

The Ages 1551

Chapter 1551 - Ji Lingxian

Everyone's eyes glistened with reflections of the colorful lights. This was the moment of truth. There was no point in fighting each other or standing closer to the lake. The primalwings themselves made their choices without any influence from those factors. It felt fair. Everyone there had an equal chance to be one of the lucky ones, or so it seemed. In actuality, the primalwings that emerged from the Kunlan Realm usually favored the talented or affluent. Even if someone from a normal background obtained primalwings, it would later become clear that those people were actually diamonds in the rough with astounding potential that had been buried by their mediocre background. In essence, luck was an amalgamation of multiple facets of a person.

The water of the Kunlan Realm's entrance began bubbling. Then a sudden explosion came from behind, causing quite a commotion. People began turning back to look.

"The royals are here! Make way!"

"It's Lady Floral!"

The primalwingers were rather interesting folk. They weren't too hell-bent on breaking through, and most of them had gentle personalities. These kinds of people usually weren't too resistant to authority, leading to the formation of a more stable society. However, the people would be relatively weaker. Faced with a warlike race like the celestial orderians, the primalwingers would easily be swallowed up.

The royals they mentioned referred to the primalwing royals, who had ruled Primary for millions of years ever since it was still a proper astral world. Their bloodline had never been deposed from the seat of power. Naturally, they had the best primalwings, with most of the celestialwings belonging to their kind.

Primalwingers and celestial orderians both bowed down to the powerful, but they were different in one regard: celestial orderians respected strength and acknowledged the rule of the powerful, whereas primalwingers simply never thought to question the respect they had for their rulers. As such, they quickly made way for the royals on their own accord. Even those that weren't standing in the royals' way would move aside to give them the better locations near the Kunlun Realm's entrance. Even though the royals only numbered a little more than a thousand, tens of thousands of primalwingers made way for them.

"Wow...." Many primalwingers were seeing their most respected royals for the first time through eyes of adoration. The primalwinger royals were gaudily dressed up, putting a lot of emphasis on dressing to impress. Their primalwings also appeared to be of the best grade in terms of color, attributes, and shapes. What surprised Tianming the most was that they seemed taller than normal primalwingers. The tallest of them were almost as tall as Tianming, and the quality of their primalwings also corresponded to their height.

The two most eye-catching ones were the women at the very front, who were mother and daughter. The others around them were their guard escort. They were definitely related based on their looks. The one who looked slightly older was Lady Floral, an elegant noblewoman in every sense of the word. Even the way she raised her hand oozed charm and motherly goodness.

The young girl, on the other hand, was dressed in a black dress dotted with colorful stars that, when fluttering open, looked like a brilliant black rose from above. Her age was hard to determine with certainty, but she definitely looked young, though she had a cold aura that seemed unfit for her age, making her seem more aloof than initial impressions suggested. Given her looks and aura, her status wouldn't be inferior to that of Princess Shen Yu. As a whole, she looked like a cold queen of roses. Her eyes looked like pearls colored by the darkest night. The wings on her back were astoundingly huge, yet seemed to blend in well with her black silhouette. They were dotted with shining stars as well, and looked like a picture of the astralscape. She was just as cool as she was impressive, so much so that Tianming couldn't resist taking a few more looks. Though the royals came late, they still made it to the lowermost point that was closest to the Kunlan Realm. They immediately passed Tianming. After that, the primalwingers that made way returned to their original positions, blocking off his view of the royals.

"Yin Chen said that these two are called Lady Floral and Ji Lingxian, respectively. The latter is the granddaughter of their overlord, while Lady Floral is his daughter-in-law," Tianming said.

"What about it? Why'd you look into it so closely?" Feiling asked.

"Well... you know what they say about knowing your enemies...." One thing that Tianming hadn't expected was that they had a sovereign of their own, whom they called their overlord. Though it wasn't surprising, on deeper thought, since a world without an astralguard formation like theirs would have long been invaded without a sovereign protecting it.

Tianming had paid attention to news about Ji Lingxian because he was curious about her talent. According to information collected by Yin Chen, Ji Lingxian had the greatest talent known to primalwingers, the Evernight Skywings. Though she looked young, she was a few years older than even Long Renshe and was a level one solarian. That was already a great result, all things considered, especially with the state this world was in. She was the culmination of the efforts of her people and the royals.

Though she was in her fifties and would still be considered young in the astralscape, she couldn't compare with Tianming. When he thought about it more, Ye Chen did indeed seem to be quite the dominating figure as well. "Since the Violetglory Star is nearby, I should find a way to take advantage of the situation I set up back then."

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Billions of primalwings shimmered nonstop, creating quite a dazzling display. At the lowermost point of the cacophony of lights were the young princess of the primalwingers, Ji Lingxian, and her mother, Lady Floral. Unlike celestial orderians and Violetglorians, the primalwingers had existed unchallenged for millions of years within Primary. No matter how weak they seemed in comparison to denizens of other worlds, the peasants of Primary saw them as aloof existences. That attitude was clearly reflected in Ji Lingxian's beautiful eyes as she gave the entrance of the Kunlan Realm a pensive look.

"Mother, have we finally found some trace of the Longevity Lifewings after so many years of searching?" she asked.

Chapter 1552 - Wings in Flight

"Not yet. Did you think they'd be so easy to find? Celestialwings like those have been lost to time. We haven't seen them in years," Lady Floral said.

"Only wing bones from Longevity Lifewings can improve my Evernight Skywings. It's all the seniors' fault for killing off all the bearers of the Longevity Lifewings. Even if we'd completely dominated them, why'd we have to wipe them out? Now my Evernight Skywings will be hard-pressed to reach their highest potential...."

"That's not what happened. Harvesting wing bones is a really painful process. Knowing what they were fated to endure, many awakeners of Longevity Lifewings decided not to show their faces at all in fear of being captured. And even if they were captured, they'd choose to end their own lives. It's no surprise that they went extinct over time. We can only hope that the Kunlan Realm gives birth to new Longevity Lifewings. All we have to do is catch the one that gets them and use them as a source to breed more bearers of Longevity Lifewings for more wing bones to harvest."

"You make them sound like livestock, Mother."

"It can't be helped. We royals have to defend Primary, so we need to be strong. While Longevity Lifewings are celestialwings, they only make the lives of their bearers slightly longer without doing much else. As such, their kind is obligated to sacrifice themselves for the greater cause. Too bad the bearers all chose to escape instead. They're all cowards," Lady Floral said with full mockery.

"Even if that's the case, we can hardly be optimistic about this. The Kunlan Realm hasn't produced Longevity Lifewings for tens of thousands of years. Every time we royals come here to wait, it's just a waste of time. If we hadn't forced all of them to run or die off, we wouldn't be faced with such a dilemma. Grandfather is already getting old, and both Father and I lack Longevity Lifewings. If we don't have someone capable of taking up the role of sovereign before the Violetglorians distance themselves from us, then only the seniors' lack of foresight is to blame."

"Sigh, it couldn't be helped," said Lady Floral. Right as she said that, the surface of the lake suddenly changed. The starlight coming from it intensified tenfold, causing the crowd to stare in awe, primalwingers and Violetglorians alike. Tianming had also just heard a surprising revelation: every human was a potential candidate for primalwings. That was why Violetglorians bothered coming to try their luck. A totemancer or beastmaster with primalwings would have far more options in combat, though the chances of that happening were ten times more unlikely compared to those of primalwingers. Even so, it was enough for some excitement to build.

