

The Ages 1411

Chapter 1411 - The Alliance's Million-Man Army

"Hey," Shi Yan said when she noticed Tianming emerge, standing at the entrance and looking toward the mountains.

"Please take a seat, Senior Shi," Tianming said. He knew that the rest of her life would be a lonely one, no doubt, and it would feel horrible. However, he couldn't afford to sympathize with her. They were each acting out of their own self-interest. In fact, had he not been a Sky Palace disciple, she wouldn't think twice about getting rid of him should conflict arise. It was pointless to sympathize with the enemy after defeating them. Only one side could remain standing in inevitable conflicts such as this; however, Tianming still respected her.

"Have you been feeling better lately?" he asked. Shi Yan had been receiving emergency treatment since she'd returned, and now it seemed that her life was no longer in danger.

"I'm not dead yet. But I don't feel particularly alive, either," she said, smiling bitterly. Since losing her powers, her expressions and demeanor seemed more like a normal girl's. Seeing Tianming purse his lips, she smiled and said, "I didn't come to ask for your sympathy. It's pointless. This is merely the consequences of doing what we do. I had my time in the limelight, and I'll accept whatever consequences that come my way. To people like me of a certain age, death and failure aren't all that scary. After all, few, if anyone, get to win throughout their entire lives. I mainly came to bid farewell to you. I'm returning to the Emyrean Sword Sect to retire. A slow life in nature rearing fish and shrimp sounds like a relaxing prospect. In another sense, it's like choosing to live another kind of life."

She wasn't able to make a lifebound spirit, as even the carcass of her lifebound beast had been completely vaporized by Li Wushuang.

"Senior Shi, you seem to have looked past the mortal coil and come to accept tranquility. I suppose there's joy to be found in a worry-free life too," Tianming said.

"That's right. And because of that, I wish to say a few things to you on behalf of my sect before leaving."

"Please do."

Shi Yan took a deep breath and said, "I don't doubt that the two swordlords have given you quite a horrible impression of our sect. However, please believe me when I say that our swordmage's invitation is sincere. I know that you're still placing your hopes on the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect, believing them capable of leaving their current predicament. However, the Sky Palace seems to be in an odd position as well and their machinations are hard to comprehend. The swordmage believes that the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect will be hard to save, now that their weakness is in the hands of the enemy.

"Tianming, I know that Long Wanying and the others believe they can manipulate Li Wushuang, but that's only a fantasy. She's the most dangerous person on Orderia and a close family member of the sun emperor. You may kill his son, if you have to, but you cannot touch her. I advise you to not put up a futile resistance with the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect, for it'll only be a vain effort. Even if the Northdipper Swordmage comes, our goal is only to defeat the wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean. As for Li Wushuang, we're only trying to drive her away, ideally without harming her in the slightest. I'm sure you

understand. I hate her with a passion, but even I know that she is an exception to any and all rules." Her heartfelt advice at the end served to make her message more convincing.

"Senior Shi, I'm truly sorry. Paying back the favors I've received is a core tenet of my being," Tianming said.

"So that's still your angle, huh." Shi Yan shook her head in a forlorn manner. "I did receive some news, so I hope you'll take it into consideration."

"Alright." Tianming knew that she had gotten a transmission stone, but Yin Chen didn't see the message it carried, and Shi Yan hadn't told anyone else of its contents. The Wind Swordlord, who was far away from there, also received one. If one had to guess, it was probably a good sign for the formation of the alliance.

"The Northdipper Swordsage has forged an alliance. Three other first-rate sects and a third of the second, third, and fourth-rate sects will join our Emyrean Sword Sect as allies. Our sect will be sending two hundred thousand elite swordpupils here. The other three first-rate sects will send four hundred thousand elites, combined. As for the remaining smaller factions, they'll also send another four hundred thousand troops in total. In total, we have an army of a million elites on the level of first-grade swordpupils or higher. The army has already assembled, and our swordsage will personally lead them to this continent. They'll be arriving soon.

"Things are getting serious. Our alliance will wash the continent with the blood of the wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean, no matter how many they send here. We'll cleanly and thoroughly wipe them out."

First-grade swordpupils were at least ninth-level constellers. This was a gigantic force. The death of the Rain Swordlord and forty thousand swordpupils had greatly enraged the Northdipper Swordsage, and if he didn't do something to make up for that huge loss, his sect's morale would fall even further. As such, his retaliation was almost a given, but nobody had predicted it would be this severe. No doubt, he had done a lot on top of forming the alliance, like making sure that he assembled an army with the utmost discretion. The mobilization of the troops would be swift and decisive. He was starting to look more and more like the supreme leader the myriad factions needed.

"Tianming, you'll get to witness the overwhelming might of the swordsage this time around. He's the true hero among the Myriad Solar Sects that dares to stand against the celestial orderians!" Shi Yan said with a look of worship.

"Understood," Tianming said.

"That's all I'll say for now. I hope you make the choice that's right for you and go to a place that's more suitable for you. The Xuanyuan Dragon Sect is struggling to even protect themselves right now, so they won't be against you moving to our sect. The Azurecloud Continent is in too much turmoil, so it isn't a safe place for you to stay and cultivate in," Shi Yan said as she stood up, preparing to leave.

"Understood. Travel well, Senior Shi."

"Alright. Don't bother seeing me off. My power hasn't completely dissipated yet. It'll last me another decade or so." She gave Tianming another deep look, then left without hesitation.

Tianming pursed his lips at the sight of her leaving. Though she was from a different camp, she wasn't too bad of a person. At the very least, she was loyal, which was also a virtue. The only person on the continent now who could truly be regarded as evil was Li Wushuang.

Chapter 1412 - Heroes Beyond the Clouds

After Shi Yan left, Tianming, Long Wanying, and the rest gathered to talk about the army.

Long Wanying said, "The news has reached her. That means the army will soon arrive on the continent. This time around, the Northdipper Swordsage has kept everything so secret that not even I received word about it through my sources. In other words, Li Wushuang's side probably doesn't understand the extent of the retaliation that's coming either."

"No doubt, they expect some more reinforcements from the Empyrean Sword Sect, so they did have more wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean reinforcements come. The former sent close to eighty thousand while the latter sent a hundred and fifty thousand troops. While that number may increase, it's highly unlikely that they'll send a full million. There's no way a simple fight over the fruits of the divine tree merits so many troops," Tianming said.

"In that case, they should have no trouble defeating the two outside factions and chasing Li Wushuang away. Though, with how many factions the army is made up of, when the time comes to split up the harvest, the Azuresoul Palace will get the short end of the stick. There'll barely be any left," Long Wanying said, frowning her brows.

"The smaller the harvest, the more chaos there'll be. That might be a chance for us to get more fruits. After all, the Sky Palace's rules are still in place. The army isn't here to help with the harvest. Instead, they're here to deal payback to the wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean, so their claim over the divine fruits will be weak at best," Gujian Qingshuang said, having a clear view of the situation.

"No worries. We'll take as much as we can. The harvest rightfully belongs to us, after all. That aside, there's something even more important," Long Wanying said.

They all knew what she was going to say.

"Yun Tianque will have to cut off their ties with the wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean before the fighting starts so the Supracloud Sanctuary won't get attacked by the Empyrean Sword Sect's alliance," Tianming said.

According to the Empyrean Sword Sect's plans, not only did they want to exterminate the two outsider sects, they also wanted to wipe out the Supracloud Sanctuary to gain full control of the continent. That was the final goal of the Northdipper Swordsaint. Naturally, he was smart enough to only send three hundred thousand troops and use the alliance for the rest.

But the problem was that the Supracloud Sanctuary had become a traitor by siding with the celestial orderians, so no other sects would sympathize with them even if they were eradicated by the alliance. If the Empyrean Sword Sect managed to conquer the Azurecloud Continent, they would gain its resources and significantly grow in power, perhaps even surpassing the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect. That was why Tianming found it hard to deny what Shi Yan had said. They were the ones who understood the ambitions of the swordsage the most. The man was incredibly sneaky, and wouldn't risk losing anything

unless there was a huge reward to be gained. Surely, he wouldn't send such a huge army here just for revenge. No doubt, he already saw the potential rewards.

"Tianming, how's Yun Tianque?" Long Wanying asked.

