

## The Ages 1591

### Chapter 1591 - Bloodfiend Hell

Most shockingly, this specter also had a small head on each of his shoulders! The two heads looked like those of newborn babies. While they were small, their facial features were as complete as the main head in the center. They also seemed to have their own consciousnesses. It seemed like the three heads were sharing the same body. This was the kind of oddity that rivaled that of the dreamless celestials. The unique features of the different species across the astralscape made Tianming look forward to learning more about them.

When he had first come to the Astraldome, he learned that 'specter' was actually a category of different kinds of races, such as the infernal soul race, skywolf royals, skyfox fiends, and now this new kind of specter he saw before him. While their bloodlines diverged, they shared common differences that distinguished them from totemancers and beastmasters.

All six of the specter's eyes looked at Tianming. "Don't get in my way! Buzz off!" cried the largest head that controlled the body.

"Didn't you hear our boss? Make way!" said the smaller head on the left shoulder.

"If you aren't smart about it, we'll tear your organs out! Our boss already killed a hundred people, so another one is no big deal!" said the head on the right shoulder that sounded female. Tianming looked closer and saw that it was indeed the case, not that the sex mattered since the head was more of a parasitic organism on Xue Tu... or was it perhaps a symbiotic lifeform? Did it also have control over the body? Those were mysteries that Tianming didn't have an answer to.

"You're threatening me because you fear that I'll slow you down and let your pursuers catch up, right?" Tianming said.

Based on those words, Xue Tu could immediately tell that nobody would let go of a redname like him. He was a treasure just waiting to be claimed. He didn't waste words and brought out a ghastly red blade before slashing it toward Tianming. Bloodlust instantly filled the air as his physique pulsed to prepare for battle. Tianming saw that the two shoulder-heads also had stars in their eyes.

Are the two heads also able to use abilities? Right as that notion flashed through his mind, the two heads opened their mouths and let out streams of bloody mist, which each formed a hundred-meter-long claw that slammed toward him!

"Damn, now that's something new!" Tianming didn't let Ying Huo and the rest out, choosing to use his totems to counter. He started with Eastdivinity Acme. The flaming sword clashed into the first bestial claw, followed by Westvoid Progenifiend, Welkin Imperius, Infinitum Spatium, and then the rest to tear apart the two claws.

"Impressive!" Tianming felt that while his opponent wasn't a solarian, those two abilities weren't far off from Ye Chen's attacks. If he was also a twelfth-level constellier, he would definitely stand a chance against a first-level solarian.

"I should have Feng come here and test himself too. If he can defeat Long Renshe, he definitely isn't weak." Tianming dealt with the assault in a relaxed manner; Xue Tu's abilities had easily been

suppressed. Tianming's totems also took care of his slash, the clash of which also tore apart many of the trees in the surroundings. After the greenish ground was blasted apart, a lot of green liquid splattered all around. Xue Tu was sent smashing around into the ground, rolling a few times before he steadied himself.

"What?! Darn it! How dare you block His Highness Xue Tu? Do you know who His Highness is?! Li Tianming, it's over for you and your star! The army of Bloodfiend Hell will wipe you out!" cried the head on the left with a high-pitched voice like a clown.

"Li Tianming of Violetglory, His Highness wanted to ignore you, yet you angered His Highness! The young scion of the bloodfiends isn't someone you can take on!" said the head on the right shoulder. Their expressions made them look more beast than man. Normally, that would scare a good number of people, but it just looked silly to Tianming.

"Bloodfiend Hell? Doesn't your label read Seventh Sun?" Tianming only used seven of his godswords. He didn't want to terrify his opponent, but to take his time and get more information out of them.

"Haha, fool! Seventh Sun has been conquered by Bloodfiend Hell. All the humans there have become our slaves! It's now a hunting ground for us, and all the totemancers and beastmasters are livestock! Our master only used Seventh Sun's place in the Astraldome, fool!" said the head on the left, fiendishly cackling.

"Livestock?" It was a fate that could have befallen those of the Flameyellow Continent during the invasion of the Ninefold Hell. Tianming noticed that he knew frighteningly little about specters. Yao Mimi from before was a specter and looked rather cute and humanlike, yet worlds like the Skywolf Star and Bloodfiend Hell had violent, savage specters. He could only imagine the terrible fate of the denizens of Seventh Sun. "Perhaps this is the true nature of the astralscape of order." The endless astralscape might seem peaceful and quiet, but violence always lurked beneath.

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### **Chapter 1592 - World of Sorrow**

If an individual lost in battle, the worst that could happen was death. But if a nova source world was defeated, either their world was destroyed or they and their descendants would be bred as livestock. The cruelty that was inherent in the universe chilled Tianming to the bone. Not only did it make him feel small, he also started to feel actual bloodlust against Xue Tu. Perhaps that was also due to him being human, rather than specter. The clear derision in the eyes of the two shoulder-heads displeased him even more. However, Xue Tu himself barely spoke. His expression was constantly cold and contemptuous, like most villains.

"Shut up," he said, causing the two shoulder-heads to clam up. They glared at Tianming, as if they were blaming him for their master scolding them.

"Encountering a bloodfiend is a first for me. Are those two things on your shoulders part of your body?" Tianming asked.

"You seem to have decent cultivation, but I have no time to waste words on you," Xue Tu coldly said.

Tianming manifested his eighth totem above his head. "I see. Then forget it, I'm not that interested in you anyway."

Xue Tu was the one in a rush to leave, so he had to get rid of this obstacle. That instant, his eyes turned fierce and the classic transformation of specters made an appearance. Bodhi had used such an ability to turn into a half-wolf. As for Xue Tu, he visibly grew in size, followed by spikes protruding from various parts of his body that could double as weapons. As for his two shoulders, they separated from his body and fell to the ground before wriggling and growing. New bodies formed with the heads as their basis. Three slightly different Xue Tus were now standing before Tianming. As expected, the one on the right sported a feminine figure, being slightly smaller in stature and having longer hair. The three of them wielded weapons and had stars in their eyes. Not to mention, every single one of them was stronger than the combined Xue Tu from before.

