

The Gods 1701

[Chapter 1701 - Devil Master Emperor Yun](#)

When Yun Che appeared on the road of darkness, the three mighty profound warships of the king realms slowly sank beneath his level.

He wore a pitch-black robe that was imprinted with dark red devilish patterns. According to the ancient records, the patterns were the symbol of the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor. Parts of his eyebrows were hidden by his hair, and his pitch-black eyes felt like an abyss that could devour one's heart and soul even if they appeared to be calm at first glance, especially if one tried to gaze into them. Countless experts bowed their heads in terror and worry because they had tried to stare Yun Che in the eye.

"Devil Master!"

On the Soul Sky Warship, the Witches, the Soul Spirits and the Soul Attendants kneeled down and cried out his title respectfully.

When Yun Che took another step, the Moon Eaters and the profound practitioners of the Burning Moon Realm also kneeled on their flagship in deference and respect.

"Devil Master!"

When he reached the center of the road of darkness, it was the Yama Devils and Yama Ghosts' turn to kneel on their flagship.

Devil Master!"

Three flagships had escorted Yun Che. Three king realms had kneeled on the day of their master's coronation.

To the profound practitioners of the Northern Divine Region, it was an honor to be able to meet either one of the Witches, the Moon Eaters, or the Yama Devils to say the least. But to see them give their knees in the most deferential and respectful manner to a man most of them had never seen before in their lives...

To say that it was stunning would be the understatement of the century. Even the proud realm kings felt like they were dreaming right now.

Yun Che's pitch-black hair brushed against his handsome face. The dark gleam in his eyes and the occasional flash of power of the Eternal Calamity of Darkness only made him look and feel even more devilish than he already did.

The dark presence he inherited from the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor herself was something no being in the entire Northern Divine Region could resist. Wherever he went, dark clouds stilled and devils bowed their heads in fear. Their souls were trembling so much that they felt like dropping to their knees themselves.

Some distance away, Qianye Ying'er watched Yun Che and only Yun Che as he slowly made his way toward the front. Nothing else in the entire world mattered.

There was also a colorful figure hiding even further away behind the turbulent dark clouds. They didn't make a sound or attempt to get close to the scene.

"Royal father, it's him... it's really him."

Standing at the furthest corner of the Sacred Region was a woman in purple clothes. She was hugging her chest and staring at the man in the sky with a dazed expression on her face.

She was Dongfang Hanwei.

Eastern Frost was a small country in the East Ruins Realm. Normally, they didn't qualify to attend an occasion like this.

However, the East Ruins Realm was Yun Che's first stepping stone after joining the Northern Divine Region, and Eastern Frost was his first residence.

Chi Wuyao knew Yun Che's journey in the Northern Divine Region like the back of her hand. That was why she had sent an invitation to Eastern Frost, or more specifically the Eastern Frost Princess who made contact with Yun Che in the very beginning, Dongfang Hanwei.

The monarch of Eastern Frost could hardly describe how he was feeling as he looked at the man in the sky. He murmured to himself, "Our ancestors must be watching over us. Who would've thought that the man who rescued us was the Devil Master himself?"

Theirs was the country Yun Che chose to stay in when he first arrived in the Northern Divine Region and even lent a hand during their time of need. He could already imagine how that connection alone would completely change the future of his country. They might not rise all the way to the ninth heaven, but he doubted that anyone would dare to oppress them after today.

The Witches, the Moon Eaters, the Yama Devils... to her, they were "gods" that only existed in legends. They were beings she didn't even have the right to look up to. But now, they were all kneeling before the man who had once saved her life. Dongfang Hanwei stared at Yun Che and murmured in a daze, "Royal father... do you think he still remembers me?"

"..." The Eastern Frost Monarch gave her a pat on the shoulder before sighing quietly.

To Eastern Frost, it was the blessing of a lifetime to be able to meet Yun Che. But to Dongfang Hanwei... it might be the tribulation of a lifetime.

After all, how could one be satisfied with a simple body of water after they had witnessed the magnificent sea itself?

At another corner, there was another girl who was staring at the mighty man on the clouds in a daze. Unlike Dongfang Hanwei, she had eyes that looked like stars, and she was both smiling and crying at the same time.

Yun Shang was now eighteen years old and a young woman. Although she was still wearing a white, cloudy dress like before, her child-like innocence had faded away with age. Her dark blue hair was coiled into a flying immortal hairstyle, and her simple but elegant mannerisms gave her a transcendent appearance that somehow dissuaded people from having immoral thoughts about her. Rainbows danced in her eyes, and her smile looked as beautiful as lined jewels.

“Do you want to meet him, Shang’er?” Yun Ting asked her. He was as excited as he was confused by everything.

Everything that had happened back then almost felt like a dream today.

But Yun Shang shook her head, the swaying motion causing a small tear to escape her eyes. Still keeping her gaze fixed on the man in the sky, she said softly, “Not yet... but one day, one day, he will hear about me.”

It was her biggest dream, motivation, and desire in life.

“Don’t forget about our promise... when I grow up... when I find you again... I hope that your smile... won’t be as sad as it is now...”

Her eyes grew blurrier as she repeated the words she told Yun Che a long time ago.

Be it the denizens of the three king realms or the people of the Northern Divine Region, everyone was looking at Yun Che when he came to a stop as he arrived at the top of the Temple of Heaven. It was nine hundred and ninety nine levels tall, the tallest Temple of Heaven to ever be created in the history of the Northern Divine Region. No god emperor’s coronation had even come close to surpassing this.

Above the Temple of Heaven, Yun Che slowly turned around and observed the beings beneath his feet.

Was he a god emperor? No, he was above them. He was the first true Devil Master to enter the history of the Northern Divine Region.

There was no emotion behind his eyes, however. He looked so calm that staring at him felt like staring into a dark lake with bottomless depth.

I hadn’t wanted to become the master of anything, but fate wouldn’t grant me even my simple wish.

Now that I have become the master of darkness, why would I not engulf those filthy lands in darkness?

From this day onward, all lives in the Northern Divine Region are my tools and blade.

Blood, death, hate, fury, murder, terror, despair...

I will take back the peace I granted you all with my own hands hundreds and thousands of times over.

The God Realm I saved, the God Realm that took everything from me deserves nothing but a lightless hell!

Yan Tianxiao flew upward until he was around Yun Che’s waist level. Then, he declared in an imperious voice, “Che of Yun, a man only in his thirties, is the successor of the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor’s unparalleled bloodline and devil art. His devilish veins and power are extinct in this world, and his status is rivaled by none. He is the supreme gift the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor has left behind to us, the Northern Divine Region.”

“We, the Yama Devil Realm, Soul Stealing Realm, and Burning Moon Realm, bow before his power, virtue, and ambition. May the supreme Devil Master lead the three realms and the Northern Divine Region to greater heights!”

Yan Tianxiao waved a hand and raised the Heaven Offering Altar. An inscription appeared in front of Yun Che as well.

“Please enter the Heaven Offering Altar, Devil Master. Only the heavens and earth are worthy to bear witness to your unprecedented glory.”

But Yun Che didn't step forward as Yan Tianxiao said. He simply let out an indifferent chuckle and said, “Unnecessary. They are unworthy.”

It was only four words, but the boundless insolence that wouldn't tolerate even the heavens and earth was unmistakable.

Yun Che waved his hand, and the heaven offering inscription vanished immediately.

Rumble...

The dark clouds in the sky shook restlessly. For the longest time, a monarch of any stature who underwent a coronation had always asked for the protection and the witnessing of the heavenly way. It was the same across all planes and regions.

No one... not even the supremely arrogant god emperors had ever dared to offend the heavenly way. Until now.

Yan Tianxiao was stunned. The Soul Stealing Sacred Region was so silent that the sound of a pin hitting the ground could be heard.

To an outsider, Yun Che's arrogance was entirely too much.

But not Qianye Ying'er and Chi Wuyao. They knew... that the heavenly way truly was unworthy of Yun Che.

[Chapter 1702 - Supreme Devilish Might](#)

The heavens are unworthy.

The four words were engraved into the memories of everyone who witnessed the first ever devil master in the history of the Northern Divine Region.

Right now, the only emotion Yun Che's disrespect and arrogance toward the heavenly way induced in these people was worry.

But one day, they would understand the true meaning behind their devil master's words.

The coronation proceeded without the heaven offering ritual. When Yan Tianxiao finished a long speech, First Witch Jie Xin and Jie Ling flew up to Yun Che to drape a cloak with the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor's symbol on it across his shoulders, and slip a jade belt with black crystals around his waist.

Three devil orbs of varying intensity were sewn into the jade belt. They contained the origin devil aura of Soul Stealing, Yama Devil, and Burning Moon. It represented Yun Che's absolute control over the three king realms of the Northern Divine Region.

On the Soul Sky Warship, Chi Wuyao raised her palms and lifted a crown engraved with ancient devilish patterns with her power. It was shaped in the same fashion as the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor's crown in the ancient records, and its devilish might had changed the sky itself when the crown was fully formed.

Chi Wuyao was supposed to put the crown on Yun Che's head, but she suddenly turned toward Qianye Ying'er and said, "Yun Qianying, why don't you be the one to crown him?"

"Me?" Qianye Ying'er shot her a sideways look. "Is that a joke?"

Chi Wuyao smiled at her. "He has already skipped one rule. What does it matter if he skips another one?"

"You are the one who stayed by his side every step of the way until today. You are his companion, his guide, his motivator, and his witness. If we were to do away with the social norms, then there is no one who is more suitable than you to crown him."

A complicated look overcame Qianye Ying'er's features, but Chi Wuyao gave her no time to hesitate. She put the crown in her hands and said, "This is an important moment in his life; a turning point in his fate. Are you sure you want to leave it in another woman's hands?"

Qianye Ying'er shot Chi Wuyao a long look before finally accepting it. Then, she flew into the air and landed next Yun Che before everyone's eyes.

She hadn't shown her face, but her figure was still as beautiful as a fantasy.

The crowns of all the god emperors in the Northern Divine Region had nine tassels and nine jewels on them, but Yun Che's crown had twelve tassels and jewels in total. It was unprecedented in the history of the Northern Divine Region.

It was one of the many designs in this coronation ceremony Chi Wuyao had attended to personally.

In fact, she had involved herself in every preparation that was related to Yun Che in any way.

Some time long ago, Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er had fallen into the abyss of darkness and transformed into monsters of vengeance. Today, they had finally taken their first step toward the vengeance of their dreams.

Qianye Ying'er raised her arms and stared at the man who was the center of attention of billions of people. Feeling his even but warm breath, she gently—very gently—put the crown that represented a turning point in his and the Northern Divine Region's fate on his head.

The crown was applied, and the devil master came to be. Yan Tianxiao dropped to his knees and declared loudly, "Your Magnificence!"

Everyone from the three king realms be it on the profound ships or the Sacred Region dropped to their knees and bowed their heads deeply.

"Your Magnificence!"

"Your Magnificence!"

“Your Magnificence!”

Nearly all of the king realms’ core forces were here. They represented the absolute core of the Northern Divine Region, and their loud, soul shattering declaration of deference caused all the realm kings and the rulers inside and outside the Sacred Region to drop to their knees as well.

After all, how could they stand when even the three king realms were on their knees?

Yan Tianxiao still didn’t stand when the declaration of deference was over. He continued, “The Devil Master is the incarnation of the Devil Emperor. The Northern Divine Region’s fate is sure to change for the better with his presence.”

“I, Yan Tianxiao, the Yama Devil God Emperor, and the Yama Devil Realm, are willing to bear the Devil Emperor’s blessing, obey my ancestors’ will, and serve the Devil Master for eternity. The Devil Master’s order is the one absolute order. The Devil Master’s will is the will of a lifetime. If we ever defy our oath, may the heavens smite us where we stand!”

Back then, Yan Tianxiao had submitted to Yun Che only because he was forced to. His declaration had been so reluctant that he nearly crushed his own teeth to pieces. But now, his declaration was loud and wholehearted. Everyone from the highest realm king to the lowest mortal could hear the determination behind his oath.

He was once the strongest god emperor of the Northern Divine Region. He, out of all people, should hate being the subordinate of another being the most. But not only did he swear his loyalty to Yun Che before all the living beings of the Northern Divine Region, the oath he swore was about as determined as it could get.

Naturally, everyone including the denizens of the Yama Devil Realm was stunned by their god emperor’s unbelievable declaration.

It wasn’t like Yan Tianxiao had dropped to his knees before Yun Che immediately. The change had happened slowly and gradually after Yun Che had annihilated his common sense again and again. Of course, since most of these people hadn’t gone through what he went through, they couldn’t even begin to understand his decision or drastic change in behavior.

Not that their understanding mattered to him in the slightest. He was the Yama Emperor, and he didn’t need another person’s “understanding” to make his decisions!

That still wasn’t the biggest reason behind his change, however. The reason he changed so completely was because the arrival of Yun Che reignited the hope he thought he had buried in the dark a long time ago... the hope, to alter his fate.

When Yun Che first came to the Northern Divine Region, he learned from Qianye Ying’er that besides the ambitious Devil Queen of the Soul Stealing Realm, the other two king realms were perfectly content to enjoy their statuses as king realms and hole up in their prison of darkness forever.

It wasn’t like they had never thought to escape their prison. They simply lacked the power to change their fates. Forget the three Divine Regions combined, any one of the three Divine Regions could’ve destroyed them like they were nothing.

It was why even Chi Wuyao, the bearer of a Devil Emperor's soul, had never truly set her plans in action despite having observed the entire Eastern Divine Region through Mu Xuanyin's eyes for ten thousand years.

But Yun Che's arrival gave them hope... and it wasn't even a small hope that might be snuffed out at any moment.

No one wanted to be locked up in a prison of darkness forever. No one wanted their descendants to be locked up in an ever-shrinking prison that was doomed to disappear eventually either.

After being oppressed for countless years, after he saw real hope to overturn the dark fate that had been choking his people for generations... Yan Tianxiao was willing to give up his whole life to fuel it.

Fen Daoqi, the first person in Burning Moon Realm to "submit" to Yun Che, was the same.

On the Burning Moon Warship, the group of Moon Eaters and Burning Moon Divine Envoys led by Fen Daoqi also swore their oath of loyalty to Yun Che:

"The people of the Northern Divine Region as our witness, we, the Burning Moon Realm, swear by our souls to serve the Devil Master for eternity. If we ever defy our oaths, may we suffer eternal tribulations and eternal death!"

On the Soul Sky Warship, Chi Wuyao said in a chilly voice, "Starting today, the Soul Stealing Realm swears to serve the Devil Master loyally. The Devil Master's will is the Mandate of Heaven, and the Devil Master's enemy... is our sworn enemy!"

Her oath was a lot softer than the previous two god emperors, but her last four words still made some people feel like they had dropped suddenly into a frigid hell.

The dark projection the three king realms worked together to create was bigger than anything that had ever existed in history.

It was far, far clearer than even the Star God Projection that happened during the Profound God Convention of the Eastern Divine Region.

