

## The Ages 141

### Chapter 141 - He Will Not Be Leaving Here!

"This is Yueling Hong's son, Yueling Xiao. He is also Yueling Ji's father." Jin Yixuan continued to introduce the Yueling Clan.

"Ah, the father and grandfather of Heaven Elysium's new disciple. It is an honour to meet you," Mu Yang greeted them. To be honest, there was something weird about the three from the Yueling Clan, but Mu Yang wasn't going to be mouthy at this juncture. All he cared about was that everyone from Vermilion Bird was safe, and that was the best scenario he could have imagined.

"It's our pleasure too, Vice-Potentate Mu." They immediately struck up a conversation.

"Murong Tianhai, I know you may be upset, but such are the rules to pick out the best disciples for the Elysium, and there's nothing we can do about it. Why don't you try to find their bodies, and prepare to send them off?" Jin Yixuan suggested.

"Yes, sir inspector. I'll take my leave now."

"Go on."

"Farewell." Murong Tianhai left without a second word. Li Tianming wanted to tell him that this very lake had four bodies, but he refrained from doing so in the end.

"Since the Abyssal Trials is over, I too shall leave with our disciples," Wang Kun said.

"Alright." Jin Yixuan said. Once Wang Kun was gone, only the inspectors, the three from Yueling Clan and those from Vermilion Bird were left.

"Inspectors, we will be taking our leave too." Normally speaking, the inspectors were busy people. They would be taking Yueling Ji with them, so Mu Yang got ready to leave as well.

"Ah. Vice-Potentate Mu Yang, give us a moment. We will be heading over to Ignispolis too, so why not join us?" Jin Yixuan smiled.

Mu Yang was stunned for a moment. "You'll be visiting Ignispolis too?"

"Have you forgotten? We will be picking up a disciple by the name of Lin Xiaoting, and then we will send him and Yueling Ji to the Elysium together. Or does the Vice-Potentate not welcome us there?" Song Yixue replied.

"I would never imagine that! In fact, it is our honour for the inspectors to visit us at Ignispolis," said Mu Yang.

"Let's go then."

"That explains why the two of you picked Azure Domain within Vermilion Bird boundary as the place for the trials then. Was it for the convenience of picking up Lin Xiaoting?" Mu Yang asked.

"Naturally. It will save us some effort. It helps that Vermilion Bird is closest to the north too, and we can depart for the Elysium once we get Lin Xiaoting." Jin Yixuan said.

“And the two of you?” Song Yixue asked the two from the Yueling Clan.

“If Vice-Potentate Mu Yang doesn’t mind, we will go to Ignispolis to send our girl off too. Are we welcome too?” Yueling Hong added.

“Of course. Everyone’s welcome.”

“Haha, then let’s not waste anymore time here,” Jin Yixuan said.

With that, everyone headed back to Ignispolis. Li Tianming carried Jiang Qingluan on his back, while Mu Qingqing was carried by a bubble using Mu Yang’s power, since her injuries were severe.

While Jiang Qingluan had no intention to make body contact with him, she had trouble going back by herself due to the aftereffect of the poison. Li Tianming’s assessment of Jiang Qingluan was as follows: she was as fit as a cheetah, her muscles tight and her contours showing at the right spots.

“Big brother, disperse those evil thoughts.” To make things worse, Jiang Feiling was crystal clear on anything that he was thinking.

“Don’t accuse the pure, innocent me of that. I have no interest in your sister,” Li Tianming, with righteousness emanating off every fibre of his being, replied.

“Hmph, her Heavenly Pattern Barriers are squashing your back right now!” Jiang Feiling snapped back.

Li Tianming was in a bad mood before this, considering how his first place was stolen by Yueling Ji. But Jiang Feiling’s little tantrum had cheered him back up again. Damn, she sure is cute...

While losing the opportunity to enter the Elysium was lamentable, that was never Li Tianming’s goal to begin with. The main problem now was whether his grandpa agree to save Wei Jing or not, given their current circumstances. It was undeniable that Li Tianming had defeated everyone else in the Abyssal Trials, but he simply couldn’t win a battle that was rigged from the start. Once he returned to the capital, Li Tianming would seek out Wei Tiancang’s thoughts on this.

On top of that, Lin Xiaoting would be leaving Ignispolis very soon, and Li Tianming wasn’t going to allow that. Li Tianming definitely wasn’t headed to the Elysium; once Lin Xiaoting was there, revenge would be impossible. This was his final chance to kill Lin Xiaoting, and he couldn’t possibly let it pass him by.

He took a look at the still unconscious Mu Qingqing. Surely he would want to avenge her for what I have done right? He better be!

Was Lin Xiaoting strong? True, he was a twin-beastmaster in the Unity stage and he even had the Saintbeast War-Soul! But was that actually enough to protect him from Li Tianming?

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It didn’t take long before they crossed the bottomless pit and returned to Flameyellow Continent. As soon as they arrived, Li Tianming saw a crowd of people waiting at the other side. It seemed that Mu Yang had told them about the inspectors’ visit in advance; many of the rich and powerful were clearly here to welcome them.

A brief scan around revealed many familiar faces. Amongst them were: Potentate Wei Tiancang, the Sage Chen couple, the chancellor Wei Tianxiong, the Guardian of Sanctions Wei Qing, the Hall Overseer Wei Zikun, and the Guardian of Merits Zhao Yuanji! It had been a long time since Wei Tiancang last appeared in public, and it was clear how important this visit by the inspectors was.

Li Tianming couldn't recognise half of the big-shots waiting there. For example, there was a hulky, tiger-like man standing right beside Sage Chen. Judging from his resemblance to Xing Que and the presence of madam Yuan Yu, who was standing beside him, he was clearly the famous Sage Xing. Together with Sage Chen, they had founded the legendary Xing & Chen Merchantry, turning them from zeroes to heroes.

There were two other factions present. There was a middle-aged man dressed in a fiery robe, standing right next to Wei Tiancang, the two clearly leaders of the entire group behind them. That was sufficient to suggest that the two were the most powerful figures across the entire Vermilion Bird. The man in question exuded dignity and poise with every move; it was evident that he was a very important personage. That was of course true, since he was the ruler of Vermilion Bird, the Vermilion Bird King! He was also Jiang Qingluan's father, and Jiang Feiling's adoptive father.

A white-haired elder stood directly behind the king, his wisdom observable just from his appearance. He was the minister of the nation, and also the master of the Occult Athenaeum. Most knew him as Minister Qin.

Since the king, the Starry Sages, and the ministers were all here, Lightning Manor, the star of the day, was here as well. A man in his forties stood beside Lin Xiaoting, a fearsome look etched on his face. He was the commander of the Tempest Regiment, Regiment Marshal Lin Tianjian!

Beside Lin Tianjian was another elder cloaked in purple. While the elder was slightly hunched over, like Wei Tiancang, the purple storm raging in his eyes were formidable. He was the other pillar of the nation, the Lightning Seigneur!

Minister Qin, Wei Tiancang and the Lightning Seigneur were all seniors from the past generation, and had more or less handed their roles over to their respective descendants already. Yet, they still came to welcome the inspectors today, which went to show how important the event was.

"Jiang Chen, together with those from the Vermilion Bird, greets the two inspectors." The moment they stepped out of the pit, the king led the crowd with a bow.

Li Tianming looked at the scene. So, even our king needs to show respect to two vice-inspectors.

"Ah, Vermilion Bird King." Jin Yixuan approached with a smile.

"It is our honour to have the inspectors join us in Vermilion Bird today. We have set up a feast in the palace, so please come with me. Our three friends from the Yueling Clan are welcome too," the king replied, a bright smile on his face. He had heard the news that his two daughters were safe a while ago, so his focus had shifted to the inspectors. As the ruler of the nation, the role of host naturally fell to him.

However, Song Yixue's reply was unexpected. "No need. We won't be troubling you. Our main purpose for the trip is to pick Lin Xiaoting up, so we'll head to the Lightning Manor directly. We'll test Lin Xiaoting's talent there, while we're at it."

“But...” That caught the king off-guard. But since the inspectors were in a higher position, he could only say, “Lin Zhao, Lin Tianjian, make sure the inspectors are treated properly.”

“Definitely, your highness.” The Lightning Seigneur, Lin Zhao, smiled. It was as if he knew the inspectors were not going to visit the palace all along.

“This way please, sir inspectors.” Lin Tianjian smiled.

“You must be Lin Xiaoting?” Jin Yixuan spotted the teenager standing beside Lin Tianjian immediately.

“Xiaoting greets the two sir inspectors.” Lin Xiaoting threw a quick glance at the heavily injured Mu Qingqing, before greeting the inspectors with a smile.

“Not bad, you are really lucky that our boss is interested in you. Once we arrive at the manor, I will personally test you,” Jin Yixuan said.

Their boss? Who could that be?

“Definitely, sir inspector.” Excitement crept into his voice.

“Hmm, he’s quite strong, and quite a looker too.” Yueling Ji observed Lin Xiaoting, her face tinged with a slight blush.

“Behave yourself,” Yueling Xiao reminded her.

Lin Xiaoting had spotted the girl smiling at him from within the crowds too. He smiled back at her, “Congratulations, Miss Yueling, for placing first in the trials. I will try my best to meet the inspector’s standards and join you in the Elysium.”

“Do your best, okay?” Yueling Ji said.

“Of course. I definitely won’t let Miss Yueling down.” Clearly, Mu Yang had informed them of Yueling Ji’s victory way before this as well.

As they continued to speak, the Lightning Seigneur and Lin Tianjian led the two inspectors and the Yueling Clan towards the Lightning Manor. That left the awkward king and Wei Tiancang hanging at one side. Though it was rude, the inspectors hailed from the Elysium, and that was all that mattered.

At the same time, Li Tianming observed Mu Qingqing, who had woken up in time to see her ‘boyfriend’ talk to Yueling Ji. She must have seen how Lin Xiaoting simply threw one glance at her, before walking off merrily with Yueling Ji.

The others too had noticed. And this was all within Li Tianming’s expectations.

It would seem that karma was early today.

## **Chapter 142 - I’m Too Lazy**

The tension-filled atmosphere at Heaven’s Sanctum drained away when the vice-inspectors left, taking the men of the Lightning Manor and the Yueling Clan with them. At the same time, the youngsters who had participated in the Abyssal Trials all returned to their respective families.

As for Jiang Feiling, she had felt stifled after being cooped up in Li Tianming for so long, and with their departure, the girl left his body immediately.

When such a perfect girl appeared in front of Li Tianming, Li Tianming could only muse that her Spiritual Attachment was flawed, since it stopped him from seeing her lovable and adorable features. After not seeing her for quite a few days, she remained just as lively as ever.

Li Tianming's gaze shifted downwards, having noticed that her Heavenly Pattern Barriers seemed to have grown a little.

"Where are you looking at, you little punk?!" Someone pinched his ear, and he turned to see Jiang Qingluan, who had caught him in the middle of his 'wicked act'.

"What are you saying? Don't smear the innocent. Listen, you're seriously injured now, so your first priority now should be going home to get your injuries treated," Li Tianming said righteously.

As they spoke, the Vermilion Bird King walked over, his face twisted with a grimace. However, Li Tianming wasn't its origin. Rather, it was how the Inspectors had ignored his invitation and instead went to the house of his servant. If it spread, his reputation was bound to take a hit.

"Qing'er, Ling'er."

"Father." The two young ladies acted very obedient in front of the Vermilion Bird King, their heads lowered as they restrained themselves from moving.

"It's good that you're fine." The Vermilion Bird King gave them a scan before sighing in relief. "You're Li Tianming?" His gaze shifted to him.

"Greetings, your royal highness." Li Tianming hurriedly saluted. This was his future father-in-law, so giving him a good impression was paramount. The Vermilion Bird King nodded in response, but that was it. Clearly, he was unaware of Li Tianming's performance in the Abyssal Trials.

"You two follow me back for a rest," the king ordered.

"Father, there's something I need to say on behalf of Li Tianming first!" Jiang Qingluan suddenly said.

"What is it?"

"Something important!" Jiang Qingluan replied seriously.

Li Tianming glanced at her. She had taken the initiative to do this, without him telling her to help him. That was because she was indignant on his behalf. Jiang Qingluan was well aware Li Tianming had tried to seize first so that he could save his mother.

Seeing how serious she was, the king nodded.

