

## The Ages 1611

### Chapter 1611 - Mysterium Cluster

Tianming didn't need Yin Chen on the third level of the Tranquil Battlefield; he just needed to head in the direction of the giant pillar.

"Disgusting." He grew more uncomfortable the closer he got to the pillar. Those dense eyes kept wandering and looking everywhere. Even though the eyes were green and like transparent crystals, looking at them was still disgusting.

He had zero idea about the rules for the third level of the Tranquil Battlefield, so when he ran into someone leisurely making their way to the pillar, he hurried to catch up. He saw the words above his head before he reached him.

"Longbeard Star, Ranran Zi. Strange nova source world name and person name." Longbeard Star? There was no gravitas; it seemed to be quite behind Orderia in stylishness.

When Tianming blocked him, he realized why this man had the word Ran (鬣), the word for beard, in his name.

He wore white robes that were unsullied by dust and had elegant features. He was clearly a man of culture and literary skills; however, his most distinctive feature was a beard that had grown to over a meter long, reaching his knees. It was a very fine beard, and was decorated with various jewel accessories. Was it a must for people from the Longbeard Star to grow such long beards?

Just as Tianming was feeling curious, Ranran Zi's eyes widened. "Who're you? Why're you blocking me?"

"The person who wants your life." Tianming took out Lifesteal Silverdragon and immediately used Blissful Union of the Goddess Flowerfall art. Flowers filled the area, and hidden within, a silver dragon instantly punched through Ranran Zi's defenses. It wrapped around his body and tightly bound him.

"How bold! I'm from the Mysterium Cluster, and if you touch me, my apprentice-brothers will tear you apart!" Ranran Zi tried struggling out of the chains before realizing that was beyond him and resorting to threats.

Tianming smiled and retracted the Lifesteal Silverdragon, pulling the fellow closer. "Don't panic. This is the wondersky realm! I just got to the third level and don't know how it works around here. So I just wanted to ask some questions. If you help, I'll let you go on your way. If not, well, come back next month."

"Violetglory Star, Li Tianming? What kind of backwards place is that? I've never heard of it! Yet someone as lowly as you still dares to be so arrogant. I advise you to release me before there's no place left for you on this third level!" Ranran Zi maintained his arrogance.

"Well if you want." Caeli couldn't die, but they could still feel pain. Thus, Tianming directly started punching him until his face turned green and he shouted in pain.

"Can we talk nicely now?" Tianming asked.

"You! Cease—"

Tianming continued the reeducation until he finally beat all the nonsense out of his new friend. Ranran Zi was still glaring at Tianming, but at least he had shut up.

“What’s that?” Tianming pointed at the pillar.

Ranran Zi snorted, his eyes filled with disdain. “How do you climb to the third level and not know what the Myriadeyes Wonder is? Clearly, your Violetglory Star is the backwoods trash of our astralscape.”

“Yet I’m not the one being beaten up right now.” Tianming found this arrogance from ‘higher stars’ quite amusing. Tianming was quite curious about the levels of these ‘higher stars’.

“The Myriadeyes Wonder has some relation with getting to the fourth level, right?” Tianming asked.

Ranran Zi’s eyes only held disdain, a clear sign that he didn’t want to speak. So Tianming tightened the chain; even caeli bled, as it turned out.

“It’ll be much more comfortable if you cooperate, you know?”

The Astraldome was different from normal wondersky realms. It wasn’t so easy to return to the real world from there, so Ranran Zi was stuck here with Tianming.

He finally knew what to do after suffering for a while more. “Yes, the Myriadeyes Wonder is the place to get to the fourth level. The rules are simple: everyone starts from the bottom, and whoever can reach the top will reach the next level.” He was finally speaking normally.

“That’s it?”

“That’s it.”

“Do the rules allow conflict?”

“Of course. Especially at the top—the entrance to the fourth level is tiny. It’s very competitive there. And even before that, you can knock people down,” Ranran Zi coldly said.

“So what’s the difficulty in getting up?”

“The Myriadeyes Wonder itself is a masterpiece of the divine wondersky race. Every person who climbs it has to endure endless environmental hazards. Only the best of the best can reach the top.” There was yearning in Ranran Zi’s eyes. It seemed that he had been stuck here for years.

“I get it. So it’s harder to pass this level than the previous two,” Tianming concluded. The previous two levels just needed him to kill his way through. Maybe it was different for others, but Tianming found it easy to kill a hundred then endure for one day. But this third level had a lot of variables.