"Things are still fine. So far, the harvest is coming to a close on their end. The Supracloud Sanctuary is holding three billion divine herbs for now." The people who held the divine herbs were crucial. Storing them in spatial rings was far from ideal to conserve the freshness of the herbs, so they had to have proper storage facilities. The divine herbs harvested on Tianming's side were stored with the Azuresoul Palace as well, and would only be divided after the harvest was complete.

"What about the movements of the others?"

"For now, Li Wushuang's subordinates and the reinforcements from the two outsider sects are gathered near the sapling sites. There's only a few people from the Supracloud Sanctuary among them. Once I give the notice, Yun Tianque can immediately get the key figures to retreat to the sect and activate their formation." With Yin Chen's ability, they had a full grasp of the situation down to the smallest detail.

"We'll react as required. The moment the alliance army reaches the continent, get Yun Tianque to immediately cut ties," Long Wanying said.

"No problem."

The storm was almost upon them. Tianming took a deep breath in anticipation of the upcoming battle that loomed over the continent like a gigantic beast, causing all living things on it to shudder in fear.

"Azurecloud...." The fate of the continent depended on the outcome of the battle.

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Li Wushuang stood on top of a branch of the divine tree at Aix Lake, looking at the two hundred and fifty thousand plus reinforcements that had arrived. They had countless elites at their disposal.

"Have a hundred thousand of them guard the sapling sites. For the remaining hundred and fifty thousand, have them come with me to kill everyone from the Emyrean Sword Sect within the territory of the Azuresoul Palace," she said.

"Understood." The Tumulus Pill God nodded, then asked, "Lady Wushuang, fifty thousand wargodeans and ten thousand cultivators from the Blueblood Starocean will come in the coming days. Will we wait for them before we take action?"

"No. If we keep waiting, the Emyrean Sword Sect's reinforcements will arrive." She smiled and turned back toward the eighteen top elites that guarded her. "Not to mention, we don't need you to do the leading. My people will take care of it."

"Understood!"

The top elites of the celestial orderians wore relaxed smiles. To them, this was nothing more than a field trip. What they didn't know was how many chips the Emyrean Sword Sect were going to bet. As they contemplated that question, a transmission stone came flying toward them. Li Wushuang gave the

message a look and her expression changed. "The Myriad Sword Sect formed an alliance... and sent an army of one million? They'll arrive tomorrow?"

"What?" The Tumulus Pill God was stumped. "What's the point? It's just divine herbs. Would anyone send a million swordpupil-grade troops over it? Does the Empyrean Sword Sect even have that many? Did they leave their home base unguarded?"

He didn't get it. This wasn't something that had just happened for no good reason. Not to mention, the resources on this continent couldn't possibly be worth it, unless the Northdipper Swordsage's aim was to conquer it long term!

"The Empyrean Sword Sect only sent an additional two hundred thousand troops. The other eight hundred thousand are from other factions, three of which are first rate," Li Wushuang said.

"What? Is this some kind of riot?" the Tumulus Pill God secretly lamented, knowing it would come to that. Li Wushuang's identity was far too sensitive, but her actions had gone overboard. This was the territory of the Myriad Solar Sects, after all. The Dreamless Celestial Nation and Voidword Shrine didn't really react to it, but the Empyrean Sword Sect stood up instead.

Everyone turned to Li Wushuang, the main cause of this trouble. However, she didn't look the slightest bit fearful. "Don't worry. Since they're going all out, the Deluge Emperor and Warlord won't just sit and watch. Just send more people here to force a stalemate with them. A fight might not even break out. The only concern now is that our numbers are much smaller than theirs, so we need to buy time for more reinforcements to arrive. Let's retreat to the Supracloud Sanctuary for now and build a base of operations behind their defensive formation.

"I suppose that's all that we can do. Let's give up on the sapling sites. We should be able to hold on behind the formation for quite some time," the Tumulus Pill God said.

"Who said I was going to give up on the sites?" Li Wushuang said, glaring at him.

"Then what do we do?"

"We'll have the Supracloud Sanctuary send out a hundred thousand of their elites and a few million normal troops to hold the sites. They want to join the ranks of the celestial orderians, so a sacrifice will be necessary," she said, rolling her eyes. To them, only first-grade swordpupil equivalents and above—that is, those above the ninth level of the Constellation stage—could count as elites. The rest would only be considered normal troops.

The Tumulus Pill God was utterly horrified by the cruelty, but no words left his mouth. "I'll notify Yun Tianque immediately."

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At the Supracloud Sanctuary, Yun Tianque contemplatively looked at the billions of divine herbs. Yin Chen had told him everything, and he'd also just received a transmission stone from the Tumulus Pill God. "Hahahaha...." He laughed so hard that tears formed. "You motherfuckers want to hide in my house and kick my people out to die for you? Fuck off, Li Wushuang! Fuck all your ancestors!"

That outburst made him feel much better. He took a deep breath and announced to hundreds of thousands of people, "Heed my orders! Activate the Myriadfold Skycloud Formation. Entry or exit to our sect is forbidden, no exceptions! Additionally, I want to make it clear that the Supracloud Sanctuary is officially cutting ties with the celestial orderians, wargodeans, and the Blueblood Starocean!"

Chapter 1413 - Home

This was a momentous event for Yun Tianque. Hundreds of thousands of elites and disciples were organizing the harvested divine herbs when he made that announcement. The moment he finished, the Myriadfold Skycloud Formation shifted into wartime mode. That was their highest security level.

The Supracloud Sanctuary was actually a moving fortress that floated through the sky, using the corpse of a nimbus emperor as its foundation. When the formation was active, the fortress looked like it was protected by ten thousand layers of cloudy spheres, increasing the volume of the entire structure by a few times. This grade-seven divine formation had been constructed over the generations throughout millions of years. Defensive formations were a necessity of any sect; without them, nowhere they settled could be considered home.

Eventually, the clouds turned into a storm that surrounded the formation. The Supracloud Sanctuary had entered full battle stations. Every time the formation was left active in this state, it would consume a lot of resources, but that was a worthwhile sacrifice for their future. Yet, the hundreds of thousands of sect members couldn't comprehend their sect master's decision.

There were seven grade-five cultivators in the sect, including Yun Tianque, one of whom was Lu Yuanji. She represented the voidstag race, a huge internal faction in the sect. All of them blankly looked at Yun Tianque. Anyone above grade three or four had been informed about the intricacies of the situation and knew what kind of crazy move this represented. Only the normal disciples and cultivators who were sick of the mistreatment by outsiders cheered this decision.

"Yeah, this is it!"

"That's right! Why should a second-rate faction like ours bow to the celestial orderians?"

"The Blueblood Starocean and wargodeans are traitors that don't even take us seriously. They aren't here to help with the harvest, they're here to rob us of it!"

Cheers erupted throughout the sect.

"Everyone, quiet down! Sect Master, we have something to say!" Four people with grade five status stood out. They were highly regarded elders within the sect and had contributed much to it. From the very beginning, they had believed that Yun Tianque's decision to side with the celestial orderians was difficult to comprehend and, in some ways, went against the will of their forebears. However, they had been forced to keep quiet due to the circumstances. But now the matter could no longer be left in a corner.

The oldest elder with fully white hair stood out. He was Yun Mingcang, the uncle of Yun Tianque. Sternly, he said, "Sect Master, you were the one who unilaterally decided to pick the wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean to be our allies, and now you're the one who's deciding we should leave them. It's within your rights as a sect master to choose to do so, but we have to remind you that these people

aren't pushovers. They're the vilest of people, and our betrayal will only incur their rage. Even if we don't particularly like them, we're now in the same boat as them. Won't getting off the boat only cause us to drown?"

Betrayal was among the most hateful things someone could do. They had already considerably sullied their reputation by joining up with the robbers, yet they were going to call it quits all of a sudden.

Yun Tianque looked at the crowd and said, "Please hear me out. Li Wushuang killed the Rain Swordlord and eliminated forty thousand troops from the Empyrean Sword Sect, earning the ire of the Northdipper Swordsage, who went on to forge an alliance with many other second and third-rate sects. They've assembled an army of a million troops and they're approaching our continent! Li Wushuang was the one that caused all this trouble. If we don't back out of this while we still can, we might be completely eradicated by the alliance. Right now, we don't have to fear Li Wushuang. She'll be hard-pressed to protect herself from the alliance. Without the wargodeans and the Blueblood Starocean, there's no way she can project any influence in the territory of the Myriad Solar Sects."

