

## The Ages 1151

### Chapter 1151 - New Disciples of Azuresoul Palace

Everyone nervously glared at Tianming and the rest.

"They're the chief disciple's friends!"

"That's right. The chief disciple must be friends with top figures across Orderia. It shouldn't be surprising that they're capable of this much."

"Bai Junce really got himself into a pickle."

As the others were chattering away, Qing Zi retrieved Bai Junce. Seeing his injured soul and how traumatized he was, she felt horrible.

"Senior Sister... I—" Bai Junce still had fear in his eyes. He didn't even understand how he had lost. It was terrifying.

"Don't say anything. This isn't good. I'll look for a chance to act when Jiang Qingliu isn't protecting him. We'll see whether Yu Ziqian is weak for real," she said in a hushed voice.

"If you expose him, that old fart Jiang Qingliu will lose face over this, right?"

"Not only that. If the two of them were working together to swindle the sect out of our resources, our head instructor and the Azuresoul Council will render judgment unto them!" she snapped. She badly hoped that Yu Ziqian was a fake. After all, his master, the defender of Azuresoul Tower, was a mere normal human that didn't have lifebound beasts or totems. Normal humans like him didn't deserve that kind of glory. Not to mention, even disciples of the head instructor like the two of them had to accommodate his personal disciple!

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"Friends, my master wants to talk to you all," Yu Ziqian said in a completely humble manner as he relaxedly fanned himself.

"The five beauties on your fan are a little too pretty, aren't they?" Tianming said, recalling the painting by Jiang Yu all the way back at the Divine Capital called 'Impeccable Beauty'. Compared to the picture on the fan, that painting was far inferior. All five women on Yu Ziqian's fan had fairy-like beauty. Every one of them were charming and dignified; their smiles were enchanting and their eyes looked alive.

Ye Lingfeng had told him they weren't mere paintings, but rather depictions of five artifact souls. Unlike the tripartite soul, artifact souls weren't souls of living beings. Instead, they were part of the best divine artifacts.

"Haha, no matter how beautiful they are, it's pointless. It's not like I can touch them. They can't compare to my junior sister, who's flesh and blood!" he chuckled.

"One day they'll come out of the artifact and tear your ear off," Tianming said.

"Wow, you're amazing. I didn't know you could tell." Only artifact souls could emerge, after all.

"It's no big deal," Tianming said. He hadn't told him that he knew about his portable grandpa as well.

"Back to the topic at hand. My master wishes to talk with you..."

"Sure thing." Tianming brought Xiaoxiao and Lingfeng with him. They followed Yu Ziqian to the head of the qilin, drawing quite a few gazes as they passed. Jiang Qingliu stood alone at the head of the qilin as he looked ahead along the endless river.

"Greetings, Senior Jiang." Tianming didn't dare to throw his weight around before a powerful senior like that.

"Ahem—friend, what's your name?"

Tianming didn't reveal his name at first because he was worried about word from the Divine Moon Realm getting here. But it had been around a month and nothing seemed amiss. Not to mention, there were too many people in this vast universe that shared identical names. "I'm Li Tianming." When he finished, he had Xiaoxiao and Lingfeng introduce themselves as well. Lingfeng merely said he was 'Feng', as the matter of the night demon was a big deal.

"The three of you appear to be impressive youths. Can you tell me who your masters are, or what factions you belong to?" Jiang Qingliu asked. He began taking note of them since Lingfeng had shown his prowess, and seeing Tianming act as their leader made him even more curious.

"Senior Jiang, we were ordered to keep that a secret," Tianming said.

"Is that so? Your masters are no doubt impressive people."

Tianming merely smiled without saying a word. Orderia was far too vast and there were too many hidden talents in the Myriad Solar Sects, many of whom flew under the radar. There were many that used to be nameless pawns half a millennium ago, only to soar in fame all of a sudden. Jiang Qingliu aside, even a first-rate sect might not have information about all the elites in Orderia.

"However, if you enter the Voidsky Realm and obtain a participation formation, you must register your tutelage. Sky Palace and the Myriad Solar Sects need that information. If you don't state it clearly, you won't be allowed to join," Jiang Qingliu said.

"Is that so?" Tianming didn't know about that at all.

"Then what do you plan to do?"

Feeling a spark of inspiration, Tianming said, "That's the reason we wanted to travel with Yu Ziqian. We were wondering if there was a chance for us to become disciples of Azuresoul Palace and fight for it."

Jiang Qingliu wore a funny expression.

"Master, why don't you agree? I want to be able to keep my word!" Yu Ziqian said. His 'grandpa' had asked him to stick close to Tianming, so him becoming a disciple would be perfect for that.

Jiang Qingliu broke out in laughter. "Friend, isn't this too good a deal for our Azuresoul Palace? The three of you are talented folks, yet you'll be increasing our sect's reputation if you fight for us. Don't your masters feel bad about that?"

"Of course not. They prefer to lay low, after all." The Azuresoul Palace was a great place for him to build a foundation in Orderia, so Tianming didn't want to miss this chance. Not only would he solve the issue of his identity, he would also be able to get help from Jiang Qingliu. It could open many doors.

Tianming wasn't worried that Jiang Qingliu would harm them. He had left a pretty good impression, after all. Not to mention, Tianming's mysterious background could mean he was supported by greater powers, so Jiang Qingliu definitely wouldn't mess around with them. There was no way three people in Orderia could become that powerful without support of any kind. The more Tianming tried hiding it, the more powerful the people supporting him should be.

Jiang Qingliu chuckled. He had been stunned by Lingfeng's performance and didn't think they'd just ask to join his sect just like that. Though Xiaoxiao looked average, Tianming didn't look one bit weaker than Lingfeng. If they did well at the Voidsky Realm representing the Azuresoul Palace, Jiang Qingliu would stand to benefit from it as well, and would gain more say in the sect.

"Senior Jiang, I suppose that was too much to ask of you," Tianming said politely.

"No, it definitely wasn't. In fact, you'd be doing us a favor. Surely master wouldn't refuse something like that, right?" Yu Ziqian said, desperately winking at his master.

"Ahem!" Jiang Qingliu cleared his throat. Though he was all too happy to agree, he feigned seriousness. "Well, this isn't impossible. It's a small matter, and a win-win for us. I'll make an official announcement that you three are my honorary disciples, then."

Since Tianming and the rest were asking to join, he made them his honorary disciples. Unlike a personal disciple like Yu Ziqian, Jiang Qingliu could easily cast them aside if they caused some kind of trouble. But if they rendered merit, Jiang Qingliu would also benefit from it. It was perfect.

"Thank you, Senior Jiang!" Tianming said.

"Alright. In front of others, make sure to call me Master," Jiang Qingliu said, hands behind his back.

"Understood!"

This was a benefit to both sides. Jiang Qingliu knew that Yu Ziqian wasn't that stable, after all. Plus, he could still discard them if things went south.

"Master, since we don't want to expose our real masters, we'll need you to come up with a backstory," Tianming said.

"That's no issue. I'll announce that you were the disciples I gave guidance to back at my home town," Jiang Qingliu said.

"Thank you."

Tianming now had an identity he could use to join the competition at the Voidsky Realm, as well as the protection of a senior. As long as he didn't cause too much trouble, Jiang Qingliu should have no issue covering for him. Lingfeng's clash with Bai Junce had turned out to be rather useful.

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The three of them received official emblems that marked them as disciples. As the other disciples didn't know the details, they weren't affected. Tianming was currently standing atop the head of the qilin, looking into the distance. Ahead of them was a battlefield where a billion would fight... The Voidsky Realm!

"Boss?" Yu Ziqian called out.

"What's up?" Tianming asked.

"Remember to call me Chief Disciple in front of outsiders!"

"Tsk tsk... it looks like your grandpa there has high hopes for us."

Yu Ziqian completely froze.

### **Chapter 1152 - Senior Brother Li Is so Handsome**

"Did you already know?" Yu Ziqian asked nervously.

"Of course. Something like that can't hide from my eyes," Tianming said with a smile. Given how hesitant Yu Ziqian was about letting people know about it, perhaps his master Jiang Qingliu might not know the details either.

"I knew we wouldn't be able to hide it from you after seeing how powerful Brother Feng's divine soul is. However, it isn't really something I'm trying to hide. Everyone knows that I have some powerful legacy. Though, I still hope you'll be able to keep this from the others," Yu Ziqian earnestly said.

"No worries. We're in the same boat, so we'll be looking out for one another."

"Great!"

