

## The Ages 1201

### Chapter 1201 - Grandpath Fiend Pill

If there were nine dragon palaces within the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb, there should be nine different treasures. Tianming was aware of the Lifesteal Silverdragon, Dragonblood Desecration and yinyang skyscorch pill so far. While the former two were defended by grade-four divine formations, this pill of the Blackdragon Palace was actually hidden in the body of a gigantic nine-headed dragon golem. The young man Zhan Yuance, who fought like a beast with his kin, had lifebound beasts hundreds of meters tall with thousands of stars. They were definitely going after this pill as well.

"When did he obtain the yinyang skyscorch pill?" Tianming asked the Azuresoul Palace disciple.

"Not too long ago. He defeated quite a number of dragon golems and obtained a wardrum formation. Then we started to hear drumming somewhere else and secretly followed it. The resonance from the war drum actually came from that black dragon."

"Wardrum formation?" That must mean that Zhan Yuance had come to this place through the same means they did, just sooner because he was nearer to the place. Interestingly, Tianming didn't hear the resonance from Zhan Yuance's wardrum formation, only his own. He couldn't really figure out the secrets of his drum for now. Instead, his attention was captured by that grade-seven divine pill. "Do you see it clearly now?"

"More or less. If I'm not mistaken, it's a grandpath fiend pill. It's no less impressive than a yinyang skyscorch pill and its main ingredient is the fruit of the sacred fiend tree. Those have grade-seven divine patterns called fiendpath worlds. Patterns like those contain arcane mysteries of the fiendish path." Yu Ziqian finished speaking and turned to look at Lingfeng. Obviously, a pill like this was suited for him.

"Understood." No matter what, allowing Zhan Yuance to get the pill would mean Tianming would have little chance to stay on top of the ranking.

"Are you planning to fight? It's a little risky. He's no Lan Feilin, and I'm not in peak condition. Zhan Yuance is also strong beyond imagination at the fifth level," Yu Ziqian said, worried.

Tianming observed a little while longer and had a rough idea. That three-meter-tall youth was no doubt the strongest among the billion participants—definitely stronger than Weisheng Moran based on his performance now. He struck with his fist and staff and nobody seemed to be able to stop him.

"Going against him head-on might not work. I need a chance to sneak in an attack. You guys stay here and wait. If things get out of hand, run."

It wasn't that Tianming was overestimating himself. Instead, he had considered many factors. First, the divine pill was far more tempting than divine artifacts in the short term. Second, if it was someone else, they could have the pill for all Tianming cared, but Zhan Yuance had already won one pill. If he was allowed to get this one as well, there would be no stopping him in future conflicts. Tianming's main goal was to join the Sky Palace, so he couldn't just sit and watch them take the pill.

"Taking action is a must, but it must be careful and planned." After he told them his intentions, he had them wait together while he, Ying Huo, and Meow Meow waited for a chance. So far, the wargodeans had stopped everyone else from interfering. The moment anyone took a step forward, they would be

cruelly ganged up upon. They didn't even bother with verbal threats like the Blueblood Ocean; instead, they struck without warning and made sure to terrify those watching into inaction. There was no chance to approach them undetected at all.

I'm sure Zhan Yuance knows about me. If I lose, he'll get the Lifesteal Silverdragon too. It was a really high-risk move. Right as he thought that, his chance arrived. The paths leading to Blackdragon Palace weren't closed off. At that moment, the sound of drumming came from all around. Then all kinds of chaos broke out as roaring dragons appeared.

"Move aside!"

"Dragon golems!"

"So many of them!"

The golems swarmed into the Blackdragon Palace as the crowd panicked. Some of them passed through the crowd without harming them, going straight for the wargodeans within. In almost no time at all, tens of thousands of them had come in, like what had happened at the Blooddragon Palace. But this time, the wargodeans were also facing off against the nine-headed dragon golem.

Chaos immediately broke out as the wargodeans were forced to deal with the new dragon golems. As they weren't as strong as the main black dragon, the wargodeans were able to hold on even against ten thousand of them for a short time with their lifebound beasts. However, many disciples who were just watching also thought this was their chance. Those from second-rate sects also had their own sense of pride. Having been completely oppressed for so long, they immediately spotted the chance to rebel together.

"Charge!"

"Everyone deserves the right to fight for that treasure!"

"Let's go together!"

This time was completely different from the time with Lan Feilin. It was hard to suppress others' desires in obtaining a treasure of this caliber with threats alone. When the status quo tipped, the crowd immediately erupted all at once. Putting aside the wargodeans, even the dreamless celestials couldn't hold on. There were nearly ten thousand others beside them.

"Perfect." Tianming hid himself in the crowd and charged in with them. No matter how elite those that tried to stop them were, they immediately crumbled from the sheer numbers. Fortunately, the dragon golems saw new people entering their range and diverted some of their own to take them on. It was a complete free for all within the Blackdragon Palace. Most disciples had their eyes on the divine pill and desperately swarmed toward the huge dragon.

There were so many beasts and people in the surroundings that Tianming could barely make out what he saw; he couldn't even tell where the nine-headed dragon was. All kinds of roars and sounds of weapons clashing could be heard. Ying Huo and Meow Meow were shocked back into the lifebound space from the sheer chaos.

"It's there!" Tianming finally saw the black dragon's tail amidst a cacophony of totemic calamities. Immediately, he swung the Lifesteal Silverdragon thousands of meters away to wrap around the tail. Then he pulled, causing the chain to shrink and quickly closing the distance. Just like before, far too many people were gathered near the dragon, though many of them were flung away, the force from the impact destroying their imperial star formations. When Tianming gripped the blades on the dragon, his hand was immediately cut. Then, black flames from the dragon enveloped him whole.

"Trying to escape, huh?" Tianming grabbed the dragon's body with his black arm. As it was flinging other people off of itself, Tianming secured himself by wrapping his chain around its body. Attacks were fired off nonstop amidst the chaos, with some having seen Tianming and trying to take the chain from him, only to be killed.

"Head toward its heart!"

That was the spot most people were looking at, as it was where the pill was located. Tianming knew that the advantage he had over so many others was that he could simply bypass formations.

"Scram!"

No matter how much the dragon struggled, the person that worried it the most was still there: Zhan Yuance. He already had a winning strategy to use against the dragon golem, but the sudden inclusion of all those disciples and smaller dragon golems had ruined it. His current mood was far from pleasant, though the wargodeans still managed to hold on somewhat as the dragon golems also targeted some of the other participants.

"Make way! Let's end it quickly!" he roared. Any wargodean that could afford to back off did so and protected him. They had been battling for half an hour and so far, and the black dragon was battered and had even lost two heads. It was on its last proverbial legs. Even the divine patterns on its golem formation were messed up. Zhan Yuance and the rest were on the brink of victory.

"As long as I get another grade-seven divine pill, nobody will stop me from entering the Sky Palace! Quick!"

The wargodeans' blood boiled, as victory was within their grasp.

"Even if we give our lives away, we have to take the divine pill for the Nine-five Prince!"

"Drop everything and stop the black dragon with our bodies if we need to!"

They fearlessly charged in with their beasts. The strongest fighters near Zhan Yuance were none other than his five beasts. They all had really high levels and around four thousand and eight hundred stars. One of the savage beasts was even past five thousand. They were all called goldenmane skyapes.

The apes were humanoid in build and covered in golden muscles, much like Zhan Yuance himself. However, they had an extra layer of golden fur that burned with a kind of flame and their limbs had curved talons as sharp as divine artifacts. Each claw strike they unleashed on the black dragon created blinding sparks.

**Chapter 1202 - Goldenmane Skyapes**

They weren't just average apes; they had the heads of mighty lions above their agile, humanoid bodies. The heads had thick manes of gold as well as gigantic mouths. Their roars were no different from that of real lions. Apart from that, their golden fangs were their most powerful weapons.

Zhan Yuance wielded his grade-seven divine artifact and fought alongside his beasts, his eight ears on prominent display. That was the reason nobody could match up to him; he was far too overwhelming!

At that moment, all the wargodean beasts, led by the five skyapes, pressed down on the nine-headed dragon. The dragon's heads were covered in blades, and even the slightest movement could cause damage, yet the beasts were using their own bodies to press it down, injuries and death be damned. Such was the ferocity of the wargodeans. Many were willing to sacrifice their lifebound beasts for the Nine-five Prince. If it weren't for the chaos around them, they would never have had to resort to such a risky method. As the black dragon roared, the beasts came down on it, followed by the wargodeans as they locked the dragon's joints with their divine artifacts, pinning it firmly to the ground.

