

The Ages 1101

Chapter 1101 - Coexistence

With Tianming's newfound dedication, he felt only calm despite the crisis faced by the residents of the continent, Lingfeng's disappearance and the danger Feiling was in. He knew perfectly well that his Imperial Will was crumbling and his body was slowly losing control of the astralforce within. Veins became visible under his skin, a sign of his impending death.

He still held strongly to his faith and could vaguely hear the answer from the many voices he could hear.

"Go!" As he sped through the stars, he continued seeking out the strongest path of being a ruler. He hadn't given up yet, nor had he betrayed his convictions like the sovereign had. She had tried tempting him countless times, but he held strong.

Someone was still fighting outside the palace, and that had to be Feiling. Tianming and Meow Meow charged out of the palace and saw tens of thousands of people surrounding a lone girl in blue. Lightning fell and scattered the crowd, allowing Tianming and Meow Meow to charge in.

"Ling'er!" He stretched out his hand and grabbed hers. She turned to him and her cold gaze immediately melted, returning to its previous clarity.

"Big Brother..." She looked much more like a young girl than before, her eyes moist with tears. Tianming pulled her into his embrace.

Meow Meow took some hits and growled, then roared and blasted two Cosmic Lances, piercing tens of totems in the process. Then, it zipped off like a storm.

"Give chase!"

Though quite a lot of them tried following them, they soon lost sight of Meow Meow.

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"Ling'er, why do you feel a little cold?" Tianming asked, his hands around her waist.

"Let's talk about it later. You weren't soiled by anyone, right?" she asked with a pout.

"Of course not! What're you thinking about? Barely any time has passed. If I really were doing it, I wouldn't be finished at least until tomorrow."

"Shameless!" She forcefully turned her head away, causing her hair to brush against his face. However, some of the hair turned into ice crystals.

"Huh?" Tianming thought he was seeing things, but the crystals gathered into hair again. "What's this?"

"It's a cool parlor trick I learned," she said mischievously.

"Stop putting up a front. Is that ageless old witch doing something again?"

"That ageless old witch is me, you know. Are you scared of me now?" she said, trying to dodge the question.

"Come on, tell me what's going on. I feel like you seem really different lately," he said, pinching her cheeks.

"I'm fine for now. I'll tell you about it in detail after we overcome this crisis," she said in a serious tone.

"Are you sure?"

"I am."

"Don't be pulling any tricks like disappearing for good. I'll give you a good bonking if that's the case."

"I won't."

Tianming looked at her profile, knowing that something was up. He hugged her tightly.

"I exerted myself quite a bit. I think I'm a little out of breath," she said.

"Will you disappear?"

Feiling kept silent for a while, then firmly shook her head. "Definitely not."

"If you break your promise, my life will lose all meaning."

"Big Brother, as long as you're tethered to people, you won't die." She turned back and kissed his cheek, smiling like when they first met. It was a simple and pure smile, but it shone like the brightest of fireworks.

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Soon, they reached the compound from before. Little You was hiding there alone. Seeing Tianming and Feiling return without her father, she anxiously asked, "Where's Daddy?"

"We'll wait for him to return. He'll be fine," Tianming said. He knew what Bodhi was like. There was no way he would be unable to escape the sovereign. The fact that he dared to slaughter away in the home base of the divine moonrace was a sign of his power. At the very least, he was more powerful than the imperial guide.

The reason Tianming had gone there was to make sure that Bodhi remained in the city so the sovereign couldn't escape. He needed to make sure Bodhi was in a stable state.

Some fifteen minutes later, Bodhi descended into the compound, covered in blood and breathing a little raggedly. The many cuts on his body were testament to the ferocity of the battle. Even so, he had still managed to elude the sovereign, so he was no pushover. He glared at Tianming and brought Little You over. "Undo the curse now!"

"Sure." Tianming nodded. He and Bodhi had used each other many times. The divine moonrace was an enemy that they had to join hands to defeat in the first place. If Bodhi didn't want the sovereign to grow stronger, he couldn't let Tianming lose, so he had to act.

"Do you know my intentions for waiting for you here instead of bringing your daughter away? Bodhi, we have the same enemy."

"Enough nonsense. Undo the curse." Apart from Little You, Tianming still had the billion specters as a bargaining chip. However, that would be useless once the divine moonrace was defeated.

"I hope we can let go of our past and coexist," Tianming said.

"The curse." He repeated only those two words.

"Alright." Tianming turned to Feiling. She came to Little You and pressed her hand on her, undoing one of the curses. An intricate pattern formed of Feiling's blood scattered right in front of Bodhi.

"If you threaten me with Little You again, all bets are off. Nothing else will stop me," Bodhi said.

"What're you talking about? It's all gone. You showed your sincerity and I showed mine," Tianming said.

"Now scram." He looked closely at his daughter and breathed a sigh of relief.

"Daddy, don't worry. It's fine now," she said, stroking her father's bald head.

As they spoke, Tianming and Feiling were leaving.

"I have a question for you," Bodhi said.

"Ask away."

"You weren't able to stop the divine moonrace on the continent, and even caused her to send another three hundred thousand down. Why cause that trouble for yourself?"

"Didn't you hear what I said to her?"

"What?"

"I said they're no longer my weakness." Tianming's eyes shone as he said that.

"So you've become like her," Bodhi said with a sarcastic smirk.

"No, quite the opposite," Tianming said firmly as he left.

Chapter 1102 - Ultimate Legacy

"The opposite?" It was eliminating weakness all the same. How was it any different? He looked at Little You and pondered at the terrifying nature of weaknesses.

"Daddy, will we continue to work with them?"

"Impossible."

"Why?"

"Because we're creatures that bear the combined hate of two hundred millennia. We live for vengeance. Those that inflicted that nightmarish imprisonment on us have to pay ten thousand times

over! Our bodies were given to us by the painstaking efforts of our forebears. They don't belong to us. We represent the entire specter race. The hate and grudges we bear don't just go away, understood?" His voice got more emotional as he spoke.

"I know. I can't eat grass. I have to eat human flesh because of hate," she said obediently.

"That's right." Bodhi nodded with satisfaction. "Little You, I gained quite a lot from the fight today. I think the time has come."

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After leaving the compound, Tianming and Feiling immediately headed toward the continent.

"Big Brother, specter royals have two hearts," Feiling said as she hugged him from behind.

"I know."

"Will we have to use the other curse?"

"Let's hope not. Who likes to use a child as a threat? I won't use it if it can be avoided. Well... unless Bodhi goes on a sadistic streak. However, he doesn't look like someone like that."

"That's because you only see his face, but not his heart."

People were complicated. Some were self-interested and would do anything to achieve their goals, even at the cost of others. Some held on to grudges without ever breaking free from the cycle of hate, living solely to pay back blood debts.

For now, Bodhi and Sovereign Xi weren't things he had to overcome. Instead, it was the divine moonrace army that had caused his divine will to almost completely crumble. He had almost died during his trip back to the moon, but he hadn't gotten anything from it. Instead, he caused another three hundred thousand troops to be sent by incurring the sovereign's wrath.

Anyone would think that he was merely putting up a futile struggle. Feiling really wanted to ask him what he could do about it. She placed her face flat against his back, listening to his heartbeat. He should be panicking and blaming himself, yet his heartbeat was stable. He was as reliable as a mountain.

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Meow Meow was descending to the continent at the fastest speed possible. They could already see it right in front of them. The human-shaped continent grew larger and larger in their eyes as they approached. Feiling noticed that Tianming was looking at it intensely like he was in a manic state. He seemed to be completely immersed in it.

"Why don't you cop a feel of my abs?" he teased all of a sudden.

"I wasn't doing that! You have nothing but fat there!" she snapped.

Was he really not in a panic despite all that was happening? She could feel his killing intent toward the divine moonrace, but really didn't see how they could turn this around at all. Instead, he seemed to have returned to exact revenge.

"Ling'er, did you really think I went back to the Divine Moon Realm only to return empty handed?" he asked with his eyes shining bright.

"I... I really couldn't tell." She didn't get it. Hadn't they suffered a complete loss?