“Obviously. This is multiple times harder than before. The peak geniuses of my Mysterium Cluster have to spend a lot of effort.” Ranran Zi became much prouder every time he mentioned the Mysterium Cluster.

“Cluster?” Tianming was curious about this thing that gave Ranran Zi his confidence.

Or was it arrogance. Tianming clearly knew it after having risen up from the mortal world. Wherever there were people, there would always be a hierarchy, and arrogance would follow. Even back in the

Vermilion Bird Kingdom, the disciples of Ignispolis would look down on youths from the sticks. The arrogance of those higher up was absolute.

Ranran Zi shrugged, not surprised at Tianming's confused look.

"What's a cluster?" Tianming asked.

Ranran Zi laughed and Tianming gave him a tight slap.

"A star cluster is just an area with a bunch of nova source worlds," he answered with a swollen face.

### **Chapter 1612 - Apex Hunter of the Astralscape**

It wasn't far from Tianming's guess. "How many nova source worlds does your star cluster have?" he asked.

"Oh not many, just ten thousand or so," Ranran Zi smugly said. "Compared to lonely worlds like yours that're off in some godforsaken place, my—"

Tianming gave him another slap to stop him from chattering.

"Can you get from one world to another in this cluster by flying yourself?" Tianming asked.

"More or less. They're all pretty close and one or two months is enough for most. The more distant ones take a few years to get to by astralship."

Tianming understood. Star clusters were areas with many nova source worlds, and the cultivators in the area could easily fly to the others. He simply couldn't imagine how big this super cluster would be. It was no wonder Ranran Zi was so cocky. If the astralscape had a core, it would be such clusters!

However, he was still puzzled. "Wouldn't there be many wars over nova source if you're so close?"

Ranran Zi laughed, looking at Tianming like he was ignorant.

Tianming had to punch him in the nose, breaking it and reminding him of the pecking order. "Seriously?" he prompted.

"Okay, okay!" Ranran Zi hurriedly replied. "There's a lot of races in the Mysterium Cluster, so there used to be a lot of wars. But it's better nowadays, ever since we established the Wondersky-Mysterium Alliance. The divine wonderians and the mysterian race united the Mysterium Cluster, bringing order and rules and putting an end to war!"

He grew more passionate. "Today, the Mysterium Cluster is united and happy serving the alliance. Only our Astral Armada snatches others' nova sources, no one takes from us! My Mysterium Cluster is the core, the center and lord of the astralscape."

He didn't notice how hypocritical it sounded to Tianming, who was from Violetglory and Orderia.

"Taking others' nova sources?" He frowned.

"Of course! Our alliance is so huge, so we use up so much nova source! We need to replenish it, so for example, if we find out your Violetglory Star's location, our armada will find your world, burn it down, and take your nova source! Not even grass will be left!" Ranran Zi's tone grew more vicious.

Tianming finally got it. The ten thousand stars of the Mysterium Cluster weren't a battlefield filled with internal strife. Instead, they were a united superpower and an apex hunter of the astralscape. The Skywolf Star had nothing on this Wondersky-Mysterium Alliance.

"Wait." Tianming realized something. It's called the Wondersky-Mysterium Alliance, so the divine wondersky race are equals in this?"

"Yes. Where would the wondersky realms come from without them? Our Mysterium Cluster is a branch of the divine wondersky race. My Longbeard Star has some of them, and every one of them are real gods!"

"Hey, the Violetglory Star's wondersky realm was built by them. Doesn't that mean they already know our location?" Tianming frowned.

Ranran Zi was stunned, then shut his mouth. "I didn't say anything. Don't make wild accusations. It's the Mysterium Alliance, how are the divine wondersky race involved?"

"Have they gone to every nova source world with a wondersky realm?" Tianming seriously said.

"Don't cause trouble!" Ranran Zi ignored any punishments from the Astraldome, electing to return to reality and vanish from Tianming's sight. He wouldn't be able to return for a long time after leaving like this.

Tianming was left behind alone, his hair standing on end. "The Violetglory Star is like a dish being prepared by others. And there are many more like it."

Ranran Zi had been frightened after being beaten up by him, so he'd accidentally said some things. However, to the divine wondersky race, Tianming was just an insignificant speck. It didn't matter what he knew, or even if his entire star had doubts. After the wondersky realm was built, they were naught but a prepared dish, all alone. They couldn't change anything.

Of course, that was just a pessimistic guess of his. Everyone knew that the divine wondersky race had used their mighty abilities to uplift the 'poor' and allow the astralscape to enter the 'Wondersky Era'. The Wondersky Era was exciting. Perhaps it was so exciting that no one noticed some nova source worlds at distant, far-flung corners of the astralscape going missing.