"Remove everyone from the dragon's body!" Zhan Yuance ordered as he swung his golden staff toward the heart of the dragon. The others on the dragon were caught up in its struggles, as well as the attacks of the wargodeans. Some of them were struck by lifebound beast abilities or the blades on the dragon. Soon, imperial star formations were shattering one after another. The formations could only protect them to a certain extent, so being hit by a barrage of attacks like that could potentially be fatal.

"Prince, they've mostly been cleared out!"

When Zhan Yuance heard that, he ordered them all to apply pressure together. Though many disciples were still causing trouble, nobody was able to stop Zhan Yuance and his beasts from dealing the fatal blow. The golden staff smashed straight into the heart of the black dragon, followed by the five goldenmane skyapes' bites and scratches, forcefully damaging the golem formation. Even so, the formation held up.

"One more time!" Zhan Yuance furrowed his brow and pressed on. This might be the last chance he got! There were still thousands of other disciples swarming toward them. "I'll remember every single one of you! Even if I can't tell you apart, I'll be able to recognize your voices with my hearing! Even if you leave the Voidsky Realm, I'll make sure the wargodeans make your sects pay the price for what you've done!"

His threats shook quite a few of them, though none of them could have imagined that the black dragon would suddenly roar as the light faded from its body before the second barrage of strikes had even connected. Its gigantic body crumbled, causing the thousands of blades to fall to the ground. The formation had been breached!

Zhan Yuance was puzzled, thinking that perhaps his first wave of strikes had worked and the effect was only delayed. But right after that, he saw something that utterly enraged him. A white-haired youth took a black pill and put it into his spatial ring. It wasn't just him, all the other participants and wargodeans were shocked.

"It's Li Tianming from the Azuresoul Palace!" they all cried. They fumed and raged, having paid a huge price for the sake of that pill, only for Tianming to pop out of nowhere. Even so, they weren't the ones who truly destroyed the formation.

As a result of stopping himself from being seen, Tianming noticed that he had suffered quite a few injuries. But fortunately, the black dragon was large enough, allowing him to sneakily undo the formation by disrupting its patterns and take the grandpath fiend pill. This wasn't a time to stay and fool around.

"Let's go." Tianming's Lifesteal Silverdragon flashed and hooked onto the ceiling. Then, it rapidly shrank, pulling him upward before others could react and allowing him to escape the rapidly-forming encirclement. Meow Meow emerged from the lifebound space in its Regal Chaosfiend form; as it had been accelerating in the lifebound space for a while by running in circles, it was already at peak velocity. With a flash of black lightning, it took Tianming with it and disappeared.

"Chase them down! Kill them!" Zhan Yuance was furious. He charged toward Tianming like a madman along with the other wargodeans. There were also countless participants in front of Tianming, who immediately reacted and tried stopping him. Tianming had both Lifesteal Silverdragon and the grandpath fiend pill, but he was only around a second-level constellier in power. He was basically a moving treasure chest.

"Stop him!"

Cries rang out one after another from the desperate participants, though it wasn't out of rage. People were just glad that a chance like this had come to them. In fact, they would probably be happier if the pill ended up with Tianming rather than Zhan Yuance, since at least they would have a chance of stopping him.

The wargodeans' rage simmered to a peak. The reward for their hard-fought efforts had been stolen just like that. Zhan Yuance charged toward Tianming like a rising meteor. Though his five apes were huge, they were really agile thanks to their powerful bodies and astralforce. They easily kept up with their master's speed and widened their distance from the other wargodeans.

Any man or beast that stood in their way would be harshly flung aside, and chaos broke out again. As far as the rest were concerned, Tianming would be a far easier target than the wargodeans.

### **Chapter 1203 - Fly of Azuresoul Palace**

Everyone was thinking that as long as they could get a divine pill, even if they were eliminated from the Voidsky Skirmish, it was still the deal of a lifetime. That was a grade-seven divine pill, after all!

"Go!"

"He's coming here."

"Stop him! Don't break his imperial star formation!"

Tianming had thought that only the wargodeans would give chase, only for the other participants to be just as desperate. In fact, most of them tried to stand in his way. "Meow, you're up!"

Meow Meow zipped through the huge crowd. Hundreds of people tried to attack and stop them from the front while the wargodeans were charging behind them. As Meow Meow ran, it unleashed countless abilities. The blasts of lightning cleared quite a bit of the path, paralyzing and even charring many

disciples along the way. It was as if Tianming had returned to the time when he was fighting tens of thousands of gods alone in the skies of the Flameyellow Continent.

Meow Meow used its full power as a Genesis Chaos Thunderfiend to evade any obstacles in its path. Not to mention, its Ninefold Chaos Thunderscape afforded it some measure of protection. People were falling left and right in the Blackdragon Palace. The chaos from all those beasts bumbling around caused quite a few people to lose sight of Tianming; he was much smaller than the black dragon from before, after all. His relatively small size and rapid speed allowed him to swiftly disappear.

He turned back and looked through the chaotic crowd, seeing the golden flames still there. The golden-eyed youth kept his eyes trained on Tianming, followed by the howling goldenmane skyapes. His aura and gaze were terrifying to behold.

"Can we lose him?" Ying Huo said, unleashing abilities from Tianming's shoulder to make a path for Meow Meow.

"It's going to be tough. There are more obstacles than I expected—everyone wants to take the pill!" Though Tianming hadn't underestimated the wargodeans, he had underestimated the bravery of the other participants. Even if most of them weren't from first-rate sects—some were even from fourth-rate sects—their ambitions were still strong. No matter where Tianming headed, droves of people and beasts came his way, all young and filled with nothing but desperation and desire. Even if they relented for now, when the chance came again, they probably wouldn't hesitate to do something suicidal for it. With their astralforce supporting them, they faced Tianming without fear.

"If we already dared to attempt to take this from the wargodeans, why would we fear Li Tianming?!" Those that tried stopping him were third- or fourth-level ascendants. With their sheer numbers, Tianming could barely eliminate enough of them. The rapid turns Meow Meow had to make slowed their speed considerably in turn, allowing the wargodeans to catch up, Zhan Yuance especially!

"Fly of Azuresoul Palace, haven't you had enough?" said a booming voice.

Tianming turned back and saw an enlarging golden staff that instantly stretched over a vast distance, heading toward Tianming with impeccable force and golden flames. This was the sheer power of a fifth-level constellier. The staff landed, causing a series of explosions. Now Tianming had enemies on both sides. Getting away with the pill wouldn't be easy.

"Keep moving forward," Tianming said calmly, despite the pressing situation. The instant the staff came smashing down, he lashed out with the silver chain in his hand. It wrapped together and formed a gigantic golden shield above him. He had used a third-realm divine art from the Violetglory Star, Chain Shield. Though he wasn't too familiar with it, after obtaining it from the ancient idol he was able to understand some of its intricacies. Even after forming a shield shape, astralforce surged through the chain, making it a silvery spinning vortex.

"Keep holding!" The next instant, Zhan Yuance's grade-seven divine artifact smashed into his chain. A loud clang rang out and astral sparks flew, painting more than half of the Blackdragon Palace a blinding white. The shield partially lost its form on repeated collisions, though the blades along the chain kept scratching against the golden staff, producing a sound that was painful to listen to.

"How intense!" The chain's shield form quickly shattered, returning it to its normal state and sending it flying toward Tianming and Meow Meow. By the time he finally regained control of it, he and Meow Meow had been sent flying ahead and they almost tumbled. Had they really fallen, they would have drowned in a sea of other participants. He had been injured to quite an extent, with many of his albi damaged and losing quite a bit of astralforce. Zhan Yuance made Tianming aware of what the most powerful person on the sun of his age was like. There was no better representative than him.

"Amazing," Meow Meow said as it rapidly got back up. Thanks to the many beasts in front of them, much of the force of their fall had been dissipated.

"So that's the extent of your strength despite being in second place, eh." Zhan Yuance was still on their tail. His voice was bright and clear, though he wasn't aware that Tianming's ranking had changed after they entered the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb. His skyapes surrounded Tianming from a few different directions and unleashed some flaming abilities toward him, then they charged Meow Meow with their claws and teeth!

### **Chapter 1204 - Decision**

"Li Tianming, how dare you take the game in my mouth away from me? Not only will I make you spit it back out, I'll make sure to dig out your innards and eat them all up, too." Zhan Yuance had bathed in combat and slaughter since his childhood. As he spoke, he and his skyapes manifested their constellations to suppress Tianming. The other people who had attempted to stop Tianming were all forced away; Zhan Yuance now had full control.

He looked at the Lifesteal Silverdragon in Tianming's hands. Though he couldn't use it even if he got it now, one day, he could. There was no way Tianming could worm his way out of this, especially with the sheer power of Zhan Yuance's constellation. It made Tianming's limbs feel heavy and applied a huge pressure on every single albus of his body.