All the returnees had someone to pick them up. The king had come to pick up the two princesses, the Starry Sages to pick up their sons and the Heavenly Guardian of Combat Wang Zhaoyuan was here for Mo Lin.

When they heard how Aquamarine's side had been completely wiped out, their parents and mentors knew that the kids' safe return was already a cause for celebration.

The only one who didn't have anyone waiting for her was Mu Qingqing. The Lightning Manor was supposed to do so, but they had just up and left. As for Lin Xiaoting, who should have flown into a rage at her heavy injuries and then beat up Li Tianming afterwards, he had only spared her a single glance before interacting with Yueling Ji.

Mu Qingqing had woken up while they were still in the Bottomless Pit. Now, she simply lay in a corner, her face pale. Her supernal mentor, Liu Xueyao, lacked the qualifications to enter and was waiting outside. This was the place to receive the inspectors, after all.

In fact, neither Xue Lan nor Yuan Yu were allowed to come in. However, on account of them missing their sons, the king had made a special exception for them, though they were forbidden to speak.

Two people rushed in from outside towards Mu Qingqing. They were Liu Xueyao and Lin Xiaoxiao.

"Big sis Qingqing!" Lin Xiaoxiao hurriedly helped her up in a fluster. The moment she saw Mu Qingqing's miserable condition, tears began to pour.

"Who did this?! Five of your spirit sources are ruined and your lifebound beast is dead!" Liu Xueyao's expression changed when she saw Mu Qingqing.

"Me," Li Tianming said.

"You bastard! Why did you have to torture her like this after what you did three years ago? How exactly did she offend you?"

"She's still awake. You can ask her yourself," Li Tianming replied.

"Li Tianming, I'll kill you!" Lin Xiaoxiao was stricken with grief as she held Mu Qingqing's hands, tears flowing down uncontrollably. But before she lost all control, Mu Qingqing grabbed her, preventing her from moving.

"Li Tianming, don't be too happy yet. My brother will definitely settle accounts with you. He'll end you before he goes to Heaven's Elysium!" Lin Xiaoxiao gritted her teeth.

"That'll be great. Help me tell him he's a coward if he goes to Heaven's Elysium first before he kills me. I'm too lazy to travel all the way there to kill him."

"Shameless!" Liu Xueyao hugged Mu Qingqing. However, her eyes were trembling. It was obvious that Mu Qingqing was crippled and had lost all value.

"Big sis Qingqing, don't blame my big brother. He had to leave just now because of the inspectors. He already told me to help bring you back. When we get back, we'll definitely find the best doctors to help you recover."

"Yes. Let's go. Supernal mentor, bring me away." Mu Qingqing lay in her arms. The sunlight stung her eyes, and she shut them. Her consciousness was still muddled, her body shaking every few moments.

As she left, Lin Xiaoxiao directed a number of furious gazes at Li Tianming.

However, Li Tianming remained perfectly calm.

After they left, the Wei clan, Vermilion Bird King, Prime Minister Qin, the Starry Sages and their families were left. Their younger generations were well aware of the truth.

“Qing’er, what is it? We need to hurry back so you and Blue’s poison can be treated,” the king said.

Jiang Qingluan looked at Li Tianming, but he didn’t give her any indication to stop.

“Potentate, Vice-Potentate. Actually, we feel that Li Tianming should have the first place.” Jiang Qingluan looked at them, saying with full seriousness.

“Impossible. The inspectors already said Yueling Ji defeated everyone else and obtained the profound manna, and was the undisputed number one.” Mu Yang said.

“That’s not what happened. Ling’er, as well as the rest, can all testify. Mo Lin, explain,” Jiang Qingluan said.

The seniors still looked doubtful. Only Mu Yang had a serious expression, as he had seen some clues back in the Abyssal Battlefield.

“Let me speak up for apprentice-brother Tianming.” Mo Lin stepped out. He wouldn’t forget Li Tianming’s favour of saving him. “I’ll start from when he saved me.”

This made everyone look at Li Tianming, including Wei Tiancang, Wei Tianxiong and Wei Zikun. When they heard the announcement of Yueling Ji being first, they had lost interest in the bet. It was within their expectations anyway. However, what were Princess Qing and Mo Lin trying to say now?

Mo Lin began his tale, every detail laid out clearly, from the time where Li Tianming saved him, to Yueling Ji’s defeat at his hands, elaborating on how she was defeated and her lifebound beast heavily injured.

Everyone couldn’t quite believe the story, even after he was done with his narration.

“Princess Qing, don’t you think that’s a little far-fetched?” Xue Lan couldn’t help but say. She found the tale laughable. When was there so many conspiracies and schemes in the world? Only the weak believed in conspiracy theories.

“Silence.” Sage Chen pulled her away. Currently, she had the lowest status here. Even Wei Tiancang hadn’t raised any questions yet, so how could she?

“With Princess Ling’s Spiritual Attachment and another breakthrough in the Abyssal Battlefield, apprentice-brother Tianming has terrifying combat prowess.” That was Mo Lin’s heartfelt evaluation of him.

Mo Lin continued, talking about Mu Qingqing’s Purple Blood-Imprint, Jiang Qingluan being taken hostage and that lightning raining down from the heavens.

“Father, I would be dead if not for him. Please believe me and Mo Lin!” Jiang Qingluan said sincerely.

The seniors all exchanged looks, Wei Tiancang included. All of their faces were neutral and they didn’t say a word, making their thoughts opaque.

“Mo Lin, continue,” said the king.

Mo Lin nodded. He didn't know what was up with the freak lightning storm, but the main point was that Li Tianming had defeated Mu Qingqing and saved Jiang Qingluan. Then, came the part where the inspectors arrived, as well as what they said, and how they gave Li Tianming a royal manna.

Wei Tiancang looked at Li Tianming. "Take out the three-pronged electrospike."

Li Tianming took it out.

"What an idiot. He's not a lightning-type, so why choose the three-pronged electrospike?" Jiang Qingluan rolled her eyes.

However, the main point was that for the sake of compensating Li Tianming and shutting him up, the two inspectors had taken out a royal manna. Of course, the inspectors weren't worried if this group found out. They were aware this group would never dare to make a ruckus.

Wei Tiancang's expression changed when he saw the manna.

Everyone now knew getting first in these trials was an impossibility.

However, Li Tianming wanted them, especially Wei Tiancang, to know the truth!

It didn't take Mo Lin long to finish his recounting, and the others nodded. The words of the inspectors likely weren't something this group of youngsters could make up.

"Chen Hao, Xing Que, is this true?" Sage Xing suddenly asked.

Chen Hao and Xing Que gritted their teeth, not willing to admit that Li Tianming was really so heaven-defying. However, how could they deny it in front of this crowd?

"Actually, these two brothers only lived because of Li Tianming. You two should show some gratitude." Jiang Qingluan snorted coldly. She had already gotten the full details on the way back.

"What do you mean by that, Princess Qing?" Xue Lan's expression turned ugly.

### **Chapter 143 - Wei Tiancang's Decision!**

"The two of them ganged up against Li Tianming at first and lost instantly, with the Hepta-Starred Winged Lion even taking considerable damage. Because of that, they went into hiding early, but that also managed to save them from dying at the hands of Yueling Ji. At least that was how those from Aquamarine had died." Jiang Qingluan rolled her eyes.

"Ganged up and lost instantly?" Xue Lan took a step back in shock. Even Madam Yuan Yu was looking pale. How long had it been since they joked about him during the ranking test? And yet, Li Tianming had defeated both of their precious sons working together in such a short period of time. That definitely wasn't a great feeling for the two mothers.

"Chen Hao, do you now understand that there are always those better than you?" Sage Chen didn't exactly find it a shame.

"Yes, father." Chen Hao's head was lowered. He had thought that he could make his father apologise with his performance, but that was not going to happen any time soon.



“Can you validate their claims?” Sage Chen continued asking.

“I... That’s right, they speak the truth!” Chen Hao pursed his lips.

“I can vouch for them too. Li Tianming was a worthy opponent.” Xing Que decided to confess as well. Compared to their mothers, the twins weren’t all that bothered about losing face. That only left Xue Lan and Yuan Yu feeling numb at one side.

At that moment, Mu Yang made a conclusion.

“This should be a rigged match then, or else those two from the Yueling Clan shouldn’t have even appeared at the Abyssal Battlefield. They are quite bold about it as well, so it seems like the Abyssal Trials was designed for Yueling Ji to begin with; there is nothing we can do to change that. Be glad that none of our kids died. Murong Tianhai had it far worse, he broke down in front of the inspectors just now.” Mu Yang’s statement reflected everyone else’s thoughts as well.

“Anyone heard of this Yueling Clan before?” the Vermilion Bird King asked, but the others shook their heads. If they really were such a strong hidden clan, then how was it possible for them to hide themselves for millennia? This Yueling Clan, though mysterious, was definitely not part of Torch Dragon.

“Listen, even if this is the truth, no one is allowed to gossip about this. Only those here shall know about this, or Vermilion Bird will be in danger. Understand?” the king added.

“Don’t worry, your highness. We all know the consequences. Luckily for us, we haven’t incurred much of a loss,” Minister Qin replied. Save for one exception, he was right, and that one exception was Li Tianming.

Jiang Qingluan looked anxiously at Wei Tiancang and said, “Potentate, please understand that it was impossible for Li Tianming to obtain the first place in the trials to begin with. But there was no doubt his performance was that of a real champion’s.”

“That’s enough, it’s time for us to go back. Ling’er, you too.” The emperor patted her head.

“Yes, father.” Jiang Feiling knew that she had to listen to her father, or it would be difficult for her to find Li Tianming next time. Furthermore, Jiang Qingluan was still poisoned, and the emperor clearly wanted her to have some rest.

“Farewell, your highness,” Wei Tiancang said, together with the rest from the sanctum.

“Goodbye, Potentate.” The emperor took his leave together with his two daughters and the minister. Li Tianming was saddened to part with Ling’er after being together for nearly a month, but at least she was in the palace, which wasn’t too far from the sanctum.

“Mo Lin, let’s go.” Zhao Yuanji left with Mo Lin too, knowing that whatever unsettled issues were the Wei Clan’s family matters.

Next, the Starry Sages left as well.

“All these people are trying to defend Li Tianming, they really want Wei Tiancang to save Wei Jing, don’t they?!” Xue Lan ranted the moment they walked out.

“Why else?” Sage Chen replied, but Xue Lan merely lowered her head without responding.

“Can you pull yourself together? No one is going to snatch your husband away from you.”

“Yeah sure, not like I have a say in anything.” Xue Lan rolled her eyes. Even then, she couldn’t get over her sons losing to Li Tianming. With Wei Jing’s full recovery on the cards now, her mood now began to worsen. If the fragile valuables at her home were sentient, they would have made a break for it, before she broke them into pieces from sheer rage...

Well, at least she had the wealth to treat them as expendables.

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With their departure, only Li Tianming, Mu Yang and the Wei Clan were left. Everyone was silently waiting for Wei Tiancang’s instructions.

“Back to the manor.” Wei Tiancang turned and stalked off without a second word, followed by the rest of the clan.

“Tianming, follow us.” Mu Yang said. The two of them trailed behind the members of the clan.

“Uncle Yang, what are our chances?” Li Tianming asked. He barely had the chance to express his opinions just now, since it was Jiang Qingluan and Mo Lin doing all the talking earlier.

“We’ll know once we return,” Mu Yang said seriously.

Seems like even he couldn’t figure out what Wei Tiancang was thinking.

Strictly speaking, Li Tianming had not fulfilled his end of the deal, but it was a bad deal to begin with. In such a scenario, whatever happened next was completely up to Wei Tiancang.

“I believe you know what the key point is?” Mu Yang asked.

“It’s his second sore spot. The better I perform, the less he can ignore me,” Li Tianming answered.

“That’s right, so make sure you go all out when you get the chance later.”

“Understood!” Needless to say, this was about to be the most important day in his life.

“Uncle Yang, do you think Lin Xiaoting would leave for the Elysium straight away?” That was another of Li Tianming’s worries.

“I assumed that the inspectors would take him with them the moment they arrived. Instead, they were in no hurry, and even took the Yueling Clan to the Lightning Manor. I’d say that there’s something going on between them, and you’ll still have your chance,” Mu Yang said thoughtfully. He did have his speculations on what was happening, but there was no concrete evidence.