"There's no need to think so much. It'll be enough if I can go back to Orderia and save my godfather. There's no divine wondersky race back there." Violetglory wasn't his home, either, so it wasn't like he had to stay with them through thick and thin.

"I'll just tell Sovereign Starfeather when I get back and see what he thinks."

Tianming looked back up at the Myriadeyes Wonder. "So, there must be many super geniuses from that Wondersky-Mysterium Alliance there. I wonder how good they are?" He was quite interested in meeting them, but he wasn't anxious for it; he needed to whet the Violetcloud Imperium's appetite first.

His limit for the Tranquil Battlefield now was the first five levels. Once he was done with those, he didn't know how he would maintain his stock.

He was now a tenth-level constellier and felt like he still had some ways to go. He had recently been cultivating in the Imperious Ruins, and it had been going well. There were many caeli imperius there, so there was much for him to dissect.

“I’ll leave for now.” Before he left, Tianming imagined it. In front of him, an insignificant speck, there were over ten thousand suns—or Violetglories—forming a dense sea.

If every nova source world could bring him as much shock as the sun, that super cluster of over ten thousand stars would be unimaginably frightening. Worst of all, their armada of astralships could sweep across the universe, invincible. Where they went, people carried the crime of possession and many nova source worlds were extinguished.

That dead star Tianming had seen may have had that ending. And with its death, so too came death for its people. Not even an insect could hope to live.

That was the Mysterium Cluster, and the Wondersky-Mysterium Alliance. They were the apex hunters hidden in the astralscape! Other nova source worlds were prey with marked locations.

### **Chapter 1613 - Deific Class Nova Source**

Tianming returned to the Violetglory Star’s wondersky realm and appeared in his own private space.

“Big Brother!” Feiling had been spectating from the pavilion, so she knew that Tianming had already left the Astraldome. Hence, she had known he was about to arrive soon. “Why didn’t you continue challenging the Myriadeyes Wonder?” She pulled his elbow, looking at him with sparkling eyes.

“I missed you. I couldn’t stand one day without my daily dose of Feiling,” Tianming said.

“Hmph, I don’t believe you.” Though she said that, Feiling was happy inside.

“Ling’er, could you all hear me when I asked about the Mysterium Cluster?” Tianming asked.

“Yes, very clearly,” Feiling replied.

“I wonder what the imperium and dynasty will think after hearing about it,” Tianming wondered.

“I think there won’t be much reaction. They’ve had the wondersky realm for so long. If you could find out so easily, I’m sure the higher-ups already know. They have an answer in their heart already.”

“Makes sense. Oh well, I already gave them a reminder. Let’s go out and take a look.” They left the private space. The wondersky realm was still in a commotion, and many people hadn’t left yet.

“Is Ye Chen or Li Tianming stronger? Make your bets!”

“We’ll have to use their next fight to find out.”

There were people discussing who was stronger everywhere. The Mysterium Cluster, on the other hand, wasn’t a hot topic.

Still doubtful, Tianming returned to Violetpeak. He woke up in the room with Feiling. The heavenly loci were very close to each other, so the first thing he saw was her warm smile. Originally, he had intended

to pull her up along with him when he stood up, but when their fingers touched, frost began spreading on their hands.

Tianming reluctantly let go, as the frost was also uncomfortable for Feiling.

“This is so annoying, Big Brother.” At least before, they could still hug, but now they could only look at each other.

“It’s fine.” Tianming didn’t like this, but he was more worried about whether it posed a threat to Feiling’s life.

“I’ll go out first.”

As expected, Shengui and Gong Xiong were outside Violetpeak.

“Sir Genius, why didn’t you continue with the third level of the Tranquil Battlefield?” Gong Xiong asked with a laugh.

“I feel the chances are a bit low right now. I’m not anxious, I’ll wait for when my chances are higher.”

“Good, good, haste makes waste.”

Shengui pulled at Tianming’s clothes. “How’d you find your fight with Ye Chen today? Can you handle him in the real world?” he gingerly asked, clearly very worried.

“It’s not good to say, but he has so many sovereign beasts while I only have one.” Tianming regretfully shook his head. Actually, he was pretty confident inside.

“Really? That’s a problem. I didn’t expect him to be able to use one manna imperius for five beasts. It’s like creating four manna imperius from nothing!” Shengui said, vexed.

“Ye Chen’s reputation is on the rise again. They say he’s your equal now,” Gong Xiong also felt a headache.

“Not much we can do. We’ll just continue competing. Unless....” Tianming didn’t continue. “Never mind, it won’t work out.”