"What a powerful constellation...." Tianming had never felt this kind of pressure applied all over his body before. From the very start, this wargodean had completely sealed off all his avenues of escape. Tianming's body was on the brink of collapse, his flesh breaking apart and letting out blood. Without the Greenspark Tower, his albi would've collapsed by now.

"It's over for him."

"Serves him right for robbing Zhan Yuance."

"What a fool."

Many other participants watched with schadenfreude. Even so, Tianming managed to keep a calm look. It wasn't the first time he had found himself in dire circumstances. He also knew that there was no running away after he had taken the divine pill.

Meow Meow charged out and Tianming swung the Lifesteal Silverdragon, wrapping it around all five of the skyapes! The sharp blades on the chain cut into their body and stopped their rampage. Struggle and roar as they might, they weren't able to break free.

"Grab on to the chain and don't let him pull it back!" Zhan Yuance ordered. The apes ignored the blades and clasped tightly onto the chain, intentionally wrapping it around them even more. "The Lifesteal Silverdragon is mine!" He smirked.

However, Tianming didn't pull back the chain with full force as he had expected. Instead, he tossed the chain itself toward Zhan Yuance, who quickly grabbed it. Tianming had basically gifted it to him.

The onlookers were completely stunned. This was a grade-seven divine artifact! Even Zhan Yuance himself didn't know what to make of this. Though he couldn't use it, it was still worth far more than his golden staff. Then his body suddenly froze as the chain he held struggled discontentedly, having left its master's grasp, and tried to escape, forcing Zhan Yuance to hold it down. The five skyapes were doing their best to not let the silver dragon escape!

"Will Li Tianming try taking back the chain?"

Right as the onlookers were wondering that, Tianming rode on Meow Meow and broke out of the encirclement.

"What in the world?! He's really going to abandon the Lifesteal Silverdragon?"

"He must be trying to use the treasure as a ticket for his escape!"

"Looks like he's no fool after all. Or is he? The chain is worth far more than the grandpath fiend pill in the long run. Even with the pill, there's no way he's gonna close the gap with Zhan Yuance."

Tianming used the confusion to escape. There were still many people on his tail, though it was much more relaxed than before. With Zhan Yuance having to hold down the Lifesteal Silverdragon, he would be kept occupied.

"Not bad. He knew it was hopeless, so he abandoned the weapon to stay alive."

Many people thought that Tianming would choose to abandon the divine pill, but that would have a completely different result. He knew that the divine artifact would resist being taken, which would serve to buy him some time. It was also worth far more to him than the pill.

The wargodeans were still giving chase, but Zhan Yuance wasn't with them. He knew that given Tianming's speed, there was no way he could catch up at this point.

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"Brother!" One of the wargodeans brought the wardrum formation to Zhan Yuance. She was a tall blonde woman, a full head taller than Tianming and sporting an amazing figure. Her fair legs were surrounded by a leather miniskirt and her upper body packed the most appealing curves, which were prominently displayed by the form-fitting black leather top she wore. Despite her bombastic and loud figure, her facial features were demure and pure. Her golden eyes radiated a saintly glow, making her look somewhat like a war goddess. She was Zhan Yingying, known by the wargodeans as the Nine-six Princess, only one number away from Zhan Yuance. Most of the people nearby looked at her body rather than the wardrum formation she held, which looked somewhat larger and had even more intricate divine patterns.

"Where'd you get this?" Zhan Yuance asked.



"The nine-headed dragon turned into this after its golem formation was undone," she said.

"Good."

He put the drum away. The Lifesteal Silverdragon was still struggling in his hand, so he had no choice but to have two of his goldenmane skyapes hold onto it.

"Brother, won't you give chase?" Zhan Yingying asked. She saw that Tianming had broken out of the encirclement and reached the pathway's exit.

"His lifebound beast is shockingly fast. Speed isn't my forte, so I won't be able to catch up. I am quite surprised that he'd abandon this divine artifact so casually, though."

"No doubt he has a good head on his shoulders, with the guts to match. His power does fall slightly short, though. Even so, losing the grandpath fiend pill is still a huge blow."

"It's fine for now. He shouldn't be too well attuned to the pill. I doubt he'll use it in the short term. Not to mention, he won't be eliminated that quickly, given how well he can run. We still have a chance to get it back. Let him take a breather. We'll have to hurry up and see what other secrets we can discover with this war drum first." Zhan Yuance made a mental note to go back for the divine pill and moved on to the next phase. As the other participants were still chasing Tianming, he brought his wargodeans toward their next destination.

As he left, Zhan Yuance gave Tianming a glance before he disappeared into another pathway. "Where did this fly come from, I wonder...? He really has balls to dare take my divine pill."

He was somewhat impressed at Tianming's decisiveness, though that didn't take away from the grudge he held toward him at all.

"I wonder what other treasure you'll toss me the next time I catch you."

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"It's over! We only just got that treasure, but now somebody else has it!" Ying Huo complained.

"Calm down." Tianming turned back. Seeing that the wargodeans weren't giving chase, he knew he was safe for now.

"Hey, aren't you angry at losing it? Don't you feel bad?"

"What's to feel bad about? We didn't have a choice. We did get the divine pill, but we underestimated the other troublemakers. I could've gotten away with it if it weren't for them. Just now, I couldn't do anything else but abandon the Lifesteal Silverdragon. It was a necessary trade," he said as he calmly navigated away from the other obstacles. By now, he had recovered substantially thanks to the Greenspark Tower.

"It's a divine artifact for a divine pill! Was it worth it?"

"Of course!"

"How so?"

"Divine pills are consumable. Their value is gone after consumption and assimilation, so I'll let Feng use it. Our group's fighting strength will rise in a short amount of time. It'll give us a bigger boost than the divine artifact ever could. The key to the Voidsky Skirmish is effective fighting strength. Without it, we can't proceed to seek out more treasures and stay at the top of the ranking." Though he did feel a little troubled about losing the Lifesteal Silverdragon, it wasn't that big of a deal. As far as he was concerned, the risk had been worth it.

"Feng is like my own brother. If he gets stronger, it's the same as me getting stronger." Thinking about Zhan Yuance made him chuckle. "Not to mention, the key to those divine artifacts is the exalted blood! Without it, he'll be weakened from having to keep Lifesteal Silverdragon suppressed. Now, it's only a burden that'll inconvenience him. No doubt, his aim is the Sky Palace as well. There's no way he'll be willing to get himself eliminated just to keep the chain. As long as the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb stays open, we'll eventually run into him. By then, he'll give back what isn't his."

Tianming knew full well what cards he had in his hand. "Without bait, we won't be able to catch anything. Only by knowing how to let go can we go far on this path."

### **Chapter 1205 - Divine Pill's Effects**

"Let's go!"

As Tianming had taken the divine pill, Lingfeng and the rest were being targeted too. They had already fought numerous times by the time Tianming reached their pathway. Still, they mounted a fighting retreat. By now, they were quite far away. Lingfeng and Xiaoxiao could both fight at the constellier level, so protecting themselves was no issue. Soon, Meow Meow caught up to them in the pathway.

"Get on!" Tianming yelled. The two pulled the confused Yu Ziqian on and the Archaionfiend immediately returned to Xiaoxiao's lifebound space. The Soulfieid, on the other hand, turned into black wind that surrounded Lingfeng. Though there were still many disciples stuck close to them, they were merely small fry, so they were no problem. Meow Meow easily sent them blasting off.

"Damn... did you really toss the Lifesteal Silverdragon away?" Yu Ziqian said with disbelief and heartache.

"Yep."

"I didn't think anyone would be willing to do that. If we're looking at this long term, the weapon is far more useful than a divine pill. Had we known, we wouldn't have gone to take it and offended Zhan Yuance in the process."

"You don't know anything. Just watch what we do," Tianming said.

"But it's a grade-seven divine artifact! How could you!" Yu Ziqian clutched his chest, his complaints never ending.

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After some time, Tianming and the rest finally managed to lose their pursuers and Meow Meow returned to the lifebound space to rest. The moment Tianming got to the ground, he handed the pill to Lingfeng.

"Take it and refine it," Tianming said. The divine pill was actually the size of an infant's fist. There were a few complete divine patterns on it, the largest of which was a fiendpath world. Within it, countless black patterns swirled around into a vortex that looked like a furious face. It had no fragrance at all; instead, it seemed to make one breathe more laboriously at the sight of it.

"Alright." With Lingfeng, there were no curt refusals or exaggerated expressions of touchedness. This was already common among them. He knew from the beginning that this was the choice Tianming would make, and that he had good reasons for doing so. Thus, he focused on what he had to do instead: get stronger and take more of the burden of their future fights.

"Wow... this is the first time I've seen a grade-seven divine pill." Yu Ziqian's eyes were glowing. As an alchemy guru, it was such an enchanting sight to him that he had completely forgotten about the lost chain.