"An army of a million?!" Everyone in the sect was shocked. It was a force on such a scale that it could wipe their sect off the face of the continent.

"I knew from the start that Li Wushuang was far too reckless. Things would catch up to her sooner or later."

"Looks like this has come to pass."

"The Myriad Solar Sects are finally here. The sect master has made the right decision. We can still pull ourselves out of this mess."

"We never should've joined them in the first place...."

All kinds of panicked thoughts floated through their minds.

"There's another reason I'm distancing our sect from them," Yun Tianque said.

"What is it?" Yun Mingcang asked.

"Before the alliance's army comes, Li Wushuang is going to bring her two hundred thousand troops back to our sect to hold out using our formation. That alone wouldn't be too much of a problem, but she's unwilling to give up on the sapling sites and wants us to send a hundred thousand of our own to face off against the incoming army! She wants us to be cannon fodder just so that she can keep the saplings!

"Now I know her true goal. She wants to keep the saplings and for the alliance to exterminate us! After all, we're still part of the Myriad Solar Sects. She's using us to make the Northdipper Swordsage's alliance look bad for killing one of their own. From the very beginning, she wanted us to die! I acknowledge that it was my fault for initially allying with the wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean. But back then, Li Wushuang wasn't in the picture. We had no choice if we were to compete with the Azuresoul Palace, who had the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect backing them. But now I've decided to jump ship. It's still not a good look for us, and if our sect comes to an end as a consequence of my decisions, I'll be the one to stick my neck out to atone for it." To make sure their sect stayed united, he had to make it clear; as expected, Li Wushuang's ambitions had caused some frustration to rise.

"Isn't that too shameless?"

"They really see us as nothing more than livestock."

"Haha... it's like they think we're just going to give them divine herbs like this."

"I understand the sect master's troubles. Li Wushuang's presence here wasn't expected at all. Back then, he had no choice. The performance of the Azuresoul Palace's disciples at the Voidsky Skirmish was far too shocking."

"Let's all stand with the sect master!"

Yun Tianque was a focal figure of their sect, especially with his record of having defeated Gujian Qingshuang before. He was their pride and joy and his authority was highly respected. That was why Tianming needed him.

Now that Yun Tianque had gained their favor, he brought out an explosive suggestion. "We'll quickly cut off our ties and we still hold all the harvested divine herbs. We shall seal off our sect and defend what belongs to us without compromise! These are the gifts the divine tree has bequeathed to the denizens of our continent, not outsiders! We shall take our fates into our own hands and not let anyone take away the slightest bit! Even if we don't leave our sect for the next century, we'll still have profited greatly from all these divine herbs!"

That caused an uproar. Nobody expected this would ever happen; there had never been an instance over the past eon where their sect got three billion divine herbs! It was something straight out of a pipe dream. Every time they felt like they had hope after harvesting so many divine herbs, they were only left with around a tenth of it, roughly three hundred million. There was far from enough to go around.

Chapter 1414 - Snowsun Quadspecters

It just so happened that the momentous decision to cut ties had been made when Li Wushuang and her lackeys weren't at the sect. Not to mention, they would be taking the brunt of the million-man army of the alliance, so they wouldn't have the luxury of taking out their anger on the Supracloud Sanctuary. They also had all the divine herbs secured, making it the perfect opportunity to cut ties.

"We'll defend them to our deaths!"

"It was ours to begin with!"

Everyone was fueling their fighting spirits by airing their frustrations. Even if they would die in the upcoming defensive battle, it was still a relief more than anything else.

"We've laid low for far too long. From now on, we'll no longer accept their oppression!" Yun Tianque said to great acclaim.

Yun Mingcang's tears were flowing as he raised his fists and crossed them in front of his chest, slowly kneeling. "We shall serve the sect master to our death to defend the dignity and treasures of our sect! From the moment the formation was activated, we'll kill anyone that comes, be they gods or fiends!"

The entire sect was set ablaze with passion, exactly what Yun Tianque had wanted. He had used some tricks of his own to achieve it, but the resonance with all of them on a heartfelt level was real. Tianming

had given him hope for the continent's future. Even he understood that giving their all in this fight would be meaningful in its own right. Now, nobody could stop their sect's trajectory.

However, someone whispered to him at that moment. "Yun Tianque, is this the reason you spent the past few days gathering all ten million of our constelliers back to our sect?"

Yun Tianque turned back and saw a beautiful, curvy woman with enchanting wiles speaking to him. She was the second-in-command of the sect, Lu Yuanji.

"That's right. With all these people, we can bolster the formation through the barrier spirit threads of the formation. I also made similar preparations to defend some of our grounded cities," he said with a smile.

"There's something I find a bit weird. You didn't know about the million-man army a few days ago, nor the fact that Li Wushuang would use us as cannon fodder. Yet you've already started making preparations. Were you going to turn on them from the beginning?" she said, rolling her eyes.

"I already had a feeling something bad would happen when Li Wushuang killed the Rain Swordlord and forty thousand swordpupils. Does that sound far fetched?"

"I suppose it's possible. But why have I never seen this foresight in you before all of this?" she said, chuckling.

"You just have to do what I say. Where'd all these questions come from?"

"Fine. I'm your wife, after all." Her every movement was filled with temptation, yet Yun Tianque didn't give her any reaction.

"This time around, we'll need the help of the voidstags, too. We're in the same boat now, alive or dead."

"Rest assured!" Lu Yuanji confidently patted her chest.

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It had been half a day since the Tumulus Pill God sent the transmission stone. What was odd was that he hadn't received a reply yet. There were some injured among their troops who were at the Supracloud Sanctuary, but they had already been dealt with after the betrayal. Even if they'd had transmission stones, they wouldn't have been able to use them. The Myriadfold Skycloud Formation cut off all communication at its highest level of activation; nothing could be sent or received. Yun Tianque wanted to drag it out as long as possible until the alliance's army finally caught up to Li Wushuang's group.

"Tumulus, where are they?" Li Wushuang was losing her patience.

"I don't know why, but Yun Tianque hasn't responded to me yet," he said, having a bad feeling. "Lady Wushuang, why don't we just move our troops to the Supracloud Sanctuary first? We'll decide on what's to come after we enter the formation." He knew that letting the two hundred plus thousand they had there face off against the alliance's army would no doubt result in countless wargodean casualties, so keeping themselves safe was a top priority.

"No. We have to wait for the Supracloud Sanctuary to send people to the sapling sites and take over, first. What if the saplings get sabotaged or destroyed?" The saplings were too weak and anybody could

destroy them if they tried. There were more than enough people willing to cause trouble when nobody was looking.

"Lady Wushuang, are you intending for the alliance to kill off the people from the Supracloud Sanctuary first? If they lose too many innocents, the Northdipper Swordsage's leadership will be negatively affected. He's only one of the leaders of their alliance, after all."

"That's right. Got a problem with it?"

"No!"

"Have Yun Tianque hurry up. I've run out of patience waiting for him. Since he chose to be my dog, he should have the sense to do the right thing."

"He's probably paralyzed with fear upon hearing about the army. Let me go to the Supracloud Sanctuary and teach him a lesson."

"Be quick."

The Tumulus Pill God wanted his wargodeans to be able to retreat as soon as possible. In fact, he was even more anxious than Li Wushuang about the timeline. "Definitely!"

Li Wushuang turned back to her elite subordinates and said, "Snowsun Quadspecters, you four travel the fastest and are good at formations. Accompany Tumulus on his way back and give Yun Tianque a harsh lesson if he doesn't listen."

"Understood!" Four people among the group excitedly stepped forward. It was the first time Li Wushuang had given them a proper task, so they couldn't wait to fulfill her expectations.

The Tumulus Pill God felt his heart sink a little. It was clear that Li Wushuang wanted them to keep an eye on him, and the Snowsun Quadspecters were definitely capable of that. The four blue-robed, handsome men had a refined aura about them. They had snow-white hair, straight noses, slender figures, and fair skin. Their eyes looked like reflections of the sun on flat snow, making them among the best-looking men ever. The only puzzling thing about their appearance was that they looked completely identical.

