

The Ages 1571

Chapter 1571 - Astralking Tianming

In terms of the number of people, those on the side of the Pentarchy outnumbered the Gong Prime Clan four to one. Even then, Sovereign Starfeather and his Kilostar Capital still represented the highest authority in the imperium, which was why the Pentarchy couldn't quite oppose them, either. Naturally, as the ruler of the entire imperium, Sovereign Starfeather wouldn't singlemindedly work only in the interest of his clan either, hence why he even exiled Gong Xiong, who had a penchant for offending others, to Primary. As far as the outside world was concerned, the imperium was united and the sovereign was just and didn't show blatant favor to any group in the sect, lest they risk internal discord.

To properly find a stable foundation in a sect, one first had to understand the power distribution within it. This sect wasn't homogenous, unlike the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect, so Tianming would have to understand the complex interlinking relations within the imperium to be able to achieve his goals.

Now that Tianming had won, the Pentarchy appeared to be showing signs of accepting him, though the fact that their patriarchs weren't there showed that they still had to save face as the founding clans of the imperium.

The sovereign had the highest position in the imperium, followed by the patriarchs of the five archclans. One level below that was the title of astralking, which referred to the leaders of the twenty-three great families. However, each of the archclans had five astralkings of their own as well. For instance, while Shengui was the sovereign's personal servant, he wasn't an astralking because of his low birth. In total, there were no more than fifty astralkings in the imperium, all of whom were people that stood near the top of the empire.

There were at least thirty astralkings among those who came to congratulate Tianming, which was more than a great honor. What people didn't expect, however, was that Sovereign Starfeather was personally there as well, despite the absence of the five patriarchs of the Pentarchy. He appeared before Tianming, emanating an astral radiance.

"All hail the sovereign!" everyone said in unison.

"Tianming greets you, Sovereign," Tianming hurriedly said after Shengui instructed him to do so. He knew that it was time for his reward. He had a reciprocal relationship with the sovereign, after all. Shengui had told him that the Gong Prime Clan didn't have an heir to succeed the current sovereign at the moment, not to mention that there was a low chance for the next sovereign to be from their clan to begin with. Once the current sovereign stepped down, the Pentarchy would no doubt attempt to push the Gong Prime Clan back to the level of the twenty-three great families. But with Tianming's limitless potential, he might just be what the Gong Prime Clan needed to defend them from that kind of pushback. Thus, the interests of Tianming and Sovereign Starfeather were aligned.

"Tianming!" The sovereign took two steps forward and stroked Tianming's head with a warm smile.

"Yes, Sovereign!"

"Your impressive performance at the Observatorium has shocked our star and helped the imperium vent. Your talent is so impressive that We got a headache while deciding what to present to you as a reward!" he said as he stroked his long beard.

"Reward him!" countless people cried on behalf of Tianming. They felt completely exhilarated, having been envious of the Divineglory Dynasty for having someone like Ye Chen. Their sudden feeling of vindication made them want to reward Tianming.

"Very well!" the sovereign said. Everyone knew that he had made an appearance to give Tianming even more legitimacy. His expression turned stern as he said, "Tianming, We shall grant you the title of the forty-ninth Astralking to commemorate your impressive achievements and talent! You're the youngest and weakest astralking in the history of the imperium, but We believe that you will one day become the strongest sovereign in our history!"

Those words were completely revolutionary. An astralking in his twenties, the weakest one that would one day become the strongest sovereign? Even those from the Pentarchy began contemplating that notion. Sovereign Starfeather had picked the perfect moment to drop that bomb on them, giving Tianming a crazily prestigious title just because people desired to see him rewarded. It was a title that came with actual power and authority! Even if there were those who were speaking out against it, their voices were drowned out by the wild cheers of the rest. This was a right that Sovereign Starfeather possessed, and it was proof that Tianming's assumption that he would be given a bigger bounty the better performance he had to be true. Just as there was no free lunch, there would also be no free service!

"Tianming thanks Your Majesty! I'll never let Your Majesty down, otherwise may I be cast into the abyss!" Since everyone's mood was at an all-time high, he exaggerated his gratitude to match. Just like that, he had become an astralking!

"Astralking Tianming!" Those words were repeated throughout the entirety of Myriadmile City. It wasn't set in stone. The patriarchs of the Pentarchy had never expected that the sovereign would go all out like that and weren't there in person to stop this from happening.

"Very well. Take my emblem, the Violetcloud Decree. You may use it to access anything you need for your cultivation. You're the imperium's future, and you have a right to anything you want." The sovereign produced a violet emblem that came with a drop of exalted blood. It was a grade-seven divine artifact, despite being just an emblem of authority.

Nobody else dared to question whether Tianming was deserving of the resources or not. Even so, Tianming still humbled himself and said, "I thank Your Majesty and everyone in the imperium for this honor. I'll make sure to render as much service to the imperium as I can for the resources I consume."

"Very well. We shall look forward to it." Sovereign Starfeather immediately beamed back to the Kilostar Capital, leaving only agitated and shocked people behind. They envied this new astralking of theirs and were still unable to find the words to voice their feelings.

"Congratulations, Astralking!" Shengui and Gong Xiong said, completely overwhelmed. Now, Tianming's status was even higher than theirs. Even the Gong Prime Clan, with their many elites, only had one astralking, with a loyal servant like Shengui not even being granted that title.

"It's thanks to the two of you," Tianming said.

"What's there to thank? We'll be the ones counting on you from now on, you know," Shengui said.

After all the fanfare, they could finally return to Violetpeak and close things off. Tianming took a deep breath and relaxed himself. After that, Shengui received a transmission stone and smiled. "Tianming, there's another piece of good news."

"What is it?"

"Your application to join the fight at the Astraldome has been approved. That means you'll be fighting as Li Tianming of the Violetglory Star there to spread your name far and wide!" As Shengui said that, it looked like he had turned back to his youth, filled with fighting spirit.

"Very well." That was Tianming's next goal as well, but he wasn't in a rush. Looking at the emblem in his hand, he smiled. "It's about time I get my reward before I head out and work hard again."

Chapter 1572 - Six Manna

After going from the Azuresoul palace to the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect to the Violetcloud Imperium, Tianming could finally ask for whatever he wanted. He was now in the best position he had ever been in with the sovereign's support and his own achievements. As such, he immediately turned to Gong Xiong and Shengui when they arrived at Violetpeak. "Gentlemen, I'm sure the Violetcloud Imperium has some eight-star universal manna I can use, right?"

"Holy crap!" the two of them exclaimed in unison with the same expression despite their different statures and physiques as they stared at him.

"What's wrong? Is the imperium incapable of providing it?"

"Man, do you think eight-star universal manna grows on trees? They're even rarer than grade-eight divine artifacts!" Gong Xiong said. For things of the same grade, manna was usually the rarest, followed by divine artifacts, then divine pills, divine ores, divine herbs, and divine hazards in that order. Eight-star universal manna allowed beasts to evolve into eight-star divine beasts. So far, apart from the lifebound beasts of the Divineglory Dynasty's sovereign, there were few other eight-star divine beasts. There wasn't even a single one on Orderia.

