

## The Ages 1071

### Chapter 1071 - Don't Turn Back

The sound of heavy breathing could be heard in the xenomemory space. The colorful butterfly was still flapping its wings in the void, scattering countless sparkling dots with each flap. The butterfly didn't remain in one fixed place; instead, it wandered around in the world where even the concept of distance didn't exist. Sometimes it would even collide with another world of dreams. It was like a boat that had been left to float about without a fixed path.

There was a speck of dust on the butterfly's wing. No, it was a pale-looking man who was taking labored breaths. His eyes were completely reddened, beneath which some odd things were circling about.

"No, no!" He grit his teeth hard in fear. This was a nightmarish world. Everyone had nightmares from time to time, but they would always wake up unhurt and barely remember them. However, Ye Lingfeng could recall every detail of this experience. They were filled with nothing but death, despair, and darkness. He could hear all kinds of voices—the voices of his kin's spirits crying out to him.

"I can't die... Can't die..." He yearned for the outside world far too much. Even the Infernal Soul Purgatory was a better place than this. Back there, he had no frame of reference. But now he had traveled and seen so much. He had formed unforgettable ties with others, and had promised his kin that he would see the world in their stead, letting them see it through his eyes. But reality was cruel!

There was no longer anywhere for his dagger to stab. One purple eye after another had opened on his skin. They grew more and more numerous, and now there were thirty, scattered all across his arms, thighs, and even the soles of his feet, not to mention his chest, back, and abdomen. Even his face, neck, and scalp were densely covered in eyes. When all of them opened, it felt like his whole body had become an eye. The sight was too terrifying.

If only he could wake up from this nightmare, all would be well. But waking was a luxury that wasn't available to him. No, he was awake. This was a nightmare, but it was no dream. The eyes on his body mockingly looked at him. Their lives were plain and boring, but Ye Lingfeng had brought them utmost entertainment. He was now their playground. Perhaps that was why he was still alive in the first place. The xenofiends didn't get many live wanderers in the xenomemory space, after all, making him too interesting and valuable as their toy. However, even the most headstrong person would long have expired under such torturous conditions.

"I... I!" He grabbed the butterfly with his eye-covered hand. The eyes freely moved about across his body like parasites crawling under his skin. Then they used his flesh as sustenance as they continued reproducing. His face had grown so pale that it looked like paper.

He intentionally breathed heavily. That was the only way he could know that he was still alive as his life force slipped away like flowing water. He felt like he would soon be reduced to a pile of rotting water and completely disappear in the xenomemory space.

"No, no! I don't want to die here!" He had grown up in hellish conditions, but now he had found himself in an even worse hell. He longed for the world of beautiful sights and landscapes. That was where he

had learned about love and made a true friend, as well as a girl he wanted to protect. That was what was real.

"I don't want to! Don't want to!" Tears of blood flowed from his eyes. Though his consciousness was diminishing, he was reminiscing more and more. He thought about the first time he had left purgatory and seen the rivers and green plains. He thought about the time he spent at the Divine Capital with Tianming as they overturned the theocracy and avenged his ancestors. He thought about going to the Divine Moon Realm and surviving with Qingyu, growing step by step as two empyrean saints. They were all precious memories embedded deep within his psyche.

"Tianming... Qingyu..."

Those two were his spiritual pillars of support. Thinking about them always helped him feel safe. He used to think that life and death didn't really matter, but at this moment, he yearned for the little things in life and the people he had met. Once he had formed ties and met people he wanted to protect, giving up was no longer as easy. Perhaps that was the reason Feiling had managed to endure eighteen Perpetual Nirvanas as well, something even Xuanyuan Xi hadn't achieved.

"Feng, if you're unwilling to let go, never close your eyes, even in death," his mother said in his soul.

"Brother Feng, you're my hero. Nobody can defeat you."

"Feng, we'll be with you, in life and in death."

"Let's endure it together, Feng."

His soul was a unique one. Mainly, his vita was an amalgamation of eighty thousand others. They supported each other through life and death, and Ye Lingfeng was like the captain of the ship they were all sailing on.

"After we overcome this trial, nobody will be able to stop us. We're the infernal soul race! We are one and only!"

Ye Lingfeng's tears flowed. He wasn't alone; it wasn't 'I', but 'we'!

"I've never been alone."

The power of spirits and wills were formless and inexplicable. However, they seemed to blend well with order and the heavenly way, bringing forth unspeakable power from the depths of a person. Oftentimes, what differentiated people wasn't talent, but rather their will and spirit. This formless power didn't affect the xenofiends that were wreaking havoc in his body at all. However, it was so powerful that it might be the real 'fiend'. The fiend was furiously roaring and struggling as he suffered.

"I don't want to die!" He wanted to fulfill his promise to Tianming and go to Orderia and ask that girl whether she was doing well. He had too many ties that he wasn't willing to give up. That explosive force of will and the desire to leave awakened the true legacy that hid deep within him.

"Fiends are nothing but stray thoughts," said a cold voice. "Do what you want to do, love who you want to love. Once you set your mind on something, never regret, even if you have to destroy the universe or walk the path of death. Never forget that you're called Ye Lingfeng. Become a true fiend and never turn back! Never turn back! Never turn back!"

The voice booming in his ears. He would never turn back and would always do what he wanted to do, kill who he wanted to kill, destroy what he wanted to destroy, save who he wanted to save, and even love who he wanted to love.

## **Chapter 1072 - Divine Will Origin, Primordial Gate**

Ye Lingfeng could no longer overthink it. All he wanted to do now was go to the wondersky realm and tell Tianming he was still alive. The xenomemory space was an incredibly lonely place to be in. All of his cries and roars merely echoed emptily throughout the void. He turned his reddened eyes toward the world of dreams and felt like his body was about to explode. However, he suddenly knew the path he should tread. Just like Tianming's path of becoming an emperor that he had inherited from the Primordial God-Emperor, Ye Lingfeng had found his path to fiendhood. The title of Primordial Demonlord wasn't just an empty one, after all.

"Once I start, there's no turning back!" His breathing grew heavier and heavier as the xenofiends frolicked about in his body. However, they felt a sense of unease.

"Die! All of you that are in my way, die!" He stood and opened his arms wide, covered entirely in eyes. Then something started changing near his heart. It started to spin and grind itself to dust, forming a dark void that continued expanding across his chest, piercing through his front and back from the inside. The bloody hole in his chest made it look like he had been staked. However, no blood flowed out of the hole. Instead, there was an eternally spinning vortex. What would have been fatal to most people actually didn't kill him.

"Primordial Gate... The divine will origin..." he said as he looked down at his chest. The vortex called a Primordial Gate had replaced his heart and he hadn't felt any pain at all. A demonic, fiendish aura began infesting his vita.

"You lot weren't able to kill me, so now it's my turn to kill you!"

The Primordial Gate began spinning faster and faster, generating an attractive force. The xenofiends in his body were immediately stunned. The next moment, they began frantically crying out in a desperate attempt to leave his body. It seemed like they were the ones drowning now. However, it was all too late; the game of cat and mouse was no longer available to play as each and every one of them was drawn into the Primordial Gate then ground down and disintegrated, becoming a pure white mist that Ye Lingfeng sucked up and ingested.

"So xenofiends are actually the result of terra and flesh fusing together!" How they were born was a mystery, but in essence, they were terra, so Ye Lingfeng was their natural predator. Hundreds of them shrieked as they were ground to fine dust. Their despair was a sharp contrast against their former glee.

Their hisses could be heard from far away. When they had all perished, Ye Lingfeng's body was finally clean. The vortex in his chest slowed its spin, permanently taking its place in his body. He opened his eyes and had a completely different look. His eyes looked like the darkest abysses. Only those with the strongest souls had eyes that looked so deep.

"All eighty thousand of us will grow strong together! There's no end in sight!"

Before, consuming totems hadn't seemed able to nourish his vita at all. But now it was different. Now, he had truly become a nightmare to totem users. Among the three components of the soul, the terra was closest to what could be considered power. At the same time, it also played a supportive role for the vita. When the vita was out cold, the terra would return to the body and simplistically control it. It was thanks to that property that the Primordial Gate could grind the xenofiends to dust and use them to nourish his vita.

"So does this mean I'm unmatched in this world?" He got rather excited. However, a huge change occurred in the xenomemory space. Countless colorful sights swept past his vision. One gigantic xenofiend after another began to appear, all sporting different forms. Even the wondersky realm of Violetglory Star seemed to be shaking. Initially, the xenofiends had ignored that wondersky realm, but now they began ramming against it and howling in an ear-piercing manner.

"Who... who dares kill xenofiends? Who dares break the laws of the xenomemory space? Where's the divine wondersky race? Come out! You've broken the pact!"