"Want to lick it?" Lingfeng asked.

"Of course!"

Lingfeng brought the pill to his face, and he really did stretch his tongue out. The pill sent out a miasma that looked like a bunch of ants, which crawled onto Yu Ziqian's mouth, causing him to howl in pain and back off. He took out his Reginal Fan to fan his tongue as if he had tasted something spicy. "The pill's effects are too intense! If you swallow it, it'll blow you up. You might want to slow down. After all, your body isn't the same as Zhan Yuance's. Not everyone can just assimilate a grade-seven divine pill."

"You talking to me?" Lingfeng asked.

"Of course! Look at my tongue!" He poked it out and it was completely blackened with many black boils forming.

"Eww! That's gross. Kissing you must feel like eating shit!" Ying Huo said.

"Leave me alone! Oh, my poor tongue...."

Yu Ziqian had wanted to test out the pill's effects for Lingfeng, only to find that its destructive force was far worse than the yinyang skyscorch pill. A single waft of air was enough to corrode his tongue, so swallowing it would only mean certain death.

"I heard those that can't endure a divine pill's effects can be sucked dry by the pill itself and die. Can you handle one like this?" Tianming asked just to be safe.

"It won't be a problem." Just as the others thought Lingfeng was about to swallow the pill, he opened up the formation protecting his chest and revealed the void inside. Then, he tossed the divine pill in it and closed the formation again like nothing had happened, much to Yu Ziqian's puzzlement. "The effects are potent. It'll take a little time for me to absorb it."

"Alright, you do you," Tianming said. He hadn't expected that Lingfeng would use the Primordial Gate to refine the pill. That was a legacy of the Primordial Demonlord. Seeing Lingfeng's reaction, the divine pill didn't seem to be that big a deal for him after all.

"What in the world?! There's a hole! In your chest!" Yu Ziqian's delayed reaction finally caught up. He shrieked and stared at Lingfeng wide-eyed. "Why aren't you all surprised? Is he a human?"

He looked around and saw that Xiaoxiao and Tianming were completely unfazed. Then he felt his world crumbling. "Umm... might you guys... perhaps be... aliens?"

"Aliens? What do you mean?"

"People from other nova source worlds...."

"Boo!"

"Hey, don't scare me like that!"

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The area around them was completely silent. Lingfeng sat in the corner, quietly assimilating the power of the grandpath fiend pill. He looked no different from someone who was sleeping, a complete contrast against Zhan Yuance's flaming and exploding body when he had absorbed the yinyang skyscorch pill. That only showed how terrifying the Primordial Gate really was.

"There's no leakage at all... the assimilation efficiency is a hundred percent! Feng will benefit 50% more than a normal person with this pill!" Yu Ziqian said enviously. This was the ideal form of assimilation for an alchemy guru like him.

"Let me tell you this as the Ultimate Pill God. Hanging out with them, the two males at least, will be endlessly beneficial for you," said the portable grandpa.

"Old man, you said they have many secrets. Why don't you tell me a few?" Yu Ziqian asked.

"It's better for you not to ask. Knowing too much isn't a good thing. Right now, I'm nothing but a crippled soul and there's nothing much I can do to help you."

"Whatever! I used to think that I was a monster, but compared to them, I'm normal after all! It's wonderful!" Currently, Yu Ziqian was protecting them. Xiaoxiao and Tianming were also cultivating with Lingfeng.

"I'll tell you something exciting then," said the grandpa.

"What?"

"That girl is consuming caeli."

"Huh? Why the hell is she doing that?"

"She can grow stronger by consuming caeli, unlike you guys who have to process the insights within them."

"God damn... and to think that I thought Lin Xiaoxiao was more normal than the rest. They're all weirdos."

#### **Chapter 1206 - Fourth-level Alchemy Guru**

The flow of energy from the Greenspark Tower gradually healed the albi damaged by the suppression of Zhan Yuance's constellation. Tianming didn't enter the wondersky realm, but remained here to deal with

the aftermath of battle instead. "Processing the insights from actual battles is just as important as viewing caeli experiences."

He had fought many times since coming to the Voidsky Realm. "I finally managed to overcome the bottleneck I've been stuck at for a month after today's fight."

He was still in his prime growth stage after breaking his curse, so it was a little late for him to break through now. Using his Trisoul Prime, he analyzed every single detail of his experiences to grow his Lifesbane Will. "These life-and-death experiences really push the mind and heart to the limits and break through chains. I always gain something from it."

So far, Tianming's Imperial Will was the one that had been making the breakthroughs. But now, his Lifesbane Will had finally grown to a higher level. The Prime Towers on his astral discs looked more solid than before. "Let's try absorbing some nova source. I wonder if I can hold the power of a tenth-level ascendant."

For him to have endured the full-force attack of a fifth-level constellier, nobody would believe him to be only a ninth-level ascendant. The gap between him and Zhan Yuance was far too wide, but he wasn't discouraged. It was only expected. "He's someone that's cultivated on a nova source world with access to countless treasures and caeli since his childhood, after all. If he wasn't at least seven or eight levels above me, he'd be useless." What Tianming wanted right now was to make up some of that gap. "I gotta keep pushing!"

Endless streams of fundamental cosmic force flowed within the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb. Tianming used them to cultivate his four codices, reinforcing all of his astral discs. Each of his albi had power from all four types of astral discs that surrounded the Prime Towers and Grand-Orient Swords within.

The first layer was a sea of infernal flames, the second was a pool of chaos lightning, the third was a world of mountains and sea, and the fourth was the essential floral source. Gradually, the forces within grew more and more as nova source was converted into astralforce. To control more astralforce, one had to have a powerful grasp of the natural laws. Tianming's Imperial Will took most of the burden, allowing him to control the four types of astral discs. His Lifesbane Will served an auxiliary function, allowing him to carry an even heavier burden.

"My Lifesbane Will has slowly progressed in the past three months. It should be fine now." He channeled all four codices and absorbed nova source into his albi, pushing the capacity of his body to the limit. "The Decapath Sky level!"

The transformation was rapid and fierce. His Imperial and Lifesbane Wills reached their peak capacity. "Now, to stabilize it..."

Tianming continued channeling the codices to bring the power under control. The whole process took around a day. If his wills had grown faster, he wouldn't have to go through the trouble of stabilizing his power. While this breakthrough had seemed laborious, Tianming knew that he'd taken a firm step. Now, every bit of his power was controlled and stable, unlike Xiaoxiao's, which could burst out of control despite the easy time she had with breakthroughs. It always took her a long while to gain control of all her power after each breakthrough, during which she wasn't able to fight in close combat. That was why using a bow was a good choice, since it allowed her to purge the unstable astralforce in the body.

When Tianming finished and ended his cultivation, he realized that Xiaoxiao was progressing toward the Constellation stage, having consumed hundreds of thousands of caeli. She and the Archaionfiend were at the crucial point. In the darkness, gigantic bestial apparitions overlaid her small body. The Archaionfiend's bloodline was completely saturating her, leaving apparitions appearing all across the pathway as blood-colored lightning traced along her skin. From time to time, she opened her eyes and revealed her lightning-covered irises. It made her look a little demonic.

"Looks like the Archaionfiend is rather unique as well." Tianming stood beside Yu Ziqian, waiting for the other two to finish. This was good progress. If all three of them could grow stronger, they wouldn't be stretched that thin like they had at the Blooddragon and Blackdragon Palaces.

"Her constellation is forming," Yu Ziqian said. Right after he said that, countless electric snakes appeared beside Xiaoxiao, spreading out and enveloping Tianming and the rest. When they coursed through their bodies, they caused a slight tingling and numbing pain.

"It's just like having Meow Meow's Misty Hellthunder at all times."

A constellation was basically a domain that resulted from one's bloodline and astralforce. For beastmasters, it was also another avenue of power sharing between them and their beasts. Both beastmaster and beast could borrow power through their constellation to unleash devastating attacks, which made them even more terrifying.

Xiaoxiao was a pure beastmaster, so her constellation would no doubt make her much more powerful. The Archaionfiend's lightning, unlike Meow Meow's, was more savage and specific, much like Soulchasing Hellthunder. Meow Meow's moves in general were more well-rounded, but with a focus on high damage. Though chaos lightning was better at more things, the Archaionfiend's blood lightning was incredibly damaging to the flesh and soul. It was no surprise, considering the beast was a soulvore. Their attacks could possibly damage the vita and terra as well, though not as directly as Lingfeng could.

At a rate that could be seen with the naked eye, astralforce flooded through Xiaoxiao's body. She groaned in pain as black blood seeped out of her ears, mouth, and nose along with lightning.

"Here it goes again." Tianming hurried forward to help her.

Xiaoxiao looked rather pale after finishing her cultivation. Regretfully, she said, "Sorry for the embarrassing sight."

