

The Ages 1001

Chapter 1001 - Destinybane, Trisoul Prime

With Tianming's divine will and divine body fully formed, his soul began morphing into a divine soul. The misty soul began concentrating within his sea of consciousness after his heavenly will dissipated. Eventually, the mist turned into a pure-white mini person. The same happened with Ying Huo and the rest, their souls seemingly gaining solid form that matched the shapes of their bodies.

Naturally, the visible part of the soul was the vita. Their caelum was always slightly above them in the air and their terra was right next to the body, but they were both invisible. As for whether those two parts also changed, records stated that totems awakened before the Ascension stage would morph to the next stage during the ascension itself. As totems were formed from the caelum, it was a sign that all three parts of the soul could change.

"With the vita gaining solid form, its resistance increased manifold. It's now a divine soul. It's said that at the Ascension stage, one's vita can be cultivated. Having a stronger vita would positively affect cultivation, insight comprehension, and other disciplines like patternscribing and crafting. Not to mention, one's totems or other parts of the soul would grow more resistant as well."

While Tianming hadn't had much time to look into cultivating his vita, he did know a few simple facts. The caelum was mainly in charge of cultivation, while the terra supported one in combat alongside the vita. Vita itself was the core and essence of the being. Once it perished, the caelum and terra would scatter, resulting in death. The stronger the vita, the stronger one would be, and the stronger one's caelum and terra would grow. Within the vita were true memories, unlike the third person memories recorded by the caelum. Tianming personally witnessed the formation of his divine body and soul.

When the little person successfully formed in his sea of consciousness, he suddenly recalled the thing he was most concerned about during his ascension: his Aeonian Grandbane! Had he finally broken the curse? He couldn't wait to find out. First, he saw countless bane words on the little person that was his vita. The original ten words had multiplied all over his vita, still in text form.

"Does this mean my bane-rings are now on my vita? What does that imply?" All of a sudden, his mind shook. The first thing he noticed was that his thoughts and senses were much clearer than before. When he opened his eyes and sensed the world through them, as well as his ears, nose, and mouth, he found that everything seemed so simple. The caeli of the divine moonrace and their tales of cultivation swept past his mind rapidly. The dust near him, the voices far away from him, the conversations of other disciples, the light tremor of their fingers, and the stellunar force around them were all incredibly clear to him. He was cognizant of all of it.

"Is this due to my Aeonian Grandbane? Have my comprehension abilities and senses greatly improved? Will this allow me to perceive reality in its true form much better than ever before and allow me to seek out answers to my cultivation?"

He had a feeling that wasn't all. Looking down, he saw the ten word-like bane-rings manifested on his arms. Unlike the countless words that covered his vita, these ten symbols were the actual core of his Lifesbane. When he set sights on the ancient text, he suddenly found that he could understand all of

them. On his left arm were symbols representing east, south, life, heaven, and time, while on his right were west, north, death, earth, and space. The symbols on his left and right arms were complementary opposites to each other!

"So, they're north and south, east and west, heaven and earth, and space and time! They're almost like the ten halls of Decimo Dao Palace!" Tianming was utterly shocked. Who had named the halls of Decimo Dao Palace? How could such a coincidence exist?

"Does this mean I've overcome this bane?" He had no idea at all, but there were two things he could at least be sure of. The first was that the rapid aging he had suffered thanks to Lifesbane and the Samsara stage was gone. It was as if he had obtained a lifespan of a thousand years at the age of seventeen. The second thing was that his mind was incredibly clear. He was filled with the desire to grasp the nature of order of the world. If his guess was right, he was in his growth prime, just like Li Wudi. He should be improving rapidly in the time to come.

"How do you all feel?" Tianming asked Ying Huo and the rest. Thanks to symbiotic cultivation, his Aeonian Grandbane had also spread to them. Only they and the lifebound beasts of the Li Saint Clan had Lifesbane; the divine moonrace, who also had Lifesbane, didn't have lifebound beasts.

"I feel the power!" Ying Huo said.

"What do you mean by that?"

"I'll come out and show you." Ying Huo exited the lifebound space and landed on Tianming's palm. After its saint springs had turned into astral discs spread throughout its body, Ying Huo looked not too different from before. The reason for that was that the change in divine bodies mostly occurred within. However, it was easy to sense that it was much different than before. Now its eyes had a full thousand stars, instead of being half a star short like before. It had truly become a divine beast.

Ying Huo showed Tianming its feathers. Like the infernal discs, the feathers were shining bright red like metal. More importantly, the ten symbols on Tianming's arms were flowing through the feathers all across its body, radiating a sense of mind-numbing power. It was just like the vita in Tianming's sea of consciousness. Not only did it look like he had broken the curse, he'd also seemed to have greatly benefited from it.

"This is a power that doesn't belong to the Primordial Chaos Beasts. I gave you Lifesbane!" Up until now, all of Ying Huo's tricks had been from its bloodline, apart from battle arts.

"That's right. That's why I suspect that once I reach peak maturity, I'll be much stronger than the me of the past with this power," Ying Huo said.

Tianming couldn't even begin to comprehend what that would be like. "What do the symbols do when they're on your feathers?"

"The effect has a name. It's called Blazebane, Cosmic Blade."

"Who gave it that name?"

"It just arose naturally."

"What use does it have?" "Give it a try." Ying Huo used Skyscorch Featherblast, but only shot out a single feather. Tianming saw the symbols on that feather as it shot toward his thigh.

Then it pierced straight through his body, which had been further fortified by the Purple Tower. It seemed that even his newly-strengthened defenses couldn't stop the feather that carried Cosmic Blade at all. This was a new effect obtained after the breakthrough. Before, Ying Huo's feathers had already been incredibly powerful thanks to its Skypiercer Ki. However, Cosmic Blade was on a whole different level.

"Like the name suggests, it's a flaming blade that can cut apart even the cosmos itself." It seemed that Ying Huo's ability had grown magnitudes stronger. Once it returned to its prime state, not only would it be able to consume suns, it would also be able to cut apart spacetime.

"Looks like my Aeonc Grandbane can produce wonders when mixed with the bloodline of Primordial Chaos Beasts. I think you might even surpass me!"

Tianming had Meow Meow and the rest test out their new abilities as well.

"If they have new abilities, I should too!" Tianming suddenly recalled Li Wudi. "That's right, isn't this identical to my godfather's Bloodfiend Transformation? Qingyu also seemed to be much stronger in moonlight after she achieved her Pentamoon Skybane."

In other words, there were powers unlocked after breaking the Lifesbane curse. Both Li Wudi and his beast had obtained Bloodfiend Transformation. However, Tianming believed that his lifebound beasts' new powers would be different from his, and they each had a unique one indeed.

Meow Meow appeared in front of Tianming, now with the bane text in its fur. "I think it's called Blitzbane, Worldbolt Blast," it said excitedly.

"What can it do?"

"My abilities and speed are enhanced. I'm now faster and more ferocious. I can use my abilities without limit, and speed up forever without ever reaching top speed. Basically I'll get ridiculously strong!" it proudly said. The benefits afforded by Tianming's Aeonc Grandbane had strengthened them to ridiculous degrees.

Unsurprisingly, Lan Huang had even more bane text on its body. The power it gained was called Montseabane, Starocean Flicker. The texts weren't plain black, but rather in all kinds of colors. They shone brightly, like a sea of stars on Lan Huang's body. While Tianming didn't know back then, he now knew that each star in the sky was a world with mountains and seas of its own. In other words, Lan Huang was an astral dragon. Montseabane was unlike the Purple Tower. Not only did it enhance Lan Huang's defense, it also improved its strength, making it much more of a threat than before.

"Impressive." Xian Xian was next. Its branches, petals, vines, and roots all had bane text on them, the most of all of them. It was called Vitalbane, Life Curse and it was more unique than the rest. Life Curse was like the severe draining of lifespan during the Samsara stage, but far more potent. It could use the bane text to siphon life force away at a staggering rate.

With all four of those powers, if they weren't powerful enough in their current state, they would still no doubt shock the world, as these powers compounded with their natural abilities as Primordial Chaos Beasts. The bane text always surprised them with new secrets.

Tianming, unlike the rest, had manifested bane text on his vita. So he wasn't really sure what his special power was. All of a sudden, a few blurry words appeared in his mind: Destinybane, Trisoul Prime. The destiny was the same destiny with the literal meaning of his name: Tianming, the fate of heavens. However, he was still stumped by how obscure it sounded. He couldn't see his caelum or terra, so he could only be sure that his vita had bane text. As for what use it had, he didn't know; he couldn't test it out like Ying Huo and the rest could.

All he could do was continue absorbing the stellunar source to properly reach Brightmoon Sky, the first level of the Ascension stage. Six hours later, he finally succeeded. His astral discs were pulsing with power, making him feel invulnerable.