Ye Lingfeng was shocked. Who were these shadowy figures? Though he was prepared to fight them to the death, he immediately calmed down when he sensed that the xenofiends were actually being controlled by some mastermind in the background.

"No matter who you are, I'll find you as long as you're in the wondersky realm! You're dead!" The lights continued flashing in a dreamlike manner as scenes of the sky, sea, a gigantic beast, and ants flashed past.

"It feels like I'm inside a hornet's nest." Ye Lingfeng cracked a helpless smile, gripping his staff tight. "There's no turning back."

.....

Tianming had been waiting outside the Violetglory Pagoda for close to six hours. Many passed by him and entered the pagoda to train. Meow Meow was still on the run in the corporeal world, so Tianming didn't have to go back there and could train in the wondersky realm. He had managed to buy some time by destroying the formation core; however, he was worried he wouldn't be able to save Ye Lingfeng in time.

Had he accepted his fate and let the sovereign use him to make a breakthrough, she might have rescued Ye Lingfeng a day or two later. However, trading his life for another's was the worst solution to the problem. As such, he chose the riskier option because he trusted Ye Lingfeng. Even so, it had been many days since he'd last seen him. He hoped that he would show up the next moment when he blinked.

"Perhaps it's not Feng's fault. That world's just too harsh," Ying Huo said.

"Enough." Tianming breathed a huge sigh as his fingers shook. A whole day had passed; he had to enter the pagoda now and didn't have any more time to spare waiting. "Let's go in!"

Suddenly, someone tapped him on the shoulder. He turned around and saw a black-haired, red-eyed youth brightly smiling at him.

"I'm still alive. Surprised?"

It was Ye Lingfeng!

"Not bad. Guess you weren't as weak as I thought," Tianming joked, relieving the tension he felt. "How're you doing now?"

Ye Lingfeng explained what had just happened to him. Tianming relaxed even more after hearing it. "I was wondering why the wondersky realm was shaking. It had something to do with you after all."

"It's all really confusing for me, too," Ye Lingfeng said.

"Either way, it's great news that you found a way to survive the xenofiends." The only downside was that this seemed to have offended some power. That could make the problem worse in the long term as the threat he had to face might be even more terrifying.

"Brother Tianming, now that I've overcome my hurdle, I'll do my best to wait for you. I won't hold you back anymore," he confidently said, unlike before.

"Great! Guess you've finally matured." The view after a heavy shower was even more beautiful than the view before. "Let's agree to meet here every ten days from now on. I need to know you're safe."

"Alright!"

"Now go back to running for your life. I'm also doing the same. We're brothers in escaping."

"I... I won't die."

"That's right. I'll come looking for you in a while. Hold on until then."

Ye Lingfeng nodded. Even as a caelum, his eyes still seemed a little fiendish.

"Alright, see you ten days later," Tianming said as he approached the pagoda.

"Okay!"

They were now heading in different directions, but they were hot-blooded all the same.

.....

The hundred divine moonrace children arrived at the Divine Capital of the Decimo Dao Nation after gathering some information.

"Li Tianming, Ye Lingfeng, and Li Qingyu are all really famous!"

"I also heard that their families are all in the Divine Capital."

"We can use any of them as a hostage. We'll make sure that dastardly animal pays the price for destroying Divine Moon Skycity's formation!"

"Who knew we could render service to the sovereign despite our age!"

"The people here are so weak. They think we're children and try to resist, only for us to crush them with a slap. Tsk tsk..."

"My dad said the residents of the world below are like livestock."

They were no longer keeping a low profile at all. Instead, they banded together and flew toward the Divine Capital without bothering to hide.

The one in charge now is called Ye Shaoqing, Li Tianming's master! I heard they have a good relationship."

"How strong is he?"

"Empyrean Saint stage at most!"

"As powerful as I was at the age of five. How pathetic."

"He reigns like an emperor with that level of power... How laughable. What say we stay here and become emperors too?"

"Let's not. There isn't even a stellunar source here, nor the caeli of our ancestors. Cultivating here for a century won't even compare to cultivating in the Divine Moon Realm for a year."

"That's true!"

"Let's get to work."

### **Chapter 1073 - Second Grand Battle at the Divine Capital**

It had been more than a year since a grand battle had taken place at the Divine Capital. During that time, the Decimo Dao Nation had brought the city back to prosperity, having restored much of the rubble after the war. However, it looked completely different than it did when the Nineshades Clan ruled. Now it was clean, peaceful, and transparent. The citizens were living happy, fulfilled lives and were no longer arrogant like before. With law and order enforced, the people weren't living primitive lives at all, despite being rather weak. That was something that defied the divine moonrace children's expectations.

"Isn't a backwater like this supposed to be primitive and unrefined?"

They felt that the Divine Capital's society should be a tribal one, yet what they saw was the full-blown capital of a huge empire as they flew past. Naturally, many people took note of their presence and came out to the streets to watch them. Some even tried to stop them, only to be sent flying and killed once they landed. Some of the children even brought their totems out to have fun with the people whose lives could be crushed with a single grasp of their hand. They were at an age when their impulses were at their strongest. They couldn't help but let it out, especially now that their parents weren't there to witness what they were up to. They were fully in control, and they would take advantage of that fact.

"Hahaha!"

"These people are so weak!"

They rampaged their way through the place, and even competed with each other. Seeing the terrified citizens running for their lives made them even happier.

"They're so cowardly, too."

"They can't even take a slap? Hey, is this one dead?"

"Their lives are like ants. They're so weak they'll die from a single squish."

Even though there were only around a hundred of them, they were like locusts that left nothing but ruins everywhere they passed.

"Who are these people?!"

"No idea! They're all children, so how can they be so strong?"

"Their foreheads have a crescent mark. Don't tell me they're the descendants of gods."

The citizens continued to scatter and run. Their guesses were right, at least; these childrens' parents were indeed 'gods' as they knew it. Eventually, the children reached the new Imperial City.

"Ye Shaoqing! Get your grandparent ass out here!"

"Who among you are Li Tianming's family? I don't care if you're his uncle or granduncle! Come out!"

"You have ten breaths! If you don't come out, we'll massacre the whole city!"

The rules in Divine Moon Skycity were strict, so all seniors demanded respect. Under that oppressive environment, the children had developed a sick complex that allowed them to commit atrocities such as this.

"That's right! We're going to slaughter you!"

But despite all their shouting, nobody came out during their time limit. What surprised them even more was that there was nobody in the Imperial City. How could there be not a single reaction to their less-than-subtle arrival?

"Demolish the whole place!"

They summoned their totems and went on the attack. All of a sudden, people showed up all around them, more than a thousand of them! They quickly encircled the hundred children. The newcomers were all adults and were accompanied by more than twenty-five hundred lifebound beasts. They filled the skies, completely sealing off their escape route.

"Huh?" The children were stunned and didn't know what was going on.

"Why're there so many empyrean saints over here?"

"I don't know! His Highness didn't tell us about it!"

"He said that they were only at the first or second level at most!"

"Even if that's the limit, how are there more than a thousand of them?"

They all looked at each other, confused.

"No worries! They're all of the inferior rootbeast race! It makes no difference. They don't even have access to a stellunar source! I can take on a hundred of them alone!"

"I can take on a thousand!"

"Ten thousand for me!"

"A billion!"

The boasting knew no bounds. It was no surprise, considering their paltry life experience. Most of them weren't even ten yet, and they all lived spoiled, pampered lives.

Behind the thousand people were Ye Shaoqing and a three-eyed youth who looked to be thirteen. There was a gold eye at the center of his forehead, a sign that he was a member of the Archaic House of Xuanyuan's Trioptic True Dragon Branch. He was Xuanyuan Yuhai, Xuanyuan Muxue's junior and the grandson of Xuanyuan Dao.

"Young friend, I'm asking you one last time. Will we have to subdue and perhaps even kill them all?" Ye Shaoqing asked.

"Yes. Our ancestor said that if the other side doesn't bother hiding it anymore, we can't let even a single one go," Xuanyuan Yuhai said. Even though he was quite young, he seemed rather reliable. Even though the Xuanyuan house's prestige couldn't compare to the divine moonrace's, they had risen and fallen across the two hundred thousand years of their history on the Flameyellow Continent, and that kind of growth showed in their descendants.

In comparison, the divine moonrace had reigned unchallenged on the moon. These royal children were already used to other races kneeling and prostrating toward them. True growth only took place amidst hardship, after all.

"Alright, then we'll do as your goddess says." Ye Shaoqing knew that Feiling was their goddess. Once Tianming had given her the instructions, she hastily returned to the continent and finished her preparations. Those of the Divine Moon Realm definitely wouldn't know much about the chaos skyjail. After all, it was a mysterious place that was off-limits to most of them. "They shall fear the mysterious!"

