

## The Ages 161

### Chapter 161 - The Words Below The Stone Gate!

“Li Tianming, pay a visit to the entrance of the institute.”

Before the break of dawn, a crowd had already formed outside Flameyellow Scions Institute. Today was the first day of the challenge!

When Li Tianming rose to his feet from beside the Flameyellow Rock, many disciples looked at him with freezing gazes. Word had come down from their seniors; in three days' time, the Sanctum would have a new ruler. Therefore, they were to not communicate with anyone from the Wei Clan.

When Li Tianming walked away from the Flameyellow Rock, the disciples automatically cleared a path for him, slipping in some remarks as he passed through them.

“Go to the entrance of the institute and see it for yourself.”

“You are the cause of her death. You shall pay for this, Li Tianming.”

Bits and pieces of conversations travelled to his ears, but most of them were whispers and murmurs. But he did catch one thing.

Her?

Li Tianming picked up his pace, arriving at the stadium moments later. The seats were already fully occupied, the place stuffed to the brim even though it was still early morning.

The most crowded place, however, was the stone gate. Layer after layer of onlookers had practically blocked off the gate, with the people milling around it sighing and muttering.

“She must have been tainted, which was why she took her own life.”

“On top of that, Lin Xiaoting just married Yueling Ji, the final nail in the coffin.”

“How pitiful. Li Tianming, it was that Li Tianming who caused her death.”

“He'll pay the price soon. These three days will not be any easier for him.”

When Li Tianming arrived, he was once again greeted by stony faces. Details of the ceremony last night were already circulating around Ignispolis; pretty much everyone knew that the Wei Clan was going to end today. As much as the inspectors claimed to be fair, even a kid could tell that they were behind the Yueling Clan's appearance to Vermilion Bird.

In other words, the Wei Clan had no chance of winning. The only thing everyone was concerned about was cutting their losses. As for Li Tianming, his fate was already sealed,, along with the Wei Clan's own. The crowd would not remember what the Wei Clan had done for Vermilion Bird. The inspectors were here to deal with them, and that was enough.

“Let him in!”

“Show him the results of his actions!”

“That bastard!”

Li Tianming wasn't annoyed. He even found them funny. Why should he waste his time with idiots who thought they knew the whole story from some scattered rumours?

As Li Tianming walked past the crowd, he looked up to see a girl in white, swinging under the stone gate. Her eyes were fixed onto the Flameyellow Stadium, as if she was waiting for a show to happen. In fact, she was in a spot that could capture the entire stadium, a better seat than anyone could ask for. It was a seat where she could observe everything in the next three days.

Li Tianming halted his steps. The image in Lin Xiaoting's arms three years ago coincided with the one hanging there right now. Li Tianming took a deep breath.

“How smart of you to leave at this time and not wait for another three days!” If she just waited for three days more, she would have seen the end of Lin Xiaoting too. But she did pick the most ideal spot.

“You may be dead, but your spirit's still here. Stay here and see how I dispense karma to them.”

Whatever that was between him and Mu Qingqing was over. Li Tianming didn't kill her back then, during the Abyssal Trials, because he knew that there were punishments worse than death.

“Few know that mental torment is much more terrifying than physical torture. This month is for everything you have done to me.” If she hadn't suffered heart-wrenching pain in the past days, why would she seek escape in death? Li Tianming could only say it was karma at work.

He looked down towards the floor, towards the bottom of the stone gate. Three lines of red words were printed on the floor, clearly written in blood: Tianming. I'm Sorry. I'm Not Worthy.

Three simple lines. That was all. She had finally apologised.

And yet, it was too little, too late. Once a mistake was made, there was no turning back.

“Does anyone know what those three lines mean?”

“Yeah, isn't Li Tianming the one behind her death? Why apologise to him?”

“Have you heard the recent rumors? That three years ago, Lin Xiaoting and Mu Qingqing set up a trap for Li Tianming. It was Lin Xiaoting who took his Saintbeast War-Soul, before ascending to where he is now.”

“Don't tell me you believe in that.”

“Then how do you explain those three lines?”

Quite a few had seen Mu Qingqing writing the three lines there before she hanged herself, but none of them had reacted fast enough to save her. She was frail and weak, leaving the world before anyone could free her.

“To be honest, I don't find that impossible. From what I saw in the past few days, Li Tianming doesn't seem like someone who would...”

“Are you saying that Lin Xiaoting is the despicable one? Shut your mouth, unless you wanna join Mu Qingqing.”

A good number of people thought the same way, but none chose to address it directly. Even if that was the truth, so what? Either way, Li Tianming would be dead by the battle three days later.

“LI TIANMING!!” A young girl suddenly ran up. Her eyes took in the scene before her, before she collapsed to the floor crying, her face a ghastly white.

It was Lin Xiaoxiao. Tears fell uncontrollably from her eyes, her shoulders shaking violently. She walked up to free Mu Qingqing from the rope and took the body in her arms.

“You! You killed big sis Qingqing, you will pay for this!” She growled at Li Tianming.

“Xiaoxiao, you are a good girl, perhaps the only good person across Lightning Manor.” Li Tianming stood at one side, his eyes taking in the sight calmly.

“You, however, are a killer, a criminal!” Lin Xiaoxiao’s bloodshot eyes stared back at him.

“You are wrong. You are still young, so it’s natural that there are things in this world you don’t understand. No matter. Let me ask you one thing instead. Is your brother dead yet?” Li Tianming asked.

That question took everyone by surprise. That was an unfounded question; why would he ask if Lin Xiaoting died at all? No one knew, except for Li Tianming. When Mu Qingqing raised her toast to Lin Xiaoting, only he saw that sneer on her face. She must have done something about that drink.

“How did you know? Were you the one?!” Lin Xiaoxiao was shocked.

She too had heard Lin Xiaoting’s screams, and the order to search for Mu Qingqing. When she found her brother, he was already kneeling on the floors, crying. Apparently, it was the Gelding Blight, and it had something to do with that drink that Mu Qingqing had offered him.

Lin Xiaoxiao had an instinctive feeling that Mu Qingqing would head to the institute, but she was a step too late.

“You mean he’s dead?” Li Tianming frowned. That would be too easy an end for him.

“Of course not!” Lin Xiaoxiao raged.

“So which part about him is crippled now?” Li Tianming asked.

If Mu Qingqing hadn’t succeeded, she wouldn’t choose to end her life here in such a manner. If these events were all well-planned acts, then the director behind it all was Li Tianming, who chose to not end her life in the Abyssal Battlefield.

“Shut up!” Lin Xiaoxiao clammed up immediately, since she knew that the news of the Gelding Blight was a taboo topic that affect the Lightning Manor’s reputation. “You are a devil, you all are! You’ll pay the price for this one day!”

“A few years down the road, you will find out who the true devil is.” Li Tianming stared into those young yet vengeful eyes.

“Big sis Qingqing...”

Lin Xiaoxiao’s tears rained down as she looked at the cold corpse resting in her arms. But when she looked back up again, the young man was already gone, a figure departing into the distance.

“One day, I will take revenge for big sis Qingqing! Li Tianming!”

She still thought it all started when Li Tianming crippled Mu Qingqing at the Abyssal Battlefield. But when she was about to leave with Mu Qingqing’s corpse, she saw the bloody words printed on the floor.

Tianming. I’m Sorry. I’m Not Worthy.

Lin Xiaoxiao froze on the spot, as if she was struck by lightning. It was her handwriting — how would Lin Xiaoxiao not recognise it? Mu Qingqing was a talented girl, her skills in the fine arts as great as her cultivation. Her words were one of a kind, not imitable by anyone else.

Lin Xiaoxiao wasn’t stupid. The three lines were enough evidence to tell what had happened three years ago. Chills ran down her spine, down to the tip of her toes, as she finally understood those cryptic words. You’re still young. Li Tianming’s words echoed in her ears, but she no longer treated them as an insult.

“Is this karmic retribution? A debt paid by blood...” She trembled, having understood why Mu Qingqing was allowed to leave the Abyssal Battlefield alive.

Did Li Tianming forgive her? Of course not. But he had turned the tables, and there was one more dish to be served, a big fish.

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In the Vermilion Bird imperial palace, Qingluan Residence. The doors were locked shut, with imperial guards blocking off the entrance of the bedroom. King Xuan, who was standing in front of the door, frowned at the din.

“Qing’er, Ling’er, quit messing around.”

“Uncle, let me out! I have to return to the institute!” Jiang Qingluan’s agitated voice came from within the room.

“Don’t even think about it. The Vermilion Bird King himself has forbidden the two of you from leaving your room. Only when the results are out three days later will I let you free.” King Xuan rejected her immediately.

“But Ling’er can help Li Tianming!” Jiang Qingluan raged. The other girl remained silent, but she knew that no one else could be more worried for him than her at this juncture.

“Help? She’s not helping anyone.”

“Why would you stop her? They are clearly provoking us too! We’ve been on good terms with the Wei Clan for so many years! What would the world think of us if we chicken out and let the Wei Clan struggle on their own?” Jiang Qingluan rebutted.

“You make that sound easy, but have you thought about the number of innocents who would die in the royal clan if we try to help? The two inspectors are clearly on the Yueling Clan’s side, and they are determined to take down the Wei Manor. If we help, we are simply offering them an excuse to overthrow us and let Lightning Manor take the throne instead.” King Xuan shook his head.

“As if sitting back will save us. They are bound to target us sooner or later, so why not put up a fight, at the very least?”

“How? Your father is stuck with the inspectors and can’t even return to the palace, how are we supposed to stop them?”

“So we are just going to sit here and wait for our doom?”

“Better that than being reckless. The two of you just settle down and sit tight for these three days.” King Xuan left immediately after saying those words, reminding the guards one last time to not let the princesses out. Inside the bedroom, Jiang Feiling stared outside the window with her hands on the edge, an ominous spark in her eyes.

### **Chapter 162 - Impending Failure!**

“Li Tianming.” As he headed for the Flameyellow Stadium, Li Tianming heard someone calling out to him from the shadows. Li Tianming turned around to see an unfamiliar woman about Mu Wan’s age, dressed in a scholarly suit.

“May I know who this senior is?”

“Occult Athenaeum’s Qin Xuanyu,” she replied.

The name was enough for Li Tianming to know that she was the daughter of minister Qin. Back during the ranking test, she was in one of the VIP rooms, which meant that Li Tianming had never seen her before. Like her father, she was one of the Vermilion Bird King’s greatest aides.

“What does senior have for me?” Li Tianming asked.

“I can’t head over to the Wei Manor, so I need you to convey a message to them for me. It’s a message from the king,” Qin Xuanyu said, not forgetting to keep her volume down. The king, of course, referred to the Vermilion Bird King, who had been brought away by the two inspectors.

“I’m all ears.”

“His majesty said that if the opponents have the intention to kill, then do what you want with those from the Lightning Manor. But do not harm anyone from the Yueling Clan, just try your best to defeat them. That’s the Wei Clan’s only chance of survival,” Qin Xuanyu said seriously.

“I see, thank you for the tip,” Li Tianming answered.

The reasoning behind this was obvious. The Yueling Clan was the vice-inspectors’ true target of protection, whereas the Lightning Manor was just a clan that had value due to Lin Xiaoting’s existence. It was fine for Li Tianming, since his foes were all in Lightning Manor anyway. As for Yueling Ji stealing his manna, he could turn the other cheek for that. It was a competition organized for her to begin with, and without her, it wouldn’t even have happened.

Now that her job was done, Qin Xuanyu returned to the shadows and left without a sound. By then, the sun was already rising, painting the city red, making it look like a boiling cauldron from a distance.

Li Tianming stood in an empty area within the stadium, a place reserved for the Wei Clan. Directly opposite them was another patch, meant for the Lightning Manor and the Yueling Clan. Higher up was a room that housed the three invigilators of the battle, the Vermilion Bird King and the two vice-inspectors!

Li Tianming was the earliest to arrive. He stepped into the VIP room, where he had a good view of the entire stadium through the window. There was still quite some time before the battle began, so he held his Grand Thunderflare Sword and waved it around the room.

The room trembled from the sword ki generated.

“Apocalyptic-Will, capable of destroying heaven and earth.” He was immersed in the way of the sword. Beside him, the little chick stood on the window ledge, casting its glance over the entire arena. And at its feet was the black cat, deep in slumber, without a worry for anything in this world.

In the blink of an eye, the clock had struck twelve. Tens of thousands of spectators flooded the stadium, their presence heard by the entire capital. Almost all the rich and famous of the city had made their way here from the wedding at Lightning Manor, and amongst them were some of the strongest cultivators in the nation.

Discussions, jeers, opinions, all kinds of small-talk and useless chatter took place inside the stadium. Clearly, a thousand years as the nation’s cradle for geniuses wasn’t enough in the face of the inspectors’ bias. As a clan that remained low-key for many years, the Wei Clan was nearing its end. And yet, among those who were unaffected, most of them were gloating.

“Look, the Wei Clan is here!” Heads turned towards the entrance of the stadium, most of them interested to catch the last glimpse of a clan that was about to vanish.