"Does the Violetcloud Imperium not have any here?" Tianming asked.

"There's a good chance there's some. After all, we don't have as high a demand for them as the Divineglory Dynasty. However, there'll be one or two at most and they're among the most precious treasures. Even if an astralking like you wants to take them, you might have to go through a lot of hoops. At the very least, you'll need the Pentarchy's permission," Shengui said.

"That's right. Anything else is fine, but we still have to ask for permission for eight-star universal manna and there's a high chance we won't be able to obtain it," Gong Xiong said.

Tianming had only asked to be sure. Ying Huo and the rest were still growing, and now he wasn't sure if he could obtain eight-star universal manna for them. I just came here and have only defeated Ye Chen, after all. I suppose it's unrealistic to get Ying Huo and the rest to evolve to the level of the other sovereign's beasts. He put the thought behind him and focused on other things.

"Then just ask about eight-star universal manna for me. As for seven-star ones, I'm sure you've got them in abundance, right?" The Veildragon Palace had become so strong because they used up the manna that totemancers like celestial orderians didn't need, though the Veildragon Palace had rejoined the sect proper now that their Dragon Imperials had perished.

Shengui patted his chest and said, "We do have quite a bit of those. We don't have many beastmasters, after all, and even fewer who've achieved enough to be rewarded with them. We should have around fifty to a hundred of them."

"I need six of them," Tianming said. Of his five lifebound beasts, only Ying Huo was a seven-star divine beast, so he needed four more for himself. As for Lingfeng, he was a specter, so universal manna was useful to him as well. Though he wouldn't experience as many changes as lifebound beasts, he would still be able to grow to a certain degree. Xiaoxiao's Archaionfiend would also need one. Seven-star universal manna were already incredibly precious treasures; some astralkings didn't even have all their lifebound beasts evolved to seven-star divine beasts, so Tianming's demand for six of them was shocking to the other two.

"That's a huge ask! I respect that," Gong Xiong said, giving him a thumbs-up.

"It's alright. I think my performance is worth that much," Tianming said. Unlike Ye Chen, he had no need to hold back with the Violetcloud Imperium, nor did they need his loyalty or love. It was a simple transaction that made both sides happy, which gave him even more freedom. At the very least, if the imperium ever turned against him, he wouldn't feel bad about it, either, as he could simply leave.

"Six it is. I'll go get them for you, so tell me what attributes you need," Shengui said stubbornly.

"Thank you, Old Master."

"No need for thanks. I'm still counting on basking in your limelight."

Six seven-star universal manna would greatly boost their group's power. For now, Tianming only had Qingyu reveal eight of her bane-rings and hide one of them away, like him. Even so, the talent of the five of them still shocked many in the imperium. Even Feiling was considered a young genius, thanks to the primalwings she had.

Now that the manna had been dealt with, Tianming moved on to his next step. "Apart from that, I'm in dire need of divine ores."

"Divine ores? What do you need them for? They're normally used to forge divine artifacts. If you aren't a smithing guru, couldn't you just ask for divine artifacts directly? I see that you need an upgrade from the one you're using now," Gong Xiong said, talking about the Grand-Orient Sword.

"I'm using them to feed insects." Tianming took out a silver egg in his hand that turned into a locust with black mandibles that fiercely stared at Gong Xiong.

"Are you serious?"

"Yes. Ideally, I want ore veins that are near Myriadmile City. I don't want too many, either, just five would do!"

"Five whole ore veins?! Just for feeding? These span multiple mountain ranges, you know?"

"Yeah. Would that be difficult?"

"I can't say for sure... but your request is a bit odd. Divine ore veins are raw materials, so nobody's ever asked for them as a reward before. Currently, the ones in charge of mining are the Goldseal Archclan. I have to go to the Xuanluan Hall and discuss it with them first. Naturally, I don't think it'll be an issue with your current status."

"Alright. I'll be counting on you, Brother Xiong."

"No worries. I'll definitely work to get you what you want. You don't know how bad it felt to be sent to a backwater like Primary. Those primalwinger girls are like beansprouts, their waists aren't even as thick as my member!" he said with a hearty guffaw. It could be seen how truly happy he was to return to the imperial core. In a sense, Tianming was his benefactor.

Gong Xiong headed toward Xuanluan Hall, leaving Tianming behind to wait for the good news. Through Yin Chen, he found out that the top-ranking smithing gurus were from the Goldseal Archclan. They were all master smiths, and any artifact forged with their seal was guaranteed to be of quality make. Their skills had been honed over millions of years; even though the Gong Prime Clan now reigned supreme, the Goldseal Archclan still had the most sway when it came to divine ores and artifacts.

The same was the case with divine herbs, pills, arts, formations, tomes, and caeli. Most of the impressive legacies were still controlled by the Pentarchy. That was the reason the Gong Prime Clan wasn't able to completely dominate, despite the sovereign being from their clan. The Pentarchy wasn't a faction that could just be wiped out without severe consequences. That was another reason why the sovereign had made Tianming an astralking.

Chapter 1573 - Clan of Smithing Gurus

Without a legitimate title, it would be difficult for Tianming to get good resources. While the sovereign had some of the more common resources available, allowing Tianming to access those of the Pentarchy was also a good option.

As Tianming waited, Yin Chen crawled out and covered his body, turning him into a metal humanoid. "What're you in such a rush about?" Tianming said.

"Eat food! Eat food!" Yin Chen said. Seeing divine ores on the horizon, Yin Chen couldn't suppress its instinct to multiply after such a long time of holding itself back. It was part of its nature, as was apparent from how it had ravenously eaten everything in its path in that dream.

After an hour, Gong Xiong returned with a look of frustration. "That darned Astralking Xuanluan was playing the fool. He knew I was making the request for ore veins on your behalf, but he insisted that you go there with the Violetcloud Decree yourself."

"No problem. Since he wants to go by protocol, we'll do just that," Tianming said.

Astralking Xuanluan was one of the five astralkings of the Goldseal Archclan. Xuanluan Hall was his abode, and he was in charge of mining operations within the imperium. It should have been a simple matter that Gong Xiong could take care of by himself, yet the astralking had insisted that Tianming go there himself, so he probably wanted to express his discontent with the way things are. Perhaps he felt bad about giving five ore veins to someone he hadn't even seen in person once.

Such protocols were inevitable, at the end of the day. Tianming went to the hall with Gong Xiong. Soon, they arrived at a great hall made of pitch black metal that stood tall and grand. It was shaped like a hammer, an aggressive design indeed.