To prevent any doubt, the thousand people there were chosen from all over the Nine Divine Realms and they didn't stand out in any way. Before they attacked, they yelled, "Evil fiends who dare to openly slaughter in the Decimo Dao Nation and defile our home, your sentence is death!"

The thousand beastmasters attacked at once. They had done their research long ago, tracking the children as they passed. They even had ten people tailing every single one of them to prepare for the clash. The beasts were roaring so loudly that nobody could hear the children speaking.

"Are these natives insane?"

"They don't know magnificence when they see it!"

"Very well. Let's teach them the power of our totems."

These children were rather talented, all of them basically penta- or hexabanes. That kind of talent was already unparalleled in the Li Saint Clan. Instantly, each of them manifested five or six totems. In total, they had around five or six hundred combat 'units', but the enemy still outnumbered them five or six times. It was bound to be a chaotic battle.



Thanks to the Canal of the Dead, people within the chaos skyjail were limited to second-level empyrean saints. When it came to similar levels, the number of totems, battle arts, and techniques of the divine moonrace gave them an advantage. Even though they were only around eight years old, on average, they had their own unique methods and were all stronger than Autarch Qian, who would no doubt lose his mind at this sight had he still been alive. Back then, he had spared so much effort to grow just a tiny bit stronger, but now there was a whole race who had been raised with access to a stellar source.

Lifebound beasts' abilities were flung across the battlefield. Dragons, phoenixes, swordbeasts, and starbeasts surrounded and attacked the enemies. However, the divine moonrace's totemic calamities weren't anything to scoff at. Xuanyuan Yuhai fought with his dragons and led the entire army despite his young age.

"Don't spare a single one of them! Immediately report to me if there's a gap somewhere! Subdue them if you can, kill them if you can't! You must take their spatial rings!"

It was an even grander battle than the one previously fought in the Divine Capital, so much so that the onlookers were stumped. The children fought so ferociously that they could take on four or five opponents at once. But even then, they were still outmatched. The beastmasters ganged up in groups of ten, and they each had two or three lifebound beasts with them. Not to mention, their coordination was much better thanks to their immense experience gained in battle. They had the advantage of age, leaving the inexperienced children helpless.

"Aaah!"

"Waaah!"

Soon, the child brigade collapsed. When they started being subdued, more hands were freed to deal with those that continued resisting. There was no escape during the chaos with so many pairs of eyes on them at any given moment. Thankfully, the clumsy children couldn't hide their tracks at all and were easy to deal with.

Some half a day later, they had all been dealt with. After a few were killed for continuing to resist, the rest learned true fear. Now they were sobbing and crying while huddled up with each other, a far cry from how arrogant they were before. The difference in power between them wasn't just a simple game of numbers, and they had learned that lesson the hard way. All they could do was cry and bellow with faces full of regret.

"Will you submit, alien fiends?" Xuanyuan Yuhai slapped one kid on the face as he said that.

"We're the divine moonrace royals! You're all dead for sure!" the kid roared.

"Royals? From where?"

"The moon! Open your damned eyes, dog!"

"Oh, got it. You must be the remnants of the theocrats that used to oppress us. Kill him."

When the kid's head rolled, the others all shut up.

"Do you know your place now? No matter who or how old you are, you've killed countless innocents. Even gods have to be ready for retaliation before they start killing indiscriminately."

## Chapter 1074 - The Price of Being the Human Emperor

A few days had passed and Prince Fengyue was growing impatient waiting above the chaos skyjail. "Even transmission stones don't work in this darned place. The hundred of them are like rocks that sank into the deepest depths of the ocean. I can't even see a wave from them—did something bad befall them?"

The chaos skyjail had been mysterious for centuries. "Since geniuses of that caliber can come from the chaos skyjail, that must mean they have some elites themselves, despite the low quality of spiritual energy. However, I refuse to believe that not even a single one of them can leave and come to me to make a report if something really went wrong. I told them not to make any waves. I sure hope they took my advice to heart..."

After some time, he made a decision. "I'll wait a few more days. If that doesn't work, I'll get a few thousand others who aren't divine moonrace to go in. Even though their talent is bad, they have far more experience, given their age."

Children under the age of ten were rascals, after all. The Divine Moon Realm was a place with many rules, so people couldn't just do what they wanted as they could in the world below. However, they wouldn't necessarily follow those rules when nobody was watching.

He stuck a note on a transmission stone and used it to make a report to the sovereign. Soon, he received a reply: they would be sending ten thousand people over.

"She's in a real rush, huh... But what in the world is inside the chaos skyjail?"

It was one thing if a hundred people went missing within, but if ten thousand people vanished without a trace, that must mean that Li Tianming was someone of great importance. However, that wasn't the biggest deal for Tianming. He was afraid the divine moonrace would turn their attention to the continent as a whole, rather than focusing on the chaos skyjail where their movements would be limited. When they finally decided they would leave the chaos skyjail alone, Tianming could no longer just keep running.

Prince Fengyue had no choice but to return to the Divine Moon Realm to bring the ten thousand empyrean saints down to the continent. All of the divine moonrace above the age of ten were past that level, after all. While they couldn't fully trust the non-divine moonrace, they didn't really have a choice.

"What kind of secrets lay within this damn place? I have to find out!"

.....

To Tianming, as long as Feiling didn't use her transmission stone, that meant the Tianming Dynasty was still safe, so he could continue circling around and striving to improve. The sovereign thought he wouldn't be able to cultivate as long as he kept running. Little did she know that he actually had the Prime Tower and access to the wondersky realm. Though he seemed to be escaping, he was actually learning from the best legacies of Violetglory Star. There were millions of caeli there—far more than the divine moon halls—not to mention they were on a level comparable to those in Orderia.

"Right now, the sovereign is being kept occupied at Divine Moon Skycity, and Feng is doing much better. It's been ten days, so Feiling must be doing okay as well and keeping things in order."

He was prepared to return to the continent at a moment's notice. However, he had underestimated how fascinated the divine moonrace were with the mysteries in the chaos skyjail, especially how it had produced three peak geniuses in the same generation. The more unknowns there were, the more they would attribute the reason for that to the chaos skyjail itself. There was no way they would ever think that the chaos skyjail was only able to hold up thanks to reinforcements from the rest of the continent.

However, that was bound to be exposed sooner or later when the ten thousand newcomers arrived. Tianming was waiting for Feiling's transmission stone while he continued cultivating in the Violetglory Pagoda.

Ten days had passed, so it was time to meet up with Ye Lingfeng. He had just spent ten full days on the second level of the pagoda, defeating ten people in a row. When he left, he just so happened to see Ye Lingfeng. He seemed to be in good spirits.

"How are you doing?" Tianming asked.

"Good so far. There is a lot of movement about the place, but I've still not been found. Once I'm discovered, I can use the xenofiends to cultivate my own divine will. Too bad a stellunar source isn't available in the xenomemory space, or I'd be able to raise my cultivation as well," Ye Lingfeng said.

"Guess you're in quite a similar situation as Bodhi was some time ago." When Bodhi had reached the moon and finally got to absorb its stellunar source, he was able to make many breakthroughs at once. That meant his divine will had already been strong when he was stuck in the Ninefold Hell, so he could already control a huge amount of power. "I already got your blood. Now all I need is a dimensional rope."

"Alright, I'll continue enduring."

"Are you really fine?"

"I am. It's a little messy where I'm at. I think a lot of monsters are looking for me. However, I'm no longer a pushover," he confidently said.

"You sure you aren't just boasting?"

"I'm not, I promise."

"Good."

"Then I'll take my leave now. See you in ten days."

This was their first meeting since they had made the promise. Seeing Ye Lingfeng doing so well, Tianming felt relieved. Now the only thing he had to worry about was the Flameyellow Continent. He would have to rush back if the divine moonrace shifted their attention. Even without the sovereign herself, they were still a force to be reckoned with.

"Every day I get to cultivate feels like a blessing." He truly cherished the little time he got. Every day, he had to fight someone for the right to remain in the pagoda. He always went all out, much to the shock of

his opponents. Even as he looked over the memories in the caeli, he prayed he wouldn't get a transmission stone. The longer he could train, the better chance humanity would have at survival.

.....

When Prince Fengyue returned to the Divine Moon Realm, it still took a while for ten thousand people of a suitable level to be gathered, given the chaotic times. Then he brought all of them to the chaos skyjail; even with his previous experience, it took him an entire hour to explain to them what to do.