"Aren't you pushing it too quickly? You don't look like you have a good grasp of your power. I have a few spiritcushion pills here, they'll help you adjust," Yu Ziqian said, handing a few black pellets to her.

"Where'd you get these?" Tianming asked at the sight of those ugly pills.

"My spatial ring on my finger! Is that a complaint I hear? I'll have you know this is my latest work as a fourth-level alchemy guru! There's no better alchemy guru than me in our generation when I'm in my prime!"

"What about when you're not in your prime?" Tianming said, snickering.

"I... can't even refine a single pill," Yu Ziqian said casually. In other words, Yu Ziqian was only sometimes a master pill refiner.

"Can... can these even be eaten?" Xiaoxiao asked with a weird look on her face.

"Give it a try," Tianming said.

She nodded and swallowed them before starting to cultivate and recover. Though the pills looked ugly, they had a sweet aftertaste when the effects spread. Though she was still completely covered in blood, a healthy gloss soon returned to her skin. Tianming had Lan Huang come out to 'spit' on her to clean her up.

"What is this?" she asked, completely drenched.

"Don't worry, it's fresh water stored in its stomach. It's all clean," Tianming said.

Wasn't it saliva all the same?!

"How are you feeling?" he asked, concerned.

"I'm fine now. This is usual for me, you know. I'll suffer a bit, but I still grow to make up for it. I'm now at the Constellation stage." She stood up and channeled her astralforce. Other things aside, she did have the aura of a constellier now.

Now, it was Tianming's turn to be stupefied. "I guess you forced yourself to the next stage?" No matter how bad she was in actual fights, her level wasn't fake, and she was used to fighting from the rear in the first place. What was more important was the fact that the Archaionfiend was always a reliable fighter. Since everyone had their own style and path, Tianming didn't really envy her too much.

"The Archaionfiend's a first-level constellier now. Coupled with Dragonblood Desecration, she should be able to take on a second-level constellier." Tianming's feeding was finally paying off. Now, only Lingfeng remained. "If he does well, too, we'll have much more of a say in future conflicts. We won't be pushed around by the peak geniuses of Orderia now. And when Yu Ziqian is in his prime, we'll be unstoppable."

Xiaoxiao still needed a lot of time to get used to her new level. Though she seemed powerful on the surface, when singled out, she could only hold her ground against twelfth-level ascendants.

Tianming went to the corner, where Lingfeng was still cultivating without a sound. Thanks to using his Primordial Gate, he didn't move at all; it was as if he wasn't there.

"Feng was at the eleventh level of the Ascension stage back then. Zhan Yuance was a fourth-level constellier, and the pill helped him break through a stage. The lingering effects will help speed up his future breakthroughs as well. As for Feng, he should enjoy even more benefits since his assimilation will be more thorough."

He looked at the black-haired youth. The Soulfier sat behind him like a shadow, looking at him with its 'joy' face. Then a black constellation faded in and out next to Lingfeng. It looked a little like the Primordial Gate, and Tianming felt like he was being pulled inside.

"What a terrifying constellation...." He hurriedly backed off and stabilized himself. "I guess Feng broke through twice. He's a constellier now."

That was within his expectations. "Looks like the trade wasn't a bad one to make."

Now, Lingfeng could hold his own. In exchange for giving up the Lifesteal Silverdragon, they now had the capability to contend for even more divine artifacts of that caliber.

### **Chapter 1207 - Sis Lin's Attack**

Many things happened within the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb within that span of time, which was reflected by the imperial star ranking. The top seven places saw their scores rise by quite a lot. The top eight were as follows:

First, Li Tianming (Azuresoul Palace), 550,000 points

Second, Weisheng Moran (Dreamless Celestial Nation), 520,000 points

Third, Zhan Yuance (Wargodean), 380,000 points

Fourth, Feng (Azuresoul Palace), 350,000 points

Fifth, Lin Xiaoxiao (Azuresoul Palace), 330,000 points

Sixth, Kong (Voidword Shrine), 330,000 points

Seventh, Long Longlong (Xuanyuan Dragon Sect), 320,000 points

Eighth, Lan Feilin (Blueblood Starocean), 120,000 points

The discussions outside the Voidsky Realm were heated. The appearance of the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb had caused many powers across the sun to pay attention to this Voidsky Skirmish. It was also shocking for a second-rate sect like the Azuresoul Palace to have such astounding results.

"Did you hear? Those three disciples shocked that old fellow, Gujian Qingshuang, so much that he activated the Azuresky Myriadsword Formation of his sect."

That was the most talked about topic these days.

"I think that's normal. I'd do that if I were him."

"They took first, fourth, and fifth places! Even the Dreamless Celestial Nation and Xuanyuan Dragon Sect wouldn't be able to dream about achieving that during their peak."

"It's too incredible, that Li Tianming especially. He got two hundred thousand points all of a sudden and has never been exceeded so far."

"If even he can't be among the top ten with so many points, I'll crap myself."

"That's not the main thing! It's the treasures, right? What happened inside the tomb is no secret, especially after the disciples within got eliminated and were sent out."

Jiang Qingliu had long disappeared before the droves of people sought him out. Some said that the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect had offered to protect him.

"It's obvious that all three of his disciples got a treasure comparable to the Lifesteal Silverdragon, earning them each two hundred thousand points."

"That's right. Zhan Yuance also got a yinyang skyscorch pill and made a breakthrough within."



"It also seems like Weisheng Moran, Kong, and that brat Long Longlong got treasures of similar caliber. They got them around the same time, and so far, no word has spread about what they obtained."

"If they got divine artifacts or pills, they have to be at least grade seven. If it's universal manna, it must be seven-star ones! I wonder if there's battle arts as well?"

"So far, we only know of three treasures, namely the Lifesteal Silverdragon, yinyang skyscorch pill, and the grandpath fiend pill. The rest are unknown. Seven out of a possible nine have shown up so far. Who knows which lucky person will get the last two?"

The scores weren't fluctuating much now. Lan Feilin had a hundred and twenty thousand points, making her the top scorer among those who hadn't gotten a treasure yet.

"The top ten sects have a total of at least a hundred third-level constelliers and above. The initial estimates were that only fourth-level constelliers or so could make it to the top ten, yet the Azuresoul Palace is occupying three of those ten slots. Some even stronger disciples have been relegated below the top ten."

"Do you mean to say that those three aren't actually strong? That Li Tianming was able to sneak among hundreds of wargodeans to take the grandpath fiend pill from under their noses and make a retreat. He must've given the pill to Feng, given how his points surged. Do you think he isn't powerful enough? He might be a fifth-level constellier!"

It was clear that the points for pills were only awarded upon consumption, while divine artifacts only gave points after binding them with the exalted blood. As such, Tianming hadn't lost points for abandoning the Lifesteal Silverdragon.

"He only managed to escape by abandoning his divine artifact."

"Friends, just think about it. Isn't it amazing that someone who's roughly on par with a second-level constellier managed to steal the treasure of a fifth-level constellier amidst hundreds of allies and even get away with it? Ditching his artifact is a decisively intelligent move."

"You're right. His points do represent his strength, to some extent."

"Well, I guess with seven treasures already claimed, it's about time. I'm just curious what Weisheng Moran, Lin Xiaoxiao, Kong, and Long Longlong got..."

"Someone said Lin Xiaoxiao used a bow that resembled the Dragonblood Desecration."

"What?!"

That news shocked many.

"That's...."

"That's right, the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect's other branch was shocked to hear that."

.....

The Whitedragon Palace was a pure-white labyrinth covered in sparkling crystals. Though there were more than a hundred people there, it was deathly quiet. Everyone was holding their breath. Those

people had blue eyes and hair, making them look like aquatic fairies. The men were handsome and the women were elegant; they were all disciples of the Blueblood Starocean.

"We suffered a huge loss at the Silverdragon Palace, but the heavens must be kind enough to let me come here." Lan Feilin smiled, looking completely refreshed.

"Sis Lin is a cherished daughter of the heavens. Being raised among celestial orderians, it's no surprise that you can bask in the sun emperor's protective light."

"Perhaps Sis Lin will become as glorious as the Ninemoon Goddess after getting a treasure from the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb."

Lan Feilin glared at the flatterers, though she secretly felt elated by the praise. "Don't speak nonsense."

She was itching to enter the palace. There was a formation there that seemed formed by nine intersecting swords. The space it sealed off wasn't visible from the outside.

"The Ninepole Dragonsword Formation looks harder to break than the Millionblade Formation. It'll likely take some effort. Thankfully, there isn't anyone else around to compete with us for it." Lan Feilin took out her chain and approached the formation with the others. Her blue eyes glowed with excitement. "I bet the thing inside isn't any bit worse than the Lifesteal Silverdragon."