The two of them landed on the metal plaza ahead of the hall. Ahead of them were two neat rows of people standing in diverging lines. All of them were of the Goldseal Archclan and had a similar status to Gong Xiong. One notable characteristic of the people of their clan was that they each had huge metal arms that could reach as low as their knees. The arms were much larger than normal, and even their pinky fingers were longer than fifteen centimeters. The arms weren't made entirely out of metal; instead, they were similar to Tianming's black arm. As they cultivated, they would absorb metal elemental essence to strengthen their arms, and at the very peak of that process, they would become as tough as divine artifacts. According to Yin Chen, the Goldseal Archclan even boasted that their arms were as hard as grade-eight divine artifacts.

Tianming sensed the power commanded by the archclan simply by looking at the people ahead of him. They boasted a legacy that had been passed down for millions of years. Their fists, when balled up, looked even larger than his head. This was all done as a display to awe Tianming, so they didn't hold back when it came to the suppressive aura and gazes they shot at him. They crossed their arms, displaying huge fists in front of their chests that looked like two metal hammers as they stared at him without uttering a single word.

In the middle of the two rows of people was a man who was bald like Gong Xiong. He bared his upper body, revealing terrifying musculature. It was as if he was entirely forged out of metal, and his gigantic hands were no less impressive. He stood up high and looked down at Tianming with a gaze that could startle any youth... but not Tianming.

When Tianming landed, he looked straight at the Astralking Xuanluan. Their statuses were the same, so neither of them was anything to scoff at. It was clear that this was a warning to Tianming to not come to claim any resources, but Tianming wasn't a pushover.

I have the sovereign himself backing me, so you don't scare me. Tianming smirked, then stepped onto the tall platform and walked toward Astralking Xuanluan, almost instantly walking past the two rows of people until he was less than half a meter away from him. He looked at the bestial man, seemingly posturing to match him.

"Hahaha!" Astralking Xuanluan laughed so loudly that Tianming felt like his eardrums were about to burst. Thankfully, he had the Greenspark Tower, so the noise wouldn't be an issue apart from the slight pain.

Tianming also laughed as he brought out the Violetcloud Decree and stuffed it in the face of the astralking before he even had a chance to speak. "The sovereign granted me this decree and declared that I'm to be given access to all cultivation resources. Astralking Xuanluan, do you intend to go against the sovereign's decree?"

Tianming hadn't come alone; there were more than seventy Starchasers shadowing him, worried that the Astralking Xuanluan would mess around. They stood out behind Tianming, with a few of them surrounding Astralking Xuanluan, ready to dispatch him the moment he made an aggressive move.

"Hey, hey, Astralking Tianming, don't pin that accusation on me. I would never dare go against the sovereign. However, I do have one question. Since when are divine ore veins considered cultivation resources?" he asked with a nonchalant shrug.

Tianming knew that the entirety of the divine ore veins were in the control of the Goldseal Archclan, so he had to face this person before him sooner or later. If he managed to get five veins now, it would be much easier for him when he wanted to take every ore vein in the imperium in the future. "Who said they aren't? Anything that makes me stronger counts." The astralking brushed Tianming's hand away, but Tianming stuffed the decree in his face again. "I need five divine ore veins, so please get them in order, Astralking Xuanluan. You don't even have to do much, just transfer the rights to me and have your guards leave."

Astralking Xuanluan was taken aback by such a direct provocation from a junior. He didn't know that Tianming had decided on a headstrong policy since coming to the imperium. He would force his way through regardless of who he was dealing with.

"Astralking Xuanluan, if you have any issue with this, I can go see the sovereign about it right now. I didn't want to bother His Majesty over something as trivial as this, but now it seems I have no choice," he said as he waved the decree around.

Astralking Xuanluan had wanted to use the aura of all the elites to awe Tianming and warn him to hold back, but every single word coming out of Tianming's mouth gave him a headache. It was nothing but the sovereign! He kept bringing up the sovereign's authority to push him down, a sign of his wit. After all, Sovereign Starfeather had publicly made him an astralking and granted him the Violetcloud Decree, which represented the sovereign's authority. Anyone who wasn't an astralking had to kneel before the emblem, so the other members of the Goldseal Archclan were already going against that convention by refusing to kneel. If Tianming really went by the book, everyone there aside from Astralking Xuanluan would have to be punished.

Chapter 1574 - Ten Million Yin Chens

Tianming was at his most high-spirited, so trying to scare him because of his age was naive to say the least. After defeating Ye Chen, the mere mention of his name in the next few months would cause an uproar. That was why he had chosen to accept Ye Chen's challenge before demanding resources from the imperium. If it weren't for the duel at the Observatory, there would be no way he could stand on the same level as an astralking and demand ore veins.

In an organization as complex as the Violetcloud Imperium, status and backing were important for him to get around. He had Sovereign Starfeather as his backing, and his status came about from his talent and achievements. Both of them combined made him unstoppable.

Astralking Xuanluan kept quiet for a long while, before compromising. "There's something I'm curious about. What would an individual like you need so many ore veins for? Additionally, if I have the guards leave, how would you deal with the loss of divine ores when you're not around to guard it?"

"If any problem results from it, seek out the sovereign," Tianming said with a smirk.

"Very well!" With that response, things would go fine.

"Thank you for cooperating, Astralking Xuanluan. I'll be seeing you again." Five ore veins would be enough to last Yin Chen for quite a while, and he would definitely come to ask for even more when they were emptied out.

"Again?" The astralking grimaced at the sound of impending doom. Turning back, he saw that Tianming, Gong Xiong, and the Starchasers were already gone.

"What does he mean by that? Will he be coming back for more?" Astralking Xuanluan asked the others around him, but they all had their heads lowered and couldn't say a word. "Why in the world would he need so much?! Does he cultivate by eating metal or something?!"

The worst part was that he couldn't even do anything about it. He had seen Tianming defeat Ye Chen himself. Tianming had already made a legend out of his own person, so there was nobody in the imperium that could refuse him now. Even the astralkings had felt vindicated by Ye Chen's defeat.

"Astralking, this youth's potential is terrifying indeed. However, he was brought here by the Gong Prime Clan. Seeing how well the sovereign is treating him, he might be trying to set him up to be the next sovereign and ensure that the throne stays with the Gong Prime Clan. This isn't a good sign for the Pentarchy or our archclan. While Ye Chen is a threat to us, Li Tianming might be an even bigger threat," said another.

"I don't need you to tell me that. It's plain as day to see." The astralking shot his subordinate an angry look.

"Then what do we do?"

"Dammit, if only both Ye Chen and Lin Feng died!"

"He's Li Tianming now."

"Who cares what he's called? All of them can die! Who knows? The next sovereign might be Mu Ziyao from the Violetcloud Archclan!"

"Yeah! The imperium is only the imperium if the sovereign is from the archclans of the Pentarchy!"

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Tianming left Yin Chen to deal with the mines itself. It could freely multiply as long as it had access to ores and wasn't disturbed. For now, he still didn't know the upper limit of Yin Chens it could have at its current level. At any rate, there should be a limit. After all, it did have a range limit to control its bodies, so it stood to reason that there would be a number limit as well. Back then, they didn't have enough ores to test that out, but now they did.