It was said that they were quadruplets. The name they called themselves was Snowsun Quadsaints, but most people called them Snowsun Quadspecters. As their moniker suggested, they were all specters that looked incredibly similar to normal humans. They also had quite an infamous reputation for having ushered in a bloodbath in the territory of the Myriad Solar Sects, having killed more than a hundred thousand people only to end up being pursued. At the end of that, they had escaped to the celestial orderians, eventually ending up under the protection of Li Wushuang.

If they heard anyone else call them Snowsun Quadspecters, they would definitely freak out. Only Li Wushuang could refer to them like that so 'endearingly'. The four of them were among Li Wushuang's most trusted lieutenants and their impressive synergy made them a force to be reckoned with. The beautiful youths surrounded Li Wushuang like stars around a moon.

"Quadsaints, this way," the Tumulus Pill God said

"Tumulus Pill God, you're too polite. After you," they said in unison. They were happy to be referred to by their preferred name, but not even they would dare to bother the Tumulus Pill God over which name to use.

"Hurry up!" Li Wushuang urged.

"Rest assured, Lady Wushuang." The four of them swiftly left with the Tumulus Pill God.

"I need a few of you to keep an eye on the alliance's army! Keep me informed of their location!"

"Understood!"

Li Wushuang shut her eyes for some rest after delegating those orders. She wasn't the least bit afraid, for even if they lost, the casualties were for the wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean to bear, not her!

Chapter 1415 - Congratulations on Marching Toward Death

It didn't take long for the Tumulus Pill God and the Snowsun Quadspecters to arrive at the Supracloud Sanctuary. There was nobody else in the vicinity of the sect, which was surrounded by a gigantic cloud formation. The layers were so dense that one couldn't see through to the sect within, much to the shock of the five.

"What in the world is this?" the specters said in unison.

"This is the Myriadfold Skycloud Formation, a grade-seven formation," the Tumulus Pill God said with a complicated expression.

"No, we were asking what Yun Tianque's intentions are," the four said in unison once more. They couldn't figure it out at all.

On the way there, the Tumulus Pill God had worried that this would be the case. "Yun Tianque has been alarmed by the arrival of the alliance's army, so he's trying to hide and protect himself."

"Doesn't he know the consequences? How dare he betray us? Betray the celestial orderians? He'll suffer an even worse death."

"He might not understand the situation as a whole. Let me explain it to him. No doubt, it'll become clear to him when I do." The old man cleared his throat and had the four specters wait outside. Then he approached the formation, took a deep breath, and yelled with all he had, "Yun Tianque, come meet me! You'll regret it for the rest of your life if you don't!" His voice reverberated through the formation like a wave, but there was no response.

Just as the four specters were about to strike, a middle-aged man dressed in a monochrome robe emerged from the clouds. Yun Tianque stood before the Tumulus Pill God. The four specters approached and glared at him like they would a dog.

"Was this your idea, Yun Tianque?" the Tumulus Pill God said, his golden eyes glaring at him with fury.

"Yes." Yun Tianque simply nodded.

"Don't you know the price of betraying the celestial orderians? Even though the million-man army is strong and you're trying to cut your losses, you're underestimating what we're capable of. The alliance

seems impressive, but it's actually fractured and disorganized from within. They aren't united at all, and there's no way they can make any real change. If you make the wrong move now and offend Li Wushuang, the Supracloud Sanctuary will pay dearly for it! We don't take kindly to traitors. As for you personally, you'll end up with a fate far worse than you can imagine. Your descendants and relatives will all die from your decision." Though the Tumulus Pill God spoke in a calm tone, his words carried surprising weight.

"I know what you're saying, Tumulus, but I've already made my decision. There's no turning back."

"No, you still have a chance. I can get the Snowsun Quadsaints to promise not to let a word of this out to Lady Wushuang. Even if she finds out, you can always atone for your mistake and earn her forgiveness."

"You misunderstand me. Both of us know the kind of person Li Wushuang is. Since I made up my mind to do this, I've never considered turning back on my decision. In fact, I've officially announced that we're cutting ties with you lot. Once more, allow me to emphasize to you that the Supracloud Sanctuary will no longer serve you. Go back and tell Li Wushuang that," Yun Tianque firmly said.

"Hahahaha...." the Snowsun Quadsaints laughed even though the Tumulus Pill God's expression was incredibly dark.

"Yet another fool that doesn't fear death."

"Is there even a brain in that skull of yours? Your mistake will doom your entire sect."

"They must've been drunk to make you sect master."

However, Yun Tianque didn't get the slightest bit angry at the mockery. Smiling, he bowed to the Tumulus Pill God. "I appreciate your lessons and the care you've shown me until now. However, I won't let my sect members be Li Wushuang's cannon fodder. We are not expendable. Tumulus, if it'd just been you, we definitely wouldn't have betrayed you. However, Li Wushuang's actions have gone too far, trampling us at every turn. I can no longer associate with you in good conscience. Farewell!"

Yun Tianque retreated back into the formation, leaving the Tumulus Pill God blankly standing there. He knew what kind of person Li Wushuang was, and that was something that greatly troubled him. She simply didn't see Yun Tianque as a person. The way she'd slapped him back then had left more than just a flesh wound. People like her with an ultimate status never understood that even a desperate little ant would bite back when cornered, let alone someone like Yun Tianque, who was no pushover himself. There was nothing the Tumulus Pill God could say to refute what Yun Tianque had said. In fact, he even understood why he had come to make that choice.

However, the four specters were losing their patience. "Yun Tianque, it was your honor to receive a punishment from Lady Wushuang, don't you know that?" They eerily spoke the same words once more.

"An honor, you say? You're the Snowsun Quadspecters, right? Dogs that ran from the Myriad Solar Sects to be the celestial orderians' pets.... No amount of standing on your hind legs will make you look like humans, you filthy mutts," Yun Tianque said.

"You wanna die?!" They stared needles through Yun Tianque, but he didn't care in the slightest and immediately vanished. "Tumulus, the four of us will go in to destroy the formation and kill him. Go notify

Lady Wushuang that we'll take over the Supracloud Sanctuary in her stead. However, we'll need more people to force them to guard the sapling sites for us."

"Just the four of you?"

"Relax. We're all grade-six formation gurus. We've intimately studied such formations, and we're experts at stealth. Sneaking in to kill Yun Tianque will be a walk in the park." The four of them could no longer control the murderous rage they felt. Anyone that dared betray Li Wushuang deserved to die! "The alliance's army will arrive soon. We need this formation to hold out against their attack, so we must immediately take over this place. There's no time to spare."

The Tumulus Pill God recalled that back when these four specters were in the Myriad Solar Sects' territory, they had relied on their formation expertise to enter sects with ease and commit atrocities. Infiltrating formations was their specialty.

Lady Wushuang must've anticipated Yun Tianque's betrayal, so she sent these four here with me. "Alright. Do your best. I'll be supporting you from the outside, so tell me if you need help. You're right—we need to take over the sect as soon as possible."

If they didn't, his wargodeans wouldn't survive. Yun Tianque's betrayal would be fatal for them. Even if Li Wushuang couldn't care less, he had to! His people were the ones who would fight the war, while Li Wushuang only came with a dozen of her own. She didn't even have to fear being killed, either! Otherwise, there was no way she would have dealt with Yun Tianque so undiplomatically. The Tumulus Pill God was caught up between the two, agonizing over the losses the wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean were about to suffer. If only Li Wushuang hadn't come to mess up their harvest plans... but alas, it was too late!

Time was running out, so the four specters charged into the formation without another word. The Tumulus Pill God sent Li Wushuang a transmission stone to notify her of Yun Tianque's betrayal. However, the little cockroach by his feet saw and heard everything.

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"Don't rush too much. This formation has ten thousand layers of illusions. It's among the best illusory formations, but its offensive capabilities aren't that high so it isn't that dangerous."

"Right. We only need to keep our eyes and ears out for flaws we can exploit. Once we break through to the inside, it'll be rendered useless."

"That's right."

"Brothers, now's our chance to serve the celestial orderians."

"No doubt we'll earn great merit if we take down the formation by the time Lady Wushuang arrives."