Therefore, the oaths sworn by the three king realms had truly happened before all of the Northern Divine Region.

"Rise." Yun Che stared indifferently toward the front and spoke.

At the same time, his consciousness swept across the Soul Sky Warship for a moment. All the Witches were present except the Seventh Witch, Hua Jin.

She was infiltrating the Eastern Divine Region and taking the first step to boost their momentum and prepare his revenge while his coronation was ongoing.

Yan Tianxiao finally rose to his feet and floated toward the ground. After sweeping a glance across the proud warriors of the Northern Divine Region, he said, "Today is the day of our Devil Master's coronation and the beginning of a new era of the Northern Divine Region!"

“For the longest time, the Northern Divine Region has been trapped by a terrible fate. There was only infinite chaos, sin, and despair in these dark lands, and we weren’t able to fulfill our responsibilities as rulers of the Northern Divine Region and change the dark fate of our world.”

“But what we couldn’t do, our Devil Master can. That is why the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor has given him to us. That is why we swore to serve the Devil Master forever!”

Yan Tianxiao stared at the people beneath his feet as the pressure emanating from his body grew so heavy that it was like a physical thing hammering against everyone’s chest and heart. He said in an incredibly low tone, “Now, I ask all of you: will you serve the Devil Master loyally alongside us and find a new hope for the land beneath your feet!?”

He sounded like he was questioning, but it was really an order that couldn’t be refuted.

The Soul Stealing Sacred Region was shockingly silent.

Logically speaking, anyone who took over the three king realms might as well have taken over the entire Northern Divine Region itself.

From the moment Yun Che took over the three king realms, the will of all other star realms no longer mattered in the slightest. These monarchs and sovereigns weren’t here because they wanted to be. They weren’t even here to witness a coronation, at least not entirely.

They were here because the three king realms “invited” them! To force them to declare their stance!

One king realm was hard enough to refuse, but three of them together? Was defiance ever a word in the dictionary?

Yan Tianxiao abruptly looked to his side where several groups of people had occupied the foremost seats after he was done speaking.

It was where the people of the three strongest star realms behind the Northern Divine Region king realms—the Imperial Heaven Realm, the Desolate Calamity Realm, and the Divine Python Realm—were gathered. The realm kings of all three realms, Tian Muyi, Huo Tianxing, and Great Viper Sage were present as well.

Words couldn’t begin to describe how shocked and complicated they felt since the start of this coronation ceremony.

The last time they saw Yun Che was at the Heavenly Sovereign Assembly in the Imperial Heaven Realm.

It had only been less than a year since that day, but Yun Che was standing above the nine heavens and the king realms already!

Every realm king followed Yan Tianxiao’s gaze to stare at the three realm kings. They were the only ones who had any real say in the Northern Divine Region besides the three king realms.

However, they were currently enduring an unprecedented amount of pressure behind their backs. The three king realms against all reason had united as one to force them into obeying their command, no matter how ridiculous or impossible it sounded... did they really have the power or even the courage to question it?

The three realm kings exchanged a glance with each other. They all saw the indescribable pools of emotion in each other's eyes.

"Wait."

Suddenly, Yun Che spoke again and shattered the suffocating silence in an instant. He waved a hand, and Yan Tianxiao's imperious pressure vanished into nothing.

Yan Tianxiao looked surprised, but he didn't question the Devil Master's order. He simply bowed his head and stepped back.

Yun Che walked into the full view of everyone, his pitch-black eyes staring straight toward the front. He said in a low tone, "I'm sure you're all thinking about something like this right now: this so-called 'Devil Master' is a denizen of the Eastern Divine Region, and it has only been several years since he came to the Northern Divine Region. He hasn't done anything for our people, nor has he built up any notable power to speak of. On what basis should we allow someone like him to be the supreme ruler of the Northern Divine Region?"

"Moreover, he's only thirty years old or so, a 'junior' at best in the profound way. Even his cultivation level is only at level eight Divine Sovereign. Why should we make him the first ever Northern Region Devil Master and let him command us?"

"Some of you might even have thought a step further: maybe this so-called 'Devil Master' is just a puppet. Maybe the three king realms have put him on the pedestal so that they could gain even greater control over the Northern Divine Region."

Yun Che's indifferent words hit everyone's nerves like a hammer.

They were all staring at him in astonishment because he had spoken exactly what they were thinking.

He was an Eastern Divine Region denizen, a man in his thirties, and a Divine Sovereign... indeed, how could someone like him become the Devil Master who stands above even the three king realms?

Although it was rumored that he was the successor of the Devil Emperor and a profound practitioner who could unleash the power of the true gods... rumors were ultimately just rumors.

Even if they were true, it still didn't explain how he managed to win the hearts of the three king realms to this extent in such a short time.

It was impossible no matter how you thought about it.

Right now, the word that appeared most frequently in everyone's heads was without a doubt, "puppet".

However, they didn't expect him to reveal this "fact" so bluntly.

"Heh." Yun Che chuckled, his disdain evident for everyone to see. He looked up slightly and spread his words to every corner of the Northern Divine Region. "In that case, I will show you all why I am the Devil Master!"

BOOM

Profound energy erupted from Yun Che's body like an abyssal thunder. Heretic Soul, Burning Heart, Purgatory, Rumbling Heaven, Hell Monarch—he activated all five Heretic God Gates in one go.

His profound aura turned as red as blood. Although his cultivation level was still that of a level eight Divine Sovereign, the terrifying pressure that encompassed all of the Soul Stealing Sacred Region told a completely different story.

The burst of power that tore apart the northern region profound practitioners' common sense like paper. Countless eyeballs nearly fell out of their sockets and hit the ground.

But the dumbfounded people had no idea that this was just the beginning.

When the Heretic God's power reached its maximum limit, Yun Che slowly closed his eyes and spread his arms wide. His long black hair was dancing majestically behind his head even though there was no wind around him.

His eyes, his skin, even his hair glowed deeper and deeper with darkness.

It was the absolute light of the devil of the Eternal Calamity of Darkness.

Rumble!

The dark clouds covering the sky suddenly churned chaotically. Light was swiftly fading from the earth.

Countless pupils contracted into needles, countless nerves tensed up like a taut string, and countless hearts beat wildly like a drum.

It was because an all-encompassing, devilish power was descending from the sky.

When the power manifested itself into existence, the breath was squeezed out of the lungs of every dark profound practitioner within its vicinity. But before they could even begin to compose themselves, it started growing at a mad rate that exceeded the recognition of any god emperor, any common sense, and the endurance limit of any profound practitioner...

Rumble rumble rumble RUMBLE RUMBLE

Light faded into darkness, and the black clouds began to tremble more and more... it was to the point where they felt like the lifeless objects were actually wailing in terror.

That wasn't all. The quake spread to the Soul Stealing Sacred Region and every space of darkness beneath the sky. It wasn't even a release of power; it was just the natural pressure of the thing that had engulfed the whole sky.

"Wh... what... was that?!"

Tian Muyi, the strongest realm king of the Northern Divine Region after the king realms, opened his mouth so wide that the edges of his lips threatened to split apart.

He thought he knew Yun Che better than most after witnessing the impossible change that overcame Tian Guhu, but the devilish might that dropped from the sky out of nowhere still shocked him so much that he could have a heart attack.

All around him, the experts of the Imperial Heaven Realm and the nearby Huo Tianxing and Great Viper Sage were also trembling before the greatest fright of their lives.

The impossible might that threatened to crush their bodies and souls like lightning had everything they knew about darkness like a hammer. They felt like their lives were in the devilish hands of a True Devil of the past. The fear that took hold of their bodies and shook them like a leaf completely transcended all logic and belief.

Crack!

A devastating thunder cut through the sky when two clouds knocked into one another.

However, the heavenly thunder sounded fearful... or even pitiful before this devilish might.

By now, the churning dark clouds were just meters away from Yun Che's hair. He could probably touch them with his bare hands if they descended any further.

Crimson patterns started manifesting on his body and face. It wasn't the devilish mark he had gained ever since he had successfully cultivated the middle stage of Eternal Calamity of Darkness, nor the devilish patterns of his robes and crown.

This was also the first time he had unleashed the art in full force.

The Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor was the first ever devil created by the Ancestor God. Her Eternal Calamity of Darkness was the progenitor, the pinnacle, and even the origin of all darkness in the world.

All devils are but ants before the Eternal Calamity of Darkness.

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE...

At this point, it was impossible to tell if the heavenly way was roaring in anger or wailing in fear.

Just like everyone else, Yan Tianxiao's pupils were shrinking into needles, and his lips were trembling uncontrollably. He slowly bent his waist until his knees hit the ground... this time, he kneeled not because he was swearing his loyalty or obeying a custom, but because he felt reverence from the bottom of his soul.

He had witnessed the terror that was Yun Che many times before today, but it was only now he realized that those demonstrations were nowhere close to the absolute limit of the Devil Master.

Yan Tianxiao kneeled. The Yama Devils kneeled. The Moon Eaters kneeled. The Witches kneeled...

One by one, faster than their minds could react, the realm kings and the dark profound practitioners kneeled beneath the feet of Devil Master Yun Che and trembled in fear.

As the world grew darker and darker, they realized that they weren't just witnessing the birth of a Devil Master. It was the descent of an ancient devil god that would destroy the world.

[Chapter 1703 - Eternal Gift](#)

Countless dark projections were still displaying what was happening in the Soul Stealing Sacred Region. Every profound practitioner in the Northern Divine Region was staring at the churning black clouds, the

kneeling devils, and the one and only Devil Master who reigned above them and the ground beneath their feet.

It was just a projection, but their energy was raging and their souls were trembling. Everyone was overflowing with the impulse to kneel on the ground and worship Yun Che.

RUMBLE

The seemingly infinite dark clouds were still converging in one place. Soon, the entire Soul Stealing Realm was covered in dark clouds.

Yun Che looked up at the dark clouds that churned like giant waves. A savage, ridiculing smile slowly appeared on his face.

The heavenly way? Heh!

What did I get when I obeyed my fate and saved the entire God Realm?

What could the heavenly way do now that I am the Devil Master who swore to defy all of its rules?

Crack!

The dark clouds continued to run into each other, and the rumblings alone were terrible enough to quake one's soul. But it never tried to strike down Yun Che, the absolute heretic that exceeded the laws of the heavenly way itself.

Back when Yun Che was about to enter the Divine Spirit Realm, the heavenly way had tried to wipe him from the surface of the earth using tribulation lightning.

But it wasn't able to hurt Yun Che in the slightest even though it poured everything it had into the punishment. Yun Che had even absorbed the energy of the lightning strike and converted it into his own power.

Now that Yun Che had grown into a true calamity of the world, the heavenly way could do nothing but quake in terror and helplessness.

Yun Che's gaze slowly traveled back to the ground. No one was standing be it inside or outside the Sacred Region. Most of them were bowing deeply and shaking visibly.

For the first time, the Divine Kings, Divine Sovereigns, and even Divine Masters felt that they were as insignificant as a speck of dust.

They were inferior in terms of bloodline, aura, power... and the gap between them could fill up entire worlds.

The living beings weren't the only ones who were trembling in submission. Even the devil artifacts some of them were carrying were vibrating in fear and submission.

The complete release of Eternal Calamity of Darkness stunned not just the entire Northern Divine Region, but also the three king realms who had already sworn loyalty to him.

Yun Che lowered his arm. The devilish patterns faded away, and the dark light was withdrawn back into his body.

The all-encompassing power vanished into nothing, and light returned to the world once more.

The people looked up as if they had just woken up from a dream. Although the power was gone, their profound veins and souls were still shaking in fear. They couldn't control their reaction no matter how hard they tried to calm themselves down.

Yun Che—the man who looked like the shadow of a primordial True Devil—was engraved into every Northern Divine Region profound practitioner's soul today. It was a dark mark they would never forget.

“Rise.”

Unlike his earlier display of power, the indifferent command sounded perfectly normal. However, as if the mark that was just engraved into the soul had flared into life, the Northern Divine Region profound practitioners felt a deep reverence taking control of their bodies from the inside out. They rose to their feet almost unconsciously. In fact, some of them only just realized that they had dropped to their knees earlier.

They finally understood why the three king realms had chosen submission.

They had witnessed, no, felt with their own bodies the Devil Master's right to command all of them.

At the front, the realm kings of the Imperial Heaven Realm, the Desolate Calamity Realm, and the Divine Python Realm were all covered in cold sweat. The fear and respect that was suffocating their souls was many times greater than when they were facing a God Emperor.

Bang!

Tian Muyi had just gotten to his feet due to Yun Che's command, but he immediately dropped to one knee again and said, “The Devil Master's truly mighty and powerful like never before. It is as if you are the incarnation of the Devil Emperor herself. The Imperial Heaven Realm... vows to obey the Devil Master and pledges their loyalty to you.”

After what they had all experienced earlier, no one was surprised that he would make such a declaration.

Huo Tianxing and the Great Viper Sage hurriedly followed in Tianmu Yi's footsteps and tried to swear loyalty to Yun Che, but an indifferent chuckle cut off their movement before they could even bend their waists.

“Heh. Why? Why do you obey, and why do you pledge your loyalty to me?”

Huo Tianxing and Great Viper Sage froze in their tracks. Tian Muyi looked puzzled and confused as well. He didn't understand why the Devil Master would ask such a thing.

Wasn't it natural for the weak to obey the strong? Wasn't that reason enough?

“You are only submitting now because you are forced to; because you are afraid of my power. As I mentioned earlier, I was only displaying my right to rule over this land. Why should I have loyalty when I haven’t done anything for you?”

“...” Tian Muyi and all the Imperial Heaven Realm profound practitioners were stunned by his words. They weren’t able to say anything for a time.

“Heh.” Yun Che let out another chuckle and glanced at them. “Well, since you are the first to submit to me, I shall grant you a reason to be loyal to me.”

He held up a palm facing toward the Imperial Heaven Realm profound practitioners. Then, a devilish light appeared from it and started moving toward them.

All thirty representatives of the Imperial Heaven Realm shuddered when they saw the incoming light. They subconsciously wanted to defend themselves until they heard Tian Guhu’s voice beside their ears. “Royal father, seniors, do not resist!”

They immediately restrained themselves and allowed the devilish light to invade their bodies. A few breaths later, the light was gone.

For a time, Tian Muyi and his people looked dumbstruck by something. Then, they moved in eerie unison and started examining their palms, their hands, their torsos, their feet... it was almost as if they were trying to confirm that their bodies were still theirs.

Thump!

Suddenly, Tian Muyi dropped to both knees and bent his body all the way to ground level. Earlier when he swore his loyalty to Yun Che, he had kept his back straight even after dropping to one knee. But now, his face was millimeters away from kissing the icy ground. He shouted loudly, “Tian Muyi thanks the Devil Master for his unparalleled gift! Tian Muyi and the Imperial Heaven Realm are willing to serve the Devil Master as his eternal servants! If we ever break our oath, may we drop into the devil’s abyss forever!”

