

## The Ages 1081

### Chapter 1081 - Escape of the Venomous Snake

A beautiful woman lazily sat on the throne in Xi Palace, cradling a cup of moon tea brewed with divine herbs with her fine fingers while delightfully licking her lips. Her slender legs curved slightly, glistening with perfection. In her other hand was a paper note and a transmission stone.

"They've caught my prey using the orderian cauldron. They should be here within the hour."

Sovereign Xi had just received the Pentamoon Slayers' message. Allowing Tianming to destroy the formation and escape was the first time she had failed in her life, which was quickly followed by a few more failures; it was a chain reaction. Thankfully, things were starting to shape up again.

"Sending a hundred thousand gods to kill the people of the world below will be really hard to keep under wraps, after all. If Orderia finds out about it, all the effort I've made to put up a good front for them would be for naught." She still hadn't used her transmission stone to give Prince Fengyue his order to depart. The Pentamoon Slayers had been on the chase for more than twenty days without any results, so she had been growing rather impatient. Little did she know that it would all work out in the end.

"As long as he's trapped within the cauldron, there's no need to fight. They can just bring him back. No matter how crazy his methods are, there's no way he'll be able to escape the cauldron Orderia gave me."

She continued sipping away at her tea while she waited. Yet before an hour had even passed, something in the hall behind her shattered. Then there were four more distinct shattering sounds. She still had her cup of tea held up as she froze, stunned. Abruptly, she stood and smashed the cup to the ground and rushed back to the hall behind her. The five lifesoul stones that had been placed there for more than two centuries were shattered, causing her expression to shift multiple times before it contorted into madness.

"Yet again, he destroyed my preconceptions. Have I tempted fate?"

Gritting her teeth, she calmed herself. Her gaze turned gentle, but a venomous insidiousness was hidden beneath it. She was now a cold, venomous snake, unable to figure out what sort of mad trick Tianming had used to elude her this time.

"The orderian cauldron already had him trapped within, and those five were enhanced by it. Even if he's an elite at the Lifecycle Sky level, he should've perished. At the very least, those five wouldn't all be dead. How could this be possible? He already spared lots of effort to kill Liu Qinghuan. That should've been the limit of his power. How could he still improve in the twenty days he spent on the run?"

She took a deep breath and finally understood it. "That means he has something that's completely beyond my imagination. Common sense will no longer work to evaluate him."

Though she was angry, her mind was calm. It was time for damage control.

"Some things simply can't be explained away by talent. Perhaps someone who rebels against fate like him can resolve countless problems by relying on luck alone. I should start analyzing this from the ground up again. Lianlian."

The imperial guide entered right as she was summoned. "What do you need?"

"Help me look into the possibility of there being an orderian cauldron in the Flameyellow Continent."

"I came here just to tell you about that."

"What do you mean?"

"I looked into the records of the continent from two hundred thousand years ago. There was a passage that said an elite that could reach Orderia had appeared on the continent. During that time, a dead star from the astralscape of order had fallen to the world below. The specters from that star began consuming the lifebound beasts of the continent's natives and enslaved humanity. Then a powerful human elite by the name of Xuanyuan came to the divine moonrace for help. However, our ancestors ignored his pleas. In the end, he went to Orderia and managed to beg for a cauldron. Our ancestors were then ordered to solve the problem and work with Xuanyuan to seal the specters!"

It was now clear that Tianming was only able to win because he also had keys for an orderian cauldron.

"I'd heard about something like that before, but I didn't know that Xuanyuan managed to get an orderian cauldron in the process!" Sovereign Xi said, furrowing her brows. So that was what happened.

"It's not really surprising. I didn't really look into it. Not to mention, this matter was rather grating to us, the divine moonrace, so we were unwilling to record most of what happened. Do you know what I mean now? When they first came to us for help and we ignored them, that caused waves across Orderia and resulted in our humiliating punishment. At the end of the day, only the guardians of the cauldron in the world below would know this part of history. As for the cauldron itself, as it was used as a foundation for sealing up the specters, nobody dared to touch it. Coupled with the passing of two hundred millennia, its power has basically been all used up and nobody in the present day even recalls it anymore," the imperial guide explained.

The sovereign had her mind completely occupied with returning to Orderia and had never thought about the world below at all. "I see. If only you'd told me that earlier..."

"What happened?"

"Those five are dead. Li Tianming has orderian keys, and now the cauldron has fallen into his hands."

"I was just a few moments late?" The imperial guide was speechless.

"That's right. This brat's luck is mind boggling." If only she had that kind of luck.

"It can't be helped. I'm going to say something you won't like to hear. The divine moonrace has always felt an inferiority complex, compared to the celestial orderians, but we also look down on the world below with a sense of superiority. We only have the sun in our sights and our pride made it easy for Li Tianming to exploit us. We stand in the light, while he's striking from the shadows."

"So I have to completely humble myself to deal with a foe like this."

"What do you mean?"

"I'm going to study everything I can about the Flameyellow Continent and its history. With a hundred thousand gods, I'm not just going to force Li Tianming to submit, I'm going to force him to use all his trump cards. I refuse to believe he'll have a second orderian cauldron he can use."

"This is the only way. If he can even kill all five of the slayers, then deploying the gods across the entire continent is the only way. There's no way he can deal with all of them alone, even if he was a hundred times stronger than he is. It's a risky move, but its certain to work," the imperial guide said.

"Alright, let's begin. The nova source pulse is coming soon, possibly within the next two days. Let's rid ourselves of this problem. I'll unlock my eighth bane-ring before dealing with that rat hiding in my city." Sovereign Xi used the transmission stone in her hand to send a note that read: "Time to act, go all out."

Once Prince Fengyue received the note, he would know it was a sign that they wouldn't stop until they achieved their goal. The weak lifeforms of the world below couldn't possibly compare to the divine moonrace, no matter how numerous they were.

"Should I go down and monitor the situation?" the imperial guide asked.

"No need. It's a simple matter of throwing numbers at the problem. It's better that you stay here to help me. With how adept that killer is at hiding, I alone will find it hard to defend multiple skycities myself. I might even fall for his traps and machinations."

Sovereign Xi had been trying to deal with Bodhi for more than twenty days now, and knew how terrifying he was. The slightest mistake from her would result in a large number of deaths, and throwing numbers at that particular problem would be useless. The nightmarish killer almost seemed formless and couldn't be grasped. The sovereign had already done her best to help the royals leave and go into hiding.

However, there were a million of them alone, and it would be easy for chaos to break out while escorting them away. The killer would have far too many chances to strike if they all moved together, so the process of escorting them to safety was slow. It might take a month to completely evacuate the city, and she had to personally check every single evacuee to make sure the killer hadn't slipped in among them.

"Once everyone's gone, I'll get rid of that pest and destroy the whole city if I have to!" she said with a savage look.

## **Chapter 1082 - Superior Lifeforms**

Meanwhile at the lower levels of the astralscape.

"Sovereign Xi must've guessed that I'd take away the cauldron. I bet she's puking blood right now."

The death of the Pentamoon Slayers had greatly chipped away at the divine moonrace's forces.

"The Flameyellow Continent's natives are humans, just like those in the Divine Moon Realm. We should be protected by them! But given her personality, I think she's going to make a ruthless move to get me to submit."

Tianming hoped that she wouldn't send more than a thousand ascendants against him. There would be no hope if so many gods came to slaughter humanity. "The Flameyellow humans are all innocent."

He thought about far too many people. His family and friends, fellow disciples and subjects of the Nine Divine Realms... The sky plunderers no longer had a home, so the Flameyellow Continent was his only home. No matter how pretty the Divine Moon Realm was, it could never replace his home.

Now, he was waiting for the answer to only one question: why would Sovereign Xi go so far to achieve her goals? What was driving that mad determination? Tianming recalled that Great Emperor Xuanyuan had warned him to never offend the divine moonrace. Perhaps that was a sign that he had encountered many obstacles when going to the moon and asking them for help against the specters. He must have been feeling the same as Tianming was now.

To protect his fellow humans, Tianming had used the divine moonrace to exterminate the elites of the specters. Little did he know that would result in the sovereign of the moon sending an entire army to slaughter those he tried to protect in a bid to make him submit. After waiting for a few grueling hours, the army finally arrived. He saw many ascendants escape the moon's gravity and assemble into a huge army. His last hope had now been extinguished.

"A hundred thousand! Haha! A freaking hundred thousand!" It was almost insulting. Tianming had thought that only a few hundred ascendants would be deployed. That alone would be more than enough to spread him thin. Yet now there was an army of a hundred thousand. It seemed like the sovereign no longer cared about how many casualties this would incur. It was either he submit or all humans perish. It was all just a number to her anyway.

Tianming had seen real tyrants before, Autarch Qian for instance. He was of the same breed as the sovereign. The first time he met her, in fact, he felt like she was gentler than the legends suggested. But his conflict with her gradually peeled away at the layers and drew out her inner demon.

That number wasn't just staggering; it was payback against Tianming for destroying her formation. It was pure hatred that was about to be vented on the humans of the Flameyellow Continent.