"Let's head back!"

Right as he was about to return and tell Feiling the good news, the divine moon hall exploded and collapsed. Following the loud explosion, panicked cries rang out as countless caeli began rising into the sky and dissipating. Tianming was utterly shocked; this represented the complete destruction of the million-year legacy of the Huiyue Clan.

Chapter 1002 - Unmatched Killer

"What's going on?!" Tianming was still trying to get a feel for Trisoul Prime, yet something like this happened all of a sudden. He knew what the divine moon hall meant to the Huiyue Clan. It was as important to them as the Old Deepstar Path was to the Archaion Sect. Without the divine moon hall, the descendants of the Huiyue Clan would lose the guidance of their ancestors and have to cultivate using nothing but trial and error, which was easily three to four times longer. Not to mention, their potential would be severely limited. It was akin to the clan going bankrupt.

No longer having the formations within the divine moon hall to control them, the million plus caeli began dissipating in the air. The moon-shaped divine moon hall was still collapsing, with quite a number of people still within it. It was a shocking change that caused quite a lot of panic. They were even more affected by the loss of the hall than Tianming was, feeling utter despair for the future.

The question was: who was the culprit? There was no way the divine moon hall would collapse on its own accord. Tianming was only there to break through to the Ascension stage, so he barely caused any disturbance. The changes had all occurred within his own body, after all. It was only after the hall had collapsed that he noticed the entire city had already fallen into chaos while he was still breaking through.

"Did I only notice just now because I was within the divine moon hall?" He hurriedly ended his cultivation and prepared to leave. The sounds of battle could be heard all over.

"Who is it?" He had a bad omen and hurriedly hid himself, before using his enhanced senses to search out the surroundings. "Found him!"

He squinted and saw the white-robed man in the sky above the divine moon hall. He was unquestionably the culprit of the hall's destruction, the very same person who had killed Huiyue Du and Liu Yizhao. Whether or not he was Bodhi, Tianming could finally make sure with his newfound senses. Even if he could hide it, Tianming could smell the stench of a specter from the man.

"Wasn't the Veneramoon Formation activated? How in the world did he get in?" Tianming was quite confused about how things had played out. Even the divine moon hall was defended by multiple formations of its own; however, they were mostly deactivated as they already had an even more powerful Veneramoon Formation active.

War was a thing of the past on the Divine Moon Realm. In the past million years, they hadn't been threatened even once. Peace had dulled their senses and desensitized them to potential threats, which resulted in an arrogance that had ultimately ruined them. From now on, they would live in worry and die in peace.

When Tianming saw Bodhi, he himself wasn't spotted. Bodhi didn't notice him through the gaps of the countless caeli rising up into the sky. He had destroyed the defenseless divine moon hall to cause maximum chaos and was currently engaged in a tense battle with the top elites of the Huiyue Clan. They had him surrounded and were ruthlessly raining down attacks on him.

"It looks like he's much stronger than rumored." Tianming could immediately tell why Bodhi was able to attack Huiyue City despite the formation after laying low for a period of time. This was his true peak state. Tianming guessed that if the specters hadn't been massacred by Huiyue Shi's parents, Bodhi would choose to strike now rather than starting his murders some time back.

Currently, Huiyue City was the embodiment of chaos itself, with pained shrieks echoing throughout the rubble of the destroyed buildings. "He's returned to Huiyue City to wipe out the legacy of the Huiyue Clan. He also definitely has his eyes on Huiyue Shi and me!"

Huiyue Shi and Feiling were now at the Duyue Mansion, so Tianming didn't stay to watch the battle. He immediately returned as fast as he could, traveling at a speed much faster than before. This was the first time he was utilizing astralforce. The four-tiered astral discs in every albus of his body rotated rapidly, causing him to zip forward like lightning. "With the core of my power distributed throughout my entire body, I'm able to use more of my power at once."

He had never felt this way before. Like a beam of starlight, he flashed through the streets and left the battlefield. Turning back, he saw countless caeli rising up into the skies like kites that had their strings cut as more and more buildings collapsed. It made for quite an impressive sight indeed. Such a sight was enough to send the residents of the city into a fit of pain and terror. Tianming saw all too many of them howling in pain for the loss they suffered along the way. No doubt, this was the end of the Huiyue Clan.

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He swiftly reached Huiyue Mansion and immediately saw Feiling and Huiyue Shi at the entrance. Surprisingly, the Moonsoul Blooddragon was gone and Feiling had regained her freedom. Apart from looking a little pale, she seemed completely fine.

"Why's it gone?" Tianming asked.

"I slipped into that odd state of mind again today and broke the chains," Feiling said.

While it was something worth celebrating, there could be unintended side effects. It might not be entirely positive. Either way, it still relieved him that Feiling would no longer have to suffer.

"Y-y-you... you actually did it?" Huiye Shi said, mouth agape. Feiling had also noticed the change. With the dissipation of his saint palace, his tribulation force was no more. Instead, it had been converted into astral force, which was starkly different. There was no way to hide the fact that he now had a divine body. Both of them were ecstatic.

"Put that aside for now. The killer just showed up and the Duyue Mansion isn't safe. We have to leave the Huiyue Clan immediately. Let's find a place in the city to hide."

The main base of the clan took up a third of the city's area. If they hid somewhere else in the city, it wouldn't be easy for Bodhi to track them down alone. While the Moonsoul Blooddragon had been broken, Tianming hadn't retrieved his sword yet, so he couldn't exactly leave the city just yet; it would probably be hard for him to re-enter it.

The three of them immediately distanced themselves from the battlefield.

"I have a hiding spot further away. Come with me." Huiye Shi guided them through the maze of streets and entered a bridge opening. There was an underground bunker underneath the bridge that was protected by formations. Once they were activated, illusions would mask any trace of the bunker. It was rather easy for Feiling to activate the third-origin tribulation formation of the bunker. Now that they were safe inside, Bodhi was temporarily no longer a threat.

"How did he come in?" Tianming asked Huiye Shi.

"Through sheer brute force," Huiye Shi said with a look of disbelief.

"Didn't you say the Veneramoon Formation would be able to stop him?"

"It should, assuming his cultivation is at Decapath Sky. But his power today showed him to be at least at Lifecycle Sky. He simply forced himself through the formation. Not to mention, most formations are made for war to be used against armies. The Veneramoon Formation is weaker against a single peak elite. More crucially, the seniors had blind faith that the formation would stop him just because he stopped showing up for a time. But he came to prove them all wrong! The first thing he did when he made his way in was destroy the divine moon hall..."

Chapter 1003 - Divine Moon Radiance Descent

Huiye Shi was a member of the Huiyue Clan, so the destruction of the divine moon hall caused her to panic and be in tears. Tianming couldn't really tell her that he was eighty percent certain the killer was Bodhi, as he didn't want the Flameyellow Continent to be made into a battlefield.

"The killer is even stronger than our clan leader, who's only at the Decapath Sky level! Only a few of the elders and seniors are at the Nonahonor Sky level, with most others being at the Heptaglorious Sky or Octasaint Sky level. Can they really stop the killer? If he can't be stopped, there'll be a massacre... What'll happen to the divine moonrace?" Huiye Shi said with a grave look.

"It'll depend on Sovereign Xi or reinforcements from the other Eightmoon Skycities," Tianming said. He could already see that the killer was able to hold his own against multiple enemies without being at any disadvantage.

"If the killer was this powerful to begin with, he could've started the massacre long ago. Does this mean he's been breaking through the whole time he was away?" Huiye Shi said. If even Tianming couldn't figure out how Bodhi got so powerful, neither could she.

It wasn't Tianming's business to meddle in the affairs of the divine moonrace. Even if the killer was Bodhi, he wouldn't be able to stop him from massacring the divine moonrace that had caused the deaths of a billion specters. Tianming hurriedly turned to look at Feiling while Huiye Shi was still panicking. She seemed normal on all fronts.

"Are you still hurting?" Tianming asked, rubbing her back.

"It's better now, Big Brother," she said.

"Looks like the bumps are also gone," Tianming said as he felt her smooth back.

"Thank goodness," Feiling said with a sigh of relief. Turning around and holding his hand, she asked, "What do you want to do from now on?"

"I'll get my Grand-Orient Sword back, then we're leaving Huiyue City. I no longer wish to stay here," Tianming said.

"Waaah! Then what would I do? Mourn for you?" Huiye Shi said.

"You're overthinking it. I'm just afraid of the killer."

Huiye Shi still wasn't aware that the killer could be after her as well. Tianming planned to escape from Duyue Mansion first.

"It's better for you to hide here and wait for things to blow over," Tianming said.

"Alright. Oh, I remember something!" Huiye Shi said, slapping her thigh.

"What is it?"

"Today's the day the divine moon radiance descends. If you don't go for it now, you'll have to wait three more months!"