"What the hell? You're three people, not one! Isn't this cheating?!" Tianming snapped. The Astraldome was designed for single combatants. Even the 'parasitic' Soulfriend wouldn't be allowed entry, as it wasn't considered a lifebound beast or totem.

"Hehe... the wondersky realm determined that we're a single entity! This is a special talent of us bloodfiends!" said the cold Xue Tu on the left.

"The other two are actually descendants of the humans of Seventh Sun, descendants of their sovereign, in fact. Isn't that interesting?" said the one in the middle. It was the longest sentence he had said to Tianming so far. After that, all three of them attacked.

"They used to be humans...." Tianming imagined the bloodfiends absorbing two humans to become a part of their bodies. Even though it was considered a natural talent, it was a really dehumanizing process. Not to mention, who was controlling the foul-mouthed man and woman? Whose will was it? Had they been assimilated in both body and mind? It didn't seem that simple, however, as they called Xue Tu their master. Perhaps it was a kind of invasive mind control that took place along with the assimilation of their bodies. Though Tianming was still curious about how it worked, the Xue Tus didn't give him time to contemplate. They used abilities and battle arts, attacking from three directions. Though the other bodies' battle arts seemed slightly inferior to the main Xue Tu's, it wasn't a big difference.

"Die!" they cried as they leapt toward Tianming.

"It's over." Tianming's expression was stone cold. As a human himself, he felt disgust at hearing about the treatment of his brethren. His ninth totem manifested, joining the rest as they exuded dense sword ki. "Die!"

The power of the Frozen Glasstree in his body was concentrated on the Grand-Orient Sword. This new addition to his power had greatly powered up his sword body, and he wasn't even done absorbing the thing. All the pieces of the puzzle were assembled: his sword body, totems, and fusion strikes. He held his sword in both hands, flaring with sword ki. Though he only had one sword, he executed all six sword moves combined, unleashing six dragons toward his enemy! His totems formed a sword formation around him while his dragons of different attributes fused together, their clashing attributes eliciting destructive reactions. The Ninedragon Tribulation was made to be used by totemancers, and with all of

its supporting parts, it reached the peak of a seventh-realm divine art without lifebound beasts or abilities. Tianming's sword fell as his totems neutralized the abilities of the three Xue Tus.

"Nine tot—" Before Xue Tu could even finish the word, he had been defeated. There was only disbelief on his face as he was rendered utterly useless by the sword ki.

"Your Highness!" The other two charged forward, but were instantly skewered by Tianming's Myriadsword Providence, each sword of which was using a different strike of the Ninedragon Tribulation. The three of them were completely torn apart, completely unable to resist him. They were just as shocked to be wiped out in an instant. Tianming even noticed some tears in the air, which was weird. It seemed that they hadn't just been assimilated, their souls had also been corrupted and brainwashed, leaving nothing behind but loyalty toward Xue Tu.

"How tragic and cruel.... What kind of evil method is this?"

### **Chapter 1593 - Trouble**

Even after killing Xue Tu and saving himself from having to defeat a hundred others, Tianming still felt a little bad. He was feeling melancholy for the people of the Seventh Sun, a world he had no idea about. The cruelty of the natural struggle for survival in the universe made it so that even death wasn't the worst fate that could befall people. The existence of a process that allowed one lifeform to absorb and assimilate the body and soul of others into the bodies of their hated nemeses was one such horrifying example. The two shoulder-heads' worship for their master was really sad to behold, and it greatly unnerved Tianming.

"They're humans, too, and I feel their pain like my own. Perhaps that's a sign that there's hope for humanity." Thankfully, he wasn't a cold, unfeeling person. In fact, he was just the opposite. He was still reeling from how the sun emperor and Li Wudi had affected him. "If there are creatures that can assimilate others through their blood, could the sun emperor be keeping my godfather imprisoned to eventually do such a thing? He's just a normal person from the chaos skyjail who happens to be an octabane. If it weren't for special circumstances, he wouldn't have had to fight the sun emperor for us to escape!"

The bloodfiends reminded him about the potential vile methods the sun emperor could use. "We're experiments! Totems and lifebound beasts...."

While he didn't know how, he felt almost certain that Li Wudi could eventually suffer such a fate, or worse, yet what could he do about it? Perhaps the only thing he could do now was master the Ninedragon Tribulation the best he could to get stronger and find a way to rise in the Astraldome. Though the fact that it would take a lot of time weighed on him heavily.

"If you ask me, there's no point in caring so much about it. I haven't lived long in this life, but even I understand that there's some things that simply can't be changed. Given your current abilities, if you're lucky, you'll be able to stop these things before they happen, but if you aren't lucky, the best you can do is avenge them. I don't doubt that your godfather hopes you'll never return. Most importantly, you shouldn't bring his precious daughter back. He sacrificed much to get her off that cursed star," Ying Huo said, its understanding of Tianming the best, as it was the one who had been on the journey with him the longest.

"Boss, whenever I feel bad, I just take a nap. When I wake up, I feel amazing again," Meow Meow weakly suggested.

"How about running around and sweating it out?" Lan Huang said.

"I think eating a hefty meal is the best!" Xian Xian said, its spiritform hugging Tianming's neck and planting a kiss on his cheeks.

"No way... bathing best!" Yin Chen said.

All of them had come out, much to Tianming's surprise. They innocently looked at him, earnestly trying to suggest ways for him to keep those worries at bay. Though their methods wouldn't work for him, he was cheered up all the same for the simple fact that he had these innocent and naive beasts to cherish as lifelong companions.

"All of you have allowed my life to change and brought me from being a common mortal to the realm of the gods. We've already done so much, so what's there to worry about? There's nothing I can't do with enough time and dedication, as long as you're with me." Though he said that, the fog in his eyes still remained. There was no way he could be completely nonchalant about the suffering of other humans; however, he could at least keep his faith glowing bright with them around.