"Impressive. Truly impressive." He had no more words. Prince Fengyue looked to be the general of an army formed by the citizens of the Eightmoon Skycities. One might not be faulted for thinking that they were going on an expedition to conquer another world with a stellar source, not a puny little mortal world.

Tianming had underestimated how cruel the sovereign was willing to be, as well as how much the divine moonrace looked down on the world below. The specters had enslaved humans, sure, but the divine moonrace couldn't even be bothered with that. In fact, Huiye Shi included, they all thought the humans down below were mere primitive cavemen with no civilization.

"We're humans all the same, even if we aren't as powerful. It's one thing to form hierarchies, but it's another to treat people like grass!"

Tianming respected every living being, but the divine moonrace didn't. It was something that had been ingrained in them across generations spanning millions of years. It couldn't be changed. All hundred thousand troops of the army saw nothing wrong with what they were about to do, either.

"Don't go too wild, guys. Let's just keep the kill count of each of us to around ten thousand. We're only going there to make a splash."

"That's right. We'll make Li Tianming cry and go back to receive his punishment."

"That damned bastard ruined the formation core and caused at least six thousand royals to die. Killing him doesn't even seem like enough."

"If each one of us kills ten thousand, we'll kill a total of a billion people. That's more than enough to make up for six thousand of our fallen brethren."

"A billion... What a terrifying number."

"Don't let the number bother you. The people from the world below are weak. They're mere insects that're only good at proliferating. Breeding is all they can do. Even gods like us, who live for centuries, only have a few children, yet they have more than ten even though they live for less than a hundred years. A billion might seem like a huge number, but they'll breed enough to make up for it within three years, you know? Cockroaches can't be completely exterminated. They always find a way to breed again."

"You're right. Not to mention, superior lifeforms like us have morals, unlike those insects. Let's not get caught up by ethical concerns."

"I heard the environment down there's good, at least. Once we finish exterminating the insects, we can vacation there!"

"Don't tell me you want to fool with the women there? How could you have such bad taste? You'll get parasites, you know!"

"Eww, get out of here. That sounds gross."

They thought of themselves as gods, and humanity as insects. This wasn't just a conflict between Tianming and Sovereign Xi alone anymore; it was complete discrimination by those who thought they were inherently superior lifeforms.

Though Huiye Shi didn't let it affect her too much, it was all the same for her. The divine moonrace had had that attitude since two hundred millennia ago. All they wanted was to return to Orderia and be truly deserving of the title of superior lifeform. They even looked down on the non-divine moonrace residents of the Divine Moon Realm. On the one hand, they kneel to the celestial orderians, but on the other, they rule their subjects with impunity. It was all the same, from Huiyue Yin all the way to the imperial guide and the sovereign; even Liu Qinghuan, the rootbeast race member that was willing to be a pet dog of the divine moonrace. It was only when Bodhi had started his assault that they learned true fear.

Tianming felt his rage boiling over. Though the army had no choice and was acting under the orders of the sovereign, they were relishing in the cruel acts they were about to commit. There was no way they would hold back.

"They aren't innocent. They're all just as guilty."

Tianming had remained hidden the whole time and immediately left when he saw the army. He had abandoned all notions of peaceful coexistence and would head to the continent right away. Even though the specters hadn't even come close to doing what they were about to, the divine moonrace had forced humanity into another abyss.

### **Chapter 1083 - Destroy the Flameyellow Continent to Atone For His Crimes**

Tianming hadn't returned to the Welkin plane for a long time. All he wanted was to reach the Flameyellow Continent as soon as possible. Meow Meow made haste, falling like a meteor. Its speed was certainly faster than the march of a hundred thousand men. The Welkin plane, the place he called home, gradually grew larger in their sights.

They finally arrived on the Flameyellow Continent. Although the wind, clouds, sea, and earth here weren't as dreamy as in the Divine Moon Realm, this was the place where he had spent twenty years growing up. Despite its simplicity, it had left a lasting mark on Tianming.

He descended upon Taiji Peak Lake.

On the mountain peak, a girl dressed in blue stood in the wind, staring at the sky as she awaited his return. She was Feiling. Although she was in charge of the empire, no one could stop the tens of thousands of people whom Prince Fengyue had sent to investigate.

Tianming descended from the sky and landed beside her. Her long hair fluttered in the howling wind and her eyes sparkled. Even in the face of a coming disaster, their love was so immense it overflowed. The moment she saw Tianming and realized he was safe, she sighed in relief.

"How many of them are there?" Feiling knew that the number would determine whether or not they could resist.

"A hundred thousand," he said.

"A hundred thousand... A hundred thousand. How ruthless." Feiling shook her head and smiled bitterly, her eyes flashing with a cold light. Quietly clenching her fists, her body shook following the tremors from her albi.

"They're ruthless indeed," said Tianming.

"Do you have a solution?" asked Feiling.

"Yes, I can give my life if that's what she wants. But I'm afraid that even if I surrender, her people will still massacre this continent," said Tianming.

That was very likely to happen. After all, they were already here. Why not kill a few more to avenge the deaths of the Divine Moon Royals?

"Don't go." Feiling firmly held his hand.

In view of their relationship, she was unwilling to return Tianming to the hands of Sovereign Xi. It would mean things were completely hopeless.

"Well, we must fight at least. How can you be so sure you'll fail if you don't fight? I've never conceded without a fight, Ling'er." Tianming held her delicate hand.

"I'm sorry, Big Brother." Her eyes gleamed with tears.

"Why are you apologizing?" Tianming pulled her into his embrace.

"I failed to stop them. I feel as if I've done a lot and fought so hard during this period, but it seems that nothing has changed," she said painfully.

"If it was that easy, I wouldn't have such a headache over this. I don't blame you. There's nothing I can do but fight," Tianming said solemnly.

He discovered a subtle change in Feiling, though he couldn't say exactly what it was. She seemed more profound.

"Do you think I've changed?" she asked.

"Yes."

"Do you still recognize me?" she said nervously.

"How can I not? I'd recognize you even if you turn into ashes," said Tianming.

"That's good. I'm afraid I won't be who I used to be. I'm afraid you'll forget me." Wiping the tears from the corners of her eyes, she smiled. "Fortunately, you have a good memory. I'm not afraid anymore."

"What nonsense." Tianming glared at her. "Do people know what's about to happen?"

"Yes. They know because I spread the word. Since there are gods coming, I thought everyone should know the truth. Now all the beings in the Tianming Dynasty know that the death of the specter race was no gift from the divine moonrace, but the result of your machinations. And now, everyone knows that the sovereign of the Divine Moon Realm wants your life and has sent a great army to persecute you."

Everyone had a right to know. Tianming didn't want these people to be kept in the dark; they would make their own judgments on the rights and wrongs of the matter.

"Big Brother, they won't blame you because everyone knows that without you, the human race would've been annihilated by the specters."

Without Tianming, the specters would still have eventually appeared. Even if someone else had informed the divine moonrace, perhaps Liu Yizhao and the others, they wouldn't care about the Flameyellow Continent. Their retaliation against Huiyue Yin's coercion and shifting the blame onto the specter race was now common knowledge. Now that the veneer of cordiality had been torn away, people had to know this secret. Only then would they understand what Tianming had done in order to keep everyone alive.

"Following your instructions, I've asked the citizens to leave the cities and hide in the mountains," said Feiling.

During this period of time, the people of the continent had been plagued by disasters. In the war of the Nine Divine Realms, many took refuge in the mountains and forests. Then, with the emergence of the specters, they were forced to return to the cities because of their unchecked presence in the mountains. Now that the specters were sealed in the Abyssal Battlefield, the gods were coming for them instead. They had to hide in the mountains once more.

Why hide? Because they were weak! Weakness was a sin. In order to survive, they had to flee and were at the mercy of others. But did they have any other choice? Not at all.

No one could decide where they were born or what talent they possessed. However, did they deserve to be homeless and forced to flee in desperation just because they didn't have cosmic force and an inheritance of their ancestors?

The Tianming Dynasty's current structure was stable. Xuanyuan Dao and Li Caiwei were both working hard to execute their orders in a short period of time. That would make it harder for the gods to kill, but it couldn't entirely stop them. It was only a matter of time.

"Big Brother, I've recently grown stronger. In order to be of help, Xiaoxiao has also begun refining her caeli. With her talent, she's made great progress and may be able to help," Feiling added.

"Alright, but I'll reveal myself in a while. I'll need you and Xiaoxiao to stabilize the rear."

Tianming met up with Lin Xiaoxiao, Xuanyuan Dao, Li Caiwei, and the others. He handed Lin Xiaoxiao the Pentamoon Slayers' Crimsonstar Heavensbow and Obsidian Soulpiercer, both grade-three divine artifacts. Lin Xiaoxiao had swallowed all hundred thousand caeli. The Archaiionfiend's natural talent was superior to Tianming's Caelum Prime.

Tianming still had to take time to comprehend his gains, while Lin Xiaoxiao seemed to just gulp them down. Although she couldn't compare to Tianming in terms of combat power, she had made great progress in her cultivation level.

At present, her divine will had reached Hexaunity Sky, which was ahead of Tianming. However, she lacked the power of stellunar source and only possessed the combat effectiveness of Dipole Sky. Although Lin Xiaoxiao was sure to become a beast in cultivation, she could only play a small role in a war against a hundred thousand gods.