Tianming was Yu Ziqian's savior, but thanks to Yu Ziqian, he was also able to get a proper identity in Orderia. He would have to continue relying on the Azuresoul Palace and Yu Ziqian's cooperation to blend in for real.

The azuresky qilin continued along its path. Amidst the sound of the blowing winds, Tianming could more or less hear the other disciples chattering about them.

"Those three are Master Jiang's honorary disciples!"

"No wonder they're so powerful. They must've received some kind of guidance from him."

"Master Jiang's teaching capabilities are truly impressive. The chief disciple aside, I heard there's another three honorary disciples in the top five of the imperial star ranking. I didn't think they'd be revealed here. Senior Brother Feng is even stronger than Senior Brother Bai, so doesn't that mean the top three disciples of Azuresoul Palace are all Master Jiang's disciples?"

"That should be the case. Master Jiang is impressive. He's said to be among the top ten most powerful in the sect as a whole. His disciples of this generation are even superior to the disciples of the head instructor."

The disciples now viewed Jiang Qingliu completely differently, filled with admiration.

"Come to think of it, why'd Master Jiang wait until today to reveal his three honorary disciples?"

"It's to protect them, of course. They're still young, after all. One also shouldn't reveal their trump cards in the beginning. Many other sects keep their talented disciples a secret before the Voidsky Realm opens for the element of surprise. Our chief disciple, for instance, seldom fights to prevent intelligence about him being gathered and leaked."

Everyone under the age of thirty were considered no different from children in Orderia. In this era, talented geniuses were the foundations of the future. For any sect or faction, legacies were of the utmost importance to ensure their supremacy in the future.

"Putting aside Master Jiang, I heard that more than half of all the geniuses of a generation are kept hidden before the Voidsky Realm opens. They'll show up in droves all of a sudden."

"It's going to be a competition of who has more hidden trump cards then..."

The disciples didn't suspect Tianming and the others' origins at all, so their identities were finally secure. It was of the utmost importance, given how Sovereign Xi was able to trace his origins back to the Flameyellow Continent and bring disaster down to it. Having a cover identity was all too important, as there was no way to avoid crossing anyone in a world fueled by an obsession with strife and competition.

"I'm not afraid that our enemies will be powerful... I'm only worried they'll be insane."

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These days, Tianming and the rest spent much time with Yu Ziqian and got to know many other disciples. The conversations were merry throughout. Given Tianming's outgoing personality and Yu Ziqian vouching for him, he managed to make quite a few friends in a few short days.

"I noticed that you look more and more like a native of the sun," Xiaoxiao said, feeling a little at a loss for words.

"To keep winning, we have to know ourselves and our enemies. We also have to keep adapting to local customs!" Tianming said.

"Spare me the sophistry, you're just a natural at socializing!" Xiaoxiao couldn't help but smile. Nowadays, the gang was all together, with the exception of Qingyu. Thus, the pressure on them wasn't that huge. They were able to let loose and have some fun, even the lifebound beasts in their lifebound spaces. Not to mention, Feiling's life force was growing stronger inside Xian Xian's body. Tianming felt her recovering more and more.

"When Ling'er wakes up, many things will have changed. I wonder how much more powerful she'll be? Our team of five will be complete when we find Qingyu."

He would be together with his friends, siblings, and lover. They would protect each other. These were the days Tianming had been pining for.

In the following days, he focused on asking Yu Ziqian about the Voidsky Realm.

"Senior Brother Li, you're really handsome!" From time to time, female disciples would go past Yu Ziqian and send signals to Tianming.

"Wow, they're so direct." The environment really did shape much of a person's personality. The women of the Flameyellow Continent were more reserved, but the women here were just as passionate and wild as the burning sun they lived on. They were also far more direct than women from the moon and hated beating around the bush.

"Dammit, those rascals used to be my fans! How fickle!" Yu Ziqian said.

"They're switching to the winning side, you see. Your charm can't compare to mine."

Charm was something that was hard to hide. Tianming couldn't pretend to be a pathetic weakling even if he wanted to. Even though he hadn't shown his skills yet, the other disciples all kept an eye out for him.

"My master said you're fated to rise to the top. Each and every one of your behaviors radiates a kind of divine aura. It's something that can only come about after you overcome many tribulations. It's super rare for someone in their twenties to have this kind of aura. Not to mention, your golden eye radiates justice and authority, while your black eye inspires respect," Yu Ziqian praised.

"Alright, lay off on the flattery, won't you?"

Right as they were chatting, the qilin leapt from the river and continued speeding on the surface of the sun. Danger suddenly came, not for Tianming, but for Yu Ziqian! Tianming looked up and saw a throwing knife shooting toward Yu Ziqian's back, having been launched from the group of disciples behind him. It was so fast that no normal person could defend against it.

"Careful!" Tianming yelled. Many people cried out that instant. The knife had been thrown with enough power that an ascendant wouldn't be able to defend against it. It was a calculated move made with the intent to kill.

Jiang Qingliu was currently at the head of the qilin. He wouldn't make it in time to the center of the qilin where Tianming and the rest were in time, and the gigantic qilin wouldn't be able to react to an attack on such a small scale either! That instant, Yu Ziqian's expression changed as he moved fast as lightning, turning back and opening his fan before whacking the dagger away. A constellation appeared near him at that instant. Tianming could see that every star of the constellation looked like divine pills. Together, they took the shape of a black cauldron.

The fan managed to knock the dagger away, neutralizing the threat. Yu Ziqian fanned himself as he stood up. "Qing Zi, you're three generations above me, yet you dared to use such an underhanded method to take my life. Have the disciples of the head instructor already sunk that low?!"

His words shook the entire cohort.

"What's going on, Senior Qing Zi?"

They all moved aside, surrounding Qing Zi and a few others.

"A disciple of the head instructor... sinking so low..."

Everyone was angered and shocked into disbelief. Tianming was rather surprised as well. The only reason Yu Ziqian had emerged unscathed was because of the power of his constellation; it wasn't weak, either. He was on a completely different level now compared to the time he was being pursued. So this fellow's abilities can rise and fall, eh... Back then, Yu Ziqian had almost died. He definitely hadn't been faking his weakness. When Mo Yuling called him out on it, he didn't act and let the doubts fester. But now, Qing Zi, Mo Yuling, and many others looked at Yu Ziqian with utter surprise.

"I see... So that's what true acting is like." Tianming broke out laughing. Yu Ziqian didn't hold back when the opportunity came for him to shine.

Soon, Jiang Qingliu rushed to their side. "Qing Zi, explain!"

Qing Zi, Mo Yuling, and Bai Junce were at a loss. Bai Junce's embarrassment turned into anger as he glared at Mo Yuling. "Didn't you say he was a weakling?!"

"I... I..." Mo Yuling stammered, tears forming in her eyes.

"Don't bully my junior. Sister Mo, come here. I don't blame you for this. Back then, there was indeed a problem with my cultivation, but I've since recovered. As long as you no longer doubt me, I won't blame this on you," Yu Ziqian said magnanimously.

"Senior Brother...!" Having doubted him, only to be proven wrong, Mo Yuling felt horrible. Her resolve crumbled as she leapt into his embrace.

Yu Ziqian pretended not to care, smiling empathetically as he hugged her tight and comforted her. Their relationship had been mended just like that, much to Tianming and the others' amazement.

"Someone should give him an award for that acting..."

Meanwhile, Jiang Qingliu kept the pressure on Qing Zi and Bai Junce high. "I demand an explanation!"

"I... I was doing this for the sake of the Azuresoul Palace! There's some that doubt his capabilities and our sect's reputation is no laughing matter! You were the ones who kept inflating his reputation in the first place! The sect can't afford the slightest chance that he's really a weakling!" Qing Zi argued.

### **Chapter 1153 – Voidsky Flame Pillar**

"Do you have a brain tumor or something?! Now do you finally see his power?!" Jiang Qingliu slapped Qing Zi on the head, causing her to fall and bleed from her nose. Though she was angered, she could only endure. "Fuck off back to the sect and stop embarrassing yourself. Do you think I, of all people, wouldn't know the power of my own disciple?!"

Qing Zi had been completely humiliated. The others around her were angered, but dared not voice their complaints.

"Listen up! Yu Ziqian deserves everything he gets! Backstabbing him because of your own envy isn't what a disciple of the head instructor should do! And to think you were even trying to knock down my reputation as well... hehe...."

Faced with his angry glare, the disciples of the head instructor could only hold their heads low. Yu Ziqian's counter was the perfect move to play, leaving Qing Zi no choice but to head back to the sect.