"As long as you get it. This Chicken Bro will protect you. You're my minion, after all!" Ying Huo said, patting him on the shoulder with its wing.

"Yeah, right." What a shameless little chick.

"Little Li, don't feel down. I'll make sure to leave the bones for you the next time you feed me meat," Xian Xian said, stroking Tianming's head with its little hand and a maternal smile.

Somehow, all of that made him feel like a pet being cheered up. "Enough, I'm fine now." The look on his face had changed. He was even more faithful and dedicated now. "In the Grand-Orient Realm, the Li Saint Clan, a really insignificant faction from the bigger picture of the astralscape, still embraced defying fate as its core teaching and managed to forge a prosperous sect in their territory. My godfather came back from a death-like state of fourteen years to rise more powerfully than before as a talented octabane. The spirit of the people is the true treasure. Even though the sun emperor is now the fate that controls us, neither my godfather nor I will accept it!"

Tianming trusted Li Wudi as much as he did himself. "If he was able to turn things around once and allow us to escape, he can continue fighting! He won't lose, and neither will we!" With that in mind, the will to defy fate was engraved in his spirit and bane-rings.

When he looked up, he saw that his name and designation were now blood red, almost as if every stroke of the words was dripping with blood. It wouldn't take long before people came chasing after him. "I can only go to the second level of the Tranquil Battlefield by lasting an entire day and getting rewarded by the wonderians. Let's do it!"

Unlike Xue Tu, who frantically ran to elude his pursuers, Tianming stood his ground with passion in his eyes. "Come however many, I'll kill them all! Let's see what surprises the astralscape has to offer!" he declared.

At that cue, Ying Huo turned into a gigantic flaming phoenix and flew around in the sky. Meow Meow's body sparked with lightning before darkness enveloped it as it morphed into the terrifying Regal Chaosfiend. Lan Huang's colorful body now shone even brighter than the red light in Tianming's eyes, its roar piercing through the thick fog and reaching the countless geniuses that were closing in on them.

### **Chapter 1594 - Famous Across Stars**

The entire battlefield was Xian Xian's natural habitat. It was the tallest tree in the dense forest, and the foggy mist made it hard for others to distinguish it from the other trees. The five million Yin Chens were even harder to spot, having spread across the trees, ground, rocks, and rivers, obtaining a complete view of the surroundings at all times and able to mobilize into an army of metal insects. Tianming himself didn't hide his nine totems and let them stand tall on the ground behind him.

"I'll make sure every genius from the stars and the people of the myriad worlds remember my name." So far, there were already nine such worlds. The Seventh Sun and Bloodfiend Hell probably would also pay attention to him from now on as well, since Xue Tu was their proud representative. No doubt, people from countless worlds would come to him to witness his impressiveness for themselves!

"Before I fought Ye Chen in the wondersky realm, I heard he defeated geniuses from a dozen other nova source worlds. Back then, he'd just entered the Tranquil Battlefield, like I have now. But after our draw, people said he shook the Astraldome, though I wonder if that was just an exaggeration. All he did was kill a rednamed hundred-man slayer and last a day to get to the second level of the Tranquil Battlefield."

In other words, as long as Tianming succeeded today, he would have caught up to Ye Chen's achievements. "I bet there'll be another uproar once I do."

The Astraldome was actually a rather bad place for one's true abilities to be evaluated. For instance, Tianming's abilities had been rated as weaker than they were in the real world. Not to mention, there were no doubt countless more powerful geniuses from worlds like Orderia that had no access to wondersky realms.

Even so, Tianming felt like he had hit the jackpot ever since coming in. Orderia and the Violetglory Star seemed pretty normal from what he had seen in the wondersky realm, yet were they really so? To Tianming, the celestial orderians, Violetcloud Imperium, and the Divineglory Dynasty were powerful giants. If the wondersky realm was a way for him to look to the stars for inspiration, Orderia and the Violetglory Star were the firm grounds upon which he had to work toward his aspirations. The only reality was where his true body was.

"I believe the divine wondersky race is wrong to think that they're the best of the best. Their influence across the astralscape is far from all encompassing, creating a false sense of domination. In the real world, the Violetglory Star, Orderia, Seventh Sun, and the Bloodfiend Hell are practically autonomous. I don't even know where they are, and even with the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb I have no idea if I'll ever be able to reach them."

Tianming was all too aware of the reality that mattered. He considered the Astraldome as nothing more than a stage for his performance, rather than a place to accurately assess his abilities. The reason people were shocked that Ye Chen made it to the second level of the Tranquil Battlefield was because the extent of the astralscape they could see was far too small. They were limited to places with wondersky

realms, and there were likely to be far more places that didn't have those. While Tianming thirsted for battle, he knew it wasn't real here. What mattered was the Violetglory Star, where his real body was.

"I won't die here, but I can die in reality!" In other words, what he did in the Astraldome was all in service for what he could achieve in reality. One had to remember the ground one stood on even as they looked toward the stars. After all, the higher one flew, the harder they would fall. He gripped the Grand-Orient Sword tight, studying its patterns, and sighed, waiting for his next opponent to come.

Back home, the entire star was incensed when Tianming's name turned red. The wondersky realm was filled to the brim with caeli who were spectating the battle. There were more spectators than when Ye Chen had become a redname, and this was Tianming's first time in the Astraldome. Unlike Ye Chen, he was far more domineering. Ye Chen had used a movement skill to avoid getting attacked, while Tianming just stood there like a mountain, inspiring a lot of chatter.

"Is he simply ignorant of the powerful people in the astralscape, or is he just that confident?"

"I guess time will tell. If he manages to succeed despite not running around, then he's invincible. If he fails, he's just an ignorant and arrogant kid."

Everyone had their eyes peeled to see which would be the case.

"The first opponent is here! Wait, they're gone...."

It had happened too quickly. Meow Meow and Ying Huo had charged toward the enemy and blasted them to pieces before they'd even spotted Tianming. More and more people came, all of them sharing similar fates.