All the disciples attacked the formation with all they had. At that moment, a lazy voice came ringing out from the Whitedragon Palace. The voice sounded especially annoying to the ears of the disciples of Blueblood Starocean. "Lady Lan, how fortuitous it is for us to meet again. We must be tied together by the red string of fate. Now I find myself before you again, ready to bask in your warmth."

Lan Feilin knew exactly whom the lazy voice belonged to. She turned to look at one of the pathways and saw four youths emerging from it. The one who had spoken was a purple-haired youth holding a fan. He walked toward them at a relaxed pace, his eyes beaming.

"Yu Ziqian..." Lan Feilin muttered, her face ice cold. "Li Tianming, return the Lifesteal Silverdragon to me." She turned to the white-haired youth, not knowing that he no longer had the chain.

As she spoke, she shot a glance to those around her. She didn't have a divine artifact of that level of her own, nor would she be able to break the formation in a short timeframe. Thus, she decided to take them out first. "Take back the Lifesteal Silverdragon! I'll capture Yu Ziqian and pull his tongue out."

Last time, Tianming and the rest were able to escape as there were hundreds of other disciples that got in the Blueblood Starocean disciples' way. But now it was a hundred against only four. She sent the rest after the three of them, while she would deal with Yu Ziqian. What she didn't expect was that Yu Ziqian's two junior brothers would charge at her without another word. As for Yu Ziqian, he sat on top of a black lifebound beast with a girl behind him. They didn't seem intent on fighting at all.

"So you two are here to seek death, huh?" Lan Feilin knew roughly how powerful the two were. Last time, Tianming wasn't able to take a single whip of hers! "Take them down!" Though she said that, the two youths immediately made their way to her.

"Do they think they can break out of this through me?!" She couldn't help but laugh. With how short her temper was, she hated being provoked. She immediately summoned her totems, manifesting her seven

bluecharm starfairies. Hundreds of other peak totems manifested behind her as well. Then Lan Feilin swung her Azure Galaxy toward Tianming. "Hand me the Lifesteal Silverdragon now!"

She used a fourth-realm divine art, Flashfiend Starbreaker. Her totems used their long, blue hair as whips to execute the same move. There were countless strands of hair making up countless whips! Tianming and Lingfeng were surrounded by rivers of stars.

"Beat her up!" It's been a long time since Tianming had fought with Lingfeng. This time around, they fought with peak teamwork. His lifebound beasts charged straight toward the chain as he let his astralforce surge, now far more powerful after breaking through. It was a cacophony of abilities and sword arts.

"He's stronger...." Lan Feilin furrowed her brow. Her expression completely changed when she noticed the black-haired youth above her, recalling that he was the one who had done the most damage to her totems.

"What kind of constellation is that?!" Before she was able to react, a formless black vortex surrounded her totems, sending black flames toward them with even faster speed and stronger ferocity. The flames quickly spread to the totems of the other disciples as well. Lingfeng's primordial constellation had the effects of his Infernal Soul Curse! There were many other aspects to the constellation, one of which was the amplification of abilities.

Covered by the entire primordial constellation, Lan Feilin felt the pain of her totems being burned. Her bluecharm starfairies were entirely swallowed up by the black flames, being completely suppressed. She didn't even manage to finish executing her totemic calamity, Skywipe Flash, before they were consumed by the flames. She had no other choice but to retract her totems, only for the pain to soon spread to her vita and cause her head to feel like it was being torn apart. Though Lingfeng's constellation was only at the first level, he had a third regal soul, making him capable of fighting even fourth-level constelliers to some extent. That aside, Lan Feilin still had Tianming to deal with. He charged forward as Lan Feilin's totems retreated.

"I'll kick you while you're down!" Tianming fused his swords together and unleashed the Imperial Descent. The abilities of his beasts swept past like a storm, which Lan Feilin was ill-prepared to defend against given the pain she was suffering from. Right as she was about to put up her resistance, Lingfeng suddenly popped in front of her with his blood-red dagger drawn.

"I—" She was a little stunned. Throughout the whole fight, she had been being overwhelmed. Before she could even react, her totems had all been taken out! Then Tianming and his four beasts came with fatal strikes one after the other. With a loud clang, her chain shattered under Tianming's sword strike. Ying Huo and Meow Meow came through with their respective attacks, while Lan Huang blocked the other disciples from coming to her aid. Xian Xian, on the other hand, watched from the sidelines.

In a quick flash, the fourth-level constellier Lan Feilin had been defeated. Tianming's Imperial Descent, coupled with Lingfeng's Heartpiercer Soulblade shattered her imperial star formation as her eyes widened.

"What the f—" Before she could finish, her formation vanished and she was swept away by a strong gust of wind. Her expression of panic, confusion, utter disbelief, and puzzlement was delectable to behold. She shot Lingfeng and Tianming one last glance, filled with heartache.

"You—" She disappeared before she could even speak. She was the first fourth-level constellier to be eliminated. Underestimating Tianming and Lingfeng's combined prowess had been her greatest mistake. Lingfeng was far too effective against totems. Putting her aside, even the allies behind her weren't able to react in time."

"Sis Lin's attacking! She's going mad! Wait... she's gone?" They were all completely dumbfounded.

"What in the world just happened?" Hard as it was to believe, they had witnessed it from beginning to end. They had thought that Lan Feilin was one of the top five most powerful among their age until now.

"Where's Sis Lin?"

Tianming turned to look at the Ninepole Dragonsword Formation and chuckled. "She's been eliminated! It's your turn next!"

How could two people have so much confidence and bravado when facing off against a hundred?

"Kill them!" the remaining disciples roared with rage.

As they spoke, a blood-colored lightning bolt flew past Tianming's head and pierced the chest of the one who spoke, shattering their imperial star formation. Tianming touched his hair and his heart skipped a beat—his hair was singed! Turning back, he saw Xiaoxiao scratching her head and awkwardly smiling.

"Sorry... I was a little off target."

### **Chapter 1208 - Biting the Dust**

Lan Feilin felt nothing but a strong gust of wind that made her feel like her innards were being churned around with her completely unable to resist it. First, she was sent flying out of the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb, then she orbited the Voidsky Flame Pillar a few times. By the time she regained her breath, she had left the pillar and slammed harshly into the ground. Throughout the entire ordeal, her skirt flapped wildly, seemingly almost revealing what was underneath and leaving little to the imagination of those looking. Her hair had been completely messed up, completely unlike the goddess she seemed to be as she slammed face-first into the ground. Following a soul-crushing cry, she helplessly flopped around as her impact slowed to a roll. She had been eliminated from the Voidsky Skirmish!

"Waaaah!" Her spirit had been completely crushed. The harsh fall had completely torn her face to shreds. When she stood back up, she was covered in blood all over and looked like a madwoman. Barely anyone could recognize her from looks alone. She was someone who was the top disciple of the Blueblood Starocean in her generation, and countless others in her sect worshipped her. She had been the hope of her sect that ranked tenth among all other sects. So much was riding on her success, yet she had lost so haggardly. Words couldn't describe the mental toll she had suffered.

"Li Tianming!" she yelled at the top of her lungs, her tongue shaking from the sheer force. The thought of what had just happened was maddening to her. She had so many other tricks up her sleeves, but she didn't even get a chance to show them! Her bountiful chest strongly heaved from her enraged

breathing. The thought of Tianming caused the volcano in her heart to uncontrollably erupt. She felt like her injured face was salt on the wound. Physical pain aside, she was suffering the agony of having her confidence completely crushed. Even with her disfigured face, one could tell from her eyes and figure alone that she was a proud and beautiful young woman. Many seniors instantly recognized her.

"Isn't that Lan Feilin from the Blueblood Starocean?"

"You're right! She's a fourth-level constellier, the daughter of the Deluge Emperor. She was ranked in eighth place just now."

"She was a hopeful candidate! Was she really eliminated just like that? Who did it?"

The imperial star ranking didn't remove the names of those eliminated, so her name stayed. While she was still in eighth place, for now, her points wouldn't increase anymore. She would be lucky if she was in the top ten by the time the Voidsky Skirmish ended. Additionally, the red dot beside her name was no more, now that she had left the tomb. Her name was the only one in the top ten without a red dot. Many people were able to tell she had been eliminated based on that alone.

"She already did rather well. Blueblood Starocean is ranked tenth, after all. With three of the top ten slots of the ranking taken up by the Azuresoul Palace, she's already done well to rise to eighth place. As long as she doesn't get pushed out of the top twenty, her performance would be considered relatively successful."

"She was the first one to defeat a thousand people, right?"

"Who'd she lose to? Zhan Yuance? Weisheng Moran?"

The onlookers frantically discussed her. Regardless of her high status, she was still a young junior, so none of the seniors cared about her feelings. It only stopped when the seniors from her sect arrived.

