

## The Ages 1601

### Chapter 1601 - Turn The Tide

In the history of the Violetcloud Imperium, there had always been forty-eight astralkings, with few exceptions. Forty-eight votes from the astralkings, twenty-five votes from the patriarchs, and the sovereign's thirty votes amounted to an odd number, which meant it was more likely for a majority to emerge. This vote happened to be related to Tianming, so he wasn't allowed to vote. Thus, the total number of votes would be even. With the addition of a new astralking, the Kilostar Assembly's total number of votes was now an even number. That was a problem that would have to be dealt with in the future. Of course, the probability of an evenly split vote was relatively low; however, there was an equal amount of votes for and against this motion, and at the moment, Astralqueen Ziyān was the only one who had yet to express her opinion.

This is an opportunity to determine whether Astralqueen Ziyān's previous statement was true or false. If she objected, it would prove that everything she had said was nonsense. Even if she agrees, it still doesn't mean she's trustworthy. I can't rule out the possibility she's using the universal manna to gain my trust. Of course, I'll still benefit from it. The universal manna was an unexpected gain. Tianming would be delighted to acquire it, but it wasn't a big deal if he didn't. After all, it would be his sooner or later.

In that instant, everyone turned and looked at Astralqueen Ziyān.

With his head lowered, the Violetcloud Patriarch spoke to the woman who looked like his great-granddaughter beside him, his voice solemn, "Ziyān."

"The decision's in my hands? How wonderful." Astralqueen Ziyān's eyes sparkled. The situation had her sweetly smiling, and she couldn't help but chuckle.

"Stop messing around." The Violetcloud Patriarch said.

"Alright." She crossed her legs, looked arrogantly at Tianming, and smiled. "It's amazing for a young man in his twenties to have achieved so much, but...."

'But' implied a turn in her words. She mentioned the positives first, followed by a turnaround. It seemed Tianming didn't stand a chance. This was the outcome expected by almost everyone present. Astralqueen Ziyān came from one of the five archclans and would likely be the next sovereign. How could she cultivate a top genius for the Gong Prime Clan? For most people, she was the least likely person to support Tianming. The faction headed by the Crimsonmeld Patriarch breathed a sigh of relief; the eight-star universal manna was safe.

In fact, each of the five patriarchs had a voting power of five people and five astralkings from each archclan who possessed a total of twenty-five votes, adding up to fifty. Even if the twenty-three great families all supported the sovereign, they would only have fifty-three votes. However, it was impossible for all twenty-three great families to stand on the sovereign's side. In recent years, none of the sovereign's motions had successfully been passed. Truth be told, the Kilostar Assembly was formed by the ancestors of the five archclans to restrict the power of any sovereign outside their ranks. As soon as the word 'but' left her lips, it was yet another victory for the five archclans who relied on the so-called rules of their ancestors. The others were ready to withdraw.

"But...." Astralqueen Ziyān repeated herself. Tilting her head, she smiled. "What can I do? I can't think of anything to add to that. I've decided to give him the universal manna because I'm curious to see how far he'll go in the Astraldome with it! Little boy, remember to be grateful to me. I'm the one who helped you turn the tide."

Tianming had given up when he heard the word 'but', but now he was stunned. The patriarchs and astralkings were just as astonished. They stared at Astralqueen Ziyān, their expressions incredulous.

"Mu Ziyān!" Eye wide as a saucer, the Violetcloud Patriarch fiercely glared at her.

"What's the matter, Father? Do you want to hold all the power in your hands?" Astralqueen Ziyān looked aggrieved, and the tears formed by her bane-rings made her seem more moving. It was almost like she was being bullied by the Violetcloud Patriarch. However, her barbed comment was rather hair-raising. The others couldn't believe that they were father and daughter. Power was already a sensitive matter, and what's more, the sovereign was present. There was an awkward silence in the room.

"Ziyān, is this a mistake?" the Crimsonmeld Patriarch asked. Although they were of the same age, the previous Crimsonmeld Patriarch had abdicated early, allowing him to take his place. He once pursued Mu Ziyān. But because he was a beastmaster and she was a totemancer, it hadn't worked out.

"There's no mistake. I simply think that you don't deserve the Eightfold Desolation Furnace as much as Astralking Tianming does," Astralqueen Ziyān bluntly said.

The members of the five archclans had ugly expressions. Mu Ziyān was their hope, so why was she going against them? They were shocked to the core.

"I've said it before. Think about the long-term future. What if the Violetglory Star is united by one man? Wouldn't your narrow-mindedness be ridiculous? I trust my own judgment," she solemnly continued.

"You're right. The Violetglory Imperium should carry more weight than the archclans. Only then can we emerge victorious." Rising to his feet, Sovereign Starfeather waved his hand. "Alright, since we've come to a decision, this meeting is concluded."

"Farewell, Your Majesty."

Muddled voices sounded in the Kilostar Hall. It was clear that quite a few people were still unconvinced.

"I'm waiting to watch you in the Astraldome. Don't forget my contribution." Astralqueen Ziyān walked past Tianming, her sweet scent filling the air.

"What a miracle." Tianming slowly let down his defenses. "Have I really misjudged her?" It seemed Astralqueen Ziyān was truly a bold person. In order to do what she thought was right, she fought against her father and made things difficult for the five archclans.

After the sovereign left, members of the five archclans, led by their patriarchs, went their separate ways. Many of the twenty-three great families stayed behind to congratulate Tianming. In fact, most of them had actually voted in Tianming's favor. Some even came up to apologize; upon further consideration, it seemed they were led astray by the Crimsonmeld Archclan.

"Honestly speaking, it doesn't matter if we keep the eight-star universal manna or not. Sooner or later, it'll be yours, so why can't I give it to you now? My thoughts are no different from Astralqueen Ziyán's. I'd like to see what you can do at the Astraldome with a sovereign beast."

"Thank you, everyone! Thank you!"

Judging from the rules of the Kilostar Assembly, the astralkings of the twenty-three great families were very important. If they all supported him, he would have fifty-three votes and the thing the five archclans relied on would no longer work.

### **Chapter 1602 - Eight-Star Ying Huo**

"Almost all of the Violetcloud Imperium's universal manna is controlled and kept by the Crimsonmeld Archclan, including your seven-star universal manna. I had to keep asking for them. However, the eight-star universal manna is in the Kilostar Capital and His Majesty has probably gone to get it. Congratulations!" Seeing that the meeting was over, Old Man Shengui emerged with a smile on his face. "Did you see the Crimsonmeld Patriarch's expression when he left? It made me smile!" He seemed to dislike the man and was delighted to see him deflated.

Sure enough, not long after, Sovereign Starfeather returned and handed Tianming a sealed, fiery red cauldron with loud rumbling coming from within. It was obvious there was a divine artifact in there; the cauldron itself was a grade-six divine artifact, yet it was merely a vessel.

"Won't you open it and take a look?" the sovereign asked with a smile.

"Alright."

When Sovereign Starfeather placed the cauldron on the ground, Tianming leaped into the sky. The sovereign smacked the cauldron and a small crack opened up, releasing a scorching heat wave. Tianming had recently come across quite a few seven-star universal manna, including the Triworld Bolt used by Meow Meow. They were all terrifying, but none of them could compare to manna imperius. That was the difference between a sovereign and a solarian. They were merely a level apart, but in fact, the disparity between the two was like heaven and earth.

Inside the enormous cauldron was something reminiscent of a beating heart. Strong and powerful, it vibrated the cauldron. When Tianming looked inside, he realized that it wasn't a heart, but rather a stomach. A red, fiery stomach. It was huge and bulky, with fine flames circulating on the top. Just looking at it made him sweat. The most eye-catching things were the eight fiery vortices on its surface, which followed no pattern or arrangement. They strangely spun, like mouths that were capable of swallowing everything.

"It's called the Eightfold Desolation Furnace and has existed in the Violetcloud Imperium with a history of more than seven thousand years. There hasn't been a single person worthy of it in all that time. According to records, it can give lifebound beasts the ability to devour and digest flames," the sovereign said.