"If he doesn't move from there, he could face more than a hundred times the opponents Ye Chen did. How many did he kill back then?"

"Ye Chen had to defeat seventeen people while moving around."

"Then won't Tianming be facing close to a thousand people? Are there even that many people on the first level?"

"Definitely. The first level of the Tranquil Battlefield has the most people."

"No matter the outcome, I can say for sure that Li Tianming's at least far more badass than Ye Chen ever was. He's the only one in the Astraldome to pull such a stunt!"

"You can say that, but that's cause you haven't seen many Astraldome battles in the first place."

"Haha!"

The Violetglory Star's wondersky realm was filled with merry spectators as Tianming slaughtered his opponents. The fact that Xue Tu had been able to become a hundred-man slayer showed that he was among the strongest on the first level. As for the others that came for Tianming, they were on the level of Yao Mimi and the rest. There would be a chance for them if they banded together, but they stood no chance the way they were coming at Tianming one after another. They were only eighth- or ninth-level constelliers, after all.

Tianming split his sword in two and kept fighting people from all kinds of different worlds. No matter their skills, they all met the cruel fate of being beheaded. However, the Lifesteal Silverdragon was still the most efficient, easily piercing the hearts of multiple enemies. The rest of his beasts were spread out across the battlefield. Xian Xian fought from the center of the formation, with Lan Huang as the vanguard and Yin Chen supervising the surroundings. Ying Huo and Meow Meow freely moved around to harvest helpless fighters. Tianming, on the other hand, was a meat grinder with his nine totems. His kill streak allowed him to vent quite a lot of inner frustrations.

"Die!" More and more people fell. There was even one instance where thirty people charged him at once, only to be torn apart by the sword formation of Myriadword Providence.

"Li Tianming of the Violetglory Star has nine totems and five lifebound beasts!"

"Who in the world is he?!"

Everyone spectating was shocked by Tianming, whose name they had never heard before. Within their little wondersky realms, they weren't able to see how vast the universe truly was. All they could see was what the little window of the wonderians showed them.

"Li Tianming is far too fierce. Nobody like him has appeared in the Astraldome before."

"What kind of place is the Violetglory Star? What kind of civilization do they have to be able to produce such a fearsome talent?"

"Are they incredibly powerful in the center of the astralscape? Not even the top genius of our world can take a single hit from him!"

Tianming was single-handedly changing how people viewed the Violetglory Star. Though, the way he saw it, there was no way it was situated in the center of the astralscape, given how little time it had taken for his divine astralship to reach it.

A day soon passed. As the range of visibility of the redname was limited to a local area, rather than the full battlefield, staying in one spot had probably limited the number of people he'd had to fight. And with Yin Chen keeping an eye out, he would never be ambushed. When there were no enemies incoming, he would hunt those who were lying in ambush. Killing in the wondersky realm wouldn't weigh on his conscience anyway.

"Come on! Who's next?"

There wasn't even any blood or corpses in the wondersky realm. After the fights, the surrounding environment was covered in green liquid, just as Tianming had planned. That caused the people of the myriad worlds to remember him well. It wasn't just other worlds, even his world was shocked once more, the second time since he defeated Ye Chen. Even those from the Divineglory Dynasty felt proud for being on the same star as him. Tianming once more secured some faith of the cultivators of the Violetglory Star. Now, he wondered what kind of reward he would get.

**Chapter 1595 - Goddess Flowerfall**



Eventually, Tianming succeeded in holding the title for the full day. Though some pursuers had arrived beforehand, they hesitated to fight and lost their chance. They merely watched him with a gaping mouth, unable to say a single word. Surely, the spectators from their worlds were just as dumbstruck.

Tianming then disappeared from the battlefield, having been transported to the second level. No doubt, the ones that made it through would be even more talented, and there were nine levels in the Tranquil Battlefield alone to filter out more and more talented geniuses. He wondered what kind of genius would be able to make it to the final level.

Naturally, the Tranquil Battlefield was only for those under a hundred years old, who were no doubt a level below the ones above that age. Most people Tianming had encountered in the first level were fifty and under. In other words, there was still a wide age range in the Tranquil Battlefield. He figured that the ones under thirty years of age would be gathered around the first four levels, with only those around eighty or above at the highest level. No doubt, only the most talented who'd had time to develop would be able to train up there, which would pose quite a challenge to him.

The first level was just the foundation, and it had taken him an entire day to make it to the next level. A green light surrounded him and he felt he was transported to another location, this time reappearing in a green hall. It looked really old and foggy. There were many murals in the huge hall that were slightly obscured by the fog. No doubt, the murals were there to show off the mysterious divine wonderians to Tianming.

There was a stone platform in the center of the hall with a green glass ball on top of it—Tianming's reward. This was the first thing he would get from the Astraldome.

"I wonder what it is..." He stepped toward it and appeared next to the platform to pick up the glass ball. As expected, it was a legacy formation.

"It must be a battle art or technique." This was hardly a rare reward, where wondersky realms were concerned. It was hard to imagine anything tangible being given as a reward to caeli, whereas things like techniques could be properly received. There were legends about the wonderians shipping certain kinds of rewards, but that probably only applied to rewards from higher-level battlefields.

Tianming received it through his caelum's senses, absorbing the green ball and instantly appearing in a different world. This was the world of a legacy formation, similar to the space inside the Grand-Orient Sword. It was filled with colors everywhere, making for a rather picturesque display of nature. The moment he entered, he felt a strong gust of wind. Flower petals were scattered everywhere throughout the air, gathering together to form a floral river.

"What is all this?" Were they giving a flowery battle art to someone as impressive and fierce as him? The moment that thought occurred in his mind, he felt killing intent. The river of flowers was actually sowing destruction everywhere it went. At the same time, the name of the battle art flooded into his mind.

"Seventh-realm divine art, Goddess Flowerfall? Apparently, its two moves are called Blissful Union and Painstaking Separation. Is it a whip art?" What kind of reward was this? Not to mention the names of the moves.... He only wondered what others would think about them.

