rose to his full height.

Clang!

The Yama Devil Spear appeared before Yan Tianxiao. His body was shining with dark energy, and his hair was dancing lightly to his own power. The face of the strongest god emperor of the Northern Divine Region was etched in deep pain and sorrow.

He never thought that he would have to fight against the founders of the Yama Realm, the ancestors he paid his respects to every day until now.

"Venerable ancestors," Yan Tianxiao said slowly and solemnly, "As your descendant, it is only right that we obey your orders. However, this realm we protect is the culmination of the pride, honor and lifeblood of every Yama Devil who has ever existed for the past hundreds of thousands of years!"

"Therefore... we will not surrender it to anyone even if you are the ones who gave us the order!"

Yan Tianxiao shook his head and tried one last time to change the three ancestors' minds. "Ancestors, you are the ones who created the Yama Realm. You are the ones who oversaw its growth from nothing to everything. So please, wake up! You cannot allow this to happen! You cannot allow Yun Che's temptation to overcome your minds!"

He knew that the Three Yama Ancestors had been searching for the absolute pinnacle of darkness for hundreds of thousands of years, and the power Yun Che inherited from the Devil Emperor was clearly higher than that. That had to be why they were willing to serve Yun Che and even go so far as to offer up their own realm.

Frankly it wasn't nearly a good enough reason to explain his ancestor's sudden and drastic change in behavior, but he could think of no other possibility.

Yan Tianxiao's action and words clearly demonstrated his stance and decision.

Beside him, Yan Jie and Yan Wu also rose to their feet after a very brief moment of hesitation.

The rest of the Yama Devils—the Yama Devils, Yama Ghosts, Yama soldiers, everyone—also rose to their feet. The entire Yama Imperial District shook like it was assaulted by tens of thousands of storms at once due to the sheer amount of profound energy that was being gathered in one place.

Yan Tianxiao was their god emperor, so it was only natural that they supported his decision. Besides that, they weren't willing to surrender Yama Realm to an outsider either... even if the order came from the Three Yama Ancestors themselves.

However, they also knew how terrifying the Three Yama Ancestors really were. It was said that any one of them was stronger than the Yama Emperor.

Moreover, they were currently at the heart of Yama Realm, the Devil Palace of Eternal Darkness. If they chose to duke it out here, it would result in a pyrrhic victory at best.

As an ally, the Three Yama Ancestors were the last resort, the trump card of trump cards. As an enemy, they were the worst nightmare anyone could have, one they never imagined they would have to face.

The eyes of the Three Yama Ancestors turned cold in an instant.

"Does this mean you're all going to disobey our will?" Yan One asked.

Yan Tianxiao turned calm now that his mind was made up. "I am the emperor of the Yama Devils, and I swore an oath to protect my people to the death! We will fight even if our enemy is our own ancestors. But ancestors... are you ready to destroy the Yama Devils you created yourselves?"

"Very good!" All three ancestors seethed with fury. Yan Two looked around and said, "Rebel to your heart's content! It only makes it easier for us to remove you all at once!"

"Ancestor." Yan Wu's eyes looked as cold as a frigid hell. "All those who wish to bring harm to the Yama Devils are our sworn enemies... even if they are our own ancestors!"

"That's right!" Yan Jie stood next to Yan Wu before declaring ruthlessly, "If the three ancestors will not change their minds, then we will rebel to defend our honor!"

"Hahahaha." It was at this moment Yun Che let out a low chuckle before saying slowly, "Yan Tianxiao, why don't you take a look at this before you resist?"

He extended his arm and summoned a pitch black cauldron to his palm.

In that moment, the Yama Devils felt like someone had swung a hammer at their eyeballs.

"The Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron!"

Everyone screamed out in shock.

It was the devil origin artifact of the Yama Devils, the very lifeline of their inheritance and power!

Yan Tianxiao almost stumbled on his feet.

In the end, the worst case scenario had happened... no, this was much, much worse than even the worst case scenario he had envisioned in his mind and then shoved way into the farthest back part of it.

In his imagination, the Three Yama Ancestors were the ones who should be threatening them with the Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron.

But in reality, Yun Che was the one doing the threatening! Defying all logic, his three ancestors had actually given an outsider the lifeline of their inheritance and power!

For a moment, Yan Tianxiao actually felt like the world was turning upside down.

Why!? Just why!?

“Royal father, wh... what...” Yan Jie asked in a clearly panicked voice.

As the Yama Devil Crown Prince, his knowledge of the secrets of their devil origin artifact dwarfed most people.

The Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron wasn't just the carrier of the Yama Devil origin power. Unlike the Burning Moon Realm and the Soul Stealing Realm's devil origin artifacts, it had the tyrannical ability to withdraw all Yama Devil's power by force!

In that sense, it was similar to the Brahma God Realm's Brahma Soul Bell.

Back at the edge of Primal Chaos, the Brahma Heaven God Emperor had used the Brahma Soul Bell to withdraw Qianye Ying'er's power by force... although she was also freed from her slave imprint as a result.

“I'm sure you recognize this, Yama Emperor,” Yun Che declared in an aloof manner while grabbing the cauldron with one hand. “Not only is this cauldron the lifeblood of Yama Realm's inheritance, it seems like... it has the power to withdraw any Yama Devil's power by force. Are absolutely you sure you want to resist?”

“Yun—Che!” Yan Tianxiao uttered through gritted teeth. He was finally starting to realize that he had fallen for Yun Che's trap ten days ago... but that didn't matter at this point. He said darkly, “While the Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron can forcefully withdraw its inheritance, it's not an instantaneous process. That is all the time I need to tear you into a million pieces!”

“Outrageous!” The angry outburst came from all three Yama Ancestors, but they shut up immediately when Yun Che raised his hand. He smiled and asked, “Is this your final decision? Will you go against your ancestors' command no matter what?”

“No.” But Yan Tianxiao surprised everyone by closing his eyes and withdrawing his power helplessly. With a conflicted expression, he said, “The Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron is in your hands, and we are at the Devil Palace of Eternal Darkness. If this king fights against his ancestors now, he may as well be destroying his realm's own foundation with his own hands. This king doesn't accept this, but his people come before his pride.”

“Wu'er, Jie'er.” While Yan Tianxiao was saying this, he sent a surprisingly calm sound transmission to his children. “I will do everything in my power to stop the three ancestors' in their tracks three breaths from now. While they are caught off guard, kill Yun Che at any cost!”

“Even if you fail, you must wrestle the Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron from his hands at the minimum!”

Yan Jie and Yan Wu quietly gathered their profound energy. They were ready to go whenever their father was ready.

“Answer my question.” Yan Tianxiao stared at Yun Che coldly. “If your answer doesn’t disappoint me, then this king may reconsider—”

Riip!

While everyone was paying attention to Yan Tianxiao’s speech, the speech that might very well decide the future of the Yama Devils, the man himself had cut through space and attacked the three Yama Ancestors.

Then, an explosion happened while everyone was still in shock.

Yan Tianxiao was the strongest god emperor of the Northern Divine Region, and he had taken everyone by surprise.

But before he could fully unleash his power, he was assaulted by three terrible powers.

The retaliation was exactly that, a retaliation. But for some reason, they reached Yan Tianxiao first and knocked him back like the hammers of heaven faster than he was able to gather his strength. Then, they pressed down on him like three unbeatable mountains...

Yan Tianxiao let out a muffled groan and fell to the ground.

He landed perfectly like he had magnets beneath his feet, but he couldn’t hide the unnatural whiteness that colored his complexion for an instant. Even worse, his heart was beating so loudly that it felt like a thousand lightning strikes right next to his ears.

“My lord!”

“Royal father!”

Yan Wu and Yan Jie were primed to go at any moment, but what had happened to their father chilled them to the bone.

Everyone else was deathly pale and quaking on the inside as well.

“Hmph!” Yan One’s remaining hair stood on their end as he said murderously, “You dare ambush our master right in front of us!? You leave us no choice but to cripple you, you traitorous brat!”

When the Yama Devils stared at the Three Yama Ancestors again, every pore on their bodies was trembling.

There was no Yama Devil who didn’t know about the Yama Ancestor’s strength. However, most of them had never witnessed it with their own eyes.

Just now, the Yama Ancestors had suppressed their god emperor—the strongest god emperor of the Northern Divine Region—in an instant, and that was after Yan Tianxiao had caught them by surprise.

Before today, the rumors that any one of the Three Yama Ancestors were stronger than the Yama Emperor were just a rumor... but now? No one was stupid enough to hold onto their optimism any longer.

“Yan Tianxiao.” Yun Che narrowed his eyes slightly. “There has been no need for blood to be spilled, or your foundation to be uprooted today. You give me no choice but to teach you a grim lesson in reality!”

Yan Tianxiao retorted fearlessly. “This king may die by the hands of his own ancestors today, but he will drag you to his grave if it’s the last thing he does!”

“Oh?” Yun Che smiled and glanced at the people behind the Yama Emperor. “Do you all share the same thought?”

Boom!!

An explosion happened right after Yun Che was done talking.

It was Yan Jie unleashing all the power he had been accumulating... at his own sister’s back.

Yan Tianxiao turned around with bulging eyes... Yan Wu puked blood and crashed to the floor five kilometers away.

Yan Jie and Yan Wu were only two steps apart, and they were both gathering their strength after catching Yan Tianxiao’s earlier sound transmission. Since Yan Wu was completely focused on Yun Che, her back was left completely open to Yan Jie.