"Shengui still hasn't gotten me all the universal manna I asked for yet, but he did get me divine hazard sword ki." Shengui even said that he had a surprise for Tianming, so he immediately went to see him.

As Shengui had served the imperium as the sovereign's personal servant for a long time, he had way more authority and contacts than Gong Xiong. Most often, he didn't even need to show an emblem, as he had spoken for the sovereign himself for so long. He was already waiting at Violetpeak's entrance when Tianming arrived.

"Come, Tianming, I'll take you to the Violetcloud Swordsea."

"Alright."

With Shengui leading him, Gong Xiong went back. The two of them went to the Violetcloud Swordsea with the Starchasers following in the shadows. It was located to the north of Myriadmile City and was where divine hazards were gathered, similar to the Sworddragon Ocean Purgatory. However, it was ten times larger, even taking all of the purgatory's layers into account. Like a gigantic pool of sword ki, all kinds of divine hazards were gathered within. It was a forbidden place for most, who would only be allowed to cultivate outside it.

"The Gong Prime Clan has controlled the divine hazards of the imperium since time immemorial. That's why it wasn't any trouble getting you all of this. I already talked to Astralking Gongsu about this and he suggested that I bring you to an exciting place," Shengui said with a mischievous smile. Astralking Gongsu was the Gong Prime Clan's only astralking, as well as the current clan leader.

Chapter 1575 - Frozen Glasstree

In actuality, the Gong Prime Clan had a few elites worthy of the astralking title, but as they weren't an archclan, they were only allowed to grant one such title anyway. Astralking Gongsu was the younger brother of Sovereign Starfeather.

"What place is it?" Tianming curiously asked.

"You'll see it when you're there," Shengui said with a chuckle. "I'm sure you'll love it."

Tianming felt a sudden chill. All he wanted was a single divine hazard sword ki that suited his Fienddragon Blood Transience. What in the world did they have in store for him? Since the Gong Prime Clan controlled the Violetcloud Swordsea, Tianming was free to take anything from it unobstructed.

The two of them flew through the humongous city and over the clouds above. Then, Shengui unlocked a few defensive formations and unveiled a brilliant sea of divine hazards. It was so large that Tianming couldn't see the end of it. He even thought that Shengui had truly brought him to a real sea. It looked beautiful at first glance, with its many colors, but beneath it was the violent nova source. Should one fall into it, it would be like falling into a fusion formation. Divine hazards were, after all, pure manifestations of nova sources.

The Violetcloud Swordsea resembled a sea of lava with all kinds of divine hazards of differing elements, their chaotic interactions constantly causing booming explosions that propelled all types of divine hazards into the air. "The eighteen layers of the Sworddragon Ocean Purgatory probably aren't even a tenth as wide as this...." Such was the might of a truly powerful sect. All divine hazards that manifested all across the imperium's territory were brought here.

"Come here," Shengui said, leading the way. Not long after, they arrived at the center of this great sea where the interactions were the most violent. Tianming felt a little uneasy because of the sheer endless vastness of the violent sea underneath him.

"It's right below here," Shengui said, winking. "Want to try going down?"

"What're you being so mysterious about? It can't be grade-eight divine hazard sword ki, right?"

"Just go down and take a look." Shengui kept the mysterious smile on his face, making Tianming feel even more cautious about the whole thing.

"Dammit, I'm not afraid even if it really is grade-eight sword ki down there." Though he said that, assimilating grade-seven sword ki had almost brought him to the brink of death. As for grade-eight ones, they were the highest grade that nova source worlds could manifest. Even for a faction as powerful as the Violetcloud Imperium, they probably wouldn't have many of them.

Tianming knew that Shengui and the rest wouldn't harm him, so he went down without worry. With grade-seven sword ki protecting his body, his resistance was incredibly high. Not to mention, he had the Greenspark Tower to heal him up. Shengui followed him down into the storm of rampaging divine hazards.

"It's actually so deep?!" Tianming's expression turned wilder and wilder.

"We're only halfway down, you know. You can't be scared already, right?" said the old man. Though he seemed frail, his skin was actually tough enough to endure the environment here, just like the shell of a tortoise; even though they were deep enough for grade-six divine hazards to surround them, he was completely fine. The deeper they went, the more powerful the divine hazards became, all of which had complete divine ordered patterns. Even something as simple as a ball of lightning would be able to completely char someone.

"We're almost there. It's the king of all divine hazards in the Violetcloud Swordsea!"

"King?" This was definitely no simple thing. Tianming still wondered what in the world he would be made to endure as Shengui pulled him down even further. By now, there were already a lot of grade-seven sword ki strands around them that would be a good fit for Blood Transience. Eventually, they reached the bottom.

"We're here!" Shengui gathered astralforce in his hands and pushed apart the divine hazards around them, revealing a huge object before them.

"This is... a tree?" Tianming didn't know what to make of the treelike divine hazard ahead of him. All of the other divine hazards in this sea were mobile and volatile, yet this tree was completely still. It looked like a sculpture of a tree formed from icy black spikes, each of them shaped like a sword. In other words, it was a tree of black swords made of ice! Its trunk and branches were larger swords, while the twigs were smaller ones. Even its leaves looked like daggers. Tianming would have thought that it was just a sculpture if Shengui hadn't explained it to him. In fact, ice sculptures would easily be melted and disintegrated in a sea of divine hazards.

"Are these really divine hazards? Divine hazard sword ki strands?" he asked in disbelief.

"That's right. It's called the Frozen Glasstree, a solid manifestation of powerful grade-eight divine hazard sword ki strands! It's the king of all the divine hazards in this sea!"

Tianming was quite confused, as it differed too much from the sword ki he had seen till now.

"As for how powerful it is, try to assimilate a single leaf from it," Shengui said. No explanation could beat personal experience.

Tianming nodded and approached it, noticing that he didn't feel any backlash no matter how close he got. It was clear that all the power was sealed within the ice. He could see the grade-eight divine patterns spread throughout the leaves and the rest of the tree when he was close enough. "Let's try to pick one leaf."

He looked around and found a black dagger of ice that seemed to glisten. He gripped it and it felt like normal ice, except for the warmth coming from beneath its surface. It felt like he had frozen up at first, but his fingers looked charred as if they'd been burned. He gave the leaf a twist and, before he could react, the leaf melted into liquid form and turned into countless spikes that burrowed into his palm.

Chapter 1576 - Imperius Ruins

Tianming widened his eyes and yelped in pain. His whole arm seemed to simultaneously char and freeze over as the power of the divine hazard spread throughout his body. Though it was just a single leaf, it hurt almost as much as the grade-seven sword ki strands he had assimilated before. The pain caused his body to tense up and arch; it took quite a while before he finally calmed down, but he was already sweating and pale from the experience. Even at the very end, he hadn't been able to assimilate the leaf properly.

"Dammit..." He turned back and saw Shengui stifling a laugh.

"How is it? Feels good? I wasn't just playing things up, right?" Shengui said.