Jokes aside, Goddess Flowerfall seemed to be quite a powerful move, despite its graceful appearance. Wherever the river of flowers went, everything turned into flowers and was reduced to nothingness. "Welp, it's only a reward for the first level of the battlefield anyway, so I'm not expecting too much."

Not to mention, there were limited rewards one could gain from the wondersky realm. If he wanted something good, he would have to look in the upper levels. Tianming committed the moves to memory. "So it's actually a powerful attack disguised by the innocuous flower petals. Perhaps it could be my new killer move when used with the Lifesteal Silverdragon. Xian Xian might be able to roughly use it, too. Thankfully I don't need to call out the name of the moves when I fight. That'd be embarrassing."

He imagined how it would look if he was fighting against another guy and calling out the romantic names of the strikes. Spectators might think that they were in a relationship. When he left the green ball, the hall vanished like it was never there and the environment changed once more. Tianming appeared above an emerald-green ocean that smelled of rot, almost like the sap from the trees on the first level. The smell was utterly unbearable, as if countless fish had died in the ocean and begun rotting. Either way, he was certain that he was in the second level now.

"That's enough for today. I have to go back and train the Ninedragon Tribulation." He decided that it was a good stopping point. He had only come to the Astraldome to impress those in the imperium anyway, and he'd created one miracle after another for just that. "Gotta give the audience what they crave. Next time, they'll be even more excited."

Should someone get a redname and leave instead of fighting or fleeing, they would be suspended from the wondersky realm for six months, so seldom if ever did anyone leave the challenge before it was over, one way or the other.

"Time to go back!" Heading back to the real world from this point was a little troublesome. His caelum would first have to be transported to his hometown's wondersky realm. As he passed through the transport corridor, he returned to the void where he could see the colorful butterfly. It looked as mystical as ever. Then he sank into the butterfly and returned to the wondersky realm. Everywhere around him looked merry and bustling, with countless proud Violetglorians looking at him.

"I'm home!" Home was where the family was. For him, Violetpeak was now their home.

## **Chapter 1596 - Icy Blue**

Within a small building near the lake in the wondersky realm, the projection came to an end as Tianming vanished from the world of misty green. The black-robed minister supreme applauded and said, "He was absolutely unstoppable and made his way to the second level of the Tranquil Battlefield, shocking countless worlds. Looks like he's much stronger than you were back then. The two youths of us divineglorians probably won't be able to match up to him."

The two youths beside him approached, looking at each other with complex expressions. They were under huge pressure.

"He used to keep a really low profile. But now he's intentionally drawing attention," said Princess Shen Yu as she bit her lip.

"That's right. He's trying to build influence in the imperium, so he knows what he has to do," said the minister supreme. He patted Ye Chen on the shoulder and said, "You used to be our miracle, but now you've been surpassed. Think carefully about your future. Take back what belongs to you. I don't think you're any worse than him."

"Understood." Ye Chen nodded, his gaze darkening somewhat. He had been shocked again and again in recent times. His nonchalant, vibrant self was no longer anywhere to be seen.

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Back at Violetpeak, Tianming opened his eyes within the heavenly locus formation and immediately spotted a beautiful face in front of him. Her wide eyes stared at him and she blushed when he snapped awake. "Big Brother, you're back...."

"Oh, what's this? Were you trying to cop a feel while I was unconscious in the wondersky realm?" Tianming said, immediately pulling Feiling into his embrace with an incredibly practiced motion.

"Hey, let go! There's a lot of people outside...." Though she said that, she plastered her face against his chest and said it at the lowest volume she could, almost as if she didn't want him to hear it.

"Huh?" Tianming's eyes flashed as he held her by the face. "Ling'er, you look about sixteen now! You're more or less how you looked before! Hehe...."

"Don't laugh like this. You sound like a villain." She gave his mouth a hard pinch.

"Ah, you've grown so much...." He counted the pleasure balls in his spatial ring. The time to use them would come soon.

"You and your dastardly antics," Feiling said, lowering her head as her heart beat quickly. Her stiff body relaxed as she melted into him like a creature without bones. Since her rebirth, she had been growing at a rate ten times that of normal people, making for quite a striking visual change. She felt as if she was quickly being cooked to prepare a feast for Tianming. It felt really weird to contemplate, but even she thought it was about time their relationship developed to that point. At this point, she was only a marriage ceremony away from being his wife, considering all they had been through.

"Take it easy." He lightly tapped her cheeks. Though the mood was right for both of them, now was definitely not the right time.

"Alright." Though, I wouldn't refuse if you had insisted, she thought. They'd gone through life and death together and had parted many times before too. They wouldn't have waited, had her rebirth been without problems that caused her apparent age to regress. She felt like she needed a way to prove that they belonged to each other. They looked into each other's eyes, their gazes passionate; they were barely able to hold back their love for each other.

"Wait for me." Tianming stood up and put her on the ground. She seemed taller than before, as well, and her figure was turning even more defined than before. He hugged her tight before loosening his grip and heading out. There were many who were waiting for his return outside.

"Big Brother...." The way she looked at him was filled with longing and desire. Without her noticing, a film of blue had clouded her black irises and even spread out through her entire eye. They were cold, eternal, and icy colors that even seemed to give her a freezing aura.

"Oh, wait!" Tianming turned around, instantly causing the icy blue to vanish.

Her stiff expression turned into a smile once more. She shook her head to refresh herself and said, "What's wrong, Big Brother?"

"How are the Flashsoul Skywings? Have you gotten used to them?"

"Yeah, I have. You won't be able to catch me even if you try."

"Great. Let's play catch when I come back. If you get caught... hehehe...."

"Idiot...." This was the teasing she didn't mind, and perhaps even enjoyed. As Tianming left, her eyes turned icy blue once more. "Big... Brother?"

She turned her gaze down, looking at her sleeves. Her clothes were still filled with the scent of the man who had just left.