Cultivation wise, Yan Wu was far stronger than Yan Jie. But Yan Wu was completely defenseless, and they were only two steps away from each other... the attack was more than enough to wound her seriously.

No one was expecting this to happen. By the time they came back to their senses, Yan Jie was already in front of Yun Che and bowing deeply. “Yan Jie is willing to obey the three ancestors’ order and serve Emperor Yun loyally. Yan Jie will cross a thousand deaths to carry out his ancestors and Emperor Yun’s command!”

### [Chapter 1686 - Eternal Despair](#)

It was as if the three Yama Ancestors were possessed by an evil spirit. The ones who should be trying their hardest to protect Yama Realm wanted to give it away to an outsider. Worse than that was when Yan Tianxiao had decided to rebel against them, the first person to betray him was none other than the son he valued the most, the one he titled “Yama Crown Prince” himself. Not even in his wildest dreams could he have seen this coming.

“Crown Prince... have you gone insane?” Ninth Yama Devil Yan Tu bellowed.

Yan Tianxiao rushed to Yan Wu’s side and gathered his powers. After suppressing her wounds in the shortest amount of time possible, he finally turned around to face his own son. But he didn’t say anything. There was no anger in his eyes, only deep disappointment and sorrow.

Yan Wu slowly rose to her feet. Her face was pale, and her body was shaking. When she wiped away the blood at the corner of her lips, she glared at Yan Jie with eyes that looked like they were spitting fire.

“Yan... Jie!”

This was the first time she addressed her older brother with his name. “You... animal!”

A series of expressions flashed across Yan Jie’s face in an instant. “The ancestors’ orders are as great as the Mandate of Heaven! Without the venerable ancestors, there would be no Yama Devils or us! You are the animal who tried to disobey your ancestors and overthrow them!”

If Yan Jie was panicking when he attacked Yan Wu, then he had calmed down fully after he finished shouting his piece... in fact, he had never been this cool-headed in his whole life.

He was even starting to feel that he had made the boldest, wisest and most ruthless choice he had ever made in his life!

An overcautious and overly compassionate person could never achieve anything big! He would not let this opportunity slip by him due to some misguided sense of compassion!

“Traitorous... son!” Yan Tianxiao muttered before letting out a long sigh.

He understood why Yan Jie had made such a choice.

Yan Jie was incredibly talented, and he was the inheritor of the power of the Yama Devil. He was unanimously chosen as the Crown Prince, and for a time it looked like his future was bright and limitless. No one had any doubt that he would become the next god emperor at the time.

But after Yan Wu was born, she was able to inherit the power of the Yama Devil at a very young age and grow to become a level ten Divine Master in just three thousand years. Her achievements had overshadowed his completely.

Yan Jie was deeply wary and afraid of his overachieving sibling while Yan Tianxiao saw it as a trial for his son to overcome, a motivator that would drive him to greater heights.

If he could endure the pressure coming from Yan Wu and hone himself into a fine blade, he would become a greater crown prince than he already was.

That was why Yan Tianxiao pretended to be partial toward Yan Wu in front of Yan Jie. He even went so far as to spread rumors that he would withdraw Yan Jie’s status and make Yan Wu the Crown Princess instead.

Unfortunately, judging from Yan Jie’s performance for the past couple of years, his son hadn’t lived up to his expectations. He was starting to feel that he had overestimated Yan Jie’s scale of ambition and endurance. But that didn’t mean he had given up on him. On the contrary, he remained optimistic that his son would eventually grow into a man he could be proud of.

Now, however...

What a sorrowful ending this was.

“Good, very good.” Yun Che’s eyes narrowed into dangerous slits as he praised Yan Jie. “You truly are the Yama Crown Prince.”

Yan Jie bowed quickly and said, "Thank you for your praise, Emperor Yun. It is only natural that a descendant obeys his ancestors' will. Besides, Emperor Yun is the incarnation of the Devil Emperor and the heavenly way's gift to the Northern Divine Region. Supporting you is the same as supporting the heavenly way!"

After that, he turned around to face his people again and said, "Royal father, sister, everyone. The ancestor's will should always be obeyed, the heavenly way's will even more so! Do not stray from the righteous path any longer!"

Both his attitude and his words were clearly harsher than before.

For the past few years, Yan Wu had beaten him in every department. Although he was the Yama Crown Prince, everyone including himself thought that he was vastly inferior compared to Yan Wu. Every time he faced her, he couldn't help but feel a deep sense of shame.

But now, the chance to escape all of his shackles had arrived!

The invincible Yama Ancestors had thrown in their lot with Yun Che. The Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron had fallen into Yun Che's hands. And behind Yun Che, there was the Soul Stealing Realm and the Burning Moon Realm he just captured a week or two ago.

Although he couldn't understand the reason the Three Yama Ancestors were acting the way they were, it didn't take a genius to figure out who had the advantage here. On Yun Che's side, there were the Three Yama Ancestors, the Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron, the Soul Stealing Realm and the Burning Moon Realm. On the Yama Realm's side, their three protectors had defected and their lifeline was stolen...

It was clear that Yun Che had the upper hand through and through!

When the Three Yama Ancestors had suppressed Yan Tianxiao in an instant and displayed an unbelievable level of power, Yan Jie's last vestiges of doubt were completely extinguished.

He knew the importance of being the first person to throw in his lot with his conquerors.

He also knew that the best way to prove his loyalty was to provide or demonstrate an unquestionable proof!

That was why he had attacked the strongest Yama Devil in the realm besides his royal father with all his power... it was both to demonstrate his loyalty and to vent the years of jealousy and frustration he had been secreting deep inside his eyes.

"Thankless dog!" Yan Tianxiao cursed before letting out another sigh. "This king thought that there is no one better than him the art of commanding the hearts of his men, but... even the greatest can miss the most obvious sometimes."

He raised his spear again after his lamentation ended. This time though, he was pointing his weapon at his own son, not Yun Che.

"Heh. Yan Tianxiao, your son is a lot smarter than you are," Yun Che ridiculed before adding in a low tone, "Cripple him."



The anger in his royal father's eyes and his amazing power caused Yan Jie to tense up like a taut string. However, the ruthless determination in his eyes only grew greater than before.

When Yun Che said the words, "cripple him", Yan Jie thought for sure that he was ordering the Three Yama Ancestors to cripple his own royal father. That was why he was shocked to find three tremendous pressures enveloping him from behind.

Shocked, he tried to circulate his power and resist. However, the three dark powers behind him were so great that his power was forced back into his profound veins before he even managed to unleash them. His limbs were locked in a vice-like grip, and he couldn't move even a muscle.

He was a Yama Devil. He was absolutely stronger than the average level nine Divine Master.

However, his opponents were the Three Yama Ancestors!

If Yan Tianxiao was the one who was caught by the three Yama Ancestors, not even he would be able to break free without considerable effort, much less Yan Jie.

"Emperor Yun, what... is the meaning of this!?" Yan Jie gritted his teeth and struggled with all his might, but no matter how much strength he used, he wasn't able to move even half a finger.

It wasn't just Yan Jie. Everyone else was caught off guard by the unexpected turn of events as well.

"Heh." Yun Che let out a sneer but didn't look in Yan Jie's direction. "It's one thing to not defend your people when they are in grave danger, and another to be the first person to betray them and even attack your own sister, especially when you're the Crown Prince."

"You really think that a dog like you deserves to serve me!?"

Face twisting, Yan Jie tried to defend himself. But before he could say anything, his pupils suddenly widened in horror. "Wha... what are you doing!"

Yun Che grabbed the Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron and circulated his profound energy. When a black energy flew out of the cauldron and wrapped around Yan Jie, his terror immediately grew infinitely greater.

"Stop... stop... stop!" Yan Jie's eyeballs threatened to fall out of their eye sockets, and his face was as white as a sheet of paper. Shaking from head to toe, he started struggling harder than ever before but no matter what he tried, he just couldn't break free from the Yama Ancestors' vice-like grip.

"Emperor Yun... I betrayed my royal father to throw in my lot with you! I was the first one to swear loyalty to you! You cannot do this... Emperor Yun! Emperor Yun! You cannot do this to me!"

"Ah!!"

All of his fear and begging turned into a scream of despair when the black energy started glowing brightly.

A stream of black power started leaving Yan Jie's body and returning to the black cauldron.

It was the Yama Devil origin power Yan Jie had inherited from the cauldron. Now, Yun Che was taking it away from him.

“Ah... ahhhhh!” In complete contrast to his weakening, the desperation in Yan Jie’s voice only grew worse and worse. “Yun Che... Yun Che! I curse you to die a horrible death... save me royal father... save me... ahhhhh...”

No one answered his cry for help. Not Yun Che, not the Yama Ancestors, not even the Yama Devils.

The Yama Ancestors were working together to suppress Yan Jie, and Yun Che was extracting his power using the Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron. This was Yama Realm’s best chance to act if they wanted to defeat Yun Che.

But Yan Tianxiao didn’t move. He didn’t feel any joy from watching Yan Jie’s distorted expression and hearing his despairing screams. Instead, there was only deep pain and sorrow... despite Yan Jie’s betrayal, he was the son that he had loved and placed his highest expectations on for tens of thousands of years.

Besides that, he was stunned by the unbelievable sight he was seeing.

While it was true that the Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron could withdraw any Yama Devil inheritance it passed on, the user must possess the Yama Devil’s bloodline.