"Sovereign Xi forced me onto the path of desolation. My Imperial Will's about to crumble and I'm about to lose everything. However, I began noticing the true path of the legacy the Primordial God-Emperor left me as a result. A path to come back to life." The human-shaped continent seemed to look like himself in his eyes.

"What do you mean?"

"In some sense, a person will start getting really lucky after gaining the faith of many others. The ruler and his subjects are one and the same. The concept of one of them being the weakness of the other doesn't apply. If the subjects are the ruler's weakness, then what benefit would there be in being anchored to them? What's the point of the most righteous path? There'd be no point in forming a dynasty that would only become a weakness my enemies can use to control me with."

Tianming had questioned that line of thinking countless times. He believed that definitely wasn't how things were supposed to be.

"Do you know what the descent of the divine moonrace reminded me of?"

"No. What is it?"

"The battle at Tianming City. During that battle, the ten million citizens gathered their powers together and relied on the spiritual formation spirit threads to unleash the power of the formation to defeat the Hexapath Swordfiend." Tianming had witnessed it himself.

"What does that have to do with this?"

"During that day, I awakened part of the Primordial God-Emperor's legacy in the form of Omniscient Threads. I'm now connected to all life on the continent. However, I didn't understand the true essence of the threads. I thought they were just things that I could use to siphon Omniscient Will to use in improving my divine will. The true legacy still remains to be discovered!"

Before he had gone back to the moon, it didn't make full sense to him. But after the sovereign's provocation and mockery when she tried crushing his hopes and the cracking of his Imperial Will, he had managed to find an answer by pondering about the Omniscient Threads. He believed he had found it.

"The Omniscient Threads and Imperial Will are the same, in essence. They're almost analogous to symbiotic cultivation, but with some differences. The legacy I inherited isn't a battle art, but rather a technique, an ultimate cultivation technique! The hardest role to play in this world is no doubt that of a ruler. Naturally, the ruler and his sentient subjects fulfill each other. There can't be one without the other, and I'm not their weakness, nor are they mine. Only by being together will we be at our strongest!"

None of that made sense to Feiling. "Big Brother, are your Omniscient Threads like formation spirit threads, while you're the formation? Does that mean you can utilize their power?"

"Bingo! You sure are smart."

Soon, they finally reached their destination. He felt the countless Omniscient Threads returning to him and started hearing the cries of anger and despair once more. It was just like the time when they had united against the Hexapath Swordfiend. This would be the first real battle the Tianming Dynasty would have to overcome.

"Omniscient Threads aren't just used for absorbing Omniscient Will so that I can benefit with my talent. Their true nature should allow me to use the people's combined power to a certain degree! In other words, the true legacy of the Primordial God-Emperor is thus: as a ruler, I shall fight with the billions of subjects standing by my side!"

He finally understood the true might of the Primordial God-Emperor. This entire time, he'd had the most ridiculously powerful cultivation technique. The burden of a ruler was far too heavy, and even with the threads, Tianming had only regained a strong connection with the rest of them once he returned to the continent. If his dynasty expanded across the stars, he could effectively be unrivaled.

He landed on top of a tall mountain and yelled, "Come!"

The entire continent was filled with anger and resentment. When he first connected using the Omniscient Threads, the connection was rather janky. Only after he had pondered deeply about this matter did his Imperial Will show signs of cracking. However, the cracking was the sign of a rebirth! His powers were running wild, his body was about to explode, and his will was on the brink of exploding. But the connections of the Omniscient Threads were resonating with and stabilizing him.

"All sentient beings! Lend me your power!"

A formation made from his human body began to form. Tianming still didn't feel the power for now, but he scanned through the countless lives and experiences of the people connected to him. He could see everything they saw, and even tell who was being hunted by the divine moonrace! All eighty thousand remaining troops could clearly be seen by Tianming.

"The ultimate cultivation technique, even an incomplete one, should be able to create miracles. This is the true power of my dynasty! I'll show them if they're really my weakness!"

Everyone on the Flameyellow Continent resonated together. During the time of crisis, the heavenly will of all of them had formed threads that connected to their emperor vast distances away. Everyone from Taiji Peak Lake, Tianming City, and places far beyond, ranging from Xuanyuan Dao, Li Caiwei, Ouyang Jianwang, Yi Xingyin, the rest of the Xuanyuan Clan, the Fang and Jian houses, and even those from the Yinyang Demon Sect connected to him.

They all felt the summons of a higher power as the Omniscient Threads took form and became formation spirit threads that spanned the entire continent. It was a majestic sight indeed. The divine moonrace had committed too many atrocities on this land, causing a transformation among the denizens of the land like never before.

"I will kill all three hundred and eighty thousand of you divine moonrace cowards!"

Chapter 1103 - Totemic Calamity: Myriadsword Providence

Tianming was functioning as a formation core right now. Through the Omniscient Threads, he was linked to his subjects. When their heavenly wills melded with his divine will, it formed a superformation that encompassed the entire human-shaped continent. Tianming was located near the 'heart' of the continent, his Imperial Will the focus of all the threads that served as capillaries. The sleeping giant of a continent's heart started beating as if it was awakening.

"Maybe the entire continent, even the chaos skyjail, is a special place on the Welkin plane." Tianming was only guessing, as he couldn't be sure.

Each thread began sending power to his albi, with each albus connected to a single subject. Their saint springs and heavenly wills were all connected. No matter how weak they were, they were terrifyingly powerful in large numbers. The continent had more than enough people, and they were angry at the senseless invasion of the divine moonrace.

"Kill them!"

"Kill the dastardly divine moonrace!"

Everyone felt Tianming's presence through the threads. He was like a blazing sun high above the continent. They could even feel him going to the Divine Moon Realm and the crisis he faced from his crumbling divine will. They shared in his sense of danger and were intent on coming to his rescue.

"Human Emperor Tianming, don't let all of us down!"

"Since we've found a way to contribute to you, take our power, however meager it is! Never stop fighting no matter how hard it gets!"

"The divine moonrace must pay for treating us like our lives are nothing!"

"Count me in!"

Tianming heard billions of voices ringing out at the same time, but he wasn't the least bit confused. The cracks in his divine will quickly recovered, and it was like they were never there in the first place. The near-crumbling and rebirth had stabilized his Imperial Will even further and the sword-shaped will within his albi all shone brightly.

His chaotic astralforce stabilized once more. Then a brand new vortex, created by the power of all sentient life, began forming in every single albus below the other astral discs. They were energy from the various peoples of the Flameyellow Continent, causing his own power capacity to skyrocket. Even the boost from the orderian cauldron couldn't compare to this. His body radiated with sheer power and the Grand-Orient Sword began resonating at the same time. There was an ancient voice coming from deep within that said, "Bearing the intent of all sentient life, you shall overcome astral gods to become world gods. Though both are gods all the same, the difference between astral and world gods is sky high."

Those words had come from the Primordial God-Emperor. Tianming felt the burst of power from his subjects and was deeply moved.

"Only those that accept the feelings and offerings of his kin and worshippers are true gods!" Astral gods probably referred to those that roamed the astralscape once they reached the Ascension stage, but

world gods were those that formed a whole with their own kin and worked together in times of crises to repel their enemies!

"Even the weakest of life shall contribute their power to the greater whole. Thus, never lose sight of even the most insignificant of life!"

Within a few short hours, Tianming had agonized over the pain the people of the Flameyellow Continent were suffering. The rampage of the eighty thousand divine moonrace elites saw the deaths of many as if they were nothing but insects. They even laughed and joked around while committing atrocities. Many people had lost family and loved ones; they were all precious people with lives and histories, not mere numbers. Not to mention, another three hundred thousand gods were even now descending to the continent to sow even more chaos. Nobody could possibly accept that kind of unreasonable violence.

It was almost as if suffering was a necessary aspect of existence! But even though this world had too many imperfections, it was still made up of others who were fellow kin. At this moment, Tianming wasn't just himself, the individual. Instead, every single albi was like its own person. His countless albi, linked to countless people, formed a singular entity that embodied the will and intent of an entire race for the very first time.

