

The Ages 1301

Chapter 1301 - Crawl for Me

About five thousand people disembarked from the ship, most of whom were women. They were now outside the Azuresky Myriadsword Formation. Gujian Qingshuang and the other elders hurried to the Celestial Welcome Hall; it was clear that they hadn't been informed of these celestial maidens' arrival beforehand.

"Why're they here?" Ye Dongliu looked so mad that he seemed to be about to cough out blood.

"Yan Nuxia and Long Wanying are close. It must be her fault," Granny Mu Hua said. As expected, she spotted Long Wanying there, and was spotted by her in turn.

Long Wanying came to them and said, "Open the formation and let them in."

"What's the meaning of this, Whitedragon Empress?" Gujian Qingshuang asked, frowning his brow.

"Nothing much. Didn't our sect promise that we would help you with the harvest? Since we're in a bit of trouble, we can't send any from the sect, so I asked my friends from the Group of Celestial Hall Maidens to help out. Don't worry, I'll be responsible for it myself. Even though the people that came as reinforcements are different, our initial promise still stands. You'll get thirty percent of the harvest."

That was the original deal between the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect and Azuresoul Palace, something for which they were very thankful. Most times, the Azuresoul Palace got no more than ten percent while working with outsiders. That was the reason Gujian Qingshuang had initially agreed to let them help.

"Chief Instructor, the Emyrean Sword Sect..." Ye Dongliu reminded him. The people from that sect were still on the mountain. There was no way they would agree to letting other people cut into their harvest.

"What about them? Isn't it first come first served? You had an agreement with my sect first. If you let the Emyrean Sword Sect join in, I wouldn't be surprised if they gave you only ten percent or less. Don't worry, I'll deal with them if it comes to that. Just let them in. Trust me. If there's nobody to stand up for you, they'll make you lose all your dignity." She was nothing if not persuasive. Gujian Qingshuang and the rest wanted to hear that there would be someone backing them against the Emyrean Sword Sect the most.

"Chief Instructor, no!" Ye Dongliu said.

But Gujian Qingshuang stopped him. "There's nothing to be said about letting them in. The Supracloud Sanctuary has two large factions backing them, so naturally we need to even the odds by getting the Emyrean Sword Sect and Group of Celestial Maiden Halls to back us as well." He had decided to take the risk. After all, Long Wanying did say she would deal with the Emyrean Sword Sect. He was afraid the Azuresoul Palace wouldn't get any say in the matter whatsoever against them, after all.

Granny Mu Hua agreed with his decision as well, so they opened the formation. Gujian Qingshuang cleared his throat before welcoming the elites from the ninth-ranked sect. The colorfully dressed people turned quite a lot of heads as they entered.

"Strawberry!"

"Tangerine!"

Tianming watched as a woman came forward to hug Long Wanying. She had short, orange hair and bright eyes. She stood quite tall, being half a head taller than Long Wanying, and had a slender figure. Wearing black and white armor, she looked rather heroic and intimidating. Her face was rather feminine, despite her impressive aura. If she had long hair, she would no doubt give top beauties a run for their money. She did look considerably more dashing than Long Wanying.

Like her looks suggested, she was a straight-laced and direct person. Her gaze seemed sharp, even wild. She was none other than the one they called Yan Nuxia. The two women ignored the looks of the others around them as they merrily hugged and tossed each other around.

"Looks like my Strawberry is growing sweeter by the day," Yan Nuxia said, kissing Long Wanying on the cheek.

"Naughty!" Pushing her aside, Long Wanying said, "I'm the Whitedragon Empress now. Watch your hands."

"Fine, my hands won't touch you, but my lips will! One more time!"

There were quite a few more women behind Yan Nuxia who also seemed to be Long Wanying's associates. They were quite happy about the reunion.

"Umm... I'm Gujian Qingshuang, and I represent the Azuresoul Palace to welcome you all," the chief instructor awkwardly said.

Long Wanying pulled Yan Nuxia with her and got her to stop messing around. Yan Nuxia cleared her throat and said, "Greetings, Chief Instructor. We've come to help out our Strawberry. We don't need anything from your sect, so don't worry. Just find us a place to stay."

"Thank you! We really appreciate the help." Ideally, Gujian Qingshuang hoped that the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect would come out fine. It was clear to him that the spirit and will of such an ancient faction had been honed and developed for aeons, making them far easier to get along with. However, the situation right now was perilous. The Emyrean Sword Sect had come and placed a blade against their throats, though they gave them a sliver of hope at the same time.

He turned to the direction of where the people of the Emyrean Sword Sect were staying and felt a lot of sword ki radiating from there. Shi Yan was coming over with hundreds of elite swordpupils. Instantly, she spotted Yan Nuxia and flared with anger. "Gujian Qingshuang!"

The group descended and all three leaders gathered.

"Explain," Shi Yan coldly said.

Gujian Qingshuang didn't back down in front of the eyes of so many. "General Shi, these are our friends from the Group of Celestial Maiden Halls. The Whitedragon Empress called them here to help out with the harvest. I'm sure you're aware that we'd promised to work with the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect for the harvest prior to our arrangement with your sect. Even though the situation at the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect has changed, the Whitedragon Empress kept her promise and found us other reinforcements. The more people we have on our side, the more we can harvest. This is beneficial to us all."

The subtext was clear: he wasn't able to refuse the Whitedragon Empress, nor was he able to refuse the Emyrean Sword Sect. It would be pointless for Shi Yan to find fault with him.

She glared at Yan Nuxia and Long Wanying. "Yan Nuxia, does your sect master know that you left the Soulcelestial Continent to come here and mess around? I bet you're just acting on your own accord, right? Let me give you some advice. This isn't a place where you can mess around. Leave now, or else—"

"Or else what?" Yan Nuxia said, laughing. "You think you can intimidate me? Who do you think you are? Get out of my sight. I don't wish to waste my breath speaking to you. Or else I'll make you get on all fours and crawl away!"

From the moment those two met, conflict was inevitable, yet people were shocked that it would start off so harshly.

"How dare you act so rudely to me?! Watch your words!" A crackling sound was heard as she clenched her stony fists tight.

"Oh yeah? Bite me! I feel like puking the moment I see your face. With you here, I can't enjoy the cuteness of my beloved Strawberry!" Yan Nuxia turned to the others and said, "Ladies, come with me to the Sixth Sword Branch!"

"Hold still!" Shi Yan growled.

Chapter 1302 - Heavenly Fruit Squad

It was too bad that nobody cared about what Shi Yan had to say. Though she could throw her weight around in front of Gujian Qingshuang and the sect elders, Long Wanying and Yan Nuxia couldn't care less. Even though there were more than ten thousand people from the Emyrean Sword Sect there, they couldn't afford to start a fight. Both sects were first-rate sects and weren't too far off from each other in terms of power. Not to mention, even the One-strike Slaughterer might not necessarily be able to defeat Yan Nuxia or Long Wanying in a one-on-one fight.

The five thousand elites from the Group of Celestial Maiden Halls headed to the Sixth Sword Branch with Long Wanying. Jiang Qingliu had prepared the place to host them earlier.

"Gujian Qingshuang," Shi Yan said, turning to him when the group left. They entered the Celestial Welcome Hall together. "How do you plan to explain that?"

There were few people on the sun that Shi Yan feared, but this foul-mouthed Yan Nuxia was among those that gave her headaches. Not only was she unable to defeat her, but she couldn't even beat her in an argument. Her devil-may-care attitude was just the thing that could keep the One-strike Slaughterer in check.

"I'm not sure what I can tell you, General Shi. If they want to enter, there's little I can do. The Whitedragon Empress has a higher status than me." Though Gujian Qingshuang was in a weak position, he felt much better that there was another faction here to balance things out. There was no offense to be taken from his decision either way.

"She's already lost her home and backing, yet you still caved to her?" Shi Yan said.

"I had no choice. As you're no doubt aware, our sect doesn't have that kind of negotiating power."

Shi Yan was only more infuriated at seeing him feign obedience.

Gujian Qingshuang hurriedly added, "Please be assured that I stand with your sect. When the divine tree is ready to bloom, you'll take charge of the harvest."

"You'd better think of a way to get them to leave. Otherwise, nothing good will come of this." Though Shi Yan said that, she felt better at hearing what he said.

"If we do that, won't we have fewer people to face off against the Supracloud Sanctuary? They do have both the wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean helping them."

"That reminds me.... Very well. Just think of a way to send them to battle first so they can take the brunt of the attacks!"

"Yes, definitely...." Gujian Qingshuang didn't dare to argue.

"You said you'll stand with my sect, right?"

"Definitely."

"You'd better. Otherwise we'll eliminate your sect by using reunification as our justification. Nobody will be able to argue otherwise."

"Understood."

"Now that those people are here, it'll be a little troublesome. Think of a way to send Jiang Qingliu away."

"Will do!" Gujian Qingshuang knew why Shi Yan was in so much of a rush. If Jiang Qingliu died, then Gujian Qingshuang would be fully committed to the Emyrean Sword Sect's cause.

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In the sixth branch's Bamboo Quarters, the elites from the Group of Celestial Hall Maidens were merrily celebrating after not having met for a long time. After Long Wanying introduced Tianming to them, he got to know quite a few more 'aunties'. They were all the cream of the crop in their sect in terms of power and beauty, and they all had deep ties with Long Wanying.

Long Wanying had cultivated at their sect before, and also held joint exercises with them, cementing their ties with Xuanyuan Dragon Sect. Though she also had friends in many other sects, they were prevented from coming due to their sects' policies. She had shown Tianming why having connections was so important.