"Do you understand? Spread out immediately. Every day, I want someone to come out to report what's going on to me. No matter whether they seem to be key figures or not, capture anyone who seems to be high level and bring them out for me to question." The fact that the kids had gone missing was far too ominous to ignore.

"Lord Prince, are the people who went in before us done for?" Some were nervous as to why so many of them had had to be gathered.

"Last time, I was negligent. The children are talented, but they aren't good for anything else. All you have to do is be vigilant. Don't worry. You can feel the bad quality of the spiritual energy here, can't you? A single ascendant would be able to suck the whole place dry," the prince said.

"Alright..."

"Remember—spread out and send regular reports."

"Understood."

One after another, they carefully descended downward and maintained a low profile. Unlike the powerful children, they were careful to the extreme. These were the ones who would really give Tianming trouble.

.....

In a forest near the Canal of the Dead, Feiling and Lin Xiaoxiao stood next to each other.

"It's the thirty-eighth time," Lin Xiaoxiao said.

"Yes."

Feiling had changed a lot. Despite her pale expression, the glow in her eyes was growing stronger and stronger. However, she didn't have her mind on her Perpetual Nirvana. "So the divine moonrace sent ten thousand adults this time, instead of a hundred children."

"That's why you sent a hundred thousand people in to deal with them, right?"

"It won't be enough. As long as Sovereign Xi wants to come, the Flameyellow Continent is an open book to her. It's only a matter of time. Any one of the thousands she sends in that gets out to make a report will be enough for them to find out that the chaos skyjail wasn't behind the disappearance of their people. They'll know the continent as a whole is sending people inside as well. That's something they could've already easily found out if it weren't for the antiquated trains of thought they have."

"Then, should we notify him? It's about time."

"We should wait a little longer." Feiling couldn't really see how many people were in the second batch that arrived. She had sent a hundred thousand people to prevent chaos from breaking out in the Decimo Dao Nation, but that wouldn't stop the divine moonrace from learning about the Tianming Dynasty. So far, the sovereign didn't know that Tianming and Qingyu had gone their separate ways, or that he had even spent time outside the chaos skyjail, but she would soon learn of it.

.....

It was getting dark at Xi Palace. Sovereign Xi caught an incoming transmission stone and read the paper note. "Oh, so that's what's going on."

She couldn't help but chuckle.

"Let me see," the imperial guide said. Her eyes opened wide when she read it. "He won't be able to keep running this time."

"Who knew that he had his own dynasty on the continent? Billions of people are counting on him," the sovereign said gleefully.

"It's just a game of playing house."

"However, he's the real deal. The Human Emperor, what prestige. It's a shame that his duty to the world below is only a burden to him."

"What do you want to do next?"

"Have Fengyue take a hundred thousand gods to the Flameyellow Continent. Have each of them destroy a city. Let the continent fall into chaos until Li Tianming kneels before me!"

All she had wanted was to capture a few of his loved ones. She didn't even know that he was an emperor of his people.

"Human Emperor... Human Emperor... Hahaha... you dare to disobey me? Then I'll make you the doom of all those innocents. Do you know how fine the line is between a wise ruler and one that dooms their people? Being a ruler is no easy task. Your subjects may support you, but they're also your weakness!" The sovereign knew that better than anyone else.

### **Chapter 1075 - I'm Practically Parentless**

With the existence of the Tianming Dynasty now known, Sovereign Xi felt that her plan to use Tianming for her breakthrough was foolproof. The dynasty was his greatest weakness.

"Will he really submit to you for his dynasty?" the imperial guide asked, her hand on her chin as she thought.

"Someone who'd risk his life for a friend practically has 'sentimental' written on his face. That's his greatest weakness," Sovereign Xi said. Even her mocking chuckle sounded seductive. "Lianlian, did you realize it? One shouldn't love too many people in life, or be too tethered to the world. The more people you love, the more weaknesses you have. That's why I'm practically parentless. I don't consider myself

to have siblings or children. Apart from you, I have no other weakness. Li Tianming is different. You can tell he feels strongly about relationships and wants the others around him to live good lives. He even treats his lifebound beasts as family. Someone like that can be a hero, but he can't be a ruler. A ruler inevitably harms others, one way or another."

She believed Tianming was a fool. It wasn't even a matter of wisdom or intelligence; his nature of caring for too many people was a self-destructive one.

"Only the selfish can live long lives," the imperial guide said, exchanging looks with the sovereign.

"Life is short enough. I only need one person to spend it with."

"That's right."

"Li Tianming won't be an issue anymore, then. However, the trouble he caused won't just disappear overnight."

"How many people died so far?" Sovereign Xi's expression turned grim as rage rose in her.

"A thousand and three hundred. There's five hundred others who are missing and unaccounted for."

The killer had never stopped slaughtering. Even after the formation was repaired and people were asked to travel in groups to hunt down the killer, they only ended up getting killed themselves.

"The killer is really careful. Even though we set up more than a thousand traps, he didn't fall for even a single one. He's like a ghost. We've actually caught him in the act," the imperial guide said with a worried tone. These days, she had been busy coming up with countermeasures nonstop, but all of it was for naught. The killer knew they were trying to get him and wouldn't engage them directly as well, instead choosing to pick off the divine moonrace from the sidelines. Now, everyone in the city talked about nothing but him.

An invisible killer was the worst kind of nightmare. He could even infiltrate households that had their defensive formations up and kill the people inside while they were cultivating. The rumors grew wilder and wilder, to the point that people thought the astral killer was actually a hundred different people. Divine Moon Skycity was a ghost town, compared to what it used to be.

At that moment, a new transmission stone came flying. Sovereign Xi widened her eyes. "The killer showed up at Fengyue Manor! Two hundred and thirty-one people have been killed there, including Prince Fengyue's wife and descendants!"

"Wasn't there a divine formation there?" The imperial guide was shocked. For someone to be able to infiltrate a divine formation must mean that a lot of planning and effort was involved. Prince Fengyue's recent movements were anything but subtle, so the killer definitely knew whether he was at home or not.

"Maybe he caught someone from the household and forced them to open the formation."

They immediately rushed toward the scene of the crime. They had set many traps in Fengyue Manor, but they didn't know if the killer would fall for them.

"By the way, didn't your parents live with Fengyue?" the imperial guide asked.

"Yes."

Along the way, another transmission stone came flying. The imperial guide read it and said, "Your Majesty, the moonfather and moonmother have passed away."

Moonfather and moonmother were the titles of Sovereign Xi's parents. Her father had never been the ruler before. News of her parents' murder caused her to stop and her face completely twisted as she exuded a murderous aura while crushing the transmission stone. She had proclaimed herself to be practically parentless, but it could never be that simple. If even her heavily-protected parents could be killed, it was a fatal challenge to her authority. News of this spreading would cause another wave of chaos across the entire Divine Moon Realm.

Hate and unwillingness flooded into her head. The astral killer, like Tianming, had slipped right under her nose. One remained in hiding and killed with abandon, while the other was on the run and giving her trouble like never before. When they reached the manor, the killer was nowhere to be seen; it was like a high-stakes game of hide and seek. With how big the city was, it was too difficult to find a single hidden cultivator. She was being toyed with time and again. When she saw her parents' headless corpses, she began hyperventilating and felt just like she had when she heard about Tianming destroying the city's defensive formation. It was the second time she felt such an intense burning rage swell from her belly.

"Your Majesty, our condolences!" Countless people knelt and cried before her as she slowly approached the two bodies. She had hated them for favoring her brothers over her, due to her gender, and had cursed them to die countless times. But when they really died before their time, she felt her hands shaking.

"You two brought me into this world..." What made her feel even worse were the countless people crying with her. It was far too noisy. Even though she didn't feel too much grief, she had to look like it now that the whole realm knew that her parents had been killed. It had only been around ten days since the killer had entered, and this was the harshest blow he had dealt yet. It was all too easy for someone that was possibly as powerful as her to make her crumble from the shadows. He had also used her parents' blood to write something on the ground: "Don't be impatient, this is only the beginning."

Those words glistened under the sunlight.

"I see..." The sovereign stood up, tears of blood flowing from her eyes. "You're holding onto my weakness in my turf, huh. Then you'd better make sure I don't grasp yours. Otherwise, I'll pay you back thousands of times over."

She already had Tianming's weakness; there was only one left to go. It was only a matter of time until she found it; there was nobody who didn't have a single weakness.

.....

Within the wondersky realm, Tianming was challenged a second time. He could only remain one more day if he defeated that day's challenger, and the only reason he managed to stay for ten days straight the last time was a little due to luck, as challengers on the second level could be as strong as the Orderian Sky level. At that level of power, one could even fly to the sun.