It was the same with all other divine origin artifacts. The Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron should always be useless to an outsider.

But there was no denying the reality in front of him. Yun Che was clearly using the cauldron to extract Yan Jie’s Yama Devil inheritance from him!

Yan Jie’s cries grew weaker and weaker. In the end, he only had enough energy to sob despairingly.

When the dark waves subsided, and the Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron stopped shining, Yan Jie’s Yama Devil powers were fully taken away.

To a Yama Devil, there was no crueler nightmare than this.

A pitch black ball of light appeared inside the Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron. It burned quietly like a cold flame.

Yan Jie’s aura had declined all the way to the Divine Sovereign Realm, his original level of power had he not obtained the Yama Devil inheritance. His eyes were blank, and his complexion was deathly gray. He wasn’t even screaming or struggling anymore.

When Yun Che waved his hand again, the Three Yama Ancestors tossed the Crown Prince to the ground in front of Yan Tianxiao and Yan Wu.

“He is yours, Yama Emperor.” Yun Che finally shot Yan Jie a sideways look. “I have no intentions of touching this filth.”

Yan Jie lay on the ground limply like a dying dog. He neither rose to his feet nor begged for mercy. He knew full well what was going to happen to him, and he knew that begging... would only lose him the last bit of pitiful pride he had left.

The only thing sadder than his sealed fate was the fact that no one had approached him while he was lying on the ground. No one even wanted to drag him away.

Did he choose poorly?

Maybe. Maybe not.

He hadn't acted completely out of rashness. He had at least considered his current standpoint, his future, the goods and the bads.

The only thing he failed to realize was that there was nothing Yun Che hated more than betrayal.

From the Yama Devils' standpoint, he was a traitor who had betrayed his people during their most dire emergency and damaged one of the most important powers of his realm, Yan Wu, out of treacherous intent. Either offense was unforgivable to Yun Che.

"Very ruthless." Yan Tianxiao only glanced once at Yan Jie before looking away completely. "But equally as stupid!"

"Oh?" Yun Che raised his eyebrows slightly.

"Hmph!" Yan Tianxiao said, "There's no one who bites harder than a traitorous dog in this world! You shouldn't have tossed away such a useful dog this quickly!"

Just ten breaths ago, Yan Jie was the pride of his life. Now, he was only a dog to him, at least verbally.

"Hahahahahaha." Yun Che laughed loudly before shooting him a condescending look. "Yan Tianxiao, you still don't understand your situation, do you? Why would I need a traitorous dog to sweep away all those who oppose me?"

Yun Che's body suddenly flashed with dark light after he was done speaking. His black hair rose into the air, and a terrible storm gathered behind him before rising all the way to the heavens.

At the center of the storm was the entrance to the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness. One... ten... a thousand... ten thousand... innumerable storms of darkness started surging into the sky like abyssal dragons, howling and screeching until they filled up the sky of the entire Devil Palace of Eternal Darkness, and even the Yama Imperial District itself.

When the sky was completely blocked, all that was left on the ground, was eternal darkness.

In that moment, every living being, every plot of land, and every inch of space in the entire Yama Imperial District was clutched by the invisible, choking, inescapable pressure of death, darkness and despair.

It was as if the apocalypse was just seconds away from destroying them all.

"Ah... ah... ahhhh..." Yan Tianxiao subconsciously walked backward as he stared at the sky. His pupils were stretched about as wide as his eyes would allow. An instant ago, he still looked like the mighty Yama Emperor. Now, he was bending under an overwhelming emotion of shock and terror and whimpering from the bottom of his soul.

"Wh... wh... wha... ahhhh!"

The same screams and terror of despair could be heard throughout the entire Yama Imperial District as well.

It was because the darkness that had blotted out the blue sky itself... contained enough power to annihilate the entire Yama Imperial District instantly!

The familiar sensation informed everyone that the dark aura was the yin energy from the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness... somehow, Yun Che had summoned it from the depths of hell and blotted out the sky of the entire Yama Imperial District with it!

Forget the Yama Devils, this amount of power was enough to suffocate and terrify even the Three Yama Ancestors.

“Do you understand now?” Yun Che whispered. All he needed to do was wave his arm downward, and the giant sea of power would crash to the ground and bury everything in eternal darkness.

### [Chapter 1687 - Submission](#)

“...” Yan Tianxiao stared dazedly at the sky. In a world where all light had been devoured, his face still looked startlingly white.

“All of this struggling that you have already schemed up is nothing more than a sad and pathetic joke to me.”

Beneath that devilish might that could burn everything to ash, Yun Che’s words cut into their souls like a hot knife through butter. Yan Tianxiao turned his head towards him with much difficulty, but he still held the Yama Devil Spear in a deathgrip. “We descendants of the Yama Realm will die before we surrender! If you want to take over our Yama Realm... you’ll have to step over this king’s cold dead body first!

“Take over your Yama Realm?” Yun Che let out an extremely contemptuous laugh. “Yan Tianxiao, you’re not only naive, but it seems like your ears aren’t working too well either. Your three ancestors told all of you to submit to me as your ruler. When did I ever say I wanted to take over your Yama Realm!?”

“...” Yan Tianxiao was stunned by those words, “What do you mean?”

“Heh!” Yun Che looked down at him and said words that shook him to his very core. “I want to be the emperor of the Northern Region, not just the emperor of this measly Yama Realm!”

Yan Tianxiao: “...!?”

“The Yama Realm will still remain the Yama Realm. You, the current Yama Emperor, will still remain the Yama Emperor. However, I will reign supreme in this dark Northern Divine Region!”

Yun Che slowly lowered one of his raised hands and pointed it toward Yan Tianxiao. “So tell me right now. Are you going to embrace the dark ruler who will change the destiny of the entire Northern Divine Region? Or are you going to let this Yama Realm... be thrown into an eternal abyss of darkness!”

Yan Tianxiao and the denizens of the Yama Realm stood there with blank expressions on their face.

He had first forced them into a corner and driven them to the brink of despair. But now he had suddenly shown them a way out, he had given them a new hope... Yun Che had done this to Three Yama Ancestors, and he was now doing the same thing to the Yama Realm.

If they chose to submit... it would mean that the Yama Realm would no longer be the most exalted existence in the world. It would mean that there would be someone who could control them and use them as he saw fit.

But the Three Yama Ancestors had been willing to bow to this person, and with a wave of his hand, he had brought the Yama Realm to the brink of utter destruction... When they considered those things, they realized that he really was qualified to rule over them.

Furthermore, the owner of the Yama Realm was not going to change. The Yama Devils would remain the Yama Devils, the Yama Ghosts would still be the Yama Ghosts, and even the Yama Emperor would remain the Yama Emperor.

If that was really true, then there was no need for all of them to die in this pointless struggle, no need for the collapse of the Yama Realm.

Many gazes began settling on Yan Tianxiao's body and they no longer contained any determination or will to fight. Instead, they seemed to be pleading with him soundlessly to submit.

"Royal father..." Yan Wu muttered. Even she, the coldest and most obstinate one among them, felt most of the tension bleed out of her heart when she heard Yun Che's words.

If they had at least a ten percent chance of winning this battle, more than half of the Yama Devils might have chosen to fight to the death.

However, if they ended up dying for nothing, destroying their home for nothing...

Furthermore, submission seemed to be a far better option than it had been before...

Yan Tianxiao's chest heaved violently as his eyes wavered. All the other sounds in the world gradually grew silent and he could soon only hear the sound of his own ragged breathing.

The three ancestors, the Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron, the inheritance of the Devil Emperor, the fact that Yun Che could instantly summon the power of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness, the choice to die in vain defiance, the survival of the Yama Realm...

Finally, he breathed out a long sigh as his brows knitted together. When he spoke, his voice was as deep as the ocean. "Yun Che, please answer the one question that this king has."

"Who is the pawn? You or the Devil Queen?"

Yan Tianxiao asked a question so sharp that everyone stopped breathing once they heard it.

It was a question that was extremely provocative.

"Heh, that's a good question." Yun Che chuckled. "In her eyes, I am a unique and irreplaceable pawn. However..."

A black light flashed in his hand and a pitch-black magatama shaped like a crescent moon appeared.

“The Burning Moon Exquisite Devil Jade!” Yan Tianxiao suddenly took a step forward when he saw that object appear in Yun Che’s hand.

When the Burning Moon had fallen, it had ended up under the Soul Stealing Realm’s control so Yan Tianxiao had always figured that the Burning Moon Exquisite Devil Jade had fallen into the Devil Queen Chi Wuyao’s hands. He had never imagined that Yun Che would have it in his possession.

He had the Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron on one side and the Burning Moon Exquisite Devil Jade on the other and the two different gloomy black lights that emanated from these two objects soundlessly mixed together in front of Yun Che. It was a scene that was deeply etched into everyone’s eyes.

“Today, the lifelines of both the Yama Realm and the Burning Moon Realm have fallen into my hands.” Yun Che’s lips slowly curved into a calm and sinister smile. “So why don’t you take a guess... at who you think the pawn really is?”

A long and deathly silence immediately descended upon the room as the very air around them turned solid. Nobody dared to breathe.

Clang— —

The Yama Devil Spear slipped from Yan Tianxiao’s hand and fell to the ground with a loud clatter. The sound of metal striking stone reverberated through the hearts of all who heard it.

Their very last bit of determination had finally collapsed.