"Let's hope that he's able to do half of what he was able to today at the Voidsky Realm. Otherwise we'll become everyone's laughingstock," Qing Zi said, glaring at Yu Ziqian before leaving.

"Get out of my sight," Yu Ziqian said. After this clash, his reputation had soared even more.

"The chief disciple could potentially join the Sky Palace! He won't split hairs with people like that."

"Qing Zi's envy is too strong. I bet there's many others in the sect that are pining for the Sky Palace as well."

"A genius with a famous master is sure to inspire envy!"

"Let's hope that the chief disciple will school them when the time comes."

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After the commotion, Yu Ziqian looked a little worn out.

"What's up?" Tianming asked with a hushed voice.

"You want to hear the truth?" Yu Ziqian said.

"Yes."

"To protect myself and my reputation, I ruined my pill gate by utilizing the energy early. That means my power will start to weaken when the Voidsky Realm opens. If I perform too badly, both my master and I will be in trouble with the sect. These years, I've asked for far too much from the sect and many people are waiting for me to fail."

"Alright. When the time comes, I'll protect you."

"It's pointless. The sect's expectations of me are too high."

"Well... you kinda deserved it," Tianming said.

"Damn! All I can do now is to soothe my troubles with my junior's warmth and beauty!"

"Ugh... scram!"

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Even now, Tianming was still reeling from the vastness of Orderia. The space around here was also much more stable than in the lower levels of the cosmic aether. This kind of stability slowed the speed of all living beings, so it took another ten or so days for the qilin to finally reach the Voidsky Realm.

"I was planning to bid these people farewell when we arrived, but we ended up being Azuresoul Palace disciples instead."

Now, they were in the same boat. Tianming looked toward the horizon from the top of the qilin's body. After passing through countless mountains and valleys, the mysterious Voidsky Realm was finally in sight.

The sky of Orderia was covered in flaming clouds about ten thousand meters thick. In most places, they were rather stable; however, the flaming clouds above the Voidsky Realm formed into a gigantic flaming



vortex. At the center of the vortex was a flaming tornado about a million meters tall. It was a pillar of flame that pierced straight through the Voidsky Realm. Perhaps that was the reason for the place's name. The flaming pillar connected the sky and earth of Orderia. The hole left by the flaming clouds sucked in by the vortex made it seem like the 'sky' was nowhere to be seen there.

"This is the legendary Voidsky Flame Pillar!"

"That's right. Is this your first time seeing it, Junior?"

"Yes. If we traveled here ourselves, it would've taken far too long."

"The Voidsky Flame Pillar is the source of the nova source. It's the place where the fundamental cosmic force of the sun is most concentrated. Every moment, divine patterns and nova source spring forth from there and fill the flaming clouds in the sky, which then spread to the rest of the world."

"During the previous nova source pulses, this pillar doubled in size. That's no doubt the most beautiful sight in all of Orderia."

"Look! The Voidsky Realm is below the Voidsky Flame Pillar. The Sky Palace is somewhere in there!"

"The competition is about to start soon!"

The disciples looked at the pillar in awe. The light from the pillar illuminated the burning passion in their eyes.

"There's so many people next to the pillar!"

"Of course. There's at least a billion participants, and ten times the number of spectators."

"Look at all those lifebound beasts!"

"Wow, there's one with more than seven thousand stars. Who does it belong to?"

"No idea. There are too many powerful people."

Even disciples that had spent their life in Orderia were stunned by the sheer scale, let alone Tianming and the rest who were seeing this for the first time. The Voidsky Flame Pillar continued spinning, letting out a strong gust that droned out a lot of noise.

Tianming came to understand how the pillar was formed as he listened to the disciples talk. If this was the place with the densest nova source, that meant the Sky Palace enjoyed the privilege of cultivating in the best location on the sun! On the opposite side of the sun, there must be another such pillar in the territory of the celestial orderians.

The Voidsky Flame Pillar was far too impactful a sight to see. However, Tianming was more impressed by the countless other races surrounding the pillar. As the celestial orderians wouldn't come to this place, it was filled with beastmasters. Given how vast the sun was, lifebound beasts here didn't have the habit of staying within their lifebound spaces, so they filled the entire area. There were beasts of all kinds of shapes and sizes, some larger than the azuresky qilin and others as small as Ying Huo. Even mythical beasts like phoenixes, qilins, dragons, and black tortoises were all over. There were also many beasts of

calamity, like taoties, taowus, hydras, and bifangs. There were many feline, fishlike, and insectoid beasts, as well as plant-type beasts.

### **Chapter 1154 – Sect Ranking**

"This world really is vast beyond imagining...." Tianming gazed in awe at the sheer spectacle. If it weren't for the sheer excess in space, the most beasts he could see at any given time would only be in the tens of thousands. Yet here, they were so spread out across his vision that it seemed like much more than that. As big as those beasts were, they looked like specks of dust beside the gigantic pillar. The fact that he was able to see so many beasts now meant that he was still quite some ways away from the pillar. No doubt, they would crowd together and block out his vision as he approached the land from which the nova source sprung. It was as if the true nature of this world was being unveiled before his eyes.

"The moon really pales in comparison to this," Lingfeng said.

"I don't even have the words to describe how I'm feeling now.... I feel so very small," Xiaoxiao said.

Though they weren't ignorant country bumpkins, this was still an experience that caused them to reevaluate themselves. The flaming pillar seemed to reignite the spark in their hearts. They were among the countless geniuses of the Myriad Solar Sects, but they still stood proud nonetheless.

"I bet this is how it feels like to compete with the lord of the sky on who's higher up." Tianming was certain that it was the nova source that was stoking the desires of all of them to dominate, and that included himself. Beauties aside, the endless possibilities when it came to one's empire, treasures, and loyal subjects was alluring enough. Naturally, beauties were still really important for Yu Ziqian, who stood next to Tianming.

"Tsk tsk tsk... first time?"

"You say that like you've been here before," Tianming said.

"I have... or at least I have to act like I have before my junior sisters."

"Screw off...."

The azuresky qilin advanced at full speed. The closer they came to the Voidsky Flame Pillar, the more they could feel the scorching sensation. The world was starting to feel like an oven.

"Boss, your sect isn't on the myriad sect ranking, right?" Yu Ziqian asked curiously.

"Why would you say that?" Tianming asked.

"Because you guys are entering the Voidsky Realm as disciples of Azuresoul Palace! If you do well, you'll be raising us up in the rankings. The higher up we are, the more resources we'll be allocated from the public pool. That's really important for the strength and growth of the sect."

Tianming finally understood. It was no wonder they regarded this competition among promising youths with so much importance. It wasn't just a question of reputation, they were also competing for resource allocation. The myriad sect rankings were surely supervised by the Sky Palace, otherwise it would hold no water. In other words, the Sky Palace was akin to a united council of the Myriad Solar Sects. Any matters that couldn't be solved by armed conflict would be handled by Sky Palace. A parallel could be

drawn between this and the Number One Summit, during which the key to the Kilostar Domain was awarded to the winner. The only difference was that the Nine Divine Realms didn't have an overarching body like Sky Palace to mediate their matters.

"Come to think of it, how high does the Azuresoul Palace rank?" Tianming asked.

"Hahahaha..." Yu Ziqian chuckled.

"What're you laughing at?"

"It's ranked thirty-eighth."

"Thirty-eighth?"

"Don't look down on that rank. We're thirty-eight out of ten thousand! The top ten sects are considered first rate, while the top hundred are second rate. And among them, we rank near the top. Needless to say, we're the hegemony of the Azurecloud Continent!"

"I see. So the top thousand are third-rate, and beyond that are fourth-rate sects?"

"More or less. The top ten or so sects have the biggest territories. Some of them united whole continents together. All of them have histories extending millions of years back and the resources they have are more than enough to split among themselves. These ten sects alone account for up to a third of the Myriad Solar Sects' forces."

"Is there a way to raise the Azuresoul Palace into the top ten?"

"There is."

"What is it?"

"If our sect can swallow up the other hundred or so factions in the Azurecloud Continent, controlling all the resources and having all the elites serve us, it would only take a few hundred years after that for us to catch up to the top ten factions."

Tianming was speechless. That would be far too difficult. "So how many ranks can we raise if the sect's disciples do really well at the Voidsky Realm?"

"If any of us can rank at the top ten in the imperial star ranking, we should be able to rise a rank. If there's more, we will rise even more. If any of us joins the Sky Palace, we'll rise at least three ranks! As small as those steps may seem, the sect ranking is a really tough competition. The Voidsky Realm is the only place those of the young generation can contribute to the sect ranking. Otherwise, it's up to the total might of the whole sect!"