"Sister!" Lan Xingyao came running. Though he seemed troubled, he hid his expression. When he was close enough, he whispered, "Why were you eliminated so quickly? Did you meet a powerful foe?"

There were tens of other seniors behind him. Their leader was a rather pale person whose head was shaped like a shark's. He seemed extremely cold and furious. When he arrived, he waved Lan Xingyao aside and looked at Lan Feilin. "What's going on? Why were you the only one in the top ten to be eliminated?"

Lan Sha was quite unhappy about the elimination, especially considering that the Azuresoul Palace occupied three of the top ten slots.

"Uncle... I...." Her fingers shook from the rage that coursed through her body. She was on the brink of vomiting blood from wrath.

"Who did it?" Lan Sha asked in a low voice.

"It must be Zhan Yuance, right? I heard he's a fifth-level constellier now. That ruthless and impudent fellow... he'll face the music one day," Lan Xingyao said, but Lan Sha's glare made him shut up immediately.

Everyone looked at Lan Feilin—not just her seniors, but those from other sects as well. Her ears were completely flushed red. "Uncle, I was the one who found the Lifesteal Silverdragon in the tomb first. But Yu Ziqian got in the way and allowed Li Tianming to take it. Are you aware of that?"

"Everyone knows about your embarrassing loss. Yu Ziqian of Azuresoul Palace has proven himself rather capable. It looks like he's the sort that feigns weakness to catch others off guard. Does this have to do with them, too?"

"I... I located Whitedragon Palace after that. Within it is the Ninepole Dragonsword Formation. I was just about to claim what was inside, but..." She grit her teeth, wearing a furious expression. The mere thought of what had happened was vexing.

"Whitedragon Palace!" Quite a lot of people had heard her words. That was one of the two remaining palaces they figured would be discovered sooner or later.

"Then?" It didn't take Lan Sha much to figure out that Lan Feilin had been robbed from under her nose again. She was even eliminated, too.

Lan Feilin clenched her fists tight. She was biting her lips so hard that they were about to fall off.

"Look! The imperial star ranking!" Almost everyone in Orderia turned to look at the ranking once more. From a rough glance, the names didn't seem to change. However, Tianming now had seven hundred and fifty thousand points, two hundred thousand more than before, thirty thousand above the second-ranked Weisheng Moran. Right as the others thought Weisheng Moran was about to catch up, Tianming dashed the hopes and dreams of the entire Dreamless Celestial Nation. His score was akin to him having defeated more than seven hundred participants. In previous years, this would be the score of the champion.

"Li Tianming must've obtained another treasure from a dragon palace."

"Putting aside Feng and Lin Xiaoxiao, he obtained two treasures alone. Most people only got one."

"Did the Azuresoul Palace sacrifice their ancestors' remains to an evil power?! How could a second-rate sect get four of the nine treasures?"

"Even the sects ranking fifth and beyond in the myriad sect ranking don't have a single treasure! And the top four sects only have one each!"

Nobody would have believed these results had they been forecast before the battle.

"Even though Li Tianming isn't that powerful, nobody can beat him at obtaining treasures."

"That's right. I heard he couldn't even resist Zhan Yuance and was pursued the whole way."

If Tianming had taken the treasures with pure brute force, they wouldn't be that shocked.

"Either way, it's a godly score to have. The Azuresoul Palace will no doubt rise in the myriad sect ranking."

"If only there were skyward eyes inside Ninedragon Imperial Tomb... then we'd be able to witness what kind of miracles Li Tianming has managed to pull off."

"That's right! Lan Feilin also mentioned the Whitedragon Palace. Don't tell me...." Didn't that imply that Lan Feilin had been eliminated by Tianming and the rest?

### **Chapter 1209 - Swift Ending**

Faced with those doubtful looks, before Lan Feilin could speak, Lan Xingyao snapped, "Sis, it must be Yu Ziqian again, right? How dare that second-rate sect disciple target us? The Azuresoul Palace is over! Yu Ziqian will die without a doubt! He definitely ganged up on you with Li Tianming and the others!"

Lan Feilin, not wanting to be embarrassed, subconsciously nodded. "That's right. They ambushed me from all sides... it's Yu Ziqian's fault."

The others wore expressions of understanding.

"So Yu Ziqian was the one who led the ambush."

"I knew Lan Feilin wasn't weak. It's one thing to lose the treasure of the Whitedragon Palace, but another to be eliminated."

"Lan Sha, ask her about the other three disciples aside from Yu Ziqian. How powerful are they? What's so special about them?"

Too many people were curious about that, especially considering Tianming's score of seven hundred and fifty thousand. Lan Sha ignored them and coldly humphed. He waved for the ones from his sect, including Lan Feilin, to follow. Now that his strongest candidate had been eliminated, there was little point in staying there.

"Uncle, we've been humiliated by a trash sect. Are we just going to let that slide?" Lan Xingyao said with disbelief.

"Do you think that's possible?" Lan Sha rolled his eyes at him.

Lan Xingyao viciously smiled. "I already said those annoying lice don't know what's good for them. Who do they think they are? Do they think they'll get away with it?" He felt much better now that things had turned out as he had expected and he'd managed to vent his frustrations.

But Lan Feilin kept her head low, not saying anything. When they were away from the crowd, she mustered her courage and said, "Uncle, there's something I need to clarify."

"Speak."

"This time around, I was ganged up on by Li Tianming and Feng. Yu Ziqian didn't lift a finger."

The Blueblood Starocean seniors immediately turned back and stared at her, making her feel even worse.

"It can't be...." Lan Xingyao couldn't accept this.

"What do you think about Li Tianming?" Lan Sha expressionlessly asked as he looked at the Skyward Stele.

"What about him?"

"What he's like now and what he could become."

"Right now? He's definitely capable, but not too powerful. He has lots of complicated tricks. In the future, especially after he's obtained so many treasures... I heard the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect has their eyes on him. His future should be decent," she said. "Will he be your match a hundred years from now?"

"He'll be roughly on par with me." On that front, Lan Feilin was still rather confident.

Lan Sha quietly pondered after hearing it.

"What are you thinking about, Uncle?"

"The pros and cons of getting rid of them."

"What do you mean?"

"Currently, the position they're in is too eye-catching. It'd be one thing if they were just average. Had that been the case, nobody would be satisfied with him rising to the top with the treasures of Ninedragon Imperial Tomb alone. Even the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect wouldn't be able to completely protect a mere brat with expensive toys. Nothing good will come of attracting too much attention, after all," Lan Sha said.

"I see." Lan Feilin felt much better about it. In fact, she was delighted by the thought. Even the top four sects were each only able to obtain one of the nine treasures, so the Azuresoul Palace had no right to get four of them. If the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect protected them, they would be considered to have gained five treasures. There was no way the other nine first-rate sects would have nothing to say about it. In fact, all of the Myriad Solar Sects would have a problem with it. It would be one thing if the sect took charge of those treasures, but it was another thing entirely for a mere brat below the age of thirty to hold them. Even geniuses would fall against seniors hundreds or thousands of years old.

Even consuming divine pills wasn't something irreversible. A master alchemy guru could just toss someone into a cauldron to refine the remnant effects of the pill that hadn't dissipated yet. Consuming the pills only made it worse. Merely the act of possessing those treasures was grounds enough to be killed. Who wouldn't lust after them? Who wouldn't want to use them to reach greater heights? Those without proper support were sure to be eradicated.

"These treasures were brought out by the Sky Palace. Can we really do something like that?" Lan Feilin nervously asked. She could tell from her uncle's words that there was more than met the eye to the appearance of the tomb. For instance, the Dragonblood Desecration was even related to the celestial orderians, as well as the matter of the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect's historical split.

"Of course, we can't do it in the open. However, who's to fault anyone if a brat dies in an alley and loses the treasure? Who'd investigate it? What trail would there be left to find? There are many desperate people who would do anything if the price is high enough. I could easily find five hundred such desperados in the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect alone. Would you believe that?"

Lan Feilin was shocked and could only resign herself by saying, "The world of adults is truly scary."

"Don't be afraid. Children all grow up one day."



"Okay...." She kept her head low for a while, then asked, "Uncle, what if Li Tianming gains the Sky Palace's favor and becomes one of their members?"

"Oh, that?" Lan Sha laughed.

"What's so funny about that?"

"If he does join the Sky Palace, he's no longer considered part of the Myriad Solar Sects. He would've completely surpassed us and have nothing to do with us anymore."

"In other words, nobody would dare to touch him?"

"Not only would no one dare, there'd be no need. If he joins the Sky Palace, the treasures would be considered to have returned to their possession. It'll have nothing to do with us anymore."

"I see. So he'd really be far above in the skies and out of our reach...."