"If there's a chance, I'll make sure you get more caeli," said Tianming.

"Can they be devoured?" asked Lin Xiaoxiao.

"These caeli have been around for millions of years. It's time they returned to the universe."

Now that Tianming understood the nature of caelum, he was no longer entangled with this issue. The Vita was the basis of human beings. Terrae and caeli were equivalent to the universe's match for all souls and originated from heaven and earth itself.

"Try this."

Tianming pulled out two pills the size of his thumb from the Skydragon. As soon as they appeared, a strong fragrance spread. On the surface of the pills were faintly visible divine ordered patterns.



"What's this?" Feiling and Lin Xiaoxiao asked curiously.

"They're grade-two divine pills known as stellunar pills, refined from brightmoon fruit and supplemented by a formation. They contain the medicinal effects of the brightmoon fruit, the power of a moonsoul, the divine ordered patterns of a divine hazard. The moonsoul, a variant of the stellunar source, provides power equivalent to the stellunar source and supplements astralforce," Tianming explained.

Feiling had learned a lot about divine artifacts and divine pills. However, this was the first time she had laid eyes on a divine pill. It was made from divine herbs, yet possessed medicinal effects that surpassed the herbs.

In Orderia, divine pills could be used as currency to buy everything. These two stellunar pills were taken from the Pentamoon Slayers' spatial rings and there were a total of six left. Tianming wanted to keep the remaining pills for himself.

If he couldn't reach the Divine Moon Realm or lacked access to a stellunar source at a critical moment, this kind of divine pill would be extremely useful. Its effect was superior to tribulation herbs.

Without wasting any more time, Feiling and Lin Xiaoxiao began absorbing the divine pills and replenishing their astralforce.

Tianming assumed the gods had arrived by the time these arrangements were made, and flew into the starry sky on his own. Through the clouds and mist, he could see a hundred thousand gods, majestic and mighty. They had appeared in the sky above the Flameyellow Continent surrounded by hundreds of thousands of totems.

For ordinary people, this was the coming of the gods! In that instant, the continent fell into dead silence. Under this terrifying pressure, the totems started to speak in unison. Their voices merged, sweeping across the mountains and rivers, shaking the mortal world.

"All living beings of Flameyellow, listen! Your Human Emperor, Li Tianming, committed a grave sin in the world of the gods, the Divine Moon Realm, and has been classified as a first-degree felon. He is now a fugitive. This man is bold and reckless, an evildoer who has committed innumerable crimes. He dares to evade the law after disrupting the order of the Divine Moon Realm and causing a terrible disaster! Hence, our sovereign has passed down her order—If Li Tianming does not surrender at once, all one hundred thousand of us are to destroy the Flameyellow Continent to atone for his crimes!"

#### **Chapter 1084 - In The End, He Would Have To Fight**

What was the purpose of proclaiming those words to everyone on the Flameyellow Continent? It was very simple: they wanted everyone to resent Tianming. By pouring all the guilt onto him, they wanted everyone to isolate Tianming so he would suffer even greater pain.

As sovereign of the Divine Moon Realm, Sovereign Xi knew very well how excruciating it was to be resented and abandoned by the people. This was a deadly approach capable of toppling any emperor. They were the ones doing the slaughtering, but they wanted the people to blame Tianming. Offending the divine moonrace could only bring such a catastrophe. But in fact, as part of the divine moonrace

who were supposed to protect mortals, Sovereign Xi had instead threatened the lives of all of them in order to overcome her lifesbane, which was a serious dereliction of duty. Destroy Flameyellow to atone for his crimes, indeed!

"What great power!"

Countless people heard the imposing voice of the totems in the sky. Fortunately, they knew the truth and hadn't been kept in the dark. Knowing what Tianming had done for them, they weren't stupid enough to be fooled. They knew what kind of people the divine moonrace were.

"So these are so-called gods?"

"They can't deal with the Human Emperor, so they come to threaten our lives. How pathetic."

"I heard they oversee worlds like ours."

"They're just another specter race."

"They've never shown up before, but lately they've all come out of the woodwork. They didn't do anything to solve our trouble with the specter race, and now they've come to slaughter us?"

Destroy Flameyellow to atone for Tianming's crime—this sentence wasn't demonstrating how much the divine moonrace resented Tianming. Instead, it only showed how worthless they considered the lives of the people on this continent.

"If they had even the slightest bit of conscience, they wouldn't do such a thing."

"Who would've thought there were such gods on the moon?"

No matter how resentful they were, the facts remained the same.

"Hide."

"Go, hide deep in the mountains and forests."

"The specters are in the Abyssal Battlefield, and now we've got the divine moonrace on our doorstep. When will we finally see the sun?"

Taiji Peak Lake, Tianming Palace, the Swordsoul Mountains, as well as thousands of cities and countless towns in the Tianming Dynasty were almost empty. The Archaic House of Xuanyuan and disciples of the Archaion Sect had all dispersed. They left their homes alone. With the appearance of the gods, no one knew when they could go home.

Xuanyuan Dao, Li Caiwei, Yi Xingyin, Ouyang Jianwang, Jiang Qingluan, Xuanyuan Muxue, as well as the samsaran powerhouses of the old Nine Divine Realms had also all hidden themselves. Even a twelfth-level samsaran had little chance against an ascendant. At this point, life and death was a matter of luck. Tianming was completely helpless against Sovereign Xi's move.

When the totems finished speaking, Prince Fengyue roared, "Li Tianming, I know that you're near so I will give you thirty breaths to appear in front of me. Otherwise, don't blame us for being merciless."

This was an ultimatum. Thirty breaths would pass in the blink of an eye. The fate of the Flameyellow Continent would be revealed at this moment. Majestic and arrogant, a hundred thousand gods stared down at the continent below, a cold smile on their faces.

"The whole world is trembling. Brothers, do you think Li Tianming will dare show himself? I don't think so! It's best not to come out, but hide in the dark instead. Take a good look and see what the price of offending the divine moonrace is. We can't have come here for nothing, can we?"

During this short period of time, Tianming did one last thing—he went over to the Heaven Cauldron. The big black cauldron stood atop Heaven Sacred Mountain, towering above everything. Heaven Sacred Mountain was the cultivation site for the Archaion Sect's disciples, but now there was no one. Even the Heaven Cauldron seemed lonely.

After comparing, Tianming determined that the Heaven Cauldron was indeed an orderian cauldron. However, the two-hundred-thousand-year seal had consumed more than four-fifths of its strength. If he were to use it once more, its amplification effect would be inferior to the orderian cauldron in Tianming's hands.

"In other words, the Heaven Cauldron is useless." Perhaps that was the reason it still existed here.

But in fact, the orderian cauldron's amplification effect on Tianming in battle was already immense. The orderian cauldron was different from the Grand-Orient Sword. The Grand-Orient Vortex contained boundless power, while the orderian cauldron had reached its limit and its power was fixed. So once Tianming made a few more breakthroughs, the role of the cauldron would be minimal. However, its presence during this period of time was a timely assist.

Thirty breaths were almost over! In the Flameyellow Continent, hundreds of millions of people hiding in the mountains and wilderness were stifled as they looked up at the numerous gods in the sky. What they saw was their totems.

At the end of thirty breaths, Prince Fengyue raised his hand. "People of the Flameyellow Continent, unfortunately, your Human Emperor has absconded and abandoned you in fear of punishment. He doesn't care about your lives. In this case, I represent the divine moonrace in deciding the fate of your humble lives. You must remember and pass down the truth to your descendants—it is not the gods who caused your deaths, but the sinner, Li Tianming!"

A hundred thousand gods, all fiery-eyed and gearing up to kill. The moment Prince Fengyue's hand fell, they would spread out and begin slaughtering.

The thunderous voice brought tragic despair to the people of Flameyellow. Throughout the mountains and the valleys, everyone turned ashen. Could they even hide from gods?

In that moment of deadly silence, a tiny figure ascended into the sky from the Heaven Sacred Mountain. Bright as a star, he stood before the hundred thousand gods. Compared to the hundreds of thousands of totems, he was indeed very small. However, the people knew that his appearance was the reason the gods stopped their attack.

It was the Human Emperor! He was still the same as before, unflinching when they needed his support.

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"He appeared!"

On a snow-capped mountain, dozens of Archaion Sect disciples were hiding.

It was Jian Xueyi who spoke. Those around her were all disciples of the Swordking Faction. The haze in their hearts was swept away by their excitement.

"I knew he wouldn't abandon us!" said Jian Xueyi. She was now an enthusiastic fan of Tianming.

Many were previously pessimistic, but now breathed a sigh of relief, as if they finally had something to rely on.

"But how can he deal with a hundred thousand gods alone?"

"He'll be captured and brought back to the Divine Moon Realm."

"As long as he appears, that's for sure."

"We should be fine. I hope he lives..."

This was merely a microcosm of the entire Flameyellow Continent. After learning the truth, the entire continent was concerned about Tianming's fate. From the day the Tianming Dynasty had been created, their hearts were one with Tianming.