Huo Tianxing and Great Viper Sage looked stunned. All the other realm kings looked stunned as well.

Not only was Tian Muyi’s declaration several times louder than before, his voice was reverberating with incomprehensible agitation. He looked like he might dig out his own heart and show the Devil Master the depths of his loyalty and determination.

Behind him, all the Imperial Heaven Realm representatives had dropped to both their knees as well. Just like Tian Muyi, they were on the ground and shouting loudly, “Thank you for your gift, Devil Master! We are willing to serve you as your eternal servants! If we ever break our oaths, may we drop into the devil’s abyss forever!”

Everyone in the Northern Divine Region was stunned by their display.

Tian Muyi was the strongest realm king behind the king realms, so he was expected to be the first to stand up and declare his stance. However, he hadn’t bent his back or dialed down his pride even though he feared and respected the Devil Master.

But after Yun Che had enveloped him and his people in that black light for several breaths, their attitude suddenly changed drastically. The agitation in their voices, the shiver in their throats, their submissive posture and the ruthless oath that damned them to an eternity in the abyss if they ever broke it...

Knowing how proud Tian Muyi was, he shouldn't act like this even if his ancestors suddenly came back to life and jumped out of their coffins to greet him.

"What... what's going on?" Huo Tianxing was the first person to voice his confusion.

In the sky, Yan Tianxiao answered his question imperiously, "That, is the perfect compatibility to darkness the Devil Master grants using the Eternal Calamity of Darkness, the most supreme darkness art of them all."

"His power transformed their imperfect bodies into true devil bodies. The power of darkness will never backfire on them any longer. Their lifespans will increase greatly as a result. Their control over darkness profound energy and their cultivation speed has become many times greater than before. Some bottlenecks one may encounter when cultivating a high level devil art may no longer exist as well."

"Besides that, they no longer have to rely on their surroundings to use the power of darkness. They can leave the Northern Divine Region, and the effects it has on their control, power, and recovery speed will almost be almost non-existent!"

Every time Yan Tianxiao spoke, the Northern Region profound practitioners felt like a thunderbolt had struck right beside their ears. Everything he said sounded like a dream straight out of a fantasy.

His next words shattered their common sense even more..

"Finally, this blessing is permanent, and it can be passed down to future generations."

In other words, the blessing of the Eternal Calamity of Darkness was a gift that could theoretically be passed to the next generation forever.

Yan Tianxiao himself was hiding the turmoil in his heart even though he was the one who was explaining things to everyone.

Just a month ago, when Yun Che had given the gift of perfect compatibility to the Yama Devils and Yama Ghosts, he had been rather careful and methodical. He rarely blessed more than one person at a time, and he always had a cautious expression on his face.

But today, he had leisurely blessed thirty or so people at once with a casual wave of his hand and completed the transformation in just two breaths.

In the ancient records, Eternal Calamity of Darkness was supposed to be a devil art that only the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor could cultivate. So it was incredible how quickly Yun Che was progressing through the art!

A thought that shocked Yan Tianxiao himself crossed his mind: Even the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor herself couldn't have learned her own art this quickly, could she?

It had only been three years since Yun Che started cultivating the Eternal Calamity of Darkness, but he had already mastered the middle stage of the art.

If Jie Yuan hadn't left the Primal Chaos, she would've been shocked by Yun Che's progress as well.

There were two reasons behind his terrifying cultivation speed. One, he was special in a way not even he himself could understand completely. Two, he had the perfect incubator, Qianye Ying'er.

When Yan Tianxiao was finished, he was greeted with dead silence.

Not only did this "gift" sound too good to be true, it completely transcended everything they knew about their very existence. If even half of what he said was true, it would be heresy to call it something as common as a "gift".

"I... i... i... is it true?" The Great Viper Sage and Huo Tianxing affixed their stares on Tian Muyi. They just couldn't bring themselves to believe what they had heard even though a god emperor himself had declared it to them.

Tianmu Yi raised his hand and summoned a flash of black light. The unique aura that belonged to the Imperial Heaven Realm profound practitioners enveloped everyone within fifty kilometers for an instant before vanishing completely.

"!!" The pupils of Huo Tianxing, the Great Viper Sage, and every other Divine Master realm king contracted like needles. They lost control of even their souls for a time.

"I am the Devil Master. It is my duty to bless all the devils who serve me," Yun Che said indifferently. "Since the Imperial Heaven Realm is willing to serve me, I promise to bless all your profound practitioners who are above Divine Spirit Realm. Besides that, you may also select ten thousand talented profound practitioners below six hundred years old to accept my blessing as well."

Countless eyeballs stretched to the tearing point, and countless jaws hit the floor almost in unison. Everyone who was watching the projection in the Imperial Heaven Realm dropped to their knees immediately.

Tianmu Yi felt his blood surge to his brain again. He finally understood why Tiangu Hu respected Yun Che to the extent he did. Kowtowing to Yun Che again, he declared, "The Devil Master's gift is as almost great as that of the parents who brought me into this world. A gift that stretches ten thousand generations can only be repaid by ten thousand lifetimes."

"From this day onward, every living being in the Imperial Heaven Realm swears to serve the Devil Master to their dying breaths. Your orders are absolute, your words are the Mandate of Heaven, and your enemies are our sworn enemies!"

Some time ago, he couldn't understand why the supreme king realms had revered Yun Che to the extent they did... now, both his attitude and his oath were countless times more exaggerated than the king realms'.

There was absolutely no reason to hesitate. Behind the Imperial Heaven Realm, all the profound practitioners of the Desolate Calamity Realm and the Divine Python Realm followed their realm kings' initiative and dropped to their knees. Everyone was doing their utmost to display their reverence, excitement, desire, and sincerity.

Their oaths were even more exaggerated than the Imperial Heaven Realm's.

“Very good.”

Yun Che praised them and extended his palm again. This time, his light enveloped a total of fifty four powerful darkness profound practitioners; the core forces of two major star realms. Again, he completed the transformation in just two breaths’ time.

Some of the onlookers were still confused by the transformed’s exaggerated reactions. After all, all they saw was Yun Che showering them with a bit of dark profound light. Even if everything the Yama Emperor claimed was true, how could something that took so little effort and time to cast have possibly wrought enough change to induce this much reaction?

Only those who had experienced the Devil Masters’ blessing themselves could understand what kind of miracle he pulled in just two short breaths.

Their shock and excitement quickly turned into a million times the respect and reverence.

A power rivaled by no one, a miracle that took no effort to cast, and a gift... that lasted for eternity.

All their doubts and puzzlement vanished in a puff of smoke.

[Chapter 1704 - Devil Seed](#)

When the representatives of the three strongest star realms positively pounced at the chance to become Yun Che’s lapdog, when tears of gratitude literally started pouring down some of their faces, it was no longer a matter of willingness, but of qualification.

“Your Magnificence!”

A respectful but resounding cry cut through the air. A group of people entered the Soul Sealing Sacred Region before kneeling solemnly beneath Yun Che’s feet.

The leader of the group was none other than Tian Guhu himself.

He was accompanied by almost a hundred young profound practitioners, every one of them a famous Divine Sovereign in their own right.

It was because they were all on the Northern Region Heavenly Sovereign Ranking! Every last one of them was here, unless the dead were counted as well.

Meanwhile, the higher realm kings were shocked to see Tian Guhu.

That was because he was brimming with the power of a Divine Master... no! It wasn’t just that! His terrifying aura marked him as a late Stage Divine Master, a profound practitioner who was comparable to the Witches, the Yama Devils and the Moon Eaters!

A wide-eyed Imperial Heaven Elder could barely squeeze out his exclamation of shock. “Guhu, your... your power...”

“Nineteenth Uncle, my new power was granted by the Devil Master himself,” Tian Guhu replied politely.

Tian Muyi had been keeping Tian Guhu's jump from level seven Divine Sovereign to level eight Divine Master a secret for obvious reasons. Even in the Imperial Heaven Realm itself, only a handful of people were made aware of his transformation.

Therefore, when Tian Guhu made his appearance and announced the reason behind his transformation, they were shocked to say the least.

Tian Guhu looked up and said, "We, the representatives of the younger generation of the Northern Divine Sovereign, are called 'Heavenly Sovereigns'. However, we have never lived up to our titles. We wish to repay the land that gave birth to us, but our people were too busy fighting each other for their own profit to ever come under a worthy cause. As a result of internal strife, there was never a place we could devote our energy and ambitions to."

"The darkness is the cage, and the devil people are the prisoners. That is how the rest of the world views the Northern Divine Region. However, the true cage that kept us in has never been the darkness that fuels us; the three Divine Regions who have hated us since the beginning of time, are! We have never done anything wrong against them, and yet they hated us and wanted nothing more than to eradicate us to the last, just because we are born with dark bodies and cultivate darkness profound energy! As a result, we couldn't even cross the boundaries of our world without fearing for our lives!"

"Worse, more and more people have given up on hope and surrendered themselves to their cage completely. Not only have they lost their flames of anger and rebellion, they even turned their fangs toward their own kind."

Tian Guhu sounded both sad and furious. Every word he said struck a chord in the souls who had been oppressed since ancient times.

"But now, the Devil Emperor has blessed us with the Devil Master, and his power is beyond anything that has ever been recorded in the history of the Northern Divine Region. He has given us a new lease on life and a boon that will last for eternity."

The more he spoke, the more agitated he became. Tears were even starting to well in his eyes. "The time to change the fate of the Northern Divine Region is now! The Devil Master will guide us to a whole new era!"

He bowed his head deeply and cried out in a tearful but passionate voice. "We ask that the Devil Master leads us beyond this damnable cage and change our eternal fates once and for all! Our body as the sword and our blood as the guide, we swear to pave the path to freedom even if we have to die a million times to achieve our cause!"

Every Heavenly Sovereign brought with him bowed their heads as well.

Tian Guhu's reputation among the younger generation of the Northern Divine Region truly was second to none.

His heartfelt plea went straight into the core of every profound practitioner, especially the younger generation.

Staring down at Tian Guhu from above, Yun Che said, “Your ambition does match your namesake, ‘Lonely Swan’. It is definitely true that the Northern Divine Region is a sorrowful cage that has entrapped the profound practitioners of the dark for millions of years.”

“However, as you said earlier, a civil war like never before is tearing the Northern Divine Region apart, and we are less united than even a sheet of loose sand.”

“Not only are we not united as one, our strength is nowhere near the level of the Eastern, Western and Southern Divine Regions. With that in mind, how can we possibly break through the cage that entraps us all?”

Yun Che’s cold, unfeeling words cooled everyone’s blood like a pail of icy water... and no one was denying because they knew it to be the truth.

Tian Guhu froze in confusion. He didn’t know what to say.

Yun Che continued. “I am the Devil Master. To me, the stability of the Northern Divine Region comes first before anything.”

“Therefore, all the fates and grudges of the past before today have nothing to do with me.”

Yun Che slowly extended his hand with his palm facing downward. A flash of black light caused everyone’s vision to blur for a second. It was as if he had the entire Northern Divine Region in his palm at that moment.

“Starting today, I will write a new chapter in the history of the Northern Divine Region. I will use the power the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor granted me to restructure our order, amend our laws and bring happiness to all living in the Northern Region.”

“We will not break the cage by force before all civil wars have been quelled, and all the realms have been restored to stability. A thoughtless rebellion driven by nothing but a surge of passion will only result in a waste of lives and new enemies we did not ask for.”

“However...” Yun Che’s tone abruptly dropped several degrees lower, and the black gleam in his eyes shone like a pair of pitch black abysses that would devour everything. “I can stomach a civil war, but not an invasion from a foreign power!”

“For now, we will be assuming a non-aggressive stance toward all our enemies. But if someone dares to bring the fight to us...”

BOOM!

Yun Che crushed the dark light in his hands, and the resulting explosion felt like it had taken place in everyone’s hearts. As his voice grew darker and darker, he said, “Heed my oath, people of the Northern Divine Region. Be it the Eastern, Western, or Southern Divine Region, I will make anyone who dares to attack us pay a hundred times over for their transgression!”

The heat that just died down in their blood due to cold, chilling reality started boiling several times greater than before.

There was no Northern Region profound practitioner who didn't hate, fear and feel powerless toward the three Divine Regions since time immemorial. Even the profound practitioners of the three king realms didn't dare to step out of their cage without careful preparation.

No one with unparalleled power had ever made such a ruthless, irrevocable statement regarding the three Divine Regions until today.

Tian Guhu shivered. He was an intelligent man, so he immediately realized what was going on and declared, "Your words are most enlightening, Devil Master. As you command, we shall bring peace and order back to the Northern Divine Region. However... if the three Divine Regions dares to bring their oppression to us, then the men of the Northern Region will answer the call to arms and pave the path to retribution! We will not back down no matter what!"

"That's right!" Yan Tianxiao said solemnly, "The Northern Divine Region has been oppressed for far too long already. We fear no oppression now that the Devil Master is with us!"

"Besides..." Yan Tianxiao extended his hand and brought his light devouring powers to existence. "Thanks to the Devil Master, our powers are nothing like they were before. We can now unleash our full power even after we leave the Northern Divine Region."

"Therefore, we no longer have anything to fear even if the three Divine Regions try to eradicate us once more. Give us the order, and every man in the Northern Region with blood still beating in their heart will bare our fangs at our enemies until death takes us all!"

The words injected life into every body and every soul who heard this.

For a time, the Soul Stealing Sacred Region, no, the entire Northern Divine Region was drowned by endless cheer.

Starting this moment, they no longer felt humbled before the three Divine Regions. Their fear was replaced by boiling hot passion, and it was as if their enemies were no longer scary as long as they had the Devil Master.

Yun Che hadn't gone with Tian Guhu's idea and stroked the hatred of the people past the point of no return. Instead, he went the opposite direction and declared that he would wipe the slate clean and assume a non-aggression principle... However, anyone who dared to challenge them will also be met with merciless retaliation.

He didn't stroke the flames of hatred and impulse, but he did bury a seed of fire in the hearts of every Northern Divine Region profound practitioner.

The build up would be slow and steady, but when they were ignited by a source they didn't expect, the resulting fire of the devils might just be enough to devour the heavens itself.

As the first ever Devil Master in the history of the Northern Divine Region, his coronation should only have resulted in countless accusations, suspicions, fears, anxieties, and unpredictable chaos.

Instead, what actually took place was a level of worshipping and reverence like never before.

It was because everyone could feel in their bones, the possibility that the Devil Master might actually be able to open up a whole new chapter in the fate of the Northern Divine Region.

The coronation ceremony lasted seven days in total. What followed afterward was the queen's coronation.

The empress of the Devil Master was none other than Chi Wuyao, the Devil Queen of the Soul Stealing Realm herself. Officially, her responsibility was to support the Devil Master in foreign matters.

At the same time, a rather special rumor started breaking out across the Western Divine Region.

Eternal Heaven God Realm.

Zhou Xuzi had gone into secluded cultivation ever since Zhou Qingchen's passing. He always turned down any request to meet him even when the messenger was from another king realm.