"Whoa!" Everyone let out surprised gasps as the ownerless primalwings came flying out. If the appearance of the dragon of origin was a somber and serious event, the appearance of these primalwings was beautiful and flashy. Wings of all shapes, sizes, and colors began emerging like countless butterflies, lighting up the area. The batch of wings that came out first were probably weaker ones on the yellowwings level, a grade above the normalwings that most primalwingers there had. Once those yellowwings fused with the wing bones of the chosen, they evolved and improved in many measures. The entire choosing process dazzled Tianming's eyes.

"What kind of places are the Primodragon Cave and Kunlan Realm? It's producing a kind of talent that no beastmaster and totemancer had!"

If the dragons of origin had come from the same place, too, Tianming believed that totems, lifebound beasts, and primalwings probably came from the very same place or source as well. Could the Kunlan Realm and Primodragon Cave be connected? Or were there even higher dimensional spaces that one couldn't return from?

"How pretty...." Feiling was basking in the sight of beautiful butterfly-like wings flapping past her, though she was a little unhappy that she wasn't picked. Then again, she wasn't a primalwinger, so they wouldn't be that useful to her, either. She was only interested in them as a fashion statement.

"Ling'er, those chicken wings of yours you used at the Divine Moon Realm look much better," Ying Huo said, recalling the feathers that had instantly swallowed Sovereign Xi.

"Those are feathered wings, not chicken wings," she snapped. Then she stretched out her hand to touch the primalwings that didn't pick her. Everyone that the wings landed on were mostly young and incredibly excited to be picked.

A large number of them kept coming out of the Kunlan Realm; it was a miracle of nature. Tianming thanked the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb for a chance to see something like this.

After the yellowwings came the arcanewings. They were bigger, brighter, and more enchanting. Some looked like butterflies, others like birds, and there were even some that were shaped like metal. In time, terrestrialwings also showed up, but fewer than a thousand of them. Everyone widened their eyes in anticipation, hoping their turn would come, but most would end up disappointed. It was practically a lottery with really low odds. If they weren't lucky enough to get the consolation prize, who's to say that they would get the top prizes? There were billions of people here, after all, and far from enough terrestrialwings, which mostly went to talented youngsters. Those who got them went absolutely wild and celebrated with their friends and family. In time, the best academies would come recruit them; their futures were nothing short of bright.

The receivers of the terrestrialwings all became centers of attention. They might be the founders of brand new clans in the future. After their turn was the moment of truth. The only question on everyone's mind was whether or not celestialwings would be born this time. The surface of the lake shimmered, then stopped. Anything could happen now. People kept their eyes glued to its surface.

Chapter 1553 - Ancient Primalwing

The bubbling grew even more severe and the colors in the lake intensified even further until it was a body of glowing light. Countless primalwingers kept their eyes glued to the surface, feeling more nervous than they ever could. If a pair of celestialwings appeared, only one person would get it! It would be the top prize! The winner would no doubt be the focus of everyone shortly thereafter.

Everything was silent save for the bubbling of the lake. Suddenly, the light's glow reached its peak. Gradually, a pair of pure white feathered wings materialized with a wingspan of ten thousand meters. White electricity crackled through the feathers. Countless gasps of awe could be heard; the pair of celestialwings didn't represent just one person. In fact, it could be passed down to the next generation and beyond, marking the start of a new family with celestialwings. Primalwings from the Kunlan Realm could be passed on for generations, after all. Not to mention, these wings didn't have to be fought over! One just needed luck, and everyone stood a chance! People began going wild with their imaginations.

Rising to the top through earning the goddess of fortune's favor was the dream of many of the young ones there. The sheer wingspan of these wings was a clear sign of their grade. Even the orderly primalwingers seemed to go wild with anticipation, their eyes much wider than before.

"What kind of celestialwings will they be?"

"Who knows? They're coming out soon!"

Though the wings were still partially submerged, many elites could already identify them.

"This looks like top-grade celestialwings that were lost for close to two million years!"

"Back from the time before the astral hole?"

Primary's history was split into two distinct parts: before astral hole and after astral hole.

"Surely they can't be Flashsoul Skywings?"

That suggestion made everyone forget to breathe.

"The one from the Flashsoul Clan? The clan that challenged the royals once?"

"There's only a few recorded instances of Flashsoul Skywings coming from the Kunlan Realm. They were lost ages ago."

The name of these wings spread like wildfire. There were many who didn't know what significance it held; only those well-versed in history would know what it truly meant.

"It really does look possible!"

Among the top-grade celestialwings, Flashsoul Skywings were among the best. Few celestialwings that still existed could match up to them. Transmission stones went flying all across the astral hole, spreading word of the shocking news. It seemed that quite a few people had underestimated the wings that would be coming out of the Kunlan Realm this time.

Everyone held their breath as they waited for the birth of a new shining beacon. Usually, top-grade wings like these wouldn't choose anyone over a hundred years of age, as younger people could more easily adapt and grow. They all chanted the alleged name of these wings as they emerged from the Kunlan Realm. Then the lake dimmed. Tianming's Prime Tower didn't seem like it would be returning soon, and the wings seemed to be the last thing to come out of the Kunlan Realm.

"They really look like Flashsoul Skywings!" Many old primalwingers looked at them with shock. Before they could react, the gigantic wings flew out. White lightning could be seen streaking through the milky-white feathers. With each flap of the wings, they seemed to disappear and reappear in another location the next instant.

"It's too fast!"

Flashsoul Skywings were known for their speed. In fact, they didn't just move fast. They seemed to warp space, in a way, allowing for a kind of teleportation with each flash, hence the name. They were ethereal and impossible to grasp. The ones closest to the wings now were Ji Lingxian and Lady Floral of the royals. When she saw the pair of celestialwings, her eyes were bloodshot. "I'm the most talented among the

primalwingers! They must've come for me!" She was superior in every regard, be it status, age, or talent. There wasn't anyone she could think of who could rival her in any way.

"Relax," Lady Floral said, holding her hand. However, even she herself found it hard to suppress her thoughts of the implication of the wings' appearance. Ji Lingxian already possessed Evernight Skywings; if she was chosen by the Flashsoul Skywings, the fusion of these two kinds of primalwings would give rise to a never-before-seen talent. It was almost certain that she would rise to the level of a sovereign!

"Yes...." Ji Lingxian took a deep breath, waiting for the wings to flash toward her. Things happened far too quickly. She even spread her own Evernight Skywings to try drawing them to her, as if she was yelling 'don't pick the wrong person! I'm the best for you!'. Yet the Flashsoul Skywings soon answered her desperate call.

The wings flashed past Ji Lingxian, seemingly shrinking as they flew further and further away.

"Who is it?!" Everyone turned to follow the wings, forgetting to breathe. It was all over for Ji Lingxian. She closed her eyes with great pain and tightly clenched her fists. She was completely stiff, her hopes completely and utterly dashed. If these wings hadn't appeared at all, she wouldn't feel nearly as bad as she did. It didn't make sense—who could be more suitable than her? It was the first time she had felt rage at the unfairness of life, despite being one of the most privileged people in Primary. She grit her teeth and turned toward the wings where Tianming and Feiling were, who were just as shocked.