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In the sky up above, Tianming appeared before a hundred thousand gods. As soon as they caught sight of him, their eyes seemed to burn with hatred.

Tianming's long hair fluttered in the clouds, his face calm as he declared before the entire world. "I'm the one to blame. I take full responsibility and will follow you back to the Divine Moon Realm. Please assume your role as guardians of the world below. Don't play with human lives."

Once the gods spread out, there would be no end to the killing. Even if there were hundreds of Tianmings, he couldn't stop them. This was destined to be a war where he admitted defeat.

However, he wanted to know one thing—would these gods really turn around and leave without touching the Flameyellow Continent if he surrendered at the beginning? He would soon have an answer.

Upon seeing Tianming, Prince Fengyue smiled and stroked his mustache. "You've come to admit to your sins, so it seems you have a conscience. You must not resist. I'll escort you back to the Divine Moon Realm at once."

"Alright!" Tianming narrowed his eyes.

Prince Fengyue pulled out a grade-three divine artifact from his spatial ring. It was a chain of thunder and fire, hard and fierce, with spikes on every link. Then, throwing the chain around Tianming's body, Prince Fengyue bound him tightly, just as the Moonsoul Blooddragon had shackled Feiling. From top to bottom, the chains wrapped him layer after layer, the spikes piercing into his flesh and pricking holes in his face. However, Tianming didn't even frown.

"Let's go."

Bound and awaiting capture, he turned toward the gods who looked at him with ridicule. With the Prime Tower, he could handle meeting Sovereign Xi. In any case, as the Human Emperor, he couldn't allow the gods to descend and kill his people.

However, Tianming discovered that he had underestimated the pride and indifference carved into the bones of the divine moonrace. Prince Fengyue should have turned around and taken Tianming back to see Sovereign Xi as soon as he had him secured. Instead, he and all one hundred thousand gods with him stayed where they were, laughing coldly at Tianming.

"Go," said Tianming.

"What's the rush? You haven't atoned for your crimes," Prince Fengyue said coldly.

"And how should I do that?"

"More than six thousand of the Divine Moon Royals perished. Their deaths are on you! Your life alone cannot compensate for your debt. How can I answer my dead compatriots if I bring a hundred thousand people down and go back empty-handed? How can I face my parents, my wife and children, the old and young?!" Prince Fengyue laughed.

"Li Tianming, you must be a man of character to have become the Human Emperor. Then why are you so naive? If capturing you would solve everything, why would I bring a hundred thousand with me? Would I need that many people just to catch you? Don't you understand? The death of six thousand Divine Moon Royals requires atonement, and your life isn't enough! For your surrender, we'll be compassionate. Each of us will only kill a thousand."

Compassionate? Only kill a hundred million?

"Li Tianming, you were bold enough to wreak havoc in the Divine Moon Realm. A hundred million lives to make up for your sins isn't too much, is it? After all, your people are too good at breeding. In one or two years, you'll make up the difference. How can a boy be an emperor? It's ridiculous!"

Prince Fengyue couldn't forget how his heart had ached upon returning to Fengyue Mansion and seeing the corpses of his entire family. His resentment toward Tianming was understandable. But every crime had its criminal, and every debt its debtor. Was it reasonable to vent his anger on a hundred million innocent lives and pacify his hatred with a massacre?

From Prince Fengyue's twisted look, Tianming knew the worst had happened. It was useless to surrender; in the end, he would have to fight.

### **Chapter 1085 - Prince Fengyue's Goals**

According to Tianming's predictions, the worst-case scenario wasn't his own surrender, but a massacre of his people to vent their anger. They didn't care that Tianming had destroyed the formation nucleus and drawn Bodhi into the Divine Moon Skycity because Sovereign Xi wanted to use his life as a stepping stone. Certain people would never remember how they hurt others, only how they were hurt. Besides, it was Bodhi who killed the Divine Moon Royals, not Tianming. When they faced Bodhi, they shivered, but in front of the mortals of the world below, they flaunted their might.

As an important figure in Sovereign Xi's faction, Prince Fengyue knew everything. But he was still going to slaughter and offer the mortals' lives as a blood sacrifice for his dead relatives.

"A hundred million lives will be wiped out like dust. No one will know, because no one is allowed into Orderia."

This was the suffering of the world below. There were too many mortal worlds on the Welkin plane. They had the most living creatures in all of the universe, but were also the most vulnerable. Prince Fengyue wasn't afraid of their resentment.

"Remember, your deaths are atonement for your reckless emperor's crimes! How dare a mere commoner provoke the divine moonrace?! I'll teach you a lesson today. Have you learned anything yet?" Prince Fengyue turned to Tianming.

Those words could be heard by those below. In the end, it was contempt for human life; it was the contrast in the value of their lives—a hundred million lives to atone for six thousand deaths. Even ten thousand lives couldn't compare to one divine moonrace, in their opinion. Being separated into classes was normal, but this went beyond that. The humans of the Flameyellow Continent were being treated like cockroaches that could be trampled to death with one foot.

"Not only do they want our lives, they want to trample on our dignity!"

"Are they so proud?"

"Before this, I didn't even know there were other worlds outside of the Flameyellow Continent. It turns out that the cosmic aether is both strong and ferocious. We're really just frogs at the bottom of a well."

Dead silence enveloped the world. Humble and small, they were angry but powerless.

Prince Fengyue had sentenced a hundred million people to death as he laughed arrogantly. He was no longer the gentle, elegant man.

"Hear my order. Do a good job and show this sinner the visual feast we prepared for him for offending the divine moonrace!" Prince Fengyue gave his order, clenching his hand so the chains tightened around Tianming. Two birds with one stone!

"Resist, it's more interesting that way. I don't like prey that's merely delivered to my mouth." Prince Fengyue sneered.

"You asked for it."

Though bound by chains, a scorching divine light radiated from Tianming's eyes. His flesh grew tense as a majestic power surged from within.

"Come on then. Show me how you dealt with the Pentamoon Slayers," Prince Fengyue spat. He was no longer a gentle poet or painter, but a cold executioner.

"Sure!" Tianming grinned.

The chains on his body began rattling.

"Open your dog eyes and see clearly!"

The chains that bound him violently shook. His body was covered in blood, his clothes stained red, but a majestic power burst out from within.

A small black cauldron appeared on Tianming's palm. It was the orderian cauldron.

The cauldron expanded at once, from the size of a palm to more than forty thousand meters in diameter. The gigantic artifact appeared over the Flameyellow Continent.

Next to Tianming, Prince Fengyue, as well as a large number of the gods and their totems, were all shaken by the cauldron. Even the grade-three chains that had been wrapped around Tianming broke into pieces.

The power of the cauldron separated the gods from the Flameyellow Continent below.

"What's that?"

"It sort of looks like the Heaven Cauldron!"

"Is that Li Tianming's power?"

The man who had originally planned to surrender was going to make a last stand!

The orderian cauldron's special characteristic was its size. It was enormous! In Tianming's hands, the cauldron was larger than it had ever been when the Pentamoon Slayers were in control of it. The opening of the huge cauldron faced the sky as, at the moment of its expansion, it stretched out toward the gods.

What a magnificent sight it was as the power of the giant cauldron swept across the continent. Aiming it at the center of the divine moonrace army, Tianming made a decisive shot. Prince Fengyue, the skycity lords, and at least a thousand others were swallowed by the cauldron.

Tianming was inside the cauldron with them; trapping more than a thousand people was already close to the limit. After all, having summoned their totems, they were rather spread out. Tianming sealed the cauldron so it was dark and gloomy inside as its immense power accumulated within him.

After the initial shock, the gods finally reacted. They stood together, led by Prince Fengyue. They had no fear, only laughter that threatened to spill from their lips.

"What's he doing? Is he really going to fight?"

"There's at least a thousand of us here. Isn't dragging us in with him only going to make it harder for him to escape?"

"He probably thinks this cauldron can trap a thousand of us."

"There's more than ninety thousand people still outside. What can he do?!"

"His struggle is futile."

"Of course he's not going to just watch a hundred million people get slaughtered. He must resist a little so he looks brave."

"But what's fated will eventually be!"

They turned to Prince Fengyue, who was in no hurry at all. As long as Tianming showed, he would be a sitting duck. Tianming's weakness was the Flameyellow Continent so Prince Fengyue wasn't worried he would run.

"That's all you've got?"

The prince was rather pleased. Since Tianming had the ability to kill the Pentamoon Slayers, Prince Fengyue wasn't surprised he could break the chains. He wanted a massacre; he wanted Flamellow to pay the price as he truly subdued Tianming.

"Aren't you the rootbeast race? Bring out your lifebound beasts. You're still of value, but they aren't. They must die first!" said Prince Fengyue.

This was the real reason he had hoped Tianming would resist. In fact, it was his desire to vent his anger—the anger of the divine moonrace and the resentment for his clan's death—through torture and humiliation. When he had returned that day, his entire family had died tragically. Tianming accounted for half of the hatred he felt. While he couldn't kill Tianming, Prince Fengyue could certainly take it out on his lifebound beasts.