“Unless what?”

“It’s not good to say,” Tianming awkwardly said.

“Talk to Granddaddy Gui here, what’s embarrassing?” Shengui said with a roll of his eyes.

“The Violetcloud Imperium still has one manna imperius. I’ll have much better chances with another sovereign beast. But, I just got one already.” Tianming shook his head.

“True. The Pentarchy won’t agree for you to get another one. They won’t even negotiate,” Shengui said.

Tianming was even more aware of the difficulty now. “Then it’s fine.”

“We’ll take it slowly. You haven’t lost yet. If you can make even bigger waves in the Astraldome, it might really be possible,” Shengui said.

“If?” Tianming asked.

“If you beat a genius of the same age as you from a deific class nova source in the Mysterium Cluster.”

“Deific class? What’s that?” Tianming asked. Nova sources had ranks?

“Deific class nova source is the highest class of nova source in the Mysterium Cluster. They’re a hundred times the size of our nova source.”

After such a long history, they had people who’d entered the third, and even fourth level of the Tranquil Battlefield, so they had even more understanding of the Mysterium Cluster than Tianming.

“One hundred!?” Tianming was stunned silly. Wasn’t that one hundred Orderias too? How massive was that? That let him understand that the gold and black star he had seen in the Grand-Orient Sword’s colorless sword might really exist. The water droplets from its wave had become nova sources.

“Yes. The astralscape uses the size of nova sources to classify them. There’s the heliacal class, skypiercer class, and deific class. Ours is a heliacal class, the lowest. Ten times our size is a skypiercer class. There’s a fundamental difference between the two. And a nova source that’s a hundred times larger than ours is the deific class. We can’t even imagine their vastness,” Shengui explained.

“If those are the first three classes of nova sources, is there anything higher?” Tianming asked.

“Who knows? The Mysterium Cluster is already the strongest place we know of, and deific class is the highest we know they have.”

“Have you seen it before?” Tianming asked.

“What could I have seen? All I’ve seen is our star and an astral hole on the path to destruction. For anything else, I have to use my imagination.”

As expected, no one had seen it. The Violetglory Star and Orderia were both in some corner of the astralscape.

Tianming considered it. “The Mysterium Cluster has deific class nova sources, so the existences there should be the peak of the astralscape’s races. Like experts and geniuses of the divine wondersky race. So you mean to say that if I beat those geniuses, I may get another manna imperius?” Tianming looked him right in the eye.

#### **Chapter 1614 - A Debt of Gratitude From the Violetglory Star**

“It isn’t guaranteed! You think manna imperius is some vegetable that grows on the roadside? The whole star only has one now! You’re still an outsider, so I’m just saying it’ll be a possibility,” Shengui awkwardly said.

“The difficulty level is too high! Do you think I’m some kind of monster?” Tianming complained.

“What are you if not a monster?”

Tianming was stunned. Still, he couldn’t rush the matter. His cultivation was still low, so staying honest was the best choice. “Oh right, what do you think about the Wondersky-Mysterium Alliance? And what does the sovereign think?” Tianming asked.

“What do you mean?”

“I meant about how they know our location and can exterminate us anytime?”

“Did you get your head hit?” Shengui and Gong Xiong looked at Tianming like he was an idiot.

“What?” Tianming never expected he would be disdained.

“Did you not learn your history, little brother?” Even Gong Xiong crossed his arms and cast a disdainful look at Tianming.

“What history?”

In response, the two looked at each other with speechless looks.

“I’ll do it.” Gong Xiong cleared his throat. “We once came into contact with Skywolf Star, the most notorious plunderers in our area. We were on the brink of defeat, but in our moment of greatest need, the divine wondersky race saved us! They helped us beat them back and constructed our wondersky realm, connecting us to the greater universe. You say they have nefarious intentions for us. But if they did, they could’ve just taken our nova source back then. This method is way too much effort.”

Tianming had been biased against the divine wondersky race because they replaced the sky plunderer race as the overlords of the astralscape. However, Violetglorians didn’t have that prejudice.

“But that fellow said that the star cluster has links to the divine wondersky race and formed an alliance with them to snatch other nova sources to sustain themselves,” Tianming said.

“Maybe they’re just hyping themselves up? We’re very ignorant in the end, and we don’t know how big the Mysterium Cluster is. Maybe they aren’t even that big and are just scaring us isolated nova source worlds. As far as I know, the divine wondersky race are the rulers of the astralscape. They’re an apex race that’s like a miracle. What could we do if they wanted to conspire against us? Resist?” Shengui said.