"So what happens when you join the Sky Palace?"

"Well, everyone in the sun will hold me up on an altar. I wouldn't be able to stay weak even if I wanted to. I'd be a peak elite in the future with empires, beauties and treasures at my fingertips!" Yu Ziqian didn't hide his yearning at all. That was shared by all the other disciples of the sects, so this competition was sure to be a fierce one. No youth would put off the chance to gain fame and fortune on top of securing their sect's place in the hierarchy. Those that made it would be the envy of countless others.

"Is it hard to get on the imperial star ranking?" Tianming asked.

"The imperial star ranking contains the most brilliant of rising stars. What kind of person would such a magnificent figure be? While the ranking has ten thousand places, that's ten thousand out of a billion. It's a super small fraction. Most of those places are occupied by disciples of the first-rate sects, each of which would have more than ten thousand representatives in the Voidsky Realm. If any of our disciples are able to make it into the rankings at all, it'll send waves across the entire sect.

"As for the top ten of the imperial star ranking, they're the top ten most promising people of their generation in all of Orderia with the exception of the celestial orderians. Without a doubt, those people are all from the top ten first-rate sects. It's been more than a hundred years since anyone from the second-rate sects made it up there. Even if I don't make it into the Sky Palace, if I can rank in the top ten, I would still make history. Just imagining it drives me crazy! Boss, do you know what it feels like to be able to embrace countless beauties at the top of the pyramid?" Yu Ziqian's eyes were still glowing.

"Too bad Qing Zi messed up your plans, huh."

"Sigh... my life is full of misery...."

"No worries. I'll gain honor on your behalf and accept the beauties in your stead."

"Damn!"

The conversation made Tianming even more certain of his path. "So even if I don't join the Sky Palace or rank first, merely ranking in the top ten is enough to raise Azuresoul Palace's reputation. It'll be enough to secure a good foundation for myself."

He looked in the distance. Now that they were among the crowd, he couldn't see as many people and beasts as before. However, the Voidsky Flame Pillar looked magnitudes bigger. A nonstop droning noise could be heard from the Voidsky Realm.

"The grand imperial star that rises from this land and illuminates the world, eh..." Tianming saw many youths around the pillar, impatiently waiting for it to open. After that, all of them would enter and fight. As for the rules and other details, they would only find out within.

Yu Ziqian stood before Tianming with a gloomy expression.

"What's wrong?" Tianming asked.

"Those from the Supracloud Sanctuary are here. The person that pursued me from before knows of my 'weakness'. He might use that to cause trouble," Yu Ziqian said. He was being targeted. While he was only from a second-rate sect, many thought he could make it into the top ten spots of the imperial star ranking. He had attracted far too much attention; no doubt, the other sects would go all out to make sure he didn't succeed at any cost.

The Supracloud Sanctuary was ranked thirty-seventh, and they also resided in the Azurecloud Continent. It was quite surprising that a disciple whose master wasn't the head instructor would stand out so much. Tianming figured that there were many within the Azuresoul Palace itself that didn't want the best for Yu Ziqian as well.

The other sects' disciples were escorted by their sect masters, while the Azuresoul Palace only had Jiang Qingliu. At that moment, ten thousand people wearing robes with cloud patterns appeared in front of Tianming and the rest.

### **Chapter 1155 – Yun Tianque**

Compared to the youthful and varied clothing of the Azuresoul Palace disciples, the ten thousand disciples that had just arrived all wore the same uniform made of fine divine artifact fibers. Standing together, they looked strictly disciplined and didn't seem to be in a playful mood, a sign of a culture that completely differed from that of the Azuresoul Palace.

Perhaps due to their behavior and the type of cultivation they practiced, they had an aura of immortals from the clouds and looked to be of a higher class. However, the stuck-up gazes they shot at the Azuresoul Palace disciples belied the youth that lay beneath the superficial discipline they had and the clothing they wore. Some of them were stifling their laughter at the sight of Yu Ziqian.

"Supracloud Sanctuary..." Yu Ziqian spat with dissatisfaction. This was their biggest rival on the Azurecloud Continent. Both sects had part of the continent's name in their own name. Their factions had been competing for millennia, killing each other over territory and resources and gathering enmity through the generations. Both of them were obstacles in each other's ambitions to dominate the continent. The hundreds of other smaller factions on the continent were nothing in comparison to these two behemoths.

The continent wasn't small by any means, being at least more than twenty times the size of the Flameyellow Continent. Every inch of territory that was nourished by the nova source held naturally occurring cultivation resources. If either faction could dominate the entire continent, they would be able to become a first-rate sect among the Myriad Solar Sects. Countless disciples from both sects had killed one another over millions of years, nurturing both sides to always be competing against each other. Yu Ziqian's standout presence also made things more tense, considering his potential to raise his sect in the ranking, which would in turn tip the balance of power.

More importantly, the reason Tianming was so concerned about the Azuresoul Palace's status quo was that the Sky Palace wasn't somewhere he could just casually join. Only one person could take the top spot in the imperial star ranking every decade, and even then, it only came with the right to be tested by the Sky Palace. Nine out of ten people who tried weren't accepted, and it took an average of around a century for a new Sky Palace member to be born.

Tianming wasn't that proud. While he did aim to join the Sky Palace, he also wanted to keep a backup plan for himself. Now that he had made a friend like Yu Ziqian and was also a disciple of Azuresoul Palace, this sect was a place he could dig his roots into. In fact, he might have more freedom to act in a second-rate sect than a top tier one. If he could also rank among the top ten in the imperial star ranking, he could count on the Azuresoul Palace for his future growth. By then, his position would even be secure from some seniors.

As such, he already felt like one of the Azuresoul Palace disciples, given how readily they accepted him. He now saw the Supracloud Sanctuary as his enemy, just like they did. Looking at the ten thousand disciples, his eyes finally stopped at the one that led them. He stood atop a cloud before all ten thousand of them with his hands folded behind him. Despite having long black hair and a pair of white

eyebrows about fifty centimeters long, he still looked rather young. Even so, he was definitely not among the youthful. The most eye-catching part of his looks were his irises, or rather, lack thereof. Both of his eyes looked like cloudy seas, adding to the air of mystery around him.

"This is the sect master of the Supracloud Sanctuary, Yun Tianque. He's among the top figures of the Azurecloud Continent," Yu Ziqian said in a soft voice.

"I have a question..." Tianming said.

"What is it?"

"Is that thing underneath him his lifebound beast?" He was referring to the cloud that was ten thousand meters wide and some fifty meters thick. It looked like a floating platform made of cloudstuff. Though Tianming hadn't noticed it at first, he detected a pulse coming from the cloud. It even looked like it was breathing.

"That's right! His lifebound beast is a nimbus emperor. It ranks among the top among lifebound beasts on the continent. The sect is built upon its body and it floats above the clouds, hence their name."

"I see. What kind of lifebound beast is it?"

"It's rather unique. It's a cloud-like lifeform that's basically never been seen anywhere else."

"Truly wondrous."

That moment, Yun Tianque turned and looked at Jiang Qingliu, who said, "So, the sect master himself is escorting his disciples over, eh? They look rather fresh. No wonder you couldn't trust them to make this little trip." Hidden in his words was mockery for them sending people out to kill Yu Ziqian; it was a laughably cowardly matter. Had Yu Ziqian not swiftly run away, he would have been killed. He didn't even get to see who the assailant was, but knew that he was a tenth-level ascendant.

"These children of the clouds are indeed a little young. They can't compete with Brother Jiang's disciple, who's soon to join the Sky Palace. come to think of it, I look forward to seeing his fine performance in the Voidsky Realm." His expression was calm, though his words had a subtext if one read between the lines. The assailant, Chen Qian, stood not far from him and smiled at Yu Ziqian. He recalled how the brat had grovelled before him. In fact, the entire Supracloud Sanctuary knew, but they wouldn't expose it just yet. They planned to do so in full view of the audience.

"Goodbye and good luck." Yun Tianque merely stopped in front of them, but didn't apply any pressure, only giving Yu Ziqian one last look before turning to leave. Some of their disciples were stifling their laughter. However, the disciples of the Azuresoul Palace didn't know why.

"Once the chief disciple gets into the top ten of the imperial star ranking, they'll break out in tears."

"Yeah!"

After they left, more and more others gathered near the pillar until there was scarcely any space left.