"It's so-so," Tianming said, not wanting to admit it. Turning back to look at the tree, he said, "This tree is entirely made of sword ki and its attribute is filled with cold and darkness. It's really good at burning and darkness, a good fit for me indeed. But I don't think I'll be able to handle a grade-eight divine hazard sword ki like this."

"It's in solid form. You can assimilate it leaf by leaf, then branch by branch, until you take the whole thing inside your body. Once you have a sword body with grade-eight sword ki, you'll be stupid powerful," Shengui said.

"Can that really work?" For instance, he had encountered sword ki in the shape of a huge dragon. Consuming it part by part simply wouldn't work.

"That's why I said it's a good fit for you. Astralking Gongsu prepared this just for you, do you want it or not?"

"Of course! Please thank him for me!"

"Go do it yourself!"

"Alright." It would take quite some time for him to assimilate the entire tree into his albi, but time was something he had an abundance of now.

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Tianming and the rest had fully settled down in Violetpeak; their days there were peaceful and stable. With Tianming's status, nobody dared to cause trouble for him. As for universal manna, Shengui was still busily trying to acquire them for him. From time to time, Tianming would also go to the Frozen Glasstree. As for Yin Chen and the ore veins, it could manage things itself.

There was one other important thing to pay attention to: the caeli the imperium had. The Violetcloud Imperium had a history of millions of years and had seen the reigns of thousands of sovereigns. The caeli the imperium had 'donated' to the Violetglory Pagoda was only the smallest fraction of what they had, and they weren't of the best quality. For both the Divineglory Dynasty and Violetcloud Imperium, their caeli imperius, or in other words, caeli of the sovereigns, were top-tier legacies that the foundation of their sects rested upon. It was the key factor that determined the level of their disciples, separating them from the other, more common sects.

The Violetcloud Imperium's collection of caeli in real life was far more impressive than the Violetglory Pagoda's, even on its ninth floor. There was no longer a need to go to the wondersky realm. The imperium's caeli imperius were stored in the Imperius Ruins. Being the most important place in the entire sect, it was heavily protected by defensive formations. It was also a sacred ground that not just anyone could enter, and even if one could, they had to take care not to desecrate the resting place of these ancestors. It was essentially half a mausoleum.

The Imperius Ruins were located in the heartland of the Violetcloud Archclan, one of the five archclans of the Pentarchy. They were the ones who had founded the imperium and ruled during its earliest days, with their sole clan being comparable to all the divineglorians during their peak. Even in the present day, their faction was still the undisputed second in the imperium. They were the ones who managed and controlled the legacy of caeli, so it wasn't surprising that the Imperius Ruins were located in their clan's heartland.

Therein lay the issue. Given the current state of the empire, the Violetcloud Archclan was capable of resisting Sovereign Starfeather to some extent, given their really deep roots. As long as they controlled the legacy of caeli, their position was unshakeable.

"Then again, I'm an astralking with the Violetcloud Decree, so I should be allowed to cultivate in the Imperius Ruins anytime I want." Even then, that didn't mean Lingfeng, Qingyu, and Xiaoxiao could just waltz in and enjoy the benefits of that place, Lingfeng especially. His cultivation had been destabilized too much from overconsumption of waste pills, so he needed the elite seniors' experiences in their caeli to guide him along the proper path. As for Qingyu, she could only take advantage of her nonabane talent with proper caeli guidance. That hadn't been a problem in Orderia. As for Feiling and Xiaoxiao, while caeli weren't too important to them, it wouldn't hurt to have access to them.

Tianming wanted all five of them to be allowed to cultivate there as well. Given their talents, it wouldn't be a big deal. Lingfeng and Xiaoxiao had already shown results in the wondersky realm, after all. But he still had a feeling that it wouldn't be that easy. As expected, when he had Gong Xiong ask the Violetcloud Archclan to allow Lingfeng and the rest to go there as well, he was met with refusal. As such, he had to make a personal trip to the Imperius Ruins. He couldn't trouble the sovereign over every little thing, after all, and this was something worth fighting for.

.....

The Violetcloud Core was the origin of the Violetcloud Archclan and was situated at the outermost reaches of Myriadmile City. It was a city complex within the larger city, much like an imperial palace complex. As such, members of that archclan saw their patriarch as the ultimate ruler, not the sovereign. Their loyalties didn't extend past their own archclan.

Tianming and Gong Xiong went to the city to a place called the Refinement Residences, within which was a path that led to the Imperius Ruins. It was the residence of a top figure in the archclan who was in charge of the Imperius Ruins, the person Tianming was trying to meet.

Gong Xiong stood in front of the residence complex and said, "Tianming, this person is really hard to deal with. You must be careful. Her mood changes without rhyme or reason."

"Understood." Yin Chen told him that she was named Astralqueen Ziyang, the youngest of the ones of the same rank apart from Tianming and the daughter of the Violetcloud Archclan's patriarch. She was exceedingly talented and was an octabane totemancer. In fact, she was the person most likely to become the next sovereign after Sovereign Starfeather.

Yin Chen had heard a lot of rumors about her. Some said she was cold-blooded, but others said she was the opposite. There were even rumors that nothing was taboo to her, and some said she liked young boys. Having so many different rumors circulating about her didn't help narrow her profile down to anything. Either way, she must be amazing in her own right. However, it seemed that she was an enemy of his, now that Sovereign Starfeather had given him so much weight. Tianming stood little, if any, chance of succeeding.

As the two of them approached, Gong Xiong announced, "Astralking Tianming has arrived!"

The entrance of the Refinement Residences opened, letting a fragrance waft out of it. An enchanting silhouette deep within the hall was within, waving toward Tianming.

Chapter 1577 - Another Top-tier Mount

Based on the atmosphere, it seemed that their journey today wouldn't be a relaxed one, to say the least. Tianming entered the residence as Astralqueen Ziyang beckoned him over, with Gong Xiong hurriedly following behind. Meanwhile, the Starchasers surrounded Tianming, staying nearby and constantly following him. There was no way Tianming could spend any time alone with the astralqueen, not that he would need to.

The moment he entered, he noticed that this fragrant and elegant compound reflected the refined taste of its owner. The wafting fragrance seemed to calm his nerves. Oddly, the silhouette he had seen within just now was nowhere to be seen; there was nothing but empty space.

"Huh?" Tianming looked around, not seeing a single person. As he was doubting himself, he suddenly felt a tap on his shoulder and turned back.

"Nice to meet you," said a gentle voice. She sounded like someone in her mid teens, sweet and jolly. Tianming almost thought that it was Feiling speaking to him. In fact, she was a young girl dressed in a purple dress with a short skirt. She had a head of long, light violet hair and two dark violet eyes. Her skin was fair and flawless. She was cute, mischievous, and enchanting. Her wide eyes radiated an air of innocence and purity, making her appear like a harmless fairy; however, her bombastic figure didn't quite fit the innocent look on her face, creating quite the contrast. Her figure was just like Huiye Shi's, perhaps even sexier!