In actuality, Li Wushuang was a person who inspired more fear than love, given her eccentric demeanor. These four had only flocked to her because she would protect them. Otherwise, the celestial orderians wouldn't have taken them in at all and they would have nowhere to go thanks to the crimes they had committed.

"It's so laughable that a second-rate faction dares to betray the celestial orderians. They wouldn't know how terrifying the celestial orderians truly were if they hadn't gone to their territory before."

They continued to fly through the smoky formation. Being grade-six formation gurus, they were experts at clearing the way. Normal people couldn't even find their way in this formation, yet they easily passed through about five thousand layers.

"Hold on a little longer. We'll make it in another hour."

"They think this crappy formation can stop us? They're in for a surprise...."

They were confident indeed, but not without good reason. The Myriadfold Skycloud Formation couldn't stop them. What they didn't expect, however, was for a bunch of clouds to come flying their way, upon which a middle-aged man stood. It was none other than Yun Tianque. "Are you four looking for me?"

"He came to us on a silver platter?" The four of them were shocked.

"No, you're the ones who came to me on a silver platter."

"Huh, a second-rate sect master and his crappy formation wants to take us on?" Their eyes glowed with gleeful malice.

"Nope, not just me. It's the entire Azurecloud Continent against you."

The four specters wanted to laugh, but they felt a chill behind them. Turning back, they spotted a white-haired youth coldly staring at them. "Sky Palace Disciple Li Tianming...."

They knew him, and he wasn't capable of sending a chill down their spine. Instead, the chill had come from Yang Ce, Long Wanying, Gujian Qingshuang, Yan Nuxia, and the rest.

"Congratulations on marching toward death, you four," Tianming said with a smile.

Chapter 1416 - Silver Nightmare

Yin Chen had eyes and ears across the entire continent, allowing Tianming to note the movement of everyone. His goal was the total annihilation of Li Wushuang's force! He would drive the celestial orderians and the outsiders out of the Azurecloud Continent, and taking down the Snowsun Quadspecters was crucial for that goal.

From the moment they met, Yun Tianque had been provoking them to risk entering the formation. Given that they were grade-six formation gurus, they definitely wouldn't be able to resist it, and they fell for the provocations in the end. When Yang Ce, Long Wanying, and the rest showed up, their expressions changed.

"The chief instructor of the Azuresoul Palace... showed up at the Supracloud Sanctuary?" That was something they could never have fathomed.

Yang Ce and the rest didn't even give them time to react. They immediately attacked the moment they appeared, five against one, and each of them weren't one bit weaker than the specters.

"Yun Tianque controls this formation, so it should be much easier to trap enemies within it than the Divine Worldeater Cauldron. Taking down the specters is only a matter of time." Even so, Tianming

urged them to be as fast as they could; time was of the essence now. As they fought, he retreated farther back and awaited the results, monitoring the situation with Yin Chen.

"These Snowsun Quadspecters spent an entire hour to pass five thousand layers of the formation, so there's no way they'll be able to escape quickly."

The thick illusory layers of the formation prevented anyone outside from finding out what was happening within. Not even transmission stones would be able to leave its bounds.

"Will we kill them off?" Ying Huo asked.

"We can't for now. They must've left lifesoul stones with Li Wushuang. If they die, she'll send even more people here. Ideally, we'll keep them subdued and put them to good use," Tianming said.

As they spoke, the identical specters suddenly transformed from handsome middle-aged men to gigantic hairy white apes with fiendish red faces. Their true forms were horribly ugly. It was a shame that they were facing off against beastmasters and a totemancer. Yang Ce's darknight truefiends already outnumbered the four specters, to say nothing of the other four beastmasters and their beasts. Yun Tianque was especially potent there, given that the area within the formation was the turf of his nimbus emperor.

Tianming watched with yearning as the strongest elites of this world battled it out. "When will I finally be as strong as they are?" These seniors had been cultivating for centuries, so the gap wasn't something he could catch up to, unlike that of his seniors from the Flameyellow Continent.

Gigantic beasts and figures burst through the dense layers of mist and clouds. Yun Tianque's nimbus emperor, Long Wanying's dragons, and Yang Ce's truefiends filled the skies with boundless power. Even Yan Nuxia's gigantic orange bears were shockingly powerful. Their paws were large as islands, and each slam fiercely displaced masses of clouds.

"Chase down that one with me, my bears!" Yan Nuxia yelled. She was as much a beast as her bears, the bold sweeps of her war blade capable of making even the most experienced veterans piss themselves in fear. Every battle she fought was dominated by her. Fortunately, the sheer commotion she caused was drowned out completely by the dense cloud formation to the point that not even the Tumulus Pill God noticed anything, despite being directly outside the formation.

Eventually, the chaos began dying down. When Tianming returned, the specters were completely wasted, bleeding from all parts of their body and tied up by Yang Ce.

"Yang Ce, Long Wanying, I thought you lot would be so bold as to kill us! Is this all you're going to do? Stop pretending, then!" It was a mystery how they were still able to sync up their speech despite their current predicament. They glared at Yang Ce and the rest before setting sights on Tianming. "Release us and prostrate yourselves! Beg Lady Wushuang for forgiveness and you might yet be spared. Otherwise, no matter what reason you guys are working together for, your entire families will be exterminated!"

They were infamous for massacring a few sects themselves, and up until now, they had managed to use their terrifying reputation to great effect. Yet that reputation was nothing to the bonegnaw ants.

"Seniors, we won't kill you for now because we wish to give you a chance to atone for your previous sins." Tens of thousands of silver eggs turned into ants on Tianming's body and began crawling outward.

"What in the world?" The four of them watched in shock. Gujian Qingshuang and Yun Tianque didn't even dare to look. If they were honest, their experiences of being subjugated was far from as painful as it appeared now. Tianming had the bonegnaw ants instill as much pain as they could for a far longer time to make sure the Snowsun Quadspecters would remain obedient.

By the time the parasitization was complete, each of the specters had around one or two million ants in their body. Only then did Tianming get Yin Chen to stop. They had cried out so hard and uncontrollably twitched from the unbearable pain. Now, they were simply slumped there like unresponsive idiots foaming from the mouth as their fingers still shuddered as their bodies lay limply on the cloudy surface.

"Look, you're still alive and well, aren't you?"

The four of them twitched when they heard Tianming's voice. It was like something out of their worst nightmares.

"Ugh...." They coughed and groaned as they huddled together, looking at Tianming in despair.

"You have two choices. The first is to do what I tell you, and the second is to continue experiencing the pain you did just now. It'll last as long as it takes until you die. I can assure you that you'll regret even being born after all that is over." They had never imagined that such nonchalant words from a junior would cause their hair to stand on end. Had they known this was how things would end up from the beginning, they never would have bothered coming.

Tianming had opted to use the language of cruelty, something they probably understood well, to make his message clear. "I'll give you the span of ten breaths to consider things. I'm sure you've been around the block for quite a while, so you should know when the right time to submit is. Open your eyes to reality, why don't you?"

He began counting the time right away. As he counted, the bonegnaw ants gradually went back to what they were doing, causing the pain to intensify more and more until their pathetic shrieks rang out again.

"We submit! Submit!" Finally utterly broken, they had fallen from grace and cried tears of submission. Though it hadn't been that hard to break them, considering that they had never really had any backbone to begin with, given how they ran from their pursuers and sought protection from Li Wushuang. "What do you want us to do?" Never had they regarded a junior with a look of such intense fear.

"I want you to serve me for the rest of your life. Do whatever I tell you to. You have no right to refuse, understood?" Tianming said.

The four of them grit their teeth, then suddenly attacked Tianming, only for the ants to reduce them to writhing piles of agony. They began coughing out chunks of their intestines. The ordeal only lasted a short fifteen minutes. Yet now, their eyes were hollow, as if they were already dead.

Chapter 1417 - Your Day of Reckoning

"This is your first warning. If you try anything again, you'll be feeling that for a whole day. Stop being so stubborn. I know you guys full well. You're all crooks who'll commit any and all atrocities without remorse," Tianming said.

"Aaaack!" The Snowsun Quadspecters breathed heavily as they looked at each other, eyes filled with despair. But like Yun Tianque, they still didn't choose death even after all this.

"Take some time to get your emotions in order. After that, you'll say only what I tell you to say."

"Yes...." The four of them shed tears of humiliation as they lowered their heads. People like them had no principles, which made them easy pawns to manipulate.