"There's far too many elites, geniuses, and lifebound beasts...." Tianming couldn't see the end of them. The beasts only returned to the lifebound spaces when they got closer to the opening of the Voidsky Realm. That way, they'd be able to keep themselves hidden within. Even so, that still didn't free up that

much space in Tianming's vision. By now, there were about a billion people around him. He even saw a thousand people that the Azuresoul Palace had intelligence about, all of whom were stronger than Bai Junce. Among them, eight hundred were from the top ten sects!

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Eight days soon passed. Everyone stayed in their own areas without intermingling too much as they anxiously waited for the event to start. Then the Voidsky Flame Pillar opened up—the way to the Voidsky Realm was finally open.

### **Chapter 1156 – Skyward Stele**

The opening of the Voidsky Realm meant the competition for the imperial star ranking and the position in the Sky Palace would begin. All of Orderia, including the celestial orderians, would likely be watching it.

Perhaps due to the temperature, Tianming saw fighting spirit burning in every competitor's eyes.

Competition. Treasure. Fame. Rising to greatness. Leaving your mark. Dominating the world! For whatever reason, all of these young ones were raring to go.

“The victorious will have a long and glorious road ahead of them, and the respect of everyone. The losers will vanish and be forgotten.” To most of these disciples, just leaving their name on the imperial star ranking would be enough to bring glory to their ancestors and sect.

Only ten thousand names would make it from a billion competitors. You had to be a genius that could rise out of a hundred thousand people to do so!

As the flames rose up, youths began streaming toward the Voidsky Flame Pillar like moths being engulfed by flames. By Tianming's side, the disciples of the Azuresoul Palace were already eagerly taking out their disciple tokens. They rushed to be at the front of the pack.

“I heard the Voidsky Realm is actually an ancient battlefield!”

“Even though it's opened multiple times, there's always a disciple who gets a precious opportunity or inheritance.

“The inheritances can be found anywhere. I heard from my older brother that when he went in, he personally saw someone cultivate in front of a stone tablet and achieve a breakthrough. But it's very dangerous inside. Even setting aside the conflicts, there's still fatal divine hazards, fierce beasts, and venomous insects.”

Why was it that even though only ten thousand could make it on the imperial star ranking, there was a commotion involving a billion people—practically all of the disciples under thirty from the Myriad Solar Sects? That was because it was a place where fortune and danger coexisted, and unimaginable rewards could be found inside. Supposedly, it was the Sky Palace's gift to all the disciples.

“Some people shoot to greatness as soon as they come out of the Voidsky Realm. Others take such a huge blow that they lose their way and never recover. That's why this is the first turning point for us on our road to growing up.”

It was just like exams. It wasn't about how your usual standard was, but what you could show when it was time.

"Gogogo!"

A billion people was far too many, and just entering would take two hours.

Tianming, Lingfeng and Xiaoxiao moved forward at their own pace. By the time they reached the pillar, at least six hundred million had already entered.

"Take out the disciple tokens master gave you. Your information is already recorded on them. When you go in, you need to turn in your token so you can have the imperial star formation placed on you. It'll give you protection and the qualifications for the imperial star ranking," Yu Ziqian instructed. That was the reason why Jiang Qingliu had said they couldn't join without declaring their identity.

Following Yu Ziqian's instructions, they took out their disciple tokens and held them. With this right they had gained, it meant they hadn't saved Yu Ziqian for nothing.

They had just come into contact with the heat from the pillar when the flames and violent wind covered them.

"Continue onward." Yu Ziqian led the way.

Tianming found out that the deeper they went, the more intense the flames and winds became. It meant that the further you went, the harder it was to stay. To endure it, you would need a certain level of astral force and body. Just this condition alone would stop many disciples outside the pillar.

Tianming had already entered the Voidsky Realm. However, there didn't seem to be anything apart from the rock, gravel, and earth beneath his feet and the vortex of flame and wind ahead. At the same time, his token began to melt and burn to nothing from the flames, the Voidsky Realm's formation recording down their information. Then it formed a formation on Tianming's skin.

"This should be the imperial star formation." The competition had begun.

Supposedly, groups of more than ten would be forcefully dispersed by the wind. In this battlefield of a billion people, it would be hard to meet up again.

Tianming's squad only had four people. They hadn't even brought along Yu Ziqian's junior sister, as Tianming's group had too many secrets.

The Voidsky Realm was huge, and the next thing on the agenda would be to go in deeper.

"What's the rule for this competition? I'm a little confused," Ye Lingfeng asked.

"We have to find the Sky Palace's location. It's supposed to be some wooden house. Then, we enter," Tianming replied.

"That simple? How's that a competition? And how does that give us a ranking?" Lin Xiaoxiao was confused.

"Of course it isn't that simple. However, no one knows the exact format. It's all up to the Sky Palace. We'll find out later."



“Gan Gangan said the Voidsky Realm will be open for a very long time. It usually takes more than three months for the rankings to be finalized. It may even take a year. That means that the most important thing right now isn't to seize the initiative or whatever, but to think of a way to improve ourselves,” Tianming said.

“Who's Gan Gangan? Yu Ziqian?” Lin Xiaoxiao was still confused.

“Heh, what do you think?”

“Now that you mention it, Gan Gangan looks like Yu Ziqian!” Lingfeng said. [1]

“Well, it doesn't really matter in the end. No matter how you try to be innovative with the rules, in the end it just ends up thwacking people and seizing treasures! You can't go wrong with stepping on the heads of the Myriad Solar Sects' geniuses.” Tianming didn't have any killing intent, because this was just a fair competition. Here on the sun, it was a world of competition. Everyone wanted more resources to improve the fortunes of themselves and their descendants. But resources were always limited, so competition always existed!

Yu Ziqian was still leading the way in front. While Tianming and the other two were idly chatting, he suddenly stopped, then excitedly gestured toward them. Now that there weren't any other disciples around, he had completely stowed away his senior brother persona and was wholeheartedly serving Tianming and the other two. After all, he needed them to protect him. After Qing Zi had messed up his tempo, he would now be useless for an entire month. He couldn't even beat Lin Xiaoxiao now.

“Brother, do you see it?” Yu Ziqian said fawningly. His ability to change faces was truly perfection.

“See what?” Tianming pushed against the wind and flames to reach him. When he lifted up his head, he found a hundred-thousand-meter-tall stele. It was bathing in the flames, standing tall like a giant god overlooking all of life.

“That's the Skyward Stele, something you can never reach. No matter how you try, the distance from us is fixed. Even more amazingly, you can see it no matter where you are.”

“Eh. It's probably just some projection trick with a formation,” Tianming said.

“Can you do it?” Yu Ziqian asked.

“No.”

“Then why are you acting cool?” Yu Ziqian disdainfully questioned.

“Do you want to be thwacked?”

“Show me some mercy!”

The Skyward Stele was obviously for the imperial star rankings. Names would pop up soon enough, dazzling everyone. Not just the Voidsky Realm, but everyone would see it across all of Orderia. That was why all these youngsters were thirsting to add their name to it; it was every youngster's dream to receive the adoration of billions.

“Entering the Sky Palace is up to luck. Actually, my dream is simple. Top ten is good enough for me!” Yu Ziqian was filled with yearning as he spoke.

However, Tianming and the rest were already far ahead, leaving him behind in the dust.

“Hey, wait for me!” Yu Ziqian hurriedly tried to catch up to them.

1. It’s a play on how names are written in Chinese. 干干干 (Gan Gangan) looks almost like 于子干 (Yu Ziqian).

## Chapter 1157 - Caelumite

The Voidsky Realm had mountains, rivers, and even seas. Only, under this environment, the surface of the rivers and seas weren’t just stormy, but ablaze as well. The water wasn’t ordinary water, but a divine hazard with many divine ordered patterns. This kind of water would burn skin if the two came into contact.

As for the ground below, it had been so thoroughly burned that only ore was left. Any grain, if brought back to the Flameyellow Continent, could be used to create incredible weapons. So, obviously, Tianming took many grains of sand.

Alongside the wind and flames, giant waves crashed in the sea. The red water on the black soil made it look like it had been stained with blood. Boiling steam wafted from the water, looking like the site of a volcanic eruption. Compared to outside, it was like a furnace where everyone was being refined inside.

Even with Tianming’s Aeternal Infernal Phoenix constitution, his skin had still gone bright red from the heat.

“A billion people came in but it’s still quiet. So, the size of this place is probably at least as large as ten Flameyellow Continents. And we have to find one wooden house?” Tianming mused.

He did find it hard. They were in the outer area now. According to rumor, there were divine hazards deeper inside that could kill them. There were also beasts that could survive in these conditions. A nova source was beautiful, but it was also dangerous to get close to. The power was even more berserk than he had expected.