"Come, I will give you a chance to fight. Make your move, Li Tianming. Let's see if you're brave enough. If you dare let your lifebound beasts out, I'll order those outside to stand down for the time being. Your other option is to stay in this sealed cauldron with us and listen to the screams of the people below."

There was a playful smile on his face. At least a thousand gods surrounded Tianming, their expressions provocative and mocking.

"I've never seen a fool trapped in a cage of his own devising."

That was how they viewed the cauldron. Tianming couldn't seal all one hundred thousand gods in the cauldron; this was obviously no solution to his problem. Judging from Prince Fengyue's words, it appeared he had Tianming's lifebound beasts targeted because he wasn't allowed to kill him. That was the reason the gods outside had yet to act.

"Fight! Aren't you very strong?" they laughed.

"Your lifebound beasts look very powerful. Why are they shrinking in fear now?"

"Li Tianming, if you're too afraid to fight, then say so. We'll just go out and start slaughtering everyone. Stop wasting our time by acting like you're so tough."

The seven city lords mocked him, one after the other. Among the seven of them, four were at the Nonahonor Sky level and three were at the Decapath Sky level. Ranked third in the divine moonrace, Prince Fengyue was a top expert and eleventh-level ascendant.

"I will give you one last chance. If you don't act now, all ninety thousand people outside will descend upon the mortal insects below."

He had to leave with Tianming; however, his lifebound beasts must die! A hundred million people must die! Tianming would certainly resist if he were to slaughter all those people. However, Prince Fengyue wasn't deterred by that anticipated resistance. Only in this way could the noble divine moonrace close their eyes in peace.



"I know you're the favored son of heaven and your talent defies all. But today, I'll watch you lose everything. I will watch as you collapse and kneel before me, begging for mercy like a dog!" Prince Fengyue sneered.

In fact, he could pretend to retreat and hand Tianming over to Sovereign Xi first, then quietly bring down a hundred thousand Gods and continue the slaughter. But how could he savor the pleasure of vengeance if Tianming was kept in the dark?

Prince Fengyue was no fool. He wasn't young, and had no need to prove himself. Tianming's victory over the Pentamoon Slayers had given him a clear idea of his strength. Hence, all thousand gods had summoned their totems and surrounded Tianming. The totems alone were enough to fill the cauldron.

Amidst the provocation, insults and laughter, Tianming stood at the bottom of the orderian cauldron. When he looked up, he saw a sky full of gods.

"There's no way out. You don't have to worry about us, we won't die so easily," said Ying Huo.

"How many battles have we fought together? How many wanted us dead? But here we are, still alive," Meow Meow added.

"It's a good thing if our presence can delay them. If we don't show up, they'll start killing."

Although they knew the gods would still slaughter everyone, even if Prince Fengyue were to kill Tianming's lifebound beasts, they would at least have a fair chance to fight these gods. Except for a hundred of these gods that were elites, the rest were first- or second-level ascendants. Perhaps Tianming would have a chance if it was to be a fight to the death.

## **Chapter 1086 - Serve Up the Next One**

"Enough with the overthinking! I want to crush them all!" Lan Huang roared from within the lifebound space.

"I'm not afraid either! I can't die as long as I still have one flower! I can grow them all back!" Xian Xian said. All of them were telepathically linked with Tianming and he could feel their burning passion to eradicate the unfairness, cruelty, and scheming that their enemies projected on them. Even if fighting wouldn't change the fate of humanity, he still had to give it his all. How else would he be a ruler that truly did well by his subjects? Ever since he had formed his dynasty, he'd been looking for an answer to that question.

"Are they really my weakness?" Tianming didn't think so. He had benefited much from the power he gained from them. The Omniscient Will he got from them told him that even the weakest of lifeforms had souls like the so-called 'superior lifeforms'. He looked up and saw the proud and insulting divine moonrace looking down on everything in their sights.

Then he split the Grand-Orient Sword in two and used the three orderian keys to gather the power of the cauldron. The divine patterns of the cauldron seemed to flow about on his skin; the power he now radiated was terrifying to most of the first- and second-level ascendants. Only Prince Fengyue and the

city lords didn't seem to fear him. The entire time, he was being attacked from all directions, so even first-level ascendants could potentially hurt him and kill his beasts.

"Where's your lifebound beasts?!" Prince Fengyue yelled impatiently.

"Calm down. I'll let you see them!" Amidst the countless figures who were with him in the cauldron, his lifebound beasts appeared. There was a flaming bird perched on his shoulder; a black cat on the ground; a gigantic, two-headed dragon; and a five-hundred-meter-tall tree. All of them were absorbing the power of the orderian cauldron. Thanks to the fiendish universal manna they had absorbed, they seemed especially sinister, putting their Primordial Chaos Beast qualities on full savage display.

"Perfect." Prince Fengyue smiled. "It wasn't easy to force your lifebound beasts to come out without using some tricks. Your beasts even made use of our universal manna. It's about time you returned what you owed us."

Sovereign Xi had given Tianming the manna to improve his quality. But now that the beasts were worthless to her, they would pay for their sins with their deaths.

"What else? How many bane-rings do you have?" All Prince Fengyue knew was that he had many more. However, it was pointless even if Tianming did have more, since a dead man told no tales. Tianming was about to be sacrificed anyway, and had even done them a favor by hiding it all using the orderian cauldron. Even if the others within the cauldron witnessed the number of his bane-rings, it would be easy to make the thousand people within the cauldron disappear, a small price to pay for helping their sovereign make a breakthrough.

When Tianming's lifebound beasts appeared, the thousand enemies summoned their totems to apply pressure on him. Thanks to the limited space, however, many of them couldn't really fight with their huge totems, but they already had more than enough people on their side.

"Kill his lifebound beasts!" Prince Fengyue ordered. All of them swarmed Tianming right away.

"Die!"

Loud roars and rumbles shook the cauldron. Tianming felt all the more enraged at the sheer pressure he was under. All of his bane-rings shone bright as he summoned all ten decapath era godswords, a sign of his dedication to exterminate every single person here today.

"I went to the Divine Moon Realm only to save Feng, yet the divine moonrace forced me into a corner time and time again."

He had no option but to die if he were to submit to them. All the pent-up rage he and his beasts felt exploded at once. It was one man, four beasts, and ten swords against all others!

"Ten... ten totems!"

"What in the world?!"

"Lord Prince, he's got ten totems!"

Their expressions were completely contorted. If someone like him could be birthed from the world below, that was completely insane. But no matter what, they never could have imagined that he would be even stronger than the Ninemoon Goddess!

"I see it. Now go kill the beasts," the prince calmly said. However, nobody noticed his quivering fingers. That number of totems was indeed unprecedented. If the divine moonrace gets this guy's luck, we'll rise to new peaks and create a golden era for our race!

"I said go kill them!" he roared once more. The city lords were the first to act, followed by the other fearless divine moonrace. Regardless of their low levels, they relied entirely on their numbers to fight against Tianming's beasts and attacked from all directions.

"Li Tianming, you're dead!" cried a woman from the crowd. Tianming turned to look and saw Huiye Yin, Huiyue Jie's sister.

"Do you want to know how your brother died?" Tianming asked.

"What do you mean?" Huiye Yin said, stunned. Her brother's death had been a mystery up until now.

"Just watch! I'll show you how it's done!" Tianming's Grand-Orient Swords flashed brightly as countless sword beams appeared, grinding Huiye Yin to bits and killing her in an instant. Her eyes opened wide with shock.

Tianming had already forgotten that he had also used Imperial Sword Prison on her, but now she had come to die on her own accord. While most of the divine moonrace that had come for him were middle aged, there were quite a lot of reckless young folks too.

"Serve up the next one!" Tianming said in mocking fashion, enraging them even further. The next moment, he was enveloped by totems from all directions.

"Xian Xian, it's your turn!"

"Leave it to me! I'll deal with those stinky bastards!"

Xian Xian's face was flushed red as two of its flowers, the Evernight Rose and Fiendsong Mares, bloomed. The Evernight Curse and Trisoul Fiendsong were running at full throttle. The fine pollen from the rose was even more powerful, thanks to the effects of the cauldron, and within this tightly confined space, it was guaranteed to infest every single person there and cause them to go berserk and fight both friend and foe.

The effects of the sound coming from Xian Xian's flowers, on the other hand, were already completely unstoppable. They couldn't be avoided within the cauldron and could only be resisted by someone with a stronger divine soul. As such, first- and second-level ascendants had barely any resistance against it. Once the move was used, it was as if they had fallen under a poisonous spell that would only intensify over time. Additionally, while Xian Xian's Radiant Vines and Bloodrain Swords weren't as damaging, they were enough of a threat against the weaker ascendants and held them back more than Ying Huo and the other two ever could. They could even completely crush a first-level ascendant's totems, and there were more than a hundred thousand vines.

During that clash, all Prince Fengyue saw was the deaths of his divine moonrace at the hands of Tianming and his beasts. Tianming had Lan Huang open up a path and fought near Xian Xian. Ying Huo and Meow Meow circled around him as his godswords slashed with abandon, causing blood to rain everywhere.

"You wanted to see the power of my lifebound beasts, eh? Take a good look at it then! It's not like you'll still be alive to tell the tale!"