“Looks like I have no need to worry then,” Li Tianming replied.

“Speaking of which, why did you not kill Mu Qingqing? Decided to show some mercy after all?” Mu Yang asked, his brow raised.

“Do I look like that kind, uncle Yang?”

“Huh?”

“Well, just wait for it.”

“Hmm, I’m guessing you want her to have a taste of her own medicine then.” Mu Yang was smart enough to figure out Li Tianming’s intentions at once. How could he not notice that there was something going on between Lin Xiaoting and Yueling Ji?

“How has mother been?” Li Tianming asked.

“She’s fine, but she does miss you. And when it rains, the Lifesbane hurts a little more than usual, but I have the spirit herbs for that.”

“Come on, it’s only twenty-plus days.”

“Yeah, that’s what I told her too,” Mu Yang replied.

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After a while, they finally returned to Wei Manor. Many disciples of the clan had gathered, including Wei Lingxuan and Wei Qingyi. Even Wei Guohao had gotten out of his ward just to witness this. He was hoping to hear news that Li Tianming had died in the battlefield, but it didn’t take long before he saw Li Tianming and Mu Yang following behind the elders of the clan.

“He’s still alive!”

“How lucky.”

“What’s he here for?”

“Of course he failed. I heard that the winner was a girl from Torch Dragon by the name of Yueling Ji,” Wei Lingxuan said.

“Ahh, so he’s back to send his mother off,” Wei Qingyi said.

“That’s right.” Wei Guohao patted his head.

At that moment, Wei Tiancang arrived.

“Get out of my way.” Wei Tiancang sounded very annoyed, sweeping the youngsters to one side like he was chasing off flies. Even their fathers seemed to be in a bad mood. What was going on?

At the same time, Li Tianming walked past them too.

“How’s your recovery going?” Li Tianming asked Wei Guohao.

“Why should you care?” Wei Guohao gritted his teeth.

“So that I know when’s a good time to beat you up again.”

“We shall see who’s the one laughing after I make a breakthrough!” Wei Guohao snapped back.

“Shush, don’t be rude to your cousin.” Li Tianming smiled, before stepping into the manor together with Mu Yang.

Wei Tiancang seated himself in the top seat within the 'Hall of Highcloud', with the rest of the clan seated by his side. Li Tianming stood at the entrance of the hall with Mu Yang to his left.

Mu Yang gave Li Tianming a nudge.

"Potentate, please save my mother!" Taking the hint from Mu Yang, Li Tianming said earnestly.

"Oi." Mu Yang reminded him.

"Grandpa, please save my mother, please save your daughter!" Li Tianming said with even more sincerity.

Wei Tianxiong and the others watched on silently. They might have their own opinions, but they were keeping it to themselves before Wei Tiancang made a decision.

"Li Tianming, I don't have a grandson like you, and neither do I have a daughter. My relationship with Wei Jing had ended many years ago." Wei Tiancang's voice was like a cold rain, drowning out Li Tianming's hopes.

"You don't have to play the family game with me. However, the deal between us is not over!" However, what he said next made Li Tianming brighten up again. There was still hope for his mother! After everything he did to try and save his mother, was he finally going to achieve his goal?

While it felt great to defeat Mu Qingqing, he knew it would be nothing compared to helping mother overcome Lifesbane. His eyes almost swelled up, but he kept quiet and let Wei Tiancang continue.

"I do believe what everyone said about the Abyssal Trials. However, I need to see it for myself to judge if you are worthy. If you can pass my test, then we'll go ahead with the deal and I shall save your mother. If not, then you can forget about it, and you'll better not bother me from now on. Most importantly, stop saying that you are my grandson. We are not family. The only reason I'm saving your mother is because of our contract, and since the contract had issues, I'm giving you one last chance." Wei Tiancang's voice was as cold as ever. Yet, Li Tianming could sense that under that stubborn old man's voice was the fact that he had provided Li Tianming the opportunity to save Wei Jing.

Wei Tiancang cared about his face, and would not let others think that he saved Wei Jing simply because she was his daughter. That would definitely be slapping him in the face, since he was the one that disowned Wei Jing back then. But Li Tianming couldn't care less. He would do anything, as long as he could save his mother. He had emerged from the Abyssal Trials alive, so what was a mere test in the Wei Manor?

By then, many had gathered outside of the Hall of Highcloud, and the Wei Clan continued to speculate as the events unfolded.

"Father!" Wei Zikun rose to his feet.

"Get back to your seat!" Wei Tiancang commanded.

"Father, according to the deal, you don't have to..." Wei Tianxiong interrupted as well.

"Silence."

Looks like these two brothers really didn't want Wei Jing to live. Li Tianming sighed on the inside. Thankfully, Mu Yang was still on her side.

While this grandpa was stubborn as a rock, he didn't turn out to be that heartless. When he said he would imprison Li Tianming for life, he still released the teenager when Mu Yang pleaded for him. He claimed that he would never save Wei Jing, but that changed when Li Tianming defeated Wei Guohao. And now, although Li Tianming had failed the initial challenge he proposed, he had opened up another door for Li Tianming.

No matter how much he emphasised that he wasn't Li Tianming's grandfather with that stone cold face, he still gave Li Tianming a final opportunity. Li Tianming found that he was liking this old man slightly more now.

It was time for Li Tianming's test.

"Wei Qing, what level is your eldest grandson?" Wei Tiancang asked the Guardian of Sanctions.

"Wei Ziyu is twenty-five years old, ninth level Spiritsource," Wei Qing answered.

"Very well, Li Tianming, your test is to defeat a ninth level Spiritsource. If you can defeat him, then I will save Wei Jing. But from what I know, your strength will drop without Princess Ling," Wei Tiancang said.

Wei Tianxiong and the others changed their expression again, but this time to a gleeful grin. Even Wei Zikun smirked. It would seem that Wei Tiancang wasn't giving him any chance after all.

Wei Ziyu was not only older than Li Tianming, but he was also at ninth level Spiritsource. Even though Li Tianming could beat a ninth level in the Abyssal Battlefield, that was with Jiang Feiling's help. Without her, how was he supposed to fight Wei Ziyu? The members of the Wei Clan smirked at this clearly impossible challenge, ready for a good show.

A young man walked out of the crowd at the same time, a mighty power flowing through his body. That young man was none other than Wei Ziyu!

#### **Chapter 144 - Chaotic Voltball**

The arena of the Wei Manor was where the youths of the clan trained and honed their martial arts. But today, almost all of the clan's members were gathered, including Wei Guohao's two brothers, who were supernal mentors in the institute. The Wei Manor was usually quiet and secluded; battles like these were rare.

Seated at the top of the tower were Wei Tiancang and Wei Qing, the eldest in the clan. Beside them were other seniors from the clans like Wei Tianxiong, and Mu Yang, who was Wei Tiancang's disciple. The rest of the clan were scattered across the arena, all of them elites of the institute. Even the younger generation, led by Wei Guohao, knew what this battle would decide and waited anxiously for the fight.

"Brother Ziyu, teach him a lesson."

"Show him what the Wei Clan is made of."

"He can't win without Jiang Feiling."

The youths were all confident in Wei Ziyu's years of experience. Not only was he a disciple of Heaven's Sanctum, he was also a mentor in the Flameyellow Scions Institute. He had extensive experience and assisted supernal mentors in teaching disciples there, a reliable member of the clan through and through.

"Master, Li Tianming really is the strongest in his generation. With the speed he is improving, he will dominate the sanctum in the years to come," Mu Yang said to Wei Tiancang.

"Are you really going to take him as your disciple?" Wei Tianxiong questioned. Even though it was Wei Tiancang's decision for Mu Yang to not accept Wei Guohao as his disciple, Wei Tianxiong still had his grudges as a father.

"There's not much I can teach that boy. His future does not belong in Vermilion Bird," Mu Yang replied.

"We shall see after this fight." Wei Zikun shrugged. In his mind was Li Tianming's performance at the ranking test. Even if he had the blessing of the Flameyellow Rock, how could he possibly defeat a ninth level Spiritsource in just a few months? No one was going to buy that, least of all him.

"Mu Yang." Wei Tiancang called out to his disciple, but his eyes were still on Li Tianming who was inside the arena.

"Yes, master?"

"Do you know why I can't forgive Wei Jing?"

"Because Li Yanfeng was a mere bumpkin with nothing special about him, and Jing'er made her own decisions about her marriage..."

"It's because of you." Wei Tiancang sighed.

"What do you mean, master?"

"It was an injustice to you. When I took you in as a disciple, I expected you to be my son-in-law, but Wei Jing..."

Mu Yang was stunned for a while. Now that he thought about it, his mentor always wanted to entrust Wei Jing to him, and they seemed to make the perfect couple back then. But no one could have predicted the events that followed.

"Master, those are of things of the past. I'm not young anymore," Mu Yang said.

"But that regret haunts me, even until now!" Wei Tiancang clenched his fist. Li Yanfeng was trash to him then, and still trash now, so why would Wei Jing pick him?

Even Mu Yang's competitor, Chen Ying, was so much better than that Li Yanfeng. That Chen Ying was now known as Sage Chen, who had the Xing & Chen Merchantry under his control, boasting of wealth comparable to that of a nation's! In contrast, Li Yanfeng was but a mere governor now, reduced to seeking aid from the Lightning Manor!

“It was all going so well, till she went to the Abyssal Battlefield’s Easton Domain. She returned a completely different person; not only did she lock herself up in her own room, she even ended up with Li Yanfeng!” Wei Tiancang sighed again.

Mu Yang did not speak. He was supposed to join Wei Jing for the trip to the Easton Domain. But ever since she returned, he could tell that something was wrong. She became a lot more mental, even somewhat depressed. And three months later, she fell for Li Yanfeng.

“But master, that kid is innocent.” Mu Yang pointed at Li Tianming. As they spoke, Wei Tianxiong and Wei Zikun listened on one side. They had all witnessed the events for themselves, and they all felt bad for Mu Yang.

“Innocent? Have you not heard about the atrocity he committed three years ago? Like father, like son!” Wei Zikun gritted his teeth angrily.

“That’s where you are wrong. The boy had gotten the Saintbeast War-Soul by himself three years ago. It was Mu Qingqing who made use of him to get close to Lin Xiaoting, which was why his beast got killed and the Saintbeast War-Soul was snatched. He even ended up being blamed for everything in the end. It was difficult enough for him to survive these three years, let alone return to save his mother,” Mu Yang explained.

“Do you have evidence for saying that?” Wei Zikun asked.

“Do I need any?” Mu Yang asked back. Wei Zikun shrugged without replying. While some things were hidden from the public’s eyes, these matters should be quite clear to them once it was pointed out.

“Enough said. I have given him the opportunity, and we shall see if he can claim it for himself.” Wei Tiancang waved his hands.

“You may begin!” Knowing that it was about time, Mu Yang shouted out to Li Tianming and Wei Ziyu inside the arena.

“Brother Ziyu, beat him up!”

“Crush him, break his teeth!” Led by Wei Lingxuan and Wei Qingyi, the youths of the Wei Clan were all cheering Wei Ziyu on.

Atop the arena, Wei Ziyu stood expressionless, the Hellbreaker Lightningsabre held in his hand, blue heavenly patterns flowing across the weapon. His lifebound beast rose to the air with a piercing cry. It was an Electrifying Roc, its body covered in blue-purple feathers. Electric bolts travelled through its wings as it flapped them.

The Electrifying Roc was a high-tier six-star avian beast, but most importantly, it was lightning-typed.

“Lightning-type?” Li Tianming smiled.

Members of the Wei Clan were mostly metal-typed. While it made no difference before Li Tianming went to the Abyssal Battlefield, things were very different now.

“Finally, time for me to try out just how strong twin-beastmasters are!”

Two spirit sources existed in harmony within his dantian. On the left was the infernal source in the shape of a flaming tornado, and on the right was the equally sized lightning source that looked like a sea of lightning clouds. The change was reflected in Li Tianming's eyes as well, his left eyes burning with hellish flames, and his right eye dark as the night sky and packed with countless electric bolts! No one in the Wei Clan knew that he controlled the power of the lightning as well.

"Here you go!" With a swing of his hand, Li Tianming summoned his lifebound beasts!

A little chick charged out of his lifebound space, its little wings flapping above his head. Wei Guohao and the others had experienced its terror first-hand before, so they knew it wasn't an opponent they could look down on.