Yan Tianxiao’s face had gone ashen and his body slowly slumped to the ground as he fell to his knees.

But this time, he was not only bowing toward the Three Yama Ancestors. As the emperor of the Yama Realm... he was kneeling at Yun Che’s feet, beneath that contemptuous gaze of his.

“I, the emperor of the Yama Realm, Yan Tianxiao, am willing to obey the will of my ancestors. I will take... Emperor Yun as my master and I will use all of the power of the Yama Realm to ensure that Emperor Yun becomes the Emperor of the North!”

He gave one last look at the dark power that was spread across the sky, the dark power that could completely obliterate the Yama Imperial District in the blink of an eye. His head slowly lowered as he said, “May the heavens strike me if I go back on my words!”

Blood trickled from his mouth as he roared those words, but the words of a god emperor were as heavy as a mountain.

Besides, his ancestors were in front of him, his Yama Devils were flanking him and his Yama Ghosts were standing by his side. All of the living beings within the Yama Imperial District had heard him loud and clear.

The Yama Realm which had proudly stood at the top of the Northern Divine Region for the last eight hundred thousand odd years was about to have its destiny completely transformed today.

However, no one among the denizens of the Yama Realm reacted was greatly shocked. Because they had all personally witnessed what Yan Tianxiao had faced and endured.

In such a situation, they had been left with no other option.

When the Three Yama Ancestors and the Yama Emperor had chosen to bow their heads toward Yun Che, there was no longer any reason for the rest of the Yama Realm to continue to struggle against him.

The Yama Devils and the Yama Ghosts started withdrawing their profound energy along with their already dissipated fighting intent as they sank to their knees beside Yan Tianxiao.

After that, every living being in the Devil Palace of Eternal Darkness, in the entire Yama Imperial District, fell to their knees. They stared at their new ruler from a distance... Their new ruler who reigned above the Yama Emperor.

Yun Che chuckled coldly as he surveyed the land below him. After that, he gently pushed an arm towards the sky.

Immediately, half of the yin energy that filled the sky rushed back into the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness while the other half surged toward the badly-cracked Great Yama Formation.

Ruummbleee...

Earth-shaking thunderclaps filled the sky as the cracks swiftly disappeared from the surface of the Great Yama Formation. In the short span of ten breaths, it was as good as new and the remaining dark yin energy flowed back into the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness. He had not lost control or wasted any of the dark yin energy throughout this entire process.

His control over the darkness was so perfect that it caused everyone's blood to run cold.

Yan Jie, who lay limp on the ground, raised his head with much difficulty. When he saw his father and the other Yama Devils kneeling on the ground, his eyes turned lifeless and gray.

The moment he had chosen to betray the Yama Realm, he had already lost the right to submit.

Yun Che lowered both of his arms and everything became calm again. He looked at the people who cowered below him before turning his eyes toward the vast and boundless Yama Realm. A cold black light glinted in the depths of his eyes as he surveyed the spoils of war.

His control of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness' power had caused everyone in the Yama Realm to collapse from despair. At the same time, it had also become the Yama Realm's strongest defense as long as he was around.

As long as both Yun Che and the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness existed, everyone could forget about attacking the Yama Realm.

The moment an attacking army even approached the Yama Realm's capital, Yun Che could simply summon the power of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness to bury them forever! No matter who it was!

And this included Chi Wuyao and the Soul Stealing Realm!

Back in the Burning Moon Realm, Chi Wuyao had presumptuously told Fen Daojun that Yun Che would become the emperor of the Soul Stealing Realm, and she would be the empress.

Before he left the Soul Stealing Realm this time, Chi Wuyao had emphasized the fact that she would prepare his coronation ceremony before he returned.

Heh... Yun Che raised his head towards the sky, but only coldness flooded his heart.

Chi Wuyao had pushed the idea that Yun Che was “the inheritor of the Devil Emperor’s will” unstintingly. Of course, that was to borrow his influence to capture the hearts and the minds of the profound practitioners of the Northern Divine Region. And once he was crowned emperor, all of her plans would proceed as planned.

How ridiculous! As if he’d let Chi Wuyao do as she pleased any longer! Even though he had kept up his guard against Chi Wuyao, he had also given her a fair bit of trust. He had also spared no efforts in “transforming” and training her Witches.

His trust in Chi Wuyao had also increased exponentially after he killed Zhou Qingchen. He had even told her a fair bit about his plans to conquer the Yama Realm.

However, he discovered that he had still been far too naive.

Compared to Fen Daojun, she was truly... the main culprit behind Qianye Ying’er’s miscarriage!

She was someone who deserved to die far more than Fen Daojun!

Just like the rumors had said, she was willing to do anything in order to achieve her own goals, no matter how wicked or cruel those actions were!

Crowning him emperor?

That was a very good idea. In fact, it was something he had to do.

But he would not be crowned emperor in the Soul Stealing Realm! He would be crowned emperor in this Yama Realm!

And after he had been crowned emperor, his next target would be the Soul Stealing Realm!

The next person he was going to kill was Chi Wuyao!

He would lure her into the Yama Imperial District before using the power of the Three Yama Ancestors and the Bone Sea of the Eternal Darkness... Given the power he currently had at his disposal, killing her would not be too hard a thing to accomplish.

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The Imperial Hall of Eternal Darkness.

Right now, Yun Che was currently plopped in the god emperor throne reserved for the Yama Emperor alone. It was a seat that the other denizens of the Yama Realm could not approach, but Yun Che was currently occupying its seat.

His new bodyguards, Yan One, Yan Two, and Yan Three, stood behind him

Yan Tianxiao and all of the other Yama Devils were standing beneath the throne. Even though all of their heads were bent low, each of them wore different expressions on their face.



“Why? Are you looking for an opportunity to get rid of me? Yun Che looked at them as he spoke in a cold and contemptuous voice. An evil energy rolled off his body

“My lord is worrying needlessly,” Yan Tianxiao said in a grave voice. “No matter whether we are willing or not, this king... I mean I have already knelt before you in submission. Since I already did that, I won’t go back on my words. The orders of my lord are my command.”

A casual wave of Yun Che’s hand had caused the energy contained within the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness to loom over the skies of the Yama Realm... Even recalling that scene sent shudders down the spines of all who were present.

Unless they could find a perfect opportunity, one which would guarantee his death, they naturally would not dare to anger the person who held their Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron, the malefic star who could easily obliterate their Yama Realm with a twitch of his fingers.

Speaking of which, the Yama Realm had been born because of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness, and it had also been the source of the Yama Realm’s strength, the reason why it was the number one king realm in the Northern Divine Region. But they had never imagined that it would become the source of a calamity which could destroy the Yama Realm at any moment.

“Hmph, I bet you brats wouldn’t dare to do it in the first place.” Yan One said with a cold snort.

“If it wasn’t for Master’s magnanimity and mercy, your daddy here would have killed all of you a long time ago just because of the great disrespect you showed him!” Yan Two said in a grave voice.

“That’s enough.”

Yun Che’s two calmly-spoken words cut Yan Three off just as he started to speak. Yan Three had to hurriedly swallow the words that nearly spilled out from his mouth. He obediently bowed his head and he did not even dare to breathe too loudly after that.

Two people had been responsible for subduing the Burning Moon Realm. Half of the credit had to be given to Yun Che, because his “divine might” had left them overwhelmed with fear. But the other half had to be given to Chi Wuyao, whose devilish voice seduced them.

But Yun Che had subdued the Yama Realm solely based on the “divine might” he had displayed using the Eternal Calamity of Darkness. The terror he had instilled in the inhabitants of the Yama Realm had been enough to cow them.

As for which of the two methods were more reliable? That was hard to say.

Yan Tianxiao let out a silent sigh. It was very hard for him, a god emperor, to quickly become accustomed to serving another. He asked, “As for my lord’s coronation and your imperial title...”

“There’s no need to rush. There are still many things that need to be done before we can concern ourselves with that matter.” Yun Che interrupted him, a cold light flickering in his eyes. After that, he turned around and said, “Yan Wu, come here.”

“...” Yan Wu’s body tensed up and her brows knitted together. But she remained motionless.

[Chapter 1688 - Devil Crystal of Eternal Darkness](#)

“Wu’er, obey!” Yan Tianxiao warned seriously.

Yan Wu took off, but her footsteps were unusually stiff and slow... Yan Jie had hurt her pretty badly, but it obviously wasn’t so bad that it would slow her this much.

In the end though, no matter how slow she was walking, it was only a matter of time before she arrived before Yun Che. She bowed toward him and asked in a chilly tone, “What are your instructions, my lord.”

Instead of answering, Yun Che extended his hand and sent a wisp of black energy toward Yan Wu.

Yan Wu’s eyes immediately turned icy, but her father growled at her from behind. “Do not resist!”

So Yan Wu forced herself to stay still and gritted her teeth. Her entire body was shaking slightly in trepidation. Meanwhile, the black energy had invaded all the way into her profound veins, utterly uncaring if she consented to the act or not.

However, her trepidation and her hostility only lasted several breaths. Her eyes grew unfocused when she noticed the changes within her body, and her excitement and disbelief grew exponentially when the full scale of her transformation slowly dawned upon her...

Yun Che withdrew his arm and the dark energy after he was finished.

Yan Wu stood where she was and stared at herself for a very long time. Her disbelief looked like a permanent fixture on her face, and she looked like she had fallen into a dream.