No matter their numbers, they were fighting within his cauldron and his turf. The Pentamoon Slayers combined were about as powerful as a Lifecycle Sky ascendant, so Tianming was definitely on that level as he had killed them. While he wouldn't be able to deal with a hundred thousand ascendants at once, he had no problem fighting now, especially with Prince Fengyue on the sidelines.

"You want to mock me even though you've only got a thousand pieces of weak trash?" Tianming wanted to laugh at how arrogant they were.

Lan Huang continued to slash away and pave new paths with Astralfiend's Sword, crushing countless totems and severing many limbs. Then a ninth-level ascendant came rushing in with six totems and started attacking Lan Huang from the flank, causing it to lash out and bite back at its totems.

"I know you! Huiyue Tianhong!" Tianming suddenly appeared before the man that looked like Huiyue Tianyu. He was the current acting clan leader of the Huiyue Clan.

"You have to die!" Huiyue Tianhong said, smiling coldly.

"You first!" Tianming rained down blows of the Moonnight Subdued Strike as Ying Huo, Meow Meow, Lan Huang, and Xian Xian took on the others coming his way. Seaborne Moon caused moons to rise and fall, completely blinding Huiyue Tianhong.

"Die!"

Huiyue Tianhong didn't even get the chance to cry out as he was torn asunder, much to the shock of the others nearby. Tianming had left a deep impression in their minds; there was no way someone who was willing to go against even the sovereign would be a harmless sheep.

### **Chapter 1087 - Fengyue Godwheels**

Tianming's lifebound beasts were being swamped with strikes, totems, and totemic calamities. They were injured all over, but none of that was able to stop Tianming. Then, at the critical moment, Prince Fengyue joined the fray.

Like a wild storm, he charged in front of Tianming and the first attack he unleashed made a bloody hole in Lan Huang. At the same time, near a hundred sixth-level ascendants gathered around him.

"The rest of you, stay a distance away and only attack with ranged weapons and totems!" Prince Fengyue coordinated their attack effort and didn't let Tianming disrupt their formation. "Let's destroy that tree first!"

He could immediately tell that Xian Xian was the core to their fighting formation as it was able to neutralize many of the dangers Tianming had faced in almost an instant. At the same time, the Evernight Curse and Trisoul Fiendsong's effects had begun setting in. Prince Fengyue could feel that his totems were affected and that he had lost some power as a result.

"Understood!"

Countless totemic calamities, arrows, and throwing knives were flung at Xian Xian. Some even daringly charged to the tree and cut at the flowers themselves. As the tree was huge, it was easy to attack. All of that made it rather tough for Tianming. As Xian Xian's leaves and branches were continuously hacked away, not even the Greenspark Tower's recovery could make up for all that was lost.

It hurts! Though it was scared, it didn't dare to make a sound as Tianming and the others were fully occupied with Prince Fengyue and the rest.

"Don't be afraid, Little Sis! Chicken Bro is here!" Ying Huo left Tianming's side as a stream of flames and pierced through the chests of one divine moonrace fighter after another, leaving a bloody hole in each of them. "Anyone that tries to bully my sister shall die!"

Ying Huo's eyes were burning as it used Death Inferno and generated thousands of clones that all shot out scorching feathers, piercing many more divine moonrace through their eye sockets and causing waves of deaths. It forced Prince Fengyue to send away two tenth-level ascendants to deal with it alone, though that was fine since he had wanted to kill Tianming's lifebound beasts in the first place.

"What are you resisting for? You're destined to die anyway. Li Tianming, have your lifebound beasts stop struggling and stretch their heads out for us to behead!" Things were turning out to be a little more troublesome than the prince had originally expected.

"Can you not bother with your dastardly tricks? So much for the vaunted divine moonrace. You're just cowards who don't even dare to fight one on one. All you do is force others to do the killing for you. You can't even stand getting your hands dirty. Prince Fengyue, you really are trash. Your position among the elites of the divine moonrace really says a lot about how much so-called 'superior lifeforms' like you can amount to. You really are nothing but pathetic cowards," Tianming mocked. He looked down on people like this the most.

Those words caused Prince Fengyue to blush so deeply that his ears turned red. He had always prized his image as a refined person, and he wouldn't stand those insults. The one who forced Tianming to use his lifebound beasts was him, yet now he was asking Tianming to order his beasts to stop fighting. Despite being a member of the mighty divine moonrace, he could do nothing but use the lives of innocents to threaten the brat. If anything, that was a pathetic display of powerlessness.

"I'm already putting my life and the lives of my partners on the line, yet you don't even have the courage to face me in combat and prefer to have your goons die for you instead. You seriously expect me to believe you when you claim to be the superior lifeform? Do you even hear what you're saying? Don't make me laugh, you superior cowards! You're nothing but glorified security guards to maintain the order of the continent, and you can't even do that right! On the sun, you're nothing but lowly dogs! Your sense of superiority is only good on the Welkin plane. What else can you do? With how cowardly you are, I'm not the least bit surprised your whole fucking family died!"

Tianming's repeated insults were one thing, but bringing up his dead family crossed the line for Prince Fengyue. "Die!"

He no longer cared about getting Tianming's lifebound beasts to stop fighting. In fact, asking Tianming to bring his lifebound beasts out was suicide in the first place. The fact that he didn't even dare to join the fight and had others do the fighting for him did seem rather embarrassing in retrospect, as was reflected by the looks on the faces of the others when they heard Tianming's tirade of insults. They were all proud people, and none of them could stand being talked down to like that.

With Prince Fengyue leading them, nearly a hundred elites along with their five hundred plus totems came down on Tianming like a tidal wave, but they focused on his lifebound beasts instead of him.

Beside Tianming were Lan Huang and Meow Meow in its Regal Chaosfiend form. They flanked his sides like his left and right hands, taking most of the brunt of the attacks for him. Prince Fengyue's totems were the most eye-catching in front of them. They looked really unique, even among weapon totems. Three of them were sword-wheels, while the other three were blade-wheels. They were called that because they were actually formed from six swords whose hilts were linked together to form the spokes of a wheel, and the same applied to the blade-wheels. As six swords or blades were linked together as one unit, they counted as one totem rather than six, or he would be known as someone who had thirty-six totems.

The sword-wheels were windgod wheels, while the blade-wheels were moongod wheels, and the two characters, Feng for wind and Yue for moon, made up the prince's title. Collectively, they were known as the Fengyue Godwheels.

Prince Fengyue himself wielded a sword and a blade, called Windgod and Moonshade respectively. He flared with the power of an eleventh-level ascendant as he used blade and sword arts with his wheels. Coupled with the might of nearly a hundred sixth-level ascendants and their totems behind him, he forged forward with enough force to reshape landscapes.

Meow Meow immediately used its lightning abilities to bombard them, but it didn't even make a dent in their formation. Prince Fengyue also managed to deflect some of them as he charged straight for Meow Meow. It was finally Prince Fengyue's turn to throw himself into the fray; it had been a long time since he personally did any fighting, but this time around, he would exact revenge for his family himself. He would conquer this arrogant and naive youth!

### **Chapter 1088 - Omniscient Threads**

Prince Fengyue himself was as strong as the Pentamoon Slayers had been, combined. While Tianming wouldn't worry about him in a one-on-one fight, he had the support of a hundred elites, and even more normal ascendants that were attacking Xian Xian and Ying Huo. He could barely deal with Prince Fengyue, let alone a thousand enemies.

The prince set his sights on Meow Meow and sent his weapon wheels spinning toward it like a lawnmower. Before he arrived, his surging sword ki formed an airtight sword formation that covered all directions.

Lightning gathered in Meow Meow's blood-colored eyes as it launched two Cosmic Lances, one yin and one yang, toward the wheels, only to have them disintegrated by the formation attack. Instead, Prince Fengyue's battle art finally struck Meow Meow. With his sword Windgod, he executed a third-realm divine art, Three Myriads' Wind, and ushered a storm of sword strikes along with his wheels. Thirty thousand strands of sword ki formed a tornado that carried impressive force. What was worse were the hundred plus elites who were encircling Tianming and the rest, some among whom were ninth- or tenth-level ascendants. Tianming was fighting enemies far more powerful than those Bodhi had to face at Huiyue City!

"Meow Meow, dodge!" he said telepathically. Meow Meow immediately understood and reverted to its small cat form, then zipped away to avoid the attack. However, Prince Fengyue immediately changed the direction of the attack toward Lan Huang. A beast as large as it couldn't possibly evade as agilely as Meow Meow; its Kilofold Rings were heavily damaged and wounds began racking up on its body.

Tianming came charging and used Hadean Reincarnation and Empyrean Reincarnation at the same time. Though the moves weren't that complex, the sword intent contained within them was actually exceptional. The two vortices that resulted from the attack, coupled with Tianming's totems, managed to save Lan Huang for the moment.

However, when he paid attention to Prince Fengyue instead of the rest, countless attacks would land on them. Xian Xian was already being thoroughly held back and couldn't come to their aid. Tianming and the rest, despite the boost from the cauldron, were covered in wounds. Without the Greenspark Tower, there was no way they would have survived to this point.