"Wow." Although Tianming was calm on the surface, he was actually surprised. As the Aeternal Infernal Phoenix, Ying Huo could devour flames to strengthen itself, but most of its abilities were still sealed. It

would be a great benefit if the Eightfold Desolation Furnace could unlock certain bloodline bindings and unleash more of its abilities.

"Take it. I'll be waiting for your good news," the sovereign said.

The eight-star universal manna was more valuable than the Lifesteal Silverdragon in his hand. Of course, Tianming was excited. He realized how lucky he was to have met Long Wanying in the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect, and generous people like Shengui and Sovereign Starfeather here. Although they needed him as well, they could have chosen not to give him the eight-star universal manna; Tianming's significance to them was evident. Their kindness was so great he had no way to thank them except to make good use of the universal manna.

"Tianming, there's still a long journey ahead of you. When you've risen to a position where no mortal can touch you, those who opposed you today will regret it."

"Yes." He would be calm and composed in the face of all obstacles. Before leaving, he asked one last question, "Your Majesty, what do you think of Astralqueen Ziyang?"

"I didn't see that coming, but I suggest you continue observing." He smiled.

"I understand." Tianming was also quite surprised.

As he took the furnace back to Violetpeak, Ying Huo hung from it throughout the entire journey, drooling with desire.

"As long as my evolution is successful, I'll be even more dashing. When the time comes, Little Yue will be a turtle in a jar." At the thought of that, saliva dribbled down its beak.

"Can't you speak nicely?" Tianming rolled his eyes.

"In the bag?"

"Get lost!"

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An eight-star universal manna wasn't the kind of thing that could be concealed, thus, Sovereign Starfeather never even tried keeping it secret. Instead, he publicized the matter. The news that Tianming had received the eight-star universal manna once again shocked the Violetglory Star. He was considered the brightest figure on the star, so every piece of news had something to do with him. The young man in his twenties was about to have a lifebound beast on the same level as the sovereign. Even if it had yet to mature, it still created a stir.

"Sovereign Starfeather is so generous."

"It's no big deal. Li Tianming deserves such a reward. Anyway, there isn't much competition for universal manna in the Violetcloud Imperium."

"That might be true, but it's really enviable to own a sovereign beast at his age...."

"Ye Chen is so unlucky. He's lost yet again. I heard that he also asked the Divineglory Dynasty for eight-star universal manna but was rejected."

"How embarrassing!"

"There'll be worse to bear in the future."

"When will Li Tianming challenge the Astraldome again? We can all see what a sovereign beast looks like! I've never seen one before."

"There are less than eight eight-star divine beasts here, and most of them belong to the sovereign of the Divineglory Dynasty."

Rarity and contrast were the main components of a sensation. At the moment, many people felt as if they wouldn't be able to catch up to Tianming once he soared.

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In a cold, dark hall in the Divineglory Dynasty, Ye Chen, a young man dressed in white, stood with his head lowered and almost seemed engulfed in darkness. The figure in front of him had an enormous divinespring on his chest. The divinespring originally brightly shone but had turned black, creating an endless night.

Taking a deep breath, Ye Chen wiped the cold sweat off his forehead. "I thought that reaching the Solar stage would enable me to turn defeat into victory, but it seems it still isn't enough. He isn't just a beastmaster, yet his lifebound beast can evolve into an eight-star divine beast. In terms of innate talent, I've already lost. In the future, the gap between us will only widen."

"So?" the sovereign asked.

### **Chapter 1603 - The Chains of Destiny**

"I want a universal manna. Because my lifebound beasts are special, one is enough to transform all five of them. I'll have five eight-star divine beasts. That's my most powerful ability." Ye Chen's bloodshot eyes trembled. The words took so much energy from him that he was about to collapse.

"But, I've rejected you many times before this. The Divineglory Dynasty only has one manna imperium at the moment. It'll be given to my direct descendent," the sovereign said.

"I'm your son-in-law. My life and soul belong to you. I'm your direct descendant. Besides, my opponent shines so brightly that it's affecting our morale." Ye Chen replied.

"No matter how indomitable he seems, he's just a child. He won't be a real threat for a few hundred years," the sovereign said.

Ye Chen was extremely frustrated and envious of Tianming. After all, he didn't know about the obstacles Tianming had faced before acquiring the universal manna; all he could think about was the vigilance, suspicion, and reservations he'd received in return for his wholehearted support for the divineglorians and his affection for Princess Shenyu. Why was it like this? He had long been disheartened, but he didn't dare show it. The ups and downs of life could really put things into perspective. In his glory days, his feelings towards the Divineglory Dynasty was similar to how Tianming felt about the Violetcloud Imperium at the moment. Only after suffering defeat did he understand the fickleness of human emotion.

"Yes." Ye Chen lowered his head, ready to leave.

The sovereign threw a strange, black chain at his feet. Unlike a divine artifact, it alternated between a tangible and intangible state.

"What's this?" Ye Chen asked with a frown.

"The Chains of Destiny."

Upon hearing these words, Ye Chen subconsciously stumbled backward, his face turning pale. Obviously, he had heard of it. "What do you mean by this?"

"I can't just give you the eight-star universal manna, can I? After all, you're still young, and you aren't a divineglorian. Giving you such a precious thing is a huge risk. We aren't like the Violetcloud Imperium. Every manna imperius is related to the future of the entire Divineglory Dynasty, so giving you the Chains of Destiny is a guarantee for both of us. That's the only way I can give you the eight-star universal manna. Do you understand?" the sovereign said, his voice majestic and condescending.

"But if I receive the Chains of Destiny, I'll be your puppet." Ye Chen trembled.

"That isn't the issue. You can remove it once you become sovereign." His dark divinespring bubbling, he rose to his feet and walked toward Ye Chen with heavy footsteps. "Leave now, or take the Chains of Destiny and manna imperius. You choose. I won't force you, so don't think I'm plotting against you."

Ye Chen stared at the dark chains at his feet, his heart sinking into turmoil.

"How can the world be as simple as you think? You can ask Li Tianming if there was a price to pay for his manna. Does Sovereign Starfeather fully trust him?" the sovereign added as he looked at Ye Chen in silence.

Face covered in cold sweat, the young man closed his eyes. Whenever his eyes were closed, he could picture his defeat, feel Princess Shenyu's indifference, and see the world cheering for Tianming.

"I choose the Chains of Destiny!" Ye Chen grit his teeth. It seemed the sovereign had expected this outcome. Falling to his knees, Ye Chen solemnly swore, "Father, I'll do everything I can to win your trust."

"Good boy." The sovereign smiled.

Head lowered, Ye Chen grabbed the chain and said to himself, If I bring disaster to the Divineglory Dynasty one day, you must remember that it was you who schemed against me.... Of course, those words could only be buried in the deepest part of his heart. A few months ago, he was still a sunny and bright young man. It was beautiful then. But now, everything had changed.

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Violetpeak.

In the center of Violetpeak was a place known as Warmglide Mountain. Xian Xian was usually rooted there while Lan Huang played nearby. There was a big lake not far away where Yin Chen took its bath every day. After Tianming took the Eightfold Desolation Furnace back, he placed it in a canyon on

Warmglide Mountain out of fear that Ying Huo's absorption of the universal manna would damage the buildings in Violetpeak.

As soon as the red furnace was placed in the canyon, Ying Huo couldn't wait to jump in. According to Ying Huo, the manna was so powerful that it would give it a complete makeover. In view of Shuo Yue's recent attentiveness (cold shoulder) towards Ying Huo, it had to upgrade its image so Shuo Yue would be embarrassed (throw itself at Ying Huo).

The cauldron itself was much like a furnace. After Ying Huo was thrown inside, it seemed to stop moving. All of the Violetcloud Imperium paid attention to Ying Huo's transformation; even Old Master Shengui would drop by every once in a while to ask how Tianming's bird was doing. The transformation would take around eight days. In the beginning, there was no movement, but gradually, painful howling sounded out. Finally, the red cauldron continuously shook. Tianming knew that Ying Huo was pretending again.

He had originally planned to study the cauldron first, only to be preempted by Ying Huo. Finally, Ying Huo couldn't bear it any longer.

"Damn it! Open the lid. I'm almost cooked through!" it yelled, miserable.

"Hold on. Let me sprinkle some cumin first," Tianming laughed.