“Alright.” Tianming didn’t see much point in arguing it. The divine wondersky race had come here before and the Violetglorians had a debt of gratitude. If they really were bad guys, they would have stabbed them in the back already. A conspiracy was just so unnecessary.

“Don’t overthink it, Tianming. Anyway, after Ye Chen couldn’t beat you despite getting a fortuitous development, he will be dissatisfied. He’ll challenge you in the real world to wipe away his past shame. Be ready—if it’s in the real world, blades have no eyes,” Shengui said.

“Understood.... I just wish I had another manna imperious!” Tianming sighed with emotion.

“Yeah, yeah, you just want some treasure.” Shengui wasn’t sure whether to laugh or cry.

“Ehhhh, don’t put it so bluntly,” Tianming chortled.

“Fine, I’ll very subtly mention this to the sovereign and try my best to get it for you.”

“Why stop at manna imperious? Bring out all the goodies you have, I won’t reject them,” Tianming replied.

“That’ll depend on your performance.”



“Don’t worry. I was never concerned with Ye Chen. The only ones that interest me are the geniuses from skypiercer or deific class worlds.” Tianming’s eyes blazed with passion.

“Ohhhh, you’ve started bragging,” Shengui laughed.

“You’re scaring your big bro here,” Gong Xiong said.

“Fellows, you may take your time in getting lost. I won’t be sending you off!” Tianming couldn’t be bothered with them. He was eager to get back to Violetpeak.

Naturally, it was for his ‘romance’ in the wondersky realm.

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After returning to Violetpeak, his lifebound beasts ran off to play. The space there was enough for Lan Huang to run about as it pleased. As for Lingfeng, Qingyu, and Xiaoxiao, they spent most of their time cultivating in the Imperius Ruins, only occasionally returning.

Hence, only Tianming and Feiling were usually around in his private residence. “You go and play as well.” Tianming chased away the Yin Chens, leaving only him and Feiling.

“Alright, let’s go to the wondersky realm to play, Ling’er.” Tianming smiled.

“Just to play?” Feiling’s head was lowered as her face turned red. Her arms were crossed in front of her chest and her voice was gradually turning softer.

“Of course!” Tianming said with a pure expression.

“Hmm....” Feiling bit her lips. However, she wasn’t able to resist smiling as well, a sweetness filling her heart. Ever since her Nirvana Rebirth, she hadn’t wanted to wait either. If she wasn’t reborn so young, with their passion and longing, they would never have wanted to wait so long. What girl wouldn’t want some romantic circumstances around their first time?

However, with all her imagination, there was never a scenario where they couldn’t do the deed in real life. But that couldn’t stop the two youths; instead, they shifted their passion to the wondersky realm.

“Come.” They couldn’t hold hands and had to stay a meter apart. However, their hearts were one as they faced each other and entered the wondersky realm together.

In truth, ever since she had been reborn during the battle at the Myriaddragon Mountains, she had been holding back the pain from their long separation. She had just never found a chance to vent her longing, as the Lord of Perpetia had kept interfering.

Both of them already deeply loved each other. The roadblocks weren’t enough to stop their determination to dual cultivate.

Their caeli entered the wondersky realm, both arriving at Tianming’s private space that no one could get into without his permission.

**Chapter 1615 - That Year When Snow Fell on Soulburn Hall**

Dao Decimo Nation's Courtyard One. This familiar place was once where Feiling had used Unity to learn to create heavenly pattern tomes. It was the period of time when she had been closest to being a mortal. Afterward, she had gone to the Tomb of the Ancients and begun a new life. She had gone from being Princess Feiling to someone seeking Nirvanic Rebirth.

Tianming had assumed that this was where they had the sweetest memories. However, Feiling pursed her lips and didn't look very happy. "Can we change the place?" she asked.

"Of course. Where to?" Tianming asked.

"Soulburn Hall at Xuanyuan Lake."

"Alright, but why?" Tianming wondered. In his memories, they had been kept in two different worlds then. Meeting each other had been hard, and when they did, they needed to carefully put on a performance. It had been a period of torment.

"That's the time when I didn't have anything to do every day. I just had to think about you and when you'd come to visit. Also, the scenery there is beautiful," Feiling said.

"I see." Tianming understood. Compared to the constantly storming Divine Capital, Taiji Peak Lake's scenery of pure white was much cleaner.

Orderia that blazed with flames and the Violetglory Star that flashed with starlight were either hot or fantastical. However, Taiji Peak Lake had a simple atmosphere, making it the most comfortable.