"How beautiful," Feiling praised.

"Agreed. I heard they're great for running away, too," Tianming said.

"Running away? That'd be perfect for me."

"Dream on. The wings are for primalwingers."

"But why do I get the feeling that I've been chosen?" she said with a dazzled look.

"Haha, nonsense.... If they pick you, I'll eat a ton of Lan Huang's crap—heavens, no!" The wings rapidly approached them before he could finish teasing her, crashing into them as countless people watched.

Chapter 1554 - Bearer of the Longevity Lifewings

"Did I get picked?" Tianming said, only to realize that he had been overthinking it. The wings had flown behind him, after which everyone gasped in unison.

"Who's that?"

Tianming turned back and saw a girl in a blue miniskirt flying ahead with a pair of white electric wings thousands of meters long. The wings continued to shrink and surround her with their white electricity, making her look incredibly sacred. Though she wasn't that old, she was reminded of how the ruler of Perpetia felt in Xian Xian's dream. It was like she was filled to the brim with power! Everyone had her looks burned in their eyes, but none aside from Tianming recognized her: Jiang Feiling!

"My, I'm sure it'll take you quite a while to go through a ton of Tortoise Bro's shit!" Ying Huo said, clutching its belly in laughter.

Tianming's mind broke. Feiling was the most beautiful she had ever looked. As the new wings continued shrinking, her three pairs of snow-white wings appeared and the Flashsoul Skywings blended in with the existing pairs of wings, leaving only three pairs behind. However, each pair of wings now had a hint of white lightning flickering through them. But how could primalwings without an owner fuse with Feiling's own wings, which were actually enhanced versions of her Celestial Wing ability? Tianming had used the original version of that ability as well, and the two of them weren't primalwingers. He didn't get it at all, but now all he could think of was how the electricity on Feiling's wings looked completely unlike Meow Meow's black lightning. It was as clear and pure as light.

When Feiling flapped her three pairs of wings, she disappeared from where she was and appeared right in front of Tianming, something which startled even her. The two of them widened their eyes in confusion. Tianming had initially thought that getting the celestialwings would be a good thing, but now they'd become the center of attention. As expected, a wave of commotion broke out.

"Did I just see three pairs of Longevity Lifewings?"

"Yeah! All three pairs of them had patterns of Longevity Lifewings!"

"One pair is hard enough, but she has three?"

"It can't be! Aren't Longevity Lifewings extinct?!"

"She has three pairs of Longevity Lifewings that've fused with Flashsoul Skywings? What in the world is her talent like?"

Tianming could tell that things were going out of control based on the looks on everyone's faces. First, Tianming and Feiling had no idea that the three pairs of snow-white wings were actually Longevity Lifewings. Second, they hadn't expected that the Flashsoul Skywings would pick Feiling. No non-primalwinger had ever received celestialwings before, though the others simply thought that Feiling was a primalwinger like them.

"Why do the two of you always cause so much trouble?" Meow Meow grouched, having been disturbed from its sleep.

"What was I to do about it? We only came here to watch!" Tianming said, stunned. The last thing he could ever have expected was that the spotlight would shine on them. Even though he wasn't the one in the limelight, it made no difference. With everyone closely looking at them, escape seemed like it would be far from easy. The only reason he could come up with was that the primalwingers, or rather the Kunlan Realm, had something to do with the ruler of Perpetia. There was probably a good reason why one of Feiling's sealed abilities was called Celestial Wings. It didn't take long before they were completely surrounded by people who were speculating about Feiling's identity.

"Based on her stature, she doesn't seem to be a royal."

"They don't look like they're from any other prestigious families, either. Weird... why do I get the feeling that she has a prestigious bloodline?"

"Does nobody recognize her at all? With three pairs of wings, surely people would've noticed her the moment she put them on display! How could she be unknown?"

This was the last thing Tianming had wanted. He already had a notorious reputation as Lin Feng and had planned to blend into the Violetglory Star without drawing attention. After all, being that well known came with its risks. In Feiling's case, she would draw endless amounts of jealousy from her gains. She felt their burning gazes and hurriedly put her wings away and returned to Tianming. "Big Brother, did I just cause a lot of trouble?"

"Don't worry, it was just an accident. It isn't your fault." Tianming pulled her into a protective embrace. Little did he know that he had underestimated the hostility primalwingers felt toward outsiders. They were a group of incredibly insular folk and had suffered significant losses in their interactions with the Violetglorians. While it was great for a genius to suddenly appear among their kind, seeing her being hugged by an outsider caused their expressions to change.

"What in the world?!"

"Who raised this girl to be so close to outsiders?"

Should any female primalwinger be seen being intimate with Violetglorians, they would be heavily chided. And now, they were the center of attention. Not only was she the luckiest person today, her looks and charm made it even easier for them to deify her, but all that came crashing down all of a sudden. All of the envy and respect they had felt turned into ugly disgust when they saw her in Tianming's arms.

"How degenerate!" many cried. It was plain old jealousy, not that Feiling could do anything about it. She wasn't even a primalwinger and was only small because her height had only grown to the extent she was at when she was an eleven-year-old!

Being completely surrounded, Tianming knew escape wouldn't be easy. Then the primalwinger royals came to them, causing the others to make way. If anyone was to deal with this matter, it would be their rulers. Lady Floral and her daughter, Ji Lingxian, came toward them, surrounded by many others.

Chapter 1555 - Lin Feng's Arrival

When Ji Lingxian appeared, people were shocked to see how starkly the prodigal daughter of the primalwingers contrasted against this unknown, but stunning girl. Feiling looked like a complete saint and seemed superior to Ji Lingxian in many ways. The sight of her sticking with Tianming was like seeing an angel falling from grace to the primalwingers, immediately causing her to lose a huge part of her charm.

Ji Lingxian was completely silent, her arms crossed as she stood completely straight. Her black eyes looked straight at Feiling, then mockingly at Tianming. Lady Floral came forward to Feiling with a gentle look and asked, "Miss, congratulations on receiving the Kunlan Realm's blessing. You're now someone who stands among the top of the primalwingers. Your fortune is truly remarkable."

"Um... thank you," Feiling said.

"You look pretty good. You should've been famous across all of Primary, given your looks. Where'd you come from, Young Miss? Who're your parents? The lineage of primalwingers with Longevity Lifewings is already gone, as far as we know."

Those questions came as quite a shock to many. After all, the fact that the extinction of the bearers of Longevity Lifewings was due to the royals was hardly a secret.

People were expecting a pained expression on Feiling's face, yet she looked completely nonchalant. "Senior, I believe you've misunderstood. I'm not a primalwinger. I'm from the Violetglory Star, and the wings on my back aren't Longevity Lifewings. I'm also surprised myself that I got the Flashsoul Skywings."

Tianming had told her to say that. Given the current situation, there was no other choice than to use that as an excuse. Otherwise he doubted that they would be able to leave this place. As they spoke, Yin Chen had heard someone talk about how the royals were the ones that harvested the wing bones of the bearers of Longevity Lifewings so they could enhance their own Evernight Skywings. Needless to say, they were a threat to Feiling. Others aside, Tianming could see in an instant that Ji Lingxian was eyeing Feiling with a look of greed.