“How many of them do you reckon will still be alive three days later?”

“The vice-inspectors are personally administering the challenge, so the Wei Clan’s probably going to be uprooted.”

“The distribution of power in Vermilion Bird will change, considering this influence of power well beyond our control.”

“From this day, the two biggest clans will no longer be the royal clan and the Wei Manor, but Lightning Manor and the Yueling Clan.”

“Don’t come to a conclusion too early. Vermilion Bird King is also here to invigilate the challenge today.”

Most people have no idea on how much power the vice-inspectors actually held. Even if they were the head-inspectors, their influence was limited within a certain range. For example, they couldn’t directly replace the Wei Clan with the Yueling Clan. For Yueling Clan to truly take root in Vermilion Bird, they needed to at least prove themselves in battle for the next three days.

Compared to Lightning Manor, the Wei Clan was definitely short on manpower. Excluding those not part of the fighting strength, there were less than thirty people in the group that stepped into the stadium.

“Tianming, how’s cultivation going?” Mu Yang leaned against the door. Even though it was about time for the challenge to start, his expressions were calm and composed.

“Just a bit more,” Li Tianming replied.

“Hmm, that is apparent. You should finish it in three days,” Mu Yang said. It was not the first time he was impressed by Li Tianming’s talent that came from his ten rings, nor would it be the last.

“Come and greet your grandfather,” Mu Yang said.

When Li Tianming walked out, Wei Tiancang and the rest had already sat down. Even though a golden glow radiated from his eyes as usual, Li Tianming could tell that the old man was still in a state of fatigue, his complexion still pale.

His state even extended to the rest of the Wei Manor, where people like Wei Tianxiong, Wei Zikun and Wei Guohao all had their heads lowered. Needless to say, they must have spent the whole night complaining. Li Tianming was thankful he chose not to return to the manor.

“Tianming, I heard that you’ve been making pretty good progress lately.” Wei Tiancang turned to Li Tianming, his frown finally easing a little.

“Yes.” Li Tianming nodded.

“You have unsettled business with Lin Xiaoting, and this challenge is your best chance?”

“That’s right.”

“Confident?”

“Absolutely,” Li Tianming replied with a smile. No one knew how strong the hatred boiling in his veins was.

That confidence took the Wei Clan by surprise. It was no news that the younger generation in Wei Clan was the least hopeful one, where members like Wei Guohao and Wei Lingxuan were all less than ideal. In comparison, they had to face two disciples of Heaven’s Elysium. Even so, Li Tianming easily claimed that he was a hundred percent confident.

“Tianming, can you stop being so arrogant? Do the Wei Clan really need another reason for people to laugh at us?” Wei Tianxiong shook his head and sighed.

“So cocky just because of that pitiful arrogance of yours. You wouldn’t be laughing anymore if you fully understood the crisis we are in.” Wei Zikun gritted his teeth.

“You two can wallow and mope, but don’t go dragging down those with confidence!” Wei Jing was the first to snap. The two brothers had complained all night long, affecting the morale of the rest of the clan. All the juniors waited anxiously for the battle to happen, but in their mind the battle was already lost.

“You are the last one I want to hear that from. If it wasn’t for you, would father be weakened so much, landing him in such a bad state right before battle? His glory and reputation was sabotaged by none but you!” Wei Jing was in fact the main reason why Wei Zikun had been so annoyed. Why must she return at

such a bad timing? Wei Jing's life or death didn't concern them, especially since it seemed that the entire Wei Clan was doomed now because of her.

"If the two uncles wish to push the blame, then why not blame yourself for being so useless that anyone can bully you?" Li Tianming sneered. While he knew that he shouldn't be arguing with people on his side, it was necessary to curb people who were bringing down everyone's fighting spirit.

"Silence! Where did your manners go?" Wei Zikun scolded.

"Shut up, all of you. Tianxiong, Zikun, I will rather die here than to bow down before the Lightning Manor! If all you can do is complain, then walk out of this stadium now and never claim to be my son again!" Wei Tiancang's voice was cold yet firm.

"Father, don't get us wrong. We will fight for the clan till our last breath too, but we just couldn't take how cocky this boy is," Wei Tianxiong defended.

"Then you better stay alive to the day after to see who emerges victorious," Li Tianming said. Tomorrow was the fight between the current generation, and the two brothers will definitely be taking part.

"Alright, Ming'er, give it a break." Wei Jing pulled his sleeves. Wei Tianxiong's anger was not uncalled for. He was a senior after all, and it was humiliating for him to be insulted by juniors like Li Tianming.

Li Tianming was not bothered with the two cowards too. So what if they were older than him? Only people like Mu Yang, who rose to the challenge, were trustworthy seniors to him.

When Li Tianming returned to his room to continue practicing his sword art, Wei Tiancang exchanged a look with the Guardian of Sanctions, Wei Qing. Wei Tiancang shook his head bitterly. All these years, he tried to raise the future generations of the Wei Clan properly, but the one that fulfilled his expectations perfectly was the one that never even received his guidance before. In comparison, the youngsters that grew up under his care all proved to be unreliable, with mindsets unlike a true Wei warrior's when faced with a crisis.

"Brother, what do you think about Tianming?" Wei Qing asked.

"He has both confidence and the right mentality. The rest is up to fate," Wei Tiancang replied.

"Try to win in the first two days. Don't let the younger generation decide our fate. Don't leave that stress to them," Wei Qing said, to which Wei Tiancang nodded in agreement. But that was easier said than done — what were the odds of them taking victory in the older and current generation?

There was no time for them to wonder about that, because the members of the Yueling Clan and the Lightning Manor arrived a moment later.

"Look, there's so many of them!" When the group more than a hundred strong seated themselves opposite the Wei Clan, the stadium boiled with anticipation. If Yueling Clan was twice the size of Wei Clan, then Lightning Manor had at least three times the number of people. In other words, each member of the Wei Clan would be fighting five opposing beastmasters!

Was there any doubt to this battle? When the two clans have settled down, even a kid could tell that the Sanctum Replacement Challenge was over. The Wei Clan was clearly going to meet its end.

“Sucks to be them. If they hadn’t been so haughty about being a elite clan and took in more members like the Lightning Manor, would they have ended up in such a state?”

“Wei Tiancang lost because of his own arrogance.”

“Now the Lightning Manor has become the truly superior clan within Vermilion Bird!”

How could the Wei Clan even defend themselves? The Lightning Seigneur Lin Zhao had three brothers, while the Tempest Marshall Lin Tianjian had five. In the younger generation, they had two disciples of Heaven’s Elysium!

“I reckon the two youngsters wouldn’t even be given a chance to showcase themselves. Because if it’s the best of three, there won’t be a third round.”

“That’s where you are wrong. I was at the wedding last night, and I have heard the inspectors saying that regardless of the results of the first two rounds, they will fight for all three days!”

“Why though? If they can win the first two, they are already the winners, so why waste time?”

“Don’t you get it? The inspectors added that rule separately, probably at Lin Xiaoting’s behest. He wants to kill Li Tianming.”

“I see.”

### **Chapter 163 - Propping Up the Sky!**

Li Tianming conveyed Qin Xuanyu’s message to Mu Yang.

“Yueling Ji’s here already, but where’s Lin Xiaoting?” Mu Yang stared at the opposite side, confused.

“Would be a shame if he can’t fight anymore,” Li Tianming said.

“What do you mean?”

Li Tianming explained what he saw during the wedding.

“Let me check with our spies in the Lightning Manor. They can hide the challenge, but if anything happened to Lin Xiaoting, there’s no way they can hide that.”

Mu Yang walked off, only to return minutes later, an amused look on his face.

“What is it?”

“Gelding Blight,” Mu Yang simply said.

“Hoh...” Li Tianming nodded.

So that meant Lin Xiaoting was impotent now, turning Li Tianming’s curse, back before they entered the Abyssal Battlefield, into reality. He had wished for them to die heirless; in fact, it was possible that Mu Qingqing’s choice was influenced by his words.

“Unfortunately, that’s not necessary anymore, since he only has three days left to leave.” Li Tianming rested his Grand Thunderflare Sword on the ledge of the window, its tip pointed towards the Lightning Manor. No matter what happened, Lin Xiaoting would be making an appearance two days later.

Just then, cheers erupted from the crowd.

“Sir inspectors! Vermilion Bird King!”

The stars that everyone had been waiting for finally arrived. Witnessed by a fervent, bubbling, crowd, Jin Yixuan and Song Yixue sat down on the fanciest seats that had the best view of the arena, smiles on their faces. Lightning Manor and Yueling Clan were on their left, whereas the numerically inferior Wei Clan was on their right. Their arrival signified the start of the Sanctum Replacement Challenge!

The group from Lightning Manor was seething with fury, probably because of how Lin Xiaoting was impotent now. Out of them all, Lin Zhao and Lin Tianjian resembled wildbeasts the most. They didn't expect Mu Qingqing to hang herself in front of the institute, and by the time they got there, the body was already taken away by Lin Xiaoxiao. Now that the challenge was about to begin, they couldn't even take vengeance on her body, so they could only vent their frustration on the Wei Clan.

With everyone's eyes on him, the Vermilion Bird King, who had appeared together with the inspectors, announced, “As everyone knows, we are here today for the Sanctum Replacement Challenge. This is bound to be an exciting battle, and I hope both families can prove their worth in this arena. It is my fortune to host and invigilate this battle with the two inspectors, on behalf of the citizens of Vermilion Bird!”

“For now, I will cut short the introduction. Today marks the battle between the older generation of the two clans, so it's time to send the beastmasters into the arena!” The conflicts between Wei Clan and Lightning Manor was nothing new to the spectators, so there wasn't any need for an introduction.

“A moment, please.” Just then, Jin Yixuan interrupted. The stadium fell silent immediately as they awaited the vice-inspector's words.

He smiled briefly as he whipped out a transparent orb from his pocket. Suddenly, the orb bounced out of his hands and expanded rapidly, until a huge Heavenly Pattern Barrier covered the entire arena. It stopped at the edge of the arena, right before the spectator stands. “This Heavenly Pattern Barrier is different from the one at the Abyssal Trials. Nothing can escape the bubble, which means that the beastmasters can fight without having to worry about collateral damage. Only when the victory is decided will I open a passage and let the contestants out. ”

The Heavenly Pattern Barrier back at the Abyssal Battlefield was a lot bigger, and anyone who ran into it would be teleported to a random corner within the barrier. On the other hand, the barrier here was an invisible wall containing the contestants and the aftereffects of any attack.

“You may begin.” As Jin Yixuan finished his words, two holes ripped open on the Heavenly Pattern Barrier, one in front of each clan.

Today was the battle between the older generations. For the Wei Clan, only two people were qualified to battle today, the two being Wei Qing and Wei Tiancang. Without hesitation, Wei Qing leaped into the arena like a bolt of lightning.

“Wei Qing of the Wei Manor, here to fight!” Sparks flew from the old man's eyes as his words sent a clear message to the crowd. The Wei Clan would not go down without a fight! Even the barrier trembled

from the might of that shout, as Heavenly Will beast ki gushed out of Wei Qing. Even the spectator stand was ignited by his burning zeal.

“Wei Qing was known as the battle maniac of Wei Manor, and even nearly defeated his elder brother before. Even at his current age, he has so much vigor!”

Wei Qing’s spirit was no doubt respectable, serving as a good example for Wei Tianxiong and the rest.

Immediately, a stout old man landed in the arena on the opposite end and answered, “Who dares to challenge I, Lin Sheng of the Lightning Manor!”

Lin Sheng was the Lightning Seigneur’s seventh sibling, and was ten years younger than Wei Qing. Once a beastmaster was older than fifty, their cultivation would start declining, making them weaker with each passing day. Lin Sheng was significantly younger than Wei Qing, and was just a bit older than Wei Tianxiong; he was still at the peak of his cultivation.

The Lightning Seigneur Lin Zhao had a total of three brothers, ranking third, fourth and seventh in the family. In general, men tend to have an advantage over women in terms of cultivating, and most clans and powers in Vermilion Bird were controlled by men.

“Wei Qing, have you washed your neck?” Lin Sheng sneered menacingly. It was the first battle, and winning it would be a great boost to morale.

“Cut the talking. Only cowards would try to provoke his opponents before a battle!” The two had only exchanged one look, but the killing intent in the arena had already reached the peak.

Behind Wei Qing, a giant purple roc took to the skies, lightning rolling beneath its giant wings. It was a giant lifebound beast, and even for Li Tianming, it was his first time seeing Wei Qing’s beast. It was the Sky-Propping Violet-Lightning Roc, a high-tier seven-star beast just like the Blizzard Dragon. But unlike the dragon, it was an adult beast that was in its prime, making it three times bigger than when it was younger. The wings were so huge that when they spread, they even threatened to block the sun out.

Clang! With a crisp sound, Wei Qing had produced a Lightning Halberd in his hands. He was prepared to protect the Wei Clan behind his back at all cost!

“Lin Sheng, come forth and accept your death!” It was a charisma rarely seen by anyone in the stadium. Now who would still claim that Wei Manor would crumble by a single touch? Wei Qing would prove to them that the three days of battle had only just started! Even if he was going down, he would take as many with him as he could.