The local environment could be changed as Tianming willed. Thus, the snow-white Soulburn Hall appeared in front of Feiling. Crystalline snowflakes were still falling and even the temperature fell, making their caelum bodies feel a little frosty.

"Big Brother." Feiling tearfully looked at him, but her gaze was filled with sweetness.

"Go out and play." Tianming smiled and wiped away the tears from the corner of her eyes, then gave her nose a pinch. Her face quickly turned red, and when she breathed out, it was a puff of white mist.

"Let's go together." She dragged Tianming along. Kicking off her shoes, she stood barefoot on the snow. "Wow, the snowfall is gorgeous."

The pure white scenery made it easy to have a sense of peace as the world around them was simple. Here, any troubles could be forgotten as they just had to concern themselves with the warmth of the person by their side.

As the wind blew, Feiling's short blue skirt fluttered. She seemed like a snow fairy, and the snowflakes that stuck to her legs highlighted her energetic nature after her rebirth.

Tianming remembered her Perpetual Nirvana and how her body had kept shattering and stubbornly reforming. She had used her everything to pull on the xenomemory rope, saving not just Tianming and Lingfeng back then, but herself, too. She could only have the lively and perfect body she had today because she had experienced a terrifying torment a hundred times. Only she knew how hard it had been.

Her outwardly soft and sweet personality made it easy for people to not notice her tenacity. Actually, ever since they were back in Ignispolis when she had firmly decided to leave the nation of Vermilion Bird behind and follow him to wander the world, Tianming knew she was stronger inside than anyone else.

She'd had two tribulations in her life. First, she had killed Xuanyuan Xi back in the Tomb of the Ancients. Then, later on, she had overcome a hundred Nirvana Rebirths that not even Xuanyuan Xi had survived. Now that she had a chance to live, she cherished the chance to be with her lover more than anyone else.

Tianming stood rooted to the spot, staring forward with a stunned expression. The current scene before him would be hard to forget for the rest of his life. In the gently falling snow, Feiling's long hair was flying, while the blue of her hairband was the most romantic color he could imagine. Several bells were also attached to her hair, which let off clear and crisp chimes.

The tinkling of bells and her happy laughter mixed together, more beautiful than any immortal music. She was like a blue butterfly fluttering about in the snow, perfectly blending in.

She was clearly very relaxed and happy right now.

This girl had begun wandering the world with him when she was just sixteen. She had never complained about her confusion and fear for the future to him, instead making him smile. She had saved him multiple times, and their lives had been one since long ago.

Tianming had already known since his Flameyellow Scion Institute days that Feiling was an integral part of his life. Losing her would be like dying himself.

He extended a hand, allowing snowflakes to fall on it and feeling his body temperature melting them. It was so real that it was difficult to distinguish the wondersky realm from the real world. However, even though the snow and Soulburn Hall were fake, Tianming knew that their caeli were real.

They were given to them by the heavens and were a part of them during their life, before they returned to the heavens after their passing. But if their body of flesh returned to the heavens and earth after it perished, too, what difference was there between the two?

"Snow is the manifestation of cold in the world, yet our human warmth can melt it." Tianming smiled. He admitted that the scenery in front of them was beautiful enough that it stirred the thought in him to stay here forever.

"Come on, Big Brother!" Feiling's skin had turned slightly pink in the snow. She threw a snowball at him and it landed a clean hit on his stomach. Tianming looked at her in surprise. She looked at him in challenge, wagging a finger. "Young man, this sovereign has experienced millions of eras. Do you dare blaspheme me?" Feiling was intentionally making her voice sound deeper and older. She even coughed a few times, seeming very cute.

"Why would I be scared? My type was always mature seniors." His arms rose up as he flew along the wind to catch her.

"Hah! You can't catch me!" Three snow white wings unexpectedly appeared on Feiling's back. They were the fusion of the Longevity Lifewings and Flashsoul Lifewings and they made her appear even more holy than before, giving her a lofty and untouchable feeling.

## Chapter 1616 - Come Into My Embrace

The white wings and drifting snow perfectly matched each other, making Feiling, who was dancing in the snow, look like a pure white snow fairy.

“Ling’er, today I’m the butcher, and you’re the fish on my chopping board! Don’t think of escaping!” Tianming accelerated and his hands reached out to grab her, reminiscent of an eagle in the sky swooping down to catch a little white rabbit.

However, Feiling flickered to the side and he was only able to catch an armful of air as he crashed into a snowdrift.