When Feiling mentioned that she wasn't a primalwinger, people broke out in laughter, including Lady Floral. She shook her head and said, "Miss, you really have a unique sense of humor. Everyone here knows what you are the moment we look at you."

Feiling was speechless. There was no way to explain this away. It wasn't like they would believe that she was in the body of an eleven-year-old now. "So? What do you intend to do?"

"Come back with us. Your wings are now imbued with the essences of Flashsoul and Longevity. Only royals like us can mold your talent to its full potential. That's our responsibility," Lady Floral gently said.

Tianming almost lost it when he heard it and said, "You make it sound so good, but you're just trying to harvest her wing bones to uplift your own daughter, right? That isn't exactly a secret, you know. Even if your daughter takes her wing bones, she'll never compare to her."

That was clear to everyone there. Had it been someone else who stood out for her rather than Tianming, the other primalwingers would have supported her out of sympathy. But now, many of them kept quiet. He was just an outsider who had tried his luck to take something that rightfully belonged to primalwingers!

They glared at Feiling, seemingly sentencing her to her fate. The royals had already surrounded them, and everyone was closely watching the developments. Soon, most people realized that this had nothing to do with them, so they were content to remain spectators.

Tianming's accusations were incredibly inflammatory to the reputation of the primalwingers as a whole, even if most of them didn't like the royals' intentions. Ji Lingxian and Lady Floral were rightfully pissed.

Lady Floral glared at Tianming and said, "Who are you, outsider?"

Tianming laughed and pointed at himself. "I worry that I'll frighten you if I tell you who I am."

They had thought that he was just a nobody, so those words drew their attention once more. Lady Floral seemed taken aback; Ji Lingxian, on the other hand, coldly smirked and asked, "Then, pray tell. Who are you and where do you hail from?"

Tianming put his arm around Feiling's shoulder and pulled her into his embrace. He lifted his chin and looked at Lady Floral with his black and gold eyes. Clearing his throat, he said, "Listen up—I'm Lin Feng of the Violetcloud Imperium from the Violetglory Star. Have you heard of me?"

Despite the all-too-common name, it had spread to Primary since the chaos of a few months ago. The mere mention of those words brought with it the reputation of his nine totems' might. The mere mention of Lin Feng, someone on Ye Chen's level, made the primalwingers within range of his attacks immediately despair.

Though, not everyone reacted the same way, Lady Floral among them. Her gaze grew colder once more as she raised one hand. "Are you messing with me?"

"You're overthinking it." Tianming looked around and said, "Come!"

When he had introduced himself as a member of the Violetcloud Imperium, he'd already given them his answer. He had initially planned to lay low for some time before going to the Violetcloud Imperium. In fact, he hadn't completely ruled out the Divineglory Dynasty, either, but now he was left with little choice.

One after another, Violetglorians stepped out of the crowd. With the Violetcloud Imperium ruling half of Violetglory, half of the Violetglorians in Primary were also part of the imperium. Soon, tens of thousands of people stood with Tianming, all of them looking at him with passionate gazes.

One of them was a huge bald man clad in black bear fur. He came to Tianming and said, "Lin Feng, we finally found you! I'm Gong Xiong of the Gong Prime Clan, disciple of Old Master Shengui! Half of the outsiders here in Primary are under my command!" He was an elite on the level of Lady Floral and associated with Shengui, making him an ally. "I've seen you fight, Lin Feng. I already suspected it was you just now, but I simply couldn't believe it. I didn't think you'd actually show yourself!"

He knew that Tianming's current predicament was an opportunity for the Violetcloud Imperium to recruit him, which was all too good for them. Thus, he summoned his troops to stand with Tianming. Other primalwinger royals informed Lady Floral of Tianming's true identity, immediately causing her expression to sink. The way she looked at him had completely changed.

Chapter 1556 - The Two Hands of Violetcloud Imperium

No doubt, Lady Floral had heard of the epic battle for the top spot of the Violetglory rankings. She just hadn't heard the details about it. The fact that two 'kids' younger than thirty could be so powerful was something that greatly shook her. When one of those people showed up in Primary and was also entangled with the bearer of the Flashsoul Skywings and Longevity Lifewings, she knew that it would be trouble.

As for Gong Xiong, who was known as the wild bear, he was the most powerful fighter stationed on Primary by the Violetcloud Imperium, so Lady Floral was naturally familiar with him. Not only was he powerful, he was also someone who did anything he wanted without regard for anything else. Not to mention, he was rumored to have some kind of blood relation with the sovereign of the imperium, being a core member of the Gong Prime Clan as he was. The primalwingers couldn't possibly handle someone on his level. Gong Xiong showing up right now and being so friendly toward Tianming meant

that the primalwinger royals would have to give up on the piece of fat meat in front of them. Lady Floral had never thought that the girl would be able to escape her grasp until Gong Xiong showed up.

"Mother, ask him to show his totems to prove his identity. He might just be a fake planted here by the Violetcloud Imperium," Ji Lingxian said from behind her guards. The helpless look on Feiling's face made her feel like she was nothing but a weak sheep and easy prey. Little did anyone know that she had the protection of 'Lin Feng'! His identity had already caused quite a bit of commotion in Primary, and people were discussing the rumors about him.

"He's only in his twenties, yet he fought Ye Chen to a draw in the wondersky realm!"

"I'm sure that everyone knows how powerful Ye Chen is. He's the treasure of the Divineglory Dynasty!"

"Is that really Lin Feng? I heard nobody has seen him in real life before."

"Just look at Gong Xiong's reaction. It's thanks to the royals that Lin Feng offered himself to the Violetcloud Imperium. I heard that the two main factions of the Violetglory Star are fighting over him."

In actuality, Lady Floral still doubted Tianming's identity. How could someone that had never shown up in the Violetglory Star for all this time possibly appear in Primary? "That's right, anyone can claim to be Lin Feng. Prove yourself with your totems!"

Many others agreed with Lady Floral on that. "Yeah! Who knows if he's just a fake planted here by the Violetcloud Imperium to take a genius primalwinger away from us?"

It was clear that they could spin this any way they wanted if Tianming didn't prove himself.

Gong Xiong turned to Tianming and said, "Why don't you show them? To be fair, not even we have seen your magnificent totems in real life before."

"Naturally. It's standard protocol, after all." Tianming's bane-rings brightly shone as they absorbed the grade-seven divine hazard sword ki strands in his body. "Watch closely."

He hugged his shoulders and opened them wide, showing nine of his ten godswords. All of them appeared from his arms. After absorbing enough totem ki, all of them had quite considerably increased in size. All of the swords were unique from one another, each one having their distinct signature looks, from the Eastdivinity Acme's flames to the mystery of the Infinitum Spatium.

"Whoa!"

With them on display, Tianming couldn't possibly be a fake. The swords floated around him; he even used his totemic calamity and turned them into nine thousand providence swords, making him look like the lord of all swords. Needless to say, the primalwingers were completely stunned. Even though they weren't totemancers, they knew what Tianming's display meant.