Even so, they continued culling their enemies one after another. Within fifteen minutes, the casualties of the divine moonrace numbered three hundred. Among the seven hundred that remained, quite a few of them were the more powerful ones. They still had the advantage and had forced Tianming into a corner. So far, Lan Huang and Xian Xian were taking an absolute beating from their attacks. With Xian Xian not having fully recovered from the fight with the Pentamoon Slayers, it suffered even more damage, its vines, leaves, and even its trunk tearing apart. Even its spiritform looked a little dimmer, thanks to the damage on the main body, and it was shedding hateful tears in a corner of Tianming's lifebound space.

Tianming was holding on and counting on a change. He remembered every single wound they received so as to pay them back to those that inflicted it. Every single one of them in the cauldron had harmed him and his beasts. The fact that they were still alive wasn't due to mercy on their enemies' part, but rather their toughness. Their foes were growing harsher and harsher, and even delighting in it.

"Where's all that spunk from before?"

"Weren't you going to teach us a lesson?"

"You're only a lowborn. You think you can do anything you want with talent alone and no backing?"

"Kneel when you're told to kneel! You should yield and be killed when it's demanded of you!"

Their gleeful mockery never stopped for a moment. Standing before Tianming was a small army. Should he retreat, he would be cast into an endless abyss. Not to mention, he still had another ninety thousand enemies to deal with. The chains of fate seemed to be tightening more and more around their necks as

hopelessness began setting in. At the very least, it seemed like Ying Huo and the rest wouldn't survive this ordeal.

"They shall die to atone for your foolish sins," Prince Fengyue said as he continued to fight.

Atonement, that was all this was about, wasn't it? His lifebound beasts wouldn't be the only ones to pay the price. The divine moonrace wanted to punish a hundred million innocent people before they would be happy.

"I wonder if they can hear this..."

Before, Tianming could see the aura of sin of others with the Eyes of Judgment he got from the Primordial God-Emperor's inheritance. When he was developing his Imperial Will, he seemed to serve as the core that connected to countless others across the Flameyellow Continent through invisible threads. And now, during this desperate fight, he seemed to be able to hear voices from all across the continent. With the big commotion that was going on within the orderian cauldron, everyone knew that Tianming was fighting a deadly battle. They all prayed desperately, their souls resonating.

"Don't lose! You can't lose!"

"How could those bullies be gods? They don't deserve our worship!"

"Li Tianming, our Human Emperor!"

All of them knew the truth of the matter and had supported Tianming from the very beginning. He was their rising legend, a man who had never turned his back on them, and everyone in his dynasty stood firmly by his side. Their rage was clearly heard by Tianming. He knew that this was the might of the legacy he had inherited from the Primordial God-Emperor. He hadn't just inherited the Imperial Will, but also the connection he had with his sentient subjects. That was why he had bothered establishing a dynasty in the first place—he dearly hoped that he could improve life on the continent.

Now, everyone living down there was angry at the unfairness, and their feelings were resonating with their emperor. The cruelty of the divine moonrace had deeply enraged them. Not only could they hear Tianming's voice, they could also hear the voices of others. The true power of the Imperial Will was how it was able to connect to the billions of sentient life!

"This is the mark of a true god!"

In all the albi in Tianming's body, threads formed and connected to the Imperial Will fragments. They all shared his rage. Every albus he had connected to a single lifeform. All in all, he was connected to billions of them. Now his Imperial Will was finally linked, and he could use these Omnisentient Threads to obtain Omnisentient Will for a boost in his cultivation and comprehension abilities. In fact, his will could guide them and unlock their latent comprehension abilities as well, thus leading them on a path to become strong. With the power of his Imperial Will and talent, if he resonated with someone, he could increase their latent talent by a factor of ten. The sheer degree of resonance he could achieve was shocking, even to him!

"So this is the most righteous path of the Primordial God-Emperor!"



It had been unthinkable before. Now, his Grand-Orient Sword-shaped Imperial Will fragment was linked to a living person in every albus. There were more than fifty trillion albi in his body, and limitless room to expand. Like a nuclear reactor, others could draw power from him and provide him with energy as well. Imperial Will was truly among the most terrifying natural phenomena in this universe.

Through the Omniscient Threads that only Tianming could perceive, he received a limitless flow of Omniscient Will, but unlike the mist it had been before, it now seemed to have actual substance. This might be the actual moment the legacy of the Primordial God-Emperor awakened. He could hear their voices and their heartbeats, and he felt their presence. He wasn't standing alone.

"I walk with trillions of others on the same path, united!" He would never be alone anymore. Not only did he have his lifebound beasts, lover, friends, and family, he also had an entire dynasty behind his back.

"How beautiful it is to walk the path of cultivation accompanied by trillions of others..." He felt a tear welling up in his eye. Through pain and hardship, they would be supporting him the whole way. Their lives weren't just numbers! Each and every one of them were living, breathing people. He even felt the threads from Xuanyuan Dao, Li Caiwei, Xuanyuan Muxue, Jiang Qingluan, and even Ye Shaoqing and many more in the Decimo Dao Nation. All of his friends and family were connected to him and helping him rise to a new peak. Everyone on the continent underwent a fundamental change.

This was only the beginning.

"Being alone is the greatest torture in life. I'm so lucky to have so many people supporting me!"

The divine moonrace saw these people as no more than insects that should die for so-called atonement. Yet the laws of the heavens made Tianming understand that they were to be cherished. Apart from having impressive legacies and access to fundamental cosmic forces like the stellunar source, the divine moonrace didn't have much else that the Flameyellow humans lacked. Huiye Shi, for instance, wouldn't necessarily become an ascendant had she been born and raised on the Flameyellow Continent, even with her pentabane talent.

"The divine moonrace only looks like gods because of the advantages they have. Let's show them what they lack instead!"

### **Chapter 1089 - Why Piss Me Off**

While Tianming's Lifesbane Will didn't grow during this critical time, his Imperial Will was getting a huge boost. Every single lifeform's desire to survive was boosting its growth, and the growth of either of Tianming's wills would allow him to wield even more power. He felt like it was enough for him to make another jump in his cultivation! While there wasn't any stellunar source here, he had six stellunar pills, which were the distilled essences of a stellunar source. They also had extra effects from the brightmoon fruit to boost their effect.

Tianming consumed two of them and gave Ying Huo and the rest one each. Boundless energy flowed into their bodies and Tianming almost exploded from the infusion. That was why divine pills were much more precious than divine artifacts. Using them in a pinch could completely change the situation.

Tianming had gained so much more control after the growth of his Imperial Will that he felt he could break through two levels at once to reach the Heptaglorious Sky level right away. But as he only had six stellar pills with him, he could only make one breakthrough for now, with no energy left over to extend the range of the decapath era godswords, and that was especially the case with how weak the spiritual energy of the Flameyellow Continent was. Either way, it was still a much-needed boost in this situation.

Having broken through and by receiving the benefits of the orderian cauldron, they reached a new peak of power. The injured lifebound beasts found a chance to launch a counterattack. Ying Huo, bloody and battered, fought as the vanguard while Meow Meow struck from the darkness. Lan Huang roared desperately and pushed forward while Xian Xian's spiritform grit its teeth hard and struggled. They were all linked in spirit as they faced the enemies that were attempting to force them into a corner and kill them. The calm before the storm lasted but a mere moment before their rage and power burst forth, supported by the will of all sentient beings of the continent.

"Kill them all!" Tianming's roar reverberated throughout the cauldron. It wasn't just his voice; he spoke on behalf of all denizens of the continent. It was an utter comeback; he paved his way through the ability bombardment of the enemy with his godswords and zoomed toward Prince Fengyue.

"Pave a way for me! Let's get rid of him first!"

Ying Huo and the rest heeded his instruction and dove into the enemies to push them apart with all their abilities. Death Inferno, Skyscorch Featherblast, Cosmic Lance, Misty Hellthunder, and even Lan Huang's Astralfiend's Sword slammed gods aside. Xian Xian's Trisoul Fiendsong and Evernight Curse made it even easier. The weaker ascendants there were already falling asleep or going berserk and fighting each other. Bodies fell from their ranks like flies as their eyes widened in disbelief. Though they still looked proud and arrogant, they were being slaughtered like livestock. Only when flames or lightning tore through their body did they learn the taste of impending death.

Tianming pierced through the darkness straight toward Prince Fengyue. His swords glowed brightly, reflected by his black and gold eyes as he unleashed terrifying power into the prince's body. All ten godswords pierced toward him in a circular arrangement, exploding with power. Prince Fengyue never could have expected that a person's divine will could grow at such a rate mid-combat and even aid in a breakthrough. However, he wasn't fearful since he still had numbers on his side.

"He'll be running out of steam soon! Everyone, encircle him with me!"

Apart from the dead Huiyue Tianhong, there were six other city lords, three of whom were tenth-level ascendants. They all joined Prince Fengyue, who smiled as he brought his weapon wheels together and spun them quickly. An overwhelming sword ki began to gather and fuse into what seemed like an entire mortal world as it fell on Tianming from above. He used Windgod in his left hand to execute Three Myriads' Wind and Moonshade to use Primal Moonblade. One move served to confuse, while the other struck hard. They worked with such complex harmony that it didn't seem like there was any opening at all. The near hundred elites around him also used their most powerful battle arts. Yet, like a monster, Tianming didn't evade any of them and merely burst through.