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A lot of time had passed since the specters had entered the Myriadfold Skycloud Formation, yet nothing seemed to have changed. The Tumulus Pill God had already informed Li Wushuang of Yun Tianque's betrayal, and she immediately sent reinforcements, tasking them with the takeover of the formation. The newcomers would arrive soon.

The Tumulus Pill God had wanted to advise Li Wushuang to have the two hundred plus thousand people retreat in advance to the Supracloud Sanctuary so they would still be able to hide inside the sect once the specters succeeded, but Li Wushuang still didn't want to retreat. She was constantly being updated on the army's movements, and believed that they would still make it.

"If the Snowsun Quadspecters take too long.... I hope Lady Wushuang will temporarily give up on the saplings." Though, it was all too clear to him that she didn't want to leave the saplings at all, especially when they could change at any time without notice. Yun Tianque's betrayal was already aggravating enough for her, and the Tumulus Pill God was waiting for the reinforcements to arrive before they entered the formation for an assault.

Right then, Fu Han, one of the specters, came out of the formation. He seemed really excited to see the old wargodean. "Tumulus!"

"Why're you so badly injured?" he asked, his eyes twitching with surprise.

"It couldn't be helped. Yun Tianque's rather capable and it took quite a lot of effort for the four of us to deal with him."

"And?"

"That fool was far too confident in his formation and didn't know that my brothers and I were formation gurus. Naturally, we undermined the formation and had his life in our hands. We forced him to give us the formation core. My brothers have the core in hand, so please inform Lady Wushuang that we're ready!"

"Are you serious?" The Tumulus Pill God was utterly elated. Yun Tianque's betrayal had made him really anxious, so much so that he didn't think the specters would actually come through. Finally, his wargodeans could retreat.

"Of course! Why would I joke about this? Lady Wushuang would have our heads if we messed around."

"You have a point. I'll bring the good word to her. I'm sure she'll greatly reward the four of you for rendering such a service to her."

"Solving her worries is the mission of us brothers. By the way... she's waiting for the troops of the Supracloud Sanctuary to take over the sapling sites, right? I'll have Yun Tianque send them over immediately. His life is ours to do with as we please, so that shouldn't be a problem," Fu Han said.

"Alright. Make sure to not let him out of your hands! There's something more urgent: immediately familiarize yourself with the formation core and open the formation."

"No problem." The moment Fu Han said that, the mist before them started dissipating; the formation seemed to be receding. "The formation has been undone. I believe they've succeeded. Don't worry and have them retreat right now!"

"Alright, I'll leave this place to you." Unsurprisingly, the Tumulus Pill God's main concern was the hundred thousand plus wargodeans that had accompanied him. They were still in Li Wushuang's hands, so he felt really unnerved about leaving them to come to the Supracloud Sanctuary. Since the specters had taken Yun Tianque hostage, they should have a firm grasp on the situation here, so he took his leave. "Remember to have Yun Tianque send men! Lady Wushuang won't budge an inch if the sapling sites aren't taken over."

"Okay!"

Either way, the Supracloud Sanctuary was now under control. The Tumulus Pill God knew that Li Wushuang was going to wait until the very last moment. Even if the cannon fodder didn't come to take over the sapling sites, she would still retreat at the critical moment.

Tianming, however, had given them a false impression that the specters had succeeded with the intent of making Li Wushuang let her guard down. Before this, she had already been considering the retreat even if it meant leaving the sapling sites unattended, but that would mean more than two hundred thousand elites would come to the sect's doorstep. Not even their formation would be able to withstand an assault of that scale. But the good news should prompt her to start waiting for the cannon fodder once more, delaying her retreat. The longer she was willing to wait, the better things would be for Tianming.

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Seeing the Tumulus Pill God return to Aix Lake, Li Wushuang asked, "Why'd you come back here?"

"Good news, Lady Wushuang." He had returned because he wanted to lead the wargodeans to retreat so that they wouldn't end up as fodder. They had an easier time following his orders, after all.

"Good news? I wanted you to help the specters drag the people of the Supracloud Sanctuary out to take over the sapling sites. That's our first priority. Did you rush all the way back here because you're worried I'll send your wargodeans to their deaths?"

Li Wushuang's temper had been really unstable ever since she heard of the betrayal. Even if the specters succeeded, her rage wouldn't be quenched. She was starting to feel that things were falling out of her control more and more.

"Lady Wushuang, I simply believe that the Snowsun Quadsaints are more than capable enough to handle it. They already managed to deal with Yun Tianque," he said, trying his best to excuse himself. There was already a rift between the two of them; he was starting to get more and more frustrated

because of her. Not only did she treat those of the Supracloud Sanctuary as less than human, she was just as indifferent to the loss of lives of the wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean cultivators. Even now, she was refusing to retreat, still trying to obtain the perfect outcome by making sure the sapling sites weren't lost. She simply didn't care about what her actions would cost.

Phew! The specters truly did save us wargodeans... but that only caused Lady Wushuang to start waiting for the arrival of the fodder once more, he lamented. There was nothing he could do. The alliance's army had just arrived on the continent, after all, and Li Wushuang still had time to wait for the sites to be secured.

Li Wushuang sternly looked at him and said, "Quick, bring more people back to the Supracloud Sanctuary to speed up the process. Have as many Supracloud Sanctuary cultivators come as possible. Make sure to take anyone with any authority there hostage."

"Understood!" There was nothing he could do but nod. He gave his wargodeans one last look and sighed inwardly before going off on his latest errand.

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Strong winds caused the branches and leaves of the divine tree to rustle nonstop. Amidst the branches were roughly seventy thousand people. They all looked at a white-haired swordsman, awaiting his orders. The man was none other than the Wind Swordlord.

He received a transmission stone, read the message, and felt his killing intent surge. "Yun Tianque announced that the Supracloud Sanctuary is cutting ties with the celestial orderians after hearing about the alliance. He's sealed up the Myriadworld Skycloud Formation! That way, if the two hundred thousand plus enemies don't leave the continent, they'll have no escape! Li Wushuang, your day of reckoning has come...."

Chapter 1418 - Turtles in a Jar

The Wind Swordlord's eyes were filled with ferocity. Gujian Qingshuang had personally sent this message to him. At the moment when he received this information, the Snowsun Quadspecters hadn't yet entered the Supracloud Sanctuary, so he had immediately passed the information on to the Northdipper Swordsage.

"This is an excellent thing!" The chance for revenge had arrived.

It didn't take long for the Northdipper Swordsage's orders to come. "I'll lead two hundred thousand swordpupils at full speed toward the Supracloud Sanctuary to cut off the enemy's advance. Fifteen minutes later, you'll lead seventy thousand to use harassment tactics so they can't smoothly retreat. The more you drag it out, the better!"

The order excited the Wind Swordlord. He had waited for this moment for too long. "That mongrel Li Wushuang is just dumbly staying at Aix Lake. If she doesn't leave the encirclement within the next fifteen minutes, she'll lose the chance to do so forever."

The seventy thousand swordpupils all had bloodshot eyes, too, as they had been waiting for their chance for revenge as well. Of course, they didn't know that the Snowsun Quadspecters had 'kidnapped' Yun Tianque, as that was fake information from Tianming.

Time slowly passed as the seventy thousand swordpupils tried to hold back their breathing. And finally, fifteen minutes passed.

“Empyrean Sword Sect, follow me as we slaughter the enemy and use their blood as an offering to our fallen comrades!”

Their mission was to harass and delay. Otherwise, seventy thousand facing off against two hundred thousand would be nothing short of suicidal.

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A giant tree branch of the Azurecloud Divine Tree was snapped off by Li Wushuang. Including the Tumulus Pill God, she had sent out multiple people again to the Supracloud Sanctuary to ‘escort’ the cultivators from there to here. And every single time, the reply from the Snowsun Quadspecters was just a simple, “Soon!” Up until now, neither hide nor hair of the cultivators from the Supracloud Sanctuary could be seen.

“What are they doing?” Li Wushuang’s gaze was turning more and more sinister.

“Lady Wushuang, based on the intelligence reports, that million-man army has broken up into three groups. They’re approaching us from the east, south, and west. We can stay for at most one more hour. Any longer than that and we’ll be encircled,” her subordinate reported.