The group was currently in a valley. The region was slightly calmer, as they were protected from the wind and fire. Still, the ground was scorched black as well, and there were no plants around. Only plants that were like precious treasures could survive here.

“Haha, Xiaoxiao!” Tianming was guffawing when he saw her face. After suffering in the elements outside, her face had turned black like she had smeared charcoal all over it.

“I shouldn’t have followed you into this kind of horrible place.” Lin Xiaoxiao hurriedly rubbed her face.

“It’s nothing. Take a break, and let my Tortoise Bro bathe you in piss and wash your face.” Ying Huo laughed strangely. No matter how unpleasant this place was for others, it was a paradise for Ying Huo. From the start, it had just been casually sunbathing on Tianming’s head.

“Stupid bird.” Xiaoxiao couldn’t be bothered with it. Since she was a girl, Xiaoxiao spent a while cleaning up.

It wasn't easy finding a more relaxed place than this valley, so Tianming was prepared to rest here and arrange his thoughts.

Right in front of Yu Ziqian, Tianming took out the Spirit Core and placed it in front of him, activating the heavenly locus formation. He had asked Yu Ziqian multiple times and dozens of Azuresoul Palace disciples, but none had recognized it. Hence Yu Ziqian didn't know what was happening when Tianming activated the formation. That meant his portable grandpa didn't, either. And Tianming believed that even if that old man knew, as just a remnant soul, he wouldn't be able to do much with Lingfeng around.

Yu Ziqian was curious. "What's this?"

"It's a formation for supporting cultivation. It makes your cultivation better," Tianming replied.

"Ohhh, a caelum storage formation. I know this kind of formation. Is this some last minute sprint? Listen, it's useless. How much can you improve in just half a year? I think we should focus on the journey, whether it's finding the Sky Palace or ascending to the imperial star rankings." The Skyway Stele was currently empty, so Yu Ziqian wasn't anxious yet.

"Sure, history has many people who made sudden improvements here, and even many who brought their seniors' caeli. I heard that once, a disciple from one of the top ten sects on the myriad sect rankings used caelumite to bring in the caeli of a hundred thousand seniors. In the end, someone took it from him and the sect lost it for nothing. Caelum inheritances are the foundations of any sect, and losing them is a huge waste," Yu Ziqian chattered away.

"There's a billion fighters here. Getting enlightenment from battle would be a lot more effective than cultivating away. For people our age, we lack combat experience the most. My master said a hundred days of bitter cultivation is inferior to one life and death battle."

Tianming sighed. "Right now, your condition isn't too good. So, let's play safe for now, understand?"

"Alright." Yu Ziqian had just been giving a kind reminder. If Tianming had his own opinion, he wouldn't force it.

"Do a lot of people nowadays bring in caelum?" Tianming asked.

"Yeah. It's going to last a few months, so most will bring in some. It just won't be as ridiculous as a hundred thousand. Generally, I think the ones with high status will bring in one or two thousand. On the lower end, it'll be a few hundred. Almost everyone will bring some. But of course, I didn't," Yu Ziqian arrogantly said.

Tianming, on the other hand, was stunned to hear that. He exchanged a look with Xiaoxiao and grinned. "It wasn't a wasted trip. This place is a paradise for you, too."

A billion disciples... even if each only brought a hundred caeli, that was still a hundred billion caeli from a higher race! How could Tianming just go to a sect and rob them? Only in this Voidsky Realm would such an opportunity arise.

"You aren't going to rob people's caeli, are you?" Yu Ziqian's eyes widened.

"Why, do people not do that?"

“Yes, but it’s not really that useful. Azuresoul Palace has so many. For disciples like us, we never lack it.”

“That’s not mine though. What I want is caeli that belong to me,” Tianming said. Only his could be used to bless the Flameyellow Continent. Thus, Tianming had an additional goal now.

He made Yu Ziqian stand guard and prepared to enter Wondersky Realm. Then, something incredible happened—a massive eye appeared in the sky and coldly looked down on them.

The eye was purple, and immediately drew over flames. It gave Tianming and Lingfeng a huge fright, because Di Yi’s eye had been purple as well.

### **Chapter 1158 - Soaring Clouds and Rising Winds**

Tianming hurriedly put his heavenly locus formation away. Giving it a closer look, he noticed that the purple eye wasn't a living being's. Instead, it was merely a projection of the formation. It was a gigantic rock with a purple formation layered over it, making it look like an eye.

"What is it?" he asked.

"It's a skyward eye," Yu Ziqian said.

"For surveillance purposes?"

"More or less. There’s around a thousand of them in the Voidsky Realm that move about and broadcast interesting fights throughout Orderia."

"Only a thousand? It shouldn't be hard to make a billion, right?"

"It isn't, but it's pointless. Nobody cares about watching normal disciples fight. Putting aside a whole billion, most people would probably just be looking at around a thousand fighters, so that's a sufficient number. Not to mention, they frequently move around and prioritize important occurrences, like fights for treasures. The seniors will be able to see the highlights those eyes focus on. Additionally, they won't follow a single person the entire time. Everyone has things they'd rather keep secret, after all. The Sky Palace respects our privacy, and I'll be able to hide my status as long as the skyward eyes aren't around."

"I see. That's pretty great." It would be far more convenient for Tianming if he wasn't scrutinized the entire time, having as many secrets as he did.

Thankfully, I managed to put up the heavenly locus formation in time. It's one thing to show it to one or two people, but having it broadcast across the whole world is a different story. Some might just recognize it, he thought. He had decided to have Yu Ziqian stand guard whenever he wanted to go into the wondersky realm. For now, he didn't have any caeli on hand, so the Violetglory Pagoda would be a huge use to him. These days, he had been traveling a lot and didn't have time to cultivate, so he was growing a little impatient.

At that moment, the eye was looking right at them. Given its size, it should be able to capture an area ten thousand meters around them. Yu Ziqian let out a sudden cry.

"What's wrong?" Tianming asked.

"The skyward eye locked on to us. That means it senses that a crucial fight will break out here!"

"Then it must have something to do with you." Tianming, Lingfeng, and Xiaoxiao were basically unknown in Orderia, so the eye wouldn't care about them. It had to be zooming in on Yu Ziqian, who had a huge reputation despite being a disciple of a second-rate sect, as he was said to potentially rank in the top ten of the imperial star ranking and change the status quo of the Azurecloud Continent for good.

Right after Yu Ziqian sensed impending danger, a blood-curdling voice came ringing from the firestorms behind them. "Yu Ziqian, you shall not leave!" That person sounded impatient for a fight. The fact that he directly called out Yu Ziqian before arriving meant that he was familiar with him. No doubt, they had zeroed in on him the moment they spotted him. They were surely among those of the Supracloud Sanctuary.

"It's Yun Feiyang..." Yu Ziqian grit his teeth as he flapped the fan of beauties in his hand to hide his fear. Yun Feiyang was the last person he wanted to meet in the Voidsky Realm.

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Far away at the center of the Azurecloud Continent, there was a cloud island floating ten thousand meters up in the sky. It was formed from the bodies of nimbus emperors throughout the countless generations. There was a sprawling city on the cloud, glowing with prosperity. It was a city above the clouds, almost paradise. The humans of the Flameyellow Continent would certainly see it as a utopia. It was a sacred place in the Azurecloud Continent, called Supracloud Island. There was a vortex of clouds at the center of the island, out of which a projection was cast. Within it, one could see roughly ten youths charging toward their prey.

"The skyward eye is focused on them now."

"It's Senior Brother Feiyang and Senior Sister Xiaolu. All ten of them are there."

"They're a group of ten, then."

"If the skyward eye is centered on them, a conflict is about to happen. Who are they facing off against?"

There were hundreds and thousands of cultivators there, quite a few of whom were thirty and above. Most of them were silently watching, unlike the children. They were cultivators of the Supracloud Sanctuary, as shown by their signature cloud-patterned robes that gave them a saintly aura and look.

"Silence!" someone shouted as the children were playing around. Not a single sound could be heard after that. The children poked their tongues out, but didn't dare to make a sound. They anxiously watched in anticipation. The seniors watching beside them were filled with killing intent, knowing who their disciples were chasing down.

The image captured by the skyward eye caused the entire Azurecloud Continent to tense up; the conflict between the Azuresoul Palace and Supracloud Sanctuary was a persistent topic of conversation across the continent. And this time around, rankings were at stake and the performance of the young disciples was even more important. Having heard that Yu Ziqian was someone who could rank among the top ten, everyone turned to look at a valley when he showed up on the screen.