Surrounded by so many beautiful and enchanting women, he was at a loss as to what to do. He felt like he was constantly basking in a kind of fragrance. Not even Yu Ziqian could take it and crawled out to save himself, leaving Tianming alone.

For instance, there was a cute girl with light-red hair called Gu Tao'er. The others called her Cherry. Though she was around eight hundred years old, she looked no different from a teenager and behaved like one too. There was another woman dressed in a long yellow robe that had the elegant and mature aura of a scholar called Li Muli, though the others called her Snowpear. So far, those were the normal ones. There were quite a few eccentric ones like Yan Nuxia, such as a rather big-boned middle-aged

woman who looked rather fierce despite her gentle demeanor. Her name was Niu Xiaoqian, but the others called her Avocado, which highlighted the roundness of her figure.

"Are all of you part of the Heavenly Fruit Squad or something?" Tianming asked.

They broke out in laughter, recalling the youthful days they had shared.

"Sigh, those were good times. We used to be young, naive girls, but now we're all middle-aged ladies...."

"I wish we could go back to those times...."

Tears began forming in their eyes.

"Go back my ass. Let's talk about the serious stuff," Yan Nuxia said, eating a banana. "The Emyrean Sword Sect was merely exaggerating the meeting. There's no way the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect will be abandoned. The most that'll happen is that nobody will send them any help. Many others intend to try exploiting the wargodeans, though none of them are willing to actually do so. The Dreamless Celestial Nation and Voidword Shrine have no intent of leading the charge. The Emyrean Sword Sect has only come with their slogans and promises of glory because they see something in it for them. Not to mention, they'll be able to weaken the influence of the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect in the meantime. It isn't the first time the Northdipper Swordsage has resorted to dastardly tricks like these. That animal Shi Yan is merely making empty promises to Gujian Qingshuang."

"Doesn't Gujian Qingshuang know that?" Gu Tao'er asked.

"He definitely suspects something. I figure that they'll come to ask Tangerine about the secret meeting. However, I still can't bring myself to trust someone as hard to read as him," Long Wanying said.

"No worries. We came here to protect you. The fruits of the divine tree are merely our second priority. Let's hope that the Emyrean Sword Sect plays nice. If they don't mess with us, we won't mess with them. But if they do, we'll kill them all!" Yan Nuxia snapped.

"Alright, stop boasting. You can't even kill a chicken without flinching," Long Wanying said, rolling her eyes.

"Hey, I have a reputation to keep up in front of the juniors!"

Everyone burst out laughing.

"Hey, what're you doing there?" Long Wanying just realized that they were surrounding Tianming.

"What a fresh young one.... Dashing."

"Tianming, do you have a girlfriend? Want Auntie Cherry here to introduce you to someone?"

"How about Niu Xiaojing? She's still single!"

"Hahahaha"

Tianming awkwardly watched them as they laughed, though he understood that he would definitely be well protected with all of them there. Now, he had someone backing him. He looked at Long Wanying, suddenly feeling that there was something he still had to do.

"Cultivate without worry," she said.

"Yes, Aunt Ying."

"Tianming," Yan Nuxia called out, sitting on the roof beam.

"What is it?"

"Come up here and let me feel you up."

Panicking, Tianming took Meow Meow out of his lifebound space and left it in the room before escaping.

"Meow?" The black cat lazily stretched and looked around, dazzled. Tens of pairs of eyes glowed as they looked at it.

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To prevent trouble from coming to him, Jiang Qingliu kept himself in seclusion. The Azuresoul Palace already had a location prepared near the divine tree to wait for the start of the harvest. The Supracloud Sanctuary also had one there, so friction and conflict was inevitable. It was said that there were already some casualties due to small skirmishes, though that had nothing to do with Tianming, who was cultivating in peace now that the seniors had created a good environment for him to do so. He found himself in the place where the caeli of the Azuresoul Palace were collected, the Azuresky Bridge.

Chapter 1303 - Azuresky Bridge, Swordbath Pool

The Azuresky Bridge was a divine artifact that stored caeli, similar to the Archaion Sect's Old Deepstar Path. The further along the bridge one went, the higher-tier the caeli were. Tianming got the right to start right at the end of the bridge where the solarian caeli were located. Usually, only grade-three swordpupils and above were allowed to do so. While training there still paled in comparison to the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect, it was still better than cultivating on the third level of the Violetglory Pagoda, so Tianming stopped using the wondersky realm for that.

"If I were to compare, I'd need to get to the sixth or seventh level of the pagoda to get caeli as good as the ones here. However, I'll need to keep fighting against sixth and seventh-level solarions to be allowed to stay there. I wouldn't last a day."

It seemed that he was reaping quite a bit of benefits as a Sky Palace disciple. If it weren't for the apparent doom of the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect, he would be having an even better time now. For now, his plan was to grow his Lifesbane Will into a proper divine will.

Time passed peacefully while he trained. Soon, it had been two weeks. Xiaoxiao had requested some solarian caeli from the sect through Tianming and managed to easily reach the fifth level. Now, she could wield the Dragonblood Desecration far better than before.

Lingfeng and Yu Ziqian had also started spending more time together as the latter kept asking him to test out the effects of the pills he'd refined. Lingfeng was able to tolerate all manner of toxicity from them. The rampant pill feeding also allowed him to rapidly grow. Even though his lips were stained dark from the pills every day, he was probably around the fourth level in power now. Additionally, the Soulfier had completely recovered and was moving about without an issue.

Though Tianming was the one who visited the Azuresky Bridge the most, he was the one who made the slowest progress. He thought it impressive that consuming pills could help one progress so quickly, but he was in no rush at all. He was fully confident in what he had to do.

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"Friend! Buddy!" Yu Ziqian had been spending so much time with the cauldron and mingling with the female disciples that his eyes now had black circles around them. However, he had developed excellent time management skills as a result.

"What's up?"

"The Swordpath Pool is open! The chief instructor is waiting for you to go there. Didn't you say you needed divine hazard sword ki? They discussed it for quite a while and finally decided to allow you to head there. I had to speak quite a lot on your behalf, you know, since the sword ki inside the pool is limited. Do you know how many people since our sect's founding that wanted to train there actually got to?"

"Alright, lead the way." Tianming had practiced his swordsmanship as well, mainly focusing his attention on the fourth move of the Ninedragon Tribulation, Blackdragon Abyssthrust. The power and difficulty of the move was much higher than the previous three. No doubt, if he managed to fuse it with the others, the fusion move would be able to deal far more damage. The thrust would manifest a black dragon that flew straight toward its target like a savage missile. It would make the fusion move stronger, louder, and faster once the fusion process was complete.

"With top-tier divine hazard sword ki, I might be able to bring the power of the fusion of all four moves to that of a sixth-realm battle art. Not even normal constellers are able to unleash that kind of power."

All he lacked now was divine hazard sword ki. Though the Azuresoul Palace had the Swordbath Pool, the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect would have much better resources. Had he been there, he wouldn't have had to wait for so long just to get access to it.

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Yu Ziqian brought Tianming to the Swordbath Hall, which was located deep in the mountain. At the entrance stood Gujian Qingshuang.

"We're here. I'll take my leave now," Yu Ziqian said.

"So soon? Where are you going?" Tianming asked.

"On dates, of course! I have ten scheduled today! Sigh, I'm so busy!" He immediately dashed away to his date. It was no wonder his eye bags were so heavy.

Tianming turned to Gujian Qingshuang, who seemed rather laid back. He swiftly opened the door and said, "I heard you require sword ki to train the Ninedragon Tribulation, right?"

"That's the case, Chief Instructor."

"To swordpupils like us, the complete fusion move of the Ninedragon Tribulation is nothing short of a miracle. The farther along the path you go with that move, the more terrifying its power will be. You truly are a subject of envy," Gujian Qingshuang said, stroking his beard.

"I am thankful that the Ninedragon Emperor found me worthy of the move. I'll make sure to work hard and learn it well so that I can show the world once more the glory of this magnificent move."

"Hahaha! Good." Gujian Qingshuang felt a little weird. Tianming had emphasized this connection with the Ninedragon Emperor, someone from the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect. Would he really join the Empyrean Sword Sect if that was the case? Though he's a junior, this Li Tianming has a rather strong will of his own. He brought Tianming through the winding pathways through the deep mountains. "How many moves have you mastered so far?"

"Four of them."

"Then you should start with grade-five divine hazard sword ki to unleash its full power."

"Chief Instructor, I'd like to try out grade-six ones."

Stunned, Gujian Qingshuang pressed, "Grade six?"

"Yes."

"Even your master Jiang Qingliu only has three strands of grade-six divine hazard sword ki in his body. Do you know that?"

"Yes. That's why I wanted to try grade six."

"It's not that I doubt your willpower or your abilities. However, higher grade divine hazard sword ki requires strong astral physiques. The key to albi being able to endure sword ki of that caliber is the Solar stage."

"Is that so? I'd still like to test it out first."

"Alright, if you insist." Gujian Qingshuang didn't feel too sour. He knew what it felt like to challenge oneself. When he was young, he had always sought to be the best at everything he did. It turned out that Tianming wanted everything to be six, from sword ki to universal manna. As for the seventh grade, those were absolute treasures. It was already incredibly generous for the Azuresoul Palace to be able to offer him anything of grade six.

Each level had a formation that Gujian Qingshuang had to personally unlock. "There's ten strands of grade-six divine hazard sword ki here, one in each room. There's some basic information on them on the doors of the rooms."

"Chief Instructor, how many strands may I assimilate at most?"