Suddenly, the proud woman bowed again, but this time she had dropped to one knee instead of just bending her waist. The chilliness in her voice had been completely replaced by a kind of excitement that could only come from the bottom of one’s soul. “Yan Wu... Yan Wu thanks you for your blessing, my lord!”

Yan Wu had a legendary temper. There was no one in the whole realm who didn’t know about it.

Even Yan Tianxiao himself seldom saw such a deep look of gratitude and respect coming from Yan Wu.

Surprised and puzzled, Yan Tianxiao walked up to Yan Wu and put a finger to her shoulder. In that moment, disbelief and excitement overcame his expression just like Yan Wu’s, and he muttered to himself in a daze, “The... the rumors regarding the Witches are actually true...”

“Hmph. One of the reasons the Burning Moon Realm submitted as quickly as it did was because they had seen the Witches’ transformation with their own eyes.”

Yun Che said indifferently while his hand glowed with devilish light. “This probably looks like a miracle to you people, but to me... it is just something I can do anytime I feel like it.”

Yan Tianxiao also knelt next to Yan Wu, and this time it didn’t feel nearly as difficult as the previous times. “Please grant your blessing to the Yama Devils, my lord. We will forever remember your favor and serve you with everything we have!”

Once again, he was made to witness the true power of Eternal Calamity of Darkness.

The power to manipulate the dark energies of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness however he liked, the power to create miracles that transcended common sense itself at the wave of a hand...

He was sure that this wasn't all the Eternal Calamity of Darkness could do.

In this moment, he even started to feel like... it was his duty to serve the new master of the Northern Divine Region.

"I will give my blessing to most Yama Devils. But in exchange, I want your loyalty!"

Yun Che spoke very slowly so that no one could miss his words. "Don't say I didn't warn all of you, once you've sworn to serve me, there is no..."

"Turning... back!"

Yan Tianxiao looked up and stared at Yun Che directly. He knew how he should act in a situation like this.

"My lord, you are the only inheritor of the great Devil Emperor... you are also the only person ever to have beaten us completely. There is no one else who deserves our loyalty besides you, my lord."

"Very good." Yun Che praised him before rising to his feet. When he walked away, the Three Yama Ancestors followed him closely so as to protect him from any danger.

"I have two things I would like you to do."

"Please share with me your thoughts, my lord," Yan Tianxiao said seriously.

"One, you will order everyone to keep today's occurrence a secret, especially... from the Soul Stealing Realm."

These days, he couldn't think of Chi Wuyao without feeling a surge of black emotions.

"Hmm..." Yan Tianxiao frowned a little before replying, "My lord, I think it's already too late. Your power has shaken the world itself, and there are countless spies from Soul Stealing Realm in our lands. I highly doubt the lockdown will be in time at all."

"It doesn't have to be. The appearance of trying is good enough." Yun Che narrowed his eyes a little.

"..." Yan Tianxiao thought to himself for a moment before answering, "It will be done, my lord."

"Two." Yun Che shot Yan Tianxiao a sideways glance. "You will send someone to the Imperial Heaven Realm and bring a man to me. I would prefer it if you can keep it a secret, but it doesn't matter in the long run if you fail."

Imperial Heaven Realm?

Yan Tianxiao raised his eyebrows slightly... that was where Yun Che had killed the leader of the Yama Ghosts, Yan Sangeng.

At the time, he was so angry that he ordered his men to capture Yun Che at all costs. He even went so far as to send three Yama Devils to the Soul Stealing Realm and demand Yun Che... at the time, he had no idea what an absolute monster Yun Che was, of course.

"Who is this man you wish for us to escort, my lord?" He asked cautiously.

Yun Che looked up before replying in a quiet tone, “Tian Guhu.”

Not only was Tian Guhu the strongest profound practitioner of the younger generation, he could even fight opponents who were several levels above him. It was so that even Yan Tianxiao, a god emperor had heard about him and taken the effort to study him.

Yan Tianxiao didn’t ask any further questions. He simply turned around and ordered his men. “Yan E, head to Imperial Heaven Realm yourself and bring Tian Guhu over.”

“You will go immediately.”

Usually, it was beneath Yama Devil to bring a normal denizen of an upper star realm to the Yama Realm themselves.

However, the Imperial Heaven Realm was inferior only when compared to the king realms of the Northern Divine Region, and Tian Guhu was extremely famous among his juniors. Finally, the order had come from Yun Che himself... so it wasn’t surprising nor excessive to send a Yama Devil to retrieve Tian Guhu.

“Yes!”

Yan E accepted his orders and flashed out of the room.

“Yan One, Two, Three, follow me,” Yun Che ordered.

Yan Tianxiao said, “Where are you heading to, my lord?”

Yun Che walked past him without pausing his footsteps. He merely said, “Focus on performing your duties and don’t ask unnecessary questions!”

In the past, Yan Tianxiao was the one who did the admonishing, not the other way around. But since he hadn’t recovered from Yan Wu’s great transformation, he was able to enter his role quickly and answer, “You are right, my lord... best wishes to you, my lord.”

Yun Che and the Three Yama Ancestors left the hall without a word. They seemed to be heading to the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness.

For a time, the imperial hall was oppressively silent. A while later, Yan Tu finally spoke up carefully, “Your Majesty, are we really going to... to...”

For now, it looked like nothing had changed in the Yama Realm.

The Yama Emperor was still the Yama Emperor, the Yama Devils were still the Yama Devils, Yama Imperial District wasn’t occupied or held hostage by the enemy... they didn’t even lose any freedom whatsoever.

If they had to count their losses, then there were the buildings and Yan Jie... although the latter was definitely a good thing. Had he shown his true colors after he became the Yama Emperor of the Yama Realm, they couldn’t even imagine what would’ve happened to their country.

The fact that Yun Che hadn't changed anything or tried to restrict them at all meant that they could betray him anytime they wanted. However... the fact that he was so lax was a sign that their new lord wasn't worried in the slightest. That itself said a lot.

Instead of replying immediately, Yan Tianxiao turned toward his daughter and asked, "Wu'er, what do you think?"

Yan Wu pulled her attention away from her body and said, "I think... I think I can leave the Northern Divine Region now and still recover and manipulate darkness profound energy almost as well as I am now."

What she said shocked absolutely everyone.

"Your Highness, you mean...?" Yan Tu asked urgently.

"A long time ago, Chi Wuyao tried more than once to persuade my royal father to work with her and tear down our cage together. However... it was only a pipe dream at that time." Yan Wu was speaking in a frigid tone, but it wasn't the intimidating, imperialistic tone that she usually used when she spoke to inferiors. It was the cold chill of forming determination.

"But Yun Che is different. He meant what he said, and he has the power to carry it out!"

Yan Wu looked around her before saying, "We only live once. It would be too boring and frustrating to hole up in the darkness forever, don't you think? With a chance like this and a leader like him... why don't we give it a shot and try to overturn our fates?"

"We may end up dead and destroyed, but at least we would've been worthy of this land of darkness that gave birth to us and the power we inherited!"

Yan Wu's words shook everyone.

Earlier, she was the one who showed the most resistance out of all of them.

No one was expecting her to change this drastically after Yun Che touched her.

Yan Tianxiao started calmly, "You mean to say..."

"I have decided to follow him!" Yan Wu declared resolutely and without any hesitation.

Hearsay would never be as convincing as personal experience.

"Are you sure?" Yan Tianxiao asked again.

"Yes. I will never regret my decision." Yan Wu raised her hand and summoned a cycle of darkness. "Once upon a time, I was a half-cripple the second I stepped out of the Northern Divine Region, and any talk of resistance was nothing but a joke. But now, I can't wait to unleash my powers on the soil of the three Divine Regions! I want them to feel the hatred and anger we've stored in our hearts for countless years!"

Bang!

She clenched her hand, and the small globe of darkness exploded in her palm. She looked down and said, "Don't be surprised by my change of attitude. You'll understand what I mean when you have received the same blessing as me... I think I'm starting to understand why the ancestors made the decision they did."

It was true that the Yama Devils and Yama Ghosts still couldn't understand Yan Wu's change and transformation at all, but her drastic change in behavior did make them a lot more accepting of Yun Che.

"Good." Yan Tianxiao nodded slowly. He understood now why Yun Che had chosen Yan Wu as his first subject of transformation. It wasn't a random choice.

"Remember what he said. Once you've sworn to serve him, there is no turning back." Yan Tianxiao warned solemnly.

"No, we've all seen how ruthless he is. Like it or not, it's already too late to turn back," Yan Wu said indifferently. "I would much prefer to die on the soil of the three Divine Regions than in his hands. I would've at least achieved something."

Her attitude had completely turned around since she was blessed by Yun Che. In fact, she would probably be the first one to step out and kill anyone who tried to rebel at this stage.

"Hehehe." Yan Tianxiao chuckled amiably. Despite being the Yama Emperor, he didn't have any criticism to offer Yan Wu. "Wu'er is right. No matter what you think or feel right now, never forget that Yun Che is above me."

"You have all seen with your own eyes his worthiness and his power. At the very least... you should never display any disobedience in front of him."

Finally, Yan Tianxiao sent out the order. "Now, go carry out our lord's order and lock down the rumors as quickly as you can!"

At the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness.

Yun Che was back with the three Yama Ancestors, but he wasn't here to cultivate his powers. Instead, he flew toward the edge of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness.

Along the way, he kept seeing purple light in his vision. It was the purple light of the Netherworld Udumbara Flower. At his level of strength, these terrible flowers couldn't affect his soul any longer.