"Today?" Bodhi was still out there killing.

"That's right. It's already evening now, so there's only four hours left." Huiye Shi had wanted to remind Tianming about it, only to be scared back into the Duyue Mansion when the killer showed up.

Tianming had been looking forward to gaining totems for a long time, especially with his ten bane-rings having returned to his arms and the Aeonic Grandbane taking on a new form. He wasn't sure if he'd truly broken the curse of Lfiesbane, but the benefits afforded to Ying Huo and the rest were clear to him. The other reason he had stayed in Huiyue City was to awaken his totems.

"I'll have to head to the radiance hall, right? Will you take me there?"

"No, I'm scared! I'll give you a map so you can find it yourself. The radiance hall is quite far away from the divine moon hall, so the battle shouldn't have spread there yet. Normally, there would be quite a lot of people there, but with the killer engaging in the massacre, I reckon most people will have escaped. Most of the people trying to awaken their totems are children, after all."

Tianming gave it some thought. There were only four hours left, and he would have to wait three more months if he missed this. That would be a huge waste of time. "The two of you should hide here. I'll go give it a try."

While leaving now was risky, the rewards were hard to ignore. If he could take his sword back during the chaos as well, he would no longer have any reason to remain in Huiyue City.

"Stay safe," Huiye Shi said.

Tianming left Meow Meow with them. After all, he didn't need lifebound beasts around to awaken his totems. While lifebound beasts had terra as well, their terra couldn't be used to awaken totems. If it weren't for the fact that he also wanted to try retrieving the Grand-Orient Sword, he would have left the other three lifebound beasts here to protect Feiling as well.

He hugged Feiling tightly at the entrance of the bunker and kissed her cheek. "Wait for me to come back."

"Definitely." Feiling loosened her arms that were around his hips.

"Alright, I'm off." Tianming slipped out and vanished.

Within the bunker, Meow Meow lazily stretched with all four legs skyward and yawned. "That's right. You go fight, I'll stay back and keep watch... it's perfect..." Then, it went back to sleep.

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In the clouds above the Veneramoon Formation, one could clearly see chaos breaking out within the city. Countless pillars of smoke and gigantic totems were all over the place, accompanied by pained cries and wails. Even so, the most eye-catching sight was the countless caeli rising into the sky past the formation. Without the divine moon hall's protection, they wouldn't last long outside. Amidst all that chaos, nobody noticed a black-clad girl in the clouds above. Her red eyes shone as she looked down at the rising caeli.

"This is Huiyue City. Those two should still be inside, right?" The girl was none other than Lin Xiaoxiao. The fact that she was there meant that she had finally become an ascendant with the guidance of the Archaionfiend.

"Xiaoxiao! Xiaoxiao! We've hit the jackpot!" The Archaionfiend, Wu You, jumped about in a frenzy within the lifebound space. Though it wanted to come out, Lin Xiaoxiao kept the lifebound space sealed.

"Didn't you say you'd no longer consume caeli?" she said in annoyance. She knew that her talent was related to the caeli that the Archaionfiend consumed. Although, these caeli would dissipate on their own even if they weren't consumed.

Seeing the dissipating caeli, the Archaionfiend's stomach grumbled. "How many times do you need me to tell you? Vita is the essence of a human being, while terra and caelum are paired to it by the universe

at the moment of birth. They belong to the heavens and earth to begin with. The caelum, especially, doesn't belong to humans. It's a method of surveillance on all lifeforms by the universe. Its purpose is to record, nothing more. It's no different from the fundamental forces of the cosmos and spiritual energy.

"Once death occurs, caeli might retain some remnants of strong emotion like love or hate, as well as some lingering regrets. However, caeli like these that've been stored for nearly a million years are completely non sentient. They should have dissipated naturally if they hadn't been stored.

"While Archaionfiends like me burn and pillage for caeli, our true aim is the caeli of other people's ancestors. Essentially, we ruin legacies. However, our actions are fundamentally neutral in the eyes of the cosmos! After all, the caeli we consume will dissipate as natural energy into the universe after our deaths anyway. In fact, keeping the caeli of dead people sealed up goes against the natural order of the world, understood? We're only considered evil by those who seek to defy nature! They're the ones who pinned the label of evil on us!"

The Archaionfiend didn't spare any effort to explain all that to Lin Xiaoxiao for the sake of consuming caeli. In fact, it had already done so countless times.

Chapter 1004 - Nine Old Friends

"Xiaoxiao, although we agreed to stop killing to refine caeli, these sealed caeli can't return to the universe. They're energy bodies without a master, memories of the third person, like a book. They aren't vitae that can be reused, alright?"

The Archaionfiend was extremely humble. Though it was afraid of the Bloodrose Curse, it didn't want to remain weak. It was a fact that Lin Xiaoxiao could eventually grow stronger with its memories. However, it wasn't used to its current fragile state.

"Hurry up, Xiaoxiao. There's waste with every second that passes. How about this? You can stop refining the caeli. I'll consume them first and seal them all up. You can ask around about the nature of caelum. It's the part of the soul that is the farthest from living beings. Just a part of the universe. If you discover I'm lying, I'll spit them back out and let them dissipate," the Archaionfiend droned on.

"Alright then. Save them first. If you dare act on them, I'll give you a taste of the Bloodrose Curse for two hours every day from here on out," said Lin Xiaoxiao.

"Why don't you understand that my intentions are good? I'm under your control. These caeli are effective for you. If it weren't for you, I would've already had countless breakthroughs," said the Archaionfiend.

It didn't require caeli because its divine will was strong enough. It was Lin Xiaoxiao's divine will keeping them stuck at this cultivation level.

"I don't have enough information about this. Save them first," Lin Xiaoxiao replied.

"Alright!"

Lin Xiaoxiao had nothing to fear because of the constraints of symbiotic cultivation. As long as she was weak, the Archaionfiend had no way of becoming strong. They would always be in sync.

It wasn't until that moment that Lin Xiaoxiao released the Archaionfiend. Flapping its black wings, the Archaionfiend fluttered in the sky and swallowed countless caeli that were about to dissipate.

"Let me tell you something. These people forcibly keep caeli in the world for the sake of their offspring's strength, which is tantamount to imprisoning the energy of the universe. This is an act against the heavens! In fact, Archaionfiends were born to cleanse the cosmos. Everyone thinks we're evil, but what we represent is the justice of heaven and earth! We allow these energies to return to the universe!" the Archaionfiend said with great confidence.

"Then why can't you just allow caeli to dissipate and return to the universe? Why do you have to consume it?" Lin Xiaoxiao rolled her eyes.

"What do you know? Don't we deserve to be paid for working for the universe? Anyway, no one can escape death and no one can truly live forever. Sooner or later, our 'wages' will be returned to the universe," the Archaionfiend said righteously.

Lin Xiaoxiao couldn't be bothered to continue this meaningless discussion. She looked down at Huiyue City, the powerhouses inside its walls giving her palpitations.

"Hurry up then. Those powerhouses below are all heading up. It looks like they're in a rush to take back these caeli. There's quite a number of them," said Lin Xiaoxiao.

Upon hearing this, the anxious Archaionfiend quickly swallowed the caeli. At this point, it was impossible to swallow a million, but a hundred thousand wasn't an issue.

The Archaionfiend did as it said, sealing the caeli in its abdomen so they wouldn't dissipate. There were many divine moonrace powerhouses headed up.

"Let's go!"

With the formation in place, they couldn't enter the city and were forced to hide in the distance.

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Back at the Huiyue Clan, Tianming stared at the ongoing battle in the distance. Members of the Huiyue Clan were in the same situation as he was before. They ran out, desperately avoiding the slaughter. All the powerhouses of the clan had been dispatched to encircle the killer. Totems filled the battlefield and dust pervaded the sky. It was impossible to see Bodhi.

"He's lasted until now, which means the Huiyue Clan won't be able to stop him if he wants to leave. The only reason he stayed is to kill more, since he's come all this way. Once he's killed enough, no one can stop him. He'll do his best to look for me and Huiyue Shi."

Thus, Tianming was facing a certain degree of danger this time. Fortunately, the radiance hall was far away from the battlefield. Tianming was familiar enough with the Huiyue residence and could figure out the location of the hall just by looking at a map. As he approached the area, he found that most of the people had fled. There wasn't a single person in sight.

"This is great. Even heaven is on my side."

He was worried others might be watching when he formed his totems, which would cause unnecessary trouble. Intuition told Tianming that he couldn't follow in Qingyu's footsteps.

“So no matter how many totems I form today, I can never use more than five in public.”

Radiance hall wasn't as large as the divine moon hall. At the moment, it was empty. Opening the doors, Tianming walked in. In front of him was a vast hall, hundreds of meters tall, without any furnishings. Speaking and walking would both echo.