During his current attempt, he had lasted a whole eight days. On the last day, he encountered an eleventh-level specter ascendant, so he lost and left the pagoda. All in all, he had trained for eighteen days on the second floor of the pagoda, which was three times as efficient as the first. That was a huge amount of time, considering he had first come to the wondersky realm no more than sixty days ago.

His Trisoul Prime was to thank for his insane rate of growth, which complemented his desire to quickly grow strong so that he could get out of his predicament. His desire to overturn his fate also fueled the growth of his Lifesbane Will. The current circumstances for his cultivation were the best anyone could ever ask for.

"There's more than three thousand legacy lands here. The things I've seen are only the tip of the iceberg."

This world was comparable to worlds with nova sources, and Tianming had only taken a little dip into the sea of benefits available to him. There were seven more floors of the pagoda, and more than ninety ancient idols left for him to challenge!

"If I can reach the peak this world has to offer, that means I'll be powerful enough to have good foundations in Orderia."

However, the two people who could greatly influence his fate right now were Sovereign Xi and Bodhi.

### **Chapter 1076 - Cascading Troubles**

"The rate of growth of my Lifesbane Will is much higher compared to my Imperial Will." It was a mountain of a difference. In the second level of the Violetglory Pagoda, Tianming had scanned more than five hundred thousand elite ascendants' experiences and analyzed them to aid the growth of his wills. However, observation was only one part of the equation. Whether he could truly grasp and understand the lessons depended on his comprehension.

"If I had access to a stellunar source now, I'd be able to bring my astralforce to the next level for a breakthrough. However, I have far from enough now. Not to mention, I can't just rely on the experiences from seniors to grow my wills. I have to give it my own thought and gain my own insights as well. It's more important that I grow through experience."

Even though it would be a slower process, it was bound to be a more stable one. When he left the pagoda, he started waiting outside. Ye Lingfeng would come two days later to meet with him, just like he had eight days ago. However, Ye Lingfeng didn't come on time like before!

"Did something happen to him?" Perhaps he had been discovered and had to run away, or he might not be in this world anymore. Even though he had only escaped his predicament ten days ago, could he already be wrapped up in another sticky situation? From within the wondersky realm, there seemed to be some commotion in the outside, foreign world. The other Violetglory disciples also noticed it and were talking about it; some legacy lands had even been closed as a result.

"Feng must be behind all that." Though he had seemed confident that they would still be able to meet regularly, it seemed that the plan had failed this second time around.



"He must be in some desperate situation. There's no way he'd miss this otherwise."

Tianming couldn't just continue waiting. Right as he left, he received a transmission stone from Feiling; the Flameyellow Continent was in trouble.

"The troubles just keep piling up." Not only was Ye Lingfeng missing, the existence of his dynasty had been revealed. Feiling's note read: 'We're exposed. The enemy might be sending elites down any time now.'

Back then, Yusheng Luo and Huiyue Du alone were able to dominate the entire continent. This time around, Sovereign Xi wouldn't hold back in order to achieve her goals. "She'll do anything to get me to submit."

She had guessed that Tianming had come from the chaos skyjail before he destroyed the formation. However, her response was something inevitable from the get-go, since he decided to resist her. His only respite was the fact that the sovereign wouldn't personally be coming down to catch him.

"What do we do? Feng is in danger and we're going to be in even bigger trouble," Meow Meow said.

Tianming and his dynasty were fundamentally connected. He wanted to ensure the continent would be free from the clash between the specters and the divine moonrace, but the day had still come. He had mentally prepared himself for this eventuality.

"Since there's no option for us to run, we just have to face this." He looked toward the moon and said, "Meow Meow, stop and wait."

"The ones on our tail aren't far off. They'll catch up if we stop."

"Yes. Right as they arrive, charge past them as quickly as you can toward the Divine Moon Realm."

"Aren't we going back to the Flameyellow Continent, first?" Ying Huo asked.

"It's pointless to do that right now. I want to absorb some stellar source, first." Only power could change the Flameyellow Continent's fate of extermination. "I won't abandon them! Saving myself is the same as saving them! I've been quite lucky so far, so I'll make this bet!"

"Alright. I've been zig-zagging this entire time. If I travel in a straight line, I'll be able to overtake them by thousands of miles!" Meow Meow confidently said.

They waited for a bit until they saw five flashes in the distance. "Let's go!"

"Sit tight and don't get flung off!" roared Meow Meow as lightning sparked all over its body. It charged straight forward at a most blinding speed; like a lightning bolt, they shot past the pursuers and disappeared.

"Is he going back to the Divine Moon Realm?"

"Maybe he's going to turn himself in?"

"Let's give chase!"

The Pentamoon Slayers vanished as well.

.....

Prince Fengyue stood before a crowd in front of the ruins of Huiyue City's divine moon hall. His eyes were red and his usual noble and elegant aura was replaced by cold desolation. Now, everyone knew that his parents, descendants, and even wife had been killed. Only a handful of his relatives survived. The realm had been mourning for their loss over the past few days; even the prince had personally returned to attend his parents' burial.

However, he didn't stay to continue the mourning. Instead, he immediately left Divine Moon Skycity for Huiyue City. The order to mobilize their troops had arrived. Apart from the sealed Divine Moon Skycity, the other cities of the Eightmoon Skycities ruled by the seven great clans, the Huiyue Clan included, had to send out more than ten thousand ascendants each; they would assemble an army of a hundred thousand!

The clans immediately acted after receiving the decree and sent their troops to gather at Huiyue City, each led by their respective clan leaders. Huiyue Tianhong, Huiyue Tianyu's younger brother, was now the acting clan leader.

Word was that the mission was to make Tianming pay the price for destroying the Divine Moon Skycity's formation core. Everyone in Huiyue City, including Huiyue Yin and Huiyue Yu, flocked to join the army. Tianming and the astral killer had greatly wounded the pride of the divine moonrace over the past few days. The death of the moonfather and moonmother had only added fuel to the blaze. Once they knew that Tianming had a dynasty in the world below, they all knew that the sovereign was forcing Tianming to return and accept his death sentence.

Even though Orderia had decreed that stellunar source worlds were forbidden from interfering with the worlds below, nobody but Sovereign Xi herself could go to Orderia. Thus, they would be none the wiser. After all, she was the administrator of the realm.

The army of a hundred thousand and the seven clan leaders came to Prince Fengyue.

"It's just the lower world. We only need a hundred of us, so why gather so many?" someone asked.

"I heard that Her Majesty wanted to be thorough. That fiend must pay the price, no matter the cost."

"Thousands of people in Divine Moon Skycity have died, and it's all on Li Tianming."

"Even so, massacring billions of lowly people is a little excessive, right?"

"It's not. Even a hundred million of them can't compare to the life of a single royal."

"Not only that, Li Tianming even managed to kill the ninth-level saint moon guide. We need enough numbers to completely crush him, given his talent. We have to make sure he can't turn the tables, no matter what."

## **Chapter 1077 - Perpetual Obsidian, Orderian Cauldron**

"I heard that Her Majesty was too careless last time, and it gave that brat a chance. This time around, we won't underestimate our enemy and make sure he gets it for good."

"That lowly scum from the world below was able to cause a hundred thousand gods to mobilize. This could go down in history."

"It'll end quickly when the time comes. Everyone is assigned to a certain area. No matter where Tianming flees, all he can do now is kneel and beg for mercy."

"We really can't overestimate him enough. He's a monster the likes of which has never been seen before. Maybe his level was high to begin with and he was only making up for the lack of energy using our stellunar source."

"I heard that he was even able to fake his age. He's actually a few hundred years old."

"That's right. He might not be a genius after all."

Those were all rumors that Sovereign Xi had spread. With the death of Liu Qinghuan, she discovered that Tianming really didn't want word of his talent to spread. That happened to align with her own goal of using him up without attracting Orderia's notice, so she got normal folk to spread those rumors and make sure nobody would connect him with Qingyu. As for the non-divine moonrace who had heard about him coming from the chaos skyjail like Qingyu, they were all dead.

By now, the normal folk of the Divine Moon Realm had undergone a complete change in their understanding of Tianming. They now considered him a centuries-old monster from the world below who tried tricking the sovereign, only to be found out. After that, he destroyed the formation core to escape.

A full hundred thousand elites had gathered. In actuality, only a few thousand ascendants would have been enough. She had deployed so many both because she could afford it, and because she wanted to be triply sure things wouldn't go wrong. Letting the rage-fueled Prince Fengyue lead the army was just the icing on the cake.

.....

As Tianming and Meow Meow blitzed through the skies, the Divine Moon Realm began growing bigger and bigger in their vision.