Within seconds, the arena erupted into action. Lin Sheng summoned his Sky-Thunder Black Cheetah, a high-tier seven star beast like Wei Qing’s lifebound beast. Lightning ran through the giant cheetah’s furs, and its menacing face expressed its lust for blood. Li Tianming found himself hoping that the black cat would develop such cool features when it grew older. This cheetah was way scarier than Liu Qianyang’s Lightning Bolt Cheetah.

A second later, the two figures in the arena clashed together, Wei Qing’s halberd and Lin Sheng’s longsword slamming against each other at a blinding speed.

“So this is the power of Heavenly Will!” Li Tianming stood before the window and gazed at the ongoing battle.

Rightfully, it would be impossible for a beastmaster at Spiritsource to understand the essence of a battle between masters in Heavenly Will Stage. But for Li Tianming, training in Demise of Man-Earth-Heaven aided in his interpretation of the on-going battle. He began to practice the three Demises while watching the ongoing battle, and with a jolt, realised that his comprehension of the three moves were growing rapidly.

It would seem that he was the only one in the entire stadium who wasn't completely absorbed by the heated battle.

“Each strike by a beastmaster at Heavenly Will Stage is infused with their own heavenly will. While I may not be able to sense that power, their opponent can definitely feel it.”

This battle was only possible with decades of experience accumulated by both sides, but even that was too difficult for Li Tianming to understand. But simply figuring out a tiny aspect of their battle would be of great aid to his cultivation.

Within the barrier, spiritsource abilities, unity fields, and heavenly-ranked battle arts of all kinds clashed and erupted within the arena. Each movement and each encounter would shake the seats within the stadium and even its walls. Both beastmasters controlled the power of lightning, making the battle even more violent.

Back in the private room, Li Tianming continued practising. He would start from Spectral-Dance, proceed to Heavenly-Judgement, and then get stuck at the final stance, Apocalyptic-Will. He would then take a look at the battle before starting all over again, his cultivation progressing along with the battle.

“That wouldn't be enough to defeat me!” Wei Qing's voice rumbled like thunder, echoing around the barrier.

Both Lin Sheng and the Sky-Thunder Black Cheetah collapsed on the floor, bleeding and panting. The battle was tense at first, but Lin Sheng had started to falter at around the five minutes mark. Wei Qing claimed his victory moments later.

As Wei Qing pointed his halberd at the Lightning Manor and the Yueling Clan, the Wei Clan puffed themselves up. Nobody had expected Wei Qing to win with such ease as the stadium went silent.

“Looks like the Wei Clan wasn't just a punching bag after all, eh?” Many people began to doubt whether this would still be an one-sided battle.

As for the Lightning Manor, dark faces could be seen in their ranks, the group pumped with killing intent. Clearly, even if it was Yueling Clan fighting to be the ruler of the sanctum, the main bulk of the fighters would still come from the Lightning Manor.

“Lin Sheng is defeated. Next contestant from the Lightning Manor, come up!” announced the Vermilion Bird King.

“I, Lin Hao, am here to fight you!” Lin Zhao's fourth brother, Lin Hao, was the next to battle. As he landed in the arena and looked at the still panting Wei Qing, he smiled.

“Wei Qing, we have fought eighteen battles our entire life, and I have lost all eighteen.” Lin Hao was the same age as Wei Qing.

“Make that nineteen today!” Wei Qing stabbed his Lightning Halberd into the ground, and behind him, his Sky-Propping Violet-Lightning Roc lit up with a renewed brilliance.

“Nineteen? So what? Even if I lose, I still have my third brother to back me up, but who do you have? Even if you are strong, what can you do when my brothers and I finally exhaust you? What can you do about it, huh?” Lin Hao replied, breaking into laughter a moment later.

Wei Qing frowned slightly. Of course he knew. The Lightning Manor’s greatest advantage was in their numbers. And they weren’t shy in exploiting it.

“Cloudspark Mosquito!”

Once again, a high-tier seven-star beast appeared. This lightning-type insect beast was even scarier than the previous opponent, considering its high mobility. It was the biggest mosquito that Li Tianming had ever seen, its spear-like needle barbed with thorns. Even its legs were covered in razor-sharp spikes, arcs of electricity winding around it. Even simply flying would create an irksome buzzing, enough to rattle anyone’s mind.

“Die!” Lin Hao disappeared from his spot, charging towards Wei Qing with his mosquito. “This is but the beginning. My brothers and I will have plenty of time to deal with you and your pathetic family!”

His laughter continued to echo through the stadium.

### **Chapter 164 - You Can Only Die!**

Everyone watched on as Wei Qing and Sky-Propping Violet-Lightning Roc battled Lin Hao and the Cloudspark Mosquito. Lin Hao didn’t differ much from Lin Sheng in strength. However, he was still in peak condition, while Wei Qing already had one fight.

Hence, Lin Hao chose not to fight him head-on, opting to grind him down instead. His mosquito, as a poison type, had the terrain advantage; the Heavenly Pattern Barrier had trapped the poisonous gas it was releasing, affecting Wei Qing.

However, Wei Qing was a dauntless powerhouse. Lightning flickered everywhere within the arena, forcing the mosquito to take evasive maneuvers.

“Despicable! Lin Hao, despite your age, you’re still so cowardly!” Wei Qing’s voice boomed.

Lin Hao sniggered, sticking to his tactics to grind Wei Qing down, the poison gas taking up more and more space by the minute.

“Cowards don’t deserve to fight me!” Wei Qing shot towards his roc in the sky, which unleashed its spirit-source ability a heartbeat later. Countless lightning bolts converged around him, shrouding his very form with a deadly might.

“Fall!” Wei Qing, now a war-god of lightning, hacked downwards with enough momentum to split apart heaven and earth.

The fierce attack stirred up the audience, and everyone got onto their feet to watch.

Lin Hao had nowhere to escape. A minute later, he was struck by the roc's spirit-source ability and crumpled over. With such an opportunity at hand, Wei Qing sliced off one of the mosquito's legs.

With that, Lin Hao's defeat was set in stone. He quickly crawled to his feet, but he had a smug expression on his face. "So you've beaten me a nineteenth time. But so what? Can you defeat my third brother in the state you're in?"

A clan prospered or declined based on their people.

Lin Hao had been utterly routed, while Wei Qing looked very impressive. It was embarrassing, sure, but so what? Apart from Wei Qing, there was only a Wei Tianxiong at sixty percent strength.

However, Lin Hao's side still had his third brother, Lin Rong, as well as Yueling Hong and the Lightning Seigneur himself!

After two consecutive battles and a poisoned body to boot, Wei Qing and his lifebound beast were gasping for breath, their faces purple.

"Lin Hao has been defeated. Yueling Clan, send in your next member," the Vermilion Bird King announced.

Honestly, Wei Qing's strength had shocked the upper echelons of the country, who had previously believed he was on par with Lin Hao and the rest. However, now he had defeated two in a row!

Unfortunately, victory looked impossible, now that the third person had appeared.

"Lin Rong, Lightning Manor." A lanky old man dressed in refined clothing appeared in front of Wei Qing. Despite his advanced age, he possessed shocking power. Of his generation in the Lightning Manor, he was second only to the Lightning Seigneur.

"Wei Qing. Your performance today hasn't embarrassed the Wei Clan. However, you may leave," Lin Rong said blandly, a lance covered in lightning held in his hand.

"I definitely didn't embarrass the Wei Clan. The embarrassing ones here, however, are you lot, a bunch of cowards who are taking turns!" Wei Qing roared with laughter.

"It's all in accordance with the rules. You're strong, true. But will that stop you from losing?" Lin Rong smiled.

A five-coloured bird flew up behind him. This was a matured Penta-Coloured Darkthunder Bird, the evolution of the Tri-Coloured Darkthunder Bird. Lightning of five different colours danced across its body, letting off hair-raising crackles every time two differently-coloured bolts met.

"Die!" Lin Rong leapt onto his bird, hoisting his lance to point it at Wei Qing. His mount cawed loudly as it charged down the Sky-Propping Violet-Lightning Roc.

Spirit-source ability: Penta-Coloured Lightning!

All of the lightning on the Penta-Coloured Darkthunder Bird's body gathered, before crashing down on Wei Qing's position. Thunder rumbled repeatedly as five lightning bolts, each a different colour from the rest, descended.

In response, the roc's feathers lit up as a giant electrical net formed above Wei Qing, staving off this first spirit-source ability.

However, the opponent had a full seven abilities!

Lin Rong proceeded to strike out with his spear, using a strange yet domineering heavenly-ranked battle art. The lightning on the spear writhed about like a dragon.

A deafening metallic screech rang out as weapons clashed. Li Tianming's hearing was distorted for a whole minute, and even after the aftermath of their opening blows ended, his eardrums were still in pain.

"The Heavenly Will stage really is strong!" Li Tianming felt his thirst for this stage increasing.

The current developments were worrying. Lin Rong had enough power to face Wei Qing head-on, but Wei Qing had already fought two people and was currently suffering from the Cloudspark Mosquito's poison.

Four different blurs could be seen colliding with each other again and again, as if the Heavenly Pattern Barrier was a cage with four fierce beasts inside fighting.

It took a full minute for Lin Rong to break the stalemate, when Wei Qing was finally no longer able to hold on with just pure fighting spirit.

The Darkthunder Bird swept past, knocking away Wei Qing and his roc.

"Die!" With such an opening, Lin Rong swooped in and ran his lance through the roc's head.

The Sky-Propping Violet-Lightning Roc gave a pitiful cry... and perished.

"Lin Rong!" Wei Qing's eyes widened. He had never expected his opponent to kill his companion of sixty years. He himself had refrained from killing Lin Rong's brothers. For him, simply winning had been enough!

When Wei Qing charged at Lin Rong, the Darkthunder Bird blocked his way. "You can die!"

His halberd slammed into the bird's neck, decapitating it with a single blow.

"Wei Qing!" Lin Rong had never expected Wei Qing to kill his beast in this desperate situation.

Sure, Wei Qing was crippled, but so was he!

Wei Qing retreated to the barrier. "I admit defeat!"

He was covered in blood and exhausted. He was aware killing the opponent's lifebound beast was all he could do. Once there, tears flowed down without any sign of ending as the old man took in the sight of his roc's dead body, blood pooling around it to create a sad sight..

"No!" Lin Rong was still in his optimal state. Lifting up his lance, he rushed at Wei Qing.

“Inspectors, Wei Qing has admitted defeat!” A beam of golden light flickered in Wei Tiancang’s eyes, directed at the two inspectors. Earlier on, the inspectors had immediately let them go when Lin Hao and Lin Rong had admitted defeat.

“Inspectors.” The Vermilion Bird King turned around. His voice rang out loud and clear, and everyone in the spectator stands heard it, turning around to look dumbly at the two inspectors. They knew there was bias, but there was such a thing as being too obvious.

In the barrier, Lin Rong was pursuing Wei Qing, with the latter already having lost an arm. A few more moments, and Wei Qing would die.

Jin Yixuan finally reacted. “Oh. Oh yeah. He admitted defeat! Sorry, I was too engrossed.”

With a snap of his fingers, the barrier opened.

Wei Qing finally found his chance and rushed out. Earlier on, he had already brought his roc into his lifebound space, even under Lin Rong’s frenzied assault. Even though he had come out on the Wei Clan’s side, Lin Rong still attempted to give chase. However, Mu Yang was waiting and ready at the entrance. His finger jabbed out once, sending a streak of sword ki over.

“Lin Rong, retreat!”

Lin Rong instinctively blocked the attack. However, he was still forced to the ground, tumbling away from the force. When he crawled up and looked at Mu Yang, his arms were shaking.

Mu Yang was looking at him coldly from atop the wall. “Lord Inspectors, that should have been a violation of the rules, right?”

“Yes, don’t do it again.” Song Yixue said casually. And with that, the issue of Lin Rong charging out of the barrier to kill the opponent was dismissed.

“Don’t waste time. Next! Lin Rong, you can concede if you can’t fight anymore,” Jin Yixuan said.

“Yes.” Lin Rong struggled to his feet.

“Big brother, avenge me. Make Wei Tiancang die here!” When he exited, Lin Rong clenched his teeth.

“Relax. In his current state, he’s not even as strong as Wei Qing. Hah, if he doesn’t die here, you’ll be the Lightning Seigneur,” Lin Zhao sneered.

“You’re making jokes, big brother. I’ll go first.” Lin Rong closed his eyes. He had made a sacrifice for the clan.

Yueling Hong, the clan leader of the Yueling Clan, spoke up. “Lightning Seigneur. I’ll go first and expend some of Wei Tiancang’s energy. As for the killing, can you do it?”

“No problem. I’ve been at odds with him my whole life. I’ve always wanted to kill him. Although I could do it myself, the inspectors said you all need to at least fight once a day for appearance’s sake.” The Lightning Seigneur smiled.

“Yes.” Yueling Hong stepped into the battlefield.

“Sorry. I was too useless.” Wei Tiancang gritted his teeth.