Everyone in the Eternal Heaven Realm was aware that he was mourning the death of his son. No one, not even Honorable Tai Yu, the one person who knew everything had dared to disturb him.

But not today. When Honorable Tai Yu entered Zhou Xuzi's dwelling to speak with him urgently, the latter looked up and asked,

"What is it?"

The man looked like he had aged several thousand years even though it had only been several months since he went into secluded cultivation. His eyes and words all carried a weight that seemed heavy enough to suffocate a person where they stood.

Honorable Tai Yu walked toward him and said in a low voice, "Rumors about you entering the Northern Divine Region have been spreading as of late."

"...!" Zhou Xuzi's gaze immediately grew focused. "Where did it come from?"

"It started at a lower star realm to the north of the Western Divine Region. It is situated closely to the Northern Divine Region and the Eastern Divine Region," Honorable Tai Yu said seriously. "The rumor started not long after you entered the Northern Divine Region, and..."

"And what?" Zhou Xuzi pressed when he caught the hesitation in Honorable Tai Yu's features.

Honorable Tai Yu let out a small sigh before continuing, "There have also been rumors that Qingchen has died in the Northern Divine Region, and not because he suffered a backfire while attempting to break through a bottleneck... adding that to the rumors that Qingchen had been in 'secluded cultivation' during that time, there were even people deducing that he might've transformed into a devil person prior to his death."

Bang!

Energy whipped across Zhou Xuzi's hair, and the profound jade beneath his feet shattered into pieces. His entire body was shaking with fury.

"How... did the rumor come to be?" Zhou Xuzi forced himself to calm down.

"We don't know," Honorable Tai Yu said. "I was watching the borders at the time, and I'm very sure that no one sneaked up on us during that time. But... after Qingchen was killed, you flew into a rage and

attacked the Devil Queen, causing quite a bit of disturbance. It's practically impossible to have concealed it."

"You didn't hold back, so... it was likely that the disturbance had alerted a nearby star realm."

Zhou Xuzy closed his eyes and started shaking even harder.

"Moreover, many people noticed that your aura was distorted, and your blood was running in reverse when you returned. No one truly believed that Qingchen died because of a cultivation backfire either, so there has already been a lot of outlandish rumors before this. If someone noticed the aftermath of that battle at the borders of the Northern Region, it made sense that some people would connect the dots and arrive at that theory."

"But so far, the spread of the rumor was pretty small, so there is nothing to worry about. We can quell it by force if need be," Honorable Tai Yu said.

"No." But Zhou Xuzy shook his head. "That would only prove to the world that we have something to hide, and that Qingchen was a devil person. He is already gone, we cannot possibly allow him to bear that kind of shame in his grave."

"Just ignore it like any other rumor, and it will dissipate on its own."

Honorable Tai Yu nodded. He was of the same mind as his god emperor.

In fact, things did go exactly as they thought it would go.

The "rumor" had been spread in a lower star realm at the Western Divine Region, so the credibility of that rumor was next to nothing. Besides that, it was spreading at an unusually slow speed.

The only thing that they hadn't expected was how far the rumor had reached. It had even spread to the ears of the people of the Eastern Divine Region and the Southern Divine Region... probably because it was connected to the Eternal Heaven God Emperor himself and the recently deceased Eternal Heaven Crown Prince.

The "rumors" eventually died down to almost nothing. Almost no one brought it up again, and not many people actually believed it had any credibility whatsoever.

But another seed was buried without anyone noticing.

[Chapter 1705 - Undercurrents](#)

"Tai Yu, how long have I been here?" Zhou Xuzy asked after a long sigh.

"My lord, you've been here for over two months," Honorable Tai Yu said.

"Two months..." Zhou Xuzy murmured in a daze. "And here I thought a century had passed."

Honorable Tai Yu looked away to hide the pain in his expression.

Zhou Qingchen's death—especially the way he had died—had been a huge blow to Zhou Xuzy.

Since then, he had been racked by the pain of losing his son, regret toward his late wife, and self-loathing.

Who would've thought that the former God Child Messiah, Yun Che, could become this vicious and cruel after he turned into a devil?

Zhou Xuzi then said, "It is time to crown a new prince."

Honorable Tai Yu was slightly caught off guard. He was about to say that it was too soon considering that Zhou Qingchen had only just passed away when he realized something.

The fastest way to wipe Zhou Qingchen from memory was to crown a new prince. Besides that, it would divert the world's attention from the cause of his death and alleviate the pain in Zhou Qingchen's heart.

"Is it Qingfeng?" Honorable Tai Yu asked. It was phrased as a question, but he was aware that Qingfeng was the best and only choice.

Zhou Xuzi nodded. "I have wronged him long enough."

Zhou Qingchen was very talented, but he definitely wasn't the most talented of Zhou Xuzi's descendants. The only reason he was selected to be the Crown Prince was because he was the only son of his first wife. Zhou Xuzi favored him more than anyone else.

One of the reasons Zhou Qingchen was able to make it to middle stage Divine Sovereign after several thousand years was because he had the best cultivation resources affordable by the Eternal Heaven God Realm.

Out of all the descendants of Zhou Xuzi, the seventy-seventh son, Zhou Qingfeng, was the most talented of them all. The elders of the Eternal Heaven God Realm was well aware of that.

Zhou Qingfeng had reached level ten Divine Sovereign despite being only four thousand years old. In fact, he was one step away from reaching the Divine Master Realm. Although his achievement was trivial compared to the Brahma Monarch Goddess', he was still the Eternal Heaven God Emperor's most talented descendant.

Besides that, his temperament fitted his name perfectly. He was kind-hearted, gentle, and pacifistic. Not only did he not express any dissatisfaction or reluctance when Zhou Qingchen was appointed Crown Prince, he even did everything in his power to solidify Zhou Qingchen's power.

His actions were also far more mature and decisive than Zhou Qingchen's. Zhou Qingchen himself respected his older brother deeply.

It was no wonder that the elders all thought that Zhou Qingfeng was really the most suitable person to succeed the Eternal Heaven God Emperor.

It was also why Zhou Xuzi had always felt guilty toward Qingfeng.

"Tai Yu, tell Qingfeng to come here and meet me. And there is no need to avoid prying eyes," Zhou Xuzi said.

"Understood." Tai Yu acknowledged the order but didn't leave immediately. "My lord... do you still wish to retire from the throne?"

“No.” Zhou Xuzi slowly shook his head as he declared in a terrifyingly dark voice. “I must preserve my power until the day I can finally kill Yun Che with my own hands!”

Zhou Xuzi rarely exuded killing intent.

However, his last line was absolutely overflowing with hatred and killing intent.

Suddenly, Zhou Xuzi rose to his feet with a shocked expression.

“My lord?” Honorable Tai Yu was also shocked to see such a great reaction from his god emperor.

Clearly, Zhou Xuzi had just heard a sound transmission.

The darkness in his eyes was replaced by blank surprise, Zhou Xuzi murmured in a daze. “Yun Che has been crowned the Devil Master of the Northern Divine Region... a power that is above even the Yama Realm, the Soul Stealing Realm, and the Burning Moon Realm.”

“What!?” Honorable Tai Yu exclaimed in shock before shaking his head immediately. “Impossible. It has to be a false rumor.”

“Tens of thousands of projections were projected so that all the denizens of the Northern Divine Region could witness the coronation ceremony. They proclaimed Yun Che to be the incarnation of the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor and Chi Wuyao to be his empress... all the dark realms have sworn loyalty to him.”

Zhou Xuzi fell silent after reciting the message. A while later, he murmured in a daze, “That’s right, this is impossible... impossible... impossible...”

He repeated the word a couple times more. He wouldn’t—couldn’t—believe that it was true.

Usually, it was incredibly difficult to glean any info about the Northern Divine Region, especially when it was from the core realms.

But this time, the news had spread unnaturally quickly.

It was because the Devil Master’s coronation ceremony was witnessed by the entire Northern Divine Region. The mere scale of the ceremony was unlike anything the world had ever seen before!

It was so loud that even those who lived at the borders of the Northern Divine Region could hear the incredible voice.

But how was that possible!?

Three years ago, Yun Che was just a Divine King.

Three months ago, Yun Che was a level seven Divine Sovereign. Although the young man’s cultivation speed was shocking, he was still no match for him.

So... how did he suddenly leap to the top and become the Devil Master, king of the king realms and ruler of all the Northern Divine Region!?

It need not be said how prideful the king realms of the Northern Divine Region were, not to mention that the devil people were a dark and violent people by nature!

So why would they make Yun Che, a denizen of the Eastern Divine Region, the Devil Master?

It was absurd. It was so absurd that there was no word in the world that could properly describe the absurdity of the entire situation.

Honorable Tai Yu thought for a moment before saying quietly, "Considering how much the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor cared for Yun Che, it is possible that she could've left behind her bloodline and devil art to him. But if that is all it takes to make the king realms submit to him, and in such a short time no less... then they can only be the joke of the century. Which means that something isn't right about this."

"Besides that, it doesn't make sense that they would crown him so openly," Honorable Tai Yu continued. "If this coronation is real, then the only logical explanation is that the three king realms are using Yun Che's connection to the Devil Emperor to create a puppet."

"The Northern Divine Region is eternally in chaos, but the title 'Devil Emperor' is something that transcends even faith in the Northern Divine Region. They made him a puppet because they wanted to build a faith that all the devil people would submit to... and whoever controls that faith controls everyone."

Honorable Tai Yu's thoughts were exactly the same as the denizens of the Northern Divine Region when they learned of the "Devil Master" for the first time.

Zhou Xuzy slowly sat down on his chair, his lost expression making it unclear if he had heard his loyal servant's deduction fully. In fact, he was too busy trying to chase away two cursed sentences that just wouldn't leave his mind, to no avail.

Virtue will lead to eternal peace.

Evil will bring the carnage of a devil god.

Moon God Realm, Moon Palace.

After Jin Yue entered a room in a hurry, she bowed toward the person behind a veil and reported softly, "A strange rumor has been spreading from the Northern Divine Region as of late, Master. It is said that Yun Che has been crowned the Devil Master, a seat of power that is above even the three king realms that rule over the Northern Divine Region. Besides that... the three king realms seem to have projected the coronation ceremony to every corner of the Northern Divine Region and sworn loyalty to Yun Che before everyone's eyes."

"..." Behind the veil, the Moon God Emperor replied indifferently, "Understood. It's funny that the devil people are making such a big deal about this, it's almost as if they're afraid that the world wouldn't hear about their new puppet. What a farce."

The Moon God Emperor's reaction was basically the same as everyone else's. Jin Yue bowed again and continued her report. "One more thing. Recently, there has been a rumor claiming that the Eternal Heaven God Emperor snuck into the Northern Divine Region several months ago. In fact, the timing of his travel was very close to the date Zhou Qingchen's death was announced. Therefore, it is rumored that Zhou Qingchen died in the Northern Divine Region, and that he had... transformed into a devil person prior to his death."

"..." The Moon God Emperor fell silent again before muttering, "So fast..."

"Huh?" Jin Yue voiced her confusion.

"It is nothing. You may leave."

"Yes, Master." Jin Yue bowed, but did not rise to her feet. Instead, Raising her head and staring at the person behind the veil, she whispered suddenly, "Master, may... may Jin Yue see you once more?"

Moon God Emperor: "...?"

It made no sense to back down now, so Jin Yue gathered her courage and confessed her thoughts. "When Master first entered the Moon God Realm, Jin Yue was tasked to groom your appearance. That has always been the happiest and most honored moment of Jin Yue's life."

But after you became the Moon God Emperor, you no longer allowed Jin Yue to make contact with your body. And recently... we've only been speaking to each other with a veil between us. It... it has been a long time since I saw your holy face, Master."

Moon God Emperor: "..."

"Did... did Jin Yue do something wrong? Have I angered you somehow? Please tell me if that is true, Master. Jin Yue promises that she'll do her best to change whatever it is that displeases you."

Jin Yue's fear had been growing since the physical distance between herself and her master had grown wider and wider. She almost broke into a sob when she finished confessing her thoughts.

Behind the veil, the Moon God Emperor slowly turned away before declaring indifferently, "Starting today, this king will be entering secluded cultivation for several months. No one is to disturb me during this time no matter what!"

"...yes, Master." Jin Yue accepted the order and retreated in dejection.

Northern Divine Region, behind a churning, black cloud outside the Soul Stealing Realm after the coronation ceremony was over.

"Are you really not going to see him?"

Chi Wuyao said to a small, delicate girl whose features looked like they were carved from fine jade. She was wearing a complex look on her face.

Caizhi shook her head before replying, "No."

Chi Wuyao said with a smile, "You wouldn't have come here and lingered for so long if you truly did not wish to see him."

Caizhi turned away, her usual gentleness completely replaced by a kind of cold, hard indifference that rejected everything. "I can stomach not killing that woman. But there's no way I'll ever stand on the same side as her!"

Chi Wuyao's eyes twirled. "I can distract her and give you a moment with him."

Caizhi let loose a burst of profound energy before taking off into the distance.

Chi Wuyao blurred out of existence before appearing in front of Caizhi. "Fine, fine, I won't force you. In exchange... can you answer me a question?"

Caizhi: "?"

"The Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor is the one who changed you, am I right?" Chi Wuyao stared straight into Caizhi's black eyes when she asked this.

The girl didn't give her an answer. She took off again and quickly vanished from Chi Wuyao's sight.

"I thought so," Chi Wuyao murmured as she stared in the direction Caizhi had vanished.

"There is no one who understands human nature more than the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor in this world. She must have thought of the worst case scenario and left behind many backup plans for Yun Che that even I'm unaware of."

"Well, it's only natural. Her daughters' lives are tied to Yun Che's after all."

Chi Wuyao was one of the very, very few people who knew that the daughters of the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor and the Heretic God were still alive to this day. After all, there was almost nothing that Yun Che had hidden from "Mu Xuanyin" back then.

There was nothing more important than the small but absolutely essential power that controlled the world, the Divine Sovereigns and the Divine Masters. Especially the Divine Masters. They were the key to all their goals be it taking revenge, breaking the eternal cage that looms over the Northern Divine Region, or changing their fates.

Yun Che's tasks became very simple after his and Chi Wuyao's coronation ceremonies were complete.

There were two hundred upper star realms and eight hundred middle star realms in the Northern Divine Region.

Their numbers were absolutely inferior compared to any divine region be it in terms of high level star realms or high level profound practitioners (Divine Kings, Divine Sovereigns and Divine Masters). In the case of the Eastern Divine Region, they didn't even have half of what their enemy possessed.

Every day, the Divine Masters, Divine Sovereigns, and Divine Kings of three upper star realms would arrive at the Yama Realm to receive the devilish blessing of the Eternal Calamity of Darkness.

In the case of the middle star realms, the blessing went much faster because they had far fewer top tier experts.

After Yun Che had Mastered the middle stage of the Eternal Calamity of Darkness, he could now bless a huge number of devil people with a casual wave of his hand. It was a blessing no profound practitioner had even dared to dream of in a million lifetimes.