But what was with that little black cat in its claws? The cat wasn't any bigger than the little chick, its pink paw pads clawing through the air and its little tail swinging all over the place...

"Meow Meow, follow your brother chicken into battle!" The little chick was yearning for a battle, its spirit burning.

"Meow, brother chicken, I need to sleep, meow!" On the other hand, the cat was very sleepy, its eyes barely even open.

"To battle!"

"Sleep, meow."

"..." Li Tianming felt his brows twitch. That wasn't the grand appearance he expected from the black cat.

"Damn you and your sleep! Defeat this person and I will let you sleep for three days in a row!" the little chick said with a headache.

"Lies! You will force me to cultivate with you, meow!" After all the commotion, the black cat woke up unwillingly. Grumpy about its sleep being disturbed, its sapphire blue eyes locked on to Wei Ziyu and the Electrifying Roc. Immediately, its irises turned into a fine line, and lightning flowed through its eyes.

"You! You made brother chicken wake me up! You are the culprit, meow!" It was enraged, to the point that even its tail was puffed up.

Li Tianming grinned. How convenient for him to just make use of the black cat's 'morning depression'. Under that state, it had even greater will to battle than the little chick. After all, it couldn't release its rage on Li Tianming or its brother chicken, so it could only unleash its fury onto its foes.

After months of 'prenatal education', the newborn was quite familiar with its two family members already. It had been kicked around by Ying Huo for months while it was still in its egg, and today was the first time it would be demonstrating its lightning powers!

In terms of fighting power, the black cat was still slightly behind the little chick. It was simply too lazy — it hadn't even touched the battle arts that was given to it, and as a result, it had to resort to fist fights. Against the Electrifying Roc that was ninth level Spirit source, it was safer for the two of them to fight side by side.



“So this was how it feels to be a twin-beastmaster! From now on, I will always be fighting three against two!” Li Tianming thought.

Meanwhile, the roc was angered by the two little pets trying to challenge itself.

“What are you going to do with those two cuties?” Even Wei Ziyu couldn’t contain his laughter. Those were no doubt the cutest lifebound beasts he had ever seen.

“You shall regret saying this later.” Li Tianming grinned.

Sure enough, Wei Ziyu was left speechless when the first clash happened. The little chick soared into the sky like a flaming bullet, but even that wasn’t comparable to the speed of the black cat. A nimble black bolt flashed past, cutting an untraceable arc, and the roc, who was soaring thirty meters above the ground, suddenly felt something very small and very fluffy on its back.

“Take this, meow!” The next moment, the black cat bit off a patch of feathers even bigger than its size. Struck by the pain, the roc twisted and dived in the air, but nothing seemed to be able to get that cat off its back. The black cat was small, but its claws and teeth were just as sharp as Ying Huo’s.

“That’s for waking me up from my sleep, meow!”

Furious, the Electrifying Roc used its spiritsource ability, the Amethyst Thunder Web! A sharp glow burst out from its feathers, spreading across its torso. With the black cat trapped in the net of lightning, the roc let out another piercing shriek.

But if the roc thought that that could electrocute the black cat, then it couldn’t be more wrong. Comparing lightning prowess with the Genesis Chaos Thunderfiend was a recipe for disaster.

The black cat opened its mouth and retaliated with its ability, the Chaotic Voltball! A massive black electric ball slammed onto the roc, charring half of its head and dyeing it black.

The arena fell silent.

### **Chapter 145 - That’s A Cat?**

The little chick wasn’t slacking off either.

Although both beasts were fifth level Spiritsource, their beast ki far surpassed their peers of the same level, in both quality and quantity. And that wasn’t even counting their other advantages!

The little chick’s Infernal Blaze followed the Chaotic Voltball, which had already done quite a bit of damage. In response, the peng hurriedly used its spiritsource ability, the Triple Electric Streak. The attack shattered, but the remnants fell onto its body, which began to burn immediately.

“Kneel before grandpappy, you birdbrain!” Bursting with battle intent, the little chick and the black cat fiercely assaulted the peng. In the sky, electricity flashed, each of them followed by at least one feather.

“Vi!” Wei Ziyu was stunned to see his Electrifying Peng dominated so. Hellbreaker Lightningsabre in hand, he charged into the sky.

Barely after he got off the ground, a Blazing Dragon Chainblade flew at him. Wei Ziyu raised his sabre and blocked it, but that slight pause was more than enough for Li Tianming to arrive in front of him.

Three-Spring Heavy Strike!

After being a twin beastmaster, Li Tianming's Three-Spring Heavy Strike was now imbued with the power of both the infernalsource and the lightningsource. It was only possible because his left hand was sufficiently strong to handle all that power.

The consecutive three punches smashed Wei Ziyu into the ground, creating a small web of cracks where he landed. The fiery power within left his body stinging from the heat, while the electrical power within numbed him.

"Again!" Wei Ziyu leapt to his feet, only for Li Tianming's chainblade to come swinging at him.

Soulless Seven Howls!

Ghostly wails assailed his senses. By the fifth stance, Wei Ziyu had been disarmed, and by the sixth, he had been bundled up nicely by a chain.

"Fly!" Li Tianming yanked the chain, and Wei Ziyu drew a beautiful parabola as he flew through the air. A painful shock ran through his body as he landed, and his vision spun for a good few seconds, blacking out a moment later.

Wei Ziyu, trounced!

He was ninth level Spiritsource, yet had completely unable to stand up to Li Tianming's power as a twin beastmaster. The little chick and black cat had low cultivation, but their infernalsource and lightningsource were more than equal to a standard eighth level spiritsource. Furthermore, their excellent characteristics, combined with the lightning-immune black cat, meant that the outcome of the battle had been decided long ago, much like the Abyssal Trials.

Even without Jiang Feiling, Li Tianming could still defeat a ninth level Spiritsource. Of course, with a six-star lifebound beast, this particular ninth level hadn't been that strong.

However, it still proved how terrifying a twin beastmaster was.

With Wei Ziyu in a dead faint, the battle was over.

A black cat fell from the sky, plopping right into Li Tianming's hand. Its fur hadn't even settled down when the tiny cat rolled over and began to snore loudly, all in one fluid motion.

"Embarrassing, absolutely embarrassing! Scram back inside!" The little chick landed as well, wracked by emotional torment. The black cat was truly a peerless talent unrivalled by all; it could even fall asleep while in free-fall.

Li Tianming quickly kept it back into his lifebound space. When he lifted his head back up, a whole host of shocked gazes met his eyes. Said host didn't just include Wei Guohao and Wei Lingxuan, but also counted Mu Yang and Wei Tiancang in their ranks.

"A cat? A super cute cat?" Wei Lingxuan bit her lips, her eyes going red. She wanted it so much. It was both cute and could fight! However, she didn't dare to say anything, and instead chose to vent her feelings by glaring at Li Tianming with naked jealousy. Why did he have to act so badass? Wasn't doing it once enough?

The arena fell silent.

Wei Qing signalled at Wei Ziyu's father to take his son for treatment. Once they hauled the poor fellow out, only a human, a chick and a cat were left on the arena.

Wait, that was incorrect. The cat had already gone for its nap.

"When did you become a twin beastmaster?" Even Mu Yang was shocked at this development. He had never felt the power of lightning from Li Tianming before.

"My blood pact allowed me to get two lifebound beasts. However, this cat is too lazy, so I've been keeping it as a trump card all this time," Li Tianming lied, as naturally as he breathed.

"Blood pacts allows you to have two lifebound beasts with different types?!" Wei Tiancang rose to his feet, shocked. The ranks of remarkable figures had never included beastmasters who used blood pacts. For them, breaking through to Spiritsource was already an incredible feat.

With blood pacts having a low probability of success, it was natural that there was no such precedent of twin beastmasters made using blood pacts in Vermilion Bird's history. However, it was exactly because it was a miracle that Li Tianming didn't have problems lying.

Normal twin beastmasters needed to share their spiritsources with their two beasts, so at the very least, the two beasts needed to be of the same element. That was the only way for spiritsources to work with both beasts. For example, both twin beastmasters of Lightning Manor had one terrestrial beast and one avian beast, but they had the same element.

"Even contracting one beast with a blood pact is difficult. To accomplish two, the difficulty is..."

"It wasn't that hard. It was rather casually done for me." Li Tianming smiled.

Everyone who heard his words felt like vomiting on the spot. How could something no one had ever accomplished before be easy?

"It only means there's something special about him," Mu Yang stated. He believed Li Tianming. The cat always being a hidden card was the only explanation for it being fifth level Spiritsource as soon as it appeared.

"If you used two wildbeasts, how does fire and lightning coexist in your spiritsource?" Wei Tiancang highlighted the crux of the issue.

"They can coexist, but they can't be shared. That's my difference from other twin beastmasters. For others, all three can share their energy. For me, however, my beasts cannot tap on each other's energy; only I can do that," Li Tianming said. They couldn't check his dantian anyway, so fibbing randomly was fine. After all, who could fact check history's first ever 'blood pact twin beastmaster'?

"A true miracle!" Mu Yang praised. After becoming a twin beastmaster, Li Tianming's tier of talent was on a whole different playing field. Compared to that, beating Wei Ziyu was nothing.

How far he could go now would definitely make people speculate wildly. Li Tianming's performance had shown that he had successfully integrated both powers together.

"I didn't use it in the past because I hadn't achieved a balance yet. However, after training in the Abyssal Battlefield, I feel there's no more problem. From now on, I'm a twin beastmaster," Li Tianming said. The Primordial Chaos Beasts were his greatest secret that not even his mother knew. Even Jiang Feiling had never seen the eight other eggs in his lifebound space!

Wei Tianxiong and Wei Zikun exchanged a look and sighed. They were both helpless and jealous.

"It'll have been great if this kid had grown up in the Wei Manor." Wei Tianxiong was completely convinced. His sons just looked too mediocre in comparison. In fact, even he himself looked mediocre in comparison!

Wei Zikun gritted his teeth in displeasure.

"Then again, he wouldn't have had this chance if he was in Wei Manor," Wei Tianxiong said.

They had all attributed this to the blood pact. However, no one was going to test this as they wouldn't kill their own lifebound beast. Hence, Li Tianming's lie was fated to remain undiscovered.

Lin Xiaoting was a twin beastmaster? Apologies, but Li Tianming was too now. Furthermore, he also had a lightning-type, and one that was even more explosive!

Still, for Li Tianming, Wei Jing was far more important than any paltry considerations of his power.

"Grandfather!" Li Tianming knelt down. This was his mother's father and his grandfather. Although it was said men had gold beneath their knees and they weren't to take kneeling lightly, kneeling to a direct blood relation was considered etiquette. After all, helping Wei Jing remove the Lifesbane would be taxing for Wei Tiancang.

"Grandfather, please, save my mother." Li Tianming lowered his head.

Every word he spoke was filled with strength. He was vastly different in all aspects from Wei Guohao and the rest who had grown up in Wei Manor's greenhouse.

Although Wei Tiancang had always insisted he didn't have this grandson, Li Tianming himself had never denied this relationship. Enmity within a family was unnatural to begin with. Although misunderstandings had existed at some point in time, they had been resolved one way or the other; these altercations were now matters of the past.

Wei Tiancang should be different from Li Yanfeng.

And as expected, he didn't outright reject Li Tianming this time. His hands balled into fists, he inhaled deeply and let out a deep breath, everyone staring at him the whole time.

He closed his eyes. "Bring Wei Jing to Highcloud Chamber. I'll be in seclusion for half a month. All others are not to come in!"

Happiness flooded into every fibre of Li Tianming's body. For twenty years, Wei Jing had been tormented by the Lifesbane, but now, its end was in sight; a new lease on life awaited her!

He'd finally accomplished it.

“Thank you.” Two simple words, but they contained thousands of things. Li Tianming’s eyes were red as his head rose.

“We’ll go get her.” Mu Yang smiled brightly as he went forward to help Li Tianming up.

“Alright.”

“A job well done, young man!” Mu Yang patted him on the shoulder, his eyes red as well.

Wei Tiancang had already returned to Highcloud Chamber.

“Alright, all of you can leave now.” Wei Qing stood up and waved his hand, ending the youngsters’ conversations.

“Welcome home, Tianming.” Wei Qing smiled. His words made it clear he now approved of Li Tianming.