"We're here." Without another word, Tianming had Meow Meow enter the lifebound space while he himself entered the Prime Tower. The tower crashed into the ocean of the Divine Moon Realm from the moon's gravity; half of the moon was actually covered by water that was filled with stellunar source. It glowed with a warm moonlight, making it look really dreamlike. Even a single drop of seawater would be precious ambrosia to the folks from the world below. Not to mention, there were quite a lot of water-type divine hazards within.

Once the Prime Tower entered the ocean, it sank without a sound. Tianming and all four of his beasts began symbiotic cultivation. With his Lifesbane Will growing by leaps and bounds, it could help his Imperial Will control the flow of astralforce. Within every single albus in his body, the Prime Tower-shaped Lifesbane Will became more and more corporeal and approached the sword-shaped Imperial Will in power. The heavenly and divine wills greatly expanded Tianming's mental space. He was like a vortex, relying on the Prime Tower to absorb all of the stellunar source within the seawater and nourish the infernaldiscs, primordiallydiscs, genesisdiscs, and radixdiscs in his body, helping them all expand and

grow. Using his four Primordial Chaos Beast codices, he was absorbing the stellunar source at a ridiculous rate, greatly increasing the energy concentration in his body.

Meow Meow was so fast that it had managed to lose their pursuers for some time. Tianming spent the next eighteen days absorbing the stellunar source. Without it, he couldn't grow no matter how powerful his wills were. In another half hour, they finally finished.

"We're at the Pentarcenic Sky level!" Apart from that, his Lifesbane Will had grown so much that his astralforce was infinitely close to the sixth level already. "If I hadn't run into that eleventh-level opponent that time in the pagoda, I would've reached the sixth level already."

He had reached the limit of astralforce his wills could control, so absorbing any more stellunar source wouldn't be effective. Like someone who had eaten his fill, if he continued eating, his stomach might burst.

"Let's hope we'll be able to handle what's coming at us. I wonder how many enemies Sovereign Xi will send? As long as it isn't more than a thousand and they're not too spread out, I'll be able to manage."

Tianming and Meow Meow left the tower; they had to return to the Flameyellow Continent.

"That woman is really insidious. To force you to submit, she might even send out tens of thousands of gods to deal with you. There's no way you'll be able to kill them all if they come to destroy the Flameyellow humans," Ying Huo said.

"I wonder if they've left yet." He still hadn't gotten any news from Feiling, so there was a good chance they hadn't left. Knowing how many people he would be up against was crucial. "If we go a little faster, we might be able to intercept them in the astralscape. Let's just hope they haven't sent too many." It was easier to locate people out in the cosmic aether, after all.

"The pursuers should be here at any minute, given their speed," Meow Meow said.

"No worries. They have nothing they can hold me back with. All I need is to shake them off again." Tianming wasn't the least bit worried about them; they hadn't managed to touch him in the past twenty days.

The key still lay with Ye Lingfeng and his dynasty. Hurriedly, Tianming and Meow Meow charged out of the sea, only to run into life-threatening danger. The sky above him was completely dark, as if a gigantic monster was descending toward him, covering up the entire sun. It looked circular and seemed to stretch out thirty thousand meters.

Tianming saw a large, black cauldron above him. It came slamming toward him at a staggering speed the moment he popped out of the ocean. Eventually, it swallowed him as it slammed down to the depths of the ocean. The opening of the cauldron was completely sealed shut, and no light was able to come in at all. A lot of seawater and dust was swirling around within. Tianming was completely trapped, not having expected the pursuers to have something like this; he didn't think his moment of carelessness would cause him to fall prey to it.

"Wait, isn't this the Heaven Cauldron?" He quickly stabilized himself and Meow Meow; inspecting the shape of the cauldron from within, discovering that it was really similar to the Heaven Cauldron at the Taiji Peak Lake.

"What Heaven Cauldron? This is a grade-four divine artifact, an orderian cauldron. It's a treasure that Orderia bequeathed to Her Majesty. We've been tasked to use it to capture you!" said a sly voice that reverberated through the cauldron.

They hadn't had any chance to use it when they were in the cosmic aether. What they didn't expect, however, was that Tianming would return to the moon to cultivate. At the last minute, they managed to deploy the cauldron above Tianming and trap him within a sealed battlefield. Not only that, the cauldron could also attack the targets trapped within.

It began rumbling as the three divine patterns within it shone bright. There was one pattern from a divine ore that reinforced the cauldron's structure, and two from divine hazards that powered the cauldron. The divine ore that was used to make it was called Perpetual Obsidian. It had more than four hundred tribulation patterns and thirty thousand saintly heavenly patterns spread out like a net across the structure, forming a grade-four divine pattern that determined the grade of the cauldron as a whole. The other two divine patterns were only grade three, but were really destructive as well.

The combination of the divine ores and hazards caused an explosive chain reaction that further increased its power. Even pills made using divine herbs and divine hazards only amplified the patterns' effects additively, rather than multiplicatively.

The orderian cauldron started activating, causing the divine patterns to shoot out five beams near Tianming. Each beam shone on a person, all of whom Tianming felt were incredibly powerful.

This is the ability Brother Ouyang used as the cauldron's defender! It increases his combat capability, right?

It looked like it worked the same way. Tianming also recalled that Great Emperor Xuanyuan said the Heaven Cauldron was something he had borrowed. There were two keys that had to be returned to someone else. In other words, had the Heaven Cauldron come from Orderia? Or was it just identical to the orderian cauldron?

Questions like these were pointless for now. He looked up and asked, "Who are you?"

"Her Majesty's weapons, the Pentamoon Slayers," all five said in unison.

Tianming noticed that all of them were identical in both appearance and aura, like quintuplets. However, all of their bane-rings seemed to have different colors.

They were five tenth-level ascendants! They were in fact quintuplets and were said to be telepathically linked, which allowed their combat prowess to rival an eleventh-level ascendant. Not only that, their power had been even further boosted by the orderian cauldron.

## **Chapter 1078 - Two Keys**

At the thought of the enhancements provided by the cauldron, Tianming realized that he was in a real pinch. Ouyang Jianwang was only a tenth-level samsaran back then, but he had managed to fight the twelfth-level Po Suo as the defender of the cauldron.

"This cauldron is a divine artifact. Theoretically, it requires astralforce to be activated. As such, the power Ouyang Jianwang was able to draw from the Heaven Cauldron was only the tip of the iceberg."

Back then, Great Emperor Xuanyuan had managed to use the Heaven Cauldron's power to deploy the Skysource Hellshaker Formation and seal off the specters, so the cauldron was definitely nothing to scoff at, despite being a borrowed item. It should rank much higher than any other artifact on the Flameyellow Continent. The highest-grade divine artifact, the Kilostar Photondragon, was merely a grade-two artifact. Now within the cauldron himself, Tianming felt a really oppressive air from the power it radiated.

"If I'd known I'd run into something like this, I would've researched the Heaven Cauldron the last time I went back!" He might have been able to master it for his own use. He hadn't had astralforce the last time he touched it, after all, so he hadn't known better.

The ethereal power generated by the orderian cauldron turned into black beams of light that shone on all five of his enemies and added to their astralforce, putting them far beyond the tenth level's power. Tianming was only able to deal with a single ninth-level ascendant, Liu Qinghuan, with all ten godswords, but now there were five people that were all stronger than he had been, and were experts of assassination to boot. They were all among the strongest people in the Divine Moon Realm, with no more than twenty people being on their level. Despite being much stronger than Tianming, they didn't look down on him at all. Though they felt confident in their ability to take him down, they all acted in unison to be quintuply sure. However, they wouldn't kill him, but instead capture and deliver him to the sovereign.

"There's no need to struggle," said all five of them, male and female voices mixed. Though they almost never showed up in historical records, Tianming had heard rumors of them. They were people with the most blood on their hands and were never referred to by their individual names. Instead, they had code names, namely, Violetmoon, Crimsonmoon, Azuremoon, Verdantmoon, and Onyxmoon. Violet, crimson and green were men, while azure and onyx were women.

Tianming could easily tell them apart thanks to their bane-rings, which were colored according to their codenames and visible on their faces. All of them had six bane-rings with differing designs.

The divine moonrace was far from weak. If they were allowed to cultivate with a nova source, they would be ten times stronger than they were now. Sovereign Xi's heptabane talent would make her stand out anywhere, even in Orderia.

Before the Pentamoon Slayers attacked, Onyxmoon raised a key and infused it with astralforce. It shot out a beam that hit the cauldron and caused it to rumble, activating the cauldron's power and splitting it among the five of them. Clearly, that key was crucial to activating the cauldron's power.