"Nine totems, all of them swords and every one of them unique.... This kind of talent is far higher than someone with three pairs of Longevity Lifewings and the Flashsoul Skywings! The former only extends one's life, while the Flashsoul Skywings aren't that useful in combat anyway...."

Though they had felt that Feiling was wasted on Tianming before, it now seemed too good to be true. Some even believed that this union between the Violetcloud Imperium and the primalwingers would

make Primary relevant again. Nobody doubted Tianming's claim that he was Lin Feng anymore, and many primalwingers couldn't stop their shocked gasps. If one only needed eight totems to reach the level of a sovereign, then nine totems could possibly mean that Tianming would exceed even the two sovereigns of the Violetglory Star. Tianming's future was immeasurably bright, unless the Violetcloud Imperium somehow sabotaged it out of their own stupidity. No doubt they would have more than enough people guide and nurture him.

"Ye Chen is already well known from his battles in the Astraldome, spreading the Violetglory Star's name far and wide. I doubt Lin Feng is far off from that either."

The primalwingers broke out into many discussions about him; they had been easily convinced. Now that they had seen the totems, they no longer laid any claim to Feiling, though there were those who still dissented.

After seeing the totems, Lady Floral sighed and turned to her daughter. "It looks like it can't be helped. Lin Feng actually is someone who can take her away."

"Is he really that legendary? I heard that after Ye Chen fought him to a draw, he made incredible progress in a few short months. His performance at the Astraldome shocked the astralscape once more and it's said that he's defeated many solarians as well. If it hadn't been for Lin Feng's recent absence in the wondersky realm, Ye Chen would've claimed the title of number one back again. Back when they fought, they were only about as powerful as eleventh-level constelliers," Ji Lingxian argued, dissatisfied.

"Great progress? It looks like Ye Chen has impressive potential indeed. Even so, with Gong Xiong protecting Lin Feng, we still won't be able to do anything about it."

"You're mistaken, Mother! There's two great factions on the Violetglory Star. We don't need to cave to both of them, we just need to pick the stronger side! If the Violetcloud Imperium dares to take action against us, we'll go to the Divineglory Dynasty to even things out for us!"

"Everyone knows what you're talking about. However, there isn't a need to risk antagonizing either one of them in the first place."

"There is, mother! Three pairs of Longevity Lifewings and one pair of Flashsoul Skywings are on the line! We can't just let others take this precious resource of ours!"

"But there's nothing we can do about it!"

"Who said that? That woman is a primalwinger, she belongs to our pool of talent! So what if he's Lin Feng? Do you think someone from the Violetcloud Imperium can just take anyone that belongs to us?"

"True.... Alright. I'll support you." Lady Floral couldn't help but give her daughter a few more looks. She had always been an ambitious one and had a wit to match. Many other royals also shared her views.

Gong Xiong was already preparing to take Tianming and Feiling back to the Violetglory Star. Lady Floral shot a glance at her subordinates, causing many primalwingers and royals to surround them. They were at the bottom of the astral hole and there was only one way to leave: up. If all the primalwingers tried stopping them, even Gong Xiong wouldn't be able to leave. Given how far they were willing to go, it seemed that Tianming wouldn't have been able to get out of this at all without revealing that he was Lin Feng.

"Lady Floral, shall I take this as a declaration that you're going against my Violetcloud Imperium?" Though Gong Xiong had acted polite toward Tianming, his furious glare now looked like it was coming from a black bear. Even Tianming could feel the pressure coming from him.

"You misunderstand. We primalwingers have no intention of crossing the Violetcloud Imperium, nor do we wish to interfere in what you want to do. However, this woman is one of our kind. We can't let anyone just waltz in and take our talented human resources away from us, just like you can't let us take Lin Feng away from you," Lady Floral firmly said. More primalwingers agreed with that line of argument and added to the encirclement, flapping countless wings nonstop as a means of applying pressure.

"So you're serious, then?" In fact, even Gong Xiong was tempted to believe that Feiling was a primalwinger.

"Please respect the fact that this lady is a valuable talent gifted to us by the Kunlan Realm."

"Fine. If she's one of you, I'm sure you know her name."

Lady Floral was speechless.

"Alright, it's fine if you can't answer. Is there anyone else among you primalwingers that knows her? What's her name? Does she even have one? You don't care about her. You just want to harvest her wing bones, don't you?"

The primalwingers were struck silent again.

"Additionally!" Gong Xiong pointed at Feiling and continued, "She's her own person and has the right to determine whether or not she stays. If you want to force her to stay while claiming to have a good justification, let's hear what she has to say. Does she want to stay here and perish?"

Again, the primalwingers were speechless to argue against this.

"I'm not a primalwinger. I came from the Violetglory Star and I grew up there. I'm not related to Primary in any way, shape or form," Feiling firmly said, completely dispelling the plot of the primalwingers.

Lady Floral was put in an awkward predicament, but Ji Lingxian still hadn't given up yet. "How do I know that she didn't say that due to your coercion? Not to mention, harvesting her wing bones is a baseless accusation. Only we primalwingers can properly supervise her growth. We will not let outsiders like you tell us what to do in our own territory!"

"That's right!"

"It's not your place!"

"This is our turf!"

Ji Lingxian expertly made use of the innate xenophobia of her people and it worked perfectly. Nobody disagreed with anything she had just said.

"Violetcloud Imperium, leave!"

She even made use of others to say what she didn't dare to say. It was shocking how a xenophobic attitude could give so much courage to meek people like them.

"It looks like negotiations have broken down. My words are final: our sovereign has declared Lin Feng to be incredibly important to us. Anyone he wants to take with him will be protected by us. We're going to leave with them whether you like it or not, so I'd like to see you try and stop us. The moment you kill even a single one of us, we can assure you that our armies will pay you back a hundred times for it. If you feel that the imminent demise of Primary isn't quick enough for the extinction of your kind, feel free to accelerate it." Gong Xiong wasn't someone that would be fazed by a junior like Ji Lingxian. He summoned tens of thousands of people to ascend from Primary with him. "To everyone else, have you ever considered that your masters are just getting you to sacrifice your lives for the sake of a few wing bones? Is it really worth losing your lives over?"

That was the cold, hard truth and everyone knew it. Many primalwingers hesitated, but then made way.

"Don't let them leave! Primalwingers! What about our pride?!" Ji Lingxian cried, and some others surrounded them again.

"Why don't I ask you this: what else, apart from slaughtering our way out of here, would convince you to give up this foolish death wish?" Tianming said. He had thought he would be able to leave with his status alone, but he'd underestimated Ji Lingxian's greed.

She coldly glared at him, then brightened with inspiration. "You're the so-called genius of the Violetglory Star, aren't you? Would you dare to face off against me, then?" Her words shocked everyone silent.

Even Tianming was stunned. "Are you saying that you'll duel me over whether she stays or not?" He immediately asked Yin Chen and Gong Xiong about Ji Lingxian's age and ability.

"Lin Feng, there's no need for that. We can just fight our way out. With me here, I can assure you that they won't even touch a hair on either of you. The primalwingers are just pathetic pushovers," Gong Xiong said.

"You'll still suffer some casualties from that. I still haven't done anything for the Violetcloud Imperium yet, so I don't think it's fair to ask some of you to die for our sake."

The way Gong Xiong looked at him immediately changed. "I can tell that you aren't the same kind of person as Ye Chen. Those words are more than enough to convince us that you're worth sacrificing our lives for."