In exchange for his time and effort, he gained the trust, loyalty, and reverence of those whom he had blessed.

They became the blades of darkness that Yun Che could use anytime he wished.

Besides that, he also devoted his time and energy to transforming the core strength of the Northern Divine Region... the Yama Devils, Moon Eaters, and Witches; and the Yama Ghosts, Burning Moon Divine Envoys and Soul Spirits.

He led them all into the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness. No outsider knew exactly what he was doing to them.

But a closer observer would notice that the darkness surrounding these profound practitioners' bodies was a tad deeper every time they came out of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness.

It was incredibly difficult to make even the tiniest progress once a profound practitioner had entered the late stage of the Divine Master Realm. Therefore, to say that their transformation was "unbelievable" would be a massive understatement.

The ultimate profound art of the Devil Emperor, the Eternal Calamity of Darkness, was something that existed far, far beyond the common sense of the devils today and the Primal Chaos itself.

[Chapter 1706 - Dark Growth](#)

Yama Realm, Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness.

Jie Xin and Jie Ling, Ye Li, Yao Die, Qing Ying, Lan Ting, Hua Jin, Yu Wu, and Chanyi... all nine Witches were sitting on the ground and circulating profound energy.

Surrounding them was a cyclone of primordial yin energy that had been cooped up for an unknown number of years. Every time it roared, it sounded like a hurricane that couldn't wait to destroy the world.

Yun Che was floating in the air with his eyes closed. He was the one who was pointing at the Witches and injecting the dark, violent energy into their bodies. But not only were they perfectly unharmed, their strength was merging with the new energy in a way that defied all logic and common sense in this world.

After the three king realms had submitted to Yun Che and crowned him the Devil Master, he could finally use the other impossible ability of the Eternal Calamity of Darkness without any scruples.

The name of the ability was called "Dark Growth"!

It was why his eyes had lit up when Qianye Ying'er had told him about the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness, the heart of the Northern Divine Region.

Depending on the kind of environment he was in, he could absorb the energy of the elements around him and make them his own power.

The Law of Nothingness could do this. The Heretic God's power over the elements combined with the absorption ability of the Great Way of the Buddha could also do this.

But none of those powers could compete with the Eternal Calamity of Darkness when the target energy was darkness.

Not only could Yun Che convert darkness profound energy into his own power, he could impart it to another person as well.

Naturally, the person he was imparting his powers to couldn't absorb them nearly as well as himself... but it was still an impossibly powerful ability!

Besides that, the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness was absolutely perfect for this project!

By using the Eternal Calamity of Darkness, Yun Che was able to connect the Nine Witches' bodies and profound veins in one "circuit" and transform the primordial yin energy of this place into their power.

Each session lasted twenty-four hours. After that, they would need ten days at minimum to stabilize and adapt to their new power.

In other words, not even the Witches, Yama Devils, and Moon Eaters could withstand more than twenty four hours of Dark Growth per session before having to take a rest.

But it was absolutely worth it. They gained so much power that even they were frightened by their own progress.

Outside the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness, Chi Wuyao and Qianye Ying'er were engaged in a casual conversation above the Yama Imperial District.

"Tian Guhu has been calling himself a 'Devil Child' as of late. He is gathering more and more young profound practitioners under his banner and using that manpower to maintain order in all the major star realms and help the weak. The actual effectiveness of his methods aside, it is a fact that he has a tremendous amount of influence among the younger generation, and that countless people have responded to his call. On the surface at least, it seems like the Devil Master's coronation was a positive influence to the entire Northern Divine Region."

"Our Devil Master has found a gem indeed," Chi Wuyao praised.

"Hmph, it's only natural that a devilish beast could smell the devil in another person's heart." Suddenly, Qianye Ying'er shot a glance at Chi Wuyao before letting out a chuckle. She said in a strange tone, "I'm honestly surprised you still have your vital yin. If the public were to learn about this—the useless men who fell to your honey trap besides—wouldn't they suspect that our Devil Master is impotent? Especially considering that you are his empress?"

"Eeeeh?" Chi Wuyao intentionally stretched out her exclamation of surprise before responding with a seductive glance. "Now that you mention it, it is a pretty saddening state. I am the newly wed here, but our heartless Devil Master spent all day and night loving another woman instead."

Qianye Ying'er raised her eyebrows. "It's not my fault if you can't grab his attention."

Qianye Ying'er was still pretty hostile toward Chi Wuyao.

But unlike before, it was less insidious and more... competitive.

Furthermore, Qianye Ying'er was well aware that it wasn't that Chi Wuyao was incapable of turning Yun Che's head in her direction. She was simply too busy to afford any distraction right now.

After the empress coronation ceremony was over, Chi Wuyao had been buried in a mountain of work. Yun Che's work load didn't even come close to hers.

Chi Wuyao knew very well why Qianye Ying'er had pushed for her to become Yun Che's empress, but she had never pointed out the truth or rejected the responsibility.

It was what she wanted.

"Well, of course I'm inferior to you," Chi Wuyao replied. "I am as pure as a piece of white paper, but you have been watered day and night by the Devil Master himself for years."

"I'm pretty sure that your beauty isn't the only thing that is unrivaled under the heavens anymore, 'Brahma Monarch Goddess'. How can this queen possibly compete against you? Sigh."

Chi Wuyao sighed sadly.

Qianye Ying'er curled her lips before asking, "So, all the men you ever 'had' were puppets?"

"Of course." Chi Wuyao smiled faintly. "You may not know this, but my view of men was pretty similar to yours."

"?" Qianye Ying'er turned her face partially toward Chi Wuyao.

"Back when you were still called the 'Lady Goddess', you were born with a silver spoon in your mouth. You found men to be absolutely loathsome creatures, and there were probably only two categories of men to you: useful tools and useless trash."

"..." Qianye Ying'er didn't retort. It was a perfect description of her old self, and even her new self. There was just a special exception to that rule, now.

"This queen was born with a wisp of the Nirvana Devil Emperor's soul inside her. I was nowhere as noble as you, of course, but soul wise I was 'taught' to look down on the entire world from the very beginning."

"Besides that, my soul especially disliked men, you see. Just like you, I view them as useful tools or useless trash only. After all, how could a mortal man ever have the privilege to touch my body? Their only use was to become my faithful puppets and surrender all their power and wealth to me."

"What about the Clear Sky God Emperor?" Qianye Ying'er asked. "Did you lose control of him?"

"That's right," Chi Wuyao said. "The reason I chose him was because he was the weakest and easiest to soul steal."

"But even the weakest god emperor of them all was still a god emperor. Despite having successfully removed his mental defenses and stealing his soul, his struggle was still so fierce that I could've lost control any moment. In the end, I had no choice but to shatter his soul and turn him into a breathing, but soulless puppet."

She sighed again as if she was regretting the loss even to this day. "It was a shame to lose such an excellent puppet."

Qianye Ying'er narrowed her eyes slightly before commenting, "Your cruelty and ruthlessness far exceed mine."

"Hehehehe, indecisiveness is the greatest obstacle to one's ambition. It is the same for men or women."

Chi Wuyao's breasts bounced slightly as she let out a giggle. "A woman's body is much finer compared to a man's. Speaking of which, would you like to taste for yourself the fineness of the nine children I raised?"

The Devil Queen's voice was something that tickled the soul and befuddled the heart. If this was the first time Qianye Ying'er made contact with Chi Wuyao, she would've lost the mental battle already. Instead, she replied in an equally sweet and soft voice, "I think I would much rather know how you felt when you, someone who disliked men so much was pushed down in the Flame God Realm."

As promised, Chi Wuyao had told Qianye Ying'er her true "identity" after the coronation ceremony was over.

She didn't skimp on the details either.

As a result, the two women had unknowingly become closer to each other.

"Shouldn't you know that better than anyone in the world?"

The Devil Queen's counterattack was instantaneous. A kind of unspeakable emotion silently clouded her already bewitching pupils. "It was that day both Mu Xuanyin and I swore to ourselves that we would catch him no matter where he went, and never let him out of our grasp again."

"Hmm?" A half-smile graced Qianye Ying'er's lips. "Is that why you're so set on Yun Che? Because he 'slept' with you that time?"

She knew it wasn't, of course, but she would be a fool to let go of such a wonderful opportunity to mock Chi Wuyao.

"But of course!" Chi Wuyao said. "I, the queen of devils, was sullied by a little brat! How can I not settle my score with him?"

Her laugh in that moment could've stunned anyone in the world.

"..." Qianye Ying'er fell silent again.

"Speaking of Mu Xuanyin though, there is something this queen is quite concerned about." Chi Wuyao suddenly withdrew her smile.

"What? Are you concerned because Yun Che is an animal who would sully his own master?" Qianye Ying'er chided, but she quickly turned serious when she noticed the odd expression on Chi Wuyao's face.

Staring aimlessly toward the front, Chi Wuyao explained. "When this queen had imbued a wisp of her soul onto Mu Xuanyin, she noticed that the Ice Phoenix's Divine Soul was also living inside her."

“At the beginning, the Ice Phoenix Divine Soul only passively observed the world outside through Mu Xuanyin’s eyes. But after Yun Che appeared, she decided to make Mu Xuanyin favor him unconditionally. I didn’t stop her to avoid being detected.”

“After that, the Ice Phoenix Divine Soul’s rule vanished just before the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor left Primal Chaos. Even that divine soul itself... and the soul origin it came from disappeared completely after that.”

“But after the divine soul disappeared, I noticed that it had left behind a strange pool of crystalline, blue light in her soul sea.” [1]

“And what is that?” Qianye Ying’er asked. Mu Xuanyin had been gone for years. There must be a reason Chi Wuyao was bringing it up now.

But Chi Wuyao shook her head. “I wouldn’t be puzzled to this day if I knew what it was. I even probed it before to no avail, but...”

Her voice grew a bit more distant. “When she passed away outside Blue Pole Star, when my soul parted ways with hers, I think... I saw the blue light wrapping around her soul.”

Qianye Ying’er frowned deeply. “And what does that indicate?”

Chi Wuyao shook her head again. “I don’t know. I went back to verify the truth repeatedly, and I could tell you that Mu Xuanyin was definitely dead. But...”

She stopped talking and stared at Qianye Ying’er. “Don’t tell Yun Che about this. If a miracle really were to happen in the future, he will see it. But if he learns about this, and the miracle turns out to be false hope... the pain would be as bad as the beginning.”

Qianye Ying’er stared fixedly at Chi Wuyao. She couldn’t understand what the latter meant by the word “miracle”.

Qianye Ying’er didn’t know why Yun Che was able to return to the God Realm despite having been “killed” at the Star God Realm. Just like everyone else, she thought that he had used some special method to escape to safety when the Evil Infant broke out.

But Chi Wuyao knew everything.

She knew that he had come back to life thanks to the Nirvana of the Phoenix!

There was a piece of unremarkable knowledge in the incomplete memories of the Nirvana Devil Emperor.

According to that memory, before the god race and the devil race’s conflict devolved into an all-out war, the two divine beasts who were thought to be sworn enemies due to their elements being the complete opposite of the other, the Phoenix and the Ice Phoenix...

Used to belong to the same race.

[Chapter 1707 - Icy Heart](#)

Eastern Divine Region, Snow Song Realm.

Flame God Realm King Huo Poyun wore a set of red clothes that made him look like he was covered in fire. The clothes had the divine symbols of the Golden Crow, Vermillion Bird and Phoenix on them, a sign that he treated all three sects equally despite having come from the Golden Crow Sect.

Having spent three thousand years in the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm and becoming the first true realm king of the Flame God Realm, Huo Poyun was no longer the innocent, stubborn, and indecisive young man he once was. His eyes looked friendly, but sometimes fire would flash behind his pupils and betray the true power inside his body.

An infinite span of snow sat beneath his feet, but it showed no signs of melting despite being walked on by the Flame God Realm King himself.

He had been cultivating inside the Ancient God Burying Inferno Prison and getting better and better at wielding fire for the past few years.

At the Ice Phoenix Realm, Huo Poyun stopped in front of a female disciple who came to welcome him and smiled amiably. "Please inform Realm King Bingyun that Flame God Huo Poyun has come to visit."

Flame God Realm ascended the ranks and became an upper star realm after Huo Poyun became the realm king. But Snow Song Realm's status had dropped like a rock after losing their realm king, Mu Xuanyin.

Normally, when a higher realm king deigned to visit a middle star realm himself, it was a glorious moment for the realm and a questionable decision for the king.

But the relationship between the Snow Song Realm and the Flame God Realm was rather unusual. Everyone in the Ice Phoenix Divine Sect had already gotten used to the Flame God Realm King's frequent visits.

Instead of going away and reporting to Mu Bingyun, the Ice Phoenix disciple bowed politely before replying, "The sect master is in secluded cultivation as of late, so she is not seeing guests unless it is an urgent matter. However, she has said that you are free to tour the sect as you please whenever you come visiting."

Huo Poyun nodded. "In that case, I will save us both the pleasantries... is Fairy Feixue in the sect right now?"

Huo Poyun had come alone. The Ice Phoenix disciple who was answering his question didn't show any sign of surprise toward his inquiry either. "Senior Sister Feixue is currently in the Thirty-sixth Palace of the Ice Phoenix Palace. You may head there on your own if that is your wish, Flame God Realm King."

An outsider would've been shocked by how "poorly" the female disciple of a middle realm sect was treating a higher realm king.

"Ice Phoenix Palace?" Huo Poyun looked surprised. While the Ice Phoenix Palace was a pretty high level palace in the Ice Phoenix Divine Sect, Mu Feixue was the direct disciple of the realm king herself. Why would she be at the Ice Phoenix Palace?

The Ice Phoenix disciple replied, "The Thirty-sixth Palace is the place Senior Brother Yun Che used to live. That is why she often goes there to mediate."

Huo Poyun's expression froze for an instant, but it quickly melted into an amiable smile again. "I see. In that case, please lead the way."

They entered the Thirty-sixth Palace. The ice-forged structure was cold and silent, but the interior was covered in countless snowflakes and icicles. They shone like an endless expanse of stars and gave off the impression that there was no end to its snowy borders.

Huo Poyun had detected Mu Feixue's aura immediately, but he chose to walk around the palace instead of interrupting whatever she was doing immediately.

But his footsteps came to an abrupt stop when he saw an icy tree not far away from him.

Yun Che

Yun Che

Yun Che

.....

Yun Che's name was engraved on almost every leaf of the icy tree. Big, small, deep, shallow.

They looked like they were carved by a woman's fingernail, but every word was so well made that one could practically see the grief-stricken thoughts behind them.

Huo Poyun clenched his fists unconsciously. He was so shaken that he actually swayed on his feet and stumbled a little.

He started recalling the day his friendship with Yun Che ended when the latter came back to life and returned to the Snow Song Realm...