They had done this on the sovereign's order. After hearing about how Tianming had killed Liu Qinghuan, they were all really wary of him and went all out. They didn't want to risk anything, just like the sovereign who had sent out a hundred thousand troops. Underestimating Tianming usually came with a heavy cost, so the sovereign had decided to pull out all the stops. She didn't believe that after all of this, she wouldn't be able to deal with a puny man. It was overkill, just like using chainsaws to cut open a chicken.

Now, all of them were close to the eleventh level in power.

"Take him down," Onyxmoon said. All of them manifested their totems and charged in without another word.

Tianming was stunned as he looked at the key in Onyxmoon's hand. "Why does it look so familiar?"

It looked just like a flattened cauldron. As the Heaven Cauldron and the orderian cauldron looked completely the same, Onyxmoon's key matched what Ouyang Jiangwang and Xuanyuan Dao's keys looked like as well, both of which Tianming held on his person. Without too much thought, he took them out of his Skydragon ring. "They are the same!"

The Pentamoon Slayers stopped and their eyes widened at the sight of the keys. "Orderian keys?"

Tianming had basically confirmed that this orderian cauldron was just another Heaven Cauldron, based on their reaction. "They're the same. Great Emperor Xuanyuan said that the cauldron was borrowed, and the sovereign's also came from Orderia. In other words, Great Emperor Xuanyuan had been to Orderia to borrow the Heaven Cauldron! I have one as well!"

Too bad he had forgotten to look into it once he'd become an ascendant. If he had mastered it, it would be another trump card for him to use. Quickly, he reacted. Feigning an ignorant look, he raised the keys and said, "Didn't think I would have two keys when you only have one, right? I can use more power than you!"

"Quick!" They exchanged glances and quickened their speed. Their reactions and expressions gave it all away. The fact that they were so anxious proved that Tianming's plan could work.

They said this cauldron was granted to Sovereign Xi by Orderia to capture me. That means that even if they aren't the owners of the cauldron, they can use it as long as they have the keys to it. If my keys won't work, they wouldn't be so nervous.

In other words, Tianming could very well control the cauldron. As for the reason why the Heaven Cauldron hadn't been reclaimed after two hundred thousand years, Tianming believed that it was because it had been sealed up for far too long. So it must have been damaged in some way that made it not that important to take it back. There was also a chance that Orderia had explicitly lended it to Great Emperor Xuanyuan to protect his world and forbade anyone else from taking it. He would have to research the cauldron a little longer to find the true reason. Either way, even if the cauldron was damaged, he could still use the keys!

Brother Ouyang used these keys to gain the recognition of the cauldron that time, but he wasn't an ascendant and had no astralforce. The keys must be a control mechanism for the cauldrons! Orderian cauldrons might be commonplace in Orderia, after all. They could be used to cover an area and give their users an advantage. Perhaps that was why keys were made that would allow even normal people to make use of them.

As the Pentamoon Slayers were trying to attack Tianming, he was zipping around with Meow Meow dragging him along. When he ran to a corner of the cauldron to avoid the attacks, he infused the two keys with his astralforce. causing them to rumble. His eyes widened with joy. "Don't tell me—"

The two keys also shot out black beams towards the cauldron, making it rumble even more than before as it sent a terrifying power toward Tianming. It was similar to the Grand-Orient Vortex, in a way. Once the power entered his body, it formed a gigantic vortex beneath his astraldiscs. Now he could utilize its power to multiply his own, just like the Grand-Orient Vortex. Similarly, he didn't even need his divine will to utilize that power; the divine patterns of the cauldron had taken over that function.

Now, he alone possessed more power than all five of them. He felt the power surging through every albus in his body wildly and immediately summoned his lifebound beasts. He could even send the power into their bodies, allowing them to take part of the burden.

Combined, they were probably twice as powerful as the Pentamoon Slayers. In fact, totems didn't have any astraldiscs and couldn't get the power boost, which further stacked the odds in Tianming's favor. The Pentamoon Slayers had completely tipped the odds against themselves by deploying the orderian cauldron and trapping Tianming within it.

### **Chapter 1079 - Crimson Treefiend, Violetdawn Swordgod**

"Sovereign Xi did say that I had really good luck. I just didn't know it was so good! So this is luck! I just so happened to have the keys to the very cauldron you're trying to use against me!"

Tianming guessed that the sovereign had probably reserved one of the keys for herself. As such, Tianming had a one-key advantage over the Pentamoon Slayers. Now, he was basically the sole user of the cauldron. The five of them couldn't run from the cauldron now, even if they wanted to.

"Perhaps the more you want to get lucky, the unluckier you'll be. The heavens are fair! Too bad you just have bad luck!"

The orderian cauldron had greatly added to his power. The power wasn't completely identical to the Grand-Orient Vortex; within the light-gold door was still a large portion of the vortex that Tianming had yet to tap into. However, the orderian cauldron had granted him as much power as it could.

The Pentamoon Slayers furrowed their brows in worry at the tables being turned. Now, they were the ones trapped inside with Tianming, and the only way to escape was to defeat him.

"Don't hold back!" All five of them encircled him, summoning their tenth-level ascendant totems. Each of them had six totems. The totems of the middle-aged man standing right in front of Tianming called Violetmoon were called violetdawn swordgods. They were gigantic humanoid creatures that stood four hundred meters tall and were covered in dense scales from head to tail. Each of their hands held a hundred-meter-long sword surging with a violet aura.

The man to his left, Crimsonmoon, used crimson treefiends. As their name suggested, they were huge reddish trees, each with one face on their thick trunks. Each of their leaves had a bloody mouth.

Azuremoon, a woman, stood to Violetmoon's right. Her totems were called azuremoon seafiends. They were gigantic kun-like creatures that seemed able to shapeshift as they pleased. They also had gigantic palms, within which were blue, moon-like eyes that let out cold glints.



At their rear was a lanky man whose totems were a kind of grass that was sharp as blades. They looked to number in the tens of thousands, but were actually six individual plants. They were called greenleaf bladedges and were renowned for how sharp they were, and for how troubling they were to deal with.

The last person was above Tianming, a woman called Onyxmoon. She wielded a grade-three divine spear called an Obsidian Soulpiercer. Her totems were odd holes that seemed to float above her head called black voids. Tianming wasn't sure what kind of abilities they had.

As expected of trained assassins, they were able to calm themselves down despite the shocking revelation. Then they all attacked with different styles, having perfect coordination like lifebound beasts and beastmasters, thanks to their telepathic link. All thirty of their totems attacked using different, but coordinated methods!

Even with the orderian cauldron against them, they still posed a fatal threat to Tianming. All five kinds of totems swarmed at him with bloodlust. The five tenth-level ascendants struck with their divine artifacts amidst the chaos, using their peak divine arts and causing quite a lot of waves within the cauldron. Each of their moves felt like a tidal wave that could kill.

Even though Tianming could escape the cauldron, or maybe even with it, he wanted to give it his all. "I'll take them down. No matter whether or not this will work, it's at least worth a try. Not to mention, having three keys in hand should allow me to draw more power from the cauldron. Brothers, kill them!"

All of them had been feeling rather frustrated by being pursued for so long. The power boost they had received from the cauldron was far more than Ouyang Jianwang ever could have received. It was a kind of variant nova source divine hazard power that Xian Xian used to fuel its four abilities. Not to mention, it had also learned some crude battle arts to use with its Radiant Vines and roots to attack all thirty totems.

In terms of size, Xian Xian was the largest of them all, especially after its recent evolution, which allowed even its normal vines to stretch two kilometers in length. Even though the Radix World Tree was a living whip, it had enough explosive power to dominate across the battlefield. As long as it stood, Tianming and the rest could endure. Its Trisoul Fiendsong ability was also particularly effective on totems. Despite the loud battle going on in the cauldron, the cacophony was unable to stop the flowers' song. As time went on, it would only be more and more debilitating to the totems.

Meanwhile, Tianming and the rest backed Xian Xian up. Within the cauldron's oceanic environment, Ying Huo's abilities had suffered a bit of dampening, so it transformed to its smallest form and hid on Lan Huang's body. Meow Meow, on the other hand, took its Regal Chaosfiend form and freely swam in the water.

Lan Huang roared and sped up, slamming against six violetdawn swordgods. As their swords struck it, it activated its Kilofold Rings and ground against the weapons. Tianming also deployed all ten of his decapath era godswords, only to cause the Pentamoon Slayers to pause in shock once more.

They quickly understood more of what the sovereign was planning, knowing far more than the average person as they were her personal aides. Tianming's display of talent didn't dampen their dedication to capture him at all. If they could deal with him now, they wouldn't need to rely on the army of a hundred

thousand. After all, it would be troublesome to keep this matter hidden from Orderia if Tianming ever showed all of this to the army.