Even with the lid open, its condition didn't improve. Tianming looked down from above. A black and red fireball curled up in the big cauldron and Infernal Blaze burned, surging millions of meters into the sky. Like the Voidsky Flame Pillar, it extended beyond the clouds and mist. Over the next two days, deafening roars and the sound of splitting came from within Ying Huo's body, which attracted many onlookers. It seemed that Ying Huo's flesh was being transformed and his bones reconnected. Infernal Blaze had engulfed the mountain and caused shockwaves in Violetpeak.

"Are you dead?" Tianming checked from time to time.

"I'm doing very well, thank you very much. I might as well greet your ancestors too..." With gritted teeth, Ying Huo underwent the transformation and purification of flesh by the Eightfold Desolation Furnace. The universal manna would completely dissolve into its flesh and release the power in its blood. Although the process was very uncomfortable, the benefits would be amazing once it was complete.

"Can such a small lifebound beast withstand the manna imperius?"

"It's still fine. It might actually have a shot...."

"This phoenix is hideous. I hope it evolves to look better."

Ying Huo could faintly hear their words. The last comment, which involved the issue of its appearance, made it so angry that it shot out flames. "Shut up!" Ying Huo howled, spreading its wings and soaring into the sky. One could hear the crackling of firecrackers coming from its body. As soon as it took to the air, Tianming discovered that Ying Huo had grown a fair bit and its wingspan was now more than two thousand meters. In the sky, it resembled a sea of black and red flames.

"It's pretty much evolved." Right then, Tianming suddenly noticed ten fire vents on Ying Huo's unfolded wings. The vents continued expanding until they resembled the furnace's fiery vortex. However, Ying Huo had two more vents than the furnace had vortices. It looked spectacular. With a flap of its wings, the surrounding heat seemed to have been swallowed by the vortices and the temperature sharply dropped.

"Aren't these ten vortices on what used to be my bane-rings?" Ying Huo's bane-rings were located under its wings. It was clear the furnace and bane-rings had produced certain changes. Without a doubt, ten vortices was the perfect number. Only Ying Huo could demonstrate what kind of abilities the new transformation would bring. At this moment, there were a total of eight thousand, eight hundred and eighty-eight stars in its eyes.

"What a lucky number!" Tianming exclaimed.

### **Chapter 1604 - Boomchicken**

With a wingspan of two kilometers, Ying Huo looked like a sea of burning flames in the sky. The vortices that emerged from the places where the ten bane-ring spots were looked like ten gaping mouths. It looked far more impressive than most lifebound beasts in the Violetglory Star in terms of appearance and aura, making it a proper sovereign beast. All that it needed was time to grow into its full power.

Tianming had seen many phoenixes, most of which were elegant and refined. Ying Huo, however, was an exception. Like a sovereign ruler, it was brash and dominant. The more it evolved, the more eternal and impressive its aura became. Rather than a phoenix, it was more apt to call Ying Huo an astral monster in the shape of one. The vortices on its wings looked like ten terrifying eyes.

Not to mention, it was the lowest-leveled sovereign beast in the history of the star, having made its evolutionary jump at the tenth level of the Constellation stage. With that level and bloodline talent, Tianming refused to believe that there were others like it across the entire astralscape. Past sovereign beasts had only managed to evolve to that level after the Solar stage, so this was something completely unprecedented. As such, Ying Huo still paled in comparison to lifebound beasts that'd had up to a thousand years to mature.

"I'm already at the tenth level. Coupled with Ying Huo, I have a feeling that even third-level solarians won't be my match now." People at those levels were usually four or five hundred years old.

Ying Huo flew around in the sky, showing off its brilliance to those below. "Come down!" Tianming said.

"What? I can't hear you from all the way up here!" It cast a look of superiority down at him as it flew around a few more times. When it was sure that Shuo Yue had been stunned by its new form, only then did it fly back down. As it did, it began shrinking back into its chick form, flapping its featherless wings as it landed in Tianming's hair. Even then, the bane-rings that had been enhanced by the Eightfold Desolation Furnace were still visible.

"Why did you turn back into a yellow chick? Are you used to looking weak?" Tianming said.

"What do you know about this? It's called tactics. I'll pretend to be kyute widdle me and only show my brilliance at the crucial moment. Only then can I attract the chicks and build my own harem!"

"Forget it. You can't even handle Shuo Yue."



"Sigh, you're hopeless. That bird's just playing hard to get. Can't you see?"

"Enough. So what do those ten holes of yours do?"

"Ten holes?" Ying Huo looked at its wings and rolled its eyes. "You fool, they're called Infernalgates, a basic trait of my Aeternal Infernal Phoenix form. Usually, there should be eight of them, but thanks to Lifesbane, I got ten. When they're activated, I'll be able to directly consume nova source and use it without having to convert it into astralforce. Essentially, it'll let me use a much stronger version of my Infernal Blaze."

"Isn't that a little similar to the Ninedragon Emperor's dragonsoul of origin?" Usually, nova source that hadn't been converted to astralforce couldn't be used, but that time back at the Myriadragon Mountains was an exception. Tianming was serving as the core, while the dragonsoul of origin was the one that was actually directly utilizing nova source. While any cultivator could absorb nova source, they would first have to convert it into astralforce within their bodies, and even then, that still had to be suppressed and stabilized with divine will. Nova source itself was the energy of heaven and earth and only succumbed to natural laws, which humans couldn't directly control. However, what'd happened at Myriadragon Mountains had expanded Tianming's horizons, and he never thought that Ying Huo could manage to do something similar with its Primordial Chaos Beast talent.

"More or less. Just imagine that my body is a divine ordered formation that uses nova source to operate. Divine astralships are the same, too. In fact, I can be considered a miniature divine astralship, in a sense. Naturally, I need time to gather and store all that energy, and the stronger I get, the more explosive amounts of energy I can use," Ying Huo confidently said.

"Manna imperius is impressive indeed. Your bloodline changes this time around can't be compared to your previous ones," Tianming said. Back then, Ying Huo would at most unlock an ability or two and grow larger, but this evolution had changed its fundamental structure. It was essentially a small divine astralship, much like the true form Tianming had seen in the dreams.

The Infernalgates were key. Tianming recalled that the Eightfold Desolation Furnace was shaped like a cauldron with eight vortices. Now, Ying Huo had a special organ apart from its own astralforce and divine will. That new organ would allow it to store nova source to be used during attacks, much like the attack function of divine astralships.

"Let's give it a try." Tianming wanted to see what it could do.

"Fine. However, the Infernalgates' power is still limited, as they've just formed. I can't use them for more than fifteen minutes," Ying Huo said.

"That should be enough. Anyone that can make you use your ultimate move for that long must be impressive."

"Looking down on me, huh? I'll blast your head off!"

Stunned, Tianming suddenly broke out laughing.

"What're you laughing at?!"

"Your ability... I think it's about time I gave you a new nickname: Boomchicken." The moment Tianming said that, Meow Meow and the rest laughed as well.

"Boomchicken! Haha! Boomchicken!" Lan Huang put its gigantic claw on Ying Huo's head and laughed with both its heads, its voice shaking the mountains.

"Eat this, you rainbow tortoise!" Ying Huo cried and flew into the sky, turning back into its true form. The attention of many people outside Violetpeak was once more drawn by Ying Huo.

"What's it going to do?"

"I don't know."

"Looks like it's gearing up to use an ability."

They watched as the ten vortices around Ying Huo's wings spun up to their maximum speed, creating a piercing sound in the air like that of a windstorm.

"What is it doing? Absorbing nova source? Is it performing cultivation or something?"

### **Chapter 1605 - Making a Hole in Your Heart**

As far as most cultivators were concerned, nova source was only able to be converted into astralforce and stored in the astral discs within their albi. However Ying Huo was absorbing it at a rate a thousand times more than that of normal cultivation. There was no way its albi or divine will would even be able to contain that much astralforce, not to mention nova source which hadn't been converted yet.