"Um, who might you be?" Tianming asked. If he just focused on her face, he would have treated her like a peer of his age, though he suddenly felt off when he asked the question. There was a pressure

radiating from her that appeared to be so strong she could stand among the top elites of the Violetglory Star.

"Mu Ziyan, of course." She smiled at him, both hands behind her back and her face slightly flushing red, as if she was a little drunk. Even so, her bashful demeanor seemed too realistic. The only way to tell that she wasn't actually a young maiden was to look beneath her face!

"I see, Astralqueen Ziyan, well met." Tianming backed off, feeling a chill down his spine. His gaze swept past her short skirt that revealed the full, fair thighs of this 'senior' and doubtfully looked at Gong Xiong. Gong Xiong merely shrugged, proving that she was indeed Astralqueen Ziyan. It was the first time Tianming had seen a senior that looked so young, at least in her face. Her well-developed body, on the other hand, was fitting for a woman of her age. Even then, the fact that she dressed like any young girl made Tianming fear even directly looking at her. While Feiling's true age did have him guessing, at least there was nothing about her looks that suggested she was much older than she was.

Eventually, the two of them awkwardly stood before each other. In his lifebound space, Ying Huo and Meow Meow began grumbling about finding a new top-tier mount. The 'young girl' in front of him widened her eyes and circled him with her hands behind her back. "Little Boy, I've already refused to let the other four come into the Imperius Ruins with you. Don't tell me you're mad about that?"

Given how courteous she was being, especially with her girlish demeanor, Tianming couldn't do the same thing he did to get Astralking Xuanluan to cave. He kept his eyes on her body and said, "I'm sure you have your own considerations, Astralqueen Ziyan, and naturally, I respect them. However, I wish to have a chance to at least discuss it with you."

"What's there to discuss? I wanted you to come here to get a good look at you for myself, that's all," she said, narrowing her eyes, making them look like crescent moons. Tianming noticed four violet teardrop marks beneath each of her eyes, vertically lined up. They were actually bane-rings of the Violetcloud Archclan! There were eight of them in total and they somehow resembled the bane-rings of Huiyue Jie of the divine moonrace, though he only had six. She looked like she was shedding tears all the time; even her smile seemed beautifully melancholic, thanks to them.

However, Tianming couldn't allow himself to pity her, as she was a potential future sovereign. "You wanted to see me? For what?" he said sternly, keeping a distance from her.

"To see the genius that'll come to shake countless stars, of course. Still, if only we could spend some time alone together... hmph." She turned and stared at Gong Xiong and the rest with some resentment.

Tianming immediately changed the topic. "Astralqueen Ziyan, my friends are all really talented, probably as talented as Gong Yin, a fellow peer of our age. They joined the imperium with me. Gong Yin was allowed to enter the Imperius Ruins as a fellow talented youth, so I believe they deserve the same right as well. If you have qualms about it, we can even have them challenge Gong Yin to prove themselves."

Gong Yin was the current second-ranking disciple on the Violetglory Ranking and the number-one disciple of Violetcloud Imperium, being approximately an eighth-level constellier.

Astralqueen Ziyan said, "Little Boy, what kind of joke is that? Why would they need to challenge Gong Yin?"

"Astralqueen, won't you even afford them this chance?" Tianming said, furrowing his brow.

"Sigh!" She pouted and pushed her finger against his chest. "I mean to say that they can enter at any time."

Tianming thought he had misheard her. "The four of them can go there to cultivate like me?"

"Of course."

"Why?"

"Because you brought them here. That, and the Violetcloud Imperium also already knows their talent. Putting aside Lin Xiaoxiao and Ye Lingfeng's performance in the wondersky realm, even the octabane Li Qingyu and that primalwinger girl are to be cherished as treasures. Naturally, they have the right to enter," she said with a serious look. Her serious expression even seemed a little cute.

"Wait...." Tianming was quite confused. He had thought that he would need to confront her for their right to enter, yet she had agreed and even given him a reason why before the confrontation even started. There was no fight to be had at all. He had thought she would be another vile and cold beauty like Li Wushuang, but it was completely the opposite.

Chapter 1578 - Soultraining Totemancer

Tianming looked stunned for quite a while before he finally realized that there was nothing bad about this. He couldn't bother with overthinking it and said, "I thank you on their behalf, Astralqueen."

"There's no need to. It's what's expected of me. When you grow in power, you'll bring great benefits to the imperium. You're our future," Ziyang said, enviously looking at him. It sounded like things were absolutely perfect.

Don't tell me that I blamed her for no reason? Did I jump the gun? Does the Violetcloud Archclan really have people who can see the bigger picture? Tianming wondered. He looked at Gong Xiong, who rolled his eyes, signaling that he hadn't expected such a positive response either. The last time he was here, he had been sent packing before even getting to discuss the matter of entry with the Violetcloud Archclan.

"Then, Astralqueen Ziyang, shall I have the four of them come here so you can take a look at them?" Tianming asked.

"Definitely. I heard there's three girls among them. Big sis here wants to make some new friends." She wouldn't stand out if she stood among Feiling, Xiaoxiao, and Qingyu thanks to her youthful appearance.

"Then I'll immediately notify them." Tianming pretended to use a transmission stone as he told Yin Chen to ask them to come.

"Little boy," said a distant voice in his ear.

"Huh?" He looked up and saw Ziyang's smooth face right in front of him. Though she called him a little boy, she looked younger than he was.

"Do you understand the Violetcloud Archclan?" she said, smiling. The eight violet teardrops under her crescent eyes looked both cute and eerie.

"More or less. I believe your archclan specializes in the art of the soul, right?"

"That's right. Totems are essentially part of the terra, after all, and there's the vita in the sea of consciousness, whereas the caelum roams in the great void. Essentially, totemancy is the art of cultivating one part of the tripartite soul. That's why, while totemancers are all over the universe, those of the Violetcloud Archclan walk the most correct path," she said, her head passionately bobbing around.

"Amazing!" Tianming shot her a thumbs-up and made some distance between them; she was being too intimate. Tianming feared that she would even be able to kill him in his personal space. Though she would definitely be punished for something like that, the sovereign couldn't do anything to overturn the entire Violetcloud Archclan so the risk still existed. Her tempting sensuality was a veiled threat.

Tianming had learned from Yin Chen that the Violetcloud Archclan was incredibly adept at soul cultivation, seemingly the only group that was, hence cementing themselves in the power structure of the Violetglory Star. Their proficiency in totemancy and soul arts was unrivaled, with their souls being of higher levels compared to peers of the same level. I wonder if there's someone among them who can compare to Lingfeng in that regard.

As he continued pondering, Astralqueen Ziyan made another approach. The fragrance that wafted around her could easily give Tianming the false impression that she was a delicious meal waiting to be devoured. She lightly blew against Tianming's ear and whispered, "Let me tell you a secret. Don't tell anybody else about it."

"Alright."

"Listen... our archclan had a discussion about you, which was started by my dad. He believes your rise will benefit the Gong Prime Clan, but not us. I'm sure you can understand why we see it that way."