"How many?" He chuckled and said, "As many as you like." It occurred to him that even Sky Palace disciples were naive as youths. Even though the Ninedragon Tribulation would be invincible with the right sword ki, he could feel how wild and rampaging the strands of grade-six sword ki were from the entrance and had his doubts about Tianming's ambitions.

"Thank you, Chief Instructor." Tianming walked into the corridor. He understood the difficult position Gujian Qingshuang was in. However, he wouldn't tolerate anyone killing Jiang Qingliu, no matter the reason.

"Just call out to me if you need anything," Gujian Qingshuang said, his voice echoing.

Tianming stopped in front of a door that read: 'Divine Ordered Pattern: Wildvoid Bloodwheel, Grade: 6, Sword Ki: Wildvoid Bloodwheel Sword Ki'. This sword ki was shaped like a roulette wheel. It had a savage, bloody aura that seemed to be able to deal a lot of damage after entering the body.

"Using it for the Blooddragon Sacrifice will be perfect." He took a deep breath and stepped inside. He had three things he was relying on: his personal willpower, the ability of the sword ki within the Ninedragon Tribulation, and the Greenspark Tower and Primordial Chaos Beast physiques he had inherited from his beasts.

He pushed the door open. Instantly, a bloody aura wafted over him, coloring his vision red. A red mist formed a sword wheel hundreds of meters wide that also looked like a vortex. Boundless bloody sword ki gathered within, glaring at Tianming like it was tens of millions of venomous snakes. The notion of taking that thing into his body made him gulp.

"Go!" He and Ying Huo both stepped forward. As there was quite a lot of it, Ying Huo could also absorb a little as it was also practicing swordsmanship.

"Dammit! The one who shrieks first is a loser—aaaaahhh!" Ying Huo immediately knelt and shrieked, not having any time to play tough at all. The Wildvoid Bloodwheel Sword Ki swallowed the two of them up like some kind of gigantic beast.

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Hearing the shriek from outside, Gujian Qingshuang smirked. "Young man, you'll finally know your place in this world after experiencing such pain."

He felt utterly elated. He had heard that the Soulbreak Mountain had been emptied out and knew it had to be Tianming, though he didn't understand how mines that could have still been mined for decades could be cleared out after one visit. The news hurt him dearly, though giving away a six-star universal manna had cut to the bone as well. Though Yu Ziqian had only taken little, despite also being a Sky Palace disciple, Tianming's consumption was monstrous. He could finally breathe a sigh of relief now that Tianming had learned to hold back.

"If you can't endure it, let's go to the fifth-grade ones!" he said, though there was no reply. "Don't tell me he's dead?!"

Panicking, he opened the door, only to see the young man sitting with his legs crossed, the Wildvoid Bloodwheel divine pattern glowing under his skin. The same was the case with the bird that sat on his head. The sight stunned Gujian Qingshuang. Some moments later, Tianming stood up and opened his eyes. Now, his gaze shot out the same bloody savage sword ki, causing Gujian Qingshuang to block it.

"Apologies, Chief Instructor. I'm not yet able to control it well," Tianming said.

"It's fine! I'm fine!" Gujian Qingshuang was stupefied.

"Alright, the next room," Tianming said to Ying Huo.

"Hmph, I'm not afraid!" Ying Huo said.

Gujian Qingshuang didn't know what to make of them.

Chapter 1304 - Ambitions of the Lord

While Gujian Qingshuang was still stunned, Tianming was already looking to the next grade-six divine hazard sword ki. With the Wildvoid Bloodwheel Sword Ki having been perfectly assimilated into his body, his aura had morphed into something far more eerie. Even the blood vessels in his eyes looked more pronounced. No doubt, the sword ki paired great with the Blooddragon Sacrifice, making it far more powerful.

"How'd you do it?" Gujian Qingshuang asked.

"Pure willpower and endurance?" He wasn't actually joking. Having the Greenspark Tower didn't mean that it would hurt any less. His albi still got torn to shreds, though they recovered, allowing him to tame the sword ki in his body. It was far more painful than Gujian Qingshuang could imagine.

Tianming had picked the second one; a divine pattern called the Ninecloud Flamesky. Thanks to the fundamental cosmic force, the divine pattern had turned into a sword ki form that paired well with Blazedragon Fireblast.

As Tianming stood in front of the entrance, Gujian Qingshuang said, "You just absorbed a grade-six divine hazard sword ki. Trying again might make them wildly clash in your body and cause heavy damage."

"I know. I'll just give it a try. If I really can't, I'll come again next time. I might even need you to help me kick things off, Chief Instructor," he sincerely said.

"Alright!" Since he had made a promise, he could only go along with it.

After a few moments, Tianming and Ying Huo left, covered in wounds all over. "I'll come again next time."

"Will do!" Gujian Qingshuang felt much more relieved. Not even he might necessarily be able to absorb two of them at once. If Tianming had succeeded, it would be completely out of this world. The conflict from two clashing sword kis could tear his organs and even skeleton apart, like having a gigantic beast stampeding around in his body. Though, the wilder it was, the more it excited Tianming.

"There has to be a challenge!" If the sword ki wasn't powerful enough, it wouldn't be worth his effort in trying to conquer it. "The more powerful it is, the more useful it'll be once I manage to control it."

He was starting to enjoy the feeling of domination more and more. Every successive challenge made his addiction grow deeper. Ying Huo also had a fiery and unrelenting personality that mirrored his own, and that made it the perfect rival. Together, they competed to see who could endure it better.

"I'm working hard because my kin has been exterminated, my godfather is missing, and my little sister is being imprisoned. What about you?" Tianming asked.

"I'm doing all of this because your kin is my kin, your godfather is my godfather, and your little sister is my little sister!" Ying Huo said.

"Very well. As expected of my brother."

"What brother? I'm your dad."

The failure had only served to hone his fighting spirit even more. After resting a few days and further taming the Wildvoid Bloodwheel Sword Ki, he returned with Ying Huo to challenge it again, but he still failed.

"This thing can't be rushed. You have to rest for at least a month," Gujian Qingshuang advised.

"That won't do." Tianming disappeared into the mountain with his bloody and battered body after uttering those words.

"Even though both of them are Sky Palace disciples, one is messing around while the other is pushing himself beyond his limits. How odd. This Li Tianming that just showed up out of nowhere is much harder to deal with than Yu Ziqian."

Before three days had even passed, Tianming came back again, much to the chief instructor's annoyance. He had his hands full with the matter of the Azurecloud Divine Tree, but the Swordbath Pool was an important place of the sect that he had to personally unlock for Tianming. It wouldn't normally be a problem, it was just that Tianming was coming far too frequently. "I'm a little busy lately, so make your next visit ten days from now."

"Alright." Tianming agreed right away.

This time, Gujian Qingshuang waited outside. He closed his eyes and pondered on his future and his sect's, mulling over the promises and threats of the Empyrean Sword Sect. "I wonder if we'll fall off the edge of this cliff or rise even higher...."

Two hours later, he heard heavy footsteps and saw the white-haired youth and the bird walk out. "Don't be crestfallen. You'll succeed eventually with your willpower," he consoled.

"Chief Instructor." There were flames in his eyes. Merely looking at his body made Gujian Qingshuang's eyes feel pricked. The legends of the Flameyellow Continent spoke of deities that could kill with a glance, something that Tianming currently embodied. "I succeeded."

Gujian Qingshuang felt another wince of pain in his heart, having lost two strands of grade-six divine hazard sword ki. Still, the youth had shocked him once more. He was the perfect genius, one in which he couldn't find a flaw. If he had to pick one, it would be that he seemed to value loyalty far too much for his own good. The people around him were his weakness.

"As expected of a Sky Palace disciple. It seems like they made the right choice."

"I've humiliated myself with my past failures. Sorry for troubling you, Chief Instructor."

"It is no big deal. Being able to help you grow is the Azuresoul Palace's honor."

"Thanks. That aside, I've picked the third one to assimilate. May I come again in ten days?"

"You may. Still, let me emphasize that this will progressively get more difficult. Take care to ensure that you don't push yourself to the point of hurting yourself."

"I appreciate the advice." Tianming left with Ying Huo.

"Why don't you tell him directly that you won't be going to the Emyrean Sword Sect? That way, Jiang Qingliu will be fine," Ying Huo said.

"We'd be revealing that we can eavesdrop on them if that's the case."

"Can't you just hint at it?"

"He's no fool. We have no plausible deniability. Hinting is as good as admitting it. Yin Chen's ability is our trump card. We can't let anyone find out. If they communicate with transmission stones, it'll be much harder for us."

"Fine. Caution is still the best."

"There's one more thing."

"Out with it then."

"Actually, we finally have some leverage in the negotiations with Aunt Ying's friends. I want to build an empire here on this continent and use Omniscient Will for cultivation and fights. That means I'll have to dominate both the Azuresoul Palace and Supracloud Sanctuary. With Yin Chen's bonegnaw ants able to give me complete control over someone and how much Aunt Ying trusts me, we'll be taking some risks in the future. For now, my final goal will be controlling Yun Tianque and Shi Yan. As for Gujian Qingshuang, I want to see what choice he ultimately makes. If he chooses to oppose us, I'll make him a target for control as well. I'd be happier if he didn't, though. With his wholehearted support, things would go much better for us."

Tianming knew that his ambitions were too far off for now. He was only in his twenties, so it was still out of the question. But the fact that he could plan for things so far in the future made him much different from most people his age. While Yu Ziqian was busy fooling around with girls, he was planning how to take over the continent.