Though its body was also formed from dense albi, it was a Primordial Chaos Beast with special properties. Some of the albi in its body linked together and formed a large river in the shape of an Infernal Furnace. It absorbed nova source into the furnace through the ten vortices at its wings, allowing it to temporarily control all of that power without converting it to astralforce! The nova source wasn't absorbed into its albi at all, but rather contained by an organ formed from albi, and the reason it was even able to do that without destabilizing was due to its unique nature as a Primordial Chaos Beast. This was an ability that stemmed from its natural bloodline talent.

From the outside, the nova source was converted into pillars of fire before being absorbed. Ying Huo bloated up into a giant ball of fire about three thousand meters across and it was still continuing to expand! The furnace within its body managed to keep the wild nova source energy suppressed.

"What kind of power is this?"

"This is far too terrifying! I don't even think many solarions can store that much power."

"It's still going on!"

"That can't be, it doesn't look like it's cultivating. If it can't convert that into astralforce, won't it be torn apart by the nova source?"

"I have no words. What kind of lifebound beast is this?"

"I wonder how much stronger Li Tianming is compared to Ye Chen. Li Tianming's a nonabane totemancer, but now even his blood pact lifebound beasts are stronger than Ye Chen's."

It seemed that Tianming alone was the one panicking. "Hey, stop absorbing nova source. We promise not to call you Boomchicken! Fire it, wait, no, fire it away from us!" The ten-thousand-meter-wide sun in the sky made Tianming feel how far off the Primordial Chaos Beasts were from normal lifeforms. Before, while Meow Meow and Ying Huo were strong, they still felt like they were in the same league. But Ying Huo now seemed like a super lifeform that came from the stars. It could become an exploding chicken after a short fifteen minutes of gathering power.

"Chicken Bro, if you don't eject it, we'll have roast chicken for dinner tonight!" Xian Xian said, though it couldn't help licking its lips at the notion.

"Watch and learn, puny beings," Ying Huo said, still putting on a show at a moment like this.

Tianming saw its body through the flames. The ten vortices in its wings closed and it stopped absorbing nova source. At that moment, the Infernal Furnace within it was at its most pressurized to force all that energy down. Its eyes burst with fire. It didn't even resemble a phoenix anymore, but a beast made out of pure flames. It looked down and thought about giving Lan Huang a taste of it, but the energy it'd gathered had surpassed even its own expectations, so it turned to the sky and opened its beak, directing it toward the violetstar clouds above. A huge pillar of black flames burst out, piercing through the clouds above and stretching millions of meters before magnificently exploding, leaving behind a gap in the clouds that stretched around a hundred thousand meters wide.

It was quite a stunning sight. Everyone near Violetpeak widened their eyes in shock and forgot to breathe. When the clouds recovered, the smoke around Ying Huo faded. Seeing the phoenix, the crowd went wild.

"Bird god! No, it's a divine bird!"

Their cheers echoed nonstop.

"Sigh, you lot really haven't seen the world before, huh? Why're you freaking out over this little trick?" Ying Huo combed its 'hair' and flew down, not shrinking this time. Instead, it descended to Shuo Yue's side and held it gently with its wings.

"Ahem!" Shuo Yue snapped out of its fright from before.

"How is it, Yue Yue, did I blast a hole in your heart like I did the clouds?"

"You were impressive just now, but the moment you open your beak to speak, you sound like an idiot." Shuo Yue didn't know how else to react.

"Idiot? Ah, this must be the negging I've heard so much of. You like being teased, eh? I'll call you stupid in the future too!" Ying Huo said, self-satisfied.

"Stop it! You're embarrassing me!" Tianming said, feeling like puking. Ying Huo's line was super corny.

"Shut up! You're just jealous of my heroics!" Ying Huo said, turning back into a chick and pecking at Tianming.

The others speechlessly watched the scene. Since that day, Ying Huo's fame spread throughout the world; it was almost fitting for a Primordial Chaos Beast like it. Despite Tianming's nine totems, not even

he could compare to his Primordial Chaos Beasts in terms of visual impact. Ying Huo was only the beginning, and there were four more to go.

"The birth of a sovereign beast.... Li Tianming is so much more ahead than Ye Chen now."

"I heard Ye Chen's a solarian already. I wonder if their sovereign will be willing to give him a manna imperius."

"We'll wait and see. If not, Ye Chen's as good as useless."

"Him? He lost the right to be compared with Tianming long ago!"

### **Chapter 1606 - If You Know, You Know**

After absorbing the manna imperius, Ying Huo's physique had been greatly enhanced, which meant Tianming had to perform.

"I must make them think that giving me the manna was worth it, so I receive more." His and the Violetcloud Imperium's future went hand-in-hand. If he wanted to return to Orderia, he had to rapidly grow, and that required numerous cultivation resources. Meanwhile, the Violetcloud Imperium needed honor, glory, and for him to overshadow Ye Chen of the Divineglory Dynasty.

"Ye Chen is extremely important to me." He was the condition for Tianming's success, not an obstacle in the road, but a helping hand. Thus, Tianming didn't hate him at all.

"It's time to head to the Tranquil Battlefield's second level and give another beautiful performance!" It was even more important than before, so Tianming couldn't slack off. And why was that? Because the Divineglory Dynasty also possessed an eight-star universal manna.

"It's a miracle they even gave me one. There's no way they'll also give me their other eight-star universal manna. It'll be ten times more difficult to get it. But... as long as I create miracles, all that's impossible will become possible." After inquiring further, Tianming learned that there were only two manna imperius left on the Violetglory Star—one in the Violetcloud Imperium and the other in the Divineglory Dynasty. The latter was definitely out of his reach.

...

After symbiotic cultivation with Ying Huo, Tianming inherited its transformed bloodline. As a beastmaster, it was difficult for Tianming to acquire a talent like Ying Huo's Infernal gates. His Primordial Chaos Beast physique differed from their bloodlines, so it was impossible to become exactly like them. But it was still incredible, even if he only received half of the talents of ten Primordial Chaos Beasts. After all, humans and beasts had many fundamental differences. Although he'd failed to unlock Ying Huo's Infernal gates, his own bloodline had still improved to a certain extent, thus the improvement in his cultivation must be scanned. Tianming hadn't expected the formation would recognize Ying Huo's Infernal gates, but to his surprise, the special ability had actually made it into the wondersky realm.

"It doesn't matter how Ying Huo's increase in strength came about. All that matters is that Ying Huo is more powerful with this ability." Thus, Ying Huo could use his new abilities in the wondersky realm without absorbing nova source. There would be no fear of exploding... after all, the wondersky realm was a virtual reality and had many limits. However, he was unsure about the pandemonium

constellation's power relative to other constellations, because it wasn't as straightforward as a mere increase in strength via the Infernalgates.

"With this new ability, I'll be even stronger in the second level." It was time to fight! Tianming entered the formation with Feiling sitting down beside him. There were four formations in the spirit core, and she had once entered as Xiao Ling.

"I'll wait for you in the wondersky realm," Feiling softly said. She could watch Tianming's battles there.

Tianming nodded. He wanted her there because her body would also be by his side in the real world. Many strange things had happened to her, so he wanted her to stay close.

"Don't worry, Big Brother. You just go and do your thing. I'll be a good girl. I won't go anywhere." Feiling assured him.

The young girl's frozen state made him speechless. I'll give them a show on the battlefield first, calming their hearts, then think of a way to solve Ling'er's problem. After all, it isn't good for her body.

While he was contemplating, they entered the wondersky realm. Tianming had obtained the qualification to own a unique space in the wondersky realm similar to Old Master Shengui and Princess Shenyu's residence. His exclusive space was made to look like Courtyard One in the Decimo Dao Palace, which was where he and Feiling had lived the longest. Since she couldn't be bothered to cultivate in the Violetglory Pagoda, she would wait for him there. No one else could enter the courtyard.

"I'm heading to the Astraldome." Tianming looked at the beautiful girl before him, reluctant to part with her.

"Go, my big hero." She stretched out her hands and smiled.

"Come here." Before leaving, Tianming gave her a big hug. For a moment, he froze, but then he broke out in a wide grin.

"What is it?" Feiling asked, curious.

"We can't do anything outside, but we can here. Didn't you notice that you aren't cold?" Tianming was so delighted that his heart was about to explode. He just recalled how incredible the wondersky realm was.