He never tried to look at them either.

After all, all that would do was drag his heart and soul into a dark, painful abyss he never wanted to remember.

Yun Che eventually came to a stop. He was staring at a devil crystal with mysterious dark light circulating throughout its body.

These devil crystals were scattered at the edge of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness. The oddly-shaped crystals looked like they were naturally formed. The phosphorous lighting bouncing off their surface gave them a dark and dreamy appearance.

Yun Che bent downward and tried to touch the black crystals, but the three Yama Ancestors cried out at the same time.

“Don’t touch it, master!”

Yun Che froze in mid-movement.

Yan One said, “These devil crystals are the crystallization of the ancient yin energy in this place. They take an incredibly long time to form. Although they look similar to a normal devil crystal, the dark energy they contain is incredibly dense and unstable. Any physical contact at all will result in a violent backlash.”

Yan Two said, “We’ve tried to master its power before, but it proved to be an impossible task even if all three of our powers were combined. The consequences were so great that we dared not even get close to it—ah!”

Yan Two suddenly exclaimed in shock. It was because Yun Che had ignored their warning and touched the black crystal.

However, the backlash they imagined didn’t happen. The black crystal didn’t even react whatsoever.

As the three Yama Ancestors let out a long sigh of relief, Yan Three said, “You two always talk nonsense. There’s no way our master would be hurt by something as pathetic as the Devil Crystal of Eternal Darkness!”

“Yes, yes, you’re right. We were overly cautious.” Yan One and Yan Two nodded hurriedly.

Meanwhile, Yun Che had removed his hands from the crystal and was narrowing his eyes slightly. A series of thoughts were spinning rapidly inside his head.

Crystals were without a doubt the most stable form of energy.

It was why all kinds of profound crystals were used to improve one’s cultivation, forge formations and artifacts, and even traded as currencies.

However, this so-called “Devil Crystal of Eternal Darkness” was completely different from the usual darkness crystal.

The second Yun Che had made physical contact with it, the energy residing inside it had awakened violently like a devil god that was woken up from its sleep.

These unusual crystals were the product of time and crystallization of the primal yin energy in this place... or more specifically, the death energy of the ancient devils who died here. Even he could only imagine how much hatred and killing intent their death energy contained when they perished in the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness.

Yun Che slowly looked around him. He only spotted a couple of devil crystals in this area, but the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness was gigantic. He had no doubt that he could gather a mountain of devil crystals if he tried.

The corner of Yun Che's mouth slowly turned up. The end result looked something like the sinister smile of a bloodthirsty monster.

Behind him, all three Yama Ancestors shivered in unison.

### [Chapter 1689 - The Devil Queen Sighs](#)

Soul Stealing Realm, inside the Soul Stealing Sacred Region.

Chi Wuyao slowly floated down toward the ground before landing gracefully. The moment her toes touched the ground, her black robe wrapped around her, unintentionally showing off every bewitching curve of her sultry body.

"Master!"

A voice rang out in the distance just as she appeared.

After that voice rang out in the air, a girl's figure soon swirled into existence in front of Chi Wuyao. Her face was as beautiful as exquisite jade and her skin was the color of cream. Her exquisite lips were as red as rubies even though she had not applied any rouge. Her bright eyes were especially eye-catching. Strange colors rippled in those clear and limpid pools, and they looked both pure and alluring.

Her elegant and airy robe clung to her body at her waist and the colorful and enchanting light that shone from her body clearly stated her identity.

The Soul Stealing Realm's Seventh Witch Hua Jin!

"What's the matter?" Chi Wuyao asked.

"Reporting to Master, something huge has happened in the Yama Realm. The Yama Barrier collapsed for no reason and the Three Yama Ancestors left the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness and publicly proclaimed Yun Che their new master. After that, the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness itself shook and black clouds filled the skies... All of these events seem to have something to do with Yun Che."

Chi Wuyao: "..."

"We still don't have the details of what happened next, but it's very likely that the Yama Emperor has reached some sort of compromise with Yun Che."

"I was already aware of these things," replied Chi Wuyao.

Hua Jin's voice was filled with anxiety and worry but Chi Wuyao's voice was exceptionally calm and serene. Not a single ripple could be heard within it.

"He had long planned to go to the Yama Realm even before we headed out to the Burning Moon Realm. He already said that there was a possibility that he could use the Eternal Calamity of Darkness to control the dark yin energy in the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness. He intended to use that to deal with the Three Yama Ancestors and coerce the Yama Realm."

"It looks like he succeeded beyond even his wildest expectations. To think that the mighty Three Yama Ancestors were willing to accept him as their master. He has yet again accomplished something that no one could even imagine."



Chi Wuyao let out a very soft laugh. "It seems like he really was holding back at that time."

As she observed the change in Chi Wuyao's expression, Hua Jin could no longer hold herself back. She asked, "Master, why does it seem like you're completely unconcerned about this?"

"What is there to worry about?" Chi Wuyao said in a relaxed voice.

Hua Jin said in a worried voice, "There is one thing that we've confirmed, and that is the matter of the Three Yama Ancestors recognizing Yun Che as their master. Furthermore, the Three Yama Ancestors personally said that Yun Che has freed them from the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness. This should be the main reason why they were willing to take Yun Che as their master."

"As for what happened after that, it is clear that the Yama Realm ended up reaching a compromise with Yun Che. If Yun Che is now able to mobilize the forces of the Yama Realm..."

"You're worried that he will use this opportunity to suppress our Soul Stealing Realm?" Chi Wuyao asked. Her voice did not falter in the slightest when she said those words.

"Yes." Hua Jin bent her head. "Previously, Yun Che and Yun Qianying were alone and friendless in the Northern Region, but Master was willing to strike a deal with them as equals. But now, if he has truly gained full control of the Yama Realm, the full might of the forces at his disposal, which include the terrifying Three Yama Ancestors, I..."

"Don't worry, he won't do such a thing," Chi Wuyao replied with a faint smile. "Uniting the three king realms was always a shared goal of ours. It's just that he has accomplished this goal with his own strength."

"Master, there's something you're unaware of," Hua Jin said. "The Yama Realm swiftly closed off their borders after that and our spies were all pushed far away. It will be very hard for us to get any more information in the meantime. Right now, more than twenty hours have passed and Yun Che shows no sign of returning. In fact, he has not even sent any news back to us."

Chi Wuyao said, "Such a huge event occurred, so there's no real way to hide it. This forceful intervention is probably Yun Che's way of sending us a message."

"..." Hua Jin's head jerked up in shock. "Master, since you already know about this, then why don't you... look the least bit concerned?"

Chi Wuyao smiled faintly and stretched out a jade hand, her delicate fingers gently brushing Hua Jin's cherry lips. "Don't you worry, he won't become our enemy... He won't ever be our enemy."

Hua Jin's lips parted involuntarily. She did not understand where Chi Wuyao's confidence came from, but the only thing she needed to do when it came to her master's words was to obey them.

"There isn't any need to find out what's happening in the Yama Realm," Chi Wuyao continued. "In fact, there's only one thing I need you to do right now."

"Send something over to the Yama Realm for me."

"...What do you want me to deliver?" Hua Jin asked.

“An invitation card.”

“...”

Hua Jin left with many misgivings in her heart. Chi Wuyao gently turned her body in the direction of the Yama Realm. Then, she let out a soft and gloomy sigh.

“In the end, the will of heaven will always be stronger than the schemes of man. Everything has happened far too early.”

“But this is fine too...”

“From the beginning to the end, I... am also my own pawn.”

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Several days passed before Yun Che emerged from the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness.

Yan Wu had personally been standing guard over the entrance of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness all this while. The moment she saw Yun Che, she gave him a deep bow and said, “Yan Wu greets my lord. Yan Wu greets the ancestors.”

Compared to the frigid scowl she had worn on her face just a few days ago along with the sharp and icy glares she used to give Yun Che before, Yan Wu’s attitude had undergone a drastic change.

“Have you found the person I’m looking for?” Yun Che asked in a calm voice.

“Reporting to my lord, we have already brought that person here twelve hours ago and we did not leave behind any tracks. Only a few people from the Imperial Heaven Realm are aware of this matter.” Yan Wu reported to Yun Che.

“Very good.” Yun Che’s gaze swept past her as he walked towards the imperial hall.

Tian Guhu had been brought to the Yama Realm in a daze. The news of the Yama Realm’s dramatic transformation had not yet reached the Imperial Heaven Realm when Yan E came to get him.

Tian Guhu had suffered a miserable defeat to Yun Che in front of all the other Heavenly Sovereigns and notable figures of the Northern Divine Region during the Heavenly Sovereign Assembly. However, his defeat had not created any lasting trauma for Tian Guhu. On the contrary, the words that Yun Che had left him had greatly shaken his conceited beliefs.

The Yama Emperor had given an order summoning him to the Yama Realm and a Yama Devil had personally arrived to escort him there. Even though Imperial Heaven Realm King Tian Muyi had great misgivings about this, he did not dare go against the summons. Instead he had been determined to follow him here and it was Tian Guhu who had persuaded him not to. So Tian Guhu had followed Yan E back to the Yama Realm by himself.

Even though Tian Guhu was the most heralded youngster in the Northern Divine Region, the most famous person in his generation, none of these things applied to the king realms. They existed a level above the rest of them.