Tianming was at a loss for words. He whispered into Gong Xiong's ear, "You really don't need to do this. I'm thinking of accepting the challenge, because I think I can take her out in one move based on her past performance."

Gong Xiong was absolutely stunned.

Chapter 1557 - The Pride of Paragons

Tianming was already a ninth-level constellier. Back when he was only a seventh-level constellier, he was already able to defeat the twelfth-level Li Shenjian with his sword ki and cyclic constellation alone. After breaking through during his voyage in the astralship, he hadn't fought anyone yet, but one thing was for sure: whether it be Orderia, Primary, or the Violetglory Star, nobody under the age of thirty would be his match. Now he was looking to people under a hundred, like Ji Lingxian, for a good match,

and his goal was to eventually face off against seniors who had been cultivating for more than a thousand years.

Gong Xiong was convinced by his show of confidence. "Alright. I thought you wouldn't be able to catch up to Ye Chen after his recent stunning performance at the Astraldome. In fact, everyone on Violetglory thinks the same."

"Well, they're celebrating a little too soon," Tianming said. In fact, he had to thank Ye Chen for making the Violetcloud Imperium even more desperate to recruit him as a counter against the future threat Ye Chen posed to them. The Divineglory Dynasty would no doubt prevent the Violetcloud Imperium from laying their hands on Ye Chen, and seeing him grow time and again only put more and more pressure on them. As such, they would have to bring Tianming with them even if they had to fight a bloody battle to do so.

When Tianming looked like he was willing to fight, the tension in the air intensified. Everyone turned and looked at Ji Lingxian, who said nothing and flapped her wings, flying toward Tianming. As she approached, she said, "Then I'll duel you in front of my people. If you win, you can take her away. If I win, she stays." Though she was still young, she commanded impressive prestige among her people.

"No problem." What they didn't know was how easily Tianming had agreed to the fight.

"Very well. Make some space." Ji Lingxian's long dress fluttered beautifully in the air as her Evernight Skywings grew without end. Though her physique wasn't large, her wingspan reached a thousand meters, though they were wings of light so they didn't throw off the balance of her silhouette. The stars in the dark, void-like wings brilliantly shone. They were so impressive that some thought the primalwingers to be just as capable as beastmasters and totemancers. Ji Lingxian had ordered the others to move back so she had somewhere to fight. All that remained was for Gong Xiong and the rest to move as well.

The primalwingers thought that Gong Xiong would be against it. However, he simply moved away and left Tianming in the battlefield, showing his confidence in him.

"Enough pointless showing off." Ji Lingxian coldly looked at the confident Tianming. She had faced many opponents; all of them were just as narcissistic and arrogant as Tianming, but they had lost to her all the same.

"Are we starting now? I'm in a rush, you see." Tianming nonchalantly raised his Grand-Orient Sword toward her, his expression enraging her even further.

"Are you sure you understand my might?" Ji Lingxian had never been looked down on like that before.

"I already know all I need to know about you primalwingers. If you were really that powerful, you wouldn't be hiding in this pathetic hole of yours." Every bit of his demeanor encapsulated the pride of paragons.

"Hmph!" Though Ji Lingxian was frustrated, she didn't lose her cool. Instead, she channeled her anger into the ferocity of her strikes. She summoned a black sword that shimmered and curved like a snake. The divine patterns on the sword were impressive, marking it as at least a grade-seven artifact. However, the part that stood out the most about her was still her Evernight Skywings.

With a single flap of her wings, a storm of darkness filled Tianming's vision, swallowing up all the spectators around them and locking him in a dark void of silence. Then a storm of dark blades came slashing at him. The isolation and darkness brought by the wings gave him a sense of darkness and despair. Within the darkness, her silhouette seemed magnified a few times, making her seem like a fiendgod of dark skies.

"Pay for your ignorance," she said as she struck. With the cover of her wings, her strikes were invisible. Killing intent and sword ki filled their surroundings, making it impossible to even spot Ji Lingxian within the darkness. The only thing he could feel was the general direction from which she came. Blending into the dark seemed to make her even faster.

Though her attack patterns were agile and unique, she was fighting none other than Tianming. He didn't care where she was. First, he used his Myriadsword Providence to surround himself in a sea of swords. Then, he cut his palm with the Grand-Orient Sword, causing it to take on a black, bloody appearance as he gathered a fienddragon at the tip of his sword to use Fienddragon Blood Transience. Though it was only the sixth move of the Ninedragon Tribulation, it was on par with sixth-realm divine arts.

He could muster even more power by using a sword ki that suited Blood Transience, but this was already more than enough. He pierced toward the center of the dark storm, his sword ki forming a black fienddragon that charged in alongside a rain of countless providence swords in an omnidirectional attack that didn't care where the enemy was! It didn't take long before the fienddragon spotted Ji Lingxian and charged in with all the providence swords, each of them executing an intricate sword strike and turning into more, smaller fienddragons. The attack was swift, accurate, and fierce!

Loud clangs rang out as Ji Lingxian used her wings to shield her from the strikes. It was a clash of totems and primalwings!

Chapter 1558 - Super All-rounder

Needless to say, Tianming's nine totems had more than enough offensive power to surpass the Evernight Skywings! Not to mention, he was using the totem ki of a ninth-level constellier, which was more than enough to match the astralforce of his opponent. Many providence swords tore through the wings and shot toward Ji Lingxian. Tianming saw how horrified she looked.

"How are you doing?"

"Get away!"

He smirked as his sword turned into a black dragon as he slashed toward Ji Lingxian. Her Evernight Skywings collapsed from the blows; Tianming's single wave of attacks had managed to swiftly dominate her. Not even the sword in her hand could fend off the attacks as she was immediately overwhelmed and sent smashing back toward Lady Floral. The many providence swords shot past her wings and dug into her body, making her a pincushion and drawing much blood.

However, Tianming spared her life. The horrifying wounds were only surface level and served only to temporarily incapacitate her. Primalwings were like totems in that they could recover over time, as long as the wing bones weren't destroyed. Even the people who caught Ji Lingxian were shaken by the force. Most of the senior royals were only fourth- or fifth-level solarrians, after all, and Tianming's power wasn't far off from their level.

"Xian'er!" Lady Floral was heartbroken to see her daughter in such a state. When she rushed toward her, Tianming pulled his providence swords back, leaving her with a bloodied daughter. Though it definitely hurt, the wounds weren't permanent.

"Waaah!" She immediately hugged her mom tight, having seen her life flashing across her eyes. Death had been just a step away. Her cold sweat mixed with the blood from her wounds.

"He almost killed you! Don't worry, Xian'er! I won't let them leave alive!" Lady Floral hatefully said.

"Mother, he showed me mercy. I lost. If he's really only in his twenties, then I'm fully convinced of his power.... It was only one move...." Her expression was one of complete conviction. It wasn't too hard to defeat someone, but it was harder to make them accept their defeat. Ji Lingxian, who was unrivaled among the young primalwingers, had completely acknowledged Tianming's talent.

It was a fair fight, yet Lady Floral had wanted to get back at Tianming for doing exactly what he was supposed to do, much to her embarrassment. "Xian'er, are you sure?"