“Don’t say that, elder brother. Since they did that to me, they’ll definitely try to kill you!” Wei Qing said emotionally.

“I know.” An ominous glint flickered in Wei Tiancang’s eyes. If he hadn’t exhausted himself in curing the Lifesbane, Lightning Manor wouldn’t have been able to act so arrogantly here today.

“I’m tired. I’ll rest for a while. However, I’m not going. You have to return alive!” Wei Qing only had one hand left, but he used it to grip Wei Tiancang tightly.

“Alright!” Wei Tiancang nodded. He ordered one of the Wei Clan’s doctors to use whatever spirit herbs necessary to treat Wei Qing’s wounds. However, the lost arm was unrecoverable. And the most painful thing was the loss of his lifebound beast.

When Li Tianming watched that old man cry from the private room, he too gritted his teeth. Wei Jing was crying as well. However, Wei Qing himself consoled them, saying that he was fine.

“Lightning Manor!” It seemed that Li Tianming had to make Lightning Manor pay a horrendous price. Unfortunately, Wei Qing being crippled was only the start.

Li Tianming had already seen the inspectors’ concerns. If the Wei Clan was killed or crippled, he would do nothing. However, if the Wei Clan held the advantage, they would be concerned.

“We will lose today. So, we need to win tomorrow! If Uncle Yang can do it, we stand a chance...”

A flame burning in his heart, Li Tianming continued to hone his Apocalyptic-Will.

### **Chapter 165 - Wei Tiancang! Enjoy Your Trip to the Yellow Springs!**

Within the stadium, Wei Tiancang exchanged blows with Yueling Hong. After curing Wei Jing of her Lifesbane, he had exhausted his strength. He was currently at fifty to sixty percent strength, not even as strong as Wei Qing.

Now, Lightning Manor and the Yueling Clan were profiting from his misfortune. It was shameless, yes, but who could stop it?

“Sire, don’t be angry with me. I just wish to test out how much strength you have left.” Yueling Hong wasn’t dumb. He wasn’t too strong, at most at Lin Sheng’s level. His goal was simply to effortlessly seize a Heaven’s Sanctum, and he wouldn’t put his life on the line for it, especially since the inspectors found so many people willing to do so for them.

Although the inspectors claimed that the Yueling Clan could defeat the Wei Manor, Lightning Manor was aware that in truth, they were at most capable of winning for the younger generation’s segment.

This Yueling Hong couldn’t even beat Wei Qing!

Such a clan wouldn’t be able to control a sanctum if they didn’t have someone backing them. Similar to Yueling Ji, Yueling Hong’s lifebound beast was a Blizzard Dragon, except that the dragon was already at its twilight years.

Due to symbiotic cultivation, a lifebound beast’s lifespan was roughly their beastmaster’s.

According to legend, only through breaking out of the Heavenly Will stage and into the 'Saint stage' could one exceed their mortal body and extend their life.

However, that stage was distant even for Wei Tiancang, who was formerly Vermilion Bird's strongest. He was already getting on in years as well. If he couldn't enter it, he could only accept the natural order of life and death, passing away like a extinguished candle.

Similar to him, Wei Tiancang's lifebound beast was quite old. However, it drew cries of alarm when it made its way out of the lifebound space, for one reason. It was an eight-star imperial beast. Even though it was merely low-tier, the fact remained that it was an emperor of lifebound beasts. The moment it appeared, all beasts must submit!

That was the Twelve-Winged Goldroc!

Unlike its Eight-Winged brethren which were royal beasts, this was an imperial beast that could be said to be world-shaking when fully matured. In comparison, the high-tier seven-star Blizzard Dragon looked a tad unremarkable.

Regretfully, the Twelve-Winged Gold Roc wasn't in peak condition today as well. It too, had expended its strength to cure the Lifesbane. It had been in a deep sleep until today, but it was only at seventy percent of its full strength now.

However, Wei Tiancang's willpower didn't waver. Holding a light gold longsword, his white robes gradually turned gold under the sunlight.

Then, without a word, the battle began!

Wei Tiancang was clearly stronger than Wei Qing. When the sword descended, golden sword ki spread for hundreds of metres. However, with his current weakness, it was too difficult for Wei Tiancang to muster his combat power of the Heavenly Will stage!

Yueling Hong had long since noticed that. He pursued a similar strategy as Lin Hao, choosing to focus on grinding down Wei Tiancang's energy. Wei Tiancang was already so weak that he could actually die to this strategy.

Wei Tiancang was clearly aware of this as well, and he had only one recourse, which was to defeat Yueling Hong in one fell swoop. Hence, in the midst of the sword ki and golden flashes of light, Wei Tiancang and his roc started the battle with a fierce bombardment. With its spirit-source ability, the roc turned the battlefield into a purgatory of metal, and piercing blades of light filled everyone's view.

"I admit defeat!" Not even a minute later, a battered and exhausted Yueling Hong gave up. The exit immediately opened up below his feet, with Jin Yixuan incredibly punctual for once.

Yueling Hong wasn't really injured, and gave Wei Tiancang a smile. "And now, you can't even show forty percent of your strength."

Wei Tiancang had paid a price to quickly defeat him. Still, if it had dragged out, it would be even harder when he faced the Lightning Seigneur. After all, Yueling Hong was still a Heavenly Will powerhouse.

Now, only the two old enemies, Wei Tiancang and the Lightning Seigneur, Lin Tao, were left. Their battle would be the highlight of today. However, the result was already set in stone, so a truly exciting and spectacular battle wasn't in the cards for the audience.

"Wei Tiancang. I bet that in so many years of arrogance, you never once dreamt you would meet your eventual end in your own institute's entrance!" Lin Tao jumped down as Yueling Hong scaled the wall, landing right in front of Wei Tiancang.

"Truly shameless, taking advantage of other's weakness. Lin Tao, me treating you as my enemy for all those years... they seem to be wasted." Wei Tiancang frowned.

"Laughable. When it comes to a life and death battle, of course I'll do it when you're sick! Why are you saying such naive things at this juncture?" As he spoke, his lifebound beast soared up.

In Vermilion Bird, avian beasts reigned supreme, whether it came to the royal Vermilion Bird Clan, Wei Manor or Lightning Manor.

The Lightning Seigneur's lifebound beast was a massive eagle, one that was both tyrannical and ferocious, with four eyes on its head. It was also an eight-star imperial beast, the Four-Eyed Divine-Lightning Eagle!

Li Tianming recognised this beast; a three-eyed version of it had been the one to rip off Midas' feathers then.

The Lightning Seigneur stood atop it, carrying a purple sword wreathed in lightning, his presence like a god!

"Die!" The moment he attacked, it was clear the Lightning Seigneur was much stronger than his brothers, at least thirty percent stronger than Wei Qing.

"I'll force you to pay a price if you want to kill me!" Wei Tiancang shot into the sky. Working with his roc again, golden light filled the area once more. Pulsing with a heavenly will that threatened to sunder the world, the stage below was full of craters in an instant, with even the clouds above the barrier swept away.

His destructive prowess, even in his current condition, was evidence of how powerful he would be in his peak!

However, the Lightning Seigneur wasn't someone easy to deal with either. The incredible speed of his lifebound beast left countless afterimages in its wake.

As the two clashed, the inside of the Heavenly Pattern Barrier devolved into a mess.

The spectators naturally all felt gratified.

"Even in such a state, Wei Tiancang is still so strong?"

"Doesn't that mean that the Lightning Seigneur isn't his match if he were at peak condition?"

Wei Tiancang had brought them even more shock than Wei Qing. Even if he lost today, the two brothers had still done enough to astonish the crowd, based on their achievement of defeating four people.

The Lightning Seignour might not win after all! The Wei Clan members were incredibly excited, watching the golden sword intent that filled the barrier with clenched fists.

The roc unleashed a spirit-source ability that let out piercingly bright golden light that dyed the entire barrier into a golden hemisphere, blotting out the battle inside.

Everyone watched on nervously as the fight continued on for an hour. This fight had gone on even longer than Wei Qing and his three opponents had. By the end of it, everyone's heart was in their throats.

Finally, the radiance within subsided. Wei Tiancang fell from the sky and slammed onto the ground, his sword stabbing into the ground and vibrating ceaselessly.

The Twelve-Winged Goldroc was covered in injuries as it landed beside Wei Tiancang. However, that didn't stop it from using its body to ward off a thick lightning bolt that flew towards Wei Tiancang.

"Wei Tiancang! Enjoy your trip to the Yellow Springs!" The Lightning Seignour descended from the sky. His body was riddled in wounds as well. One eye was bleeding, and his whole body was drenched in blood.

A large gash was on his lifebound beast's back, blood spurting out from it in a fountain every time it flapped its wings.

But despite those injuries, it was clear that the Lightning Seignour still had some fight left in him! Wei Tiancang had been knocked down, not from subpar skill or strength, but from exhaustion.

"I can't believe you still almost defeated me. But what a pity, Wei Tiancang!" The Lightning Seignour roared with deranged laughter. He didn't care if people mocked him for taking advantage of Wei Tiancang's weakness. This was a pragmatic world. So what if you were strong? You still have to die, now that times are changing!

"Henceforth, Vermilion Bird has no Wei Clan!"

Everyone watched as the blood-drenched old man in white robes rose, a pair of golden eyes locking onto the Lightning Seignour. He burst out laughing a moment later. "So what if you defeat me, Lin Tao! My descendants and disciple will still end your line! History will ridicule you as useless and as a coward. You could kill me, but you won't be considered my match!"

This heroic roar left many moved, and stirring up some contempt towards Lin Tao for his pettiness.

"Your trash descendants? Don't make me laugh. Today, you'll die. Tomorrow, your sons will follow, and the day after, it'll be your whole line!" The Lightning Seignour's sword thrust out, intent on reaping Wei Tiancang's life.

"How vicious. When did my Wei Clan ever offend you so?" Wei Tiancang couldn't understand. While they had been enemies for a long time, it had always been through fair competition. Mu Yang had even helped train Lin Xiaoting.

"You're too naive, despite your age. Your Wei Clan is in the way of my Lin Clan's path to glory. If we don't kill you, how do we proceed?"

Why was it necessary to wipe them out?

Firstly, today an irreconcilable grudge had been formed, so the remnants of the Wei Clan finding trouble with them one day had to be avoided. Secondly, they had already crippled Wei Qing, so they might as well go all the way, so that the Lightning Manor could sleep peacefully in the future.

If the Wei Clan weren't exterminated, they would help the Vermilion Bird King and get in their way once more when the Lightning Manor tried to seize control of the country.

"Give me your life!" The Lightning Seigneur forced away Wei Tiancang's lifebound beast that was protecting him, before his sword swept out towards Wei Tiancang's head. He no longer had the strength to resist. Death was staring him in the eye, but he refused to admit defeat, not to vile people like this.

In the face of such scum, death was the preferred course of action!

"MU YANG! Kill every single son of the Lin Clan!" Wei Tiancang roared, a cry that tugged at everyone's heartstrings.

### **Chapter 166 - One Strike; An Instant Victory!**

On the wall, Mu Yang's gaze was frosty. He shouted, "Inspectors, my master concedes! Please let him out!"

The inspectors' smiles were unaffected, as if they hadn't heard anything.

"Inspectors, we admit defeat today!" Mu Yang shouted again.

However, they did not respond.

Upon seeing Wei Tiancang about to be decapitated, Mu Yang snorted coldly. Grabbing Li Tianming's Grand Thunderflare Sword, he stabbed it into the wall below his feet.

The brick wall violently exploded, sending tremors through the whole Flameyellow Stadium. The ground began to buckle and crack with that single stab, reminiscent of a massive beast tunneling towards Wei Tiancang and the Lightning Seigneur.

The Lightning Seigneur, who was about to deal the finishing blow, suddenly noticed a brilliant burst of light erupt from beneath him. Yelping in surprise, he hurriedly dodged. His neck chilled as the light brushed past it, burying itself in the belly of his lifebound beast a moment later.

The Four-Eyed Divine-Lightning Eagle crumpled over with a miserable cry, blood spurting out of its body. As for the Lightning Seigneur, he rolled on the ground several times before forcing himself to his feet.

At this moment, everyone, including Li Tianming, looked at Mu Yang dumbly.

This was Demise of Earth, Earth-Quaker, a true heavenly-ranked battle art, and with this demonstration, Li Tianming felt like he had seen a whole new word with regards to the martial path.

Mu Yang pulled the sword out, his fiery gaze landing on the people of Lightning Manor. "I hereby swear that I, Mu Yang, will exterminate the clan of anyone who kills my master, so that they may accompany him in death!"

The barrier shook at those words. The Heavenly Pattern Barrier that had been touted to be unbreakable by Jin Yixuan had been damaged, with a hole at its base now. Mu Yang had hid himself very well. For the past forty years, he had done nothing but develop his talent to the utmost. However, this sword today had shown Vermilion Bird that the next number one powerhouse of Vermilion Bird had already been born!

At such a sight, Wei Tiancang laughed with mirth. "Lin Tao, this disciple of mine is stronger than me at my peak by eighty percent. How can your bunch of useless sons compare to him?"