The influx of so much power all at once was a little tough to handle. Even though their own heavenly wills could help Tianming stabilize some of that power, he was still filled to the brim and close to bursting. He tried channeling some of that power into his ten 'bane-rings', and it seemed to work. They began shaking with power and it caused the ten godswords to vaguely shine from under the bane-rings. Eventually, they poked out of his skin a little.

"Maybe my totemic calamity is manifesting!" Tianming had a vague feeling that this would be the time his dormant totemic calamity was about to awaken. All of his godswords emerged and shone brightly above him. "Myriadsword Providence!"

Totemic calamities were basically the totemic analogue to the abilities of lifebound beasts. Every person's totems would only have one for the rest of their life. Common knowledge was that totems were formed using the terra, so they couldn't be too far away from the actual body. However, Myriadsword Providence seemed to overcome that limitation. The ten sixty-meter-long godswords above Tianming's head seemed to fracture; not to crumble, but to form a thousand smaller swords about the size of the Grand-Orient Swords in Tianming's hands. They all looked like smaller versions of the sword they split from. Now, all ten of his swords had split up into ten thousand smaller providence swords in total and were rapidly circling above his head. It was a majestic sea of ten thousand flying swords.

The decapath era godswords all looked different from one another, so the many swords had different designs. Even then, all of them were just as sharp. Putting aside the other benefits he had gained from his symbiotic relationship with his subjects, Myriadsword Providence could split up his swords into many smaller ones, each of which could serve as his eyes, nose, and ears. They were able to fly about ten thousand miles away and be remotely controlled by Tianming, allowing him to detect what was happening from afar and even kill from that distance!

Additionally, it optimized the totems to more easily deal with large crowds, allowing him to have an easier time when facing off against tens of thousands of foes. Though, it was still better to not use the

ability when fighting one strong enemy. The implication was that it was like Tianming's terra itself being able to leave his body and function as sensors over large distances. He would be able to cover at least a third of the Flameyellow Continent's area, allowing him to fight without even having to leave home!

Chapter 1104 - Hundred Thousand Exterminations

The swords above Tianming's head turned into a raging storm. This was a totemic calamity that he would find useful no matter what level of power he was at in the future.

"I now embody every aspect of godhood that the people have in mind when they think about the gods of the Flameyellow Continent's legends... I'll protect everyone and be at many places at once. Some used to say that the gods were always above. Now, my swords are like divine providence."

At the end of the day, Myriadword Providence had allowed his senses to expand far and wide. When he returned to the continent, the hate and angst of everyone connected to him through the Omniscient Threads gathered in his body, causing the providence swords to change. The power that came from the threads flooded into Myriadword Providence, causing every sword to grow in power by some degree. In fact, while the power consumed by the totemic calamity was high, he seemed to have no worries about using it up at all. In a short time, all of the providence swords had been filled with the power of billions.

"Die!" Tianming tested out one providence sword and sent it flying hundreds of kilometers away. Just sending it flying alone consumed a lot of energy, but once used, the providence swords could return to his bane-rings to recover their power, something he currently had in abundance.

One after another, the swords above his head went flying. He had thought he would only be able to kill the invading divine moonrace one by one, but everything was much simpler after he awakened his totemic calamity.

"The heavens are on the Flameyellow Continent's side! Their aid will help us eliminate our enemies! Perhaps that's the luck and fate of my dynasty!"

The entire continent burst with the power of all sentient beings.

"The divine moonrace and Sovereign Xi brought this upon themselves! Since the heavens have ruled in my favor, I won't hold back."

He closed his eyes and plunged the Grand-Orient Swords into the ground. All three of his eyes could no longer see anything, but his vita could view the entire world from above. Using his vita, he controlled his terra, and by extension, his totems in Myriadword Providence form! The providence swords were extensions of his senses now, and he could perceive all corners of the world from more than ten thousand viewpoints. He could even share the perceptions of the countless people he was connected with.

He locked on to all eighty thousand divine moonrace troops on the continent and channeled his seventh-level ascendant power into the providence swords alongside his subjects' power. "Die!"

Ten thousand swords spread out in all directions, each of them empowered by the power of many others. The counterattack was about to begin! The eighty thousand divine moonrace elites were still slaughtering casually and with abandon, not having received any word to stop and retreat. They were acting on the sovereign's orders, anyway, and they were hardly saints themselves. They had spread across the entire continent like a cancer.

Among them were Huiyue Yan and Huiyue Xiao, who had come to the continent with Huiyue Yu, but lost him somewhere along the way. The three of them were directing their frustrations of publicly being defeated by Tianming in front of the divine moon hall long ago on the people of the Flameyellow Continent.

"This trip has been a fun one," Huiyue Yan said as he clapped.

"The sights here truly are decent, but that's about it. Everything else about this place is sore to the eyes," Huiyue Xiao said.

"That's how rural backwaters are."

"Come to think of it, when should we stop? I'm getting a little sick of this. All they do is kneel and beg for mercy."

"We wait for the sovereign's order! Don't tell me you're growing a conscience or something. How many have you killed by now? Don't you understand? Even if they look the same as us and have the same three aspects of the soul, the terra, vita and caelum, they aren't people."

"Enough nonsense. I've killed about as many as you did, I'm just feeling a little bored."

"Just thinking about how Li Tianming must be kneeling and crying at our sovereign's feet to have us stop is enough to keep this entertaining."

"Seriously though, what kind of person is he for Her Majesty to mess with him like this?"

"Who cares? I'm more curious about where Huiyue Yu is right now. I don't think he's holding back either."

All of a sudden, they noticed a group of people hiding in a cave ahead of them.

"Haha, let's stop chatting. It's time to hunt. I'm still far from my thousand-person quota."

"They're just a lowly race of dirty creatures."

The two of them flew toward the cave. It was all too apparent to those within that the incoming bastards were of the divine moonrace.

"Same old rules. Kneel and prostrate yourselves," Huiyue Yan said as he smiled at them. Huiyue Xiao did the same.

However, they were shocked this time around. The people within the cave didn't look the least bit scared, but merely cast furious glares at them.

"The two of you are dead for sure," said one of them.

"Huh? Don't tell me that fear fried his brains," Huiyue Xiao said.

"How pathetic," Huiyue Yan said.

"You'll definitely die," the others said.

"This is boring!" Huiyue Yan raised his hand and prepared to kill these samsarans, only to feel a chill from behind him. Turning back rapidly, he saw more than ten swords floating behind him. "What's this?!"

The moment he let out his shriek, the swords shot towards them. "Die!" Tianming's voice came ringing from the swords. The two of them were completely flabbergasted; they had just become first-level ascendants, so they were the weakest among the divine moonrace here, yet they had to face off against more than ten providence swords.

"Strike now!"

The two of them summoned their totems. However, the providence swords pierced straight through their totems, then through the two of them.

"Ugh..." They widened their eyes in shock as all four of their limbs were slashed off.

"Aaagh!" They rolled on the ground in pain.

"What is going on? What is this?!"

Their faces were pale with fear. They couldn't do anything apart from rolling on the ground now that stumps had taken the place of their limbs. Not only that, the providence swords impaired their banerings and pierced their organs and spine. They were on their last breath and could barely move, let alone kill. As they cried out in desolation and pain, the swords flew away.

"It's fine! We aren't dead yet, so we can connect our limbs back!" Huiyue Xiao said, consoling himself. However, that didn't help his panic at all. They didn't know what was going on.

Right as they were thankful at having survived, they noticed the samsaran humans approaching them. Some even picked up their divine artifacts.

"Insects, leave or we'll kill you!" Huiyue Yan howled.

One of the elders among the group raised Huiyue Yan's weapon. "Cut them into fine pieces and feed them to dogs!"

"Their constitutions should be powerful enough that they won't die from this. This should be enough to make them last until all eighty thousand divine moonrace on this continent die!"

"The treasures they brought with them will all become ours!"

Huiyue Yan and Huiyue Xiao were stumped. Their cries could be heard from outside the cave. This was true atonement. From this day onward, the poor and decrepit Flameyellow Continent had suddenly gained over eighty thousand divine artifacts.