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When Tianming went outside, he saw tens of millions of people outside Violetpeak, showering him with attention and excitement. He was the genius that had made them proud across the vast astralscape! Apart from Primary, these people had never gone to other nova source worlds before. The fact that Tianming had made them known across distant worlds made them feel a pride they didn't know they had.

"Astralking Tianming!" they cheered so loudly that even the buildings behind him shook. Tianming had greatly underestimated the reaction he would get from his exploits in the Astraldome. Although the Violetglory Star's reputation wasn't a big deal to those from other worlds, it was indispensable to the cultivators of their star. Their lives had been meaningfully enhanced, thanks to Tianming.

### **Chapter 1597 - Glorious Heart**

Though Ye Chen had made it to the second level as well, the way he'd done it was just like everyone else and there was nothing interesting about it. At that moment, Tianming noticed something exciting.

"Omnisentient Will!"

A small part of the divine wills of the tens of millions of people of the imperium formed a white mist and flooded toward Tianming's Imperial Will. If this continued, he would eventually be able to use the power of the people like he had in the Flameyellow Continent. This was also a sign that he had succeeded in the Violetcloud Imperium where he'd failed at the Azurecloud Continent and Xuanyuan Dragon Sect. After all, he was only controlling things in the background in the former, while most of the faith during the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect's grand battle had flooded toward the temporarily resurrected Dragon Imperials.

The cloud of Omnisentient Will of such a large empire was definitely nothing to scoff at. Though it seemed immaterial, it was a huge help to Tianming's growth. "At this rate, I'll probably really be able to form Omnisentient Threads here and use the power of the entire star!"

His former goal was the Myriad Solar Sects, and he didn't think he would be able to make so much progress with the people of the imperium through his results in the Astraldome. Now he was even more certain of his path. Everyone continued looking at Tianming with fervent respect, among whom were youths from the Pentarchy's archclans.

"Congratulations, Astralking Tianming!" Shengui and Gong Xiong said, leading many other seniors to do the same. Even they had been impressed by his achievements, and Tianming was quite surprised to notice Astralking Xuanluan among them.

"Astralking Tianming, your performance was thoroughly convincing," said the astralking. He was a core member of the Goldseal Archclan; did his words represent the will of the archclan as a whole?

"It's thanks to your generosity that I even have this opportunity," Tianming humbly said.

"It's a small matter. If you need anything else, feel free to bring it up."

"Many thanks." Now, Tianming had achieved most of his goals. Five ore veins were far from the limit of Yin Chen, so having Astralking Xuanluan's help would be essential. I wonder if the other archclans would see how useful I can be to them and put aside the infighting as Astralqueen Ziyao hopes. Only time will tell.

"Alright, let's stop keeping Astralking Tianming from his cultivation. Time to leave," Shengui said, sending the respectful cultivators off with excitement still brimming in their hearts.

Even without intentionally spreading the word, many people had gone to the wondersky realm and witnessed the battle for themselves. Now, Tianming was a legendary household name across the entire star. As Shengui had said, "The myriad worlds of the astralscape are so far apart that it's hard for them to convene. That's why every one of them is so eager to prove themselves when they have the chance! All this time, our performance in the Astraldome has been less than stellar, leading to the belief that we would definitely lose in an actual astral war. However, your fight has given us the confidence boost we needed. It's a historic moment."

The unique nature of the astralscape gave rise to the desire to compete against other races and worlds, and the Astraldome was the only place where such competitions could be realized without any significant cost, but with the benefit of greatly boosting morale. It didn't matter that Tianming wasn't a native, since most people weren't aware of that fact anyway.

"I can't dally! I have to continue working hard for the battles ahead!" Tianming returned to Violetpeak and continued cultivating.

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Dense fog made of nova source surrounded Tianming. The worship he had just received, coupled with the change in the bloodlines of Meow Meow and the rest and his combat experience from the Astraldome, made him feel that he was on the threshold of moving to the next level. His Imperial Will had grown considerably this time around. The sword-shaped divine will in each of his albi kept growing larger and tougher, stabilizing Tianming's five-layered astral discs even further.

"Let's try increasing the amount of astralforce to see if I can take it." He used the codices of all five Primordial Chaos Beasts, rapidly filling his astral discs with power. As the nova source here slightly

differed from that of Orderia, being a little gentler, the effects it had on his astral discs would be slightly weaker. However, this was perfect for his primordial disc and radix disc, allowing Lan Huang and Xian Xian to grow faster.

A few days later, he finally succeeded in reaching the tenth level of the Constellation stage. "I'm coming closer and closer to becoming a solarian. By now, first-level solarrians are no longer my match. Let's hope I can meet someone who's that strong on the second or third level of the Tranquil Battlefield. Otherwise I'll have no choice but to go beat up Ye Chen again."

He needed a good match to continue raising the faith of the people in the imperium. "There's no rush, though. Yin Chen will be done soon and have ten million bodies. If that isn't its limit, I'll ask for more ore veins from Astralking Xuanluan. I still have to work on the Frozen Glasstree, too."

The most important part was still the Ninedragon Tribulation. He had run into quite a bit of trouble at the seventh basic move. The Ninedragon Tribulation was the key to controlling the Imperial Dragon Tomb, yet it was incredibly difficult to master! He had already more or less mastered Goddess Flowerfall, but that couldn't even begin to compare. He still had no idea how the seventh strike worked.

In time, Yin Chen managed to reach ten million bodies, and Tianming had also absorbed more than half of the Frozen Glasstree, though he still had no luck with the seventh move. That made him feel a little anxious.

These days, Feiling spent much time with him, playing and cultivating together at all times. When he felt down, she consoled and guided him, or even played around and teased him. Since Tianming wasn't making any progress either way, he focused more of his attention on her, instead.

### **Chapter 1598 - Until the Stones Crumble**

"What are you doing?" Feiling gave Tianming a surprised look as her face flushed red and her body stiffened up from the nervousness.

"Wanna take a guess at that?" Tianming daringly said.