Now, it was time to pick up Wei Jing. Surely, she would be delighted to hear this, no?

### **Chapter 146 - Henceforth And Forevermore, I Am The Master Of All Primordial Chaos And Reincarnation!**

Only Wei Tianxiong and Wei Zikun were left. However, they didn’t feel very comfortable, and soon, they too left.

“Actually, I told you before that master simply has a sharp tongue. He’s been angry for twenty years, but you don’t know just how much he doted on Jing’er in the past.” Mu Yang shook his head.

Li Tianming didn’t deny it, because he could tell despite that the old man’s caustic tongue, he had always been giving Li Tianming chances. The one person that Wei Tiancang truly needed to convince was his elderly self.

“Let’s go!” The two headed to Rainforest Pavilion, while the little chick swooped through the air excitedly.

“Hah! Mom’s gonna be reborn! Meow Meow, big bro’s gonna take you to see our mom!” The little chick whooped.

“Big bro chicken, stop bothering me. I wanna sleep, meow!”

These two comedians could probably earn spirit jades from their everyday interactions.

When they reached Rainforest Pavilion, Li Tianming felt slightly nervous. He still didn’t understand the details of why Wei Jing chose Li Yanfeng years ago. Was it because of love? Or something else? Only she knew.

Li Tianming really couldn’t wrap his mind around her choice, since Li Yanfeng didn’t really have much going for him. In comparison, Mu Yang and Sage Chen were strong, talented, handsome and elegant. Personality wise, they were also more humorous and daring.

However, those matters of the past weren’t important now. What truly mattered was that she could finally be freed from the decades of suffering.

“Mother!” Li Tianming pushed open the door. Inside the courtyard, there was an old lady resting on a rocking chair. She was enjoying the sunlight as the chair rocked back and forth, the picture of absolute relaxation.

“Why are you being so noisy?” Wei Jing removed the fan covering her face and stared at Li Tianming.

The way she woke up seemed rather reminiscent of the black cat...

Speaking of his mum, Li Tianming had originally intended to let Wei Jing continue to name his beasts. However, Jiang Feiling had seized the chance before he could do anything, and named the little cat Meow Meow.

Was it cute? Yes. But badass? Hell no!

Li Tianming had always fantasized about being badass, but it seemed he lacked the destiny for it. It was his fate to be laughed at in the future, whenever he entered battle with a little yellow chick and a little black cat.

“Guess what good news I brought?” Li Tianming smiled.

“Am I expecting a grandchild soon?” Wei Jing asked excitedly.

‘Nope. He promised to save you. I’m bringing you to Highcloud Chamber now,” Li Tianming said loudly.

Wei Jing’s fan clattered loudly on the floor.

“Why are you crying? Let’s go!” Li Tianming picked her up in a princess carry, before running like the wind towards Highcloud Chamber.

“Put me down! This is embarrassing,” Wei Jing said, in between tears and laughter.

“Why are you grumbling when I’m letting you experience a princess carry?”

They arrived at their destination.

“I’ll help her in. Tianming, go and cultivate. When she comes back out in half a month, she’ll be a beauty again,” Mu Yang said.

Li Tianming handed Wei Jing over to him. He couldn’t wait for half a month to pass, and it took everything he had to not dance a jig after handing his mother over.

“I predict that you’ll have another conflict with Lin Xiaoting soon. Seize your time and get stronger.” Mu Yang patted him on the shoulder.

“Understood!”

Now that he had settled Mu Qingqing and his mother’s matter, all that was left on his bucket list was Lin Xiaoting. However, he needed to be much stronger to face Lin Xiaoting, who was both the number one genius of the peninsula and possessed the Saintbeast War-Soul. He also needed to ensure that everyone knew the truth of the events three years back, not just a select few.

And that day wasn’t too far off.

“Go.” Wei Jing smiled. On the way there, Li Tianming had already told her what had happened in the Abyssal Trials. She had been exhilarated to know that Li Tianming hadn’t shown Mu Qingqing any mercy. Naturally, Wei Jing bore a grudge against Mu Qingqing after how she injured her son. Even if Li Tianming wanted to show mercy, she wouldn’t agree!

Li Tianming watched as Mu Yang brought Wei Jing in.

His smile remained as she vanished, but his eyes were now chilly pits. It was a simple act of turning around to leave, but for Li Tianming, this meant that he was returning to the battlefield once more. There, he would torment Lin Xiaoting to death well and good, so that Midas could finally rest in peace.

Since he had returned to Wei Manor, Li Tianming went to Rainforest Pavilion to cultivate. In his possession right now was the three-pronged electrospike, which could be refined by the black cat to raise its bloodline.

The little chick already had seven stars in its eyes, and people publicly thought it was a seven-star beast. However, the black cat only had one star.

“Li Tianming, you liar! You promised to let me sleep for three days and three nights, but you’re here to screw me again! That’s animal cruelty, meow!” The black cat was furious when Li Tianming picked it up and placed it on the stone table.

Li Tianming harrumphed. “Nonsense, you’re male too. You’re not in my strike zone, I won’t screw you.”

“What, so you would go for it if the cat was female?” the little chick asked, breaking into a snigger a moment later.

Li Tianming opened his mouth, only to shut it when he realised he didn’t know what to say.

“A true scoundrel, targeting female cats,” the little chick said, faking a pained look.

“I’m not interested in female cats. Have fun, Li Tianming. Meow.” As for the black cat, it was supremely uninterested.

“Then what are you interested in?” the little chick asked.

“Sleeping, meow.” The black cat yawned a few times. From the looks of it, the little fellow was about to roll over and go back to sleep.

“Sleep sleep sleep. Do you believe I’ll neuter you while you’re asleep?” Li Tianming poked it in the nuts. The next moment, five bloody gashes appeared on Li Tianming’s arm.

“MEOW!”

The black cat leapt three metres, soaring through the air and landing on the roof beams, shivering as it stared at Li Tianming, who looked at the gashes and made a mental note to never touch that spot again.

“Come down, I was just joking,” Li Tianming said.

“Really, meow?”

“Really, really.”

The black cat made its way back down, but it clamped its tail between its legs, caution written all over its tiny face.

“Let me look at your eyes.” Li Tianming picked up the adorable creature, holding it before him. Its blue eyes were incredibly nice to look at.

A single star existed in each. However, the star began to break down, turning into tens, hundreds and finally thousands of individual stars. It continued to increase, until a sea of stars containing billions of stars appeared to Li Tianming.

It wasn't a one-star beast or a ten-star beast, but rather, a Primordial Chaos Beast with billions of stars! That was its true identity!

Another scene followed.

Countless streaks of black lightning, each formed from countless stars, danced and formed a sea of lightning.

A massive black beast that looked like a cross between a lion and panther roamed within. Every casual breath would cause millions of stars to wink out of existence. Every time it swallowed, thousands of those star-formed streaks of lightning formed would enter its body. Every roar would make the myriad worlds shake.

This was a fierce beast belonging to the era of genesis, a thunderfiend born of primordial chaos!

The lightning crashed into worlds, destroying it and ending all life on them in an instant.

At this moment, a voice reverberated through the cosmos.

“Evil creature, MY primordial chaos and reincarnation doesn't need you destroying it!” A massive black arm extended out from the primordial chaos, clamping around the massive beast's neck.

Li Tianming noticed it! The beautiful hexagonal scales on the arm, all ordered neatly and densely. For a split second, a red eye was revealed on the centre of the palm.

Furthermore, it even seemed to see Li Tianming, causing his body to tremble.

The Primordial Chaos Beast transformed into lightning bolts that escaped the black hand's grasp, upon which it rushed towards Li Tianming. Everything in its path was annihilated.

“Henceforth and forevermore, I am the master of all primordial chaos and reincarnation!” These words, whose origin was the owner of that hand, rumbled out into the vast expanse, shaking all creation!

In the next moment, Li Tianming felt the Genesis Chaos Thunderfiend ram into him.

Li Tianming staggered backwards into a pillar.

“Hey brother, you can't be that scared of Meow Meow, right?” the little chick mocked mercilessly.

“No, not that. I saw that hand again!” Li Tianming hadn't recovered from his fright yet.

Upon mention of that hand, every single hair on Meow Meow stood on end.



“This one, that is.” Li Tianming raised his arm.

“Meow!” The black cat gritted its teeth, shuddering.

“Don’t be scared, Meow Meow! He got that one from being alone too long! You’ll get used to it after a bit.” The little chick patted it on the head.

The black cat stared at Li Tianming’s left hand. “Big brother chicken, what kind of hand is that?”

“An avian beast’s claw.”

“Which species?”

“The kind that flies solo.”

“...”

“Don’t corrupt the little one. Ying Huo, you’re not a three-year-old kid anymore,” Li Tianming lectured.

“Correct, I’m three months old.”

“Get lost.”

The black cat had already become drowsy again.

“Refine this.” Li Tianming placed the three-pronged electrospike in front of the black cat. Manna was something that could easily excite the little chick upon seeing it.

However, the black cat gave it a look. One sniff later, it turned its nose up and said, “Nope, nap time.”

Li Tianming looked at the little fellow, troubled. It was clear that simply trying to strengthen it was going to be a colossal undertaking, rivalling the difficulty of his revenge on Mu Qingqing.

“Refine it and you’ll get three days of sleep.”

“I don’t believe you. You lied just now, meow.”

“That was a special situation. Surely, you wouldn’t want to not save our mother, right?”

“Alright. Big brother chicken, you’re my witness,” the black cat said naively.

“Yes.” The little chick snickered evilly. Ever since Li Tianming retreated into his two-person world with Jiang Feiling, Ying Huo had been feeling very lonely. Now, his younger brother wanted to sleep? Heh...

“Alright then. With great reluctance, I’ll refine this, meow.” The black cat finally agreed.

Although the Genesis Chaos Thunderfiend was very badass, this black cat seemed incompetent. Of course, its waking rage was an exception of exceptions, but...

At any rate, simply wanting to cultivate with it would probably need sleeping time as a trade.

Li Tianming and the little chick exchanged a look, both on the verge of tears. The need for balance between their three powers meant that the black cat was limiting their rate of improvement.

The refinement lasted several hours, and the black cat finally evolved at the end. The end of its tail had split into three sharp ends, making it look like a trident. The trident-like tail stabbed into the table a moment later, causing it to split apart on the spot.

The mana had only helped it unlock some of its bloodline shackles, but it was still very useful. Now, its eyes had seven stars.

“Done... and nap time, meow!” The black cat relaxed, looking exhausted.

However, Li Tianming and the little chick were currently laughing evilly.

It shook at the sight. “What are you planning, meow!”

“It’s time to cultivate!”

“Wahhhhhhh!” The black cat cried out. If it had known this was going to happen, it would have stayed in the egg...

### **Chapter 147 - Feast At The Lightning Manor!**

A grand feast was taking place in the grand hall of Lightning Manor, marking the most important day the clan had ever seen. They were hosting the vice-inspectors from Heaven’s Elysium right now, and even if the word ‘vice’ was appended on their titles, it was still an event without precedent. Truthfully speaking, there were more appropriate hosts than the Lightning Manor, like the royal clan or Heaven’s Sanctum. But it was the inspectors’ decision, and the Lightning Manor considered themselves lucky to have raised a never-before-seen genius, Lin Xiaoting.

Clans and organizations in Ignispolis had all caught wind of the celebrations. The Lightning Manor was clearly on the ascent, with even becoming the nation’s new ruler on the cards. What would happen when Lin Xiaoting returned as a powerhouse? What if he didn’t see the act of helping his clan rise as below his station? Of course, those discussions were never brought to the surface, and it would take at least another decade for Lin Xiaoting to return from the Elysium.

Many of the rich and famous had expressed interest in attending the feast, but every single one of them were turned down, without exception. The feast was reserved for the inspectors, the Lightning Manor and the Yueling Clan.

Inside the hall, Lightning Seigneur Lin Zhao accompanied the two vice-inspectors, Jin Yixuan and Song Yixue, at the most prestigious seats, along with Yueling Hong. On their left were the members of the Lightning Manor, while the right was occupied by the three members of the Yueling Clan. Notably, Li Yanfeng was seated at the furthest seat, dressed in a red robe, a calm expression on his face as he surveyed his surroundings.