After closing the doors, he set his sights on the center of the hall, where a colorful light beam extended to the sky, illuminating a circle. This circle was small, only about three meters in diameter. Tianming approached it, his steps determined and quick. As he stood near the circle and looked up, he saw a hole in the roof through which the stars in the sky were visible. At this moment, there was a colorful crystal-like stone suspended above the hall; it was the divine moon radiance.

Apparently, this was a special divine artifact that originated from Orderia and could assist in the formation of totems. The formation of all totems in the Divine Moon Realm was attributable to the divine moon radiance, which could usually be found in the Divine Moon Skycity.

Tianming currently stood within the glow of the divine moon radiance. He didn't feel any changes in his body; after all, the divine moon radiance shone on the terra. He still ended up rolling up his sleeves to reveal the ten bane-rings on his arms. The words on his dark arm were difficult to detect.

"The first step in forming totems is to allow the terra to manifest itself under the divine moon radiance and look upon one's own terra!"

Tianming was now very familiar with the three parts of the soul. However, he had only seen the vita in his sea of consciousness. The caelum hovered above, swaying erratically, and the terra was beside the body. Both had never appeared before.

“The three parts of the soul? It's amazing. Trisoul Prime? Does it have anything to do with the Prime Tower?”

Tianming found it interesting.

Now that there wasn't anyone around to disturb him, Tianming concentrated on seeking his terra. At the same time, he felt the ten bane-rings on his arm going through subtle changes under the divine moon radiance. The black words were twisting, as if they had come to life.

“Compared to Godfather's lifesbane, the Aeonian Grandbane seems understated and deeply hidden. What secrets could they hold?”

He was eager to find out as time passed.

Soon, the ten bane-rings started to sound.

“The energy cores in my body are the albi, but it's said that after the development of totems, these bane-rings will become the energy cores of my totems. Although the bane-rings appear small, there's in fact a vast space within each one. As I cultivate, I can raise the totems at the same time. I'll require more stellar sources.”

Totems were almost parasitic, which was fundamentally different from a lifebound beast. They couldn't be separated from the body, possessed neither the adaptability nor the mind of a lifebound beast, and resembled weapons.

Tianming sensed the effect the divine moon radiance had on his vita. He grew dizzy as the colorful light dazzled his eyes. Staring at it for some time caused hallucinations.

"The terra..." Tianming had been searching for its figure.

After an indefinite amount of time, a vague figure gradually appeared before his eyes.

"The number of bane-rings constitute the number of totems formed and how many the terra would have to split into."

Would all this splitting weaken his terra? Tianming wasn't certain, but he knew that the bane race were brilliant to have transformed their terra into battle entities. His eyes focused upon the figure staring back at him as it gradually solidified.

It was an ethereal form of himself.

It looked exactly like Tianming, with white hair, black and gold eyes, and a smile on its face, as if they were reunited after a long time apart. Unsurprisingly, his body was covered with bane text, just like his vita, which meant the Aeonian Grandbane already had an effect on both parts of the soul. His caelum undoubtedly had bane text as well.

"So this is my terra. Will it split into ten?"

Tianming felt that his terra was already linked to his bane-rings as he underwent a transformation under the divine moon radiance. Tianming awaited the split.

Right then, something unexpected happened. The soul servant that had been quietly lurking in his body broke away and formed a blurry figure before his eyes, standing next to his terra. At the same time, the eight remaining red dots on his chest that had been transformed from soul servants detached from his body. All nine of them joined his terra.

Tianming counted. "One plus nine makes ten, right?" he said blankly.

"What else could it be? A harem of three thousand beauties? What a loser! You barely have any women, but you've got a whole bunch of bros. They'll fuck you to death sooner or later!" Ying Huo rolled its eyes.

"A bunch of bros?"

Tianming thought that it was too soon to say. Who knew what changes his terra and the nine soul servants would undergo.

Chapter 1005 - The Four Cardinal Gods, Dominators Of The Universe

When first forming totems, terra gained solid form and would split under the influence of the divine moon radiance and bane-rings.

“A cultivator’s terra will split into as many bane-rings as they possess.” However, the nine soul servants had appeared before Tianming's eyes. Why were they standing next to his terra? Was it an act of their own accord? There seemed to be no answer.

Tianming soon discovered that his terra didn’t split. Instead, something amazing happened—the bane text on his terra flew toward the soul servants. In a short period of time, all nine of them had the same bane text as his terra. As the text flooded the soul servants’ figures, Tianming sensed a change in them.

With the fusion of his bane text, they were no different in essence to his terra, even if they still retained some consciousness

Like his terra, every soul servant was connected to his vita in his sea of consciousness. There seemed to be an invisible thread binding his terra to his vita. There were nine additional threads based on the same bane text that were bound to the soul servants. They had become Tianming's new terrae.

“My terra didn’t split into ten. Instead, new terrae were formed from the nine soul servants linked by my Aeonic Grandbane?”

The Greater Lifesbane remained a profound mystery. Tianming didn’t know why this change occurred. Perhaps this was the effect of his Trisoul Prime.

It seemed that the power of symbiotic cultivation with the Primordial Chaos Beasts had manifested in his physical body and strength. And now the power of his Aeonic Grandbane was embodied in the three parts of his soul. The two went hand in hand.

“Now that the soul servants have become terrae, that makes ten along with my original terra. What's the difference between this and splitting into ten?”

Tianming stared at the terrae that had bane text roaming all over. Perhaps this meant a stronger foundation. If Tianming managed to form all ten totems, then each one would possess strength based on his full terra, or that of the soul servants.

As the bane text circulated between the ten new terrae, there seemed to be more and more bane text on their bodies. These terrae resembled the limbs of his vita, or its weapons. The number of totems was equivalent to the number of bane-rings, because every totem must have a bane-ring as the foundation of its power.

“Terra plus bane-rings equals totems!”

There was no doubt Tianming would possess ten totems, one more than Qingyu.

“What’ll my totems be?” He was eager to find out. Now that the terrae were ready, his totems could be formed. “The divine moon radiance shines, terra and bane-rings combine, and totems come to life!”

It all began with Tianming's original terra. The ten terrae lined up before him and the original terra stepped forward to face Tianming. Raising his right arm, Tianming gazed upon the bane ring closest to his palm—east.

Under the light of the moon god, everything turned dreamlike. At this moment, Tianming's original terra turned into a mist that contained bane text, pouring into the east bane-ring. A transformation that resonated with his soul began.

A hollow, ancient voice echoed in his vita. It was the voice he heard when he obtained the Prime Tower, the voice of the white-robed man who spoke of his Aeonian Grandbane. This time, Tianming couldn't see him. His voice, however, still roared and reverberated in his heart.

"North, south, east, and west—the four poles of the world. The four totems keep watch, forging the heavens and earth!" Was this an explanation of the words north, south, east and west?

Amidst the roar, he personally witnessed the east bane-ring undergo earth-shaking changes. It resembled the collision of nebulae within. His terra merged with the power of the bane-ring and was transformed from its essence, turning into a totem.

Although he hadn't seen the appearance of the totem, he noticed an additional stroke on the bane text. It was a sword that divided the ancient character "east" in two halves. When the original terra had completely merged with the east bane-ring, another three soul servants began combining with the west, south, and north bane-rings.

Thus, Tianming possessed terrae on the two bane-rings closest to his palm. A transformation had occurred within them. A new spiritform power was born, forming totems.

"I already have four. I should be able to see what my totems are, right?"

To a certain extent, the type of totem determined its strength. It was said that heavenly being totems were the most powerful. The divine moonrace's canine voidgod, primalsea fiend, and hexachromatic deergod were all heavenly being totems, which meant the descent of heavenly beings. Other types, such as weapons, plants, and artifacts, were common. Of course, whether or not a totem was powerful depended on many factors. In the face of cultivation level, the type of totem was meaningless. Huiyue Yu's luxgladii were actually stronger than Huiyue Yin's canine voidgods.

When Tianming saw that the four bane texts were pierced by four swords, he had a hunch his totems were a weapon type—a sword!

"Totem, show yourself!" He opened his arms. The north, south, east, and west bane-rings were vibrating and emitting a thunderous sound that caused the entire radiance hall to tremble.

In fact, the birth of his totems was infinitely more powerful than those children. After all, the children were at the Saint stage.

The totems Tianming formed were divine-class. Just as he expected, the moment he spread his arms and turned his palms to face the sky, four enormous, gleaming swords shot out from his bane-rings. The swords' brilliance had Tianming squinting his eyes.

"Damn, that's such a cool entrance!"

Under the colorful rays, Tianming stood with his arms outstretched, as if he were on stage with ten thousand eyes on him. The four swords then rushed out of his arms, and the sharpness that unfolded at that instant had radiance hall surging with sword ki.