"I do." What he didn't understand was why she was telling him this.

"Personally, I believe that they've got tunnel vision. Based on how you suppressed Ye Chen, you represent the potential to prop up our imperium over the Divineglory Dynasty. You'll become a historic figure that ushers in a new era for our imperium, yet those within it are blind to your light due to internal power struggles. Constantly finding ways to keep the Gong Prime Clan at bay is really boring, don't you think?"

"In my opinion, there's no harm at all in letting the Gong Prime Clan become an archclan like us! Everyone, my dad included, looks down on the Gong Prime Clan, still stubbornly refusing to admit that the archclans' Pentarchy is nowhere near what it was in its glory days. That's why their vision narrowed. But I'm different from them! I want to see the day when there's only one hegemon on this star: us! You'll be the only sovereign—only then will the Violetcloud Archclan have a new chance rather than isolating ourselves like this," she said with sincerity. Her breath tickled Tianming's ears.

Tianming turned and looked into her eyes halfway through her speech. They looked clear violet, as if every word of hers was untainted. Not to mention, her logic was sound, unlike the others in her archclan as she claimed. He once more wondered if he had labeled her as one of the bad ones by mistake.

She chuckled a little bitterly and said, "The look in your eyes tells me that you still don't trust me, but no matter. The days are long, and we have all the time we need to learn more about each other. One day, you'll come to understand me as well as I will you, both inside and out."

She really looked like she was tearing up thanks to her bane-rings. However, the unnecessarily suggestive word choice almost made Tianming cough out blood. He looked at her face again and saw no mischievous smile; he was probably overthinking things again. Tianming breathed a relaxed sigh and said, "Alright, let's wait and see. Naturally, I hope the Violetcloud Imperium will remain united. It'll take some time to get people to trust one another, though."

"That's great!" Her eyes lit up as she joyfully nodded. Then she pulled Tianming along by his arm and said, "You'll come here to cultivate often, right? Want me to teach you the soul cultivation method of our archclan? You're a nonabane, so if you learn some soul training techniques, you'll become the perfect totemancer! They'll raise your limits even further!"

Tianming wasn't against learning them, but if she would be personally teaching them to him, it would be risky... though not because he believed she would kill him. He was worried Feiling would decapitate him instead. Feiling's finally nearing bodily maturity.... Angering her now would be like digging my own grave.

Fully lucid, he refused. "Let's wait for a little bit. I've got quite a few things on my plate right now, so I'll have to go through them first."

"Alright. If you want to learn, come find me. Big sis won't hold anything back!" She smiled warmly.

Tianming looked at her in a troubled manner. She was far more welcoming than he had imagined she would be, confusing him to no end. Fortunately, Feiling, Xiaoxiao, Lingfeng, and Qingyu arrived.

Chapter 1579 - Astraldome

All of them had the same surprised reaction when they saw Astralqueen Ziyang. If it weren't for Tianming's introduction, they would have mistaken her for Ziyang's daughter, granddaughter, or even great granddaughter.

"Come. This is Astralqueen Ziyang," Tianming said, waving at them. As their statuses weren't that high, they had to be more polite. Tianming stood together with them and said, "Astralqueen, I'm sure you already know Feng and Xiaoxiao. I'll introduce you to these two instead. They'll be in your care from now on."

He pulled Qingyu over. "She's Li Qingyu, my little sister."

"Nice to meet you, Astralqueen Ziyang," Qingyu said.

"You two really look alike. I'm sure your parents are impressive people," Ziyang said with a smile.

Tianming inwardly smirked. While he wasn't siblings with Qingyu by blood they did look rather alike. He then pulled Feiling to him and intimately put his arm around her waist. "This is Jiang Feiling, my partner in the crime of life!"

Feiling pinched his inner arm hard. "What do you even mean by that?!"

"I meant you're my humble wife!"

"Don't make us sound like criminals, now!"

This bout of flirting was intentional. He had wanted to make sure that Astralqueen Ziyan didn't get any ideas about him, but he realized that he'd been overthinking it.

Ziyan merely looked at them flirting with a smile the entire time, not the slightest bit annoyed. "How nice it is to be young...."

"Astralqueen, you're young too. You look even younger than me," Feiling said.

"That's only on the surface. Time is a most cruel mistress, there's no resisting her,"

Meanwhile, Tianming thought, well, if the true-age-unknown Feiling doesn't consider herself old, you don't have anything to worry about!

Now that they had been acquainted, Tianming didn't want to waste any more time and called the rest to enter the Imperius Ruins with him.

"See you later! Remember what I told you," Ziyan said.

"No problem!"

They passed through the Refinement Residences to the entrance of the Imperius Ruins. Turning back, Tianming saw the residences fog up once more, with the 'girl' in a miniskirt blending into it. Her eyes seemed to glow within; however, Tianming seemed to feel fear when he made some distance from the astralqueen, as if there was a huge beast lying in wait within the fog.

"Brother Tianming," Lingfeng said.

"What is it?"

"Astralqueen Ziyan has a fourth imperial soul."

"I see...."

In other words, her caelum was a caelum imperius, one on the level of sovereigns, just like Lingfeng's.

.....

As expected, the Imperius Ruins seemed to be much better than the ninth level of the Violetglory Pagoda. This was one of the two most important places on the entire star when it came to the legacy of caeli. It went without saying that this place was heavily guarded, for if it was destroyed, the foundation the imperium had built up over the course of millions of years would be ruined just like that. Without guidance from caeli imperius, it would be really difficult for the talented to even fulfill their potential, let alone for new sovereigns to rise.

The fact that five 'outsiders' like them could enter was a testament to the trust that the Violetcloud Imperium showed them. In fact, Astralqueen Ziyan's permission was imperative, as she could definitely find a reason to stop them from entering if she really wanted to. Even if Tianming sought out the

sovereign to deal with it for him, he wouldn't be able to get Lingfeng and the rest in as they weren't the ones who had defeated Ye Chen. Even among the young disciples, only Gong Yin was allowed to enter.

There were more than a thousand caeli imperius here, which was around the number Qingyu had had access to back at Orderia. Tianming and the rest were completely floored; every caelum imperius brightly shone like a nova source.

"The five of us now have access to the most important legacy of a nova source world...."

There were many ways to cultivate, even using divine pills could be considered one such way. However, using caeli as guidance was one of the most stable methods, and even Xiaoxiao needed it. The moment she entered, the Archaiionfiend began salivating over the caeli imperius. After all, the caeli in the wondersky realm weren't consumable, but these were! However, she ignored it. Even if a single caelum imperius here was lost, the five of them would be in deep trouble. Those of the imperium were no fools.

They would be visiting this place often in the times to come. "Once I get the universal manna, I'll be ready for the Astraldome."

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The next day, Shengui went to visit them at Violetpeak with a huge smile on his face. He called out, "Little ones, grandpa is here with some delicious food!"

"Old tortoise, you disturbed my nap!" Meow Meow jumped down from the roof and stretched lazily as it looked at Shengui.