Mu Yang had attacked from afar, but despite the distance, his single blow had pierced through the barrier and wounded the Lightning Seigneur's lifebound beast. Lin Tao himself had nearly died to it! With such power, who in Vermilion Bird could block it?

Even the members of the Wei Clan stared dumbly at Mu Yang, because they hadn't seen him attack for far too long. For a long time, no one in Vermilion Bird had qualified to make him attack.

As for the Lightning Manor, they sucked in a cold breath. However, they were unwilling to accept this.

"Inspectors, Mu Yang has interfered with the battle! Please execute him!"

"Right, Inspectors, he needs to be killed as an example!" Lin Tianjian hurriedly interjected.

The audience's hearts were in their throats in this juncture. The inspectors had ignored it when Mu Yang had conceded. However, how would they react to him saving someone?

Jin Yixuan and Song Yixue exchanged a look. How is Mu Yang this strong?!

They had never expected somewhere like Vermilion Bird to produce someone of this calibre. This strength had reached a certain level, one that made even these two inspectors feel that things had gotten troublesome. Letting Mu Yang participate tomorrow was a miscalculation.

We shouldn't have let disciples of the potentate participate. They had made a wrong move. Lin Tianjian had wanted to face Mu Yang, so they didn't think too much about it.

Given that they were guaranteed to win in the younger generations' fight, even if they were to lose tomorrow, the two inspectors were still embarrassed. After all, the Heavenly Pattern Barrier had been pierced through by Mu Yang, despite their proclamations of its invulnerability.

However, as they were conferring and deliberating with each other, someone suddenly stood up. It was the Vermilion Bird King, Jiang Cheng!

Jiang Cheng smiled. "Don't be too emotional. From my point of view, Mu Yang was just anxious. Alright, Wei Tiancang was defeated, so it's Wei Manor's loss today, with the Yueling Clan gaining one point. The matches are over for today, so please come back tomorrow!"

There was no need to read between the lines to know that the Vermilion Bird King was on Wei Manor's side.

He understood the concept of a mutually supportive relationship. However, under the restrictions of the inspectors, whatever help he could offer was limited. Still, he represented the nation and the inspectors

had added him as a judge to add legitimacy. Speaking up for Mu Yang was the only thing he could do to help now.

“Right, there’s nothing much to pursue.”

“They may have lost, but the strength and spirit Wei Manor showed today really is worthy of admiration.”

“If they remove Mu Yang, tomorrow will be so boring. What can Wei Tianxiong and the rest do?”

For those here to watch the show, it was naturally their wish for things to get more exciting and to see more. Together with the Wei Manor’s performance today, the Vermilion Bird King’s words caused the court of public opinion to sway!

The two inspectors had some misgivings now. It was too blatant if they were to kill Mu Yang right now. If the entire country came together in opposition, the situation would just devolve from there. Besides, Mu Yang’s performance was not bad, but it wasn’t to the level of being invincible. And even if they did lose tomorrow, they still had the guaranteed point from the younger generation’s segment anyway.

“Let’s not stir up problems unnecessarily. Lady Long wouldn’t like it if the whole country was agitated. She hates big commotions,” Jin Yixuan privately said to Song Yixue.

“Fine. We’ll do that. Our mission will be done once the Yueling Clan obtains a Heaven’s Sanctum. I don’t want to stay in such a trashy place for so long.” Song Yixue rolled her eyes.

Hence, Jin Yixuan stood up to announce, “The matches have come to an end for today. Both sides, make your preparations for the competition for the current generation!”

The two inspectors levelled the king with a cold look.

“Gutsy, aren’t you? Your clan may not survive if this goes on.” Song Yixue sneered.

Jiang Cheng lowered his head. “I’m afraid I can’t understand what the two inspectors mean.”

“Don’t play dumb. I’ll be blunt. You have no choice but to stand by Wei Manor. If you don’t even do this last bit of struggling, what kind of king are you?” Jin Yixuan said.

The king had no response, save for keeping his head lowered.

“Struggle all you want. It’s entertaining.” The two smiled at each other.

This confrontation was amusing. In the end, how much losses Lightning Manor took wasn’t their concern.

“Jiang Cheng, let’s see how many men of Lightning Manor can the Wei Clan can take out for you,” Jin Yixuan said.

“If they take out enough and Lightning Manor becomes useless, then you have to support the Yueling Clan well in the future. That’s how you survive this, understand?” Song Yixue added.

“Understood!” The king respectfully nodded.

The two inspectors didn't care who the royal clan of Vermilion Bird was, as long as they were on good terms with the Yueling Clan. As for Lin Xiaoting, they would have to see his performance in Heaven's Elysium. It would be for the best if the Lightning Manor could take over, but it was no skin off their backs if it fell through.

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In the Vermilion Bird Palace, Jiang Qingluan was currently pacing to and fro, a frustrated expression on her face as she gnashed her teeth.

'Bastards! Cowards! There are so many men here that even a fly can't escape! What do we do now?!'

A young girl dressed in a light blue dress was currently sitting on the bed. Her expression was vacant, so much so that she seemed like a wooden doll.

She suddenly extended her fingers and made contact with the air.

"A wall?" She continued to fiddle with the air foolishly, something apparently off with the room.

When Jiang Qingluan turned around, she realised Jiang Feiling was nowhere to be seen. The place was small enough for her to take it everything with one glance, and the outside was teeming with royal guards.

"Ling'er!" Jiang Qingluan called out softly, looking dubiously at the bed where Jiang Feiling had been moments ago. It was the bed they had shared since young.

"Qing'er, I'm here." Suddenly, Jiang Feiling's voice came from the direction of the bed.

"Where?" Jiang Feiling was stunned. She hurried over. When she approached, she felt as if she had ran into a wall, nearly knocking herself out in the process. However, there was clearly nothing there!

Jiang Qingluan reached down, and could clearly feel a wall there, which was entirely transparent.

At this moment, Jiang Feiling appeared at the side, as if out of thin air.

"What is this?" Jiang Qingluan asked, stunned.

"It's called 'Spatial Wall'," Jiang Feiling said seriously.

"What's that?"

"It's similar to the Temporal Field. Since yesterday, I slowly gained the ability to materialise this invisible wall. My current maximum is a square ten metres in length and breath, and a dozen centimetres thick. It's very tough," Jiang Feiling said.

"This is one of your abilities?" Jiang Qingluan was elated.

"Yes, it's from the fourth finger on my right hand," Jiang Feiling replied.

The pinkie: Spiritual Attachment.

The ring finger: Temporal Field.

The middle finger: Celestial Wings.

The index finger: Spatial Wall.

Only the thumb was left, before the fingernails on her right hand were fully unsealed.

“When you’re behind the wall, I can’t see you?” Jiang Qingluan asked.

“Correct. It’s not just that, either. I can even make the wall show you other things, but it’s difficult. I’m still learning it, but I can hide myself behind the wall. I have the premonition I’ll be able to create more as I continue to develop this ability. This spatial wall can be used to block attacks, or I can use its invisibility property to suddenly block an opponent’s path so they slam into it. The Temporal Field has also been improved.”

It went without saying that her abilities were incredibly marvelous. In the Abyssal Trials, her Spiritual Attachment had risen to the twentieth-grade. Her Celestial Wings had also changed somewhat as time passed. The Temporal Field and Spatial Wall were also aforementioned.

“Ling’er, see if you can use this Spatial Wall to help us sneak out!” Jiang Qingluan said excitedly.

“Let me try.”

### **Chapter 167 - Li Yanfeng of Lightning Manor Seeks Your Guidance!**

Wei Qing’s lifebound beast was buried in the Wei Manor’s tombs and a gravestone was erected for it. Wei Qing wasn’t willing to leave, so Wei Tiancang could only order a few doctors to stay here to treat him.

“Big brother, I’ll spend the rest of my life here accompanying it.” Wei Qing stared at the gravestone, his eyes scarlet.

“I’m afraid it won’t be possible for us to stay here if Wei Manor loses.” Wei Tianxiong, the Flameyellow Scions Institute Chancellor, sighed.

Wei Tiancang stared at him.

“Father, I...” Wei Tianxiong wasn’t able to avoid being pessimistic.

Wei Zikun shook his head. “Father, I’ll be honest. We lost a point today. Even if we do win tomorrow with big brother, Mu Yang and Zhao Yuanji, we don’t have anyone in the younger generation who can handle Yueling Ji and Lin Xiaoting.”

“Right, if my son goes, he’ll only die. Lin Tao even dared to kill you, what more the kids?” Wei Tianxiong’s gaze shook when he looked at Wei Guohao and Wei Lingxuan.

The youths were all in a corner, all panicky and restless. The entire manor was now filled with a sorrowful atmosphere. Everyone could see Wei Qing’s miserable state, and even Wei Tiancang had nearly died.

“Father.” Wei Jing walked over, and helped support Wei Tiancang.

“Where’s Tianming?” Wei Tiancang asked.

“Mu Yang is training him in the sword,” Wei Jing replied.

“Bring me over.”

Wei Tiancang watched the distant Mu Yang and Li Tianming. He asked, “If Mu Yang can succeed tomorrow, then it’ll rest on Tianming the day after. Jing’er, can you bear to send him out?”

“Naturally.”

“You’re not afraid of him dying? He’s the one Lightning Manor wants to kill the most.” Wei Tiancang sighed.

“Of course I am. But, he’s my son and friend. I respect his choice, and all I can do as a mother is support him,” Wei Jing said gently.

“Two days from now, he’ll be fighting a desperate battle. But there’s no need for him to die here. He’s not bad. I am thinking of letting him leave Vermilion Bird first. One day, he can come back to avenge us,” Wei Tiancang said.

“Father, that isn’t going to happen.” Wei Jing chuckled.

“Why?”

“You’ll see.”

“You’re so confident that he won’t die?”

“No. I’m more worried than anyone that something will happen to him. Even the smallest of wounds on him hurts me. It’s like when he was young. It broke my heart to see him fall while learning to walk. However, I couldn’t very well not let him learn to ever walk, could I? In the end, I decided to let him do whatever he wants to do.” Wei Jing said, her gaze gentle as she looked at Li Tianming.

“When you become a parent, your personality changes. You’ve grown,” Wei Tiancang said, moved.

“Yes. That’s how I knew how much you love all of us. Alas, I didn’t know this at twenty, and only remembered the bad things,” Wei Jing said.

Wei Tiancang stood up. He knew he was in the wrong too. If he had been gentler then, the past twenty years of estrangement wouldn’t have happened.

.....

In Chen Chateau, a bedroom was still lit up. Sage Chen stood beside the window, looking in the direction of Flameyellow Stadium. He hadn’t gone to spectate the battle, but every bit of news had made its way to his ears.

“Big brother Chen...” A beautiful and elegant woman hugged him from behind.

“I want...” The beauty exhaled gently.

“Lan’er, I’ll be going to Flameyellow Stadium tomorrow.” Sage Chen grabbed her arm.

Her face immediately changed, and tears began to drop.

“You still can’t forget her! I know she’s back to twenty and is younger than me now. However, your son is so old already, so can’t you have some self-respect?” She was furious as she spoke, her words mired with sorrow and rage.

“Have you lost your mind?” Sage Chen stared at her.

“What?”

“Is the only thing in your mind that kind of relationship? No one is trying to steal your man!”

“Then why are you treating Wei Jing so well?”

“First, Mu Yang is my good friend. Second, the potentate contributed greatly to my cultivation. Third, the other side’s methods are too unscrupulous and I can’t stand it!” Sage Chen said.

“Fourth, you want to act cool in front of Wei Jing!” Xue Lan said angrily.

“You stupid woman!” Sage Chen said exasperatedly.

A fierce battle began.

Xue Lan was on the bed, but she was still angry. “I don’t care anymore. You can go, but I’m going too! You can only watch and not do anything!”

She was filled with resentment. Even if Wei Jing did survive, how could she return to being twenty? She hadn’t even seen her since then, but the flames of jealousy in her were already burning strongly.

.....

The second day of the Wei Clan’s battle for survival began.

No one in the stadium had left. They had all stayed here overnight, waiting!

After resting for a night, Lightning Manor and the Yueling Clan arrived.

On the other side, the Wei Clan’s people entered, led by Wei Tiancang.

Li Tianming took a look. Lin Xiaoting still hadn’t shown up.

“Looks like Eunuch Lin needs to recover for a while longer.” Li Tianming smiled. This Lin Xiaoting really had this retribution coming.

His combat strength wasn’t affected by the Gelding Blight, and in fact, now that his thoughts wouldn’t stray, his cultivation might even be smoother. However, without those kind of relationships, Lin Xiaoting was even worse than a dog. Even dogs had mates, but Lin Xiaoting...

However, Eunuch Lin’s new job change still wasn’t enough for Li Tianming.

When he saw how the Lin Clan was still filled with killing intent, he knew Lin Xiaoting was likely incurable. Ingesting Gelding Blight would cause that thing to shrivel up and fall off, a horrifying sight to behold.

She really was vicious.