Tianming's gaze fell upon the sword the moment it emerged from the east bane-ring, that voice still reverberating in his ears. It was a heavy gold and red sword with a wide and thick blade. On its hilt was a pair of phoenix-shaped wings. Nine suns lined up from top to bottom, each of them burning with a

ferocity that seemed as if it was powered by a stellar source. This was the totem formed from Tianming's original terra.

"The infernal cauldron, east of the universe. The eastern god dominates the galaxy. This is the Eastdivinity Acme!" The words resounded in his ears.

Chapter 1006 - The Decapath Era Godswords

The noise was deafening. After a moment's shock, Tianming immediately turned to the second sword. It was a black blade, long and light. A crimson line ran down its center, extending from the hilt to the tip of the sword.

"West of the universe, the land of the three demons—heaven, earth, fate. The demon lord suppresses heaven! This is the Westvoid Progenifiend," the voice sounded once more.

The third sword was black and white, a combination of yin and yang. "South of the universe, yin and yang are one. Chaos reigns as demons and monsters run amok. This is the Southsky Chaospit!"

The fourth sword was the smallest. It was icy blue and gleamed with a cold light. Dark green branches were entwined around the blade, and flowers blossomed on its hilt. "North of the universe lies the eternal land. The immortals of the decapath era sleep peacefully in solitude. This is the Northapex Perpetuity!"

Tianming was a little confused.

"The Eastdivinity Acme, Westvoid Progenifiend, Southsky Chaospit, and Northapex Perpetuity..."

Forming totems was truly considered breaking the Lifesbane curse, wasn't it? The potential and caliber of the totems was close to the Primordial Chaos Beasts, especially the Northapex Perpetuity.

His scalp tingled. "The eternal land? Could it be the Eternal City of Perpetia? The immortals of the decapath era?"

Could the sword totems be connected to Feiling? Since both the Primordial God-Emperor and Primordial Demonlord were buried in Perpetia City, it had to be exciting.

"Who would've thought she and Xian Xian, as well as the Northapex Perpetuity, shared such a connection."

Truth be told, the four sword totems alone were frightening.

"Weapon-type totems are generally considered inferior to heavenly beings. But that depends on what kind of swords they are. The rootbeast race are still discriminated against in the Divine Moon Realm, but Ying Huo and my other lifebound beasts are all Primordial Chaos Beasts!"

It didn't matter what kind of totem he possessed; strength was what mattered, and his potential for development was an indisputable fact.

“Sword totems have the advantage of being extensions of the weapon in hand, which is equivalent to stacking on more power to the Grand-Orient Sword. When I use a battle art, the ten swords will execute the same move. That’s tantamount to infinitely increasing the power of my battle arts!”

He was about to familiarize himself with the totems, but there were six soul servants and bane-rings to go.

At that moment, two terrae entered the life and death bane-rings, forming new totems.

Two more swords were created. From the life bane-ring came an ethereal sword covered in countless human figures. It was complex and chaotic. “This is the sword of life. Affected by fate, as well as cause and effect, all living beings sink into the abyss of worldly suffering. It is the Sentient Karma.”

From the death bane-ring emerged another ethereal sword. However, it was shrouded in a gray vortex. Within it were countless living beings headed to their end. “This is the sword of death. All beings enter reincarnation, an endless cycle. Life and death is a closed loop. Therefore, its name is the Postmortem Cycle.”

The Hexapath Sword God’s Hexapath Samsara Sword, Hadean Reincarnation, and Emphyrean Reincarnation were names he had created, tinged with two or three sword intents, while this sword of death totem was true reincarnation and rebirth.

“That’s six swords.”

Just as he expected, two more soul servants entered his bane-rings. A starry sword manifested from the heaven bane-ring and became the most dazzling sword yet. It was as if the sword contained endless galaxies, embodying the universe itself. “Heaven, the endless starry sky. The sword governs the Heavenly Dao and balances all living beings. Therefore, its name is the Ordinem Imperius.”

Like a sharp protective barrier, a massive, flat, and wide sword rose from the earth bane-ring. Though invisible, its presence had the same majesty as the towering mountains. “Earth, the Welkin plane. Born from the Welkin, this sword sustains both ends of the cosmos. It’s called the Welkin Imperius!”

Finally, only two soul servants remained. When they entered the space and time bane-rings, all ten swords were formed.

The sword of time resembled a long river. Handed down since ancient times, it was constantly changing, without a fixed form, and appeared soft. “Time, eras, eternity... Thus, the Grandvoid Universum is born.”

The sword of space was more like a dagger. Like a mirror, its blade reflected the corporeal world. “Space and the universe; both imaginary and real... Thus, the Infinitum Spatium is born!”

All ten totems had appeared. Tianming stared at the swords hovering above his head. Under the divine moon radiance, his eyes were tinged with brilliant colors.

"The decapath era godswords emerge from the Aeonian Grandbane. Hold all ten swords and dominate the universe!"

After that sentence, this ancient voice completely disappeared. However, it was still ringing in Tianming's mind, roaring and reverberating for a long time.

Tianming had seen Liu Yizhao's sword totems and confronted Huiyue Yin's luxgladii. He didn't know how formidable the decapath era godswords were, but they were his totems. Their effectiveness relied on his strength.

The swords were still unstable at the moment; he required stellunar source to replenish his bane-rings.

"In any case, they should be stronger than other totems. They're probably bound to my cultivation level, just like Ying Huo and the others. Only when I'm strong will they be strong."

The decapath era godswords were different from lifebound beasts; they were an extension of Tianming's weapons! It was equivalent to a tenfold magnification of the Grand-Orient Sword's power. There is no doubt that Tianming's combat power would soar as long as he absorbed enough stellunar source to grow his strength. The sword totems would also aid his lifebound beasts.

"Most importantly, I mustn't reveal the fact that I possess ten totems. For the time being, I'll only use the north, south, east, and west totems, unless I encounter a life and death situation. The remaining six swords will be my trump cards. I mustn't use them until I've clarified the celestial orderians' thoughts on Qingyu."

If all ten totems were revealed, there would be no need to talk about saving Ye Lingfeng. Like Qingyu, Tianming might be forcibly taken to Orderia.

"In fact, having an ace up my sleeve is an advantage. Only through surprise can I land a fatal blow! Keeping my totems hidden doesn't mean I can't cultivate them..."

The decapath era godswords were hollow at the moment, and Tianming wanted to retrieve the Grand-Orient Sword. Thus, he began cultivating and replenishing his stellunar source in the hall.

Within Tianming was power that resulted from symbiotic cultivation with his four lifebound beasts, so it was impossible for the power of his totems to reach his level. A quarter of his strength was the most they could realize. But his totems weren't weak. With the amplification of his lifebound beasts, Tianming had become too strong, even surpassing first-level Ascension.

If the totems were at full strength, their combat effectiveness couldn't compare to that of the Primordial Chaos Beasts. However, their advantage didn't lie in individual combat, but the boost in Tianming's battle arts.

The power of Hadean Reincarnation was now equivalent to one man and four totems striking at the same time. If the decapath era godswords were used together, his sword would contain the power of one man and ten totems. Furthermore, different totems had different effects.

There were two reasons Tianming chose to reveal the north, south, east, and west swords. Firstly, all ten swords were most likely equal in power. Secondly, because the four swords were linked to one another, they were suited for sword formations.

Tianming was now surrounded by ten swords of different shapes and sizes. The scene resembled the arrival of a sword emperor.

“There’s a huge gap between each level in the Ascension stage. Now that I’m a first-level ascendant, I should be able to fight a fourth-level ascendant with the help of my lifebound beasts. With the four cardinal godswords, I might be able to battle a Pentarcenic Sky opponent!”

Such a feat was equivalent to leapfrogging eight levels in Samsara. It was clear how powerful an effect his lifebound beasts had on his totems. Of course, this was merely speculation.

Tianming couldn’t say for certain what kind of combat power all ten swords possessed. If the gap between Tianming and his opponent’s cultivation realm was too wide, the number of totems couldn’t compensate for the disparity in strength. After all, ten three-year-olds would still find it hard to fight an adult.

“It seems I’ll have to contemplate battle strategies.” Because he couldn’t reveal all ten swords, there was no need to consider the issue for the time being. When it was time to use all ten totems, giving it his all would be the way to go.

"The totems are newly formed and have yet to reach the standard of first-level Ascension. They’re only ten meters tall? As I recall, Huiyue Yu’s luxgladii were close to a hundred meters tall.”

Chapter 1007 - Stop There!

The fundamental cosmic force Tianming needed for his next breakthrough was great. He now had to raise ten totems along with four Primordial Chaos Beasts. Fortunately, Ying Huo and the rest were self-sufficient and didn’t need Tianming hovering over them. He only needed to focus on himself and the totems.