"What?" Feiling was dumbstruck, her cheeks flushed from Tianming's fiery gaze.

"What're you talking about?" Tianming's tattoo of Ying Huo asked. Its words were like a bucket of cold water over their heads. They had almost forgotten about his lifebound beasts. In Violetpeak, the two spent their time alone, having driven the beasts away until not even a single silver cockroach was left behind. However, they were all attached to him in the wondersky realm. Suppressing the excitement in his heart, Tianming winked at Feiling, suggesting that they would enter without his lifebound beasts next time.

"If you know, you know. Do you know?" Tianming asked.

"Yes, I get it." Feiling shyly lowered her head. As long as there was a will, there would be a way. It seemed the heavens had opened a window for Tianming. Seeing his impatient look, she couldn't help but laugh. Men....

"What the hell are you talking about?!" Ying Huo retorted. The five little ones had innocent looks on their faces.

"Beat it!"

After all, he would soon enter the battlefield. Although they couldn't do anything this time, there would be many opportunities in the future.

"Wait for me." After reluctantly saying goodbye to Feiling, Tianming traveled to the wondersky eye, through the astralpaths, and arrived at the second level of the Tranquil Battlefield. A thick, green fog filled the air and below his feet were the fetid waters of the ocean. It was a vast, endless world indeed.

"With Yin Chen, I'll be the god of slaughter in this place. A hundred people? No problem!" For many, it was difficult to find an opponent in the second level, but for Tianming it would be simple. No matter how expansive the battlefield was, Yin Chen's five million bodies would eventually spread to every nook and cranny. This wasn't something other broodmother type lifebound beasts were capable of, because their offspring weren't as intelligent as Yin Chen, nor could they communicate with one another. Ultimately, Yin Chen wasn't a broodmother type. One by one, the little cockroaches spread out along the green ocean. Fifteen minutes later, it had located six people. Tianming attacked alone. Those in the second level of the Tranquil Battlefield were basically no match for him; he could prey on the weak and slay them on sight.

"I can definitely slaughter a hundred in two hours...." He knew that his efficiency would cause yet another sensation in the wondersky realm.

## **Chapter 1607 - Red Name**

Lifebound beasts also existed in the form of caeli in the wondersky realm. Yin Chen's five million bodies had transformed into nearly fifty million little cockroaches. Even if the wondersky realm categorized its invisibility as ordinary stealth, Yin Chen could still escape the sight of others, spread out far and wide, and communicate with Tianming at the same time.

The Astraldome, as well as Violetglory Star's wondersky realm, were super formations constructed in the xenomemory space and perpetual wondersky realm. Everything within the formation was illusory, but caeli were real. An ordinary touch felt genuine, what more battle and slaughter. Even the passionate love between a man and woman was a deep connection between two caeli. The caelum's senses merged with the vita and flesh... who could say for certain that the mingling of two souls wasn't as real or as pleasurable as the union of the flesh?

Because of that, Tianming regarded the Astraldome as a real battlefield. He rode on Meow Meow's back, whizzing through the repugnant green world with the Lifesteal Silverdragon in his hand. Occasionally, his weapon would dance in the air and shatter his opponents before they even noticed him.

Another kill! The contenders in the second level were definitely much stronger than those in the first, with the majority of them being solarians. But since Tianming was the hunter and he wasn't under siege, he chose his opponents and went for one-hit kills. Naturally, he was efficient. Before they could even catch a glimpse of Tianming's countenance, those in the nova source worlds watched in astonishment as their top geniuses were forced out of the battlefield and returned to the real world.

"Who is he?" The question emerged all over the astralscape of order.

The Lifesteal Silverdragon shot through the green mist. His opponent turned around in amazement, only to see a sea of silver flowers whizzing toward him and enveloping half of his world, each silver petal dazzling and bright. Within the sea was a dignified dragon that appeared in front of his eyes in an instant.

"Die!"

Yet another person "died" under the Goddess Flowerfall, an extremely effective seventh-realm divine art. If this were the real world, Tianming's opponent would have journeyed into the afterlife. Everyone in the Violetglory Star's wondersky realm witnessed Tianming's speed. Even if they were used to his miraculous feats, many were still amazed and won over. Numerous members of the Divineglory Alliance lamented the fact that Tianming belonged to the Violetcloud Imperium instead of them.

As it happened, Ye Chen was also fighting in the second level of the Tranquil Battlefield. It had taken nearly a month to slaughter more than thirty opponents and part of the name above his head had turned red. In the start, many spectators cheered for him, but he'd unexpectedly been shoved out of the limelight as soon as Tianming had appeared. The latter surpassed Ye Chen's body count in a short period of time and was quickly approaching a hundred kills.

"That's the difference in their efficiency!"

"Li Tianming has the ability to quickly locate his opponents in the second level."

"Tracking his opponents is one thing, but being able to swiftly wipe them out is more important."

Because of their presence in the second level, as well as the open display of their performances to the outside world, the spectators would inevitably compare them against each other. However, Tianming harbored no hostility toward Ye Chen and was solely focused on hunting. Before he knew it, the name above his head was blood red.

"One hundred, done!"

The words "Violetglory Star Li Tianming" soared into the sky in a burst of red light that pierced the green mist. It was as if the whole world had been dyed red. In that instant, Tianming became the most wanted man. If they killed him, they wouldn't have to complete a hundred kills.

"Come on then!"

Tianming brought back Yin Chen so its army of five million could remain by his side and form an impenetrable defense. At the same time, his other lifebound beasts emerged from his tattoos. One man and five beasts cooperated to form a fortress with Xian Xian as the core. Even without Tianming's red name, Lan Huang's color changing scales were more than conspicuous enough to attract attention.

"Do you need me to do my thing?" the little yellow chicken on Tianming's head cockily asked.

"Perform well. All the female avian lifebound beasts on the Violetglory Star are watching you. Forget about a harem of three thousand beauties. If you aren't picky, three hundred million won't be a problem. I'm only afraid you can't handle a single one," Tianming laughed.

"Three hundred million? How exciting!" Ying Huo's eyes lit up as if it had found its purpose in life.

The elites of other nova source worlds were attracted by the red name. A woman dressed in white floated in with her hair swept to the back. Her natural beauty was tinged with a heroic spirit. Without a doubt, this was a woman admired by many back in her world. Sword in hand, she flew toward Tianming and noticed the nine godswords and his five lifebound beasts at a glance.

"It's you?!" Her face assumed a strange expression touched with a trace of awe. Afraid to come any closer, she came to a complete halt and stared at him with curiosity and nervousness.

With the Grand-Orient Sword resting on his shoulder, Tianming sat on one of Xian Xian's branches and asked with a smile, "Do you know me?"

"A few days ago, you defeated someone from my world on the first level. I watched you slaughter your way out of a siege of more than a dozen cultivators." The woman's eyes were filled with admiration.

"I see." Tianming waved his hand, motioning for her to leave if she wasn't planning on fighting.

"Li Tianming, my name is Yan Guiyu and I come from Yellowdragon. I hope we meet again if the heavens permit." Cupping her fist, she wisely retreated with some regret in her eyes, because she was well aware that the man before her would definitely continue advancing in the Tranquil Battlefield.

It was unlikely that they would ever meet again in this life. Although the Astraldome appeared open, it was inaccessible. Most people only had one chance at an encounter, unless two people fell in love and promised to remain on the same level. However, love between individuals of two different worlds had little chance of a future, as they couldn't meet in the real world. The astralscape of order was enormous; for that reason, Yan Guiyu thought it was a pity that she couldn't get to know an unparalleled man like Tianming. Yao Mimi and others regretted their missed opportunities as well. Yan Guiyu remained in the distance, watching as Tianming decimated his opponents. There were fewer players in the second level, so he didn't have to face an entire horde at once. With his current strength and a sovereign beast by his side, the second level didn't pose much of a challenge.

"My goal is to reach at least the fourth level!" Entering the fourth level in his twenties would put him on equal footing with the crème de la crème of the astralscape of order. After all, the fourth level was considered the arena of top elites who neared a hundred years of age.