"Gujian Qingshuang has been really nice to you, and even gave you quite a lot of treasures. Wouldn't doing that be really shitty?" Ying Huo said.

"That's not a fair characterization. He's only willing to do all this because I've joined the Sky Palace. Otherwise he wouldn't even bat an eye. Not to mention, I'm not set on dooming him. There's still hope for cooperation with him. Though, if it turns out that he wants to oppose me no matter what, I'll use the bonegnaw ants as a failsafe. As long as he does what I say, I won't treat him badly. It's like how we employed the Latticeheart Curse back on the moon."

It was still hard to say if it would work out, since the ants could only be deployed during actual combat. Now, Jiang Qingliu and Long Wanying were the most important seniors for Tianming. He was really thankful and respectful of them, Jiang Qingliu especially. He was the one who had given Tianming and the rest a chance to join the Voidsky Skirmish, not to mention he was an important benefactor of Yu

Ziqian's as well. If Tianming were to pick between Jiang Qingliu and Gujian Qingshuang, he would no doubt pick the former.

"I know you don't really have a good impression of Gujian Qingshuang, because he didn't say anything when the Empyrean Sword Sect brought up killing Jiang Qingliu," Ying Huo said.

"That's right. No matter what the circumstances are, sitting idle while other people are asking you to give up the lives of your own people is just trashy. I wouldn't entrust such a secret to someone like him, lest he let others harm me through his 'inaction'." Tianming felt that opening up to the chief instructor was too much of a risk. He didn't want to give up the edge he had from being able to listen in to all of their conversations.

"Come to think of it, the top figures would never expect a brat like you to have ambitions of conquering the entire continent," Ying Huo said.

"It's still far off from now. Damn, I really want to know how much more powerful I'll be in five hundred years."

"I'll be thankful if you survive that long."

"Nonsense!"

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The sky was still burning bright by the time they returned to the sixth branch.

"Do you know why I keep thinking about my empire?" Tianming asked.

"Nope."

"The sun emperor, Qingyu, and my godfather's letter.... All of that indicates that, one day, the celestial orderians will want me dead. The sun emperor could be the greatest foe I've ever faced. I have to be prepared. He has far too much of a head start over me in terms of age and power. I'll only stand a chance against him if I can leverage the power of the whole Myriad Solar Sects!" Tianming was already worrying about an eventuality that would only come to pass in a few centuries.

Chapter 1305 - Making It Up As One Goes Along

"Fusing four sword strikes together would make the Ninedragon Tribulation as powerful as a sixth-realm battle art. It should be stronger than Weisheng Moran's Lifeless Dreamdance, right? Since one shouldn't be able to unleash the power of a sixth-realm battle art before becoming a solarian, that must mean I'll be invincible among those of my age! If I throw my totems into the mix, it'd be epic even if I'm only a first-level constellier!" Tianming felt that he was quite the oddity for having so many techniques, despite not being that powerful. His lacking cultivation level was a persistent headache for him.

"It's been about two months since we arrived at the Azuresoul Palace. Feng and Xiaoxiao both broke through already, but I'm still stuck!" The reason for that was that his Lifesbane Will hadn't become a divine will yet. As his rapid growth spurt after breaking the Lifesbane curse was nearing its end, he could no longer keep up with Lingfeng and Xiaoxiao, who consumed resources to advance, by relying solely on his Trisoul Prime. Even so, his rate of progress was three or four times faster than those as talented as

Long Longlong, but he still felt that he was making really slow progress. While being stuck at the same level for two months was normal for most people, he felt like he was creeping along at a snail's pace.

"The reason for this must be that I haven't had many trials I've had to overcome since coming here. There isn't enough danger at all, so I'm not being pushed to break through my bottlenecks. Usually, I grow the fastest when balancing on the tightrope of life and death."

That was proof that making it up as he went along would no longer work out for him. Even if he had ten Primordial Chaos Beasts to boast of, if he kept hiding for thousands of years without going around adventuring, there was no way he would become a powerful elite. The most he would be was the strongest in his little corner of the world, a corner with neither resources nor connections. There wouldn't even be any place that fulfilled the hatching conditions for his other Primordial Chaos Beasts. With talent alone but no will to be forged, he wouldn't be able to compare against a 'normal' genius. Real elites emerged through countless trials and tribulations. Going into hiding for thousands of years would only cause him to stagnate to the point of not even knowing how to interact with others.

"Even though my status as a Sky Palace disciple guarantees my safety, it's also removed all opportunities for challenge from my life. I don't have any chance to grow at all."

Tianming had sought out some of the youthgrand disciples of the Azuresoul Palace to spar against. Among those who were below a hundred at the mid to high levels of the Constellation stage, there were some that could defeat him. But one thing was true for all of them: they didn't dare to hurt Tianming at all, so they held back and didn't give him any real push.

"Not to mention, among the solarian caeli in the Azuresky Bridge, none of their experiences have anything that can help my Lifesbane Will grow. It almost feels like the faster I want it to progress, the slower I actually progress." Such worries were common for most cultivators, but had previously been rare in Tianming's case. "Maybe it would've turned out better if I'd gone to the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect. I heard that the caelum of the Ninedragon Emperor is still preserved."

The caelum of the emperor was no doubt among the highest quality caeli available. No doubt it was among the most precious cultivation treasures in all of the sect, perhaps even the sun. Only the celestial orderians and the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect had caeli of absolute emperors like that, though the former definitely had more than one; there was at least one for each of the generations of emperors that ruled them. That allowed young celestial orderians to gain a huge head start in their cultivation. With the many talented geniuses they had and the fact they were totemancers, it wasn't surprising that they had many of the young generation under the age of thirty who were far more powerful than anyone on the imperial star ranking. While Tianming was ranked first, it would be hard to say if he could make it in the top ten if celestial orderians were included in the ranking.

"It can't be helped. This is a fundamental divide between beastmasters and totemancers." Totemancers naturally cultivated faster than beastmasters, especially during the intermediate phase of cultivation. At a younger age, they had a huge advantage while beastmasters had to drag their lifebound beasts along to catch up. While Tianming was also a totemancer, he had only just recently awakened them, while others already had more than two decades of practice.

"What can I do, then?" The divine tree was already about to bloom, yet he was still stuck. "I guess I should just get used to this speed! This is normal! Though, at the end of the day, not being able to go to the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect would still have an effect on me."

There was a good chance that he would have broken through by now had he managed to go. That was the importance of having access to cultivation resources. Based on what Long Wanying had said, the Veildragon Palace might control the sect for a few more years, perhaps even until this generation's Saintdragon Emperor retired. After that, they had free reign to brainwash the younger generation and completely swallow up all the Xuanyuans.

Currently, Yu Ziqian was a sixth-level constellier. However, his pill recession phase had returned. Xiaoxiao was at the fifth level and still improving. Lingfeng, on the other hand, had reached the fourth level, thanks to the remaining effects from the two divine pills he had consumed as well as the pills Yu Ziqian had been feeding him over the past two months. He could already go toe-to-toe with sixth-level constelliers, or seventh level if they were totemancers. It was said that the top three celestial orderians were at the seventh level. Tianming was quite envious of their progress.

"Still, things can't be rushed. Let's go to the wondersky realm and see if I can get a good whip technique to use with the Lifesteal Silverdragon from the ancient idols." It had been quite some time since he'd gone there, and Lingfeng wanted to join him too.

The two of them updated their recent progress with the heavenly locus formations so that they would be reflected in the wondersky realm. Anything Tianming used in the formation would be recorded and used to generate a simulation that he could use within. For instance, he registered the four strands of grade-six divine hazard sword ki in his body by letting out their aura. Tianming also registered his fifth lifebound beast, the Myriadworld Immortabeast, as well as his pandemonium constellation, Lifesteal Silverdragon, and the Ninedragon Tribulation. However, there was an issue when it came to the pandemonium constellation. The heavenly locus formation seemed unable to detect the suppression it exhibited on other constellations, which made it weaker within the wondersky realm. Fortunately, he had registered seven of his totems to be used within to make up for it.

"So, I'm only three totems and one constellation short from my full power inside. I wonder how powerful I am relative to the rest on the Violetglory Star!" He had been hiding his decapath era godswords for far too long. Not to mention, Yin Chen had just hatched and hadn't fought before, so Tianming was itching to test things out in actual battle. He summoned a hundred and fifty thousand silver eggs to him. Fortunately, the heavenly locus formation seemed able to record its abilities and classified it as a broodmother-type beast. Apart from the special ability of the bonegnaw ant, the rest of its capabilities had been recorded without issue.

Now, his vita went into a deep sleep while his caelum traveled into the xenomemory space. He saw a gigantic, colorful butterfly there, which reminded Tianming of the sixth egg.

"Let's go in!"

Together with Lingfeng, he was dragged into it. Light seemed to warp around them.

"Welcome back, Violetglory Disciple Lin Feng," the wondersky fairy said. The chubby little thing flew around, flapping its little wings.

"Tianming... you... hahaha!" Lingfeng couldn't help his laughter.

"What?" As expected, Yin Chen's caelum was also turned into a tattoo on his body. He was covered in silver dots all over, as if he was a measles patient. Not even his face was spared. Lan Huang and Meow Meow were forced down to his legs.

"Tianming, even your balls are covered in silver balls," Ying Huo said.

Tianming gave up all hope. "My cover here is supposed to be Lin Feng... but it looks like I'll be known as Measles Lin instead." It looked absolutely intolerable.

Right as Tianming was about to go to the ancient idols, the wondersky fairy said, "Lin Feng, you have a message from Liu Wanwan of the Mystgod Pavilion."