Li Tianming saw Lin Xiaoxiao. She was standing in a daze in the group, clearly at odds with the rest of the delegation. Once, she even carelessly blocked Lin Tianjian's way. In response, her father used his palm to hit the back of her head, sending her staggering to one side.

She really was pitiful.

The world of adults was simply too cruel. She was only fifteen, and had to witness that conflict between Li Tianming, her brother, and her brother's ex-lover. Once, she had full confidence in Mu Qingqing and her elder brother, but they had changed beyond all recognition overnight.

Now, she also had to witness a blood-soaked battle.

Some were in it to protect their clan, dignity or for love.

Some were in it for the throne, to rise up in the world, or for revenge.

Some were up high, controlling everything like a puppet master before kicking back and watching with great entertainment.

This was the world of adults.

Where was the scenery promised in poems, and the peacefulness described in songs?

.....

Li Tianming stood beside the window in the private room, and saw Li Yanfeng.

Today was the fight for the current generation. As a son-in-law of Lightning Manor, he would be up.

"He's here as Lightning Manor's cannon fodder." Ever since he left Flamehaven, Li Tianming was determined to no longer have any relations to this father of his.

Alas, Li Yanfeng had come to Ignispolis, even becoming his enemy.

Clearly, the fate that linked them both hadn't been resolved yet. Perhaps, today would be the end of it all.

For a very long time, Li Tianming hadn't called him 'father'. However, blood ties couldn't be denied. Li Tianming didn't wish for Li Yanfeng's death, but he didn't wish to see such a father ever again.

Finally, the two inspectors and the king arrived.

"Let's cut the nonsense. Let the battle between the current generation begin!"

"Both sides, please send your people in."

"And I stress, the rules state that outsiders should not interfere!" the king announced.

This was a revision on account of Mu Yang's actions, and meant no one would stop it if the Lightning Manor tried to kill someone. However, how fast the inspectors would react if someone admitted defeat was still very much up in the air.

Placing your faith in the inspectors was only setting yourself up for a worse death. Today, the Wei Clan could only count on itself.

“Lin Xiaoyuan of the Lin Clan takes to the field!” He was the youngest of the Lin Clan’s five sons.

As soon as he appeared, an aura wholly different to the older generation was put on display. The older generation had profound sword arts, but their energy seemed slightly weaker.

However, for the current generation, they were like the sun in midday, full of energy and enlightenment, seemingly even stronger than the older generation!

As an illustration, Mu Yang was now considered the strongest in Vermilion Bird after yesterday’s performance.

“Zhao Yuanji of the Wei Manor takes to the field!”

The Heavenly Guardian of Combat, Zhao Yuanji, was Wei Tiancang’s personal disciple and Mu Yang’s junior brother! Him stepping forward was even more comforting than if Wei Zikun had,

Another big fight was about to begin!

Zhao Yuanji routed Li Xiaoyuan a minute later.

“The Lightning Manor might have numbers, but they’re not elites. Wei Tiancang’s disciples really are impressive.” This was the general sentiment held by everyone.

However, numbers meant they could take turns!

“Yueling Feng of the Yueling Clan takes to the field!”

“I, Lin Wanzhou, am here to fight!”

Three battles consecutively took place.

Lin Tianjian’s side had five siblings, while Yueling Xiao’s side had three siblings. Together with Li Yanfeng, that gave their side nine people!

As for Wei Manor, only Zhao Yuanji, Wei Zikun, Wei Tianxiong and Mu Yang were at Heavenly Will. Both sides had many under that stage, but it was meaningless to send them out.

Zhao Yuanji was finally exhausted after defeating three people. The way the Wei Manor seized the advantage left the crowd shocked again.

Before the fourth battle began, Wei Tiancang made Zhao Yuanji come out. He was exhausted and had many injuries. If he fought again, he might be crippled, or even killed.

“Zikun, go next. It’ll be best if you can whittle away one or two,” Wei Tiancang said.

There were simply too many opponents.

Of their four, Wei Zikun was the weakest. Wei Tiancang didn’t have high expectations. However, he was clear about the other side and was aware that while Wei Zikun wasn’t too strong, only three on the other side could crush him, including Lin Tianjian.

“Yes, father!” Wei Zikun stood up. In truth, he still held some confidence in both himself and the result today. However, he was still worried about tomorrow, where there was no chance of winning.

One point by itself was useless.

He scanned the other side. If Lin Tianjian came down, he could only admit defeat. However, he didn't fear the rest.

"Wei Zikun of the Wei Manor takes to the field!"

Who would be his opponent?

A man dressed in red robes landed in front of him, white flames burning in his eyes.

"Li Yanfeng of Lightning Manor seeks your guidance!"

### **Chapter 168 - One Strike Is Enough!**

"You?" Wei Zikun couldn't help but snicker when he saw his first opponent, one that displayed his discontent perfectly. Of all his potential opponents, the last person he was scared of was Li Yanfeng. The man was the textbook definition of cannon fodder, and it was already surprising enough that Lightning Manor didn't send him out as the first to die.

"You just reached Heavenly Will, right?" Wei Zikun sneered.

Without a word, Li Yanfeng unsheathed his sword, pointing its tip at Wei Zikun. The whole stadium burst into discussion about Li Yanfeng's identity at that action, and naturally, many looked at Wei Jing and Li Tianming. The story between Li Yanfeng and Wei Manor was no doubt a complicated one, one that was good for sharing.

"Heh, a fight between Wei Tianchang's own son, and a boy far beneath his notice."

"Li Yanfeng will finally get the chance to prove himself."

Stories and conflicts like this would of course make the battle more interesting to watch. To top it off, Li Yanfeng's face was as cold as ice, killing intent roiling off him like storm clouds.

A massive bird as white as snow took to the sky. As it opened up its wings, white flames materialised around the beast, heating up the entire stadium like an oven.

"That's the high-tier seven-star beast, the White-Flame Four-Pupiled Bird!"

While the bird had two eyes, it had two pupils in each of its eyes, giving it a cold-blooded, menacing look.

"Ha, a half-assed lifebound beast with pathetic bloodline." Behind Wei Zikun, a golden roc rose from the ground, dazzling the arena with its golden gleam. It was the high-tier seven-star lifebound beast, the Five-Clawed Vajra Roc!

In the Wei Clan, the Five-Clawed Vajra Roc had a higher standing than an Eight-Winged Goldroc. The roc had five legs growing out of its abdomen, and every leg boasted a sharp claw capable of shredding even bestial weapons. It was a beast that specialised in melee combat.

“Wei Zikun, I’ll show you how a half-assed beast is enough to take your life.” Having said that, Li Yanfeng dashed towards Wei Zikun. A stream of white flames poured from the Four-Eyed Bird’s mouth, filling the entire barrier with its flames. The temperature shot up immediately, scorching both rocks and dirt.

“What a joke. Scum like you can only spend your life as other people’s dogs!” Wei Zikun made a move too, turning into a golden flash with his long saber in his hands.

Seconds later, the two locked blades with a bang. At the same time, the two beasts duked it out with their spiritsource abilities too, some of the abilities even threatening the lives of the two on the ground!

“This Li Yanfeng is not bad. He can reach a stalemate with Wei Zikun when he only just entered Heavenly Will.” Yueling Hong raised an eyebrow.

“Stalemate?” The Lightning Seigneur Lin Zhao smiled, running his hand through his beard.

As those words left his mouth, Li Yanfeng closed his eyes, before carving out one full circle with his sword. That very action seemed to open the floodgates of hell, the howls of ghosts and dying spirits stabbing into everyone’s ears.

With his lips curled, Li Yanfeng stabbed forward like a flowing river. It wasn’t any river, but a yellow river drowning with ghosts and spirits, each of them engulfed by a white flame. It was a strike filled with killing intent, a strike that determined Wei Zikun’s fate!

“Hellish Downfall Sword Art, first stance. Yellow Springs!”

Even Wei Tiancang rose to his feet, as he stared dumbly at that move, “How is that possible?!”

Even the strongest powerhouses viewing the battle could feel their minds blank out. His sword was simply too fast, and too threatening!

Wei Zikun barely had time to blink when the river flowed towards him. He could already feel the howling ghosts in his ears.

“Li...” But instead of targetting him, the man in red robes instead leapt into the sky and attacked the Five-Clawed Vajra Roc, together with the White-Flame Four-Eyed Bird. As for Wei Zikun, he was still traumatised by that stance, as if he himself was mired in the yellow springs.

As the bird tangled with the goldroc, Li Yanfeng suddenly appeared, his sword piercing through the goldroc’s head and punching a hole through its skull. Retracting his sword a moment later, the Five-Clawed Vajra Roc fell to the ground, dead!

Only then did Wei Zikun escape from the effect of the sword art, just in time to see his beast being killed by Li Yanfeng!

“You are next.” Li Yanfeng smiled, his figure like a devil as the yellow springs burst out once more, with his bird still pouring out white flames that filled the arena. “Die!”

Wei Zikun could feel his blood boiling at the loss of his beast, but there was nothing to do to stop Li Yanfeng’s sword. Li Yanfeng’s sword pierced his abdomen, shattering his spiritsource and dispersing his beast ki.

“Ready to die?” Li Yanfeng swung forth his sword again, ready to kill.

Wei Zikun trembled uncontrollably as the merciless man approached him once more. Just before his imminent death, he tossed his weapon away and produced a golden orb from his pocket.

That too was a top-class bestial-weapon! The orb unleashed a blinding golden light, instantly turning the barrier into a shining golden sphere.

“I concede! CONCEDE!” Wei Zikun’s cries echoed in the barrier, those cries devolving into tearful howls seconds later.

“It’s the Dazzling Gold-Pearl. He’s not going to die here, but at least he’s crippled,” Song Yixue said.

Jin Yixuan’s lips curled for a moment, before he opened a hole on the Heavenly Pattern Barrier. Shortly afterwards, a blood-stained Wei Zikun crawled out of the arena.

This battle ended with the Five-Clawed Vajra Roc dead, and four of Wei Zikun’s seven spirit-sources broken. Wei Zikun himself was in a tragic state.

“Pretty good at running aren’t you? Should have known to cut off your head first.” Li Yanfeng laughed. If it wasn’t for the cover that the Dazzling Gold-Pearl provided, Wei Zikun would have been dead for sure.

How is Li Yanfeng that strong? For a moment, the stadium was silent. As for Li Yanfeng, he whipped out a white cloth from his pocket and cleaned Wei Zikun’s blood off his sword. After that was done, he pointed the black sword towards Wei Clan’s direction and sneered.

“I’m waiting, Wei Clan.”

When compared to the sorry state that Wei Zikun was in, his casual attitude raised much cheers and applause from the crowd. As for Wei Zikun, he could only look back in disbelief as he crawled towards the Wei Clan’s direction.

“Kun’er!” Wei Tiancang’s face was pale as paper. Yesterday, it was his own brother that was crippled. And today, Wei Zikun had suffered an even more overwhelming defeat! Not only was his lifebound beast dead, he was also gravely injured.

“Help, save me!” Wei Zikun cried. The Wei Clan could only attend to his wounds, but with his beast dead and his spirit-sources broken, Wei Zikun was bound to be useless for the rest of his life.

Li Yanfeng killed Wei Zikun’s beast and crippled him in two moves! That was enough to shock everyone, even Li Tianming. He never imagined Li Yanfeng of all people to be this strong. Compared to Wei Zikun, who had been cultivating in Heavenly Will for over three years, Li Yanfeng had only just reached Heavenly Will Stage a few days ago. How could his father easily cripple and even nearly kill Wei Zikun?

“How can he have such mastery of the Hellish Downfall Sword Art!” That was perhaps the question in many people’s minds.

Li Yanfeng grit his teeth and spoke in a bitter tone, “Are you all surprised? I achieved the peak of Unity five years ago. But I came from a lowly background with no support, and I have no Heavenly Will techniques! The gods have forsaken me for five damned years just because I have no backing!”

“But I have never wasted a single second of these five years. Even without the techniques, I tried to develop my own heavenly will, and practised the heavenly-ranked arts. I’ve been working on the Hellish Downfall Sword Art for five damned years! Five years, and I practised my moves no less than eighty million times! And today, I’m here to kill every single bastard who still looks down on me just because of my background.”

“So, who’s next from the Wei Clan!” It was a shout out to the world that he had been holding back for five years. And when that volcano of five years finally erupted, he was ready to surprise the world.

Li Yanfeng’s eyes were like fire with his sword pointing at the Wei Clan. Behind him, Liu Qing wept uncontrollably, her fists clenched as she felt genuinely proud of that man standing in the arena. From this day on, no one in Vermilion Bird will ever dare look down on Li Yanfeng again!

The way Li Yanfeng easily crippled Wei Zikun shocked the Wei Clan. It was even more of a shame for Wei Tiancang, considering that his own son had been defeated by the son-in-law he had never admitted.

Was this the start of the Wei Clan’s downfall? Before this, members of the Wei Clan had all performed exceedingly well, but Li Yanfeng had turned the tables completely, demoralising them. That was obvious from the look on Wei Qingyi and the other kids’ faces; their stunned, pale faces showing an utter deficit in fighting spirit.