“What about those of the Supracloud Sanctuary? Have they set off yet? If they have, they should make it in an hour.” The saplings were in different places, and some were near the Supracloud Sanctuary. Those locations were the ones the wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean were stationed at.

“I don’t know. Something’s strange there.”

Li Wushuang was confused. One hour seemed like it should be enough, but it was time to make her decision. Otherwise, not even she would be able to easily handle too many deaths from the wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean. She didn’t have an unlimited amount of responsibility she could evade, after all!

“Fifteen more minutes! I’ll hurry them.” Li Wushuang sent another transmission stone to the Snowsun Quadspecters.

At that moment, a transmission stone from the Tumulus Pill God landed in her hand!

When she opened it, her expression immediately changed.

“The Snowsun Quadspecters betrayed you. They aren’t in control of Yun Tianque. The Myriadfold Skycloud Formation has already been reactivated and sealed off. May Lady Wushuang, please bring everyone to escape north and retreat out of the continent!” Without the Supracloud Sanctuary as a base, her period of safety was much shorter. It was no longer an hour. After being fooled by the Snowsun Quadspecters, they would be finished if they didn’t flee now!

Li Wushuang’s expression turned uglier than it had ever been before. Her eyes grew bloodshot, and she was so furious she coughed up blood. Yun Tianque had turned traitor! And that was still fine. But the Snowsun Quadspecters had turned traitor too?

They were dogs she had raised for many years. They were absolutely loyal to her, and wanted nothing more than to kneel and wag their tails to her. Their betrayal was like a sword that stabbed directly into her heart.

As her expression turned ugly, she wasn't aware that invisible eyes were watching her at every moment. Tianming could prepare countless countermeasures based on her reaction. The Tumulus Pill God had noticed something wrong, but it was too late.

She sensed that someone invisible was messing with her. It was all too coincidental. But she didn't know who it was; Yin Chen's intelligence-gathering capabilities were far beyond her imagination. As soon as she received the news, Li Wushuang knew that she didn't have time to care about the saplings and immediately needed to retreat. However, the greatest coincidence of all was that at this moment, murderous roars surged over from the south direction as seventy thousand swordpupils riding their lifebound beasts came charging over. The attackers intentionally caused a loud uproar and kicked up a massive cloud of dust to appear as a larger army of a hundred thousand.

At Aix Lake, there were only a hundred thousand wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean cultivators gathered. The other tens of thousands were all dispersed at the rest of the sapling sites. They had no way to quickly take down seventy thousand cultivators.

"We have to retreat immediately or we'll be overwhelmed by this army!" Many people were shocked. They didn't need Li Wushuang's orders to know that they had to go.

Once some started moving, an entire retreat immediately began.

"Where do you think you're going?" Seventy thousand swordpupils fearlessly charged in. It didn't matter how strong an opponent was. If they didn't dare to fight and only wanted to escape, what kind of counterattack could they mount?

A lie about Yun Tuanque being kidnapped had created enough confusion in the timeline that it led to the wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean cultivators being thrust into danger.

Li Wushuang had no choice but to use her most furious voice to order, "Retreat!"

As they retreated, they wanted to maintain their mobility, so they didn't dare to summon their lifebound beasts or the more attention grabbing totems. Hence, the scene of seventy thousand cultivators attacking a larger army looked like a flock of eagles swooping in on little chickens!

"Hurry!"

"Quickly!"

Despite their courage, the wargodeans' expressions had all greatly changed. Worst of all, the wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean all had obvious racial characteristics. When the area was taken over, there would be no hiding.

They would all die!

"RUN!"

"It's all Li Wushuang's fault. If we die, it's because of her!"

“That bitch!”

They had stayed so long because of Li Wushuang’s obstinacy and arrogance. The Supracloud Sanctuary closing and opening showed that she was being toyed with by someone. And now it was closed again!

The seventy thousand swordpupils were like a pack of mad dogs biting at their heels. Even if the wargodeans were a fierce tiger, dragging along a mad dog would still slow them down. Some were even slowed down to the back of the crowd. Those that did were immediately swarmed by dozens of swordpupils and ripped apart!

“Vengeance! Vengeance!”

“Let their blood fill Aix Lake!”

The previous battle at Aix Lake had become an eternal source of pain for the Emyrean Sword Sect cultivators. But now was the time to vent and hunt!

This massive battle had erupted an hour ahead of expectations. The Supracloud Sanctuary muddying the waters was what had made Li Wushuang wait so long. Controlling the Snowsun Quadspecters was also a masterstroke!

An enemy who could observe everything while hidden in the dark would always be the most frightening.

Li Wushuang was currently escaping, too. “Something is wrong, something has to be!” She was very suspicious. However, how could she expect the methods of the Myriadworld Immortabeast without personally witnessing it?

Behind her, the fleeing wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean cultivators were blocked and slaughtered.

Everyone had all been plunged into despair. However, they knew this was just the start of the battle. When they were encircled, they would be besieged and killed!

Cries filled the air; it was their turn this time. When they had killed the Emyrean Sword Sect swordpupils at Aix Lake before, they’d never predicted this.

From above, a road of blood kilometers long had formed. Scarlet blood stained every leaf and branch of the tree. The area had become hell on earth.

“Faster! Faster!”

“Li Wushuang, you deserve to die!”

There were countless curses, and Li Wushuang could hear all of them. However, she didn’t have any sympathy for the fallen, only fury at being taken for a ride.

Finally, they caught sight of the distant Supracloud Sanctuary. It had completely shut itself off, bringing the runaways complete despair. Their only chance now was to flee northward and hopefully make it out of the continent alive.

It was right at this moment where, under the command of the Northdipper Swordsage, an army fell upon them from the north like a nightmare!

Chapter 1419 - Bloodstained Tree

Clearly, the Wind Swordlord's troops had successfully delayed Li Wushuang's side's retreat. It was a mess, as it had been every man for himself. The wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean cultivators were too distinctive, and it was too hard for them to blend in and hide. Hence, those being hunted down had a low probability of success to escape.

The two hundred thousand swordpupils all summoned their lifebound beasts, completely cutting off the path north!

"Empyrean Sword Sect!" Many people despaired when they saw the allied army. There was a dense throng of swordpupils. Together with their lifebound beasts, the end of the army couldn't be seen. In this chaotic moment, they didn't have accurate information. Hence, they all believed this grand army had blocked their path forward.

"This way!" Some headed east, some headed west. Some even backtracked and ran south, only to run into the Wind Swordlord's army.

The greatest danger on the battlefield was chaos. As soon as a commanding officer's orders couldn't be passed down, it would be a disaster. Some would want to flee, while some would want to carve out a path with blood.

The Blueblood Starocean was also like a headless dragon now that the Tumulus Pill God wasn't there; there was no one else to lead them.

As for Li Wushuang, they were filled with hatred and wouldn't follow her after she had screwed them over.

"Pass down the order. Everyone, follow me in slaughtering a way out west!" Li Wushuang made a snap judgment as soon as she saw the army.

Her orders passed down the chain of command. However, communication broke down halfway through the chain. Any sense of organization had long since been lost.

"Listen to her? Do you enjoy dying?"

"She came to this continent to mess around. So many of us died a dog's death for her saplings. The Tumulus Pill God already told her to retreat back to the Supracloud Sanctuary long ago. She refused to listen, and that's why Yun Tianque chose now to rebel. If the army were to attack, we could've quickly seized the Supracloud Sanctuary and used it as a fortress. But she didn't do that, and all for her saplings. She treats our lives as worthless!"

"What exactly is her plan against an army of a million?"

"Li Wushuang!" They were all aware that everything from start to finish was all Li Wushuang's fault.

Somehow, it managed to get even more chaotic.

"Don't listen to her. The Tumulus Pill God isn't around, so everyone listen to me! Us wargodeans will form a wedge and break out in this direction!"

“Follow!”

There were those who knew the lay of the land and could command a decent number of people. They formed groups that attempted to break out of the encirclement. However, without someone like the Tumulus Pill God, who could command everyone, the higher the number of would-be generals, the more chaos reigned. No one knew who to listen to.

“Whatever! Just run anywhere.”

From above, the two-hundred-thousand-strong army looked like headless flies trapped in a vortex and surrounded on all sides. Each of the four directions around them had two hundred thousand people forming an encirclement that locked down the area.