The Imperial Heaven Realm had been friendly with the Yama Realm for generations, but once someone scratched the surface, this “friendly relationship” undoubtedly turned into a relationship between a superior and subordinate. Furthermore, it was a gap of superiority that the lesser person could never hope to overcome. Even with Tian Guhu’s status, it was exceedingly rare for him to see someone like the former leader of the Yama Ghosts, Yan Sangeng, much less people like the Yama Devils or the Yama Emperor.

One could only imagine how badly Tian Guhu’s heart was shaken upon seeing the fabled Yama Devils as he entered the imperial hall.

His eyes quivered with reverence and fear as he looked towards the center of the imperial hall. His feet froze and his eyes widened dramatically when he saw what was before him. He could not bring himself to believe what he was seeing, no matter how hard he tried.

The emperor of the Yama Realm, Yan Tianxiao. Tian Guhu had the fortune to see him once when he had followed his father here after entering the Northern Region Heavenly Sovereign Ranking.

However, the strongest and most exalted god emperor in his eyes was actually standing to the side of the throne!

And the person who was seated on that throne was...

Yun Che!?

“Tian Guhu,” Yun Che said in a cool voice, “it’s been a few months since we last met. Do you still remember me?”

“Yun... Che!” Tian Guhu’s voice trembled as he blurted out that name in shock. He checked his surroundings once more, but he still could not bring himself to believe what he was seeing.

These days, the entire Northern Divine Region had been shaken by the name “Yun Che”.

He was the inheritor of a Devil Emperor’s legacy and he had unleashed the power of a True God to cut the Burning Moon God Emperor down in the heart of his own realm. It had been such a shocking sight that the Moon Eaters had given up without a fight... There were even rumors that he was going to be crowned emperor of the Soul Stealing Realm!

Each rumor was more shocking and unbelievable than the next... However, news of Fen Daojun’s death and the Burning Moon Realm’s surrender soon followed and these rumors became irrefutable facts. When everyone heard the news, it literally took their breath away.

It was also this news that caused the words that Yun Che had said to Tian Guhu to reverberate in his heart more and more violently. In fact, his emotions had become so strong and intense in the last few days that he had been seized by the impulse to rush over to the Soul Stealing Realm to beg for an audience more than ten times, and had almost given in.

But he had never dreamed that he would get his desired meeting in the Yama Realm! He had never dreamed that he would meet Yun Che again when he was sitting on the throne that only the Yama Emperor could touch!

This was a scene that would astound anyone, a scene that utterly boggled the mind.

“Tian Guhu,” Yun Che said with narrowed eyes, his gaze becoming exceptionally sharp. “This is such a minor occasion, but you’ve reacted in such an ugly manner. Do your so-called pride and aspirations only amount to this much?”

Yun Che’s words were like a hammer smashing against Tian Guhu’s heart. His soul shuddered as he secretly bit down on the tip of his tongue. His mind finally regained some clarity amidst that intense pain.

He slowly sucked in a breath of air as he gave a solemn and respectful bow. “Imperial Heaven Realm’s Tian Guhu has come to visit the Yama Realm. It is my great honor to be able to see Senior Yun, the Yama Emperor, and all of the Yama Devils.”

Yun Che did not reply. Instead, he slowly got to his feet and began walking in his direction.

As he stood up, the Three Yama Ancestors hurriedly followed behind him.

Tian Guhu had never seen the three stooped and ugly old men behind Yun Che before, but when he looked at them... just when he looked at them, he felt his soul go numb as it soundlessly quaked. It was as if an invisible claw had seized him so tightly that he could not even hope to struggle free, a claw that only needed an instant to consign him to the eternal abyss of death.

He had only felt such a sensation when he had paid a visit to the Yama Emperor all those years ago.

Given his current cultivation, his mind was far stronger than it had been before. Yet the three old men behind Yun Che made him feel the same frightening sensation he had felt back then.

Tian Guhu’s incredible astonishment had caused his body to tremble all over, an action that he was entirely incapable of controlling. However, he forced himself to stand up straight as he fiercely fought to keep his gaze calm and aloof... He was well aware that a piece of trash that would sink to his knees due to the other person’s aura would never be respected.

“I heard that you gave yourself the name Tian Guhu.”

Yun Che walked toward him. When he finally spoke again, he was only a few steps away from Tian Guhu. “You were infuriated by the fact that everyone around you was content to be trapped inside this prison. They either lived dispirited lives or sought to kill one another for personal gain. Not only did they have no determination to defy their fate, they were even active participants in digging their own grave. A grave that was already as deep as an abyss.”

Tian Guhu’s heart was violently shaken by those words. He slowly nodded his head as he replied, “Yes.”

“But... what did these high-minded aspirations amount to? I, Tian Guhu, am not only alone in these aspirations, but I am also nothing more than a piece of trash who can’t even cause a single ripple as the Northern Divine Region tumbles toward its inevitable fate.”

“You’re very self-aware.” Yun Che said coolly. “No matter how high-minded your aspirations are, they will be nothing more than a fatuous joke if you do not possess sufficient power.”

“...” Tian Guhu clenched his teeth.

“Then, I will give you an opportunity.” Yun Che gave him a deep look as he said those words. “I can give you power that exceeds your father’s, but I have one condition. I want you to become the spear that breaks out of the cage that is the Northern Divine Region, a spear that will pierce into the three other divine regions... A spear that can break at any instant. Do you dare to accept this condition?”

Tian Guhu was utterly stunned by those words. For a moment, he even suspected his hearing had gone awry. “What did... you say?”

“You don’t need to doubt my words or worry whether I can accomplish what I said or not. You only need to give me one answer. Do you ‘dare’, or do you ‘not dare’?”

The Yama Ancestors were behind him and the Yama Emperor and his Yama Devils formed a ring around them. Yun Che’s every word evoked a spiritual pressure that was no less heavy than the might of a god emperor. They brooked no suspicion.

“...” Tian Guhu’s mind swam in confusion, but his will and beliefs had received an incredibly violent blow. He practically spoke without thinking when he gave his reply, “This is something I have dreamed of my entire life, an opportunity that I’ve been begging for. Why... wouldn’t... I... dare!?”

“Very good.” Yun Che praised him in a cold and calm voice. After that, his brows suddenly sank. “Restrain him.”

As he gave that order, the Three Yama Ancestors immediately appeared around Tian Guhu. They simultaneously released their power, instantly forcing Tian Guhu to his knees. His power had been utterly suppressed and he could not even move a single muscle.

Tian Guhu had the strength to fight against level ten Divine Sovereigns despite only being a level seven Divine Sovereign, but he was nothing more than a pitiful worm in front of a Yama Ancestor.

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The Yama Ancestors were so powerful that it was downright degrading to make them suppress a Divine Sovereign personally, much less all three at once... but Yun Che’s order was absolute, and that was that.

Tian Guhu’s knees hit the ground with a resounding crack. He felt like a million mountains were sitting on his shoulders, and the only body part he could still move was his eyeballs. He didn’t try to struggle, however. Any one of the powers suppressing him right now could wipe out his very existence in the blink of an eye. Resist? Was that a joke?

Bang!

Yun Che summoned a pitch-black cauldron before dropping it heavily before Tian Guhu. It was none other than the devil origin artifact of Yama Realm, the Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron.

Every Yama Devil in the room was stunned by Yun Che’s actions.

Is he planning to... Yan Tianxiao turned cold when a memory flashed across his mind. He subconsciously raised his foot to take a step forward, but immediately restrained both his footsteps and the words that were about to tumble out of his mouth.

Yun Che's palm swam slowly above the cauldron. When he lifted his palm, a pitch-black flame rose from the cauldron and came to a stop between his fingers.

All light inside the imperial hall was devoured by the darkness of that black flame the moment it appeared. Its presence also pierced through everyone's eyes and filled up their heart and soul... it was because it was the devil origin power of the Yama Devils, the origin power of a primordial True Devil!

The origin power of a True Devil could be passed down to a chosen successor, but it could never be controlled directly. There had never been a Yama Emperor who was able to interfere with its will.

But now, it was doing Yun Che's bidding without any resistance whatsoever.

Although everyone here had been made to witness all kinds of impossible things by Yun Che himself, the scene before them still shook them greatly.

"This is the devil origin power of the Yama Devils," Yun Che said slowly. The devil origin power was floating right before his eyes, but it couldn't affect the dark gleam in his eyes one bit. "This thing here will grant you power no one in the world even dares to dream of in a million lifetimes, all in a single day. Let's hope that you'll live up to your namesake, 'Lonely Swan'!"

Before Tian Guhu could give any response, he pressed the black light into Tian Guhu's forehead.

Bzz—

There was a low rumble as the aura of the Yama Devil spilled out of the black flame like a flood. Tian Guhu's figure was consumed by it in just an instant.

"Argh!"

The Divine Sovereign let out a scream of pain initially, but he held it in almost immediately. After that, he never let out a squeak even when his teeth started breaking loudly from the sheer force he was applying to them.

All Yama Devils revered their devil origin power as a matter of course. Although the Yama Devil Nether Crossing Cauldron could withdraw its power from any Yama Devil, it also had a special restriction where it could only be passed down to people who possessed the Yama Devil bloodline.

Tian Guhu didn't have any Yama Devil bloodline in him, so it was only natural that he wouldn't be accepted by the Yama Devil origin power. Could Yun Che really force it to pass down its power to a stranger with no relations to it whatsoever?