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The deaths of Huiyue Xiao and Huiyue Yan were but a small sample of everything that was happening on the continent. Something horrible happened to every single divine moonrace invader as a seemingly omnipresent deity appeared. It was as if the entire continent was a part of his body, and every native the invaders ran into had unwavering faith in him. They no longer feared the invaders, and even fought back in rage.

The invaders felt a certain dissonance. It was as if the hunters had become the hunted, and there was no escape. The providence swords rapidly shot out all over the continent, tearing through the invaders. Only someone with a terrifyingly powerful vita could control and organize every movement with precision. There was still some time before the additional three hundred thousand invaders would arrive, so Tianming had more than enough time to clear out the ones that were already here.

Level-one ascendants could be killed with a few providence swords, while the ones at level three were swiftly killed by tens of them. As for elites above the Pentarcenic Sky level, Tianming would personally deal with them. The combined energy that all the providence swords had was far beyond what Tianming could normally handle. Even if Sovereign Xi herself came, she would be helpless against all ten thousand providence swords and could only escape. The entire Flameyellow Continent had become something akin to the orderian cauldron to Tianming!

The power of his subjects came flowing through the Omnisentient Threads. Guided by their rage, Tianming had to rapidly direct the swords at the enemies to expend the energy that he himself could not handle, ushering in a slaughter across the entire continent.

One after the other, the divine moonrace invaders were torn apart by the providence swords, all dealt with in the same manner as Huiyue Yan and Huiyue Xiao. Tianming didn't completely kill them, instead leaving them to the ones whose lives they had ruined. The gods that had stood powerful and tall were squashed by the very beings they saw as cockroaches.

Chapter 1105 - The Human Emperor's Gift

None of the divine moonrace were innocent; they had all partaken in the debauchery.

"You're already here, so why are you in a rush to leave? You have to at least leave a parting gift! We will take your life as a gift!"

It was time for the counterattack. The providence swords in the air became nightmares to the divine moonrace. They were too spread out and couldn't come to each other's aid. Now they were in Tianming's turf, and any time they emerged to harm people, Tianming would be able to target them.

"According to the Primordial God-Emperor, this is what a world god is. Perhaps I'm only a beginner world god. There's only one of me, but there's countless other minor planar worlds in the universe. Even so, just me and the people here are enough for a miracle to be created!"

His killing intent continued fueling his totemic calamity. When he felt the souls being extinguished one after another back when his Imperial Will was crumbling, he also felt the pain and desolation they felt. The divine moonrace didn't just end with killing them; they were gleefully trampling over their pride and

dignity. There wasn't a shred of the decorum expected of administrators on them. They were slaughtering normal folk like livestock.

"Now, all of them walk the same path as me! Their power is mine to use! It's time for the divine moonrace to be slaughtered!"

His declaration was met with loud cheers all around. They all knew what he was doing and had witnessed their god in action. Even a baby without heavenly will could feel Tianming's presence. Now, the entire continent was like a burning cauldron with its lid closed up and the divine moonrace were like frogs being boiled within. They were isolated from one another, unable to communicate, so all of them thought they were unlucky enough to run into Tianming without knowing that all of them were suffering the same fate!

Countless cries of gods rang out across the land. Most of the elites had already perished within the orderian cauldron, so those that remained were weak. Tianming didn't have to step in to personally fight too often. The whole thing lasted four hours, with Myriadsword Providence striking nonstop while recovering energy at the same time. The number of the divine moonrace dwindled, leaving more and more providence swords available and accelerating the process.

While some hid, Tianming wasn't bothered at all. They would all die the moment they showed up. Those that tried to run were few, as they had no idea that Tianming was coming after them en masse. He had used quite a lot of his subjects' energy in the past four hours and basically wiped out almost all of the eighty thousand invaders. All of them died alone, unable to send out calls for help with their transmission stones. Nobody in the entire universe would believe something could happen on this scale on a lower world like this.

Corpses of gods were littered all across the continent. While the divine moonrace themselves were ignorant of that fact, the Flameyellow humans were all too aware. They had managed to defeat gods! They hugged each other in joy, relief, and celebration.

"Human Emperor Tianming!" they cheered.

Such fervor hadn't even been present when Great Emperor Xuanyuan had driven away the specters two hundred millennia ago. After the sweep, the people gained a new lease on life, and so did Tianming.

The first group of a hundred thousand divine moonrace invaders had been completely eliminated.

The corpses belonged to the people who had helped in the effort, not to Tianming himself. Every kill he made reinforced the Omniscient Threads' connection. He had become inextricably linked with this world, and his reputation among the people here was at a new peak. It was like they were living in the time that a legend was unfolding! Tianming was now cemented as a true ruler in their hearts. Even so, the war wasn't over. Tianming had spent four hours wiping out the remaining invaders. Still using the power of the people, he flew high up and saw the additional three hundred thousand invaders.

"This woman is really pulling out all the stops to achieve her goal."

The Flameyellow Continent was still burning from the previous conflict even as the next catastrophe approached.

"But now, the Tianming Dynasty isn't like it was before! No matter how many people you send, they'll never be able to return. I won't stop until your sovereign truly understands that nobody in my domain is my weakness. Even if she comes down herself, she'll only die at my hands!"

Though the divine moonrace had a powerful legacy, they didn't number too many. Before the next group of gods had even fully descended to the continent, they ran into Tianming.

"It's him!"

"He came back up again."

"He can't even run or do anything about it. What's he here for?"

They were far more surprised than the first group of invaders, completely unaware of what Sovereign Xi was planning. No matter what she wanted to achieve, the first group of a hundred thousand should be more than enough, so they felt a little annoyed at being summoned for ostensibly no reason. Seeing Tianming made them feel a little restless.

"This fellow was able to sow so much chaos among us."

"I heard he already killed twenty thousand from the first group, including Prince Fengyue."

"What do we do? Go down and slaughter like the group before us?"

"That's odd. The first group should be enough to ruin them. He doesn't look discouraged, though. What're we supposed to do anyway?"

"Who knows? Everything's such a mess right now."

They were much more confused than the first group. Tianming blocked their way and said, "Everyone, I invite you to come down and see for yourself. I have some gifts I want you to bring back to Sovereign Xi."

"What gifts?" They had a bad feeling about it.

"Please accept them graciously!" Tianming looked down as ten thousand swords came rising rapidly into the sky with numerous heads impaled on every single one of them. The sight was utterly shocking.

"These are the heads of your comrades! Bury them in your own backward! The Flameyellow Continent has no place for trash like you!"

The heads were sent flying toward the three hundred thousand divine moonrace. Chaos immediately ensued. The divine moonrace had a signature crescent mark on their foreheads that couldn't be easily faked.

"Do you understand now? I slaughtered your entire army of a hundred thousand! The rest of you have a choice. Bring the heads to your sovereign for her to see, or fight me to the death! Should you choose the latter, I'll personally deliver four hundred thousand heads up to the moon for the rest of you to enjoy! It'll be raining heads. What is your choice?"

Tianming pointed his Grand-Orient Sword at the stunned group. The providence swords behind him resonated with the great power of all sentient life.

Chapter 1106 - Complete Retreat

Despite their increased number, they had been hastily mobilized and lacked a firm leader. The first group of a hundred thousand was led by Prince Fengyue and seven city lords, but this group was haphazardly summoned when they were enjoying time off or cultivating at home. They were led by the last remaining tenth-level ascendant, Yueshen Xu, the grand moonchaser marshal. He was more than five centuries old, so he had begun deteriorating in power; however, he was still rather powerful in his own right.

He had thought that this deployment was a mere show of force to intimidate, rather than start an actual battle. The order was ridiculous to him, too, but he had no choice but to obey it. But after seeing the hundred thousand heads, blood burst like a fountain from his mouth. His face was red like a pig's liver, flushed with anger. Tianming had offered them a most infuriating ultimatum, but everyone knew it wasn't a real choice, but a provocation. Losing a hundred thousand of their kin to a lower world and being humiliated by this brat was something that was hard for the prideful divine moonrace to swallow; he felt far more anger than fear.