The only youth from Lightning Manor present at the feast was Lin Xiaoting. And across the table was Yueling Ji, well-dressed with her beauty in full bloom. The two youths were about to enter Heaven’s Elysium to cultivate together, so it was not wrong to say that the feast was meant for them.

The feast was well-prepared, with all kinds of delicacies and precious alcohol served constantly. The food was either made of spirit herbs or meat taken from wildbeasts. Throughout the meal, there were also all kinds of performances to keep the guests entertained. All these obviously cost a fortune, but it

was a necessary expense to please the inspectors. Luckily, it was a great success, with both the inspectors and the Yueling Clan praising the exotic culture of Vermilion Bird.

Once the feast was done, Lin Zhao ordered the place to be cleared, with only core members of the clan as well as the guests remaining in the hall. The time had come for serious matters.

“Whatever we’re about to do to the Wei Clan will be a huge surprise for that Wei Tiancang.” Vice-inspector Jin Yixuan smirked, and was instantly joined by the rest in the hall.

“The Wei Clan has hogged this Heaven’s Sanctum for too long — it’s high time they make way for others.”

“The Yueling Clan has seen so many young geniuses in the past few years. Not only do you have the miraculous Lady Long, but also disciples like Yueling Ji, who has the qualifications to enter the Elysium. Such a clan is definitely worthy of controlling a sanctum and its institute.” Lin Zhao smiled.

“The change of leadership for any Heaven’s Sanctum is quite a normal procedure, according to Heaven’s Elysium. According to the rules, any clan that controlled a Sanctum for a prolonged period of time can be subjected to a contest by the Elysium, to make sure that their newer generations aren’t falling behind. Only then can there be fresh blood entering the Elysium on a constant basis. Therefore, it’s perfectly reasonable for us to replace the master of the Vermilion Bird Heaven’s Sanctum with the Yueling Clan,” Song Yixue explained.

“Of course, of course we understand!” Lin Zhao nodded in agreement. Unlike the strict face he usually maintained before his clan, the Lightning Seigneur was all smiles as he tried to please the inspectors.

“Vice-inspectors, thank you for your help.” In comparison, the three from the Yueling Clan were a lot more composed. The one who replied was Yueling Xiao, a middle-aged man about the same age as Lin Tianjian, the Tempest Marshal.

“No worries, the ‘Sanctum’s Replacement Decree’ is already prepared, courtesy of our boss, and we can challenge the Wei Clan whenever we’re prepared. Once that is done and the Wei Clan is booted out of Vermilion Bird, the Heaven’s Sanctum here will be the Yueling Clan’s property for the years to come,” Jin Yixuan said.

“From what I know, the Wei Clan’s current generation, Wei Tianxiong and Wei Zikun, are all rather useless. Only Wei Tiancang’s two disciples, Mu Yang and Zhao Yuanji, are a threat to us, and more importantly, they are qualified to participate. Other than them, the older, current and younger generations are all worthless. They’ll scatter like sand before us,” said Lin Zhao.

“Vice-inspector, will Long’er be watching the battle on the day?” Yueling Xiao asked.

“Brother Yueling, just a warning. Even if you are Lady Long’s father, you are to address her properly from now on. Understood?” Song Yixue lowered her voice.

“Yes, pardon me. It won’t happen again,” Yueling Xiao apologised immediately.

“In all honesty, Lady Long has done everything within her power for her family. She left her family when she was young, but she still had her clan in her mind, telling us to arrange a place for you lot to stay

while getting Yueling Ji into the Elysium." Song Yixue frowned at the Yueling Clan. "But in the end, rules are rules, and you have to abide by them. Furthermore, it's been a while since you last saw Lady Long."

"Ah yes, she left home when she was very young," Yueling Xiao recalled.

"To answer your question, Lady Long is in the peninsula, but she is just wandering around, with no intention of seeing you. For now, just focus on the battle ahead. She will appear if she wishes to see you," Jin Yixuan said.

"Yes, we understand." Yueling Xiao lowered his head slightly.

He knew that she didn't have the most enjoyable childhood, and her past had probably distanced her from the clan. Without their help, she alone had worked hard, achieving her current heights without any help from them. It was possible that she had no desire to see the family that had failed to protect her mother from the Duanmu Clan.

Everyone in the clan thought that she had died ten years ago, but not only did she return as an elysium child, a storm of blood and death had also descended on the Duanmu Clan as well.

"Even though Lady Long doesn't wish to see you, she has treated you well. Heaven's Elysium is very strict about accepting new disciples, and even Lady Long cannot bring in anyone on a whim. Even Lin Xiaoting made it in only because he had the Saintbeast War-Soul; if Lady Long forcefully accepted clan members into the Elysium, she would suffer backlash herself. This is the reason why we had to arrange an Abyssal Trials to properly accept Yueling Ji into the Elysium. The Yueling Clan should be grateful for that already," Song Yixue said.

"More importantly, Lady Long had told us to settle the Yueling Clan down in a safe and comfortable position. If it wasn't for you to secure Vermilion Bird's Heaven's Sanctum, why would we arrange the Abyssal Trials to be in Azure Domain?" Jin Yixuan further elaborated. The inspectors weren't fools. The Yueling Clan was beginning to overstep their boundaries by exploiting their relationship with Lady Long — that was something the inspectors had to quash.

Having met Lady Long before, they knew her opinions on her family. She didn't like them all that much, but since she valued kinship, she'd helped them anyway. The Yueling Clan's takeover of Wei Clan in the Sanctum and Yueling Ji's entry into the Elysium was due to that reason alone.

"With the Sanctum's Replacement Decree, this challenge would be fully authorized by the Elysium, and Lady Long's reputation would not be affected. I would like to repeat once more that Lady Long herself will be facing challenges in the Elysium, so please do not cause any more troubles for her. Once she settles down there, with her talent, it wouldn't be long before she emerges as the strongest there!" Song Yixue said.

"Yes, inspectors, we will keep that in our mind!" Yueling Hong nodded. When he thought about it, they did indeed go slightly overboard, even making the mistake of calling Lady Long 'Long'er'.

"Sir inspectors, brother Yueling, I raise you this toast. To our victory in the upcoming battle, and to Lady Long's success in the Elysium!" the Lightning Seigneur interrupted, before the atmosphere got any stiffer.

"To victory!" The serious talk was over, and laughter filled the hall once again.

“Our clan will do our utmost in assisting the Yueling Clan to defeat the Wei Clan! I never really liked Wei Tiancang, and I’m more than happy to see that old fool gone!” Lin Zhao said.

“We really appreciate the help, brother Lin. From this day on, the fate of our clans will be bound together, in this nation!” Yueling Hong exclaimed.

“Of course it is. Our kids are getting married after all,” Lin Zhao replied.

“Yes, what a great couple they would make. The two of them will surely be the envy of many as they cultivate in the Elysium together.”

“Definitely. When the time is ripe, if the Lightning Seigneur wishes to be the ruler of this land, the Yueling Clan will always be here to support you.”

“I’m old now, I will leave that ambition to my son.” Lin Zhao patted Lin Tianjian on the shoulder, who responded with a smile.

“Same could be said for me, since I’ll let my son be the new potentate too. Meanwhile, we shall be imposing on you in the Lightning Manor.”

“No worries, we are one family now.”

Things were going well between the two clans, and even Lin Xiaoting was looking at Yueling Ji, who was blushing and playing with the fruit in her hand.

“There’s one more thing I would like to say regarding the challenge.” Song Yixue suddenly interrupted the joyous chatter. “The Sanctum replacement contest is held between families. For the case of the Wei Clan, only the Wei Clan members and Wei Tiancang’s direct disciples can take part. If we go according to these rules, winning won’t be an issue, but it may incur unnecessary injuries and casualties for the Yueling Clan. Therefore, our boss has decided to tweak the rules a little, to allow the extended family to take part too. That means once the wedding between Lin Xiaoting and Yueling Ji is over, the Lightning Manor will be allowed to take part in the contest too.”

In other words, that would be the Wei Clan against the Yueling Clan together with the Lightning Manor! Everyone present grinned. With this, the Wei Clan’s defeat had been set in stone.

## **Chapter 148 - When Flowers Bloomed**

Song Yixue continued her explanation. “From what I know, the Wei Clan was personally selected by Heaven’s Elysium to rule the Sanctum. Their main channel of communication with the Elysium was through us, the inspectors, so they wouldn’t be familiar with the exact rules. This is the loophole that we will be making use of.”

“More importantly, since we are fixing the rules, this needs to be hidden from the Elysium, or it might affect Lady Long’s reputation. Luckily for us, Vermilion Bird is quite the rural place, and people here wouldn’t even leave their country, let alone head to Heaven’s Elysium. All we need is for Lin Xiaoting and Yueling Ji to remain silent about this when they enter the Elysium.” It was quite an important explanation from Song Yixue, and her expression was serious.

“Definitely, I will make sure no one else finds out about this,” Lin Xiaoting promised.

“That’s right, I will not mention my relationship with Lady Long in front of anyone. I will be independent enough to survive and thrive there on my own,” Yueling Ji added.

“It’s okay, I’ll be there for you.” Lin Xiaoting smiled, making her face redden like an apple. Even the seniors and the inspectors couldn’t help but smile at the couple. It was good to be young.

“While everyone’s here, we can talk about the exact date of the wedding and the contest,” Song Yixue said.

“Madam inspector, I need to refine the draconic water obelisk and reach Unity so that I can enter the Elysium. It should be done in a month. More importantly, once I get my eight-star beast to Unity, it will be better for the contest too,” Yueling Ji hurriedly said. The Yueling Clan wasn’t in a hurry, and the inspectors couldn’t set off for Heaven’s Elysium before she made a breakthrough anyway.

“The Sanctum replacement challenge consists of three battles, the battle between the older generation, current generation and the younger generation. For the older generation, we only have Wei Tiancang and Wei Qing to deal with, and it should be easy enough for me. For the current generation, Mu Yang is a tough one, but with my son and Yueling Xiao, along with others from the Lightning Manor, it’s still manageable.” While speaking, the Lightning Seigneur threw a glance at Li Yanfeng, who nodded back. The latter could tell that it was his time to shine.

“As for the younger generation, Wei Guohao and the others are all trash, unworthy of mention. There’s only one person we have to worry about,” the Lightning Seigneur continued.

“Who might that be?” Yueling Hong asked.

“Li Tianming, the one who appeared at the Abyssal Trials.”

“It’s him!”

“Yes, he is Wei Tiancang’s grandson.”

“He’s dead for sure then. Once I reach Unity and my beast becomes eight-star, I will send him to see his gods!” It wasn’t hard to see the maliciousness in Yueling Ji’s expression.

“Actually, you can leave him to me. There’s a little something between us too.” Lin Xiaoting snickered.

“If he’s the only one we need to worry about, then we should secure the point for the younger generation. That means we only need to win one between the older generation and the current generation,” Jin Yixuan said.

“From what I see, scoring all three points shouldn’t be an issue. Wei Tiancang has fallen behind ever since he lost his daughter. I can deal with him easily.” Lin Zhao laughed.

“Excellent,” Song Yixue replied.

“Alright, the day Yueling Ji reaches Unity will be her wedding day. Once that’s settled, we will send the letter to the Wei Clan, and have the challenge on the next day!” Jin Yixuan made the final decision.

“Yueling Ji, don’t let us down. Try to make the breakthrough while Lady Long is still in the peninsula, don’t keep her waiting.”

“Definitely, sir inspectors!”

“Very well.”

“The challenge is one of life and death; on that day, killing freely is no issue. Getting rid of them at once is for the best; make sure not to leave any seeds of future troubles behind,” Song Yixue said casually.

“Then we will make sure to wipe them out.” The Lightning Seigneur chortled.

And so, the feast continued...

.....

The Lotus Blossom Garden was a serene spot in one corner of the Lightning Manor. Bushes and flowers flourished all year round, and there would always be servants tending to the garden. Everyone knew that the garden belonged to Lin Xiaoting’s fiancée, Mu Qingqing.

While Mu Qingqing was cultivating in the Sanctum, she rarely returned to live here, but even then she was picky about the environment here, insisting on it to be clean at all times. But for the past few days, the servants have been forbidden from entering the garden totally, the official reason being that Mu Qingqing needed to recover from the grievous injury she received in the Abyssal Battlefield.