“Try your best, Big Brother. If you’re too slow, the fish may swim away!” Laughter rang out from behind him. When he turned to look at her, she was grinning from ear to ear, her dimples able to capture the heart of anyone who looked.

“No way!” Tianming clambered to his feet and gave chase.

However, try as he might, a flap of Feiling’s three pairs of wings would make her vanish from his sight each time. Her Flashsoul Skywings made her surprisingly hard to catch! It was rather embarrassing for Tianming.

“This is awkward.” Tianming had tried to chase her quite hard, but hadn’t met success yet. As she grew even more amused, he grew redder.

When he was depressed, he felt a warm body press against him and a pair of arms wrapped around his waist from behind. Through the collision, Tianming felt something pressing against him....

An alluring voice whispered into his ear, “Big brother, you didn’t manage to catch me, but I caught you. What do we do now?”

“Then I’ll have to follow your lead.” Tianming’s heart pounded and he inhaled deeply. The cold temperature only made the body on his back even hotter. It was like a warm fireplace in winter, making him lose his reason and desire to throw his body into it.

“So today, your body belongs to me!” Feiling’s cheeks turned pinkish, and Tianming could feel her pounding heart as her body began heating up.

“Save me! There’s a really old female bandit!” he shouted.

“Shout all you want, no one’s coming to save you. You said it, once you’re caught, hehehe....”

Tianming had always thought he was the one who was hungry for Feiling. But until today, he had never expected that the reverse held true as well.

A relationship wasn’t one-sided. This was the wondersky realm, and they were only there as caeli. However, in this passionate setting and after they had been separated by the Perpetual Nirvana and forced to restrain themselves for months, their souls ignited. They forgot all their worries and collided with great commotion like two nova source worlds.

They started with kissing.

“Big Brother, I’m not good at expressing myself. I just want to tell you that Ling’er’s everything, down to every strand of hair, has your mark. My life was born for you. No matter what I experience, even if it’s more Perpetual Nirvanas, I’ll survive, I promise....”

Her breathing was heavy as she used her strength to make this promise. Two Perpetual Nirvanas were left. No one could help her, and they could very well claim her life. She regularly had nightmares about it. However, love had given birth to an awe-inspiringly great willpower in her heart. Her weak body had the courage to face death, which was the reason she was even more aggressive than Tianming today. She didn’t want to be passive anymore. She wanted to take the initiative to get the person she loved, the initiative to keep her life, the initiative to fight the other her in her body.

“Li Tianming, I love you!” Feiling was a very well-mannered person and had never directly referred to Tianming by his name. However, this time, her eyes were alight with fire as she practically shouted to Tianming, who was next to her.

It wasn’t easy for a well-behaved young lady to say; however, she needed this kind of fighting spirit to say the words that she had never dared to say out loud. She needed to say this emotionally and without any doubt!

He felt her love, as well as its depth and strength. The words were like throwing him into boiling water. He was slightly dazed. She had always been shy and reserved, making people assume she wouldn’t have such emotional moments. That was why he was so surprised.

“So what?” Tianming felt blood rushing into his brain and hot tears spilling out from his eyes. It was from being touched as he felt like he had gotten to know Feiling even better than before.

“Come into my embrace.” Her face red, her hand felt around Tianming’s clothes before finally capturing the culprit that had once disrupted her sleep.

When the words left her mouth, the fire erupted. In the cold snow, every breath was filled with heat, and warmth was needed.

A cedar tree next to the courtyard started shaking. All of the snow that had accumulated continued falling off as the ground shook harder and harder. Then, the wind blew it up again and scattered it again across the courtyard. However, there was a portion that was knocked away before it could land in a certain part of the courtyard, and it was even stained slightly red before that.

It took a long while before the wind died down. The sun peeked its head out from among the clouds, illuminating the red snow.

The snow accumulated on Soulburn Hall’s glazed tiles had also dropped off, revealing the blue glass tiles below. Under the sunlight, it looked like the waves of the sea. When the light reflected onto the snow, it turned the courtyard into the ocean.

The ocean and waves were in constant motion.... All until the waves brought them into each other’s embrace.

**Chapter 1617 - Returning to the Real World**

The dawn sunlight shone on Soulburn Hall, marking an end to the earlier snowstorm. It was as if the whole courtyard had quieted down, bringing a relaxing tranquility. Tianming's long, white hair was splayed out across the snowy ground. He squinted and looked toward the sun, his limbs completely spread out. Feiling, on the other hand, was using his arm as a pillow and burrowing her face into his body, covering it with both hands.

"Hey, don't I smell? You're practically glued to me," Tianming said. Her face was almost completely fused with his body now.