"A message? To think that there's even a function like that...." Tianming was even more impressed.

"Would you like me to read it out?"

"Sure."

"Liu Wanwan's message is as follows: Lin Feng, the entire Violetglory Star is looking for you. Where've you gone? If you're back, come look for me! I'll take you somewhere interesting! End of message. Would you like to look for Liu Wanwan?"

"Somewhere interesting?" She had mentioned it to him a few times before, piquing his curiosity. Since he wasn't on an urgent assignment and had the time, he said, "Alright. Check if she's around. If she is, ask her to meet me at Perplexity Island."

"Understood." A moment later, it said, "The meeting has been set. She's waiting for you at the destination. Do you want to be transported there?"

"Yes!" It was incredibly convenient that they could warp around the place in an instant.

"I wonder how far away this star is from ours," Lingfeng said with a hint of longing.

"If we can reach their wondersky realm from the Divine Moon Realm, it shouldn't be too far away, I guess," Tianming said.

"What do you think will happen if the Violetglory Star runs into our sun?"

"War? Peace? Who knows. I guess it depends on how powerful each faction is."

"I have a feeling the Violetglory Star might be more powerful. At the very least, it's more powerful than the Myriad Solar Sects."

"I second that thought," Tianming agreed. "After I defeated a first-level constellier here the last time, I was ranked around nine thousand and eight hundred." Right as he finished saying that, they arrived at Perplexity Island.

Chapter 1306 - Violetglory Radiance, Caelum Imperius

Just after Tianming arrived, he saw a cute girl with green bunned hair in front of him. She looked quite different from girls on the sun, having a more lifelike and forest-folk vibe about her. The maidens of the sun, on the other hand, were spicier and more aggressive, in stark contrast to Liu Wanwan.

"Long time no see, Lin Feng!" She greeted him with a warm hug.

Tianming was always impressed by the wondersky realm. Not only could his caelum body feel her touch, he could also pick up the fragrance about her. The divine wondersky race was truly a force to be reckoned with.

"Wanwan, you've mentioned that interesting place of yours a few times already. Where is it?" Tianming asked. Since he had level-three privileges now, going anywhere within the wondersky realm was really convenient. There were many places he had yet to explore, and no doubt they had things the Azuresoul Palace definitely didn't.

"Going straight to the point, are you? Have you considered my invitation to join the Mystgod Pavilion? My clan is the top clan in the sect, you know!"

Since the last time he'd challenged the ancient idols, his identity, Lin Feng, had spread all across the wondersky realm. However, there was no real-world information about him. Up until now, people were still searching for him on the Violetglory Star. "I already have a faction backing me, but it has to stay secret. So I'm afraid I can't join you."

"I see. Oh well. That wouldn't stop us from being friends, though. Pay my sect a visit when you have time!"

"I will if I have the chance." Tianming wondered where in the world their star was even located in the first place.

"It's a promise, then! Well, I was planning to take you to the Violetcloud Battlefield to spectate the battles there. However, you've made it to the top ten thousand, so you can join the battles yourself. That's where you can spread your name and get famous!"

"The Violetcloud Battlefield? What's the point of fighting?"

"Sigh... you must've grown up in some cave for you to not even know that."

"I'm busy training in seclusion all the time."

"Alright. I'll tell you more as we go."

All they had to do was to tell the wondersky fairy their destination. A light surrounded the three of them as they were transported.

Liu Wanwan said, "The Violetcloud Battlefield is where disciples under the age of thirty fight for their place on the Violetglory ranking. Countless people from the Violetglory Star pay attention to the battles there. Geniuses from all over the world go there to fight, so the rankings keep shifting. Both spectating and participating in the fights there will help you learn a lot!"

In other words, this was similar to the imperial star ranking. However, he didn't care about being ranked in some foreign star far away. He was, however, curious how powerful the top ten rankers were. Could they compare to the celestial orderians?

"Is there any other benefit?" he asked.

"What benefits?"

"Benefits of being ranked high."

"Of course! Why else would people fight? Nobody would fight just for fame alone, since the rankings are never constant."

"Then what's in it for them?"

"The rankings correspond to your cultivation privileges at the Violetglory Pagoda."

"Oh?" Though he didn't care about it initially, that did pique his interest. "So ranking high can let me train on higher levels of the pagoda, eh...."

Tianming had more or less gotten to know the standard of caeli in the Azuresky Bridge. They were fairly similar to the caeli in the pagoda's fourth or fifth levels. So far, he only had access to the third level.

"That's right!" Liu Wanwan said.

"So we don't have to wait ten days to challenge the pagoda? We can just fight until we lose every day?" Those rules were interesting, but Tianming couldn't bear to wait ten days.

"No need. As long as you've secured your ranking, you can keep cultivating without even leaving. That's the privilege that belongs only to geniuses! Envious? Recall the first time we fought. You weren't even my match back then, but now you're in the top ten thousand and qualified to fight here. I'm envious of you."

"Wanwan, how do the rankings correspond to which level you get to enter?" He knew that there were nine levels in total, and had a feeling the caeli in the sixth level and above were superior to anything the Azuresoul Palace had. Maybe the higher levels had something that would be superior to even the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect's, which would be of great help to him. He could make up for the lack of resources of the Azuresoul Palace this way.

"It's simple. The top thousand most powerful people among the younger generation are allowed to cultivate as long as they like on the fifth level. But once they fall out of the top thousand bracket, they'll immediately be ejected."

The quality of caeli on the fifth level likely equaled the best ones in Azuresky Bridge. "What else?"

"The next bracket is the top hundred. Those people are ranked in the top hundred of two billion juniors! They'll be allowed to cultivate on the sixth level as long as they like. As for the third bracket, it's the top ten. Those super geniuses get access to the seventh level! Then, the fourth bracket is the top three, the three most impressive people! They're allowed to stay at the eighth level. Usually, one must be a tenth-level solarian or above to make it to the eighth level, but the top three can go earlier without having to fight to keep their place."

Tianming was now certain he had to go to the Violetcloud Battlefield no matter what. It could be the key he needed to solve his current predicament. "What else?" Tianming wondered what benefits the first place would be given. Otherwise, why bother fighting for the top?

"Of course. If you're the top ranker, you'll be given access to the ninth level!" That was the best the pagoda had to offer. Naturally, the implication was that those privileges would only be granted to those under thirty. Those above that age wouldn't qualify to be ranked.

Come to think of it, the ranking here keeps being updated, whereas the imperial star ranking only gets changed once every decade during the Voidsky Skirmish. The standards of the Violetglory ranking must be more up to date. For instance, people like Yu Ziqian, who were only able to perform due to a temporary power boost once every month or two, would never last on the ranking.

"What level of caeli are on the ninth level of the pagoda?" Tianming asked.

"Caeli imperius of course! There's a hundred of them in total, all of which are contributions of the many rulers of our star across generations! It's said that even someone without any shred of talent can shoot to the peak of power with their guidance! Those heights aren't places one can reach with mere effort and ability alone. Talent is absolutely vital, and only the top-ranked person on the under-thirty and under-hundred rankings has the privilege of going to the ninth level."

"Wow...." Tianming didn't know how else he could describe his awe. Taking a deep breath, he roared, "I want to take first place on the rankings on both stars! Looks like it isn't the end of the road for me after all!"

"What do you mean by both stars? And why did you yell? It scared me!"

"Haha, I just wanted to vent a bit." Tianming patted Lingfeng on the shoulder and said, "I'll give you second place. Xiaoxiao can take third."

"All three of you? Are you dreaming?" Liu Wanwan said, but then she laughed. "Well, we are in the wondersky realm, after all, so it's no different from dreaming."

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Soon, they reached the Violetcloud Battlefield. Tianming looked across the area from above, seeing a gigantic violet sphere in front of him. It was a sphere of cloud and mist with countless blinding star-like objects shining within. It was a huge spherical formation in which battles were carried out. Outside the battlefield were huge crowds of people, mostly juniors, numbering more than tens of millions. It was almost as crowded as the Voidsky Skirmish, with the main difference being the rules: anyone that was defeated would be replaced!

"I wanted to bring you here to watch the battles from outside through our wondersky fairies. Hundreds of millions of people pay attention to the fights of the top hundred," Liu Wanwan said.

"How high in the rankings can I challenge as I am now?" Tianming asked.

"You're within the top ten thousand, so you can try for the top thousand spots. When you succeed, you can try for the top-hundred bracket and so on until you reach the top." It sounded like refusing

challenges was also allowed, but one had to fight at least once in a while or they would automatically be removed from the ranking.

"Exciting...."

Tianming took a deep breath. He could simply defeat someone and enter the top thousand ranks, which would allow him to head to the fifth level of Violetglory Pagoda. However, his goal was to gain access to the ninth level.

Billions of people paid attention to the vast Violetcloud Battlefield. It was an atmosphere that caused one's blood to boil.

Chapter 1307 - Cousin Sister

With the wondersky fairy around, Tianming could easily issue challenges. Lingfeng, however, had to start by getting into the top-ten-thousand bracket first, though he was in no rush. Since they had time to spare, he chose to watch the battles while Tianming fought first.

"Let's go! It's been some time since the commotion you caused with the ancient idols, but I'm sure there's still some people that remember you," Liu Wanwan said.

The three of them went to the outer fringes of the spherical battlefield where other disciples were spectating the fights. The closer they came, the larger the battlefield seemed. Disciples under thirty were all over the place, fervently looking at the fighters and hoping that they, too, would stand among the ones they adored, making their sects and families proud.

"Look up," Liu Wanwan said.