"The death of a hundred thousand?"

"How's that possible? Who did it?"

They were all shaken by the sight, only just starting to believe the reality of the situation after blood was spilled. Tianming pointed his sword at them, awaiting their final choice. The divine moonrace couldn't see the countless threads connected to him, backed by his subjects. He wasn't fighting alone, but with the power of his entire kin! Their power filled the providence swords and the entire dynasty's luck was focused on him alone.

"Will you stay and fight, or will you scam?" Tianming smirked coldly. His gaze and expression drew all three hundred thousand pairs of angry eyes at him as he had planned. Whether they fought or ran, the most important thing was that they directed their animosity at him.

"Kill him!" at least a hundred thousand of them jeered and roared.

"Very good." Killing a hundred thousand in one go still wasn't enough. "I'll make sure the divine moonrace won't dare to come down in the coming thousand years!"

This was the second time he would use the power of all sentient beings. It would be much easier to deal with them as a group than if they were dispersed across the continent. He didn't need to wait for them to start, either, but began slaughtering straight away. That instant, Myriadsword Providence rapidly blasted outward like heavy rainfall. The swords formed a storm of destruction that swallowed up the divine moonrace. Each sword had the power of Tianming and his subjects, and they were as strong as the ten godswords themselves. The swords rained through many meaty targets even when Tianming didn't bother changing their directions. Flashes of blood and cries of pain were all over the place. Like before, divine corpses rained down and splattered all over the continent.

"Are you coming down or not?" Tianming said with a hearty smile. He had become their nightmare once more. The attacks were simply too ferocious and rapid! Before they even had a grasp of the situation,

they would be pierced through the heart and head. Most weren't even able to manifest their totems in time, either.

"What?!"

"Run!"

"What're these swords? Totems?"

It was an unbelievable sight. The entire group of invaders fell into unending chaos and nobody could hear Yueshen Xu's orders amidst the cacophony. He had ordered them to scatter, but the ones at the rear were already doing so without his say-so. However, their disorganized scattering only caused them to run into each other or their huge totems.

"Do you understand now, divine moonrace? The more you send, the more will die!" The onslaught continued nonstop. There were far too many enemies and they could hardly see where Tianming was amongst the huge crowd. In the previous battle in the orderian cauldron, Tianming had Lan Huang and Xian Xian out, but this was different. Not to mention, his totemic calamity caused his totems to scatter into countless discrete units without a specific concentration at any single location.

"Where is he?!"

"What in the world?!"

"Kill him!"

"But how? We can't even see him!"

Their first reaction to seeing the hundred thousand heads was anger, but when they started falling like flies without even seeing where Tianming was, terror began to grip their hearts.

"What kind of trick is this?"

"There's already a hundred thousand dead! It's too big of a deal! We have to retreat and report to Her Majesty!"

"Stop lingering here! Either we go down or we go back up!"

There were quite a few who were still levelheaded, but it was pointless. Fewer than a dozen could hear what they were saying.

"Marshal! We'll die if we don't leave!"

Just like that, twenty thousand more died from the barrage. Tianming acted as ruthlessly as he could to let the fear sink in for good. They began scattering, but that also meant they wouldn't be able to swarm Tianming and overwhelm him. There was no winning this battle for them.

More and more of them were torn up by the waves of swords and fell to the continent. They were helpless against Tianming when fighting in the cosmic aether. They could either use this chance to punish the Flameyellow Continent or retreat. After an agonizing decision, Yueshen Xu ordered a full retreat.

"There's too many unknowns about that brat! We still don't know how he managed to kill everyone that split up in the world below! If all of us go down there and get killed, our race will be doomed!" Yueshen Xu was trying his best to regain control of his army.

"Retreat!"

"The marshal has ordered a full retreat!"

While the divine moonrace might have been reluctant to obey such an order in the beginning, a hundred and thirty thousand of them had already fallen. Tianming didn't seem the least bit worn out and continued slaughtering away at full efficiency. If this went on, all three hundred thousand of them would be wiped out, especially when they had no way of pinpointing where he was and stopping him.

"Don't stay here—run! More than a hundred thousand are already dead, and we'll be next!"

They were so afraid that their organs were anxiously pulsing. They had too many questions, each one scarier than the last. They quickly fled, completely abandoning any semblance of a formation they'd originally had. The sheer number of fleeing people would give the wrong impression that an army was going to invade the moon.

"Did I say you could run?" Tianming smirked and gathered his providence swords, then chased the remaining two hundred or so thousand of them. This battle would shock Orderia if they were there to witness it. The entire way, Tianming gave chase. Killing them was even easier with their backs facing him.

He didn't dare to even count the number of people that died on the continent today. He felt really bad about it, and couldn't shake the blame even if it was a disaster they couldn't have hoped to avoid. The rage he had toward the divine moonrace was the same the whole way through. Not to mention, he wasn't just acting on his own behalf right now; he was merely representing his people and executing their will to appease their shared anger. As the divine moonrace army was scattering and retreating, few were able to stop his providence swords.

"Die!"

All of them could hear the angry cries coming from the continent. The cries were so loud they almost shook their innards and caused them to vomit blood. Corpses continued falling like raindrops. Today would be a nightmare none of them would wish to relive. As Tianming had planned, many of them were traumatized by the world below them.

"Remember! This isn't a place you're welcome to be!" While normal mortal worlds were lower than stellar worlds, the Flameyellow Continent was no doubt a special place. "Anyone who still dares to offend my dynasty shall perish!"

Chapter 1107 - Her Crisis

The divine moonrace's ears were ringing as they fled in fear and confusion. They had been terrified into running out of nowhere and could barely process it. Tianming's ruthlessness and the odd human-shaped continent would be burned into their memory forever.

"Is this really a Welkin continent?"

The huge army of three hundred thousand had lost fifty thousand of their own even before encountering a single normal human on the continent, and the remainder were running with their tail between their legs. The Flameyellow Continent had defeated a combined four hundred thousand divine moonrace elites! They had been oppressed for far too long and finally got to vent their frustrations. Tianming gave chase the entire way and only stopped when he was near where the Kilostar Domain used to be. While the Omniscient Threads were still present, the energy transmission had stopped around that height.

It was only to be expected. After all, they were just normal cultivators; it was already miraculous enough that they could share their energy with him in the first place. He would only be able to fight at that level near the continent. When he lost the power boost, he noticed that he couldn't sustain Myriadsword Providence for long, with nine tenths of them vanishing and only leaving behind around a thousand or so. Those that remained were also not nearly as powerful as before.

"Without their power, Myriadsword Providence is only a normal totemic calamity that can change the forms of the godswords, not a ridiculous godslaying ability."

On the Divine Moon Realm, and in the astralscape of order by extension, Tianming was only a seventh-level ascendant; he was all too aware of that fact. He had only managed to fulfill his duties by borrowing the people's power, but his true strength still relied on his personal abilities.

The divine moonrace didn't notice that he had run out of power and thought that they had been able to escape for good. Though, if he hadn't run out, he could have just gone to the Divine Moon Realm and wiped them out. By now, one hundred and fifty thousand gods had perished on the mortal continent. In hindsight, the continent had only produced ten gods in the past two hundred millennia. It was staggering in comparison.

"The history of the Flameyellow Continent shall change today!"

Tianming descended back from the skies. Soon, the threads filled him with power once more. The battle was finally over and he returned to Taiji Peak Lake. Many people were waiting for him there.

"Can we return home instead of staying in hiding from now on?" Li Caiwei asked expectantly, tears in her eyes.

"Yes!" Tianming answered.

"Great! There's only one word to describe you: monstrous!" Ouyang Jianwang said.

Tianming had returned, and all of them were still here.

"The threads on our bodies are truly mystical. Tianming, you definitely discovered a brand new cultivation technique," Xuanyuan Dao said, feeling his thread with his eyes closed.

"It's just like a formation spirit thread. Truly amazing. Now, a true god that has eyes all over stands right before us. It is beyond words," Yi Xingyin said.