“Maybe it’s because of the soul servants, but my decapath era godswords seem to be even more material and real than usual totems. They also have my bane-ring characters on them. They should have the power of the grandbane, since they were born from the Aeonian Grandbane. That means these terra totems should be my ‘Terra Prime’, right?”

The Terra Prime was the decapath era godswords.

The Vita Prime related to Tianming’s comprehension and talent, as well as the explosive growth in his cultivation after overcoming his lifesbane.

As for Tianming’s Caelum Prime, he wasn’t sure what it was yet.

Right now, even though he could only show four of his totems, it had already completely upended Tianming’s original battle composition. Fortunately, Ying Huo and the rest had also received the remodeling of the Aeonian Grandbane, which let them keep up with Tianming.

That wasn’t to say that Primordial Chaos Beasts were weak. Seventy percent of Tianming’s strength came from their bloodlines. It was the four of them that allowed a monster like Tianming to be created. The appearance of the Aeonian Grandbane also had a lot to do with them.

“It’s amazing when the Primordial Chaos Beast bloodlines and the Aeonian Grandbane come together!” Tianming was still excited from creating his totems. The totems were like a part of his body; he could

manipulate them as freely as his arm. For a while, they zipped through the air above Tianming. He even made them execute basic battle arts. A few tries were enough for him to get familiar.

Under his control, the Eastdivinity Acme shot forward, flames sizzling in its path. Ying Huo was showing off as it stood atop the sword, riding it through the air. "Not bad, not bad. You're my little bro from now on!" Ying Huo said to the sword.

"What's that supposed to be? Others become flying sword immortals and you become what, a flying sword chicken?" Tianming smiled.

"Huh? Is there something wrong with a flying chicken?" Ying Huo was enjoying itself.

Tianming continued his tests, and found he was able to even use the Hexapath Samsara Sword techniques with the Eastdivinity Acme totem. Totems carried spirituality as they attacked, so they had differences from the Grand-Orient Sword.

The totems were superior in that they were bigger, had more momentum, greater area-of-effect damage, and the lifesbane character and the fire the Eastdivinity Acme naturally had. However, against smaller targets like humans, the sword totems didn't match up to the Grand-Orient Sword.

The decapath era swordgods would be more effective against other totems and lifebound beasts.

"The totems have increased the number of cards I have in my hand for battle!"

Everyone's totems were different. Weapon-types weren't considered the best, either. However, Tianming had the feeling that after getting the Primordial Chaos Beasts, these ten swords had become even more suitable for him.

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Battle was still ongoing outside, and there was no one else in the area.

"Now that I have my totems, the only thing left is to slowly experiment with them and get back my Grand-Orient Sword. I also have to help Ling'er exact vengeance for the past month!" Tianming had been stewing in rage for the past month, and now it was finally time to act.

"I'll leave the city after getting back my sword!" He just needed to beat Huiyue Jie.

As the city's number one genius and the top three in Divine Moon Realm, Huiyue Jie was most likely in the Pentarcanic Sky level. Together with his lifesbane, Tianming definitely had the first-hand experience that he had shocking power.

"Let's see if I can beat him now with the addition of my totems!"

With Bodhi's massacre happening, it was indeed the best opportunity to leave. Tianming calmed himself down, knowing he had to use his time well. As there was no one around, there was a large quantity of stellunar source around. Tianming sat down and began using the bane-rings of north, south, east, and west to suck it all up. The bane-rings would convert all of the stellunar source into totem ki, nurturing his newly-formed totems!

The decapath era godswords, which had originally been ten meters, quickly began growing. After two hours they finally hit twenty meters, which seemed to be their limit.

“Other first level ascendants have hundred-meter-tall totems, but mine are only twenty?” Tianming wasn’t sure how to respond.

“You’re too short!” Ying Huo said gleefully.

“Shameless!”

Although the swords were shorter than other people’s totems, they were still stronger. They were more corporeal, harder, and closer to being real.

“Others just have a hundred metres of air. Mine is steel. How could it be the same?” Tianming said,

“Hah!” Ying Huo just laughed.

Tianming tested it out. “The power of totems is independent of symbiotic cultivation with beasts. I can benefit from my Primordial Chaos Beasts’ bodies and techniques and have the power of the third or fourth level as a first level ascendant, but totems can’t. These totems’ power comes from the bane-ring characters, soul servants, and the innate strength of the swords. Otherwise, normal totems that’re pegged to my actual cultivation level wouldn’t be very useful.”

He could already fight those at the Quadseal Sky level without totems. If he had created a normal first-level totem, like the luxgladii, it would have been useless in combat against such an opponent.

The capability of the decapath era godswords in keeping up with him was proof of the might of the Aeonian Grandbane and the godswords!

Tianming didn’t spend time nurturing the other six swords, but instead left.

First, he had to see the state of the city.

Second, he had to find Huiyue Jie!

Now, he had four beasts and four swords and had ascended. He was naturally eager to get back a core part of his strength, the Grand-Orient Sword.

When Tianming left the radiance hall, he found most of the entire city had been covered by dust. Ruins lay wherever he looked, and the smell of blood was ever present.

“It’s been so long. Those who should hide have most likely already hidden.” Hence, the city wasn’t in as much chaos as it should have been.

However, Tianming could still hear the sounds of battle deep in the Huiyue clan’s area. He could also make out the faint shapes of massive, three hundred-meter-tall totems battling in the sky!

“Huiyue Jie!” Tianming was furious again just thinking of how Feiling had suffered.

“Today may be a day of disaster for your clan. But don’t blame me for adding fuel to the fire if you aren’t merciful....”

Tianming began searching for traces of Huiyue Jie.

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"Jie, let's go! Dad and the rest can handle this. Don't just stay here, we can't help!" Huiye Yin was tugging on Huiyue Jie's arm. She was so anxious that tears were spilling out.

Huiyue Jie was staring at a certain place, his eyes bloodshot. The enemy had destroyed the divine moon hall, and was no longer someone he could stand being alive.

"We've already contacted Sovereign Xi. The royal clan's experts are hurrying over. They should arrive soon! Brother, don't be blind, it's dangerous here!" Huiye Yin panicked. Her brother was currently looking at the ruined divine moon hall in a daze.

Even if the elders had collected half of it back, the loss of caeli was still a heavy blow to the clan's foundations. They had lost because they were arrogant!

Huiyue Jie had cultivated there since he was young, and his heart bled to see it in such a condition. Even now, his seniors, including his father, were there trying to stop the killer from killing more.

"Go, Grandson! This opponent isn't someone we can stop. Only Sovereign Xi can stop him. As the empress, this is her responsibility." His grandmother was giving him the same advice.

"I want to see him die!" Huiyue Jie rasped.

"It's too dangerous. At least, leave first and wait for him to die. We can immediately come back."

Huiyue Jie sucked in a long breath. He finally fled with his sister, grandma, and a dozen of his relatives. They were mostly all young people, the future of the Huiyue clan. Their safety was paramount. They passed by many destroyed buildings and corpses, infuriating them. On their road away from home, they passed by the radiance hall. As they passed by, they saw a tender looking white-haired youth walk out from the radiance hall.

He looked at Huiyue Jie.

"Stop there!" the youth called out.

Chapter 1008 - Eight Eyes: Bloodmoon Skyfiend

Huiyue Jie was currently in an anxious mood and his emotions were all over the place.

Their current group was made up of the core members of the clan leader's family. They were either Huiyue Tianyu's wives or his sons. Granny Yuehe was there too. Put together, their status was quite high.

Apart from Huiyue Tianyu, who would dare to tell them to 'Stop there'?

Everyone stopped in surprise, including Huiye Yin. They all turned to the side and saw a calm youth with gold and black pupils.

"Li Tianming?" Granny Yuehe and the other two recognized him.

“Are you crazy? Get lost or I’ll bash your head in!” Huiye Yin scolded. Her hair still hadn’t grown back yet, and she felt aggrieved day and night. If it weren’t for Huiyue Jin stopping her, she would have long since gotten people to find trouble with Li Tianming.

“Huiyue Jin, could I trouble you to return my sword?” Tianming ignored Huiye Yin as he extended a hand toward Huiyue Jie.

Huiyue Jie glared back with a pair of bloodshot eyes and said in a low voice, “So, you’re an ascendant now? Your speed is passable. You’ve at least hit my target. Still, don’t be anxious, there’s still eleven of the twelve months left.”

“I want it back today,” Tianming replied.

Huiyue Jie was quite annoyed to hear this.

“Things are serious now, Li Tianming. Stop messing around. Find somewhere to hide, we’ll talk after this.” Granny Yuehe was a bit more patient as she ordered Tianming. She looked back and signaled Huiyue Jie to not do anything else. Escaping was more important right now.