"Your Majesty, this..." Yan E sent a sound transmission to Yan Tianxiao. Since time immemorial, the Yama Devil's power had always belonged to the Yama Devils and no one else. If Yun Che actually succeeded at what he was doing... it was the equivalent of giving away their power to an outsider!

"Keep quiet!" Yan Tianxiao berated him.

An hour passed. Then two hours passed...

Bang!

A huge explosion later, the dark light and the dark aura that engulfed the entire imperial hall in darkness vanished completely.

Tian Guhu's limp figure appeared before everyone. The young man was panting and sweating heavily on the ground, and a layer of darkness was circulating slowly inside his body. His aura was completely different from what it was before.

When Tian Guhu slowly looked up and opened his eyes, a black gleam flashed across his pupils.

"..." Yan Tianxiao clenched his fists in silence and felt a terrible itch on his scalp.

The Yama Devils' reactions were even worse than his.

Although Tian Guhu looked incredibly weak right now, his aura was clearly that of a level eight Divine Master!

Normally, it took several days to inject a devil origin power into a Yama Devil's body and synchronize them fully.

But Tian Guhu, a complete outsider that was in no way accepted by the Yama Devil origin power... was able to gain its power! And the inheritance was completed in just two hours' time!

Although it was still a little unstable, the Yama Devil aura emanating from Tian Guhu's body was practically perfect. They couldn't sense any signs of aura disruption or rejection from him at all.

The Yama Devils couldn't even begin to describe their shock.

Bang!

Tian Guhu's knees hit the ground again as he bowed his head deeply before Yun Che. He said, "From this day onward, Tian Guhu's life belongs to Senior Yun and no other!"

"No, you are wrong." Yun Che stared at Tian Guhu from an elevated position. "Your life belongs only to yourself. You don't need to betray your home realm, nor do you need to force yourself to serve the Yama Realm."

"You are still Tian Guhu! You are not a Yama Devil! I have never wanted to own your life. What I want is your 'will'!"

Tian Guhu looked him in the eye and swore the words that he would engrave to his soul. "My will needs your guidance, senior! You are the only one who is qualified to guide me!"

"In that case," Yun Che said while turning his back on Tian Guhu, "I order you to stay in the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness until you have fully acclimated to the power you bear. Then, you may return to the Imperial Heaven Realm."

"After that..." Yun Che paused for a second before continuing, "The greatest value you have isn't the Yama Devil power you just inherited, but the influence you have over the Northern Divine Region, especially among the Divine Sovereigns and the younger profound practitioners. Do you understand what I'm saying?"

Tian Guhu engraved every word Yun Che said into his heart. His blood was boiling; he could sense that the dream he once thought to be forever out of his reach now floating right in front of him.

"Guhu understands... Guhu will not disappoint senior," Tian Guhu did his best to control his excitement before declaring unhesitatingly.

"You will now head to the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness. Yan Two, you will help him acclimatize to his power."

"This servant will obey your command, master," Yan Two replied hurriedly.

At the very end, Yun Che emphasized. "Also... do not address me as senior again!"

"..." Tian Guhu blanked out for a second before bowing deeply. "Yes."

Rumors of Yun Che had positively flooded the entire Northern Divine Region as of late, so of course he was aware that the great man before him was only thirty years old or so.

The reason he had naturally addressed Yun Che as "senior" was because he had felt like a tall mountain that might never be overcome.

Yan Two led Tian Guhu away after that.

With Yan Two's aid, he was sure that Tian Guhu would adapt to his newly inherited powers in no time.

With this, he had gained a loyal power that was destined to have great effects in his future plans.

"Please wait, my lord. There is something that only you can attend to."

Yan Tianxiao called out to Yun Che just when he was about to take his leave. The Yama Emperor was holding a jade tablet with a thin whiff of dark energy around it.

Yun Che narrowed his eyes slightly. He immediately identified the dark energy to be the dark aura of the Soul Stealing Realm.

"Is it something the Devil Queen sent over?" Yun Che asked indifferently. He didn't touch the tablet.

"It is the invitation card the Seventh Witch herself delivered the day before yesterday," Yan Tianxiao answered.

"Invitation card?" Yun Che frowned slightly. "And what is the time?"

"Seven days from now," Yan Tianxiao answered, "the Devil Queen herself will be arriving. She also mentioned specifically that you are the one she wants to meet, not me."

"Seven days?" Yun Che's frown grew deeper before he let out a sneer. "That's a curiosity. She normally just barges through any door she wishes to enter before the host can react. An invitation letter? Time to prepare? Truly a curiosity."

"I was hoping that she would descend from the heavens with her entourage of Witches out of nowhere and pleasantly surprise me," Yun Che said with a small grin, but the gleam in his eyes was shockingly dark.



Yan Tianxiao was starting to realize that Yun Che wasn't just planning to take over the Soul Stealing Realm. If his observation was correct, the two of them... seemed to share a deep grudge.

"What should we do, my lord?" Yan Tianxiao asked.

Yun Che thought for a moment before replying, "The stupidest way to deal with this woman is to play her beloved tricks and schemes."

"She wants seven days? Then I'll give her seven days and wait for her to show up!"

"But... not here."

As if realizing something, Yan Tianxiao asked, "Are you going to..."

But he immediately realized his mistake and stopped himself. "Forgive Tianxiao for his slip of the tongue."

"I will return in seven days," Yun Che said. "Work on the invitations for my coronation while I'm gone. Remember, the invitation extends to everyone: the upper star realms, the middle star realms, and especially the lower star realms. They are the key. You may choose the wording as you like."

"Yes, my lord." Yan Tianxiao accepted the order before asking one last question, "About the new imperial hall, do you have any preferences you'd like to mention, my lord?"

"Unnecessary." Yun Che was already gone when he left behind his reply. "I don't need such useless things."

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Yun Che had traveled to the desolate borders of a star realm subordinate to the Yama Realm. It was a dark and lifeless place.

A wood spirit girl was sitting primly next to Yun Che. A cold breeze carried her greenish hair lightly, caressing her face gently with her own hair.

From time to time, she would sneak a glance at Yun Che's face before turning back toward herself. The light in her jade-like eyes looked as beautiful as colored glass.

She wasn't the only one who had manifested themselves to reality. Hong'er and You'er were seated to the left and right sides of Yun Che. One was gobbling down the black crystals Yun Che gave her, and the other was nibbling at the desserts He Ling just finished making for her.

"Tasty! Tasty! Tasty!" Hong'er shouted three times in a row. Her cheeks were completely stuffed, and her red pupils were shining with excitement.

You'er was carefully holding her desserts and staring at Hong'er with her quad-colored pupils. She seemed to be envious that Hong'er could eat the black crystals like they were the tastiest things in the world.

Gulp!

Hong'er swallowed, and a flash of darkness flitted across her scarlet pupils. Then, she grabbed onto Yun Che's thighs and shouted, "I want more! I had no idea that the Northern Divine Region had something this tasty! Why didn't you give it to me earlier, master!?"

Yun Che gave her another two black crystals the size of a longan. "These are the last two crystals for the day."

He needed to save the rest... to accomplish a big dream!

"Hmph, still a miser I see."

That was what Hong'er said, but her movement wasn't slow in the slightest. She grabbed the two crystals in the blink of an eye, put them into her mouth and started chewing happily.

Some distance away, Yan One and Yan Three were staring at Hong'er eating the "Devil Crystal of Eternal Darkness" that they didn't even dare to touch and were shivering from head to toe.

"Wh-wh-wh-wh-wh-wh... what the hell is that monster!?" It took a while before Yan One was able to spit out the question.

"I... I don't know." Yan Three shook his head before realizing what Yan One had done. He chided him in a low tone, "Pui! Where are your manners, old ghost? Master is the devil emperor incarnate, and he is as high as the heaven itself. It took eight hundred thousand years of waiting to even get the opportunity to serve him!"

"This girl is clearly close to our master, so it's only natural that she's beyond our understanding just like our master! So how can you call her a 'monster'? So rude!"

Yan One shivered in realization before nodding in agreement. "Right, right... you're totally right."

"Master, why did you choose Tian Guhu?" He Ling asked quietly.

The way Yun Che was acting right now was the Yun Che she loved the most. He would only smile like this when he was facing Hong'er and You'er.

Yun Che said, "The stronger a person's conviction is, the harder it is to twist. However, it also makes them easier to control once you understand what drives them. I gave him the chance to accomplish his impossible ambition, so it's only natural that he would repay me with his loyalty... and his life."

"Moreover, Tian Guhu's personal reputation and influence were always going to dwarf mine, a newcomer. He is a useful weapon of unimaginable value!"

"Does that mean you helped him because you saw him as a potentially valuable tool... and not because you admire his spirit?" He Ling asked. The look in her eyes changed a little when she said this.

"Of course." Yun Che looked toward the front. "Everything in the Northern Divine Region is just a useful tool to me."

"Does..." He Ling bowed her head and hid her doubt behind her eyes. "Does that mean... I'm a tool to you as well?"

Since the day Yun Che requested to dual cultivate with her, He Ling had never had a moment of peace. Before she knew it, she was assaulted by all kinds of confusion and doubt...

She didn't understand why she was feeling like this... she had known that she would live and die as Yun Che's possession since the day she turned herself into the poison spirit for revenge. However, her anxiety only grew the longer the thought weighed on her.

Suddenly, she felt her small hands being grabbed by Yun Che. He pulled her to her feet and said to her gently, "Come with me."