"Oh you little kitty, tell your beastmaster that the universal manna has arrived."

"Get my insect brother to do that for you. I need to sleep a little longer." As it was going to collapse, Tianming picked it up.

"You got them?"

"Yeah!" Shengui exclaimed, stroking his belly with satisfaction.

"If I didn't know better, I'd think you were pregnant."

"You little brat... I was just thinking of the fine wine I had just now, alright?"

"Enough nonsense. Now hand them over!"

"Jeez, what's the rush? They're yours anyway."

The six who needed the manna lined up before Shengui, among them Lingfeng, the humanoid specter. Ying Huo and Shuo Yue were already seven-star divine beasts, so they were flying around nearby. Ying Huo showed off its beautiful feathers and said, "Yue Yue, I've been a seven-star divine beast for quite some time now. Being the only one, I was quite lonely, but I can't deny how good I look! Yet being the only looker is a lonely thing. I'm glad that my siblings are going to transform and catch up to my looks!"

Shuo Yue rolled its eyes.

Ying Huo continued, "Don't worry. As long as you follow me, I'll definitely ask for a grade-eight universal manna for you when there's one available. I must cherish my lover more than my siblings, right? Feeling touched? Is your heart wildly beating, rampaging inside you like a certain restless Primordial Terraqua Dragon?"

Shuo Yue almost crashed into a building. It turned into a white fish and splashed into the lake in the middle of Violetpeak.

"Hey, don't fishify out of nowhere! Lovers like us must match!"

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Three days later, they finished evolving after consuming the universal manna. Meow Meow, Lan Huang, Xian Xian, Yin Chen, and the Archaionfiend had grown much stronger, catching up to Ying Huo in power. Back during the duel with Ye Chen in the wondersky realm, Meow Meow and the rest couldn't quite keep up, but now things would be different. The transformed beasts in Tianming's lifebound space were ready—he could finally go to the Astraldome!

Chapter 1580 - Triworld Theory

Once they evolved into seven-star divine beasts, Tianming's beasts had considerably transformed. Meow Meow still looked like the usual, cute cat in its normal form. However, when it turned into the lion-cougar hybrid of a Regal Chaosfiend, its bagua-shaped wings were surrounded by many chaos lightning bolts, making it even more fitting for the name of Genesis Chaos Thunderfiend. The manna it had absorbed was called the Triworld Bolt, which looked like three gigantic lightning beasts. In fact, they were shaped like tadpoles that interlinked with one another and swam amidst the seven stars, hence its grade as a seven-star universal manna.

Absorbing it had caused Meow Meow's speed to increase even further to the point that it could generate two lightning afterimages of itself when it attacked. Additionally, it also unlocked a new ability after undoing some of its bloodline chains, called Triworld Afterlife Bolts or Triworld Afterlife Halls. When it used the new ability, lightning gathered around its body and formed a magnificent hall of lightning around it. It was a building made of nothing but pure electricity, but Tianming could tell that there was something special about it.

It had something to do with its Genesis Chaos Thunderfiend form. When the first afterlife hall manifested, two others would appear at its flanks, making it three halls in one! The other two sources of chaos lightning had never appeared before this. They seemed to have abruptly come out of the void and appeared less fierce than the lightning on Meow Meow's body, but one of them seemed to deal soul damage while the other was far more pure and ancient, containing even more destructive power. Combined with Blitzbane, Worldbolt Blast, they would no doubt unleash complete chaos.

"Your new ability's a little weird. Triworld Afterlife Bolts? What's the triworld? Does it refer to the three worlds of heaven, earth, and man?" Tianming asked. There could be a clue about their past lives in their abilities, something that he had just come to realize.

"It's got nothing to do with that. Triworld refers to the three worlds, namely the base world, the ancestral world, and the alternate world," Meow Meow said after it turned back into a small cat.

"How do you know all that?"

"It just appeared in my head."

"What are those worlds?"

"No idea."

"What else do you know about them then?"

"Nothing apart from their existence. It's kind of like how I know I'm the Genesis Chaos Thunderfiend, but nothing about my past," it said as it lazily stretched and yawned. It seemed sleepy again.

Tianming gave it a little more thought. "It appears that the ability contains secrets about Meow Meow, and there's two more kinds of lightning that came with it.... Wait, if the base world is the world we exist in, then could the alternate world refer to the xenomemory space? The world of caeli? That's why one of the three afterlife halls has lightning that can damage souls. That leaves the ancestral world...."

Tianming suddenly recalled the Kunlan Realm and Primodragon Cave. They seemed to be sources, or bases, of certain cultivation techniques.

"Could the ancestral world refer to places like the Primodragon Cave or the Kunlan Realm? Maybe both of them belong to the ancestral world?" At any rate, it was just a wild guess. Nobody in the Violetglory Star had any concept of the triworld. As far as they knew, there was only the astralscape of order, while the xenomemory space where the wondersky realms existed was a place of dreams that couldn't influence reality. As long as one wasn't exiled to it, no person in reality would find their actual bodies there, as there was no real physical connection that existed to facilitate interworld interactions.

"The triworld and the ancestral world.... I wonder what other secrets lie beyond them." The folks of the Flameyellow Continent only knew of the three worlds of man, earth, and heaven. Earth referred to the cycle of reincarnation, man referred to the world of humans, while heaven referred to the world of gods in general. There was also a distinction between the realms of order and chaos above the Welkin plane.

"If my guess is right and the triworld corresponds to what I think it does, how do the three worlds relate? Are they parts of a greater whole? Or parallel worlds? Maybe there's a triworld for each of them?" The other two kinds of lightning that appeared with the other afterlife halls seemed to draw power from those different worlds. Though Tianming wanted to find out more, Meow Meow had already fallen asleep. "Dammit!"

Apart from the cat, the other three had also evolved well. The manna Lan Huang consumed was called the Sevenfold Greatstars. As its name suggested, it was formed by a chain of seven starlike objects. Lan Huang became even more physically imposing, with each of its scales gaining another layer of seven-colored protective barrier. Now, it brightly glowed and changed colors nonstop. It was the first time Tianming had seen such a garish-looking lifebound beast that shifted color from red to orange, green, blue, and so on.

Xian Xian's universal manna was called the Truesoul Sapling. When it had evolved into a six-star divine beast, it had awakened the Demise Greenloti, so there was no new flower this time around. However, its tree form had changed quite a lot.

Lastly, Yin Chen had unlocked yet another form: a butterfly. The seven-star universal manna it consumed was called the Skybreak Wings. Millions of butterflies came flying out of his lifebound space, flapping their blade-like wings, making for quite a majestic sight indeed. No doubt this was Yin Chen's most beautiful form to date. It also had some special abilities that could be put to good use in combat. Tianming was all too happy at seeing their transformations.

"Your evolution also helps me evolve! Come on, stronger bloodlines!" With their symbiotic cultivation blending all of their bloodlines together, he was the most ferocious Primordial Chaos Beast of them all.