"That's right. The Sky Palace is on a whole other level. Upon joining it, only one person on the entire sun can deal with him."

"Who would that be?"

"The sun emperor."

.....

Back at the Whitedragon Palace, after their leader, Lan Feilin, had been eliminated, the remaining Blueblood Starocean disciples raged and clashed with Tianming and Lingfeng. Most of them were ascendants; there were only around a dozen first-level constelliers and two second-level constelliers. Tianming had Lingfeng deal with the stronger ones first while he held the masses back with his beasts.

"Let's end this swiftly!"

During the fight, he noticed that Xiaoxiao and the Archaionfiend didn't fare any worse than him, though it was more due to Xian Xian's injuries, which prevented them from taking advantage of their teamwork. Even so, Xiaoxiao was still much stronger after having obtained the Dragonblood Desecration.

The bow let out a loud twang that sounded like a dragon's roar after being released at full draw. Even with the imperial star formation's protection, the arrows still damaged her targets to some degree. Had they been fighting outside the Voidsky Realm, those struck a few more times would no doubt end up dead.

She fired rapidly and accurately, completely undisturbed by anyone else. She was no doubt a natural-born archer, and a mounted one at that. Any time someone tried to approach, the Archaionfiend would swat them away and immediately eliminate them.

"This is only the starting phase of the Dragonblood Desecration. The stronger Xiaoxiao becomes, the more power it'll be able to unleash. That weapon is completely different from the Grand-Orient Sword, which nobody knows about. Soon, more people will learn about the Dragonblood Desecration, and even the Azuresoul Palace might not be able to stop it from being taken. I guess the Sky Palace is our best bet now...."

Tianming knew it was dangerous to have so many treasures, but that was no excuse to give up or avoid conflict. The Sky Palace had truly gone all out this time around, with any single treasure in the tomb so precious that they were more than capable of driving people mad.

### **Chapter 1210 - Nine-colored Scale**

Nobody had a problem with the top four sects each getting one treasure, but a second-rate sect having close to half of all the treasures on offer was unacceptable for the top sects. There were only ten first-rate sects in total, after all.

"If I'm going to act, I'll make sure to get first place." Tianming, Lingfeng, and Xiaoxiao fought as quickly as they could, defeating the Blueblood Starocean disciples in droves. Around fifteen minutes later, they managed to clear out the entirety of Whitedragon Palace. A couple wanted to escape from the pathway, but Xiaoxiao spotted them. Turning their backs on her was not a good idea.

Tianming was happy for her for being able to pull her own weight. She focused hard on the back of her beast, shooting and reloading with a natural, flowing movement. Each time she loosed an arrow, the loud twang ruffled some of her hair.

"Leave the rest to us. You have to hurry," Lingfeng said. He was getting more confident. He alone could take on hundreds of totems, much to their horror.

"Alright!" Tianming nodded. "When Ling'er wakes up and the fifth egg hatches and Qingyu finally joins us, we'll get stronger and stronger. If we can't find a place to call home on the sun, we'll roam the endless astralscape. Being with my lover, sworn brother, and friends doesn't sound too bad." Tianming would talk to Feiling every day in this manner and she heard him every time, responding by making the flowers sway.

By now, he had reached the Ninepole Dragonsword Formation. Without anyone to bother him, he had a much easier time undoing the formation. His arm was able to pierce even a grade-four divine formation, after all.

He pushed his palm against the tough formation, grasping the divine celestial patterns in his hand. They were the rearranged and optimized forms of naturally occurring divine ordered patterns. Not long after that, he managed to tear apart an opening and enter it. Most people opted to smash entire formations apart, while all Tianming did was make a small opening for himself. What was even more amazing was that the opening would close back up right after he entered it. When he made it through the formation, he heard the sound of a war drum coming from the palace. Unsurprisingly, thousands of dragon golems surged out.

"Don't push yourselves! Wait for me somewhere safe!" Tianming called out.

Lingfeng and the rest retreated to a pathway, so the dragon golems targeted Tianming alone. However, the formation would hold until he claimed the treasure, so they weren't able to touch him at all. The mindless golems continued patrolling the area, expecting a chaotic battle. After all, they were programmed to show up after the formation was breached, but the formation remained even after it had been intruded upon.

Tianming made his way toward the treasure. There was one eye-catching object at the center of the formation. It wasn't a divine artifact or a divine pill, but a nine-colored dragon scale instead. It looked to be around the size of a thumb and was made of an unknown material. Tianming couldn't tell if it was a real scale or just something made to look like one, but he could feel that it had belonged to a peak elite from the boundless aura it exuded.

This dragon scale was like a world unto itself and shone with a sword-like light. When Tianming approached, it shuddered and let out a sky-shaking roar—obviously a threat—but Tianming didn't fear it. He continued onward and stretched out his black arm toward the scale.

"I don't care what you are. Don't move." Though he said that, he noticed terrifyingly sharp sword ki in the scale when he approached. Even with the toughness of his arm, the hexagonal scale still managed to leave wounds on it. "Damn, it hurts...."

He pulled back his arm and furrowed his brow. "What in the world is this?"

With Yu Ziqian on the outside, he had no idea what to make of it. He didn't even know how to claim it. During his next attempts, the scale released explosive sword ki every time his hand approached it. He tried using a grade-two divine artifact chain, but it crumbled when it was close.

"Amazing... but I don't believe you'll be able to destroy the Grand-Orient Sword." He took out the sword and channeled his astralforce as he reached the sword toward the scale. Loud clanging sounds rang out as the sword ki struck the sword, creating a lot of sparks.

"Aaaaagh!" He grit his teeth and stabilized the sword with all the astralforce he could muster. It was as if he had put his sword into a waterfall, resisting the strong current as he pushed toward the scale.

"Again!" Time and again, his black arm was cut by the sword ki. If he had used his right hand, it would have been turned into a minced mess. On his ninth attempt, he finally succeeded. The sound of the sword piercing the scale was so clear that it passed straight through his eardrums. All of a sudden, he felt weightless as he fell down. Had he fallen into the range of the scale, he would have been turned into mincemeat, but he didn't die; the scale had disappeared the moment his sword touched it. Tianming quickly recovered from the stumble.

"Where'd it go?" He looked around, seeing that it was as colorless as before. He soon spotted the scale on the blade of his sword, now fused within it. It was moving toward the hilt of his sword. After some time, it took its place at the center of the hilt, shining brightly but no longer moving. Then it slowly dimmed, and the terrifying sword ki was not felt anymore.

"What is this?" He was quite certain that the sword had nothing to do with the scale, but it had managed to attach itself. When its power faded, Tianming figured it had submitted itself to him. It was probably the same as consuming a divine pill or binding a divine artifact with exalted blood, though he still didn't know what the scale was good for. He didn't have the time to find out as the formation immediately disappeared, marking his possession of the treasure.

"The fourth treasure!" This would be perfect if he hadn't abandoned the Lifesteal Silverdragon. But he didn't have time to celebrate as thousands of dragon golems swarmed toward him. There was only one thing on his mind: run! They were only good for some points anyway, and he couldn't deal with all of

them alone. Meow Meow had been accelerating in the lifebound space for a while and it burst out at blinding speed.

"Sit tight! The ultimate speed cat express is starting up!"

After a flash of lightning, the dragon golems could no longer keep up. Last time, there was only one open pathway at the Blooddragon Palace, but now there were pathways all over the place. Meow Meow brought Tianming to where Lingfeng and the rest had hidden themselves.

"So? What'd you get this time?" Yu Ziqian asked, sounding more excited than Tianming himself.

"We'll check later. I haven't learned much about it yet." He grabbed Yu Ziqian's collar and tossed him on Meow Meow's back. Lingfeng and Xiaoxiao leaped on as well, then they zipped away. Thousands of dragons flooded into the pathway behind them, still intent on chasing Tianming down.

"If we hadn't lost the Lifesteal Silverdragon, we'd have four treasures now," Yu Ziqian said with awe.

"Yeah. Do you think that's a good or bad thing?" Tianming asked.

"It's worrying."

"Still, it's not like we can just discard them, right?"

"Right. How would we even do it?"

"We'll cross that bridge when we come to it. There's always a way. There'd be little point in getting these treasures if anyone who gets them dies because of them anyway," Tianming said, his eyes firm.

The dragon golems were still on his tail, but they weren't a threat now. Meow Meow took a turn into another pathway; this one was rather long, and the nearest turn was quite far ahead. The dragon golems were still able to keep up. Then a loud drumming sound boomed from up ahead. Meow Meow was traveling so quickly that it almost ran into the group of golden men and women.

"Wargodeans! Trouble ahead and trouble behind!" Yu Ziqian cried.

Tianming saw around a hundred people. The leader was a tall, wild, and enchanting war goddess.