Hearing that, Tianming turned his head up. There was a lot of blinding violet text all over the place, all of it names. They weren't neatly arranged from top to bottom like the imperial star ranking. Instead, they resembled a vortex. The higher ranked someone was, the closer their name was to the center! The first name shone brightly, with the second and third orbiting it just as brightly. The top ten names were all conspicuous. But the further out the names were, the smaller they became. Tianming's alias, 'Lin Feng', for instance, was near the edge of the vortex.

"The Violetglory Star has tens of thousands of constelliers, far more than the Myriad Solar Sects." Tianming marveled at the sight. Then he asked the wondersky fairy about the basics of challenging. Within a certain timeframe, he could challenge ten people of the top thousand. The precise rules were rather complicated, so he glossed over it. He didn't care, as long as someone accepted his challenge.

"Are you sure you want to fight now? You might have a better chance if you come back after some preparation. Don't waste the precious few chances to make a challenge," Liu Wanwan advised.

"It's fine. I'm already prepared."

"Mysterious as always. By the way, what about Xiao Ling who came with you the last time? Why isn't she here?"

"She's a little busy. I'll bring her here next time." It seemed that Feiling's looks had made quite an impression on Liu Wanwan.

"Alright. Then I'll await your shocking performance!" she said with a wink.

Right then, someone called out to her from behind. The two of them turned back and saw a group of young people dressed like Liu Wanwan. Perhaps they were from the same sect. There were a dozen or so people, all young men and women that dressed in a rather refined manner. The one who had called out was dressed in a light-orange dress that was adorned with quite a few jewels. Her fair skin and refined features caused her to stand out among the rest, marking her to be of rather high station. The other young folks near her huddled around her like she was their leader.

"What is it?" Liu Wanwan asked timidly, looking slightly afraid of the young woman.

"Nothing much. I haven't seen you for quite a while, so I wanted to ask you what level you're at now."

"I'm at Octasaint Sky," Liu Wanwan whispered shyly, her face flushing.

"Come on! That's too slow! Stop messing around with those lowborn scoundrels and focus on cultivating. Don't embarrass your mom, alright? Last time, Auntie came to me and kept asking me to look after you."

When Liu Wanwan mentioned her cultivation level, the youths around the orange-clad girl couldn't help but chuckle, though they struggled to stifle it. Liu Wanwan was from a rather prestigious bloodline in their sect, though she was the weakest of her line and couldn't compare to them.

"Fine!" Liu Wanwan didn't want to talk too much about it.

However, the young woman seemed to take offense. Rolling her eyes, she said, "You can't build a wall with mud, you know." She looked closely at Tianming and Lingfeng as she did so. However, their aura seemed to startle her slightly. Instinctively, she said, "It's one thing for you to laze around, but you keep seeking out strange men to play around with. You'd better watch your behavior. Even I'm getting worried on behalf of your mom."

"Hey, Liu Xuanxuan, stop sticking your nose in my business, alright? You're going more and more overboard. I know you want to relish in your superiority complex, but please stop coming to bother me. I'm not the least bit obligated to entertain you," Liu Wanwan said.

"That's all it took for you to freak out?" Liu Xuanxuan sighed and shook her head with disappointment, as if she was a senior.

"She can no longer be helped. Let's leave her be," said another girl beside them.

"Come on, let's go. Quite a few people are challenging me. If I don't face one of them today, I'll get kicked out of the ranking," Liu Xuanxuan said, intentionally making herself heard. She wanted Liu Wanwan to know that, unlike her, who could only spectate, she could join the fights.

Liu Wanwan lowered her head as they left, unwilling to engage any longer.

Tianming, seeing her crestfallen look, asked, "What's her ranking?"

"Huh?"

"The Violetglory ranking. How high does she rank?"

"Six hundred and eighteen."

"Perfect." Tianming had heard her name and said, "Liu Xuanxuan, someone called Lin Feng will challenge you later. Make sure to accept."

"Oh?" She turned around and smiled. "Would that be you?"

"Yes, one of the 'lowborn scoundrels'."

"Then you'll do." Liu Xuanxuan shrugged as she glared at Liu Wanwan once more before turning to leave.

"Who was that?" Tianming asked when they were gone.

"My cousin sister. She's a few years younger than me, but far stronger. Her dad's the vice leader of the Mystgod Pavilion and the second strongest person. Actually, I respect her quite a bit. She is truly talented and among the best in the sect. However, she's simply too petty. A long time ago when we were young and I was playing around with her, I beat her up. Now she keeps messing with me every time she meets me. How troubling..." She shook her head and smiled. "But it's fine, she never actually hurts me physically! So, are you challenging her because you want to stand up for me?"

"You're overthinking things. I just worry that nobody will bother to accept my challenge, so I simply did what was more convenient."

"Haha, and I thought you were doing it for me. I felt moved, you know." She couldn't help it and burst out laughing.

'Lin Feng' was a far too common name. There were more than twenty people on the Violetglory ranking alone with that name, and most would definitely refuse a challenge from someone with such an inconspicuous name. Not to mention, many people who used names like that were smurfs, people who intentionally used a nondescript name to lower the guard of others.

Tianming submitted a challenge to Liu Xuanxuan and waited. It didn't take long before the wondersky fairy informed him that she had accepted.

"I finally caught a stepping stone that'll let me reach the top one thousand." He was rather lucky to have run into her. "If I defeat her, will she go down a rank or swap ranks with me?"

"Swap, of course. She'd instantly lose access to the fifth level of the Violetglory Pagoda and take your place in the nine thousand and eight hundred plus rank," Liu Wanwan said.

"That's exciting." It was no surprise that the ranking was so volatile, considering that.

Chapter 1308 - Second Battle

"You don't get it, Lin Feng. She's using you as a scapegoat. If she defeats you, she can start refusing challenges for a time once more. Most of the rankers accept challenges from weaklings to fulfill that requirement. Liu Xuanxuan must think you're a weakling for being my friend," Liu Wanwan said. There must be a reason Liu Xuanxuan had accepted the challenge so quickly.

"Underestimating me, I see. Then open your eyes wide and watch. I'm going in," Tianming said.

"Fine, go!"

"Want me to beat her up for you?"

"Idiot, this is the wondersky realm. Even if you kill her here, her body won't even so much as itch."

"You've got a point." Tianming stretched out his hand toward the battlefield and got sucked in, leaving Lingfeng and Liu Wanwan behind, staring wide-eyed.

"Why didn't you say anything?" Liu Wanwan asked Lingfeng.

"Why should I say anything?"

"Weirdo."

"You're the weirdo."

Liu Wanwan was starting to find that these two were getting weirder by the day. "Maybe he really can pull Liu Xuanxuan down a notch and teach her a lesson she won't forget. I hope she'll stop going to my mom to tell on me...." With such hopes in mind, she focused her attention on the viewport of Tianming and Liu Xuanxuan's fight.

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"Since you're the challenger, you can choose the terrain of the fight."

There Tianming found himself in a blank-white world with nothing in it. It was an empty void. "Anything will do."

"Then, enabling spectator view."

The white world began widening even more. Tianming found himself within the spherical formation. From within, he could see the spectators outside, including Lingfeng and Liu Wanwan. They could also see him inside. There weren't many spectators right now, only around ten thousand, most of whom had come to watch Liu Xuanxuan.

"Interesting...." He marveled at the sight as Liu Xuanxuan appeared in front of him.

When she appeared, she looked at Tianming and nonchalantly said, "It is you after all. What's this about? Are you trying to get in Liu Wanwan's good graces and marry into a good family?"

Stunned, Tianming said, "What's wrong with your eyes? Are you blind? Can't you tell from a single look that I'm a peak talent? Is my aura not powerful enough?"

"It's so-so. Truly powerful people wouldn't spend time with Liu Wanwan, anyway. There's far too many wannabes like you around her," she said, rolling her eyes.

Tianming didn't really care about relishing in his underdog fantasy any longer. His prey was already on the hook, so he was more than happy. "Alright, let's not waste time. Let's do this."

Tianming didn't even bother summoning his lifebound beasts. From the information he got about Liu Xuanxuan, he learned that she was a celestial disciple of Mystgod Pavilion, ranking fourth in the entire sect among her generation. She was a fourth-level constellier beastmaster at the age of twenty-two.

He recalled that Lan Feilin of the Blueblood Starocean also seemed to be at the fourth level. However, she ranked in the top twenty of the imperial star ranking, whereas Liu Xuanxuan was ranked around six hundred. That showed the gap of power between Orderia and the Violetglory Star. Though, with all things concerning people under thirty, cultivation level didn't necessarily reflect one's talent. It wasn't necessarily the case that the peak elites of both stars were that far apart in ability, but at the very least, it seemed that the Violetglory ranking was far more competitive than the imperial star ranking.

"Begin!"

The Lifesteal Silverdragon appeared in Tianming's hand. He quickly lashed out with it, sending a silver dragon flying toward Liu Xuanxuan with terrifying speed. She was still summoning her weapon at a leisurely pace as the silver chain pierced through her heart, completely stupefying her.

"If this was the real world, you'd already be dead," Tianming said.

"Are you fucking kidding me?!" Liu Xuanxuan blankly stared at the chain that pierced through her chest.

"Lin Feng is victorious! Your ranks will be swapped. Liu Xuanxuan has lost her privilege to cultivate at the fifth level of the Violetglory Pagoda." The announcement was given before she could even react. Then the two of them were transported out of Violetcloud Battlefield.

Tianming returned to Lingfeng and the rest. Liu Wanwan stared at him, nervously and audibly gulping.