There was a pond inside the garden, its water crystal clear with goldfishes swimming merrily inside. At the center of the pond there was a small pavilion, where a girl in white was playing her zither slowly. Her finger danced on the strings, the tune occasionally spirited, but overall, it was a sad melody that left her instrument.

Suddenly, the melody stopped, and the girl retched, and a black dash of blood dirtied the floor. She clenched her jaws, wiping the blood off her lips before resuming her piece.

“Big Sis Qingqing...” A young girl walked in, her eyes red and swollen. Clearly, she had spent the past few hours in tears.

The sound of the zither stopped. Mu Qingqing stood up with the support of the table, her feeble figure trembling in the wind.

“Big sis Qingqing, you should be resting in bed. The doctor said you need to rest for at least a month.” Lin Xiaoxiao walked up and supported the trembling Mu Qingqing.

“Xiaoxiao, why do you look so sad?” Mu Qingqing ruffled Lin Xiaoxiao’s hair.

“I... It’s nothing.” Lin Xiaoxiao shook her head.

“There’s no use lying to me. Did you argue with your brother?” Mu Qingqing asked. But Lin Xiaoxiao just bit her teeth in reply, tears falling freely from her eyes.

“They, how can they do that! And him! Why would he do such a thing!” Lin Xiaoxiao was shaking with rage.

“Tell me, is he going to marry Yueling Ji?” Mu Qingqing asked gently.

“How did you know?” Lin Xiaoxiao didn’t want to tell her, thinking that she wouldn’t be able to take the news. Mu Qingqing had suffered enough in the past few days.

“It’s understandable. That’s just how life is.” Mu Qingqing smiled weakly.

“Big sis, I... I’m sorry. I can’t change anything!” Lin Xiaoxiao held tightly to her hands, her tears still falling as she spoke.

“Get out.” All of a sudden, a harsh voice barked out from behind them. The two girls turned around to find a young man in blue, lightning flowing within his eyes. Lin Xiaoting had arrived; it was as though speaking of him was enough to summon him over.

“Brother!” Lin Xiaoxiao growled.

“Get out. Now.”

“What else do you want? Have you not gotten enough?” Lin Xiaoxiao asked.

“I have things to say to Qingqing, and you don’t need to hear it. Now scram.”

“NO!”

“Guards, bring Xiaoxiao out, and ground her for two weeks,” Lin Xiaoting commanded.

A few guards of the manor walked in and brought Lin Xiaoxiao out with them. Lin Xiaoting was in a much higher position than Lin Xiaoxiao, and the guards would obviously obey him. A minute later, there was only Lin Xiaoting and Mu Qingqing left in the garden.

Lin Xiaoting looked at her briefly, and then sat in the hut. “Play something.”

Mu Qingqing’s eyes were dull as she made her way back to her zither. A song that pondered the beauty of love rang through the garden. However, she cut her fingers with the strings while playing, and the notes were not as beautiful as they should have been.

“Qingqing.” His eyes were focused on the fishes in the pond, when he spoke up to interrupt her piece.

“Yes?”

“Your lifebound beast is dead, and your spirit sources are broken. You are crippled for life, and nothing will change that.” He was playing with the goldfishes. “Do you feel resentful?”

“Of course not.”

“Good. You should know better than anyone how cruel reality can be, right?” Lin Xiaoting rose up and glanced at her from above.

“Naturally.”

“You stepped over Li Tianming’s body to get to me, and now I’m getting rid of you for a better woman. It’s all normal, am I right?” Lin Xiaoting asked.

Mu Qingqing’s head was lowered, the blood still dripping from her fingers onto her zither.

“Yes.” Tears fell, forming a puddle that mixed with the black pool of blood.



“You are mature enough to know when to admit defeat, aren’t you?” Lin Xiaoting wouldn’t even look at her in her current state.

“Of course, big brother Ting.” She tried to wipe away her tears, but only ended up smearing more blood on her face.

“Glad to hear that you know what you are doing.” Lin Xiaoting patted her shoulders.

“I have told father that you can keep the Lotus Blossom Garden. You are free to grow flowers, raise fishes, play your zither, and do anything you want here. I promise that you will live a comfortable life.”

“But you must not leave here. I don’t want you to appear in front of the public. Once you pass away, I will let you be buried in the Lin family’s grave as my servant. I will try to visit you the next time I come back.” It wasn’t hard to tell that Mu Qingqing wasn’t going to live for long.

“Qingqing, I have done as much as I possibly could for you already, haven’t I?” With his hand on her shoulder, Lin Xiaoting asked, a smile on his face.

“Of course, it’s my honour to be brother Ting’s servant even after I die.” Mu Qingqing tried her best to force her face into a smile as she replied. But her face was smeared in blood, making it nowhere near attractive.

“Lovely. The fact that you always know what’s best for you is precisely the reason I liked you.”

“My only regret is that because brother Ting practices the Heavenly Yang-Thunder Manual, you can’t indulge in worldly desires until you attain Unity. I have never had the joy of spending a night with brother Ting,” Mu Qingqing said through gritted teeth.

“Well, I’m at Unity now. Sadly, I’m not interested in you anymore.”

“What a pity. Then I wish brother Ting happiness after marriage,” Mu Qingqing said.

“Now that’s a good girl. I shall allow you to be there for my wedding.” Lin Xiaoting nodded, satisfied by her response.

“Yes, brother Ting, I will make sure to dress up to my best on that day.”

“Hm. As a reward, I will let you witness how I torture that Li Tianming to death. That should count as me taking revenge for you.” Lin Xiaoting smiled. Mu Qingqing smiled back too, but she was no longer the beauty she used to be.

“Remember to dress up properly, but don’t outshine the bride,” Lin Xiaoting reminded her.

“Naturally.”

“Alright then. Goodbye.” Lin Xiaoting was in a good mood as he turned and left the garden.

Once Lin Xiaoting was gone, Mu Qingqing vomited out even more blood, the sludge dyeing her white shirt black completely. She dropped to her knees, her head against the pavilion’s pillar, tears falling uncontrollably from her eyes.

As she cried, she slammed her head against the pillar, her body convulsing as she sobbed. She slammed her head again and again, until she eventually passed out in the little pavilion.

#### **Chapter 149 - SR Mount: Supernal Mentor Mu Wan**

Li Tianming was cultivating by the Flameyellow Rock in the innermost ring when Mu Yang called him.

“Uncle Yang! What is it?” Li Tianming greeted Mu Yang. He was short of time, and he needed to make use of every single second that the black cat was awake to cultivate and reach a new level. Getting Meow Meow to cooperate wasn’t easy at all.

“We have news,” Mu Yang said, a frown on his face.

“What news?”

“Our agent told us that the inspectors and the Yueling Clan are still at Lightning Manor — they haven’t left yet.”

That was actually good news for Li Tianming, since he’d rather they not leave so quickly.

“More importantly, more members of the Yueling Clan have arrived from Torch Dragon and are living in the Lightning Manor right now.”

This new development took Li Tianming by surprise.

“What are they doing?” Li Tianming asked. The whole thing seemed rather fishy.

“We aren’t sure, but based on these odd moves, they must be planning something. Therefore, we’ve also made some preparations, just in case something happens,” Mu Yang replied.

“‘Something happens’? Whatever they’re doing shouldn’t affect the Sanctum, right?” Li Tianming asked.

“We can’t confirm that either, so better safe than sorry. Also, we have one more piece of information.”

“Which is?”

“Yueling Ji’s lifebound beast has evolved using the draconic water obelisk. It is now the ‘Blizzard Spirit Dragon’, an eight-star beast. She is much stronger now, and is spending a lot of time in secluded meditation,” said Mu Yang.

“She needs to enter Unity to enter the Elysium, right? That’s probably the reason.”

“True. But if that’s the case, they shouldn’t be in a hurry. Why then, would they host the Abyssal Trials in Azure Domain, and would the Yueling Clan move here? Have you seen anything weird going on back in the battlefield?”

“Nope.” The weirdest thing was the rigged trials itself, which everyone and their lifebound beasts knew already.

“Hmm, I see. Guess we shall find out soon enough. You can carry on with your cultivation. I’ve asked my mentor, who said he needs eight more days to cure your mother. Remember to come back to the Wei Manor eight days later,” Mu Yang reminded him.

“Sure.”

“Alright, back you go.”

Li Tianming returned to the Flameyellow Rock. He was still trying out what he did the previous time, trying to communicate with the rock by levelling strong punches at it. While each punch would stir a response from the heavenly patterns, it was really difficult to communicate with the rock. It was something that Li Tianming had kept at, from the very first moment he arrived here.

Ever since he familiarised himself with the system of a twin beastmaster, he had been cultivating faster than ever before. The two Primordial Chaos Beasts spent every second consuming the chaotic spiritual energy released by the rock, strengthening him significantly with every passing moment. The Flameyellow Rock was undoubtedly an immense treasure, something that Li Tianming had a lot more to learn about.

Time passed by in a flash, and fourteen days had gone by since he returned from the Abyssal Battlefield. With one grand punch, he finally succeeded, and the Flameyellow Rock pulled him over to pump an incredible amount of spiritual energy into his body. The little chick and the black cat were stuck on the rock as well, their postures comical with all fours glued to the rock. The previous encounter with the rock had helped Li Tianming to advance two levels in one shot. Even though the Flameyellow Rock granted him more spiritual energy this time, Li Tianming had slowed his pace in order to achieve a balance with the rock. It was a cultivation method unique to him, and no one else could possibly cultivate in such a manner.

“Princess Qing should still be recovering in the palace, so it’s likely that Ling’er hasn’t returned to the Sanctum yet.” He was beginning to miss the girl, since their last meeting was half a month ago. “They’ll be really happy to hear about my mother’s recovery, especially Ling’er. I also need to thank Princess Qing for all the help that she gave me in the past month.”

Li Tianming let his two codexes work simultaneously. With the infernalsource and the lightningsource both processing spiritual energy to form their respective beast kis, both powers were able to progress at an equal pace in Li Tianming’s body.

“About time!” As night fell, he broke through to the sixth level of Spiritsource, along with his lightningsource and infernalsource.

“Power flows through me! I want to fight!” With the breakthrough, the little chick was all pumped up, ready to engage anything that came its way with a good old cockfight.

“That’s enough, meow. I don’t want to be a lifebound beast, I don’t want to cultivate anymore, meow!” The black cat was on the verge of falling asleep. If it wasn’t for its black fur, its dark circles would have occupied half of its face.

“Alright, I will let you off for half a day.” Li Tianming laughed.

“Half a day? That’s animal abuse, meow!”

“One more meow outta you and that half day’s gone.”

“Come on, Meow Meow. This elder brother will take you out for a trip.”

"It's fine, big brother chicken, give me a break. Just let me sleep, meow..." As they continued their banter, Li Tianming left the Flameyellow Pagoda and returned to the Wei Manor.

"Tomorrow's the day mother gets a new life." He had been waiting for this day for far too long. "Now that I'm level six Spiritsource, I should be unrivalled below Unity. But against Lin Xiaoting, a twin beastmaster at Unity with the Saintbeast War-Soul, I'm still not confident. I need to become even stronger, but there's little time left."

With the potential of his two Primordial Chaos Beasts, his future was limitless. His two brothers were nowhere close to their former glory as world-devouring monsters, but he believed that they would get there one day. Vermilion Bird was not going to tie him down for long. He returned to the Rainforest Pavilion, making use of his spare time to tidy the place up. In particular was the mirror, which he took care to make it squeaky clean.

"She wants to look pretty too, but she never had the chance to in the past twenty years," Li Tianming lamented. How many twenty years are there in a person's life?

The night was long, longer than any other nights he had gone through. Ying Huo spent the night running wild in the yard, while Meow Meow slept through most of the night on the table. When Li Tianming woke up the next morning, he found that the goldfishes in the pond were all dead, their bodies scattered all over the place — a result of the two beasts' mischief. As sleepy as Meow Meow was the previous day, it was surprisingly energetic now, leaping around the fish pond happily. Li Tianming glanced at the mounds of dead rats near the door, and wondered if the true identity of his Genesis Chaos Thunderfiend was a pet cat.

When the two beasts saw Li Tianming, they each hopped onto Li Tianming's shoulder, taking up one side each.

"Yeehaw! Let's go, Li Tianming!" The little chick was like a cowboy, riding Li Tianming.