### **Chapter 1608 - Who Will Have The Last Laugh?**

Yan Guiyu, a first-level solarian, was already over fifty years old. In the astralscape of order, she was comparable to Long Renshe. Only after seeing the top geniuses in the Astraldome did she know the vastness of the cosmos and the great diversity of living creatures.

"My goodness, that bird has more than eight thousand stars.... That's the highest level under a hundred years old in all history. I wonder what his actual age is."



Unless Tianming voluntarily declared his age, others only knew that he was under a hundred years old. But what truly dazzled the spectators were his nine godswords and sovereign beast.

"As a dual cultivator, he's actually a natural born totemancer while his lifebound beasts are contracted using blood pacts."

"Dual cultivation is often a waste of natural talent. Dual cultivators bite off more than they can chew and never really make it to a higher cultivation level, yet he's one of the best in both aspects. How'd he do it?"

"Is it possible that he was born a beastmaster..."

Yan Guiyu wasn't the only one contemplating the question; everyone else was wondering the same thing. Totemancers and beastmasters couldn't truly coexist. There had been no true dual cultivators since the dawn of time. Yan Guiyu had come across greedy cultivators who were really totemancers with lifebound beasts from blood pacts, but those beasts were often useless. Forget about transforming into sovereign beasts, some four-star divine beasts were even killed by three-star universal manna. Dual cultivation was superfluous, clumsy, and ridiculous. However, Tianming had broken the curse with his sovereign beast and totems, and by his side was another trailblazer, Qingyu. In the entire astralscape of order, Tianming, Li Wudi, and Qingyu would be considered avant-gardes.

"He's so powerful!" Yan Guiyu's red lips parted in awe. For almost a day, she had watched Tianming fight, and never had time passed so quickly. Despite reaching the Solar stage at a young age, the top three elites from distant nova source worlds had all "perished" at Tianming's hands. During the climax of battle, Tianming had single-handedly taken on twenty opponents at once. Relying on the cooperation between his lifebound beasts, he held out against dozens of lifebound beasts and hundreds of totems. With Ying Huo's big move, numerous seven-star divine beasts were burned to ashes. Apart from Yan Guiyu, all of Yellowdragon erupted in shock. Tianming's performance today made him a legend there.

"Now that Ying Huo is an eight-star divine beast, they've finally realized that my lifebound beasts are no worse than the nine godswords." His feat would transform him from a genius totemancer to a genius dual cultivator, making him unique in the entire cosmos. The sun emperor was a nonabane, which proved that other nonabaness existed. However, possessing nine bane-rings as well as a sovereign beast was unheard of, making him one of a kind.

Tianming was a one-man army. His Grand-Orient Sword split the air as his Lifesteal Silverdragon danced in the wind. Ying Huo was sometimes the Boomchicken, and at other times an assassin. With the mysterious tree providing overall control and the ever-changing metal army's pervasive presence, the Regal Chaosfiend's lightning wreaked havoc in the battlefield as the dazzling two-headed dragon violently slammed its body in all directions. Myriadword Providence formed a monstrous sea of swords, cooperating with the lifebound beasts in attack.... Thus, they created a strong fortress, their attributes complementing one another in a frightening display.

One by one, Tianming's challengers disappeared. In a single day, hundreds had been terminated. It was even more astonishing for this to happen in the second level. Not surprisingly, it caused a sensation in the Violetglory Star's wondersky realm for two reasons. They were convinced by Tianming's strength, but even Tianming couldn't have imagined the other reason: Ye Chen! On the other side, Ye Chen had discovered a redname and was rushing toward his position.

"Could the red light in front of him come from Li Tianming?"

"Most likely! After all, apart from the red light, there's also the glow from his lifebound beast."

"I must say, Li Tianming's dragon is too dazzling."

The spectators boiled with excitement.

"So they might duel again?"

"I'm almost sure of it! I heard that Ye Chen is now a solarian, and his strength has greatly improved since the last battle."

"It looks like we'll have a good show! Who will win and who will lose?"

"Ye Chen needs to prove himself...."

As the spectators waited with bated breath, the red light grew clearer from Ye Chen's perspective. Tianming and his lifebound beasts appeared. Tianming also noticed the young man in white. At that moment, he had just dealt with several opponents. Every sword of his Myriadword Providence locked on to Ye Chen at once.

"It's you?" Tianming turned to Ye Chen with a cold smile. Others assumed they were like water and fire, but Tianming didn't hate him at all. In fact, he was actually grateful.... It was clear Tianming was confident that he could defeat Ye Chen.

"Yes, it's me." Ye Chen stared at the red name above Tianming's head, then looked out at the chaos around him. Laughing, he said, "It looks like you've shocked the Violetglory Star once again."

"I doubt it. The second level is rather ordinary, it's nothing worth watching. The day's almost over. If you're itching for another defeat, then get on with it. When time's up, you won't have another chance to meet me on the battlefield." Tianming smiled.

"You weren't so arrogant before." Ye Chen's unnatural gaze was detectable, despite only being present as a caelum. He shouldered a heavy burden just to compete with Tianming.

"I'm not hiding it anymore because you're too weak," Tianming said.

Ye Chen took a deep breath, his gaze turning fiery; Tianming's words had challenged his dignity. The spectators in the Violetglory Star could hear every word. There were also several onlookers from other stars around them, including Yan Guiyu, who watched in stunned silence as the two young men conversed. In truth, they felt a similar sense of danger from Ye Chen.

"Lin Feng, or should I call you Li Tianming... the path of cultivation is extremely long and so is life. Don't you understand? Who knows who'll have the last laugh?" Ye Chen coldly said.

"All I know is that you won't even have a chance to laugh if you don't start," Tianming said.

"As you wish!" Ye Chen inhaled. The Grand Godless Liberty appeared in his hand, its majesty almost spellbinding on the battlefield. Hair fluttering in the wind, the young man dressed in white wielded a gleaming weapon. When compared to Tianming, Ye Chen's captivating temperament was more consistent with the image of a protagonist.

## Chapter 1609 - Blacksky Devourer

Ye Chen had every bit the appearance of a sunny, straightforward, and carefree young man. His temperament could arouse a favorable impression. Despite the hint of gloominess in his eyes, he still looked good, though slightly melancholic. And that change was caused by Tianming! Without his former transparency, he appeared stronger.

"Ye Chen is in over his head. He clearly knows that Tianming already has a sovereign beast. As a purebred beastmaster, his lifebound beasts can't even compare to Tianming's. Why go up there and invite humiliation?"

Voices filled with ridicule sounded in the wondersky realm. Ye Chen could sense the mockery. Before his meteoric rise, he had experienced too much sarcasm and contempt, but it was the fuel for his persistence and courage.

"Take a good look."

The black tattoos hidden beneath his clothes rushed up his arms and cheeks and his body became shrouded by a black mist. In an instant, the man's temperament took on a certain darkness and demonic magnetism. This was the other side of him, or perhaps the real him. The juxtaposition of a sunny, warm beastmaster and his gloomy lifebound beasts formed a terrifying visual impact.

"Come on!"

One by one, his lifebound beasts crawled out of him—a dark phoenix with lightning coiled around its body, a dark qilin surging with black flames, an inky octopus with countless tentacles, a man-eating flower with a ferocious mouth, and a broodmother type bug: the five Desolate Chaos Progenibeasts. At first, the spectators were stunned, but soon the entire Violetglory Star was filled with shrieking.

"Eight thousand stars!"

Like a sea of stars, the qilin's eyes were unmistakable. Even if it was difficult to count all of them in a short time, the difference in the concentration of seven thousand stars versus eight thousand stars was evident. With its increase in size, the barbed, black scales that covered its body, and that fierce, dragon-like head, it was clear the qilin had undergone a transformation. It was the majesty one would expect of a Desolate Chaos Progenibeast and proof that the qilin was already an eight-star divine beast, which meant that Ye Chen had also obtained a similar treasure after Tianming had received his eight-star universal manna.

However, Ye Chen caused an even more exaggerated sensation when the spectators realized that the phoenix also had more than eight thousand stars. It, too, had experienced a complete transformation that was almost similar to that of Ying Huo and was now an eight-star divine beast. What was even more terrifying was that his other lifebound beasts had all evolved to a great extent. Two new heads had even appeared on the man-eating flower.

"Five sovereign beasts?!"