Even those outside the Voidsky Flame Pillar could see what the skyward eye saw, much clearer in fact. Yun Tianque and Jiang Qingliu watched closely, the former smiling when they showed up. Jiang Qingliu

merely secretly cursed in contempt. They knew the truth about Yu Ziqian and were planning to publicly expose him, ruining the false legend of Azuresoul Palace.

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Within the Voidsky Realm, Tianming and the others saw a group of youths in cloud-patterned robes. There were ten of them charging straight into the valley for Yu Ziqian, scattering to ensure that nobody could escape.

While that was normal behavior for most people, they were actually trying to challenge Yu Ziqian, someone that was said to be a fourth-level constellier. Working in a group of ten was the upper limit of the Voidsky Realm, so they had to compensate with other tricks to gain an advantage.

"Make sure not to let even a single fly escape!"

Tianming looked at the leader who had just given the order. He was a handsome youth with long hair and white eyebrows, but not as long as Yun Tianque's. He looked younger and more handsome in comparison, making him among the best-looking young men there. His elegant aura and cold demeanor was a sure predictor of his popularity among the female disciples of his sect.

Naturally, the Azuresoul Palace had some information about the Supracloud Sanctuary's peak disciples, Yun Feiyang especially. He was acknowledged as a descendant of a powerful elite. Being the youngest son of the sect master, he had inherited the true legacy of Yun Tianque. Though he was only nineteen and inferior to Yu Ziqian in terms of cultivation and reputation, he was much stronger than Bai Junce. In Yu Ziqian's current state, he couldn't take on Yun Feiyang even if there were a hundred of him, let alone the other nine peak disciples that accompanied him who were tenth-level ascendants and above.

There was another refreshingly cute and beautiful girl next to Yun Feiyang. Her voice was gentle and soft and her eyes were big, accentuating her sweet smile. She was easily the most beautiful girl Tianming had seen on the sun. She was none other than Yun Xiaolu, the personal disciple of the sect master and a member of the Yun Clan. She was actually Yun Feiyang's niece, but their relationship resembled that of siblings more. Apart from those two, the eight other disciples finished encircling Tianming's group, mockingly glaring at Yu Ziqian.

"Yu Ziqian, don't waste any effort," Yun Feiyang said coldly, exerting huge pressure from his gaze.

Though Yu Ziqian was nervous, he managed to feign a relaxed calm. Crossing his arms, he tilted his head as he looked at Yun Feiyang, then looked past him at the cute Yun Xiaolu. "I've heard that Miss Xiaolu is already a top beauty despite her young age. It seems that the rumors are true. The world looks so much more colorful with you in it. I wonder if I have the honor of exchanging transmission stones with you, Sister?"

"Shut up!"

The disciples of the Supracloud Sanctuary raged at the fact that Yu Ziqian was still able to hit on someone in such a moment. Though Yun Xiaolu had been praised, she was raving mad. "Senior Brother Chen Qian said you're merely a soft stick of paper. We'll expose your tricks before all to see."

"What? Soft stick? You misunderstand. My stick is as hard as steel. You can test it out if you don't believe me," Yu Ziqian said, raising one brow.

"Haha! Senior Brother Yu is as flirtatious as ever!" Many Azuresoul Palace disciples were entertained by the exchange.

### **Chapter 1159 - Nameless Pawn**

"Enough. Don't bother talking to a mongrel like him. Just focus on humiliating him," Yun Feiyang said, seemingly calm though he was on the edge of exploding with rage. Now that they had surrounded them, he turned to look at Yun Xiaolu. "Don't bother answering. Since he dares to offend you, I'll slap his face into pulp and completely humiliate him before the Azuresoul Palace."

"Yes, Senior Brother." Yun Xiaolu mischievously poked her tongue out. "Quick, teach that untrained dog a lesson."

"Just watch."

Though they knew any of the ten of them would be able to deal with Yu Ziqian, according to Chen Qian's information, Yun Feiyang wanted to do the honors of humiliating the Azuresoul Palace. He would make this legend a laughingstock for everyone to see.

"How could the seniors of a sect that ranks thirty-eighth possibly let a mongrel like you trick them about your talent?" Yun Feiyang's irises suddenly vanished, giving his eyes a cloudy look. It seemed as if his entire being had faded away as he charged toward Yu Ziqian.

"Fight me!" Yun Feiyang didn't even bother summoning his lifebound beast and went with a slap, forcing the clouds to take the shape of a gigantic palm that swept toward Yu Ziqian, who was already shuddering. Despite the bravado he had shown earlier, he definitely wouldn't be able to take that strike. If he was exposed, the Azuresoul Palace would be greatly affected. Both he and his master would be hounded by countless others. Even so, his expression didn't change as the palm was about to land. He was desperately calling out to Tianming in his heart.

Nobody paid the other three any attention. Then Tianming struck, piercing the Grand-Orient Sword upward through the cloud palm and countering Yun Feiyang's strike. The latter blocked the strand of sword ki, but it still managed to scrape his face and leave a bloody wound. Though that was no serious injury, it was a huge humiliation, especially so when it was a complete nobody who did it!

Yu Ziqian narrowed his eyes and smiled. Mockingly, he began, "Yun Feiyang? Who do you think you are? Do you think you have the right to fight me? You look like an overactive monkey. Well then, I'll let my junior handle you. If you can't even deal with him, stop acting tough before Sister Xiaolu, alright?"

Tianming almost puked from the acting.

"Nonsense." Yun Feiyang was still levelheaded. No matter how Yu Ziqian mocked him, he was certain that he was a weakling for real. There was no way someone of Chen Qian's status would dare to lie about something like this.

However, Tianming had his eyes on Yun Feiyang and wouldn't allow him to touch Yu Ziqian, who was Tianming's backup in the Azuresoul Palace. There was no good in letting him be exposed. Without waiting for Yun Feiyang to say another word, he quickly followed up, splitting his sword into two and charging in.

"Junior Brother Li, show him a good time. Make sure to keep him occupied so I can spend some quality time with Sister Xiaolu," Yu Ziqian said.

"Stop him!" Yun Feiyang didn't want to waste time on a nameless pawn like Tianming, but before he could finish, he noticed that Tianming was shockingly fast. What was even more shocking was that the bird on his shoulder was actually a lifebound beast. The bird spat out infernal flames as it took the form of a flaming phoenix. Only then did Yun Feiyang realize in shock that its eyes were densely packed with stars, so many that it was impossible to quickly count them!

Out came Infernal Blaze and Sixpath Infernal Lotus, followed by Infernal Haze, which split Ying Huo into tens of thousands of flaming apparitions, out of which the pair of Grand-Orient Swords struck. Yun Feiyang was completely driven into a corner without anyone else being able to do anything about it!

"Who is this? There isn't any information about him at all!" Yun Feiyang's heart skipped a beat. Amidst the flames, Tianming's white hair fluttered as his cold, black and gold eyes stared at him. This was a sensation that was completely unfamiliar to Yun Feiyang. Despite being of similar age, he felt like Tianming had much more experience, much deeper ones, than even those his seniors might have. That single strike alone was enough to cause alarm bells to ring in him. In fact, it felt to him that not even Yu Ziqian's demeanor and aura could compare to Tianming's.

As he was busy figuring out who Tianming was, a black cat appeared and zipped to the top of his head in the blink of an eye. Its small body burst with countless hundred-meter-long lightning bolts, the force of which sent the other approaching disciples flying off. An all-out battle had broken out.

Tianming's stellar performance came out of nowhere. He wasn't going to use his totems before them and would fight as a pure beastmaster. Though that would mean he wouldn't be fighting at his peak, he wanted to fight on an even playing field with a first-level constellier and see how he measured up to a genius in Orderia.

Lightning and fire intermingled, leaving blemishes on Yun Feiyang's face. The area around him was blasted into an abyss hundreds of meters deep. Even his clothes were frayed and blackened. He had seen the complete intent to kill from those mystical eyes. "This person is a hundred times stronger than Yu Ziqian! I'll take him on. The rest of you, take care of Yu Ziqian!"

He was no fool and knew that exposing Yu Ziqian would render him great merit. Not to mention, he still had a numerical advantage. Tianming had to deal with him and wouldn't be able to stop the others, so things could still go on as planned.

"Understood!"

Yun Xiaolu included, the disciples of Supracloud Sanctuary had been holding back their anger against Yu Ziqian. They immediately summoned their lifebound beasts and sent them charging toward Yu Ziqian, Lingfeng, and the rest.