"I'm asking what you're doing looking at me like that...." She felt a little faint. Now, it almost seemed like she was the one who came up with the idea.

"Because you look so good, of course." Tianming didn't know when, but he had come to develop quite a penchant for teasing her. Her cute reactions were simply irresistible, and the place and time were both peaceful. There was no better time to mess around, not that Tianming would ever let that stop him from devouring such a gourmet delicacy.

"When... when are you going to wed me?" Feiling asked, taking two steps back and lowering her head.

"Wed you?" Tianming really hadn't considered it before, and he felt a little guilty that she had to be the one to bring it up. He was quite crude when it came to matters of romance. Feiling had sensitive emotional needs, and familiar romantic rituals were important to her. It was crucial that their relationship be official.

Seeing him so unprepared, she pouted and stayed quiet.

"Ling'er..." Tianming came up to her and put her palm on his chest. "I'm sorry. I never considered that until now. I thought it was enough that everyone else knew that we're in a relationship. As for marriage... my parents aren't around and we're kind of wandering, so it still doesn't feel ideal. But if you can accept holding a marriage ceremony here, we can immediately start preparing for it!"

Feiling blinked a few times. Seeing how bad he felt about it, she chuckled. "Idiot, I was just asking. I wouldn't want to get married here either. I'd prefer to go back to the Vermillion Bird Kingdom and Ignispolis. That's where our friends and family are."

Hearing her understanding words, Tianming breathed a sigh of relief. He had almost become a shitty boyfriend.

"Of course, that doesn't mean you can forget about it, alright? When the time comes, don't drag it out, got it?"

"Of course! It'll always be on my mind!" Tianming gave his chest a confident thump.

Feiling sweetly smiled, her arms around his waist as she looked up at him. There were still some tears in the corner of her eyes as she said, "Alright, let's begin!"

"Begin what?"

"Mmmf!" She buried her face in his chest and hugged him tight, as if she was worried he would disappear if she didn't.

That was all Tianming needed to understand what she meant. He didn't think she would be so proactive about it. "Ling'er, I still haven't given you a proper marriage ceremony yet. Are you sure you're fine with this?" If it hadn't been for her bringing it up, he wouldn't have hesitated in the least.

"Enough nonsense. If you don't dual cultivate with me, I'll snap your Grand-Orient Sword in half," she said with a soft, but firm tone. She put her focus entirely on what she felt and pushed her worries to the back of her mind.

The hilt of the sword and her heavenly pattern formation.... It had been ages since they'd brought that up. They had experienced countless things across the years, and their passions were finally ignited.

"Hmph, I'd like to see you try."

Her gentle teasing had ignited a furious spark in him. Never had he doubted that he would treat her well; he was that confident. Though he had hesitated for a moment before, her proactiveness gave him even more confidence that he would love and protect her.

"Big Brother, I'll be yours until the stones crumble across the eons." Her gentle words fueled his flames even more.

"Who cares about the stones crumbling? All I care about is now, and our endless tomorrows together."

"Do you have enough pleasure balls for that?"

Though that was troubling at first thought, Tianming refused to believe they didn't have something similar here. He wouldn't have to save them! His mind was made up. But right as he was about to act, he

felt the warm body in his arms seemingly turn cold. He wasn't sure if he had imagined it, but something felt wrong.

As expected, she pushed Tianming away at the last moment. Though she didn't use much force, it had completely doused the flames in Tianming. He gave her a good look and saw an air of frost around her as her eyes turned blue. It seemed like she was a completely different person.

"Xuanyuan Xi?!" Tianming's gaze turned cold. She was the innate godchild of Perpetia! Was her personality still intact?

"Xuanyuan Xi?" She furrowed her brows and shook her head. "She's dead. Completely."

"Then who are you?!" Xuanyuan Xi was one of the incarnations, or past lives, of the Lord of Perpetia. If Xuanyuan Xi was gone, this could only be that endlessly old existence within Feiling. Her past incarnation.

"Big Brother, it's me, Ling'er...." What surprised him was that this ice-eyed girl was not the slightest bit cold toward him. Though she pushed him away, she approached him once more and hugged him with her cold body.

"Ling'er?" He held her shoulders and looked closely. There was no mistake—everything about her was the same, save for her vibe. She was as hardworking and passionate as before, but her body was cold as ice. When he touched her, his palms seemed to frost up. "Why is this happening?"

"It might have to do with Perpetia. Sometimes, I don't know myself. It feels like I'm a different person, and there's a lot of confusing memories in my head. I feel really lonely." The loneliness of immortality. All of that seemed to have something to do with Perpetia.

"Don't worry, I'm here." He hugged her as tightly as he could and felt the icy energy flow into his body. She shuddered as her lips frosted up.

"I feel so cold.... Why? Didn't I succeed going through Eternal Nirvana? Am I still going to die?" Her eyes were starting to fill with despair. She had gone through Eternal Nirvana a hundred times, seemingly expending all of her karma. It hadn't been a few months since she was reborn, and something else had already begun to change.

"It'll be fine," Tianming consoled. But soon, he realized that the harder he hugged her, the colder she became. Both of their bodies were freezing up. This was much colder than any divine hazard could ever be. Even Violetpeak's overall temperature began falling.

"This isn't right." Tianming tried to let go and take a few steps back, only to realize that the frost was receding from Feiling's body. The blue in her eyes faded as she returned to normal, the luster returning to her skin.

## **Chapter 1600 - Manna Imperius**

"Lately, Li Tianming's performance in the Astraldome has been amazing. He represented our imperium and caused quite a lot of discussion across more than a thousand nova source worlds that witnessed him bringing our home to prominence. His deeds are clear for all to see. We have decided to reward Li Tianming for his achievements," Sovereign Starfeather said with a smile.



Tianming was all too happy to hear that. If the sovereign had already said all that, then surely the reward would be better than the Goddess Flowerfall, the whip technique he had gotten after clearing the first level of the Tranquil Battlefield.