"I want you all to die!" His savage voice shook the cauldron as he lashed out from the darkness. The Grand-Orient Swords and decapath era godswords caused countless moon sword ki to manifest,

swallowing up countless totems. The next instant, the moons fused together into one unparalleled strand of sword ki that glowed so bright it was blinding as it shot toward Prince Fengyue. It looked like Seaborne Moon and Sights Across Shores were being executed to their ultimate form.

The strike instantly connected, shattering the 'world' formed by windstorms and moonlight, completely piercing through it as it crushed Prince Fengyue's totems. The pain he finally felt wiped the smug smile off his face. Now all of his totems were heavily damaged, a sign that Tianming was in a whole other league than he had been moments before. The prince didn't even have a chance to react as Tianming appeared right in front of him and swung his sword toward his neck.

"Buzz off!" the prince yelled as he blocked with both weapons. The clash sparked brightly and sounded like an explosion.

"Next!" Tianming yelled, venting the rage he felt. Prince Fengyue watched as his weapons snapped from the impact; while the Grand-Orient Swords' divine patterns weren't complete, they were still far more durable than Moonshade and Windgod.

Hundreds of others witnessed the sight. First, they heard the prince's pained cry. Then, they saw Tianming's swords crush his weapons and bisect the prince from top to bottom, abruptly cutting his cry short. The prince didn't even get to say any last words as he died, filled with terror and denial. The rest felt like they had been struck by lightning. Though the prideful smiles lingered on their faces, color had entirely drained from them.

"Prince Fengyue was killed..."

"What's going on...?"

Chaos and confusion spread as they saw the white-haired youth covered entirely in blood turn back towards them. His eyes glowed like those of a lion looking at prey.

"You could've just brought me back to the Divine Moon Realm, but you had to go out of your way to kill millions while you were at it. Why'd you have to force me to go to such lengths?" he said, his expression demonic. "You said that I shouldn't have messed with you, yet you were all too eager to mess with me. Why push me into a corner and give me no choice at all?"

Tianming had already surrendered before the fight began, yet Prince Fengyue wanted to kill a hundred million people, as well as his lifebound beasts, as Tianming's atonement. He wanted to relish in inflicting pain on him, only to end up being killed himself when he could have quit while he was ahead. The remaining seven hundred or so people watched him with a terrified look.

"Those who mock others will be mocked themselves. Throw your pride away. You won't need it when I let you taste what the 'world below' has to offer!" Tianming went on the assault with his beasts once more.

Panicked, the remaining elites went astray. "Charge out! Break open the cauldron's lid!"

They flocked toward the top of the cauldron. The orderian cauldron's lid shouldn't be that hard to break, especially during the very start of the fight when the prince had a thousand people with him. Tianming wouldn't have been able to stop them from escaping. Yet Prince Fengyue had fallen for it and wanted to vent his rage for his dead family. Having missed that chance, there wouldn't be any more opportunities

for the invaders of the divine moonrace. Tianming had shown all ten of his totems, and he wouldn't allow anyone to live to tell the tale. He wouldn't even let a transmission stone escape!

What followed was a complete massacre. It was one against seven hundred, but wherever Tianming swung his sword, corpses fell to the bottom of the cauldron, their eyes widened at the shock of their untimely death. No trace of mockery remained.

The disorganized divine moonrace wasn't able to work together to break the cauldron's lid. There was complete darkness within the cauldron, and the only thing one could hear coming from within were cries of despair and desperate pleas for mercy. Tianming knew how cruel the divine moonrace could be, and he knew there was no running away from this fight.

"Mercy toward my enemies is cruelty toward my friends. Hence, you shall all die!"

### **Chapter 1090 - Don't Kill Me**

There was nowhere to hide in the cauldron. Most of Tianming's enemies had already fallen under the effects of the Trisoul Fiendsong and Evernight Curse. Even without Tianming to kill them, they were already useless in battle, allowing Ying Huo to easily cull them in job lots. Their totems couldn't stand up against Meow Meow or Lan Huang, either.

"Whoa!"

"Don't kill me! Please!"

The cries were growing more and more infrequent as time went on. The strongest of them had been Prince Fengyue and the seven city lords. Those outside the cauldron were mostly third-level ascendants or below in power. By then, everyone within the cauldron was dead aside from Tianming, and the cries had finally stopped. The Grand-Orient Swords were covered in so much blood that no amount of wiping could get them clean.

He closed his eyes for a moment before turning back to look at Ying Huo, Meow Meow, Lan Huang, and Xian Xian. Though tired and injured, they had survived the deathly battle with him. After going through countless battles, they understood each other better than anyone else in the world.

"I'm so tired... It hurts..." Xian Xian said.

"You've worked hard. Too bad the battle isn't over yet," Tianming said, shaking his head.

They still had ninety thousand people to deal with outside. Every single one of them was capable of unleashing great destruction to the continent. There was no longer any point in hoping that they would hold back out of mercy; it was a laughable notion to Tianming.

"Then let's continue," Ying Huo said.

"Yeah. Keep fighting."

The enemy had lost their core members, but ninety thousand people was still no joke. There was little chance that they would run away just because over a thousand of them had been killed.

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Out in the wilderness, people could see the gigantic cauldron floating in the sky and the ninety thousand gods beside it. They didn't take any action, since the prince hadn't given them further orders.

"Sis Xueyi! Does something feel off to you?" a girl asked.

"Are you talking about Tianming?" Jian Xueyi said with a blank look, standing on snowy ground.

"That's right. My Everfrost Will seems to have a weird connection with him. I'm not sure what it is, but it feels like I belong to him. It's really mystical. I can feel his anger, do you feel it too?"

"I do, more than you do."

"We feel it too!"

"So we all have it. I thought it was just me."

"The anger was so real. I even had a feeling that he was slaughtering them inside the cauldron."

"Is it because he's the Human Emperor?"

Everyone was curious as to why they seemed to have resonated with Tianming. Countless others on the continent were talking about a similar experience.

"I have another feeling." Jian Xueyi looked at the cauldron with a fanatic expression.

"What is it?"

"My heavenly will seems to have grown."

"Whoa! Mine too!"

"Same here!"

"Did he cause it?"

"In fact, I feel smarter too!" said a burly youth as he rubbed his head.

"You? You have your pants on the wrong way! In what universe did you become smart?" Jian Xueyi said as she rolled her eyes and the rest laughed.

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The gods that remained outside the cauldron had it completely surrounded in an airtight encirclement.

"Why does it sound like there's a lot of panicked cries coming from within?"

"You heard it too?"

"It's normal. Li Tianming is rather capable, after all. There's no way he wouldn't resist at all."

"Just give it a little longer."

"Come to think of it, why didn't we get the order right away? I can't wait any longer."

"I don't know. Maybe His Highness wants to torture him a little after the loss of most of his family?"

"I see. Then I guess we'll wait a little longer then."

Right when they hit peak boredom and someone decided to leave to sneak a bite, the cauldron's lid opened up a crack. They expected the prince to rush out, but nothing came out.

"What's going on?"

The inside of the cauldron was pitch black, and nothing but a strong scent of blood could be detected coming from within.

"Go take a look."

Everyone manifested their totems. Some of them curiously peeked at the opening that slowly opened up.

"Lord Prince, shall we strike now?"

All of a sudden, the lid opened fully and exposed the thirty-thousand-meter-wide opening of the cauldron as it swallowed many of them within.

"Run!"

They quickly moved away like fish swimming away from a net. However, Tianming still managed to trap more than ten thousand curious kittens within before closing the lid, far more than he had expected. Even combined, though, their abilities paled in comparison to the first thousand. He trapped ten thousand of them inside and came out from the cauldron, facing the remaining eighty thousand.

He marveled at Sovereign Xi for sending out a full hundred thousand ascendants to deal with him. If she had only sent ten thousand, Tianming would have dealt with them already. Even if a few thousand of the remaining ascendants escaped, it would be a nightmare. He wasn't worried about them ganging up on him, but scattering instead.

The rest stared at him intently.

"Why'd he come out?"

"What about His Highness and all the city lords?"

"Why'd he take in another ten thousand people?"

They couldn't even begin to imagine that Tianming had killed their prince. As they watched, Tianming tossed out a few corpse parts and assembled them into the prince, utterly flabbergasting them.

"Prince Fengyue wanted to kill my lifebound beasts inside the cauldron, so I slaughtered him and the rest that were with him." Tianming's voice echoed throughout. "Too bad. I thought the divine moonrace was really powerful. I didn't think that you'd all be weaklings, the prince especially. Open your dog eyes, everyone. He knelt and begged for mercy as I was killing him and even acknowledged that the divine moonrace is nothing but pathetic losers. As much as I hate to say it, I agree with him. Look at how I brought his corpse out. I'm even stomping on it, yet not a single one of you has any reaction. And to think you call yourselves superior lifeforms."

He proceeded to laugh heartily. "Are you going to make me wait? If you don't start fighting, I'll go back into the cauldron and slaughter the ten thousand sobbing flies I've caught."