"Yet... I personally heard... from a discussion between two Ice Phoenix disciples that she had long ago been given to you by your master as a dual cultivation partner!! That was something that I personally heard... Personally heard! Yet you did not mention a single word of this to me! You only gave me your insincere consolation, you were basically... basically seeing my joke play out!"

Yun Che replied indifferently after he was done shouting.

"Listen, after I had just finished the ceremony of taking her as my master back then, Master did indeed nominate Feixue to be my dual cultivation partner and she even announced it in front of everyone. However... I rejected it and Master consented to my decision as well."

"But because Master had announced this thing in front of everyone, if she were to then announce publicly that I had rejected Mu Feixue, it would have undoubtedly led to Mu Feixue being ridiculed by others. As a result, this was not announced to the public. But Feixue and I never had a relationship as dual cultivation partners and the amount of time I have spent interacting with her during the years I was in the Snow Song Realm did not even amount to the few words exchanged between us in the Illusory Smoke City!"

"It's fine. Whether you believe it or not is up to you. This is no longer something important to me. Also, this is the last time I will call you Brother Poyun."

“Young Sect Master Huo... See you some other time.”

Huo Poyun remembered clearly how indifferent Yun Che sounded. Forget anger or agitation, he could barely sense any emotion behind his voice at all.

The only time he saw a bit of emotion from Yun Che was when the young man looked back at him after throwing down the words, “Young Sect Master Huo.”

Huo Poyun exhaled slowly before returning to normal, the temporary confusion completely gone from his eyes... he was the Flame God Realm King now. He could no longer afford to lose control over himself this easily.

But as he continued staring at the words on the leaf, his mind became dragged into the rivers of memories again... he recalled the day the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor left the Primal Chaos, and Yun Che’s fate took a drastic turn...

Huo Poyun was flying on his own. Today was the day the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor was to leave the Primal Chaos, and as a level five Divine Master he absolutely had the right to see her off.

But he didn’t feel any excitement even though he was about to witness the end of the devilish threat, and the making of a new history. All he felt was irritation and frustration.

At his level, he was of course aware that Yun Che was the one who gave them the best outcome they could possibly hope for. As the Eternal Heaven God Emperor said, he was without a doubt the God Child Messiah.

But...

He slowed down until he came to a complete stop. A long time later, he suddenly turned around and started traveling back to the Flame God Realm.

“This is the first and last time anyone’s going to send off the Devil Emperor herself. So why are you turning back, Sect Master Huo?”

Huo Poyun stopped again when he heard the voice. He replied with a smile, “And why are turning back, Brother Luo?”

A figure quickly approached him from the horizon. He was dressed in white robes, and he looked absolutely outstanding. He was none other than Luo Changsheng.

“My reason is a simple one.” Luo Changsheng smiled. “I just don’t want to see a certain someone, that’s all. Let me guess... is your reason the same as mine?”

Huo Poyun: “...”

“Since fate has brought us together today, would you like to visit the Holy Eaves Realm?” Luo Changsheng offered.

“Sure.” Huo Poyun didn’t turn down the invitation. “I had been planning to visit your master for some time and apologize to her. After all... I was the reason she got hurt in the first place.”

After Yun Che came back, and he accidentally heard his conversation with Mu Feixue, he lost control of his jealousy and revealed to Luo Changsheng the fact that he was alive... as a result, Luo Guxie personally traveled to the Snow Song Realm to exact her revenge.

However, the only thing she got for her efforts was a broken arm.

Huo Poyun had regretted his decision the moment he sent the message to Luo Changsheng... but what was done couldn't be taken back, and what happened afterward was absolutely beyond his ability to control.

Surprisingly, Luo Changsheng shook his head before saying, "Master has been in a foul mood since that defeat. It is best if you visit her another time. Once her feelings have improved, I will transmit your feelings to her myself."

"As for the apology..." Luo Changsheng shook his head again and sighed. "You did nothing wrong at all. In fact, I'm the one who owes you a big favor. Please be assured that I will repay it when an opportunity presents itself."

"It's fine," Huo Poyun replied indifferently and gloomily.

Luo Changsheng stared at Huo Poyun for a long while before replying, "Speaking of which, there was something that I have been curious about for the longest time. Before you entered the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm, you and Yun Che were close friends. When you heard that Yun Che had passed away, I could also see that your grief was as real as it was deep. So why are you suddenly holding a grudge against him?"

"Knowing your character, you'll never harbor ill will toward anyone without good reason. I wonder if you would kindly share your reason with me?"

"There is no reason," Huo Poyun replied. "I was petty-minded. That's all there is to it."

"Is it because of a certain Fairy Ice Snow called Mu Feixue?" A smile spread across Luo Changsheng's face.

Huo Poyun abruptly slowed his steps.

"There aren't many pains in the world that could rival the loss of love." Luo Changsheng sighed. "And that is especially true for someone like you..."

"Enough." Huo Poyun's breathing grew visibly rapid, and it took him a moment before he finally regained control of himself. "As I said earlier, it is I who had been petty-minded. Please... don't speak of it again."

"Forgive me," Luo Changsheng said and fell silent.

The two traveled very slowly toward Holy Eaves Realm as Luo Changsheng talked about nothing in particular.

Suddenly, Luo Changsheng stopped talking as his expression changed drastically. His shock only grew worse and worse over time.

“What’s wrong?” Huo Poyun asked with a frown.

“Yun Che... is a devil person!” Luo Changsheng muttered.

“What!?” Huo Poyun abruptly turned toward him.

Luo Changsheng waved his hand and gave Huo Poyun the sound transmission he just heard.

The Devil Gods almost managed to enter the Primal Chaos... the Devil Emperor forcefully ejected herself and her people outside... the Evil Infant suddenly showed up to seal the Crimson Crack... the Eternal Heaven God Emperor attacked her and threw her outside of the Primal Chaos as well... when all was well, and all threats to Primal Chaos were gone, Yun Che suddenly leaked darkness profound energy and spouted absolutely outrageous things.

Panic and confusion spread inside Huo Poyun’s heart like wildfire. He couldn’t even begin to imagine what had happened at the edge of the Primal Chaos. Suddenly, Luo Changsheng said, “Oh no... the Moon God Emperor was going to execute Yun Che herself, but the Brama Monarch Goddess was able to send him away with the Void Illusion Stone at the last moment!”

“The god emperors are ordering everyone to search for Yun Che everywhere...”

Luo Changsheng suddenly stopped talking again. Both he and Huo Poyun were staring at a certain object right ahead of them.

It was a motionless figure. They could even see a faint amount of dark energy seeping out of the body.

“Yun Che!” Huo Poyun and Luo Changsheng shouted at the same time.

The motionless person was none other than Yun Che himself.

The slave imprint was about to crumble completely when Qianye Ying’er tossed out the Void Illusion Stone. As a result of the conflicting wills inside her head, she lost control of her power slightly and accidentally knocked Yun Che out even though the rescue attempt was a success.

“Heh, hahahaha!” Luo Changsheng laughed loudly after overcoming his shock. “This is truly... a gift from the heavens themselves.”

He was about to pounce toward Yun Che when an arm suddenly blocked his way. “Wait a second.”

Huo Poyun watched the unconscious Yun Che cautiously before saying, “Don’t be careless.”

He then started circulating his profound energy and summoned the golden crow flames. “Yun Che has countless secrets and trump cards. He was a man who was able to escape what seemed to be certain death again and again. We cannot be...”

He hit Luo Changsheng squarely in the ribs before he finished his sentence.

Luo Changsheng’s attention had been completely drawn to Yun Che, and he never thought that Huo Poyun, another man besides himself who bore a grudge against Yun Che would attack him at this moment.

Completely caught off guard and far too close to Huo Poyun to dodge out of the way, Luo Changsheng was sent flying tens of kilometers away while blood sprayed out of his throat. Meanwhile, Huo Poyun had rushed to Yun Che's side, grabbed him, gathered all his power and raced toward the horizon.

Luo Changsheng pressed a hand to his chest and stared darkly at the fleeing Huo Poyun.

"Huo Poyun!" A savage roar exploded from behind Huo Poyun. "Yun Che isn't the God Child Messiah anymore! He is the heretic everyone wishes to eliminate! Do you mean... to drag the entire Flame God Realm into the grave with you!?"

"..." Blood seeped from between Huo Poyun's teeth. He didn't reply or slow down even the slightest.

Although Luo Changsheng was hurt, he was still much faster than Huo Poyun. As the distance between them shortened more and more, Luo Changsheng threatened in an even darker tone than before. "I have not told anyone about this yet. I'll give you one last chance to change your mind considering our friendship. Give Yun Che to me... or the Flame God Realm won't be the only thing that's going down with you!"

A war was happening in Huo Poyun's head, but he still didn't speak or slow down at all.

Suddenly, his pupils shrank.

He sensed two incredibly powerful auras coming his way... both were stronger than him.

The masters of the auras appeared in front of him in the next breath.

One of them was Jun Xilei, one of the profound practitioners who entered the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm with him!

The other person was her master, Sword Sovereign Jun Wuming.

[Chapter 1708 - I Owe You Nothing](#)

Jun Wuming and Jun Xilei were two of the people who chose not to see off the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor.

When they saw Luo Changsheng and Huo Poyun, they also saw the unconscious Yun Che... and the dark, hateful energy that was emanating from his body.

Huo Poyun finally came to a stop. His path was blocked by the Sword Sovereigns, and his back was cut off by Luo Changsheng. He gritted his teeth tightly, but there was absolutely nothing he could do at this point.

Luo Changsheng quickly caught up to Huo Poyun, but his powerful self-cultivation prevented him from disabling Huo Poyun or snatching Yun Che from Huo Poyun's hands. Bowing to Jun Wuming respectfully, he said, "Junior Luo Changsheng greets Senior Sword Sovereign."

Jun Wuming nodded slightly before shooting a glance at Jun Xilei. He could sense her unsteady aura and the conflict inside her mind.

"Lei'er," Jun Wuming said, "I am very glad to see how far you've come after three thousand years of cultivation in the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm, but you haven't been able to form your 'heart of sword'."

even to this day, have you? It is because it is trapped by the 'cage' known as the secular world. Do you understand what I'm saying?"

Jun Xilei: "..."

"To obey your heart, is also to obey your heart of sword," Jun Wuming said quietly.

Jun Xilei slowly raised her sword and gripped the Nameless Sword behind her back.

Clang!

The moment the Nameless Sword exited its sheath, the surrounding meteorites were immediately ground to dust by its invisible sword aura.

Back at the Conferred God Battle, Jun Xilei had used the Nameless Sword by force and successfully injured Yun Che deeply in two strikes. However, not only was Yun Che able to stop her from unleashing her third strike, he had unknowingly carved his image into her "heart of sword" as well. As a result, she wasn't able to form her "heart of sword" completely despite three thousand years of cultivation.

Today, Jun Xilei had full control over the Nameless Sword. She was also titled the "Little Sword Sovereign" in the God Realm.

Her sword domain came to life instantly, and tens of thousands of swords appeared all around her... however, her target was Luo Changsheng, not Yun Che.

Besides that, a powerful energy wave slammed into Huo Poyun before he could react and that knocked him far away from Luo Changsheng.

Huo Poyun was stunned for a second, but he quickly came back to himself and dashed away like a meteor.

Shocked, Luo Changsheng was just about to give chase when Jun Xilei trapped him within her sword domain.

He was powerful enough that defeating Jun Xilei was just a matter of time, but the Sword Sovereign was right next to her. He said urgently while he was nullifying Jun Xilei's attacks, "Senior Sword Sovereign, Fairy Jun, you may not know this because you haven't been to the edge of the Primal Chaos, but Yun Che has just proven himself to be a devil person! Right now, all the god emperors including the Dragon Monarch himself have ordered Yun Che to be killed at all costs. There will be severe consequences if we don't end him here!"

But Jun Xilei's sword aura only became even more violent. At first glance it seemed like Jun Wuming was planning to let his pupil do all the work, but a careful observer would notice three needle-sized sword beams forming behind his old pupils.

Luo Changsheng's eyes changed slightly. At this point, even a fool would realize that the Sword Sovereigns had chosen to protect Yun Che despite the fact that he was now a devil person.

He dropped all the honorifics and said in a low tone, "Senior Sword Sovereign, you understand the consequences of defending a devil person, don't you?"

“He is a devil person, true,” Jun Wuming said in an even tone, but there was no mistaking the power behind his voice. “But he is also our benefactor and the man who saved the world. His malice is but a speck of dust compared to the kindness he has done unto this world.”

“Those who wish to kill him aren’t doing so because they hate devils or because they want to defend the world. It is because they are driven by jealousy and the ugly desire not to be surpassed forever.”

Chi!

A bloody hole suddenly appeared between Luo Changsheng’s shoulder blades. An instant later, dozens of identical wounds appeared across his entire body as well.

He had suffered a heavy blow after Huo Poyun ambushed him at close range, and he had ignored it to chase after Huo Poyun with all his power. Now, he was even facing both Jun Xilei and Jun Wuming at once. The latter might not have attacked him yet, but the sheer amount of pressure he was exuding was enough to put him in grave danger.

Luo Changsheng glared hatefully at the duo blocking his way as the Sword Sovereign continued, “For fifty thousand years, this one has experienced many things and saved countless lives throughout his life. He is not exaggerating his self-worth when he calls himself to a man of great virtue and prestige, is he? Even the world has decided to honor him with the title ‘Sovereign’ for all the good deeds he has done.”

“Everyone knows that you bear a grudge against Yun Che, and that the Flame God Huo Poyun is a close friend of Yun Che’s. If you were to accuse me and Huo Poyun of defending Yun Che, do you think that the world would choose to believe your words over mine and Huo Poyun’s? If this sovereign were to deny your accusation and clear Huo Poyun from any wrongdoing, how do you think the world would react? Do you think they’ll believe you, or scorn you for your pettiness?”

Savage fury peeked out of Luo Changsheng’s features for an instant.

When he was younger, he was the famous Young Master Changsheng no one in the Eastern Divine Region hadn’t heard of. When he emerged from the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm as a level seven Divine Master, his achievement was crowned as a miracle that shook the entire God Realm.

But even a kid could tell that his reputation was millions of miles behind the Sword Sovereign’s.

If he were to declare that the Sword Sovereigns were defending Yun Che, all he would achieve was slapping his own face—unless he had enough proof.

Making up his mind, Luo Changsheng abruptly tore himself away from Jun Xilei in a burst of lightning.

Panting heavily, he said, “Alright, I’ll admit defeat today. I’ll back off. I swear I won’t tell anyone about your involvement... and of course Huo Poyun’s as well.”

But the pressure pressing down against his body didn’t disappear. Jun Xilei was still pointing the Nameless Sword at his solar plexus.

“Master, I don’t trust him,” Jun Xilei said coldly.

It was just an excuse. Luo Changsheng could accuse Jun Wuming all he liked, but the only person who would be besmirched was himself.

However, they couldn't let Luo Changsheng go right now. It was very likely that he would try to track down Huo Poyun and Yun Che the second he slipped away from their senses.