This could not have happened in their wildest imaginations. The humans of the Flameyellow Continent themselves were shocked, let alone the divine moonrace. However, only Tianming knew that this came

from the legacy of the Primordial God-Emperor. It had all started when he first absorbed Omnisentient Will to boost his cultivation path of sovereignty.

Despite their victory, the continent needed time to recover. Tianming could also finally take a breather, though he knew this was only a small setback for the sovereign. Someone like her wouldn't give up that easily. There was still much more to come, but before that, he had something he was more concerned about. He turned to look at a fairy-like girl smiling gently at him.

"Big Brother," she said, waving.

"Ling'er."

The crisis of the continent was over, but what about hers?

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A cold woman sat on the throne in Xi Palace. She could barely rest lazily like she had before. Instead, she sat at attention with her palms on her thighs, no longer wearing her mask and exposing her beauty for all to see, though her sour mood ruined her looks somewhat. Or perhaps it was the missing mystique and imagination factor that her mask had afforded her. What was even more tragic was how the Pentamoon Slayers, Prince Fengyue, and the imperial guide had all died. There was no longer anyone she could confide in. She could finally taste how true solitude felt.

Once more, Tianming had escaped her grasp. Not to mention, the astral killer had slipped away after showing up in front of her. The latter was a matter of a power difference, but the former was truly unexpected and inexplicable.

"I sent a total of four hundred thousand gods down there. How long until you come kneeling before me?" She couldn't stand Tianming, but she wasn't worried that he would be gone for long. As long as the Flameyellow Continent was around, Tianming would be her puppet. She was more concerned about Bodhi roaming free.

"Do we seek out the celestial orderians for help? That won't do... Even if they can help me, they'll ruin my plans if they run into Li Tianming. His talent shines too brightly—there's no way they won't notice. I should worry about breaking through first."

Though Lingfeng was an alternative she could have used, that had been ruined by Tianming as well. There was nothing she could do but wait. There was no way he wouldn't come groveling for forgiveness after she sent three hundred thousand troops down to the continent.

Right then, she received a transmission stone and her lips contorted into a smile. "One hundred and fifty thousand dead?"

She crushed the stone. "They must be crazy. Who dares play a prank like this?"

Then, another transmission stone came. "The first hundred thousand are all dead and fifty thousand of the three hundred thousand were lost? The remaining two hundred and fifty thousand are retreating?"

She stopped smiling and fumed with rage. "Who dares make a joke like that?!"

The entire palace shook with a sudden pulse of power. "Nonsense!"

She had been calm this whole time, but by the time she got the third, fourth... fiftieth transmission stone that reported the same thing, it wasn't just a funny joke anymore. They all corroborated the report that Tianming had singlehandedly wiped out one hundred and fifty thousand gods, including the eighty thousand that had scattered across the continent. They were picked out and slaughtered one by one. The rest she had sent were terrified into retreating. There's no way someone would orchestrate such a large-scale suicidal prank.

Chapter 1108 - Beloved Girl

Sovereign Xi's eyes were wide with flabbergastment. She wanted to go out, but slumped back into her throne instead. She scratched her head and muttered, "Lianlian, We can't be sick, are We? Why are We seeing things?"

She looked to her side, but there was no one there. She had killed the imperial guide and crushed all the transmission stones. She was on the brink of a breakdown, something she had never experienced before.

"What kind of joke is this? Even if he's a few levels above Us and could fight fifty thousand ascendants at once, he couldn't possibly hunt down the eighty thousand scattered throughout the entire continent."

It simply didn't make sense! She was a confident person, but now she didn't even believe in herself. Stabilizing her thoughts, she stood up and decided to look into the situation. The retreating troops just so happened to arrive on time. Yueshen Xu's face was completely pale as he knelt before her, almost fully prostrating. His eyes were filled with tears when he looked up.

"Speak," the sovereign coldly said.

"Your Majesty, like our reports from the transmission stones, we've lost a hundred and fifty thousand."

"Hehe... Why is someone of your status joking around? You'll die, you know," She chuckled.

"Your Majesty..." He kept his head on the ground, knowing that this was too big a shock to her system.

"Then tell me how the eighty thousand scattered troops were picked out across the entire continent."

"Your humble servant doesn't know either! When we arrived with the next three hundred thousand, he tossed a hundred thousand heads at us and began slaughtering away. He looked like he had ten thousand totems, all of them swords of around two meters in length. However, they were all incredibly powerful. We weren't able to stop the assault at all and quickly lost another fifty thousand even after retreating."

"Ten thousand totems? Are you sick in the head?"

"Your Majesty, the other two hundred and fifty thousand that returned with me can testify to it."

Sovereign Xi's smile froze stiff. She closed her lips and deeply looked at her general.

"Hehehehe..." She suddenly started laughing heavily. No matter how much she didn't want to believe it, these were indeed facts. She had thought that there would be no turning the situation around for

Tianming, but he had done just that. As fantastical as the report had sounded, she had undoubtedly lost a hundred and fifty thousand troops.

"Did I lose out of nowhere, just like that?" She didn't know about the legacy of the Primordial God-Emperor, which was something that went far beyond the scope of her knowledge. As she endured the revelation, her face began contorting as killing intent simmered in her body to the point that she couldn't stand it any longer and vomited a mouthful of black blood. Some still trailed from the corner of her lips.

"Impossible! Impossible!" Her heart felt like it was bleeding. She had even sacrificed the imperial guide for this very goal. While Tianming was growing harder and harder to deal with, she had gotten her grasp on his weakness. Yet how could he possibly have turned everything around just like that? Her confidence had been completely crushed. She didn't understand his Imperial Will, nor could she understand the Omniscient Threads at all. This was her largest loss as of late. The death of her parents and the breach of the formation didn't seem like anything that could compare.

"Leave!" she howled like a madwoman, her hair all messed up. Her calculating beauty from before was nowhere to be seen.

Yueshen Xu lowered his head and crawled out of the palace. She was left alone within the large building, blood still trailing from her mouth; the mere thought of Tianming was bad for her heart.

"Your Majesty, urgent news! The astral killer showed up at Yangguo Manor! All three thousand people there were killed!"

"Your Majesty, the killer appeared at North Street and is still slaughtering away!"

Reports came one after the other through transmission stones, causing another bout of blood vomiting. She was being attacked on both sides. Among the two men, one had rebelled and another was ruthless. She'd thought she had a full grasp on the entire situation just moments ago, but oh how wrong she was.

"We just got a huge blow, and we have to deal with this now? You're not letting us catch a breather, are you?" Her gaze was unbelievably cold. "Hehe... hehehe..."

It seemed like there was no way out of this. "Li Tianming couldn't possibly have grown that much stronger. He must have used some kind of special method to weed them out. If we can't deal with him now, we will eventually die at his hands, let alone fail to breakthrough. That killer is still pushing our boundaries more and more. We have no way of dealing with him. As long as he's still here, we can't leave. If he knows we're not around, he'll start killing with abandon. Another hundred thousand royals might be lost from that."

She was at the cliff's edge and out of options. The more she stayed put, the worse it seemed to get. Not to mention, Tianming and the killer both hated the divine moonrace. If she couldn't hold on, her entire race would never rise again.

"Lianlian, should I seek the help of the celestial orderians?" She looked into the darkness ahead of her as she slumped into her throne. It was as if the imperial guide was still there. Her eyes welled up with tears again and she shook her head. "No, I can't fail. If the celestial orderians come, the killer will be dealt with but my breakthrough preparations will be for naught."

That was the only thing on her mind. "I can't lose. I won't lose! I've prepared for this for centuries and even lost you, Lianlian..."

She squirmed about in the darkness, wanting to hug someone, but she touched only air. "People I care about, eh..."

As her tears flowed, she suddenly looked into the distance. "No wonder you've always ignored Our charms. You were charmed by someone already. I heard the girl that showed up outside the palace is young and as beautiful as a goddess. Even Our own troops were moved by her beauty. While your dynasty might no longer be your weakness, what about that girl? Can you bear losing her?"