"I wasn't convinced before, but this fight changed my mind. Against an opponent like that, I shouldn't cause more trouble for our people by getting on his bad side. With someone like that in my way, the Longevity Lifewings are as good as if they'd never appeared in the first place," she said, coughing out a bit of blood.

"Alright." Lady Floral gave it some thought and understood the implications. Looking up again, she saw that the white-haired youth had sheathed his weapon. When he wasn't speaking, he looked polite and refined. "Sigh, we weren't able to best him! Then again, he's in the same league as Ye Chen. There's no way this was going to work out anyway."

Lady Floral had accepted the reality of the situation. If even she was convinced, no primalwinger would say otherwise. Seeing their top talent defeated in a single move by someone half her age gave them a crushing sense of defeat that was hard to recover from.

"He's too powerful...."

"As expected of someone on par with Ye Chen."

"What's there even to fight for? Let's not embarrass ourselves."

"Even our royals have to take that slap from a brat in his twenties...."

Hundreds of millions of primalwingers had witnessed the duel and seen how they'd so horribly lost. They backed off and made way for Tianming and the rest without being asked to.

"At least they know their place," Gong Xiong said with a shrug shrugging.

"Brother Xiong, Lin Feng truly is impressive. We really got something good," a subordinate said.

"He isn't just good, he's on par with Ye Chen. Ye Chen's just flashier. This is just the beginning. The Divineglory Dynasty celebrated their triumph a little too early." Gong Xiong smiled. "Let's show them what real totemancers are like!"

Tianming found it rather refreshing that those on his side were mainly totemancers this time around. Not to mention, they knew that his lifebound beasts weren't any bit weaker than his totems.

"He really is a super all-rounder." The way they looked at him was filled with hope. When he rejoined Tianming, Gong Xiong said, "I'll make sure to recommend you to go to the Astraldome. That way you can spread your name there as well."

"There's no need. We can achieve the same thing when I defeat Ye Chen," Tianming said.

"Impressive. Young and bold like a true hero indeed."

"You flatter me."

Going to the Violetglory Star marked a new beginning. The Violetcloud Imperium was a top faction on par with the Divineglory Dynasty, unlike the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect, which was inferior to the celestial orderians. Thus, Tianming felt like he could be bolder. He would use his talent to win as many privileges and resources for himself as possible. I don't have to hold back—I'll be a great help to the Violetcloud Imperium. Now that I have a top faction backing me, I should take this chance to rise to the top.

The Xuanyuan Dragon Sect was only the second most powerful faction, with the celestial orderians above it being far more powerful, so there were limits. He even had to resort to stealing the grade-seven sword ki. Now that he had picked the Violetcloud Imperium, however, he would completely side with them. As long as they didn't turn their back on him first, he wouldn't do it either.

Joining the Violetcloud Imperium sooner than I'd anticipated might not be so bad after all. It saved me a lot of time, at least. He would definitely grow much faster cultivating with them than in his astralship. After all, part of the caeli imperius in the Violetglory Pagoda was donated by them. Maybe going to their main sect in person would be even better than the wondersky realm.

He was now clear about his future goals: all he had to do was to rise up and return to Orderia one day!

Chapter 1559 - Leaving for the Violetglory Star

"There's only one thing left on my mind, though. I wonder what happened to the Prime Tower. The Kunlan Realm is now closed, and I don't know what I can do about it." The best he could do was leave a few Yin Chens here to watch for any changes. He had only wanted to check on any possible changes to the tower, yet he'd managed to lose it and expose his identity in the process. Fortunately, they gained something just as valuable: Feiling's Flashsoul Skywings. Perhaps she would be able to defend herself now, and even be a great help to him. It was undoubtedly good news.

Gong Xiong formally bade Lady Floral farewell and the latter took it well, a sign that they were now fully convinced of Tianming's abilities and didn't have any lingering resentment. Though Gong Xiong found it a little boring, much as he understood that this was in the nature of primalwingers. "Goodbye, my friends. If there's a chance, I'll come visit at a future time."

"You're always welcome." Though they said that, the primalwingers couldn't wait for him to leave.

Gong Xiong then took Feiling and Tianming along without anyone stopping them. The overlord of the primalwingers didn't show up either, allowing them to leave the astral hole just like that. The moment they left, they turned back and looked at the flower of the galaxy that was still spinning further and

further away from the Violetglory Star. The two worlds' paths had diverged and they would only grow further apart from now on. If it weren't for the fact that the Violetglorians weren't interested in a dying world, they would have gone to war with the primalwingers long ago.

"I heard that most fusion formations never last longer than the nova source itself, which always results in worlds collapsing into astral holes unless their nova sources are forcefully taken away. If the Violetglory Star ever reaches that point, countless people will die. Only ascendants and beyond will be able to survive," Gong Xiong said with a tinge of melancholy, unbefitting someone that looked as burly as him.

"How much longer will it last?" Tianming asked. "Violetglory? Probably around two or three million years."

"Well, it's not like you'll ever live that long, so why worry?"

"You have a point, haha!" He laughed so hard that even his thick clothes shook. He seemed to be a man with quite the aura.

"By the way, three of my friends are nearby. I'll take them to the Violetglory Star with me."

"You're talking about Feng and Lin Xiao, right? Those two are amazing in their own right." Gong Xiong envied Tianming's youth and friends.

"That's right, and there's one more. She's my sister."

"Lin Xiao isn't your sister? I'd think she was from her name."

"No, she isn't."

"I see, so that's your concubine and this is your main wife!"

"You—! Let's not be so hasty, alright?" Tianming said as he felt a fatal force digging against his waist.

"Ah, you're a man of deep sentimentality, I get it! I, too, am someone who can only loyally love one. We're the same."

Hearing that Xiaoxiao had been misunderstood to be his sister because of his alias, he made a decision. "Brother Xiong, my real name isn't Lin Feng. I only made that name up when I went to the wondersky realm."

"Oh? I knew it. Someone like you couldn't possibly have such a common name." Though that criticism worked just as well on Ye Chen.

"I'm Li Tianming, and this is my lover, Jiang Feiling. She isn't a primalwinger, but her body's regressed in age due to certain circumstances. Feng's full name is Ye Lingfeng, and Lin Xiao is actually Lin Xiaoxiao. My sister is Li Qingyu. The five of us might have to be in Brother Xiong and the Violetcloud Imperium's care for the time to come."

"No problem! We're all friends here!" He patted Tianming on the shoulder with a bright smile. "I can tell from your words that you aren't a proud person. That arrogant side of yours is just an act, while you're actually someone who thinks things through. I was lucky to have met you today. Since we were

fortunate enough to meet, I'll consider you a brother! To be honest, the imperium is huge and there's all kinds of people there, so don't be surprised if not all of them have your best interests in mind. But as you can see, I'm nothing if not direct. If anyone dares to touch you, I'll beat them until even their parents don't recognize them!"

"Brother Xiong sure is impressive!" Tianming said. The reason he hadn't wanted to go to the Violetcloud Imperium right away was that he had wanted to research them first, but trouble always seemed to find a way. Still, the fact that Gong Xiong had been sent to a foreign world was a sign that he was powerful, though it also suggested that he didn't work well within the larger group. However, people like that were usually worth getting to know well. Even so, only time would tell whether Gong Xiong was truly capable and direct or whether he was just simpleminded and headstrong. Either way, there was no way Tianming wouldn't be cherished by the Violetcloud Imperium as long as Ye Chen continued rising as a future threat, but that didn't necessarily mean that the road ahead would be easy, either.