"This... what? You... huh?" She couldn't form a coherent sentence.

"Can I challenge the top hundred today?" To Tianming, this was merely par for the course. It wasn't a big deal. He was fully ready to move on to his next goal, having dealt with Liu Xuanxuan. After all, the fifth level of the pagoda was akin to the Azuresky Bridge, so going there was pointless.

"Xuanxuan lost?" Liu Wanwan finally managed to say.

"What's with that delayed reaction? Is there a connection problem with your heavenly locus formation? Yes, she was defeated! What's next?" Tianming gave her head a knock.

She winced slightly from the pain, though she had never felt better from the vindication. She was still reeling with shock, but she managed to say, "Not bad! You actually managed to stand up for me! So, are you going to continue with the challenges?"

"Yes."

"Then, give it a try. Take it easy, though." She felt that Tianming should be able to enter the top hundred, since he had effortlessly managed to take out Liu Xuanxuan. The Mystgod Pavilion is ranked seventeenth among the sects, yet not even we have any disciple that made it into the top hundred. If he succeeds... heavens.... She was starting to panic.

"Liu Wanwan!" someone angrily called out from behind her.

Liu Wanwan knew who it was without turning around. Though she was sheepish, she turned around and said, "What is it this time?"

It was the same group of youths from before, all of whom were menacingly glaring at her. "Where'd you find that person? Did you get him to mess with me? He surprise attacked me! How can you expect me to accept that?!" Liu Xuanxuan snapped.

"Surprise attack? You... forget it. Why do I even try? He's the guy who caused a huge commotion at Perplexity Island with his chain victories against the ancient idols, Lin Feng. Everyone outside is looking for him and trying to get him to join their sect."

"Him?" They finally recalled who he was.

"How'd you get to know him?" Liu Xuanxuan asked.

"I wonder.... Try mingling with 'lowborn scoundrels' for a change. You never know who you'll meet."

"Where is he now? Let me negotiate with him. I'll offer him good conditions to join." Liu Xuanxuan's attitude completely changed and she wanted to pull Tianming to her side.

"Forget it. He already has a secret faction he belongs to."

"He only told you that because your persuasion abilities are pathetic. Where is he?"

"He went in again to challenge someone in the top hundred."

"He's doing it again? Will anyone accept?"

"Is your brain a decoration or something? How'd he go back in if nobody accepted his challenge? Ugh, I don't want to talk to you anymore. I want to watch the fight." Liu Wanwan turned to look at the battlefield.

"The fight already started? Wondersky fairy, I want to spectate too!" The entire group approached Violetcloud Battlefield to spectate.

"And who might you be?" Liu Xuanxuan asked Lingfeng, who merely ignored her. She glared at him and said, "Playing it cool in front of me? How impudent!"

"You're now ranked around nine thousand, right? If I challenge you, can I take your place in the ranking?" Lingfeng said.

"Are you messing with me?" Liu Xuanxuan laughed.

"You can, but you won't be able to fight in the Violetcloud Battlefield. Just get the wondersky fairy to arrange a personal duel between the two of you," Liu Wanwan said. She couldn't wait to take things a step further.

Chapter 1309 - Firmament Violetrain Swords

"After my brother finishes his matches, let's duel. The one who doesn't accept is a loser and a coward," Lingfeng said.

"You!" Liu Xuanxuan felt anger simmering in her once more. Gritting her teeth, she snapped, "I'll beat you up so badly that your face will swell!"

Lingfeng merely laughed.

"Aren't I great? I brought the two of you such a great stone to step over," Liu Wanwan said.

"Yeah, you're alright," Lingfeng said.

Liu Xuanxuan felt herself losing it once more. However, what'd happened during the fight just now had made her feel a bit of terror.

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Tianming didn't think his second fight would go so smoothly. He could only issue three challenges at once to those in the top hundred, and all of them that he picked were ranked pretty highly. The range from the eleventh ranker to the hundredth ranker was quite large, with the eleventh being a sixth-level constellier, somewhere near Weisheng Moran's level. Though, of the three challenges that he issued, the twenty-fifth ranker was the one that accepted first. Being able to rank that highly among so many peers was no doubt something to be proud of. For someone of his level, it was rather rare to get a challenge from someone ranked in the six hundreds. Usually, anyone that was trying to go up to the top hundred bracket would issue a challenge to those ranked between eighty and a hundred.

So far, Tianming's name still wasn't all that famous yet, especially in comparison to his opponent, who was ranked the highest among all present here. After all, most people in the top twenty-four didn't spend time near the Violetcloud Battlefield. The twenty-fifth fellow was looking for someone to fight to fulfill his minimum challenge quota before leaving. Given that he was a rather high ranker, all the spectators there were paying attention to the fight.

Hundreds of millions of people were spectating outside the battlefield. This battle was given tens of thousands of times more attention than the one before. Tianming could almost feel the overbearing weight of all the gazes on him. It was as if he was standing on the stage in a limelight, there to be beheld by the countless people in the audience who were chattering about him.

"Who's that?"

"No idea. Looks like a disciple ranked around six hundred."

"Is that a joke? He must be crazy, trying to jump from six hundred straight to twenty-five."

"Don't tell me it's a challenger Han Xingluan privately arranged to fight so he can fulfill his quota without losing...."

"Are you kidding? Han Xingluan's from the Violetcloud Imperium. His power is so well known that he's challenged those in the top ten before. Normally, people wouldn't dare to challenge him of their own accord either, with his rank at twenty-five. How'd he even get someone to fight him? Only a fool would pick him when there's so many people in the top hundred that are weaker than him."

The battle was one shrouded in mysteries. They didn't know that Tianming had chosen the stronger ones to challenge so that he could get a quicker match.

"Han Xingluan!" Many fervent spectators cried out his name. It felt like a tidal wave coming from behind Tianming, almost like Omniscient Will, but one that suppressed rather than aided him. They were definitely placing their bets on Han Xingluan winning.

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Tianming's opponent appeared in front of him. The wondersky fairy gave him a brief introduction: "Han Xingluan, from the Violetcloud Imperium, one of the five grand Violetcloud Disciples, totemancer with seven bane-rings. Totems: firmament violetrain swords, fifth-level constellier."

The Violetcloud Imperium was ranked second in the faction ranking, and the title of Violetcloud Disciple that only five people could hold sounded impressive, to say the least. A youth with long, sparkling, deep-violet hair appeared before Tianming, instantly giving off powerful sword ki. Tianming could see the sword-shaped bane-rings on seven of his ten fingers. It was the first time he had seen bane-rings manifest in such a form. His own 'bane-rings' took the form of text, while Li Wudi's manifested as many beasts' faces and Qingyu's manifested as moons. It was no surprise that Han Xingluan was a natural-born sword totemancer.

In fact, Tianming could see half a sword on his eighth finger. He had seven and a half bane-rings in total, making him something like Sovereign Xi, who had only been a step away from having eight of them. Tianming could feel the piercing aura when he met his gaze, as well as the disdain he had for him. Han Xingluan didn't even bother saying a word and struck immediately, sending a stream of sword ki blasting out from his finger toward Tianming. The sword ki turned into star-like sword apparitions.

Tianming didn't find the underestimation surprising. He had done the same to Liu Xuanxuan moments before. It was built upon the confidence he had in his own strength. In the same manner, Han Xingluan considered Tianming, who only ranked around six hundred, to be much weaker than him, figuring him to be some no-name cultivator. If Tianming were in his shoes, he would also want to settle it in one strike and get back to his own business. Little did he know, though, that this time, he had run face first into a wall of iron.

The power of Han Xingluan's sword ki almost seemed boosted by the fervent cheers of the audience' however, Tianming didn't make any attempt to evade at all. "Is he insane?"

What transpired completely stupefied everyone watching: Tianming opened his mouth and bit the strand of sword ki before it pierced through him. Then the four strands of grade-six divine hazard sword ki within his body immediately devoured it. The sword ki in Han Xingluan's body was only grade five, so it couldn't compare at all.

"I pulled this trick as a warning for you to fight seriously. I wouldn't want you to blame me for catching you off guard with an underhanded trick," Tianming said.

"Huh?" Han Xingluan didn't think he would hear something like that coming from the mouth of someone of that rank. Stunned, he said, "Who are you?"

"Lin Feng."

"Ah, I remember. Are you the one who caused a commotion with the ancient idols?"

"That's right."

"Are you interested in joining the Violetcloud Imperium?" Though he appeared calm, he was actually growing wary of Tianming. People as powerful as him who were completely arrogant and foolish were far and few in between. For instance, the moment Han Xingluan got a feeling that Tianming would be hard to deal with, he immediately dropped all pretenses and even tried to make a friendly invitation.

"If you can defeat me, I'll join," Tianming said with a smile.

"Interesting! Alright, then I'll fight you seriously!" He hadn't expected that the duel he thought would be dealt with in an instant would actually become one that completely overwhelmed the spectators.

"Did you hear them talk?"

"That white-haired youth is the one from the ancient idols!"

"Interesting. I heard that people still aren't able to track him down. Is he going to make a debut in the wondersky realm by stepping into the limelight here?"

"He's famous for his ungodly comprehension abilities. I wonder how he's going to deal with Han Xingluan."

The audience soon exploded into cheers. Han Xingluan summoned his totems, the firmament violetrain swords. All seven bane-rings on his fingers brightly glowed as the totems appeared. Each of them shone with the brilliance of many stars. The seven swords looked like seven separate galaxies. Surrounded by the galaxies, Han Xingluan wielded a long, astral sword and thrust it toward Tianming. However, the audience weren't cheering for him; they had seen it a few times before. They only truly marveled when Tianming brought out seven of his decapath era godswords. They were slightly smaller than the firmament violetrain swords, but each sword looked completely different; the power that radiated from them didn't seem the least bit inferior at all. Tianming wielded the Grand-Orient Sword to match.