She began to cackle loudly in the darkness. "People should never fall in love! It's only a liability! We've already abandoned Lianlian, so what's the point in caring about the rest of the divine moonrace? As long as I grow powerful, we can all rise up and prosper again, so there's no point in defending Divine Moon Skycity any longer."

They had already lost a hundred and fifty thousand of their own, so what was another two hundred and fifty thousand? The deaths of the previous troops made her resolve pointless. She no longer cared about the rest and wanted to give it a final struggle. She had only one goal: the stunning girl that showed up outside the palace.

"Yueshen Xu!" she called as she left the palace compound.

"Your Majesty," he greeted as he hurried over.

"Heed my decree! Bring two hundred and fifty thousand people to the continent. Have them scatter before leaving!"

"But, Your Majesty—"

"Did you not hear me clearly?"

Yueshen Xu's body shook. Wasn't this a suicidal order? Little did he know that she intended to go down herself. Even if they died, she wanted to use them to hold Tianming back so that she could locate that girl, Tianming's actual weakness. She was going to give up on the capital entirely.

In the darkness of night, only evil was visible on her beautiful face.

Chapter 1109 - Forgetting Who I Am

The snow at Taiji Peak Lake had completely melted when summer began. Calm lakes and light breezes accompanied the blooming flowers, making quite a beautiful sight. The grand battle that saw the deaths of more than a hundred and fifty thousand gods hadn't left behind any stains to taint Taiji Peak Lake.

People could finally take a breather. Ying Huo and the rest were usually rather carefree, and they were playing around in the lake. Lan Huang in particular splashed around in the water with abandon, causing some to shower on Tianming and Feiling on a nearby islet. Feiling was leaning on his shoulder as she talked. Her legs shook with a lighthearted demeanor and she was much more relaxed than usual.

"Big Brother, I wasn't trying to hide this from you. I just didn't have a chance to tell you properly. We only met for short bursts of time, so you wouldn't blame me for that, right?" The weight on her heart had finally lifted when she told him about her Perpetual Nirvana.

"You little fool, why would I blame you? I blame myself." He couldn't bear to hear of her hardship. He thought he had been in peril with the sovereign monitoring him the entire time he was in the palace. Little did he know that Feiling had undergone the process so many times while he was away, having her body scatter and reform. It was a terrifying tribulation and nobody who hadn't experienced it themselves would be able to fathom the pain and despair it entailed.

"It's no big deal. I'll do my best and endure the next twenty times. I definitely won't disappear!" She confidently pumped her fist and smiled at him, though it looked a little goofy. "I may be a girl, but inside me dwells a macho man. Are you scared now?"

She raised her arm and showed him her flexed muscle, causing him to chuckle. He knew that this was her trying to lighten his mood and take his mind off of his worries, so he didn't mull over it. Perpetual Nirvana was her own tribulation, and it had something to do with Perpetua. Like the name suggested, if she wanted to survive it and live forever, she would have to undergo that repeated process. Nirvana was the realm after death, and it represented a refreshing of the self for the next life. Tianming didn't know too much about it and couldn't help her at all.

"Alright. If you can't hold on, I'll do what Master Ye did and start a harem of three thousand girls. I'll have a new girlfriend every day so that you'll be so mad you kick open your coffin to give me a beating," he said as he pinched her cheeks.

"You little!" she snapped.

"I don't have a choice. Without you, I'll be a pathetic nobody." Feiling had been his mental support ever since the two had left the Vermillion Bird kingdom. He couldn't even bear to imagine how heartbroken he would be on the day she turned into crystals and never reformed. "Ling'er, the perfect future I envision can't not have you in it. It would be a nightmare otherwise."

He wanted to properly express his feelings, for whatever he said could become the strength she needed to last through her tribulation. The fact that she managed to survive thanks to the necklace, Ling'er's Love, was a sign that he was an important anchor to her existence. Some minor embarrassment was trivial, compared to what it could do for her.

He pulled her into his embrace when he said that, placing his cheek against her hair and feeling her warmth. She was undoubtedly still alive. Though she was smiling, hearing that caused her eyes to tear up. There was no way she could be unafraid the entire way through. This was a matter of life and death, and through the countless times she had scattered and looked at the vortex of death above her, she could smell eternal death even though she didn't pass through it. Once she did, everything about her and her memories with Tianming would be reduced to nothing but ashes. Thus, she struggled with all her might to hold on. Each time it ended, she was left broken and crying, her soul shaken. Not a trace of beauty or elegance was visible on her. She would haggardly crawl out of the vortex of death if she had to, but she didn't tell Tianming about any of that.

Nobody knew that Perpetual Nirvana was an experience far worse than death; nobody but her. Reforming after scattering was painful in ways that only she knew. Surviving was far from easy, especially when her lifespan seemed to be running out around the age of twenty. Only by surviving could she continue feeling Tianming's warmth against her, the man who saw her as more important than his own life. There was no way she didn't feel the same about her sudden scattering as he did.

She stretched her hand out and tightly tugged on his sleeve, as if she were afraid of drowning and struggling for help to no avail as she sank to the bottom. "There's only twenty more times, then after that, two more cycles."

Tianming closed his eyes. Why did she have to suffer so much?

"If I can tough through the next twenty times, the other two cycles might not come all that soon. I can do it, trust me," she said firmly with a confidence that belied her true anxiety. "Big Brother, if I forget who I am one day, would you still love me?"

This was her other worry. She felt like she had one soul, but two personalities, and the other one was slowly awakening throughout this process.

"Do you know what I'm most afraid of? I'm worried that even if I survive the ordeal, I'll no longer be myself. Am I merely helping someone that isn't me revive?"

That person could be the city lord of Perpetia, the undying immortal.

"Do you remember what happened in the Tomb of the Ancients and the demon city?" Tianming asked.

"Of course. How could I forget?"

"We won't know who'll prevail until the very last moment. Our destiny is more significant than this. Never doubt it. No matter who comes to block our way, we just have to wipe them out!"

Even though they were in real danger back at the tomb, they had still emerged victorious. He put his hand on her tightly clenched fist and twined his fingers with hers. Since the day their gazes had met, their yearning for one another had grown stronger and stronger. It was a different kind of willpower and imagination.

"If I ever stand at the top of the endlessly vast astralscape, I'll be able to control everything and my parents will have peace and be able to stand with me. The one I want beside me when I fulfill that dream is you alone. Nobody can take me from you!" He wanted to let her know his dedication.

"Okay." Tears welled up in her eyes. There were around twenty scatterings remaining. Though it was a daunting prospect, she seemed to relax somewhat, thanks to his encouragement, and looked less cold and empty than before. This was the real her—cute, beautiful, and feisty at some times but elegant at others. Her eyes sparkled like the clearest lake.

There were many other beautiful people in this world, but she was the only one who could leave home at the age of sixteen and endure hardship after hardship with him. This entire time, Tianming had neglected her peril thanks to being caught up with the matters of Lingfeng, his dynasty, Bodhi, and the divine moonrace. But now, almost all the other things had been dealt with.

He tightly held her hand and hugged her as if he was trying to pull her into his body, like that would prevent her from bubbling up and disappearing forever.

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Theoretically, Tianming wasn't under any pressure now that he had repelled the divine moonrace from the continent and could leave Sovereign Xi to collapse on her own, but Lingfeng's whereabouts were still unknown. Every breath Tianming took without knowing where he was felt like the chances that he had perished had risen even more. So, he couldn't afford to passively wait. Thankfully, the situation was much better than it had been before, especially with Bodhi keeping the sovereign at bay. Not to mention, Tianming was much stronger than before.

What he didn't expect was that he would run into another huge descending army as he ascended to find a chance to save Lingfeng, and they seemed so widely scattered that it didn't look like there was any coordination at all! They numbered at least a hundred thousand, all of them being those who had just retreated, but numbered less than half their previous number.

"Are they coming to get themselves killed again?" Even if they split up, Tianming could deal with all of them as long as they were near the continent. "Thankfully the citizens haven't resettled in the cities yet!"