"Run like the wind, Li Tianming. Don't worry about me. I won't fall off, meow," said the black cat. Of course it wouldn't, considering that its claws were practically piercing Li Tianming's shoulders.

"Why do I feel like our roles are reversed? People usually ride their lifebound beasts, not the other way round." Li Tianming said, his head hurting.

"Yeehaw! Mounts should shut up and just move!" The little chick was clearly enjoying itself, and gave no quarter when it came to insulting Li Tianming.

"Meow Meow, let me tell you. Li Tianming is merely a sub-standard mount. If you are looking for a really good mount, you have to seek out his supernal mentor, Mu Wan." Ying Huo looked like he was speaking from experience.

"Why is that so, big brother chicken?" the black cat asked.

"You see, there's nothing for us to rest on when we are riding Li Tianming. But Mu Wan, she has two hills that are softer than marshmallows, incredibly comfortable to rest on!" Ying Huo grinned.

"That sounds good, big brother chicken. Will we be changing our mount then?"

"Unfortunately, we can't. He may be bad, but at least he comes free of charge."

“What a shame, meow.”

They were lucky that Li Tianming was in a good mood today since Wei Jing was about to come out, or else they would have been the celebratory dinner for tonight.

It was early in the morning when he arrived outside of the Highcloud Chamber. With the black cat’s birth, the little chick had gotten its long-desired companion. As a result, Li Tianming was already used to the two following him all over the place.

“Oh look, the superior mount is here!” the little chick exclaimed.

Li Tianming turned around to find that Mu Yang had already arrived, that alluring woman right on his tail. Before he even noticed, the black cat had already nested itself in her chest.

“Li Tianming, so this is your second lifebound beast? I think you should really let me have it.” Mu Wan’s eyes were shining as it played with the cat in her arms. The playful little cat had already captured her heart completely.

“Oh you gorgeous little thing. It’s mine now, Li Tianming.”

“Mentor, what about me?” Ying Huo flapped its wings at one side.

“You? You can get lost.” Mu Wan rolled her eyes.

The little chick wailed. “Why is this happening to me?!”

“Don’t scold my big brother chicken. I’ll share everything I get with my brother. Here, enjoy this superior mount with me.” The black cat raised its head from her chest.

“What superior mount?” Mu Wan asked.

“Nothing, nothing, don’t worry about it,” the little chick replied, an evil grin on its face.

As they continued to speak, many others began to show up, including Wei Tianxiong, Wei Zikun and even Sage Chen.

“Are you not concerned about your wife?” Mu Yang snickered.

“Well, I call the shots at home.”

“Bold of you to assume that you have a home to return to, after she throws a fit.”

The gates to Highcloud Chamber opened with a creak at that moment, ending their conversation there...

## **Chapter 150 - Li Tianming’s Lifesbane**

A woman walked out of the opened doors slowly.

To Li Tianming, this was like seeing the sun again after years of darkness, and with bated breath, he fixed his eyes on her. She had eye-catchingly light grey hair that fell down like a waterfall.

The light grey hair gave Li Tianming pause. Did Wei Tiancang fail?

However, he obviously hadn't. Although it was light grey, it was still glossy and full of life. When Li Tianming looked downwards, it wasn't a forty-year-old woman that greeted him, but rather, a girl who looked in her teens.

Even Mu Wan, who was a little over thirty, looked older than her.

She had a pair of sparkling eyes and a set of white teeth, a smile that should belong to a young girl on her face. Her delicate body was filled with life as she moved about agilely.

Li Tianming thought he was seeing things. This girl looked no different from Jiang Feiling and Jiang Qingluan.

M-mother? Li Tianming had expected her to change, from looking like an eighty-year-old to a forty-year-old, someone who looked as old as Xue Lan. However, she looked eighteen instead! Sure, her hair was light grey, but an unknowing bystander would think that she used dye, and might even hit on her.

For the second time in this morning, a headache began to brew. With such an appearance, was he supposed to address her as mother, big sister... or little sister?

It wasn't limited to Li Tianming. When Wei Jing walked out, everyone present was flabbergasted, wondering if there was a problem with their eyes.

"You all have limited knowledge. When someone recovers from Lifesbane, they'll recover their appearance from before it, even if sixty years have passed." An old man appeared behind Wei Jing. He looked exhausted, and his face was pale.

Obviously, removing this Lifesbane hadn't been easy for Wei Tiancang.

"All of you get lost! I need to rest for three months. No one is to bother me!" Wei Tiancang pushed Wei Jing out, before slamming the door close, as if saving Wei Jing was something humiliating.

Needing to rest for three months not only showed how strenuous this was, but also that Li Tianming had misjudged this grandfather of his. Fortunately, a rest was enough for him.

Wei Jing turned around, but the door was already shut. "That stubborn old coot."

While she was gritting her teeth, a small smile tugged at the corner of her lips. The walls between her and her father had come down; how could she not be happy? Her Lifesbane was gone, she had returned to being twenty and she had buried the hatchet with her father. It was as if she had left hell and entered heaven.

The bliss that filled her was enough to leave her rooted to the spot. She had already thanked her father many times, but she knew there was one other major contributor, Li Tianming.

When she saw her son, her eyes turned damp with tears of joy. "Tianming!"

The next moment, Wei Jing was already hugging her son.

"Who are you? My long-lost sister?" Li Tianming grabbed her by the shoulders and said with an exaggerated expression.

Wei Jing smiled, having seen herself in the mirror. She herself hadn't expected to become twenty again.

“Father said Lifesbane isn’t just misfortune. It also had many mysterious aspects that our clan can’t grasp. Returning to the state you were in when the Lifesbane started is just one small part. It’s not just my body that has had the clock turned back twenty years.” With those words, she summoned her lifebound beast, an Eight-Winged Goldroc!

It, like Wei Jing, was roughly at the peak of Spiritsource.

After suffering from Lifesbane for twenty years, the roc had regressed to becoming a Four-Winged Goldroc. However, it had now returned to its state twenty years ago.

“Incredible...” Li Tianming had been in the dark about the profundities of Lifesbane. He had thought it was purely misfortune.

Even Wei Tiancang himself had only been able to guess this would happen, because Wei Jing was the first ever case study that had endured the Lifesbane for twenty years. Usually, members of the Wei Clan that contracted Lifesbane would get rid of it immediately.

A twenty-year-old mother? Li Tianming wasn’t sure what to think now.

“Don’t give me that. I may be twenty years old in body, but I still have the heart of a forty-year-old!” Wei Jing chided jokingly. She was practically over the moon now!

Li Tianming was even happier, feeling like a rock that had been weighing down on his heart for the longest time was gone.

“Mom, ignore that Li Tianming. Your son is coming!” The little chick flew over.

“Meow.” Behind it, electricity flickered. A moment later, the black cat was comfortably nestled in Wei Jing’s arms. These two were competent when it came to stealing the limelight.

Still, they were one big family!

The miracle born from the Lifesbane’s removal was joy piled upon joy.

He had always said Wei Jing must have been a great beauty of Ignispolis when she was young, and now his words were proven right. Little wonder people like Mu Yang and Sage Chen treated her with such favour.

“You’re married already, don’t look so much.” Mu Yang stared at Sage Chen.

“She’s twenty again. Hard times are coming for me,” Sage Chen said emotionally.

“Speaking of which, that person at home will be jealous when she sees how Jing’er looks now.” Mu Yang laughed.

Sage Chen shook his head. “Whatever. She’s always been like that. We’ll cross that bridge when it comes to it.”

Stepping forward shy, Mu Wan asked, “Big brother, is there any way I can get an unlimited number of Lifesbane?”

“Excuse me, what?” Mu Yang stared.

“No, I’m just interested in eternal youth,” Mu Wan said enviously.

“Scram.”

“I can see you’re infatuated with big sis Jing...”

“I’ll give you a smack if you continue on.”

Mu Wan scampered off.

The only ones who didn’t look as happy here were Wei Tianxiong, Wei Zikun and their children. They had also been in opposition, but Wei Tiancang had still unexpectedly saved her.

“Why do I feel father wanted to save her from the start?” Wei Zikun frowned.

“Is that surprising? He always doted on her the most,” Wei Tianxiong replied.

“Alright, that mother and son must be so happy now. Wei Manor is no longer ours.”

“Obviously. Mu Yang will accept Li Tianming as his disciple. Li Tianming will likely be the next Potentate.” It meant it wasn’t their children’s world either anymore. Still, what could they do about it?

“Big brother, Zikun.” Surprisingly, Wei Jing approached them. “All these years, it was my fault. Thank you for taking care of father and supporting the manor.”

“Mhm. Now that you’re free of it, live a good life. Don’t do anything that will hurt him again. He’s getting old,” Wei Tianxiong said.

“Jing’er understands.”

“I have something on. I’ll make a move first,” Wei Tianxiong said.

“Alright.”

“Take care. Uncles, I won’t be sending you off.” Li Tianming stepped forward with a smile.

Even though they felt displeasure, there was nothing they could do but leave, filled with complex emotions. Wei Tianxiong also brought away Wei Guohao, Wei Lingxuan and the rest of the onlookers. In the end, even Wei Tiancang had chosen to forgive her, so there was no reason for them to carry a grudge.

Li Tianming and the rest returned to Rainforest Pavilion.

Wei Jing personally cooked for the guests. While it wasn’t that spectacular, Mu Yang and Sage Chen still praised it to high heavens. They only left when night fell, leaving behind Li Tianming, his mother and two small animals.

Ying Huo and Meow Meow went to the courtyard to play, while Wei Jing was brushing her hair in front of the mirror. Li Tianming examined her youthful-looking reflection in the mirror, feeling like he would laugh himself awake when sleeping.

“Mother, will you rekindle a relationship with Uncle Yang?” Li Tianming asked.

“No.”



“Why?” Li Tianming asked curiously.

“He said he doesn’t have such thoughts. He’s used to his life after twenty years. It’ll be stressful to be with me,” Wei Jing said.

“Is there something wrong with him?” Li Tianming had thought Mu Yang had certain plans when he saw how proactive he was.

“Also, there’s someone I want to find.” Wei Jing looked resolutely at her reflection.

“Who?”

“I’ll tell you if the opportunity comes.”

“...”

She continued to groom herself in the mirror, something she hadn’t been able to do for twenty years.

“What’s that?” When her sleeves rolled up, Li Tianming noticed something on her right arm. Li Tianming grabbed her arm for a closer look. He saw three overlapping circular rings that wouldn’t come off no matter how hard he rubbed.

“I don’t know. It appeared when the Lifesbane was removed,” Wei Jing said.

“Will it cause problems?”

“No. There have been many through the years who have had Lifesbane. However, they all removed it by the first year, and their arms only had one such ring. It’s possible that I have three because I had Lifesbane for far longer,” Wei Jing explained.

“Will it affect your future cultivation and life?”

“Supposedly, each ring will boost cultivation speed. It’s the reason for the Wei Clan’s prosperity through the ages. My father has one, but my brothers don’t, so they’re weaker,” Wei Jing replied.

“So that’s how it is! If one ring lets you reach Wei Tiancang’s level, wouldn’t you accomplish three times as much as him since you have three?”

“Don’t address your grandfather by name. That’s rude.” Wei Jing gave him a knock on the head.

“Mother, how did our clan get this Lifesbane?” Li Tianming asked, curious.

“Supposedly, a female ancestor surnamed Li who married in a thousand years ago brought it in. It’s because of her our Wei Clan flourished.”

“A female ancestor named Li?” Actually, Li Tianming did have thoughts of changing his surname. However, Wei Tianming sounded pretty bad. He was used to it too, so in the end, he was too lazy to change it.

Unexpectedly, that ancestor who brought in the Lifesbane had the same surname as him.

“I’ll go and play with Ying Huo and Meow Meow. Prime Disciple Li Tianming, work hard on your cultivation, lest your title of genius gets taken away by your mother!” Wei Jing laughed as she left.

Li Tianming wasn't sure whether to laugh or cry. He was possibly the only one in the world who looked the same age as his mother and had to fight over the title of genius with her.

"My hair?" Li Tianming leaned closer and made a curious discovery. His hair was lighter than he last remembered it. "Am I seeing things?"

Li Tianming remembered that his hair had always been a lustrous black.

He suddenly had a bad feeling, and examined his right arm immediately. One ring was sitting there!

"Fuck! I also have Lifesbane!"

Li Tianming's scalp numbed, and he felt his heart chill.