Yun Xiaolu was only eighteen, yet she was an ascendant at Orderian Sky. She was quite a bit more talented than Bai Junce. The others were tenth or eleventh-level ascendants, geniuses of the current generation of disciples.



With Lingfeng beside him, Yu Ziqian didn't look the least bit troubled despite how he actually felt. "Yun Feiyang, are you really sending this beauty into my arms? Your mind truly works in wondrous ways."

At that moment, a huge tree appeared beside him. As its black roots dug into the ground, countless branches and leaves sprouted. Its back facing the valley, Xian Xian was able to cover the entire battlefield!

### **Chapter 1160 - Nimbus Phantombeast**

"Waahh, it's so hot here! I want to go back!" Xian Xian started complaining the moment it came out. This environment wasn't good for it.

"Just endure it for a while. There's a lot of beasts here, so I'll let you eat your fill later."

"That's better!" Xian Xian's eyes immediately shone.

Tianming directed it to protect Xiaoxiao. As for Yu Ziqian, it would protect him while it was at it. Lingfeng worked with Xian Xian to hold off their opponents so it wasn't much of a problem.

Yun Xiaolu's lifebound beasts' bloodline were on par with Bai Junce's empyrean baize. They were three stags that looked like they had come out from an immortal realm. They weren't large, only a hundred meters long. They radiated a dreamy light and had majestic antlers that shone with a nine-colored light. These beautiful lifebound beasts were called nonachromatic cloud stags, and they were some of the best lifebound beasts of the Supracloud Sanctuary. With these divine stags as her companions growing up, Yun Xiaolou was definitely like a young fairy; however, in Lingfeng's eyes, there were no beauties but only opponents before him! He instantly went for her with his Heartpiercer Soulblade attack. Although it didn't land, Yun Xiaolou still felt her soul sting, making her yelp in pain.

"Brother Feng, you need to be more tender!" Yu Ziqian felt his heart bleeding as he watched Lingfeng ramp up his viciousness.

"What about you?" Yu Ziqian gave Xiaoxiao a bitter look.

"Don't look at me, I'm trash too," Xiaoxiao said.

"Good, one less monster. Wait, 'too'? Hey, I'm not trash!" Yu Ziqian's eyes widened.

"If you say so." Xiaoxiao ignored him, all of her attention on Tianming. Lingfeng and Xian Xian had taken action to stop the Supracloud Sanctuary disciples, while Tianming used his full strength to fight Yun Feiyang.

Ying Huo, Lan Huang and Meow Meow all appeared. Four elements, all spread out among three different lifebound beasts, immediately drew countless peoples' attention. In fact, the entire Azurecloud Continent was fervently discussing Tianming's identity, because he was able to challenge Yun Feiyang!

After getting over his initial shock, Yun Feiyang quickly calmed down and his lifebound beasts flew out from his lifebound space. As expected, they were three white clouds that were all extremely similar to Yun Tianque's nimbus emperor. They were so similar that the only difference was probably the number of stars in their eyes.

Tianming was familiar with Yun Feiyang's data from the Azuresoul Palace's intelligence. He knew that this cloud-like beast was called a nimbus phantombeast. While he couldn't see any eyes, they had at least four thousand and five hundred stars, roughly equal to Tianming's beasts.

The three clouds were all over a thousand meters long. They covered the sky above the valley and sucked in the wind and flames, becoming a fiery cloud. The most terrifying part of these nimbus phantombeasts was that they had soft, cottony bodies that could twist and change.

Preparations complete, the three clouds crashed down toward Tianming and his beasts!

The roaring of wind and fire filled the area. Despite being clouds, the nimbus phantombeasts still unleashed roars like a giant beast's.

"So this is a genius beastmaster of Orderia!" One look was enough for Tianming to confirm that the Supracloud Sanctuary's number one genius this generation was indeed of a high quality. He was hidden in the cloud, briefly appearing now and then.

Ying Huo and the other beasts' attacks were like rocks dropping into the sea, simply vanishing as the nimbus phantombeasts sucked them in.

After nullifying these attacks, Yun Feiyang worked together with his beasts to attack. First, nine short spears, each only one meter long, appeared by his side. However, their sharp points were over half a meter long and gleaming. Yun Feiyang held two of them, while the other seven flew around him.

In truth, these weren't melee weapons, but a type of thrown weapon. They were fourth grade divine weapons with a core divine pattern, 'Instant'. That gave the flying spears a terrifying speed that gave it the reputation of slaying an enemy instantly within a thousand meters. When combined with the Supracloud Sanctuary's battle art, Supracloud Limitless Spear Art, they had formidable attack power.

As for the nimbus phantombeasts, they protected his body by combining offense and defense. They could also suppress the enemy and had wondrous abilities. A beastmaster hiding within them to pick off the enemy was a wonderful synergy.

A spear shot out from the centermost cloud, tearing through the air and arriving in front of Tianming.

He reacted quickly, using his Grand-Orient Sword to knock away the spear. However, the collision made his arm numb. Thankfully, the Grand-Orient Sword was made of a sturdy material and withstood the power.

The deflected spear made a loop and quickly returned to Yun Feiyang. He didn't wait, continuing to launch his spears at Tianming and his beasts. Although there were only nine spears, they still gave the sensation of filling the entire sky.

The left and right nimbus phantombeasts attacked Lan Huang and the Royal Chaosfiend Meow Meow. They stuck to them, enveloping the two large beasts and starting to shrink.

These were two separate abilities; Swallow, which allowed them to constrict Lan Huang and Meow Meow, and Cloudbind, which caused them to squeeze like a boa constrictor and shatter the bones of their prey.

“His lifebound beasts are goners after being captured by the nimbus phantombeasts.” Many spectators had this evaluation.

However, it didn’t matter how miraculous the lifebound beasts of Orderia were. Even if they were exceeded by five levels, Primordial Chaos Beasts were still the most miraculous existences.

Lan Huang’s body, for example, had always been an innate gift unrelated to its cultivation stage. Combined with the evolution from the Starfiend’s Sword and Greenspark Tower, it gave a massive roar and its Kilofold Rings formed. Its giant, hedgehog-like body began to struggle back. No matter how many injuries there were, the Greenspark Tower would heal them as long as they weren’t fatal.

“Get lost!” Lan Huang even used the Primordial Wheel. It curled its body up, surrounding itself with the sharp mountains on its back and rolled forward, smashing itself into the mountainside.

The nimbus phantombeast was a soft lifebound beast. While it had effective control methods and great constriction force, it was lacking a swift decisive blow. It would be unable to be lethal to Lan Huang in a short period of time. When Lan Huang slammed into the mountainside with enough force to crack it, the phantombeast gave a shriek as it was unable to withstand that impact.

As for Meow Meow, its Blitzbane, Worldbolt Blast empowered its lightning abilities. The nimbus phantombeast’s entrapment even just gave it the perfect environment to build up lightning. It locked down every lightning ability Meow Meow unleashed, storing more electricity in the area. When Meow Meow used its Cosmic Lance, it directly punched a hole in the cloudy body. Even though it wasn’t fatal for a nimbus phantombeast’s non-biological body, it was still enough for Meow Meow to escape.

After Meow Meow escaped, the phantombeast was forced to switch to its reserves of wind and flames to try crushing Meow Meow. Alas, Ying Huo’s presence made the flames utterly useless.

Using its Blazebane, Cosmic Blade, Ying Huo grew its body as large as possible. It didn’t care what kind of body the enemy had, it simply had to charge in and tear it apart from the inside! After piercing into a cloud, Ying Huo used its Skyscorch Featherblast.

The nimbus phantombeast was riddled with holes, and it forced Yun Feiyang to leave its body.

“Sorry, I’m just too awesome, you lousy beast!”

The cloud writhed as it tried dislodging Ying Huo from its body. In response, Ying Huo switched to using Infernal Haze, countless little birds popping up within the cloud. However, every bird was armed with a Cosmic Blade of its own. It didn’t matter how strong the phantombeast was, or how hard it was to kill. Ying Huo was like an unrelenting insect that ate away at it from the inside.

In truth, nimbus phantombeasts were top-tier beasts. If one wasn’t able to counterattack, they wouldn’t be able to struggle and could only wait to be squeezed to death.

Still, if you could counterattack like Ying Huo, then it was no longer terrifying, just annoying to kill!

Despite that, Tianming still felt that his opponent’s combat style was quite dangerous. If he didn’t have a counter, he could only wait for death by Yun Feiyang’s flying spears.

The moment Yun Feiyang was forced out of the cloud, Tianming didn’t hesitate to seize the opportunity and closed the distance.