Eyes wide, the onlookers in the second level exclaimed in astonishment. A storm of bewilderment was sweeping across the Violetglory Star's wondersky realm.

"How can this be? The Divineglory Dynasty only has one eight-star universal manna and that's the Blacksky Devourer!"

"If they had five eight-star universal manna, we would've heard about it. Besides, there's no need to give a young man five manna imperius."

"Look! Ye Chen's five lifebound beasts seem to have evolved due to the Blacksky Devourer. I heard that his lifebound beasts evolved through the same method and they can merge. Could it be that he only needs one manna imperius to transform all of his lifebound beasts into sovereign beasts at one time?"

"That might be it!"

In fact, this kind of discussion would only occur among the top elites. Ordinary folk couldn't even imagine such things. Thus, most of the people from the Violetglory Star believed that the Divineglory Dynasty had given Ye Chen five manna imperius.

"Five!"

"He must be the real sovereign of the Divineglory Dynasty to have such lifebound beasts!"

"My goodness! It's really nice being the imperial son-in-law. The Divineglory Dynasty has given Ye Chen a chance to catch up to Tianming."

"That isn't considered catching up. He's overtaken all of them by a large margin...."

The competition between two peerless geniuses sure involved a lot of twists and turns. Countless people within the wondersky realm were dumbfounded, their scalps numb. It almost seemed ridiculous to have given top treasures to these two young men to upgrade their "equipment," creating a confrontation between the two great sects of the Violetglory Star. Even Tianming was shocked.

"Holy crap! Five?"

If the Divineglory Dynasty wanted to compete with him, he figured they would have granted Ye Chen one manna imperius. But five? That was impossible! If Tianming were to ask the Violetcloud Imperium for another manna imperius, the vast majority of the Kilostar Assembly would object, what more the Divineglory Dynasty.

For those beastmasters, manna imperius was the foundation of their dynasty, and giving one away meant one less for them. What about the future sovereign?

"That can't be right. They said that the Divineglory Dynasty only had one manna imperius. After all, they have a greater demand for them." Tianming speculated that it must have had something to do with the unique characteristics of the Desolate Chaos Progenibeasts, which were close relatives of the Archaionfiend.

"One manna imperius for five lifebound beasts. That's amazing." Tianming gave his opponent a thumbs up.

"It's not too bad. I can save on manna. Fortunately, the effect is similar to using five," Ye Chen said. From Tianming's surprise alone, he could tell that his five sovereign beasts would cause a sensation on the Violetglory Star. Now that he was a solarian and possessed five sovereign beasts, his chance to

overturn his earlier defeat had come! The competition between the two young men had the spectators watching in stupefaction, staring at the words "Violetglory Star" on both their heads.

"Is the Violetglory Star a legendary super nova source world? How could such a monster exist?"

"They're really generous with their manna imperius, and five of them at that!"

The spectators and the nova source worlds behind them were completely dumbfounded. In a daze, they watched the two young opponents charge into battle against each other.

After numerous duels, Ye Chen had become the opponent with whom Tianming was most familiar. Tianming knew his weapons and battle arts like the back of his hand. There were only two things he had to pay attention to: his sacrosun and the Desolate Chaos Progenibeasts.

Compared to constellations, sacrosuns were more direct and aggressive in the wondersky realm. And what was a sacrosun? It was formed from a massive multiplication of a constellation. Although constellations could be used in battle, they were rooted in the albi. As the outward manifestation of astralforce, constellations played a role in the support and stability of astraldiscs and could store a sizable amount of astralforce. They were intangible. At the Constellation stage, a constellation gradually solidified during cultivation until it completed its transformation into a sacrosun.

Sacrosuns physically existed within the albi. They were power-filled stars condensed from transformed constellations, suspended above astraldiscs and shining down on them like the sun and the moon shone from above continents. Not only could they absorb the astralforce as it radiated from astraldiscs, they could also be used in battle. Sacrosuns that were materialized were also an upgrade from constellations, a transformation from intangible to tangible. Constellations like Tianming's pandemonium and cyclic constellations were meant for support and control functions, and were classified as buffs. They couldn't be directly used to attack and injure an opponent, but sacrosuns could. They were basically stable forms of astralforce. On top of providing the same assistance as constellations, sacrosuns could coordinate with the cultivator. Along with the astraldiscs, sacrosuns supplied astralforce, as well as launched attacks. That was where sacrosuns surpassed constellations.

After its transformation, Ye Chen's unfettered constellation was now a sea of white stars. It made him nimble and his movements quick, a great boost in battle. With his unfettered constellation from before, Ye Chen's moves were unpredictable, and now he was surrounded by an actual sea of stars. The effects from the constellation remained and were further enhanced by the sacrosun. More importantly, the sacrosun formed part of his astralforce and could directly target Tianming to achieve a similar effect to his Myriadsword Providence. Having slaughtered many solarians during this period of time, Tianming was no longer a stranger to sacrosuns.

With the unfettered sacrosun circling him, Ye Chen wielded his Grand Godless Liberty. By his side were his five Desolate Chaos Progenibeasts. At that moment, Ye Chen's strength was unparalleled. Ye Chen moved onto his sacrosun, breaking out in strange movements. Even his lifebound beasts were endowed with the buff from the sacrosun. Like sliding on a glass ball, they moved at lightning speed.

"It's pretty cool," Tianming admitted. He certainly wouldn't tell Ye Chen that the stronger he was, the more excited he became; he could finally give it his all and have a good time.

"You guys go. Protect me, Xian Xian. I'll need fifteen minutes to give these bastards a fatal blow." Patting its chest, Ying Huo transformed into the Boomchicken.

"Alright." Tianming was ahead in terms of numbers. His nine godswords led the way, splitting into nine thousand smaller swords that formed a vortex, rapidly spinning around his targets. Like a sea of white, the Whitedragon Exaltation swallowed Ye Chen and his five beasts.

"Yin Chen!" Without a word from Tianming, five million Yin Chens flew up into the sky, each silver egg unfolding into countless butterflies amid the harsh clang of metal. The metal butterflies' wings were as thin as cicada wings, but also as sharp as blades.

"Spin!"

Instead of flying or flapping their wings, the butterflies turned themselves into weapons. With their bodies as the core, the two sharp wings of each butterfly spun so swiftly they left afterimages. One metal butterfly turning into a rotating blade was nothing, but five million of them was a force to be reckoned with. The butterflies gathered together like a sea of rotating blades that clashed together, sending out a grating metal screech that sent tingles up the spine. This was Yin Chen's newest ability. Although the butterflies weren't as strange as the bonegnaw ants, they were Yin Chen's ultimate move in terms of combat power.

Along with the Myriadword Providence, five million butterflies swept across the battlefield in an instant, like countless spiraling darts headed for one man and five beasts. In the front were the nine godswords, which were followed by the butterflies, both raining down suppressive attacks. Spreading its bagua-shaped wings, the Regal Chaosfiend soared into the sky, bombarding its opponents with Triworld Afterlife Bolts. After all, the Primordial Chaos Beasts' power surpassed the Desolate Chaos Progenibeasts. Even though they were facing sovereign beasts, they weren't the least bit afraid.

"Don't be afraid! The sovereign beasts before us are the results of forced evolution. Who knows if they're the real deal or not?!" Ying Huo commanded from the rear. Their appearance might be able to win over the masses, but it couldn't change the fact that they were far inferior to Ying Huo.

In the chaotic battle that erupted on the second level, flesh and blood splattered everywhere. Green waves as high as the sky drenched everyone nearby in seawater. Tianming, four of his beasts, and nine thousand Myriadword Providence decapath godswords collided with the opponent. His two constellations were of no use here; against Ye Chen's sacrosun, he was indeed still at a disadvantage.

"You're nothing more than that!" Ye Chen regained his confidence. During the battle, the Desolate Chaos Progenibeasts had merged into the Chaos Dijiang, growing five times as large as Lan Huang's size. The gigantic beast overturned Lan Huang and Xian Xian. Fortunately, Meow Meow and Yin Chen continued suppressing it so it couldn't wreak havoc. Shooting out in all directions, the nine thousand Myriadword Providence decapath godswords caught up to the Chaos Dijiang and pierced its flesh. In the duel with Ye Chen, they all experienced the power of a solarian firsthand.