"Agreed!" many astralkings answered.

"Your Majesty, what would be a fitting reward for Astralking Tianming?" asked the Violetcloud Patriarch, father of Mu Ziyang and the second most powerful person in the imperium. He was seated directly across from the sovereign and his words held a lot of weight.

"The imperium has two eight-star universal manna. We decided to grant one of them to Astralking Tianming," the sovereign said.

Tianming felt his heart skip a bit, not just his, but the others' as well. Eight-star universal manna was a big deal. Even among the sovereigns of the divineglorians, their lifebound beasts were mainly eight-star divine beasts. That was why eight-star universal manna were also called manna imperius, that is, the manna of sovereigns! For a youth in his twenties to be given one was something unprecedented in the history of their star. Even Ye Chen, a most impressive beastmaster, hadn't been given that privilege.

When Tianming had asked Shengui to find eight-star universal manna for him back then, he'd said it would be impossible, and the white-haired youth didn't think his achievements at the Astraldome would be able to net him one such chance. There were only two in the imperium's vault, and he would get one of them! It seemed like the sovereign was holding nothing back. This was easily one of the most precious treasures of the imperium, and no number of ore veins could possibly compare to it.

Surprised and delighted, Tianming knelt on one knee and said, "I'm incredibly grateful, Your Majesty, for the kind nurturing the imperium has afforded me. The first level of the Tranquil Battlefield is only the beginning. With an eight-star universal manna, I'll definitely make millions of other worlds know the glorious name of the Violetglory Star."

If anyone else had said something so passionate, they would be laughed out of the room. Yet here, they had all accepted it without a single word.

"Isn't this a little... inappropriate?" As expected, there was a dissenting voice. Everyone turned in the direction of the voice. Tianming saw that the one who said that was seated beside the Violetcloud Patriarch, a middle-aged man with an incredibly imposing figure of four meters in height. He had a head of fiery-red, messy hair. The most eye-catching part of him was the flaming eye in the middle of his face that was ten centimeters wide. He was a cyclops, like Old master Shengui.

Even Tianming could guess his identity. He was the Crimsonmeld Patriarch, the youngest of the five patriarchs. He was from the same generation as Mu Ziyang, the daughter of the Violetcloud Patriarch. While he was young, he was among the top three in strength among the patriarchs and the number one beastmaster in the imperium.

The reason his monoeye was similar to Shengui's was because Shengui was from the clan of Bluemeld Aquas, whereas the Crimsonmeld Archclan used to be known as the Crimsonmeld Pyros. The two clans used to be part of one greater clan, but many disagreements between the two factions had caused them to split. The Crimsonmeld Pyros eventually gained prominence and formed the Pentarchy with the other four archclans, while the Bluemeld Aquas weren't even highly ranked enough to be considered one of

the twenty-three great families. Now, they were but a small faction in the imperium, with Shengui the most distinguished among them.

As Shengui had expected, the Crimsonmeld Patriarch was against rewarding Tianming with the manna and for an obvious reason. One of the two universal manna was of the fire attribute, which he badly desired. The fire attribute was one of the most common across the astralscape, and Tianming had a fire-attribute lifebound beast. If the sovereign gave that manna away, the Crimsonmeld Archclan would lose out.

"What is the reason?" the sovereign asked. Every time there was a sovereign from the Gong Prime Clan, they would have to push back against the Pentarchy, and this time was no exception.

The Crimsonmeld Patriarch held the sides of his chair as he said, "The so-called glory gained in the Astraldome is but a meaningless victory of morale. Even if our fame spreads across the astralscape, it's of no real benefit. It might even draw the eyes of potential enemies. That's why I don't consider it a merit to the imperium. What would count for a meaningful contribution in my eyes would be the suppression of our neighboring rival, the Divineglory Dynasty. Only by defeating them and making the imperium the dominant power of our star would it truly be meaningful."

His words were convincing to many. Quite a few others also nodded in agreement. However, Sovereign Starfeather didn't seem rushed at all. He turned to the other four patriarchs and asked, "What are the thoughts of the four of you?"

The Violetcloud Patriarch pondered for a moment. "The Crimsonmeld Patriarch is a little too strict with his standards. Bringing glory to us in the Astraldome is a huge boost to the morale and faith of our subjects. That definitely counts for something. Astralking Tianming deserves to be rewarded, but I think his contributions are a bit lacking to deserve a manna imperius as a reward. Even so, given his talent, it's only a matter of time before he renders an actual contribution worthy of such a gift. Right now, he's still too young and can benefit from some restraint and more development on other fronts."

It was truly an amazing strategy. Though his words seemed against the Crimsonmeld Patriarch's on the surface, he still aimed to deny Tianming of that gift as per the will of the five patriarchs. Tianming felt like the delicious cake he had been given had been taken away before he'd even had a chance to taste it.

However, Sovereign Starfeather merely laughed. "I see that all of you have your own thoughts about it. Very well. Let's vote on it to decide on the matter." The authority of the imperium's sovereign had historically been weaker than that of the Divineglory Dynasty's sovereign unless they came from one of the five archclans, which made up the majority of the imperium's subjects. Without popular support, the sovereign would merely be a figurehead. That was one of the Gong Prime Clan's woes.

As such, the Kilostar Assembly's purpose was for a voting council to be formed. The sovereign himself had a voting power equivalent to thirty people, while each of the five patriarchs had a voting power of five. The astralkings also each had one vote. Right from the beginning, the five patriarchs were unanimously decided on the fact that Tianming's contributions didn't merit the manna imperius. Since Sovereign Starfeather was the one who had brought it up, there were thirty votes against the patriarchs' twenty-five. The rest depended on the astralkings of the twenty-three great families.

Quite a number of people sided with the patriarchs. Eventually, there was only one vote left to be cast, and there was an equal number of votes for and against the motion. The tiebreaker was none other than Astralqueen Ziyān! She smiled; whether or not the eight-star universal manna would be rewarded to Tianming rested on her decision.