"Finally, I can use the Ninedragon Tribulation's fusion strike with a sword body and totems!" Tianming wasn't planning to get his beasts to help him in this fight. After all, his opponent was also a totemancer. "Come!"

The seven godswords pointed at his opponent as four strands of grade-six divine hazard sword ki surged in his body. The Wildvoid Bloodwheel, Ninecloud Flamesky, Darkstar Ringsoul, and Scorching Goldstar sword kis surrounded the Grand-Orient Sword, increasing Tianming's power. Then, he used his totemic calamity, the Myriadsword Providence! His seven totems turned into countless small swords around him. It was like he was surrounded by a sea of swords.

"Go!" He unleashed a strike that was the fusion of four different moves, Flashkill, Fireblast, Sacrifice, and the new Abynsthrust. Abynsthrust unleashed a black dragon into the ground that turned into many black spikes, forming a field of black swords. The strike was coupled with the speed of Flashkill, the power of Fireblast, and the ferocity of Sacrifice! At the same time, all of the providence swords also executed the strike. It was such a grand display of power that it shook Han Xingluan.

"How powerful!" Even though he had prepared himself for a tough fight, he wasn't expecting what basically amounted to a sixth-realm divine art. As a cultivator of the sword himself, he was well aware of how powerful it truly was, and that awareness only made him even more desperate. There was nothing he could do but give his all to defend against it. His seven totems gathered together and prepared to take the strike.

"Break!" Yet the one whose stance had broken was him. It was a complete domination with no room for resistance. Tianming's move had completely crushed all of his totems and tore his body into shreds. For a Violetcloud Disciple to be vaporized outright like that was akin to being killed in the real world.

Han Xingluan was shocked, but the spectators were even more befuddled. They all turned to look at Tianming. Unsurprisingly, his alias spread across the entire Violetglory Star like wildfire in the next couple of hours. Even after Tianming left the battlefield, countless disciples outside the battlefield couldn't stop talking about him. The curiosity in their eyes persisted alongside an utter sense of confusion. "Is he actually powerful enough to rank in the top ten?"

Chapter 1310 - Two Factions

The Violetglory Star was quite different from Orderia. In the latter, the celestial orderians reigned supreme with the Myriad Solar Sects only just barely able to put up some resistance. But in the Violetglory Star, two main factions fought countless battles through the ages with only a few smaller overt or covert factions. Of the two main factions, the first was the Violetcloud Imperium, which the battlefield was named after. Han Xingluan, being one of five Violetcloud Disciples, was really famous and honored by many disciples across the star. Seeing someone backed by his faction and clan defeated by a nameless youth that popped out of nowhere was utterly shocking.

"What kind of background does that youth have? Surely it can't compare to the Violetcloud Imperium or Divineglory Dynasty!"

The Divineglory Dynasty was the top-ranking faction on the Violetglory Star. The name of the star came from the two main factions.

"Who in the world nurtured him? They can't possibly have more resources than the two main factions. Don't tell me he's a secret disciple that one of these two factions is nurturing...."

"It looks like Han Xingluan doesn't recognize him. He's likely to be someone from the Divineglory Dynasty then. But he doesn't look like a divineglory imperial. Maybe his apparent factionlessness is only just a ruse."

"The key thing is that his records state that he's a beastmaster with four lifebound beasts too."

"It can't be a blood pact, can it?"

"Totems can't just spontaneously manifest in those not born with them, after all. Not to mention, totemancers and beastmasters can't interbreed. The only logical conclusion is that he uses blood pacts. What kind of fool would bother with something like that?"

"But no, it can't be. Lin Feng is the twenty-fifth ranker now. Wouldn't he be far more powerful if he wasn't burdened with symbiotic cultivation?"

The discussions about Tianming grew more and more esoteric.

"It's far too weird."

Curiosity, suspicion, and doubts surfaced as the disciples recalled the battle from before. They had no idea what the truth actually was.

"I'm sure even more people will start looking for Lin Feng's true body outside."

"Let's just wait for the news. I'm sure the ones backing him will be dragged out at least."

"True. There are no secrets on the Violetglory Star, after all."

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The crowd around the battlefield continued going wild. Tianming had left the battlefield and was finally out of the limelight, much to his relief. Liu Wanwan immediately came over and rammed into him and said, "It can't be... can it? The genius before me is ranked twenty-fifth? How can a lazy bug like me get to know some monster that isn't bound by common sense at all?" She no longer cared about how she was perceived owing to how ecstatic she felt, though her wide-eyed stare was cute to say the least.

"Twenty-fifth? You're still underestimating me. I'm going to challenge the top ten now." He was ranked first in Orderia, after all, so he had to live up to that expectation. Defeating the twenty-fifth ranker was so easy that it bore no mention.

"Heavens, chill out, bro!" Liu Wanwan was flabbergasted. Never could she have dreamed that someone who could rank in the top ten would be speaking to her like that. Normally, they would be someone she would have to look up to in worship.

"You!" Liu Xuanxuan pushed Liu Wanwan aside and stared at Tianming with her mouth wide open, but no words came out.

"What's wrong?" Tianming asked.

"Are you the Divineglory Dynasty's secret disciple? Why pretend to be weak like that?" she asked, full of suspicion.

"You're overthinking this. Just treat Wanwan nicer from now on or I'll beat you up, got it?"

"Fine!" Liu Xuanxuan pulled her head back, knowing better than to offend someone like him.

"You heard the man! Now scram," Liu Wanwan said.

"Nnngh!" Liu Xuanxuan grit her teeth to no avail, though she completely accepted the situation. Weakly, she asked, "Are you someone from the Divineglory Dynasty or not? Or could you be from the Violetcloud Imperium? Then again, you didn't know Han Xingluan at all."

Tianming didn't bother answering her. His greatest advantage now was that no matter how eye-catching his actions were, he was completely safe in the real world. They wouldn't find him anywhere on the Violetglory Star. What he cared more about were the access privileges to higher levels of the Violetglory Pagoda, so he prepared to issue the next batch of challenges.

The wondersky fairy said, "Those in the top ten have a special right. As there's far too many people constantly trying to challenge them, challenges issued to them have to be evaluated by a duel committee first to ensure the top ten disciples have time to cultivate. Only after the duel committee acknowledges the challenge will it be forwarded to the disciples themselves to accept or reject."

"What's the duel committee?"

"They're administrators of the Violetcloud Battlefield picked from various sects across the Violetglory Star."

They were probably seniors who would evaluate the challenges based on the circumstances they were issued under. Tianming had defeated Han Xingluan with a single move and risen up to the twenty-fifth place. Obviously, he would have a good chance of passing the evaluation.

He could only pick from the fourth to tenth rankers to challenge. After reading the information about all seven of them, he noted that they were all seventh-level constelliers, two levels higher than Han Xingluan. Even the one in tenth place was higher level than Weisheng Moran. Though, totemancers seemed to have an advantage when it came to level, so their true power probably wasn't too far apart.

"Let's pick this specter called Mu Sha then. He's rank five." The reason he chose that out of the others was he wanted someone to quickly accept the challenge. Most people that wanted to go to the top ten would pick the ninth or tenth ranker to fight for a better winning chance, but he didn't care about losing since he was trying to test his limits.

"Mu Sha is a skywolf royal from the Skyword Shrine and a seventh-level constellier." Another reason Tianming had picked him was that he was a skywolf royal. Lingfeng had once fought Kong, a skywolf royal from the Voidword Shrine. "Are the two sects related somehow?"

Even though the names weren't that close, they shared the similarity of having skywolf royals, which were specters. Kong and Bodhi could both turn into werewolves, a sign that they were skywolf royals. Tianming didn't think that he would encounter them even on the Violetglory Star, which was sure to be quite far away. Not to mention, there was a counterpart of the Voidword Shrine here, the Skyword Shrine. Tianming's Sky Palace stigma also looked more like the character for void than sky, unlike Yu Ziqian's. He suspected there was some kind of relation there.

The Skyword Shrine was ranked third among all the sects of the Violetglory Star and was one of the few factions that could stand up on their own without relying on the top two factions. More than half of the sect's members were specters, a much higher proportion than the Voidword Shrine's. There were little to no specters in Voidword Shrine. Tianming wanted to see for himself what Mu Sha was made of.

"Wanwan, does the Skyword Shrine have anything to do with skywolf royals?" Tianming asked.

"They're the remnants from the Skywolf Star. You don't even know that? Are you some kind of outsider alien?" She rolled her eyes.

"Remnants?" It clicked in Tianming's head. Apparently, the Violetglory Star had something to do with the Skywolf Star as well.

"That's right. It should be common knowledge. The Violetglory Star was once conquered by the Skywolf Star, and our nova source was completely controlled by them. We became their colony. It's a painful and humiliating history of oppression. But then the divine wondersky race came and helped us defeat the Skywolf Star and reclaim our homes." Liu Wanwan seemed a little melancholic. The way she looked at Tianming was growing weirder and weirder.

"Since it's such a deep grudge, why weren't they completely exterminated?"

"The colonizers from the Skywolf Star go as far back as a hundred thousand years. They have billions of descendants here, most of them specters, and it's almost impossible to kill them all off. Not to mention,

all of that is history for them too. As far as they're concerned, they weren't the ones that perpetrated all that oppression."