“Li Yanfeng, you bastard!” With a roar, the chancellor Wei Tianxiong charged into the arena. The moment he entered, Jin Yixuan closed the barrier behind him with a smile.

“Yanfeng, the Wei family are all idiots who wouldn’t recognise your worth. But the Lightning Manor respects those who climbed from humble beginnings. If you can bring me Wei Tianxiong’s head today, when I retire and Lin Tianjian takes over my position, you shall be the second-in-charge within the Manor. Other than my son and I, you will be the one with the most power!” The Lightning Seigneur’s words echoed in the stadium.

That was enough to show how much Lin Zhao treasured Li Yanfeng, offering him such a high rank despite him being from an outside clan. All he had to do was to kill Wei Tianxiong!

“I thank the Lightning Seigneur for your recognition. Today, I shall cut down Wei Tianxiong’s head and offer it to you!” Li Yanfeng dashed forward like a phantom with the black sword in his hand.

“Flameyellow Chancellor? For someone who took up so much resources, you are pretty damn useless!” Li Yanfeng’s boldness had left most people shocked. But that didn’t matter, since today marked the day that he would rise to the top of the nation!

Wei Tianxiong’s eyes were bloodshot as he answered the battle with the two swordbreakers he held. His moves were extremely powerful, and each movement caused a tremor in the arena. He was almost at Wei Qing’s standards, with his exceptional understanding of Heavenly Will and his beast ki all capable of suppressing Li Yanfeng.

From the start of battle, Wei Tianxiong had been pushing forward with his bursts of strength, forcing Li Yanfeng to back off and even created many wounds on his body. And yet, Li Yanfeng continued to laugh like a maniac.

“Useless! Useless! If I had the level of resources you had, I would have been ten times more powerful than you by now! Wei Tiancang may think I don’t deserve to be part of the clan, but to me his sons are all trash! You don’t deserve me in the family!” Who would understand just how important Lightning Manor’s Heavenly Will Techniques were to him?

Even though Li Yanfeng was badly wounded and still suppressed by Wei Tianxiong, he was waiting for his chance. A chance for Wei Tianxiong to pay a price for his arrogance!

Just as Wei Tianxiong struck forward once more with a scornful look...

“Hellish Downfall Sword Art, River of Forgetfulness!”

The first stance was the Yellow Springs, and the River of Forgetfulness was the second stance of his sword art!

The first stance forced Wei Tianxiong to back off, while the second easily tore off three of the Ten-Winged Goldroc’s wings!

Like a god of war, Li Yanfeng was bathed in blood, but this blood wasn’t his.

### **Chapter 169 - Yellow Springs, River of Forgetfulness, Hellish Downfall Sword Art!**

“From now on, your Wei Manor will grovel in front of me like dogs!” Li Yanfeng had gone mad. He was covered in injuries, but he continued to chase down Wei Tianxiong, his Hellish Downfall Sword Art repeatedly attacking. “Wei Tianxiong, weren’t you here to avenge your brother? Well, come on! How can you be the chancellor when you’re such a coward!”

Li Yanfeng relied on the frightening sword intent of this sword art to turn the tides. It brushed across Wei Tianxiong’s waist, leaving a bloody gash, as well as knocking away the golden swordbreakers that were desperately trying to block his onslaught. Li Yanfeng was no different from a demon now, his confidence mounting as he fought.

“Impossible! Impossible!” Wei Tianxiong had fallen into despair. How can I, the Flameyellow Scions Institute Chancellor, be unable to beat a mere city governor?

It was an utter embarrassment. However, what mattered more was that he would die at this rate, an even worse fate than Wei Zikun.

“I can’t lose!” Wei Tianxiong roared. Unfortunately, fights weren’t won based on how loud you shouted.

Li Yanfeng’s performance today was enough to stun everyone. The advantage Wei Tiancang and Wei Qing had seized for the Wei Clan had been cleanly wiped away by him.

“Don’t admit defeat, or else you’ll be a piece of trash for the rest of your life. The Flameyellow Scions Institute Chancellor is only fit to bow and scrape at my feet!” Li Yanfeng brandished his sword, growing in ferocity as he attacked although he was covered in blood.

Wei Tianxiong’s composure broke a few moments later.

“Concede!” Mu Yang’s voice called out from outside.

‘No, no...’ Wei Tianxiong’s eyes had gone red. He knew admitting defeat would be a lifelong stain.

“I’ll take over! Wei Tianxiong, don’t let master feel sad again!” Mu Yang shouted again.

Finally, Wei Tianxiong lost all drive. His father already had one son crippled. If he tried to force things here... Would only Wei Jing be around to send off father in the future?

Wei Tianxiong gave up.

“I concede! I CONCEDE, INSPECTORS!” Wei Tiancang finally said those humiliating words.

The entire audience burst out laughing and Wei Tiancang closed his eyes.

However, the two inspectors remained indifferent.

“I concede!”

Li Yanfeng continued his dogged pursuit. The chase lasted for a full ten seconds, but he was unable to kill Wei Tiancang.

Seeing Li Yanfeng hadn’t been able to succeed, Jin Yixuan sighed, before opening the barrier. In the end, Wei Tianxiong managed to keep his life. However, he cut a sorry figure as he dragged his blood-drenched body out, and the laughter intensified. It was the reaction of people after seeing the lofty chancellor beaten so soundly.

And with that, the Wei Manor’s spirit and prestige was erased.

Li Yanfeng was covered in blood. He stabbed his black sword into the ground, before straightening out his clothes. He finished by wiping off all the bloodstains with a handkerchief, and thunderous applause came from all around him.

Most of the spectators were just here to catch a show, their ranks including even Heaven’s Sanctum supernal mentors Liu Xueyao and Zhao Tianchen.

Liu Xueyao sneered. “There goes all of the Wei Clan’s face.”

“I never expected a day Wei Zikun and Wei Tianxiong would be in such dire straits. What a pleasant feeling,” Zhao Tianchen chuckled.

Their snide comments was only a small scale version of what was happening across the whole stadium.

“Li Yanfeng!”

“Li Yanfeng!”

The cheers instantly brought Li Yanfeng to the peak of life. Finished with removing the bloodstains, he turned to the Lightning Seigneur. “Seigneur, I’ve disappointed you. I didn’t manage to kill that stray dog.”

The Lightning Seigneur roared with laughter. “It’s good enough. I shall also fulfill my promise to you.”

Li Yanfeng had crushed both brothers, and very nearly sent them to the afterlife. Now, only Mu Yang was left. However, the Lightning Manor, Yueling Clan and Li Yanfeng still made for six. It didn’t matter how strong Mu Yang was; he wouldn’t be able to handle this line up.

“Thank you, Lightning Seigneur. I, Li Yanfeng, will never forget my gratitude.” He had waited twenty years for this.

Li Yanfeng looked at the two inspectors and beseeched, “Would the two inspectors give me some time to resolve some grudges?”

“Permitted.” Song Yixue nodded.

Li Yanfeng thanked her before pulling out his black sword, abruptly pointing it at Wei Jing.

Wei Jing was currently supporting Wei Tianxiong away. Many people had been giving her their attention, as Li Yanfeng used to be her husband.

“Wei Jing, look here.” Li Yanfeng lifted his chin up.

“What?” Wei Jing’s eyes were currently a little bloodshot.

“All this time, I’ve never had a chance to announce it. However, I want to clear up something since I have the chance to today.” Li Yanfeng’s fiery gaze shifted to Li Tianming. He spoke slowly, “Some believe I’ve let down that mother and son. However, today, I want to tell everyone, I owe Wei Jing nothing!”

“Because, Li Tianming is NOT my son!”

Everyone burst into commotion. If Li Tianming wasn’t his, whose was he? Had Li Yanfeng been cuckolded? Was Wei Jing a fickle woman?

Even the man himself, Li Tianming, was stunned.

He had suspected many times that was the case, but his mother had said before he was Li Yanfeng’s son. However, he could see it from her face now. Wei Jing, who usually never lied, had lied in this matter.

Honestly, this was a relief to Li Tianming. He had never really liked Li Yanfeng, but the blood ties had made him feel conflicted.

This announcement was an excellent thing!

It was no wonder Li Yanfeng had helped Liu Qianyang and not him. It was no wonder he had never discharged his duties as a father in all these years.

It was a joyous occasion to not have Li Yanfeng for a father!

“At that time, Wei Jing found me when she was three months pregnant. We agreed to marry. I was desirous of her beauty then, and allowed her to raise Li Tianming to maturity. However, the two of us were never ever father and son!” Li Yanfeng said. “Shortly after marriage and giving birth to Li Tianming, Wei Jing contracted Lifesbane. Hence, we’ve never had the relationship of a couple before either!”

“I, Li Yanfeng, have never been connected to Wei Manor.” Li Yanfeng was making this announcement, in order to cut all ties to them and therefore become a full member of Lightning Manor.

Li Tianming was currently in the centre of the storm.

Li Tianming however, was busy feeling confused. When he looked, it seemed Mu Yang and Wei Tiancang weren’t any surprised by Li Yanfeng’s words, as if they were already aware. They were probably notified

of this surprising fact after Wei Jing had been cured of Lifesbane. However, she hadn't had the opportunity to tell him since.

Li Tianming could roughly guess the sequence of events. Wei Jing had been pregnant for three months, when Li Yanfeng was chasing her then. Although he knew she was pregnant, he had willingly agreed to raise Li Tianming. That was the reason she had chosen him over Mu Yang and Sage Chen!

After all, the two were her good friends, and she wasn't able to face them or Wei Tiancang.

Obviously, Li Tianming wasn't Mu Yang or Sage Chen's son.

Only one question remained: Whose son was he?

During the chaos, the Lightning Seigneur, Lin Tao suddenly spoke up. "Then, Li Yanfeng, do you know who is his father?"

This was a joke in Vermilion Bird's culture, especially considering Wei Jing's background.

Li Yanfeng sneered, "Who the hell would know where this mongrel comes from!"

His words made everyone laugh.

The first part of his words might have been forgivable, but his last sentence had crossed the line.

"Silence! You willingly married Jing'er in hopes of latching onto Wei Manor. And look at what you're doing now. Don't you feel embarrassed?" Mu Yang said.

"What does it have to do with you? Mu Yang, she let you down and used me. Yet, here you are, fighting for the Wei Clan. You really are magnanimous," Li Yanfeng mocked.

"Brother Yang, that's enough," Wei Jing said softly. Today, many people were mocking her, but it meant nothing compared to the clan's current situation. "Don't bring up my matter publicly too much. It's not fair to Tianming."

"Mother, I believe you. Just tell me what happened tonight when we go back. As for Li Yanfeng, to tell the truth, I'm happy he's not my father," Li Tianming comforted. He knew what kind of person Wei Jing was.

It would seem that this matter had some hidden secrets. It involved his birth, and possibly even the ten Primordial Chaos Beasts! The Lightning Manor had played their hand well. One Li Yanfeng had almost defeated all three children of Wei Tiancang today!

Now that he no longer had this father Li Yanfeng, Li Tianming no longer had any burdens.

He had attempted to join the Wei Manor all those years ago, but Wei Tiancang hadn't liked him. Then, the Lifesbane had wasted all his effort. That was why he was so uncaring towards them all these years.

However, that was his own freedom and he couldn't be judged for that.

That said, all this didn't make up for how he had crippled Wei Zikun, publicly humiliated Wei Jing and called Li Tianming a mongrel!

Now, Li Tianming hoped he would be forced to pay a price. Alas, they only had Mu Yang left, while the other side had six!

Mu Yang's shocking performance had created some suspense. However, with Li Yanfeng carrying the Lightning Manor, all suspense had been lost.

Li Yanfeng was currently basking in glory. Narrowing his eyes, he pointed his sword at Mu Yang now. "Mu Yang, come down and show me how strong the so-called number one of Vermilion Bird is!"

It was an utterly arrogant display, but he currently qualified to do so.

"Hmph. One daughter pregnant out of wedlock and two incompetent, delusional trash. Wei Tiancang, how could you look down on me with such kids? Now, I'll kill your favourite disciple! I want your Wei Manor gone!"

Under his challenge, Mu Yang walked towards the barrier expressionlessly.

He was the person people most looked forward to seeing in a fight. Although he looked calm, everyone knew he was furious.

However, no one had expected a man in blue robes to suddenly appear in the midst of the Wei Clan. "Damn. I've had enough of these conniving bastards!"

Who was the one cursing? That question echoed in everyone's minds as they looked around.

It was the master of Xing & Chen Merchantry, Sage Chen. He stood in front of Wei Jing, his eyes seemingly containing a sea of stars. He stared at her and bluntly asked, "The Yueling Clan has relatives but Wei Manor doesn't. Fine, I guess I'll do it myself. I'll be your relative. Wei Jing, marry me here and now! After I'm done, I'll divorce you straight away! Do you dare?!"

### **Chapter 170 - Chen The Lion, An Honorable and Righteous Friend!**

Sage Chen's actions were shocking, to say the least. Even the Vermilion Bird King didn't dare to help the Wei Manor in such a flagrant manner. However, Sage Chen had simply stepped forward and proposed to Wei Jing!