Then, the people and lifebound beasts closed in.

One side was united and bore the flame of vengeance in their hearts.

The other side was like a pile of loose sand, chaotic and leaderless.

“Kill!”

The area was immediately filled with the light of attacks and the sound of weapons ripped through the air. The Azurecloud Divine Tree constantly shook underfoot from the shockwaves and ferocious beast roars.

“I am the Northdipper Swordsage. Hear me!” an overbearing and magnificent voice called out. The Northdipper Swordsage had used his mighty cultivation to be heard across the whole battlefield. “Several days ago, forty thousand of my Emyrean Sword Sect brethren perished at Aix Lake. Our comrades’ corpses haven’t gone cold yet. Our Rain Swordlord was murdered and humiliated! We all know who did this. The celestial orderians, who have always been despots, and their lapdogs, the wargodeans and Blueblood Starocean!

“They’re strong, so we deserved to have our dignity trampled on and die. But the Azurecloud Continent is our Myriad Solar Sect’s turf! How dare they kill our people here and their dogs run around without a leash? Yesterday, the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect fell. Today, the Azurecloud Continent faces hard times. If we don’t fight back, they’ll think we’re cowards. They’ll keep killing us and taking our wealth.”

“So, today, our Myriad Solar Sects’ Grand Coalition will gather here today to exterminate these wild dogs. We’ll seek vengeance for our dead siblings so they can rest in peace. If we kill them to the last man here, the next time they want to humiliate us, they’ll think of the price they paid today in blood!”

The speech drew an impassioned roar in response. More killing intent and conviction was created. Cultivators stared at the wargodeans they usually didn’t dare look in the eyes. Then, they charged in and began their slaughter. The resultant booms from various abilities and totemic calamities could be heard across half the continent. The area descended into hell, someone dying every moment.

The Azurecloud Divine Tree was stained with blood, which quickly disappeared into the branches and leaves. After absorbing it, the tree seemed to become even more lustrous.

Chapter 1420 - Nine-headed War Griffons

The Myriadfold Skycloud Formation that protected the Supracloud Sanctuary was a grade-seven formation that had over ten thousand illusion layers. It was sustained by the citizens in the territories administered by the sect. That meant over ten million gods were pooling their power together in one formation. They were all giving it their best, because the Supracloud Sanctuary wasn't safe right now, all thanks to a certain Tumulus Pill God!

How had he found out about the Snowsun Quadspecters' betrayal? Before this, he had brought ten thousand wargodeans there. They had been prepared to enter to help the quadspecters threaten Yun Tianque and make him send people to guard the saplings. It would have been troublesome if these ten thousand men came in. Hence, Yun Tianque had reinforced the defensive formation, exposing the quadspecters' betrayal.

But he had done enough.

After receiving the information from Gujian Qingshuang, the Wind Swordlord liaised with the Northdipper Swordsage. One had delayed and one had obstructed, forcing two hundred thousand to their deaths.

Now, the Supracloud Sanctuary's only remaining threat was the over ten thousand wargodeans who had entered their formation. They were being led by the Tumulus Pill God.

The Tumulus Pill God had been waiting outside. After discovering the quadspecters' betrayal, he had immediately notified Li Wushuang. Immediately afterward, he chose to enter the formation!

There were two reasons. Firstly, several thousand of his wargodeans had already entered and were trapped inside the formation. Secondly, he wanted to quickly test out if he and his army could slaughter their way through the formation and break into the Supracloud Sanctuary to claim it as a fortress for Li Wushuang. Even if Li Wushuang had been forced into a corner, the Supracloud Sanctuary would give her a chance of survival. This was his last chance. He had brought everyone in in an attempt to quickly finish this. Ten thousand wargodeans was a mighty force.

Most importantly, he wanted to talk with Yun Tianque; he was still unable to understand his determination.

Yun Tianque's betrayal hadn't been because he was afraid of the alliance. He was simply trying to carve out a future for himself. Hence, he had decided to counterattack and resist the Tumulus Pill God's last gamble.

However, the Tumulus Pill God didn't realize that the Northdipper Swordsage had cut off the path to the Supracloud Sanctuary. Even if the Tumulus Pill God successfully conquered the Supracloud Sanctuary, it would be pointless. But alas, the formation had cut him off from the outside world.

In the misty battlefield, Yun Tianque led the Supracloud Sanctuary cultivators to block the wargodeans' path, all riding on clouds.

The ten thousand wargodeans riding their giant golden beasts while clad in gold armor made them look like the arrival of a cavalry from the heavens.

“Yun Tianque, I’ll give you one last chance. If you don’t open this formation now, you and the Supracloud Sanctuary will be doomed. If you realize your errors now, I can still speak on your behalf,” the Tumulus Pill God advised, his eyes narrowed.

“Tumulus Pill God, don’t waste your time. Hurry up,” the quadspecters next to Yun Tianque said. Their expressions immediately distorted as the bonegnaw ants in their bodies flared up.

Yin Chen said to them. “I didn’t... say you... could speak....”

Tianming didn’t want the Tumulus Pill God to move too quickly. It was best to delay. Why let his own side risk themselves when the alliance was around to kill the wargodeans for them?

When he heard the quadspecters, the Tumulus Pill God realized that if he didn’t act now, they would lose the chance to do so. “Everyone, protect me as I capture Yun Tianque!” Although the wargodeans were few in number, he wanted to rely on his might that far surpassed Yun Tianque to capture the Supracloud Sanctuary’s leader. Who had asked Yun Tianque to dare to come so close?

“Yes!” The ten thousand wargodeans present were much more united than their fleeing brethren elsewhere. They immediately gathered together and charged toward the Supracloud Sanctuary cultivators. Leading them was the Tumulus Pill God, who rushed toward Yun Tianque.

White clouds swirled in Yun Tianque’s eyes. He raised his hand and his men shouted in response, “Protect the sect from foreign enemies. Any who dare invade us shall be sent to the underworld!”

“Yes!”

With Yun Tianque’s prestige and the Supracloud Sanctuary’s cultivators’ willingness to die, this wasn’t a battle they could back down from.

“Kill them!”

The roar of a hundred thousand men was enough to intimidate the wargodeans. The Tumulus Pill God’s expression changed; Yun Tianque’s determination had surprised him.

“Dammit!” He knew ten thousand wargodeans couldn’t defeat a hundred thousand enemies. He would have to rely on himself. “Don’t you think of leaving, Yun Tianque!”

The second strongest expert of the wargodeans tore through the air. He unleashed his power, his fist striking out. Several thousand Supracloud Sanctuary cultivators in his way were blown away, clearing a path to Yun Tianque.

“Tumulus Pill God, you’re still as amazing as you were in your heyday. Do you want to solo an army and claim my head?” Yun Tianque maniacally laughed.

“If I weren’t old, killing you would be as easy as breathing!”

“Is that so? Unfortunately, a hero shouldn’t mention their past glories. You’re past your prime, old man. It’s time to wake up to reality.” Yun Tianque’s words hinted at something.

Realizing something, Tumulus Pill God came to a halt not far from Yun Tianque. The Supracloud Sanctuary cultivators he'd knocked away had already circled around behind him, separating him from his other wargodeans. He had entered deep into enemy territory alone.

The cultivators of Supracloud Sanctuary began engaging the wargodeans. Was this going to be a case of capturing the enemy leader to win the war, or would it be a case of entering enemy territory to be routed?

Despite being surrounded by over ten thousand men, the Tumulus Pill God remained fearless. "You think these three-legged cats can stop me?" His body suddenly expanded as he transformed into a golden titan ten meters in height, his body glowing with golden light. Perhaps that had been his goal all along. His right hand carried a golden spear, while his left hand carried a black cauldron which he used to smash his way forward.

His five massive lifebound beasts appeared at his side and helped him clear a path. The giant golden beasts had the robust body of a lion and claws as sharp as a blade. However, they didn't have any fur. Instead, their bodies were covered in golden, armor-like feathers. They even possessed a pair of giant golden wings. They didn't have the head of a lion, either, but a total of nine eagle heads growing from their neck. Their beaks were like sharp spears and their eyes were filled with cold viciousness.

These were nine-headed war griffons, true predators in the wargodeans' bloodline!