The army was a desperate move by the sovereign, who had no other choice since the Pentamoon Slayers couldn't catch up to Tianming this entire time, so she would be all too happy for them to be able to resolve it without involving so many people. Whether or not Tianming could escape, the five knew that this was their chance.

"His luck and talent will no doubt help Her Majesty move to the next level. Everyone, discard all notions of it being a waste. Talent belongs only to us, the divine moonrace. Anyone that opposes us is to die without exception!"

The five of them used their battle arts and totemic calamities in perfect unison.

### **Chapter 1080 - Pentakill**

Some attacked from the top, while others attacked from the bottom. The violetdawn swordgods took on Lan Huang, while the crimson treefiends tangled with Xian Xian's many vines. The greenleaf bladedeges clashed with Ying Huo using swordsmanship, and the azuremoon seafiends matched themselves against Meow Meow's abilities.

At the same time, their users came charging toward Tianming. Violetmoon held a longsword and used a divine art. Crimsonmoon, on the other hand, attacked from the flank with his grade-three divine artifact, a Crimsonstar Heavensbow. Hundreds of thousands of crimson arrows fell like meteors. One single divine art seemed to generate countless variations. His crimson treefiends also shot out countless blood-red blades of grass toward Tianming.

Azuremoon came holding a net in an attempt to control Tianming, while Verdantmoon used Greenleaf Flying Blades. Lastly, the mysterious Onyxmoon and her totems came charging from behind him, completely unobstructed. She thrust her spear, an Obsidian Soulpiercer, toward the back of Tianming's head. Her totems also came charging alongside her. They seemed to symbolize the six paths of reincarnation. As the vortices spun, they didn't seem to generate any sort of attractive force. Instead, they let out an enchanting wave of power—it was their totemic calamity, Myriadllucination, Onyxmoon's sure-kill move!

It was known to be among the top three most powerful enchantment abilities in the Divine Moon Realm. Once under its effects, one would be unable to escape its illusions, and might not even be able to fight. Whenever the five of them attacked, they always started with Myriadllucination. Even the most powerful elites would struggle to survive after being struck by that move. The fact that the sovereign had sent them after Tianming was a testament to her acknowledgment of his abilities.

In actuality, him defeating Liu Qinghuan and having no more time to cultivate didn't actually warrant the Pentamoon Slayers from chasing him down and using the cauldron on top of Myriadllucination. It was overkill born of extreme caution. Little did they know that Tianming would be able to turn the tables precisely because of their unnecessary caution.

Tianming was stunned for a moment under the effects of the spell. Ying Huo and the rest definitely wouldn't be able to endure it, and even his decapath era godswords felt much heavier than before. However, the soul servants in his totems and the Soul Tower itself allowed him to snap out of it. Most other people would have a hard time using their totems under the move's influence.

"This is my chance!" He would counter right as his opponent's move failed. "Come!"

Now wielding two keys, he absorbed the orderian cauldron's power, causing every albus in his body to surge with maximum power. "You think you can swallow me up just because you have the orderian cauldron and an army of gods? Make sure to blow first before you swallow or you'll only burn your tongues!"

Tianming was already getting desperate, having been forced into such a situation. Not to mention, Ye Lingfeng hadn't shown up to their preplanned meeting, pushing him further toward the edge. Now, there was no turning back. This was a desperate fight to escape his fate! Now that Onyxmoon was unaware that her move had failed, and Tianming alone was more powerful than any of them thanks to the cauldron, he allowed himself to go wild.

"It's gonna get messy!" His roar shook the air around them. A sword in each hand, he shot forward and executed his moves, Seaborne Moon and Sight Across Shores, at the same time. "I'll use your ancestor's ultimate move to slay you selfish pricks!"

Tianming felt utter elation. The sovereign truly deserved this for attempting to gain more luck by sacrificing three thousand people. Destiny and fate had their own plans; in attempting to rewrite them, one would have to risk losing everything. Too bad the sovereign's luck was running out!

Tianming felt so powerful that he was going numb from the cauldron's assistance. He charged toward Onyxmoon right as she used her totemic calamity. "Help me hold the rest off!"

Ying Huo and the rest did as he asked and intercepted the other four and their totems. Lan Huang took three sword strikes while Meow Meow got caught in Azuremoon's net in the process before being struck by the azuremoon seafiends to the point of puking blood. Xian Xian was completely tangled up with the crimson treefiends and lost more than half of its leaves, and more than a tenth of its Radiant vines. Only Ying Huo alone had managed to go unscathed, striking at Verdantmoon's vitals and forcing him back, stopping his totems from attacking.

Their desperate struggles gave Tianming a one-in-a-million chance to execute both moves in quick succession with all ten of his totems. First, countless moons began rising. Then they abruptly fell with unimaginable power.

"Die!" The godswords tore the black voids apart and the Grand-Orient Swords pierced through Onyxmoon's body. She widened her eyes as she was swallowed up in the seas below, but still managed to toss her key to Violetmoon.

"Next!" Tianming turned to Violetmoon, who was slicing chunk after chunk of flesh off of Lan Huang with his violetdawn swordgods. However, Lan Huang didn't retreat and took on all seven of them alone, even managing to crush one of the totems.

"Onyxmoon!" the four cried when they witnessed the sight.

"Not only has he grown stronger, he can also control the cauldron!"

"The way this is going, we won't be able to leave. We might die here. Are the heavens on his side or something?"

"We can only count on his weakness to take him down."

They all knew what Tianming's weakness was: his dynasty.

"We shouldn't give up just yet. Defeating him is still possible. Don't let Onyxmoon die in vain."

"Kill him then! At the very least, we have to take out his lifebound beasts for Onyxmoon. Her Majesty won't need them for her purposes."

"Kill! Kill!"

The remaining four pairs of eyes turned bloodshot, but Tianming was more desperate to survive than they were to kill him. Time was a luxury he didn't have; he had to end this quickly.

"The divine moonrace should've been our protectors! You shouldn't have come to our plane. It's a shame that you made such a ruthless choice, so don't blame me for making you pay the consequences like Bodhi did!"

Even though they were supposed to be the administrators of the Flameyellow Continent, everyone knew what Sovereign Xi's true goals were. She didn't care about the lifeforms that existed in the world below. That was no different from the specters, who ate the lifebound beasts and humans there. It was a cruel battlefield for survival, and planning to depend on the kindness of others was laughable.

Tianming felt his blood boiling with the power of his Aeonian Grandbane. This time, he would change fate! Every time he broke through would be a time when he was reborn. And this time around, he was about to get the Flameyellow Continent to go through that process of rebirth with him. Their will to fight would be renewed and reach higher heights!

He charged toward Violetmoon with his godswords, and two others stopped and came to Violetmoon's aid. Then all three of them used their totemic calamities at the same time: Violetdawn Skylight, Crimson Seed, and the Verdant Death Formation. The three godly attacks swarmed toward Tianming.

"Die, mindless fool!"

Though confident they were, they had underestimated Tianming's lifebound beasts. Ying Huo used its Death Inferno to neutralize Violetdawn Skylight and open a path for Tianming. Meow Meow then used its Cosmic Lance. Though the two lances didn't envelop the other two totemic calamities, they pierced through them and made holes Tianming could pass through. Once through, Tianming executed the Moonlight Subdued Strike once more, completely disintegrating all six violetdawn swordgods and killing Violetmoon. The balance had finally tipped. Now, Ying Huo and the rest fought back, empowered by the orderian cauldron.

"Slaughter them all!"

Working with Tianming, they killed Crimsonmoon, Azuremoon, and Verdantmoon. All five of the Pentamoon Slayers were dead! Tianming had never planned to spare them and use them to bargain

with the sovereign. Someone like her wouldn't even bat an eye at the loss of their lives. He only cared about taking the orderian cauldron, as well as the many resources the Pentamoon Slayers had on their persons. He found many things he wanted in Onyxmoon's spatial ring—for instance, the blue tracking formation. Once he destroyed it, the Bluemoon Heart mark on his chin vanished.

"My guess was right. She won't be able to track me from now on." He then turned and looked at the gigantic cauldron. "So you were counting on my luck to boost yours, eh? Too bad your luck is crap, thanks to all the sins you've racked up!"

Tianming used all three keys to control the cauldron. It shrank to the size of his palm. It seemed like his control of the cauldron had achieved new heights thanks to the number of keys he had.

"It's mine now." Now, he had become the cauldron's defender. No doubt, Sovereign Xi would find out about what happened here, so he didn't stay a moment longer than he had to. He quickly left the Divine Moon Realm as he counted his spoils. Then he went to a spot where he could easily see any large movement of people.

"They'll definitely pass through here once they've gathered and set off. If she's already willing to send out five tenth-level ascendants to chase me down, how many people would she send in her army to subjugate the Flameyellow Continent?"