Urgency burned inside Luo Changsheng's heart, but he maintained a calm facade and tried to reassure the duo again. That changed immediately when he sensed three tiny sword beams around him.

All three sword beams were colorless, shapeless, and even auraless, but his wildly beating heart was telling him that they were as real as the blood in his body, and every one of them was pressing a vital point.

"Imagination... Sword," Luo Changsheng muttered. His voice was clearly trembling.

Even Jun Xilei was staring blankly at the three sword beams.

"You recognize this sword?" Jun Wuming commented indifferently. "It looks like your master truly hides very little from you."

Barring the king realms, Luo Guxie was supposedly the number one profound practitioner of the Eastern Divine Region, and the Sword Sovereign the second.

No one had ever witnessed a battle between the duo.

At first, the Sword Sovereign was the strongest profound practitioner behind the king realms. He was eventually replaced by Luo Guxie because her aura was clearly stronger after she returned to the Holy Eaves Realm.

But a long time ago, Luo Guxie had told Luo Changsheng personally that she had challenged the Sword Sovereign to a fight before she returned to the Holy Eaves Realm.

However, he had almost killed her with his "Imagination Sword".

Later on, Luo Guxie was hailed to be the stronger profound practitioner of the two, but the Sword Sovereign didn't raise an objection. It was because he was nearing the end of his lifespan, and he couldn't care less about his fame at that point. His biggest desire at that point in time was to find a worthy successor.

The heavens answered his wish and granted him Jun Xilei.

It was why Luo Changsheng had always acted the respectful junior before the Sword Sovereign. It was why the king realms respected the Sword Sovereign more than Luo Guxie.

Seniority? Seniority was but a joke. Strength was the biggest factor in earning one's respect.

Besides that, the Sword Sovereign's faction couldn't be measured by cultivation alone. Their sword arts were even scarier than their cultivation.

"Senior Sword Sovereign... are you going to kill me?" Luo Changsheng asked quietly. He dared not move even a muscle.

Luo Changsheng wasn't surprised that Jun Wuming hadn't joined in on Jun Xilei's attack. He was the Sword Sovereign. He wouldn't deign to attack a junior.

But he never imagined that he would summon the “Imagination Sword” that put a frightful expression on his master’s face every time she spoke about it.

It was ridiculous. Even he didn’t think that he deserved the “honor” of being killed by this sword technique.

“Hehe.” Jun Wuming chuckled. “Why would I kill you? Your master and I are barely acquaintances, and there is no bad blood between you and I. Taking your life now would only bring endless calamity upon me and my disciple.”

The Sword Sovereign then dashed next to Luo Changsheng before extending an old hand. “Now, please open up your soul so I may wipe away the last hour of your memory.”

“...” Luo Changsheng gritted his teeth and turned as white as a sheet.

It was foolish to allow another person to enter one’s soul. If the other party bore any ill intention toward him at all, they could easily destroy his soul sea.

However, the Sword Sovereign was right. He didn’t have a reason or the courage to kill him because it would harm Jun Xilei’s future... If he agreed, he would lose the initiative completely.

But if he disagreed... the energy pressing against his vital spots was the Imagination Sword that nearly took his master’s life!

“Okay...” In the end, Luo Changsheng had no choice but to submit to the threat. “This junior... obeys his senior’s will.”

The Sword Sovereign nodded and injected a wisp of his soul into Luo Changsheng’s soul sea.

A while later, Luo Changsheng shuddered all over before fainting completely.

The Imagination Sword dissipated after that. However, Jun Wuming’s complexion turned a shade paler.

“Let’s go.”

Jun Wuming turned away and started traveling, going the opposite way from where Huo Poyun had escaped to.

Jun Xilei followed quietly behind him for a while, but she couldn’t hold herself from asking, “Why, Master... why did you use the Imagination Sword?”

Tears were sliding off her cheeks the moment she asked “why”.

Creating the Imagination Sword shaved away at one’s lifespan.

And in Jun Wuming’s case, he barely had any lifespan left to begin with...

But Jun Wuming smiled easily and said, “He is Luo Changsheng after all. He wouldn’t have submitted so quickly if I hadn’t used the Imagination Sword, and time is of the essence considering the circumstances.”

Jun Wuming lifted his hand and caught Jun Xilei's tear. He felt exhausted because his body was nearing the end of its life, but the smile on his face only grew gladder and gentler. "If it wasn't for Yun Che, your talent would've been damaged past the point of no return."

"You are the continuation of my heart of sword and my life. Any favor extended toward you may as well be extended toward me. That is why I am glad that I'm able to repay the favor he extended unto me before my final day. You should be happy for my sake, Xilei, not sad."

"...yes, Master," Jun Xilei replied, but she couldn't stop the tears sliding off her chin.

She had lost count of the times she regretted her rashness when she was younger... but the cruelest thing about fate, was that it was impossible to reverse with regret.

"I am glad that you are able to break free from social customs and obey your heart, but..." Jun Wuming stared at the distance and sighed with the weight of fifty thousand years of experience sitting behind his eyes. "There is no place for him in this world anymore, and no one can know what he will become in the future. Sigh..."

Meanwhile, Huo Poyun finally came to a stop again when the Glazed Light Realm appeared in front of him. At the same time, the person he had used all of his strength to send a sound transmission to appeared in front of him.

It was Shui Yingyue.

Shui Yingyue had sensed a dark aura even before Huo Poyun had appeared in her vision. By the time she got close, her gaze was immediately drawn toward the unconscious Yun Che.

Huo Poyun pushed Yun Che toward Shui Yingyue while panting heavily. He asked, "You will keep him safe... right?"

Shui Yingyue immediately wrapped Yun Che's figure and aura in a thick water barrier before asking, "Was anyone following you?"

"I don't know," he replied.

"...thank you." Shui Yingyue was about to leave after thanking Huo Poyun, but the latter called out to her.

"Wait," Huo Poyun shouted before lowering his voice. "Don't tell him that I was the one who brought him here... also, please give him my message after he wakes up."

"Run. Run to the Northern Divine Region and never come back!"

"Got it."

That was all she said before she left with Yun Che hurriedly. Every second Yun Che was exposed was a second of added danger to all of them.

Huo Poyun turned away and clenched his fists tightly. Staring at the vast space in front of him, he muttered to himself, "Remember, Yun Che. I... don't owe you anything anymore!"

"That's right... I don't owe you anything anymore!"

Huo Poyun muttered as he finally returned to the present. He unconsciously extended his hand toward an icy branch that was covered in leaves with Yun Che's name on it. It was a pure and beautiful plant, so why did it hurt his eyes and soul so much?

Why?

He was now a devil person...

So why!!!

"Flame God Realm King?"

Just when his palm was about to touch the icy branch, a cool voice suddenly rang out from behind him.

Huo Poyun froze. However, a bit of fire leaked out of his fingertips and melted over half of the icy branch in an instant.

[Chapter 1709 - Unrequited Love](#)

The icy branch melted into vapor and disappeared in the blink of an eye.

Huo Poyun turned around and saw Mu Feixue immediately. However, she was staring at the dissipating vapor and not at him at all.

"Fairy Feixue..." Huo Poyun froze in mid-movement, forgetting to withdraw even his own hand.

Mu Feixue appeared in front of Huo Poyun and summoned a surge of frost energy to her fingers. A moment later, the icy branch appeared once more, but the engravings on the leaves were all gone.

"Sorry." Panic flashed across Huo Poyun's eyes. "I was so entranced by the plant that I lost control..."

One breath... two breath... the silence lasted for a short moment before Mu Feixue turned to look at him with the icy, emotionless pupils he was all too familiar with. "What business do you have with the Ice Phoenix Palace, Flame God Realm King?"

"This king... I'm just..." Huo Poyun finally regained enough sense and withdrew his hand. "I have business with Realm King Bingyun, and I decided to pass through here before seeing her."

Although he had gained enough practice and confidence to face any higher realm king like a true equal, for some reason he could never control his breathing or heartbeat in front of Mu Feixue.

"The sect master is in secluded cultivation right now, and she is in no condition to welcome a guest. Please return, Flame God Realm King," Mu Feixue said.

Huo Poyun gathered his breath and calmed himself. When he recalled the names on the icy branch, his confusion slowly turned into unprecedented determination. Staring straight into Mu Feixue's eyes, he said, "Truth be told, I'm here to see you. In fact, I've—"

"You may return now that you've seen me," Mu Feixue's answer was as indifferent as ever. Her countenance was exquisite, and her eyes were crystal, but they were completely devoid of any emotion. "You are the Flame God Realm King. It isn't right for you to lower yourself and visit the disciple of a middle star realm."

She immediately walked past Huo Poyun and toward the exit after saying that.

“Feixue!” Huo Poyun abruptly turned around and shouted her name directly. “Are you... still clinging to Yun Che!?”

“...” The tranquility in her eyes was slightly disturbed, but she neither stopped walking nor replied to his accusation.

“He never cared about you!” Huo Poyun raised his voice. It was too late to take back his words, so he finally discarded all the hesitation in his heart. “Realm King Xuanyin once tried to wed the two of you as cultivation couples, but he turned down the request, didn’t he... he’s the one who told me this himself!”

“...” Mu Feixue finally stopped in her tracks, but her face remained as expressionless as ever. She said quietly, “If he holds a place in my heart, what does it matter if I hold a place in his heart or not?”

It was her roundabout way to advise Huo Poyun to let go of her.

But fire and ice ultimately weren’t the same element.

“But he’s a devil person! A devil person! A devil person!” Huo Poyun growled three times in succession. “Your sect’s own rule demands you to kill any devil person you meet!”

He dashed in front of Mu Feixue and stared into her eyes. “Not only that, he’s recently hailed as the Devil Master of the Northern Divine Region! He’s now the worst kind of devil person you can possibly think of! All the god emperors of the three Divine Regions think of him as a threat, and there is no place for him in this world besides the dark lands of the Northern Divine Region! So why... do you still refuse to let go?”

“The Devil Master...” Mu Feixue whispered. Her bluish eyes turned hazy for a moment. “As expected of him. He shines like no other even when he is pushed into the darkest abyss.”

Despite standing right in front of Mu Feixue, Huo Poyun still couldn’t see himself in her eyes at all.

Not only that, he saw a look he had never seen in her before when he told her that Yun Che had become the Devil Master. Instead of fear, her eyes were filled with admiration and longing... emotions that he knew would never be his for all eternity.

Huo Poyun’s pupils widened soundlessly as a chaotic flame threatened to burn his whole heart to ash. He couldn’t understand why he couldn’t win even a look from her even though he now stood as tall as the stars themselves.

Moreover, she was completely obsessed over a man who had rejected her and had never loved her.

“Do you know how many women he has!?” Mind thrown into a complete disarray, Huo Poyun started losing sight of his own values. “I heard that he had multiple wives and concubines in the lower realms! I even heard that he has a child already! Shui Meiyin, the daughter of the Glazed Light Realm King is engaged to him, the Moon God Emperor is his ex-wife, the Heavenly Slaughter Star God is affiliated with him, and even your master is rumored to share an adulterous—”

He suddenly recalled how much Mu Feixue respected Mu Xuanyin and stopped himself before he finished his sentence.

Again, Mu Feixue walked past him without saying a word.

Again, Huo Poyun turned around and stared at her back. He was an higher realm king, the brightest star in the history of the Flame God Realm, so why was he feeling so helpless and trapped? "Why!? I don't understand! Why is he so important to you!?"

Why...

Her footsteps were silent, her gaze was unfocused. She whispered both to him and herself, "Because... he is Yun Che."

Huo Poyun froze. He didn't move a muscle even after Mu Feixue had completely vanished from his sight and senses.

He didn't know how long he stayed that way until a cool voice entered his ears. "The women of Ice Phoenix Sect normally do not love, but once they do, they do not let go until they die."

Mu Bingyun slowly walked up to Huo Poyun. "Flame God Realm King, please put Feixue behind you. It won't result in anything no matter how hard you try. Someone of your status should be able to find countless women who are a better fit with you, so why do you insist on chasing after a dream that will never come true?"

Huo Poyun finally regained his senses and smiled stiffly at Mu Bingyun. "I'm sorry to have shown you such an unsightly appearance, Realm King Bingyun. I will take my leave now."

He leaped into the air after saying that.

"Flame God Realm King, were you the one who quelled the unrest of the profound beasts at the southern city earlier?" Mu Bingyun asked.

But Huo Poyun was too engrossed with his own emotions to give her a reply.

———

A year passed by in the blink of an eye.

It was in fact, a fairly peaceful year.

The Brahma Monarch God Realm had been recuperating after they lost three Brahma Gods to Jie Yuan, and after the Brahma Monarch Goddess had escaped. There was no particularly big news from the realm, and Qianye Fantian hadn't shown himself in public since.

However, it was rumored that they had found new successors to the Brahma Monarch divine power of the three Brahma Gods.

The Star God Realm was also laying low after their numbers were culled to six Star Gods, and Xing Juekong remained missing to this day. The outsiders thought that it would take at least several generations before the Star God Realm could recover from the Evil Infant disaster, but the six Star Gods knew... that they had no future unless they found the Star God Wheel again. The loss of their god emperor was but a trivial matter compared to this.

The Moon God Realm was as silent as ever. It was rumored that the Moon God Emperor had been cultivating in seclusion and rejecting all visitors.

The Eternal Heaven God Realm still hadn't reopened their borders since the death of the Eternal Heaven Crown Prince.

It was rumored that they were preparing to coronate a new crown prince, but they wouldn't be inviting any outsiders to the ceremony.

Although the speed at which the Eternal Heaven God Realm crowned a new prince was faster than everyone expected, it didn't come as too much of a surprise. It was rumored that the Eternal Heaven God Emperor had been looking to retire for two or three years, and it looked like the coronation was a circumstantial proof to that rumor. Besides that, everyone understood that it was one way for the Eternal Heaven God Emperor to recover from his loss as quickly as possible.

However, another rumor was secretly spreading among the lower and middle star realms.

"I heard that the Eternal Heaven God Realm has been sending people to the borders of the Northern Divine Region rather frequently as of late. I'm not lying! The rumors are spreading from the Eastern Divine Region and the northern realms of the Western Divine Region; the star realms closest to the Northern Divine Region. So it may very well be true."

"I also heard that the reason the Eternal Heaven God Realm is crowning a new crown prince sooner than expected is because the Eternal Heaven God Emperor is planning to focus all his attention on the Northern Divine Region and massacre the devil people."

"Ah? But why would he do that?"

"Do you remember that rumor from a year ago? The one that also spread from the Northern Divine Region? Apparently, the Eternal Heaven God Emperor sneakily took Zhou Qingchen to the Northern Divine Region for god knows what reasons. It is even said that Zhou Qingchen was actually killed there."

"A year ago, that rumor was completely unbelievable, but if we combine that with what we know now... hsss!"

"It can't be true, right?"

"Did Zhou Qingchen really die in the Northern Divine Region? Has the Eternal Heaven God Realm closed their borders to prepare for revenge all this time?"