Tianming nodded when he heard the instructions. “Yes, Granny. Then, I’ll just take it for now that Huiyue Jie is just too scared to face me.” Tianming turned around after he spoke.

“Stop there!” This time, it was Huiyue Jie’s turn to say these words. He felt even more triggered when he saw Tianming turn around. His astralforce quickly covered the hundreds of meters between the two and pressed down on Tianming.

“What did you just say?” Huiyue Jie stressed each word.

Tianming tilted his head as if he were talking to an idiot and said, “I said, you’re too scared.”

“Impudent!” Huiye Yin said shrilly. “Someone execute this fool that doesn’t know respect!”

Granny Yuehe was slightly vexed when Tianming agreed with her on the surface, but still challenged Huiyue Jie. “Next time, we’re busy now.”

“What next time? Now is the time!” Huiyue Jie snapped as he walked toward Tianming.

“Tounce him, Big Brother!” Huiye Yin called out. “Granny, no need to push anymore. This ignorant little kid thinks he can strut around just because his talent is slightly above average. He’s even disrespecting you! Big Brother will take care of him. A few seconds will be enough!”

“Exactly. Jie’er gave him a year. It hasn’t even been a month, and he wants to challenge him now that he’s ascended?”

“I’ve kept hearing rumors about some talented outsider kid. However, how could he be talented if he’s so dumb?”

“I think you all just made a mistake this time.”

Huiyue Tianyu’s concubines all began gossiping. Fortunately, it was still quite far from the battlefield here and it wasn’t that dangerous.

“Jie’er is quite angry now. Li Tianming’s timing is quite bad. I suppose he needs to be taught a lesson for now.” Granny Yuehe no longer cared once she thought to that point.

They had a wide gap in status, so it was necessary for a huge grudge to form so that Tianming would lose his rationality and cripple one of Huiyue Jie’s bane-rings. It was necessary for Huiyue Jie to keep adding to the fire anyway.

Tormenting Feiling for a year was only the start. Huiyue Jie had been coming up with ideas the past few days. Now was the best time to gift it all to Tianming, since he was angry!

“I need to make you hate me! That’s how you’ll come at me like a mad dog despite our identities!”

However, Huiyue Jie wasn’t aware that, for Tianming, just that one slap had been enough. Tormenting Feiling further had been pointless because he had already been sufficiently enraged.

That was how the two’s paths were on a direct collision course here.

“You can have your sword back. Still, since you challenged me, I won’t just take it back when you lose. I’ll take a few teeth as well. A year should be enough to grow them back, right?” As Huiyue Jie spoke, flashes of divine moon hall collapsing and the many casualties today flickered through his mind.

He was itching to vent all his anger on Tianming. However, he was still confident enough to toss the Grand-Orient Sword back to Tianming before they fought. It didn’t mean he could leave, though, because he had already angered Huiyue Jie!

“That woman was your sister, right? She must’ve suffered quite a bit this past month, eh?” Huiyue Jie began releasing his bloodlust. He had never been so irritable originally, but today’s matters had changed that.

His words had affected Tianming’s mental state as well, causing all of his bottled up anger to flare up as well.

Tianming directly split the Grand-Orient Sword into two swords.

An extra Grand-Orient Vortex was added to every one of his albi, greatly increasing the recovery rate of his astralforce. At the same time, his lifebound beasts, other than Meow Meow, appeared by his side.

The Aeternal Infernal Phoenix, Primordial Terraqua Dragon, and the Radix World Tree!

Tianming looked like a true and proper beastmaster! After all, this was his original class.

When his astralforce started rising, Huiyue Jie could feel that this brat did indeed pose a threat to him.

“Lifebound beasts from blood pacts are able to make him so much stronger? Before, Yin couldn’t fight him. Does this mean he can fight against a Quadseal Sky now?”

The Divine Moon Realm didn’t quite understand the rootbeast race. Still, they knew that even if they were stronger at the same level, it wouldn’t be to this extent! So Huiyue Jie felt his senses were wrong. True power could only be determined in the heat of battle!

Huiyue Jie prepared to unleash all the fury he couldn’t vent on that murderer onto Tianming instead. “Li Tianming, you ignorant frog in the well, today I’ll show you the true power of the divine moonrace!”

In his fury, Huiyue Jie's bane-rings underwent a change. His bane-rings took the form of three red tear-shaped drops under each of his eyes. Now they began to release a blood-red mist, which formed six majestic, blood-red giants!

Six bane-rings and six totems.

These totems appeared similar to humans, and even had messy red hair. The hair on these two hundred-meter-tall giants were over a hundred meters long. Their sharp fangs made them look like evil ghosts, and there was a crescent moon symbol on their foreheads.

They each also had eight arms. However, instead of ending in hands, they ended in sharp spikes. The totems also had a two hundred-meter-long scorpion tail.

These were high-tier heavenly being totems, named the bloodmoon skyfiend! They were Huiyue Jie's signature, and what made Sovereign Xi pay attention to him.

The six totems flanked him, and it had to be said that they made their master look very dashing, like a god who had walked out of a sea of blood. Even more scary was that his totems had expanded from six dots to six eyes, which looked incredibly fierce when coupled with his anger.

The Pentarcenic Sky Huiyue Jie having such a bloody presence wasn't out of Tianming's expectations.

Huiyue Jie was resting his Voidmoon Demonblade on his shoulder with one hand, while his right hand was holding the three Bloodmoon Fiendfangs.

His eight eyes locked onto Tianming. "So, scared yet?"

Chapter 1009 - Starchase Bloodspikes

One man, one blade, and six bloodmoon skyfiends guarding them. Huiyue Jie's eight Reddust Bloodeyes glared at Tianming and his lifebound beasts.

His body turned into a blur and shot toward Li Tianming! His six bloodmoon skyfiends howled, then stabbed their spiked arms at Tianming and his lifebound beasts.

This was the battle art, Starchase Bloodspikes.

With over six bloodmoon skyfiends using it, it meant over forty spikes were targeting them, as well as six scorpion tails. Each spike also produced over a thousand blood-red dots.

For an instant, it was like a sky full of bloody shooting stars bearing down on them.

Now, in his first fight since ascending, Tianming could clearly feel how much his Vita Prime had grown after overcoming his bane-rings. He had never seen this battle art before, but he could still perfectly trace the trajectory, speed, and the difficulty of the profound mysteries involved.

Tianming could tell that, if he had the incantation, he could learn this battle art in no time at all.

Most obvious was the Hexapath Samsara Sword. Many things that were difficult to understand before took just a few thoughts to decipher now.

“The greatest use of Lifesbane was to raise your comprehension. The reason the celestial orderian race and divine moonrace can rise in level so fast and cultivate so many battle arts is thanks to Lifesbane. But Lifesbane should be where I’m the strongest!”

The one thing the Primordial Chaos Beasts had never brought him was comprehension ability. His Aeonian Grandbane had, after reaching ascendance, covered up his only flaw. Seeing and dissecting the Starchase Bloodspikes in front of him was too easy now.

Huiyue Jie’s only advantage over him now was his Pentarcanic Sky astralforce!

“Kneel!” When Huiyue Jie saw him standing there, he thought Tianming had been frightened stiff.

However, he didn’t expect the Radix World Tree’s Radiant Vines and Bloodrain Sword to descend the next moment.

Tianming and Xian Xian didn’t even need words to communicate in battle, thanks to their telepathic connection. What Tianming saw only needed a moment to be transmitted to Xian Xian. Hence, the Radiant Vines and Bloodrain Sword easily avoided all of the bloodmoon skyfiends’ attacks and landed the first blow on them!

Xian Xian’s Vitalbane, Life Curse had no effect on the totems, as they weren’t living things. However, when the bane-ring characters appeared on its vines and swords, it had raised their attack power.

As for Lan Huang, with its Montseabane, Starocean Flicker, Kilofold Rings, and the Greenspark Tower all activated to protect it, it then used Azure Oceanic Purgatory to take control of the battlefield, turning the soil around it into an azure sea. It practically ignored the Starchase Bloodspikes of the bloodmoon skyfiends and threw itself at the six giant totems.

For a few moments, there was an ear-splitting clash of spikes and fangs. The totems’ spiritual attacks did damage Lan Huang a bit. However, it was so hardy it would be able to go at this for hours! The Starchase Bloodspikes were at most able to dig a few meters into its body; it was too difficult to kill Lan Huang that way.

And the one who could really harm the totems was Ying Huo. It followed behind its little siblings, unleashing its Imperial Radiance and Infernal Haze as it shot forward. It instantly pierced through the three totems right in front of it and left persistent flames burning on them.

Of course, totems suffered much less than lifebound beasts when they had holes in their bodies. They also had an advantage in numbers. Meow Meow’s lightning was the most effective against them, but the cat wasn’t present,

Hence, Tianming was clear that he could fight an ordinary Pentarcanic Sky without his totems. However, someone like Huiyue Jie, who was unrivaled within that stage, was something else.