"You aren't too bad, just a little stronger than the other top geniuses in the second level." Lips curling in a cold smile, Tianming traded blows with Ye Chen. At present, it wouldn't be easy for either side to defeat the other.

"You're presumptuous." With the return of his confidence, Ye Chen fought even more heroically, once again relying on his Chaos Dijiang to suppress Tianming. The combination of man and beast created the mighty Chaos Deity. Compared to the battle in the Observatory, he was more ferocious.

"I've had to pay so much just to take you down. I hate you!" A thunderous roar exploded from the Chaos Deity's lips.

"Was it really necessary?" Tianming froze for a moment. Between the two of them, they each took what they needed. Why all this hatred? It was stupid.

Ying Huo's Infernalgates had finally built up enough power to form an enormous sun ten thousand meters across, much larger than the Chaos Deity.

"Get out of the way!" As Ying Huo yelled, a black and purple column of fire shot through Ye Chen's body. The Chaos Deity was immediately split apart, man and beasts falling to the ground. Ye Chen was unharmed, but two of his lifebound beasts had been slaughtered and the remaining three were injured to some extent. Without any interference, Ying Huo's ability was devastating.

"The outcome of this battle remains to be seen!" Letting out an angry roar, Ye Chen launched a frenzied attack, his expression turning even more vicious. He still had a chance of emerging victorious; after all, Tianming's lifebound beasts were also badly injured. Meow Meow, Lan Huang, and Xian Xian had lost some of their combat effectiveness. Unfortunately, what Ye Chen lacked was time. Without anyone knowing it, an entire day had already passed.

"Next time then!" Tianming coldly laughed. This battle had been enough for the Violetcloud Imperium to remember the threat that Ye Chen posed, which would be of great use to Tianming.

### **Chapter 1610: Green-Eyed Pillar**

Before the battle ended, Tianming disappeared into thin air. Without a doubt, the young man had persisted for an entire day and was finally promoted to the third level of the Tranquil Battlefield. This time, he had completed a hundred kills on his own.

"This..."

For the spectators in Violetglory Star's wondersky realm, Tianming's advancement was rather discomfiting.

"If only Ye Chen had appeared earlier."

"The fight was just beginning to get exciting!"

Although Ye Chen had lost two lifebound beasts, he still possessed combat power. Tianming had yet to completely crush him like he had the last time they fought.

"Can they duel again when they return to the Violetglory Star so they can decide the winner?" The spectators looked at one another.

"Don't fret. They're both on the same star. There'll be many opportunities for them to duel in the future."

"You're right."

Although there hadn't been a clear victor and the spectators were itching for more, there was no rushing the matter. However, there was an important change after the battle. Those who thought that Ye Chen had been completely left behind by Tianming had to revise their point of view.

"With the manna imperius from the Divineglory Dynasty, Ye Chen can stand side by side with Li Tianming. How generous of them. How on earth did they get their hands on five manna imperius?"

"I heard someone say that Ye Chen only received one. All of his lifebound beasts were able to evolve into eight-star divine beasts because they're special."

"Can five lifebound beasts really share one universal manna just because they're special? What a mind-blowing ability!"

Everyone was amazed. The Divineglory Dynasty cultivators felt vindicated and began bragging about Ye Chen, easing the embarrassment in their hearts. With this battle, Ye Chen achieved his goal—being worshiped once more. Tianming had also achieved his goal, that is, to show the Violetcloud Imperium the necessity of supporting him.

Although many hoped that they would fight until a true victor emerged, Tianming intended to stop there as he didn't think they were enemies. It was good for both of them to maintain a healthy competition, at least until the competition was no longer beneficial. He didn't know what Ye Chen was thinking at the moment.

Ye Chen coldly watched as Tianming disappeared before his eyes, the hand holding the Grand Goddess Liberty trembling.

"Five sovereign beasts won't be enough to defeat him...." What Ye Chen wanted was to crush his opponent. Unfortunately, the duel had ended in a draw, hence his displeasure. He wanted to step on his opponents and soar into the sky like Tianming.

"Wait for me on the third level. You can't escape." After a deep breath, he turned his icy gaze toward the onlookers from other nova source worlds. There were about a dozen of them, still staring in wide-eyed shock. Ye Chen moved in for the kill; he wanted a red name so he could pursue his opponent on the third level.

...

Tianming arrived at the green palace once more. This time, there would also be rewards which were placed on the stone platform in the center. Upon closer inspection, Tianming realized that it was yet another glass ball with a legacy formation within.

"What battle art or technique will it be?"

His caelum entered the formation. To his surprise, it turned out to be a soul cultivation technique which could enhance the strength of his vita and increase its level. Because Tianming had yet to practice a soul cultivation technique, his vita was rather weak. In fact, his vita was comparable to that of an ordinary ascendant, and was miles away from Lingfeng's level. Fortunately, he hadn't faced a threat to his soul due to the protection of the Soul Tower.



"Shellsoul Manual?" Tianming's expression darkened. That was the name of the soul cultivation technique he received. There was an enormous tortoise in front of him, lying across the sky, looking extremely sturdy. The objective of the Shellsoul Manual was to cultivate the vita so it resembled a tortoise, invulnerable and impregnable. Although it had no attack power, its defense was astonishing.

"There's no doubt it's powerful, but it certainly doesn't look good." Tianming was dumbfounded. Cultivating his vita into a tortoiseshell would surely incur the ridicule of his lifebound beasts. He memorized the technique, but left it alone for the time being.

"The Violetcloud Archclan were masters of totemancy and soul arts, so they must have better cultivation techniques. Astralqueen Ziyang can also guide me, which is definitely better than this stupid Shellsoul Manual. With the Soul Tower, my vita is already impregnable, but if it can grow stronger, perhaps I can use it to attack. Even if I can't achieve what Feng can, it can increase the lethality of battle arts like the Whitedragon Exaltation. The Soul Tower might not be able to protect me for a lifetime, so I must cultivate my soul." He thought of Astralqueen Ziyang, who was indeed a master in the aspect of souls. "Her help was crucial in obtaining our manna imperius and I have yet to properly thank her. There shouldn't be a problem if she's willing to teach me." He'd been wary of Astralqueen Ziyang in the beginning, but that had gradually changed.

With thoughts of the innocent, yet enticing Mu Ziyang, Tianming put aside the Soulshell Manual and officially entered the third level. "From this level onward, anyone around my age would be considered an absolute genius in the astralscape of order. There might even be nonabanes here." The third level of the Tranquil Battlefield would probably be different... wouldn't it?

Tianming looked around. The first thing he discovered was that the green mist that had filled the sky in the lower levels was gone. Thus, his field of vision had expanded. Although he was still standing on a green continent and could still see a green sea and green forests, it was like he had come to a new world! When he looked up, the sky was shrouded in a green mist, obscuring his vision. In other words, the green mist had moved above his head so he could no longer see the green pearls. But when he flew to a higher altitude, he noticed a giant pillar at the end of the heavens and earth.

It stretched from the ground all the way up into the firmament, becoming the most eye-catching object in the third level. What made it extremely strange was the fact that it was made up of densely packed pearly green eyes. The pearly eyes wandered in all directions, shooting out green rays of light that swept across the entire battlefield. It almost looked like a pillar-shaped monster covered in eyes. Just one glance left Tianming extremely uncomfortable. After all, his caelum didn't have the protection of the Soul Tower. Thus, this kind of illusion had a great effect on his spirit.

"The third level is completely clear. That is to say that the previous rule of a hundred kills might not apply here. If I hope to advance to the fourth level, I might have to reach that pillar." Although it was far away, Tianming could make out a large number of people gathered around it—at least tens of thousands! These people were all top geniuses in their nova source world. With so many of them, Tianming felt less valuable. If it weren't for the fact that the real universe was vast and the worlds remote, he would have doubted life.

"The more people there are, the more information and secrets about the astralscape of order I can learn." With that thought in mind, Tianming fearlessly headed toward the giant pillar. His intuition told

him that the rules of the third level were different, which meant the Astraldome wasn't as simple as he thought.