All things considered, the situation on the Violetglory Star is better than on Orderia, where only one person reigns supreme. With the entire sun being dominated by the sun emperor, Tianming wouldn't have been able to escape without the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb. That made him realize that Ye Chen's existence was beneficial for him. Without him around, the Violetcloud Imperium probably wouldn't have that much of a reason to care for him. Still, that was just his preliminary judgment about the imperium. With there being all kinds of possibilities, he would only be able to decide on his next move after going to the imperium to see them for himself.

If it doesn't work out, I can just escape again with my ship. There was still a way out for him. Though Lingfeng and the rest had stayed behind at the ship, Tianming already had them waiting outside the astral hole. From there, it would take around three months to reach the Violetglory Star on Gong Xiong's ship. Since he didn't know how long he would be away for, he couldn't just leave the three of them in the boring Ninedragon Imperial Tomb.

He was quite optimistic about Gong Xiong and the imperium, given how Shengui had made a good impression on him. Even if things didn't turn out exactly as he expected, it probably wouldn't be a big deal. Trust was fundamental for cooperation, and Tianming didn't even need to trust them as he could check everything out with Yin Chen. It was his trump card to get out of any dangerous situations. When he reached the imperium, he would spread his cockroaches all through the area. That way, anything that was said behind his back would be exposed to him.

The Violetcloud Imperium would no doubt be a new battlefield for him, though he would have more trump cards than the time he had been at the Voidsy Realm. They headed in the direction of a violet star once they boarded the ship. Naturally, this was no divine astralship, but rather an astral battleship. It required the astralforce of the pilot to move and could only be used for short voyages, and cultivating on the ship was not possible. As such, Tianming spent the three months of the voyage in the wondersky realm.

One thing he could be glad about was that Feiling was gradually growing back to her normal size. "Not bad, she's growing up nice and fine."

Chapter 1560 - Pearl of the Universe

While Tianming's trip to the Kunlan Realm's entrance seemed short, it had actually taken an entire month. When he rejoined the rest, Lingfeng was basically fully recovered. He took them to Gong Xiong and the rest, who had nothing but praises for all five of them. Not to mention, they didn't suspect that they weren't Violetglorians at all. After all, there was no way people of their age could possibly have divine astralships that let them make voyages between stars. Even so, one thing was clearly different between Ye Chen and Tianming: Ye Chen's background was known and set in stone, while Tianming was a blank slate filled with only mystery, not that Gong Xiong bothered to pry.

"Your friends are all decent. It's hard to imagine how people like you could gather together. The Divineglory Dynasty won't be able to do anything but cry when they find that we've got five of you while they only have one," Gong Xiong said.

"You flatter us, Brother Xiong. Me aside, these four still have a lot to learn," Tianming said.

"Very well." Gong Xiong nodded in agreement.

Having experienced the speed of the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb, the astral battleship felt like a snail to Tianming. It practically crawled through the astralscape paces at a time. Thankfully, it didn't require him to input any power to pilot it.

Since he had nothing better to do, he spread Yin Chens all over the ship. There were tens of thousands of people here retreating from Primary with Gong Xiong. Though they hadn't been forced to leave, they worried that Gong Xiong's absence would cause them to come under pressure from those of the Divineglory Dynasty. Not to mention, they could help protect Tianming if they followed along. After Tianming arrived, they could return to Primary, though their leader probably wouldn't be Gong Xiong anymore since he would have rendered great merit by bringing Tianming back and wouldn't have to be posted to the sticks anymore.

Given the speed of the ship, it would take at least three months for them to reach the Violetglory Star, during which cultivation could only be done in the wondersky realm's Violetglory Pagoda in particular. Tianming paid attention to what was being said by everyone on the ship during that time, learning a lot about their destination in the process, including about Gong Xiong and his achievements, as well as the Violetcloud Imperium's manner of operation. Based on all that, he surmised that Gong Xiong was a short-tempered man that easily offended others, but his sense of justice and steadfast principles had earned him much respect. Many among the group here had willingly come with him.

"There can't be a better evaluation of him than what people close to him say about him." While three months sounded short, it was more than long enough for Tianming to gather information. After all, what could they do on the ship but talk? With enough information, he could pass himself off as a native Violetglorian without any issues. Even if there were still those that doubted him, they wouldn't be able to spot any inconsistencies from his knowledge. The more he learned, the more reassured he became.

However, there were many clans and interfactional struggles in the imperium, which was actually organized along similar lines as the Archaion Sect. There were six top clans in the imperium, among whom the strongest would rule as sovereign. All of the power was concentrated in those six clans. That kind of multipolar organizational structure was inherently less stable than the Divineglory Dynasty's absolute rule, which resulted in more infighting. Though the Gong Prime Clan was in power now, there were still intricate relations within the imperium that Tianming had to be wary of.

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They arrived after three months. Though they weren't exactly there yet, Tianming could see the star from the deck of the astral battleship. This was the second nova source world he had ever seen.

Tianming and the others were immediately charmed by its beauty. Unlike the sun, this star glowed with a light purple hue. It didn't look scorching; instead, it felt more refined and mysterious. There was a noble tranquility to its air. Many other shining objects surrounded it, all of which were stellar source worlds that served as outposts. The star looked like a beautiful purple pearl.

"How pretty...." Anyone seeing it for the first time would no doubt be awed by its beauty.

"It looks like a bigger version of the Divine Moon Realm," Tianming said, reminding the rest of the beautiful and tranquil lunar world that boasted a certain elegance that was reflected in the Violetglory Star as well, but with more noble mystery, as expected of a nova source world.

As the ship descended, it passed through some clouds that were similar to Orderia's, though they looked considerably different. Tianming saw violet clouds surrounded by countless star-like flashes. That layer of clouds were called violetstar clouds and they seemed to be something out of dreams. Tianming couldn't feel any heat coming from them as the ship passed through, a sign that the nova source of this star was much gentler and well rounded, unlike Orderia's, which was mainly of the fire element. Not only did it not feel scorching hot, it even made him feel a sense of comfort, almost like he was bathing in high-quality spiritual energy. He even saw many people cultivating in the midst of the clouds. The violet starlike dots around the clouds continually let out a violet mist.

Eventually, the ship burst through the sea of clouds. "Whoa!" Tianming couldn't help but exclaim. The Violetglory Star wasn't just a bigger Divine Moon Realm, it was even more impressive. Mountains and rivers could be seen dotted everywhere, shrouded in violet mist. Even the trees and rocks seemed to glimmer. The shining stars looked like jewels in the sky and the crystalline sea looked like a huge ocean of fine blue wine. The Violetglory Star truly was a beautiful pearl forged by the universe itself. If the sun was a brutish man, this was a beautiful goddess. It reminded Tianming of Princess Shen Yu; as expected, only a world like this could give rise to a person such as her.

"Onward to Myriadmile City!" The ship cruised along toward the imperial core, the city that spanned myriad miles, all of which belonged to the Violetcloud Imperium!