After all, this fellow had been cultivating for fifty years and had been enjoying the stellar source and divine moon hall since he was young.

Huiyue Jie could see he still had the advantage. However, Tianming’s strength still shocked him.

“Just one month...” Huiyue Jie might have designated himself as ‘Li Tianming’s stepping stone’, but it hadn’t even been a month yet! He knew it was an opportunity, but he rejected it.

"I may want to lose, but this is too pathetic! Next time!" Huiyue Jie decided to use his full power.

When the totems unleashed their Pentarcanic Sky power, they surpassed Tianming's lifebound beasts. Their biting and stabbing all carried great power.

Three of them even held down Lan Huang and began aiming at weak spots like its eyes and mouth with their tail and spikes!

Fortunately, Ying Huo and Xian Xian were there to assist. One dragged one totem away, while Ying Huo made its Infernal Blaze detonate on another totem's body.

The totem shrieked and part of its bloody mist dispersed.

This showed the power of Ying Huo's abilities were indeed more effective on totems than weapons. Of course, based on that, Meow Meow's Blitzbane, Worldbolt Blast would be the nightmare of totems.

Alas, Meow Meow wasn't there.

However, there was of course another, simpler solution to handling totems. And that was... another totem!

As astral bodies that could attack the spirit, that meant they were weak to it too.

Tianming made some calculations. He was indeed disadvantaged when fighting Huiyue Jie without totems. So Tianming directly prepared his totems.

Tianming himself charged at the source of the totems, Huiyue Jie. Huiyue Jie's Voidmoon Demonblade clashed several times with Tianming's Grand-Orient Sword, suppressing him a little.

"Your skill isn't bad. But, it's not enough! Come back a year later, Li Tianming!" Huiyue Jie smiled coldly. He had already decided to infuriate Tianming even more today, and was very satisfied with how impulsive Tianming was.

Suddenly, when Huiyue Jie's blade was slashing toward Tianming again, sword light suddenly covered Tianming and resplendent sword ki billowed out. Four twenty-meter-long giant swords came out of his body and revolved around him. Then they pointed at Huiyue Jie.

Boundless sword ki rushed out of the four godswords.

The crimson Eastdivinity Acme with phoenix wings.

The gloomy and cold Westvoid Progenifiend with a baleful presence.

The black and white Southsky Chaospit, around which yin and yang energy revolved.

And the icy blue Northapex Perpetuity, which had dark green branches entwined around the blade!

Their form and presence were countless times more impressive than the luxgladii. However, when considering weapon totems, length usually correlated to strength. Twenty meters was usually a samsaran standard.

"Totems?" Huiyue Jie and Granny Yuehe were shocked when the totems popped up.

Huiye Shi had mentioned that Tianming wasn't a pure member of the rootbeast race, and they knew he would create totems later on. Since they were at the radiance hall, these were clearly new totems. In fact, they hadn't yet absorbed enough stellar source to fill their power reserves.

"I see. This is your source of confidence?" Huiyue Jie couldn't hold back his laughter.

He was jealous of Tianming's talent, yes. But in terms of wisdom? Tianming really was someone from 'Soulwell Mountain'. All he got were four weapon-type totems and he thought himself invincible?

As Huiyue Jie was sneering, Tianming recombined the Grand-Orient Swords.

He looked coldly at Huiyue Jie. His personal strength was, at most, on the level of two bloodmoon skyfiends.

Without a word, Tianming stabbed out with his sword. The range of his attack didn't just include Huiyue Jie, but the bloodmoon skyfiends as well!

Chapter 1010 - The Power of Totems

With a hum, a godsword for each cardinal direction appeared beside Tianming. As he used his Grand-Orient Swords to execute Hadean Reincarnation, the four godswords followed his movements.

As for Huiyue Jie's ability to coordinate with his bloodmoon skyfiends by using different battle arts, Tianming chose to avoid using something so high-level yet. Even so, the simple act of having his totems mimic his sword art showed enough power to shock everyone there.

There were eighteen vortices on the Grand-Orient Swords, each containing hadean sword ki. While they weren't huge, they were powerful and precise. They also contained Tianming's four types of astralforce, mixed together for maximum damage potential. The four godswords beside him had tens of vortices in all. While they were only twenty meters long, it felt like they could cover the whole sky. Not to mention, each sword had slight differences as well.

The Eastdivinity Acme's vortices seemed to blaze like a fire-type ability, shining bright like the sun. The Westvoid Progenifiend's vortices were filled with a demonic aura that was completely unlike Meow Meow's; the cat's was ferociously demonic, while this felt like pure evil. The Southsky Chaospit had black and white vortices, while the Northapex Perpetuity's vortices were cold and frosty. Their formidability completely matched that of Huiyue Jie and his six bloodmoon skyfiends. Tianming now shone like an envoy of death. The hadean sword ki around him fused into one, causing such disturbances in the surroundings that his hair wildly flared out.

The power he had shown caused Huiyue Jie's scalp to tingle. He had thought with pride that he would 'let' Tianming defeat him, but now he noticed that he didn't even need to do that. Tianming didn't need a year, only some twenty days to gain enough power to challenge him. His pride was hurt. When he roared, the eight eyes on his face shimmered and formed a ring.

"Reddust Bloodeyes, Octaeye Mirage!" The Bloodmoon Fiendfangs in his hand, which were hidden weapons, had been unleashed using the battle art Dreamflower Ghosthaze and attacked Tianming from

behind in the moment of the clash. As for Octaeye Mirage, it was an ability that instilled confusion through the swirling vortices in his eyes that looked like seas of blood.

Unfortunately for him, Tianming wasn't affected, as he had the Soul Tower protecting him. Not to mention, his decapath era godswords were formed using his terra and soul servants, so they were powerful enough in terms of spiritual power. With Octaeye Mirage useless, Huiyue Jie grit his teeth and gripped the Voidmoon Demonblade tight with both hands. Behind him, the arms of the bloodmoon skyfiends thrust and turned into war blades. They adopted the same stance as Huiyue Jie.

Huiyue Jie roared and slashed his blade, using Weeping Blood Myriad Slash. Eight beams of light shot out from his eyes toward his blade, causing a bloody crescent to appear that tore through the land as the blade swung at Tianming. The bloodmoon skyfiends also used the same move, turning one blade into ten thousand, each with its own blood crescent that spread out to cover a wide area.

However, Tianming had both totems and lifebound beasts. As Huiyue Jie had his full attention focused on Tianming, Ying Huo suddenly appeared behind Tianming and neutralized the hidden weapons that would've been fatal. That was the trump card Huiyue Jie had been counting on. Additionally, Xian Xian's Radiant Vines and roots came from the skies and the ground, tying two of the bloodmoon skyfiends flat on the ground. Some roots even found their way to Huiyue Jie's body and pierced into his flesh. That was when Vitalbane came into effect. Even though it was only for a short time and couldn't kill him outright, it did affect his battle art a lot.

As for Lan Huang, it took on two bloodmoon skyfiends alone, not allowing any of them to head toward Tianming. It charged out of the water and bit two of them, then dragged them into the water. While the totems could reform their bodies at will, as they were incorporeal, they couldn't free themselves from Lan Huang's bite unless they were willing to part with a significant chunk of their 'flesh', but that was the same as parting with their power.

The momentum of Huiyue Jie's assault was reduced by half as a result. Now, Tianming only had to clash with him and his two bloodmoon skyfiends. This showed that Tianming's lifebound beasts were powerful enough to hold their own in battle and had enough different strengths for almost any scenario. Now that he had totems to boost his battle arts, the dynamic of the group battle also greatly changed. Tianming was now the main damage dealer.

His swords and beasts worked together in perfect harmony without any conflict, which wouldn't have been the case had his totems been heavenly being types. That way, his lifebound beasts wouldn't be able to play much of an auxiliary role, for it was far more effective to fight totems with totems. The advantage of weapon totems was their damage. Consequently, they were simple and less well rounded than heavenly being totems. Even so, that alone allowed Tianming's combat capability to match that of ascendants at the Quadseal or Pentacarnic Sky. He was also balanced out by his lifebound beasts. This was a battle that would define his fighting style for the time to come, and it allowed him to understand how to effectively utilize his totems in tandem with his beasts.

"Go!" After Ying Huo dealt with the Bloodmoon Fiendfangs, it contributed to the charge and used Hadean Reincarnation as well. The reason it was able to master the move so quickly was thanks to the new powers offered by the Aeon Grandbane that greatly boosted its comprehension capabilities. Now its sword strike was just as threatening as Tianming's, containing the power of Blazebane, Cosmic Blade.

While the threat it posed to totems was limited, it could be fatal for Huiyue Jie. The multiple sword strikes blended into a cohesive whole.