Having to return right after leaving put a bad taste in his mouth. Once more, he used Myriadsword Providence, fueled by the power of Omniscient Threads, and prepared himself for their descent. With that, he was effectively able to have a grasp of the whole situation and turn the entire continent into a fortress. Little did he know that the sovereign had blended in with the rest to infiltrate the Flameyellow Continent.

The reason less than half of the two hundred and fifty thousand troops had come back down was because the sovereign hadn't announced that she would be descending herself in order to prevent Bodhi's unfettered onslaught. As such, many who had witnessed the terror beforehand merely ignored her orders and ran, which only exacerbated her loss of credibility. There was no way she could kill all hundred thousand deserters, after all. She was already at her wits' end and needed that single trump card to turn things around.

Chapter 1110 - Just Because You Said So

Gods began raining down on the continent once more. The residents of the continent didn't know why the divine moonrace would come to get themselves killed again. No matter how many people they sent, it would take some time before they could infiltrate the continent to begin with. With prior experience, Tianming's swords went flying all across the land, slaying or crippling anyone that dared to make an appearance. Many of them even retreated mid way, with many deserting back to the Divine Moon Realm.

"Don't be a fool. Her Majesty offended someone that should've been left alone. After all the losses, she still asked us to come get ourselves killed!"

"Her Majesty was too proud, and still refuses to admit failure!"

"The astral killer is causing chaos at Divine Moon Skycity and this puny Li Tianming has killed more than a hundred thousand of our own. Why hasn't Orderia been notified yet? What's the point of having us come down to kill mere mortals, and even dying in the process?"

"Not to mention, if Orderia finds out about this, the divine moonrace won't be able to get off scot-free either!"

"I knew we shouldn't have come down! There were at least a hundred and fifty thousand others who didn't. Her Majesty is confused and we shouldn't have obeyed."

"That's right! Running now isn't an issue either! There's no way Her Majesty can hunt down all of us!"

More and more disobeyed their orders, with only a small few daring to actually continue descending after seeing Tianming's bloodbath. They all thought that there was something off with her strategy. It was really hard to justify these kinds of casualties, especially when they would barely be able to deal any damage to the continent in the first place with Tianming causing death and destruction wherever he went.

"Retreat!"

"Let's go, comrade!"

"He's a monster, let's admit it. The divine moonrace can't handle someone like him."

Most of them didn't know Sovereign Xi's true goals in capturing Tianming. To them, Tianming was just someone who had crossed their sovereign. Given how terrifying he was, and with the shadow of the astral killer still hanging over them, killing Tianming felt like a fool's errand.

"Who knew that the wise sovereign would actually fall so far just because of two people."

"Our entire race has basically fallen at the hands of those two! How vexing!"

"I feel like the best thing to do now is deploy the astral defense formation so that nobody can come to the Divine Moon Realm. Then we should inform Orderia and get them to deal with Li Tianming and the astral killer! Li Tianming has heavily sinned after killing more than a hundred thousand of us!"

"We've branched out from the celestial orderians and we monopolize communication with them. We just have to flesh out the story a bit and those two fiends will die for sure!"

"I knew we should've reported to them in the first place instead of playing it tough!"

"That's right, and now we're being sent to get ourselves killed. What's the point?"

"Everyone, retreat! Don't bother killing yourselves! I don't want to be sent home as just a head. My wife and child are still waiting for me there."

More and more convinced themselves to retreat. At the end of the day, only around ten thousand people truly fulfilled the sovereign's order, and Tianming had ten thousand providence swords, so locking onto them was far too easy. Filled with rage, he didn't show any mercy toward the suicidal zealots. However, the more he killed, the weirder it began to feel.

"With the last two attacks, she had some goal in mind. But why does it feel so disgustingly dumb this time? No, she's no fool! Even now, she must be trying to pay me back and manipulate me! Then... if she's willing to abandon Divine Moon Skycity for a gamble, she might come straight down herself!"

Tianming quickly reacted to the odd situation.

"Where is she?" He focused his mind on the many points of view, rapidly scanning through them for the venomous woman.

"Xiaoxiao!" Interestingly, even Lin Xiaoxiao had a mental link with him through the Omniscient Threads. In other words, she was one of his many believers, unlike Feiling, who had a completely different relationship with him compared to that of a ruler and a subject. Thus, he wasn't able to see Feiling's point of view during his search. Even so, he managed to find the sovereign through Lin Xiaoxiao's vision, because she had been with Feiling the entire time since he had left to fight. Sovereign Xi now had her eyes on Feiling.

"Ling'er showed up when she tried to save me!" Tianming's rage surged immediately. "Knowing that my dynasty is no longer my weakness, she went straight for Ling'er! She really knows how to identify weaknesses... Impressive! However, I bet you have no idea how powerful I am down here. I'm even able to instantly locate you! Sovereign Xi, you think you know everything, but you lack the imagination to consider things that are far more powerful than you."

He immediately sent five thousand providence swords toward Taiji Peak Lake. They traveled like countless shooting stars, and the friction they had with the air even resulted in an ear-piercing sound. Meanwhile, Tianming quickly charged over with his actual body as well. His reaction was so quick that Sovereign Xi didn't even have a chance to make her approach. She couldn't even fathom that he would react to her presence so quickly. Not to mention, Tianming hadn't brought his lifebound beasts with him, so they quickly showed up and surrounded the sovereign.

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The defrosted lake sparkled in the spring weather. Feiling and Lin Xiaoxiao stood at the entrance of Soulburn Hall, looking at the swords of light coming down from above. All of a sudden, a fatal sensation came from behind them. Feiling rapidly pushed Lin Xiaoxiao away as her clear eyes turned blank all of a sudden. She turned back and clashed with a beam of moonlight that enveloped a sword held by a vexingly beautiful woman. She smiled as she thrust the sword toward Feiling's face.

"You really are good looking," Sovereign Xi's foxy voice said.

"Hmph." Though the sovereign had expected to easily be able to disfigure Feiling, she didn't think she would be met with a belittling gaze instead. Right as the tip of her sword was about to strike her nose, the cold girl scattered into countless crystals.

"What?!" She had just shattered out of nowhere. Sovereign Xi had come to capture Feiling, but how could she possibly do it now? She didn't understand how this could ever have happened.

Right as she was panicking, Feiling reformed some distance away and looked at the sovereign. "A clown like you dares to try taking me prisoner?"

It was the first time Sovereign Xi had been called a clown in all her life. She had a feeling that the girl wasn't just a normal person, but it was too late to turn back now. Suppressing her annoyance, she came striking again. Right then, a bird and a cat showed up in front of Feiling and unleashed their abilities to obstruct the sovereign. She had no choice but to force her way through them to get to Feiling, furrowing her brow as she did so. Lan Huang had already shown up behind her at Xuanyuan Lake, while Xian Xian appeared behind Feiling and used its countless vines to shield her.

"Sick woman, you dare to come for Ling'er too? Don't you know death when you see it?" Ying Huo mocked.

"It's one thing for you to parade around like a boss in your turf, but do you think you can do the same in ours? Haven't you lost enough? You've gone too far, even daring to come for Ling'er! There's no way you'll be allowed to escape!" Xian Xian's spiritform snapped.

The four of them were really protective of Feiling. This time, they were joined by Lin Xiaoxiao and the Archaionfiend as well.

"Do you think your ragtag bunch can stop Us?" Sovereign Xi cursed at how even mere animals were looking down on her just because she had suffered a few losses. "Very well! Since all of you are really important to him, you'll all be Our captives! Even a single one of you will be enough to get him squirming and pleading"

She struck with blazing speed mid-speech. Xian Xian's vines and the abilities of Meow Meow and Ying Huo alone weren't able to stop her as she rapidly closed the distance between her and Feiling. Even though she was a bit moved by Feiling's gaze and beauty, that didn't stop her from wanting to crush her. Although she was pretending that she didn't care, she was burning with rage the whole time.

I'll use your life to take the life of your man! she thought.

"Just because you said so?" Feiling said with a smirk.

The sovereign started; it felt like she had been seen through completely. Though they were so close to each other, Feiling seemed really distant for some reason.

That instant of hesitation was all it took for a fatal threat to approach.