"Zhou Qingchen is the son of the Eternal Heaven God Emperor's first wife. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that he viewed him as important as he did his own life. If Zhou Qingchen really was killed by the devil people, then I wouldn't be surprised by the Eternal Heaven God Emperor's reaction."

"Those ugly bastards we call devil people should've died a long time ago, but it is pretty difficult to take them out if they do not come out of their 'dog cage'. Otherwise, the three divine regions would've joined hands and wiped out the Northern Divine Region a long time ago."

"In the end, these are all just rumors. It's fine as a story, but not much else."

“Yeah. It’s not like people our level could guess what the Eternal Heaven God Realm is planning anyway.”

Just like before, these “rumors” spread slowly, but were able to reach a surprising number of places. Although each was just as unbelievable as the last one, and it was a fact that most people treated it as gossip material more than anything else, when some of them recalled that forgotten rumor from a year ago... there seemed to be a connection between the two.

Northern Divine Region, Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness.

Ancient yin energy could be seen cycling endlessly above the world of darkness.

A couple of hours later, the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness returned to silence with a boom.

Then, a man covered in tattered black robes and fiendish aura slowly emerged from the darkness.

Rumble!

The moment he appeared beneath the sky, the clouds started rumbling in fear again.

It was because the devil god that was feared by the heavenly way itself had become even stronger.

The moment the three Yama Ancestors guarding at the entrance saw Yun Che, they immediately dropped to their knees and shouted, “Congratulations on your breakthrough, Master!”

Behind them, the Yama Devils also knelt to the ground and shouted loudly, “Congratulations on your breakthrough, Your Magnificence!”

Yun Che slowly raised his hands. Sitting in his palms was deeper, blacker darkness, and crossing his lips was a sinister smile that chilled the entire Yama Imperial District itself.

Thanks to the ancient yin energy of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness, he was able to climb up from level eight Divine Sovereign Realm to level nine Divine Sovereign Realm in just a year... and today, he had reached the highest level of the Divine Sovereign Realm, level ten.

He and Chi Wuyao had promised each other that the day he became a level ten Divine Sovereign...

...was the day they raised the curtain on his revenge!

Four years was a very short time.

But to him, he had been delayed for far too long already.

He couldn’t wait even a second longer!

[Chapter 1710 - Raising the Curtain of War](#)

“We’ve finally broken through.”

Qianye Ying’er appeared at Yun Che’s side. She looked him up and down once before saying, “You used the primordial yin energy in the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness to increase your cultivation by two levels. According to this speed and the seemingly non-existent ‘bottleneck’ of your Heretic God Profound Veins,

you'll be able to break through the limits of the Divine Sovereign Realm and become a Divine Master in about four or five years."

"That's enough." Yun Che turned around. "Let's return to the Soul Stealing Realm."

When they reached the Soul Stealing Realm, Witch Chanyi and Witch Yu Wu came out to welcome them back. "Your Magnificence."

After undergoing Yun Che's "Dark Growth" for one entire year, the Witches, Moon Eaters, and Yama Devils had achieved an even greater compatibility with their devil god powers. Yu Wu and Chanyi's cultivation had also grown by leaps and bounds and they had reached the ninth level of the Divine Master Realm.

If not for Yun Che's "Dark Growth", they would have needed at least a thousand years to reach that level of cultivation.

"Where is your master?" Yun Che asked.

"Your Magnificence, Master has not been in the Sacred Region during this period of time. However, Master has already received word of the Devil Master's breakthrough, so she should be returning soon."

Just as Chanyi had finished speaking, a cottony and seductive voice rang in his ears. "Oh my Lord Devil Master, are you truly so eager for action?"

Anyone would know that these words were referring to Yun Che's eagerness for "revenge", but when Chi Wuyao said them, it sounded like she was trying to flirt with him. Color instantly bloomed in Yu Wu and Chanyi's cheeks as they lowered their delicate heads.

Chi Wuyao had appeared as bewitchingly seductive as always. But this time... she seemed a little spent too.

After Yun Che had been crowned Devil Master, he had spent most of his time cultivating or bestowing the blessing of the Eternal Calamity of Darkness on the elites of the Northern Divine Region. He had also used "Dark Growth" on the individuals who formed the core of his army's strength. Chi Wuyao had been left to run the entire Northern Divine Region by herself.

"I've reached the tenth level of the Divine Sovereign Realm." Yun Che's face was impassive, but a layer of dull black energy swirled around him agitatedly. "We can begin!"

Yun Che had ultimate mastery over darkness profound energy, so it was very rare to see his darkness energy go even slightly out of control.

He had truly... grown tired of waiting.

The demons in his heart had never stopped tormenting him during these last few years he had spent in the Northern Divine Region. They tore at him from the inside in a frenzy, as if they were constantly trying to rip free from the prison of his body.

"Alright." Chi Wuyao did not try to dissuade him like Qianye Ying'er had. She merely gave a slow nod of her head. "The stage has already been set. The only thing left to do is to pull back this dark curtain."

“However, before we begin in earnest, we need to account for all the variables again.” Chi Wuyao turned her beautiful eyes towards him. “Yun Che, are you still set on having that place be our first 【stage】 ?”

“Yes!”

Yun Che raised an arm and a grayish-white cauldron immediately appeared in front of him.

This was the Great Void Cauldron Yun Che had plundered from Honorable Tai Yin’s body after he had killed him in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning.

As an artifact the Eternal Heaven God Realm inherited from the gods, the Great Void Cauldron was not only the strongest spatial profound artifact in the Eternal Heaven God Realm. It was the strongest spatial profound artifact in the entire Eastern Divine Region.

The gigantic dimensional formation that had connected the Eternal Heaven God Realm to the borders of the Primal Chaos, the one that had been built because of the Crimson Calamity, had been built using the Great Void Cauldron as its core.

However, one had to possess the Eternal Heaven divine power in order to activate the core power of the Great Void Cauldron. If an outsider got their hands on the cauldron, they might be able to force it open, but it would be nothing more than a useless “dead” artifact.

Chi Wuyao stretched out a hand and moved the Great Void Cauldron to her side. She stored it away and said in a cottoy voice, “Speaking of which, a piece of interesting news has come out of the Eternal Heaven God Realm recently.”

“What news?” Qianye Ying’er asked.

“The Eternal Heaven God Realm is about to elect a new crown prince in about a month. It’s happening so quickly that even I find it quite odd,” Chi Wuyao said languidly.

After Yun Che had improved their compatibility with darkness energy, the profound practitioners of the Northern Divine Region could completely control and withdraw their darkness aura even when they left the confines of their dark environment. They no longer needed to worry about losing control and having their identities exposed.

A huge information gap started to form between the Northern Divine Region and the other divine regions because of this... However, this was something that three divine regions had not noticed and by the time they did, it would be far too late.

“Is it Zhou Qingfeng?” Qianye Ying’er immediately named the person she thought was the most likely candidate. After that, she let out a contemptuous laugh. “Hmph, just another piece of trash.”

There was no one from the Eternal Heaven God Realm in her generation who had been worthy of her notice.

“Who it is isn’t important.” Chi Wuyao gave a soft laugh. “Once I obtained that piece of news, I immediately took advantage of the situation and helped the Eternal Heaven God Realm spread the

news. But I did end up running Hua Jin ragged. If my Lord Devil Master has the leisure, don't forget to water her a little."

"...This really is a pretty good opportunity," Yun Che replied in a cold voice.

"Oh?" Chi Wuyao suddenly turned her beautiful eyes toward him. A smile bloomed on her face, causing her bewitching seductiveness to pervade the air. "So my Lord Devil Master isn't opposed to rewarding Hua Jin with your nectar? Then I'll ask Hua Jin to go and receive her reward a little later?"

"If you only reward one person, aren't you afraid that the other eight Witches will start feeling neglected?" Qianye Ying'er retorted with a soft snort. Her eyebrows curved into crescents as a small smile played across her lips. "Why don't you just deliver all nine Witches to him to avoid any favoritism! He'll certainly be more than happy to help them!"

"Before we enter the 'stage', I will bestow Dark Growth on all of them one more time." Yun Che said those words curtly before he turned around and left.

Chi Wuyao gave a soft sigh, but her lips curled up into a seductive smile after that. "Ah, how unromantic."

Qianye Ying'er coldly replied, "Now that we've finally reached this point, his mind is definitely fixed on what happened back then."

"This is also why I stopped trying to dissuade him." Chi Wuyao's alluring smile slowly disappeared as she said those words. A gloomy cold light soundlessly started to glimmer in her eyes. "Over the past year, I've been observing the changes in the Northern Divine Region while analyzing the battle scenarios we might find ourselves in."

"Even though the strength of the Northern Divine Region's elites cannot compare to any one of the three divine regions, we... can indeed raise the curtain of war."

"Because the ultimate deciding factor isn't the combined strength of both sides. It is... Yun Che!"

Though the strength of the Northern Divine Region's upper echelons had undergone a veritable transformation over the past year, they were still far weaker than the experts of any other divine region. This was something that could not be denied. However, Qianye Ying'er was not surprised about Chi Wuyao's statement. Her golden orbs also turned cold as she asked, "So what do the other regions think of Yun Che's coronation as the Devil Master of the Northern Divine Region?"

"A puppet," Chi Wuyao replied, "and a rather pathetic one at that."

"Just as expected." Qianye Ying'er let out a dry chuckle. She had no choice but to admit one thing. If she hadn't been by Yun Che's side these past few years, if she was still someone who belonged to the Eastern Divine Region, she would definitely share the same opinion as them.

After all, how could a junior, who had no choice but to pathetically flee to the Northern Divine Region when he was being hunted by all the divine regions, actually become the 'Devil Master' of the Northern Divine Region?

Was it because he possessed the Heretic God's legacy? No matter how "pathetic and destitute" the Northern Divine Region was, this was still far too ridiculous.

Even if everyone in the three divine regions had known about the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor's return, even if they had known that Yun Che had inherited her legacy, it would still be a joke to them. In fact, it might further solidify his status as a "puppet" in their minds.

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor was aware of just how frightening Yun Che's strength had become. Even so, although his outrageous transformation was astounding, it was not something that would arouse any alarm. After all, the Northern Divine Region was still the Northern Divine Region in the end. Even if one more god emperor appeared, it would be no cause for concern. Even if several more god emperors popped up, they would still only be a bunch of devils trapped in a cage.

The reason why they were scared of Yun Che was because of what he would become in the future.

However, they had never dreamed that Yun Che would cause the Northern Divine Region itself to undergo such a massive transformation over the last few years. They had also never dreamed that the "future" would come so quickly.

"The easiest enemies to silence with a single cut of the sword are those who are careless and unaware," Chi Wuyao said languidly. After that, she gave a self-deprecating laugh. "Who would have thought that the pathetic state of the Northern Divine Region, a state which has existed since its inception, would actually become its greatest advantage."

"Are we really going to begin?" Qianye Ying'er suddenly asked.

"Of course." Chi Wuyao stared into the distance. "How could I dare to go back on the promise I made to our Lord Devil Master."

"Furthermore, I've always had this feeling," Chi Wuyao continued, "that our Lord Devil Master is still hiding some things from us."

Qianye Ying'er: "..."

"Of course, being able to hide things from even you and I is something which can be called admirable growth when it comes to him. In fact, he might even spring an unexpected but pleasant surprise on us when the time comes." A faint smile reappeared on Chi Wuyao's face. "He is so anxious for revenge... But on the other hand, he is painfully aware, more so than anyone else, of how he fell into such a state. In that case, if he wasn't feeling confident enough, would he really be prepared to take this step forward?"

"Hmph, you really have a lot of confidence in him," Qianye Ying'er said.

"Ai." Chi Wuyao sighed gloomily. "In the end, he's still my man. What else can I do but believe in him? Even if he's just being willful, I can only let him do what he wants."

After she finished speaking, her beautiful eyes darted toward Qianye Ying'er as she laughed softly. "This was exactly how Mu Xuanyin used to spoil him back then."

"..." Qianye Ying'er suddenly thrust out an arm. "Hand the Great Void Cauldron to me."

"Oh?" Astonishment bloomed on Chi Wuyao's face, but she wavered the moment she noticed the look in Qianye Ying'er's eyes. "Are you thinking..."

“The amount of blood and sin covering me has long been enough to drag me down to the eighteenth layer of hell,” Qianye Ying’er said in a cold voice. “So you should naturally leave such things to a sinner like me.”

“I have the Ni Yuan Stone, so I can alter my aura... It will be the safest for me to do it.” Her gaze turned dark and sinister. “Because I understand Eternal Heaven far more than you, far more than anyone in the Northern Region.”

After a brief moment of hesitation, Chi Wuyao gave a small nod of her head and said, “Okay.”

The Great Void Cauldron appeared and she pushed it to Qianye Ying’er.

She tapped the air with her finger and a cluster of soul light flew toward Qianye Ying’er. “These are the three most suitable star realms, when are you going to make your move?”

“Right now!”

Her voice lingered in Chi Wuyao’s ears but Qianye Ying’er had already soared into the sky. She did not head in the direction that Yun Che had or call out to him. Instead, she flew toward the south of the Northern Divine Region at her fastest possible speed.

With a very soft sigh, Chi Wuyao whispered, “Hua Jin, go.”

Another figure took to the air as Hua Jin chased after Qianye Ying’er.

A vast and gloomy dark star region.

Qianye Ying’er came to a stop in this place. A rather large star realm of the Northern Divine Region lay in front of her. This was a lower star realm that was close to the border of the Northern Divine Region. Because of its proximity to the border, the aura of darkness in this place was rather thin, but this star realm still possessed a fearsome reputation in this dark star region.

Qianye Ying’er lifted a hand and the Great Void Cauldron appeared. The grayish-white body of the cauldron expanded as she injected power into it. It swiftly swelled up until it was several kilometers in length.

At the same time, an incredibly heavy might enveloped all of the living creatures in this star realm. They unwittingly raised their heads to the skies as they trembled and gasped due to this unknown terror which gripped their hearts and souls.

Even though she was not able to use the spatial divine power of the Great Void Cauldron, as a primordial divine artifact, it was an exceedingly excellent vessel for power, an item that was practically indestructible in the current era.

Once she had injected enough power into the cauldron, Qianye Ying’er gave it a gentle push. The Great Void Cauldron instantly transformed into a pale white meteor. It hurtled downwards, mercilessly smashing into the surface of the star realm.

Boom—

Destructive divine light and cacophonous explosions filled the air. Star realms were not as fragile as planets were, but the power of a Divine Master was no less than a world-ending disaster to a lower star realm.

The instant the power of the Great Void Cauldron erupted, countless cracks instantly appeared across the surface of the fragile star realm. In the very next instant, the entire star realm shattered, burying countless living creatures along with it.

Wails of misery, an aura of despair, the taste of fresh blood... Qianye Ying'er impassively gazed upon the destruction, her expression unchanging.

Just like the Brahma Monarch Goddess of old, who viewed all life as nothing more than blades of grass.