Even the Lightning Manor and Yueling Clan, who had the inspectors' blessing, had held a huge marriage beforehand.

This boldness was something supremely honorable and righteous!

Even Li Yanfeng's words were less shocking in comparison.

Naturally, the one most shocked was Xue Lan. Her mouth flapped open, her bloodshot eyes wobbling with her body as she watched her man heroically stand besides the Wei Jing that she was most jealous of. She had been busy feeling gleeful, when poof, her man disappeared as soon as her grip loosened. She hadn't even caught the latter parts of what he said, such was her stupefaction.

Why did Wei Jing have to become twenty again? Now, she didn't have the courage to stand next to her anymore.

Most importantly, those around her were giving her strange looks. If they married, then what would happen to her?

“AH!” Xue Lan miserably cried out, before the increased blood pressure from the anxiousness and fury made her faint on the spot.

Honestly, Sage Chen’s action was a bald-faced provocation towards the two inspectors. However, if the Yueling Clan could send out their in-laws, there was no reason the Wei Clan couldn’t. That was why people thought of the action as gutsy and nothing else.

Wei Jing stared mutely at him. Twenty years ago, he was just as hot-blooded.

“It’s fine. I don’t want to drag you in. You have a wife and family.” Wei Jing shook her head.

“Your family have been great benefactors to me. I can’t just watch on as they bully you. I also used to be a part of Heaven’s Sanctum, so let me fight! Wei Jing, do you want to see Mu Yang exhausted to death by the six of them? Let’s do this!” Sage Chen’s eyes were shining brightly.

Wei Jing looked at Mu Yang and nodded her head in the end. The Wei Clan truly did need help. Now was the critical juncture for the Wei Clan, so she had no choice but to wrong Xue Lan for now. In the end, getting married for not even an hour was no big deal.

And hence, the two had an incomparably simple marriage. There was no master of ceremony, so Sage Chen simply shouted all the lines himself.

When it was finished, Sage Chen shot Mu Yang a look. “So, do I have more balls than you or what?”

Mu Yang shook his head helplessly. “Why needlessly involve yourself?”

“I just can’t stand bullies like this! No need to thank me.” With those words, he turned around and rushed into the barrier, before standing right in front of Li Yanfeng. His swift and decisive manner really was worth admiring.

While his actions seemed amusing, they actually carried great risk. At a time when all the powerful clans chose to hide, he was the only who stepped out, all for the sake of friendship and justice.

“I never expected the great Sage Chen to be so foolhardy.” Li Yanfeng’s eyes narrowed. With Sage Chen’s entry, it could definitely reduce quite a bit of Lightning Manor’s advantage.

“Cut the drivel. I despise people like you. Li Yanfeng, you may think you put on an impressive display today, but it just served to make me throw up in my mouth. You don’t qualify to stand here. Bullying women and children with words?” Sage Chen snorted.

“Is that so? Then how about a deathmatch? No surrendering.” Li Yanfeng’s expression had turned gloomy. Defeating and killing Sage Chen was an achievement far better than beating Wei Tianxiong, because Sage Chen was someone who had built everything from scratch!

“Sure.” Sage Chen smiled. Proposing a death match? Li Yanfeng, your earlier successes have made you arrogant.

Starlight began to shine from Sage Chen’s eyes.

“Some people, right before their deaths, were as arrogant as the you now,” Sage Chen said.

Li Yanfeng snorted, but he still retracted his cold smile.

The next moment, he raised his sword, ready to kill.

Eye-piercing starlight burst forth from Sage Chen, immediately lightning up the barrier. A glittering lion appeared in the midst of the starlight, eight stars flickering within its eyes. It was the first eight-star beast of the day, an Octo-Starred Imperial Lion!

Sage Chen stood there sturdily, confident and handsome. With the starlight as a backdrop, he left many women swooning.

He mounted the lion, a purple spear in his hand, looking like a god incarnate.

“Defeating Wei Tianxiong made you think that you’re matchless in Vermilion Bird. With that Hellish Downfall Sword Art, you intend to challenge Mu Yang? Watch closely, Li Yanfeng, and witness a real heavenly-ranked battle art is! You think you’re the only person in the world who worked hard for five years?”

The lion gave a mighty roar, and the barrier shuddered. Then, it spread its wings and launched itself towards Li Yanfeng and his White-Flame Four-Eyed Bird!

Crashing Starriver Spear Art!

Those under Heavenly Will couldn’t see the intricacies behind this attack, and only saw Li Yanfeng and his bird swallowed up by the countless falling stars.

Spiritsource ability: Starriver Annihilation!

The lion spat out innumerable stars, causing starlight to press down on the surroundings.

“So strong!” Many Lightning Manor members’ expression changed.

Starlight filled people’s vision, blotting out the figures of the two combatants and their lifebound beasts.

Hours seemed to pass, but the brilliant radiance was actually a short-lived one, dying out a few moments later. The lion gave one last roar and left the battlefield, leaving Sage Chen behind, who was holding on to his spear and cutting a heroic figure.

His opponent, however, was kneeling down and coughing out blood. Blood was dripping from a total of four holes, each a spiritsource! Li Yanfeng had seven spiritsources, and Sage Chen had directly crippled him by half, granting him Wei Zikun’s fate.

From now on, even maintaining prowess at Spiritsource would be a miracle for Li Yanfeng, let alone Heavenly Will. In one fell swoop, Li Yanfeng had fallen from his highest, his proudest achievement now out of his grasp forever.

Behind him, his White-Flame Four-Pupilled Bird had already breathed its last, its blood pouring out in a river.

This battle had been fast and furious, bringing massive changes once more. Henceforth, Li Yanfeng would be struck off from the list of powerhouses in Ignispolis.

“Sage Chen is so strong!” The experts of Ignispolis were all shocked once again. Li Yanfeng had defeated Wei Tianxiong and Wei Zikun, but everyone had assumed Sage Chen was at Wei Tianxiong’s level. However, now Sage Chen had defeated Li Yanfeng!

Li Yanfeng spat out another mouthful of blood.

“Li Yanfeng, I know you want to kill me and use me as a springboard to success. However, I’m different from you. Normally, I would have killed you, since this is a deathmatch. However, on account of you giving Jing’er a home all these years, I’ll leave you your life. I admit you were strong. However, don’t think that you were so strong as to be invincible in Ignispolis!”

“Li Yanfeng, get lost from Ignispolis. It’s time to stop dreaming about getting to the peak of life. You don’t have the heart of an expert. You only have hatred. You’re a petty, despicable man that only knows how to abet evil!” Sage Chen finished. Every word of his stabbed at Li Yanfeng like another blade.

Sage Chen had briefly considered killing Li Yanfeng. After all, the two brothers had only survived thanks to a timely surrender. However, Sage Chen had shown mercy in the end; after all, Li Yanfeng had given Wei Jing and Li Tianming an identity for twenty years, hence preventing Li Tianming from being called a bastard child.

Today, the true villains were Lightning Manor. Although Li Yanfeng had been instrumental in their schemes, his role was, in the end, a mere instrument.

“Impressive.” Li Yanfeng struggled to his feet, staring at Sage Chen. It had been true. He had thought he could dominate Ignispolis, but who would have known that there were so many powerhouses to be hiding themselves away here?

“Get lost,” Sage Chen said.

Li Yanfeng walked back to Lightning Manor. Over there, everyone was ashen. Halfway through their spectacular play, a Sage Chen had suddenly popped up, ruining the great scenario Li Yanfeng had set up.

“Big brother Feng!” Liu Qing was pale as she stepped forward to support him.

“Liu Qing, stop.” Suddenly, the Lightning Seigneur snorted coldly, leaving her stunned.

Li Yanfeng was stunned too, and looked towards the people of Lightning Manor, only to be greeted with cold looks in return.

“Lightning Seigneur?”

“You’re useless now. Scram. Henceforth, stay away from Liu Qing,” said the Lightning Seigneur.

Li Yanfeng burst out laughing. It was the sort of laughter filled with helplessness and misery, which died away with the sound of teeth grinding on teeth. “You hyenas are all more vicious than the other!”

“One more word, and you won’t be seeing the sun tomorrow,” Lin Tianjian, the Lightning Marshall, said coolly. What use was there keeping a useless dog?

“Taking me as a crazy dog? Lin Tao, don’t give me the chance to catch you, else... Haha...” Li Yanfeng gave the Lightning Manor a cold look. He had the premonition things weren’t over yet between him and Lightning Manor.

However, who would care what Li Yanfeng thought?

The stadium was silent as everyone watched Li Yanfeng leave with such an ending.

Liu Qing was still sitting there, frightened.

“Sis, that hunting dog is finished! However, he brought a lot of benefits to our Lightning Manor. The Lightning Seigneur and Lightning Marshall will definitely reward us greatly!” Liu Qianyang said excitedly.

“Oh...” Liu Qing closed her eyes.

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“Continue!” Once Jin Yixuan was finished watching the show, he made the announcement.

Sage Chen was still in the barrier. “Those from the Lightning Manor, don’t come down! Let’s leave you three for Mu Yang. The two of you from the Yueling Clan, you can come down together,” Sage Chen said. Yueling Xiao and Yueling Feng were the pillars of their clan’s current generation.

“Since he thinks like that, satisfy them.” Jin Yixuan narrowed his eyes. Mu Yang and Sage Chen were making him feel Ignispolis had a lot of experts within. However, this battle with all its twists and turns was very entertaining!

Yueling Xiao and Yueling Feng felt vaguely humiliated. However, if the other side was this foolish, what did they have to fear?

The two stepped in and without another word, attacked Sage Chen. However, the Yueling Clan was too ordinary.

It took longer than it did with Li Yanfeng, and Sage Chen had to give it his all. However, he defeated them, forcing them to throw in the towel.

Yueling Xiao and Yueling Feng were forced to leave with their heads lowered. Even Yueling Ji had a choice word for them. “Embarrassing.”

“Is that how you speak to your father?” Yueling Xiao said awkwardly.

Yueling Ji was filled with contempt. It seemed only the younger generation could help keep the Yueling Clan’s reputation.

Now, it was left to Lightning Manor to help them fight. Fortunately, Sage Chen stopped after defeating both of them. If he continued, even the inspectors would get furious.

Sage Chen leapt up the wall, coming to the Wei Manor’s side.

“Wei Jing. I’m sick and tired of your face. I’m getting a divorce! Goodbye!”

Then, Sage Chen up and vanished. Everyone saw how the chivalrous figure picked up his unconscious wife and ran far away.

Now, Wei Zikun and Li Yanfeng were crippled. From now, the battles would only get more vicious. Apart from the frightened ones, the rest of the Wei Clan were filled with the desire to kill.

It was a given that the Wei Clan and Lightning Manor would not stop until one party was annihilated.

“Mu Yang.” Wei Tiancang gritted his teeth. His eyes were red, but his face lacked any dampness whatsoever.

“Master.”

“Do you know what you have to do?”

“Yes. I will send all three brothers to the afterlife.”

“Excellent.” Wei Tiancang nodded heavily. It was only due to good luck that Wei Zikun and Wei Tianxiong were still alive. After this, only one clan could survive. If they didn’t go for the kill now, their mercy would turn around to bite them.

Wei Qing and Wei Zikun were crippled now. How could they fend off Lightning Manor after this?

Hence, a deathmatch now was the only option!

Mu Yang landed inside the barrier. He lifted his head and looked at Lightning Manor. Of the Lin Clan’s five sons, Lin Tianxuan, Lin Xiaofeng and Lin Tianjian, Vermilion Bird’s chief marshall, hadn’t fought yet.

“I don’t want to fight too long. Lin Tianxuan, Lin Xiaofeng and Lin Tianjian, all of you come down together!” Mu Yang said casually.

All of the Lin Clan’s five sons exchanged glances.

“Are you serious?” Lin Tianjian’s eyes lit up. After seeing Mu Yang attack yesterday, Lin Tianjian had already started to regret his suggestion of letting him take part. However, now that Mu Yang had become arrogant, a chance had appeared.

All three brothers narrowed their eyes in concert.

“Come.” Mu Yang unsheathed a sword. The sword was simple yet elegant in design, clearly a wooden sword. However, it was obviously a divine weapon.

“KILL HIM!” the Lightning Seigneur snarled. Sage Chen was an outsider, and he could only run interference at most. From the very start, Mu Yang was Lightning Manor’s true greatest enemy.

And this opportunity, born from that man’s overwhelming hubris, was the very best chance to kill Mu Yang!

“Yes!” All three brothers were present now!

Sage Chen looked on from afar. He knew why Mu Yang had chosen to fight three at one go. It wasn’t from some inflated ego, nor was it because the three brothers were weak.

The reason was that Mu Yang wanted to kill those three. If he killed them one by one, the remaining two would be apprehensive, fearful. In such a scenario, they were likely to concede, as the Lightning Manor and Yueling Clan had two Heaven’s Elysium disciples that could clinch a win tomorrow.

However, if all three came down, it would give Mu Yang a chance to kill them in one fell swoop.

Sage Chen watched on, curious. How strong was the undefeated Mu Yang now?