"Hey, don't talk! You're embarrassing...." She let go of her face with one hand and pinched his arm, revealing her shy, flushed appearance. Even her eyes still seemed a little dazed. She felt like she was still on cloud nine.

"How was that embarrassing? You were the one that took the lead with so much gusto! You even pulled me into your embrace!" Recalling how she had acted, his heart was filled with praise for her. He never thought she could be so hot.

"Shut up, shut up!" Frantic, she hurriedly covered his mouth, her face still plastered against his body from embarrassment.

"Haha, I get it." He cleared his throat awkwardly, the mere thought of her assertiveness causing his head to heat up again. Thinking about how he had reacted back then, he couldn't help but want to find a place to bury his head in as well. Having had his fill of sweet bliss, his mind now explored the valleys of shame and shyness. "No need to be embarrassed, Ling'er. You were really charming."

"Hmph, you're just saying that because you're trying to trick me into doing it again. No way, you meanie." She hammered his chest with her little fists.

Either way, it still felt utterly rapturous. "Is this really the wondersky realm? Did we only mess around in our caeli forms? How does it differ in real life? Dying in the wondersky realm doesn't feel realistic at all, after all...." Even Tianming was confused as to whether he had truly consummated their relationship. What was the difference between doing it as caeli or as fleshy bodies in meatspace? He couldn't be sure. "Either way, I don't suppose it's too different from the real world."

Ideally, he wanted to be able to 'dual cultivate' in real life as well, but thanks to the Curse of Frost, the two of them could only resort to using the wondersky realm.

"Ling'er, did it feel real to you?"

"I guess so... not like I know how it feels outside of here," she mumbled.

"Either way, make sure you try looking into your body's condition. Do you have any ideas so far?"

"Not really.... Let's not talk about it. I'm a little tired, so I want to doze off."

"Sleeping in a dream world... only a genius like you can come up with this."

"Yep...." She slowly closed her eyes and fell asleep in his embrace. Like an octopus, she wrapped all of her limbs around him, basking in the sense of security.

"To think you'd really be able to fall asleep here." If falling asleep in real life sent the caelum to the xenomemory space, what would happen to someone who fell asleep in a wondersky realm? He didn't overthink it and merely smiled warmly as he watched her doze off. "Oh, I forgot to tell you—I love you too."

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Soulburn Hall was indeed a beautiful place. They could shape the space of the wondersky realm as they wished, so it was a good choice. After quite a while, Feiling gradually woke up. Tianming pinched her lips and made her lips puff out before giving her a huge kiss. "Lazy piggy, time to wake up."

"Mmmmh...." She still seemed really sleepy.

"Rise and shine!"

A resounding slap sounded out and she jumped and glared at him. "You're rough!"

"Didn't you say you liked it rough?"

Her face flushed so red that she couldn't even speak. Back then, it was like she was in a drunk trance. She hadn't had any inhibitions at all.

"Come, let's go back," Tianming said.

"Alright." Feiling thought about something else and continued, "Big Brother, when our caeli return, they'll interface with our vitae. I wonder if it'll be a problem."

"It should be fine, right?" He held her hand and the two of them woke up in the real world once more. Tianming stretched his body and stood up. Then, he turned to look at her. When she opened her eyes, they were black, much to his relief.

"Big Brother." She stood up and looked at her body. Everything seemed fine.

"It's fine—" Right as Tianming was about to say that, Feiling's body and aura suddenly shifted. The icy blue color flooded her eyes, making her look cold and fierce in an instant. Tianming felt a chill down his spine when he saw her fierce glare.

"You... you!" Her expression seemed like one she would wear if Tianming had forcefully violated her. Blood began trickling out of her mouth. "I will kill you!"

She charged toward him and strangled him with both hands. Her sharp nails pierced into his flesh as the cold flooded into his body, much to his surprise. Tianming clutched her hands tight. Fortunately, she wasn't using enough force to kill him.

"Ling'er!" He pushed her hands aside and pulled her body close. Touching her in the real world was different from doing so in the wondersky realm. He immediately felt a chill, and not a single drop of loving warmth.

"You ruined my—"

"Ling'er, snap out of it!" Tianming couldn't care less about the cold and hugged her as tightly as he could.

"Big Brother, I can't breathe...."

Hearing that, he loosened his hug. One of her eyes had returned to normal, but the other stayed the same icy blue. "What's wrong?"

"I don't know... I just felt really angry all of a sudden. I didn't mean it...."

"Is there perhaps another vita inside your sea of consciousness?"

Feiling shook her head. If it were that simple, things wouldn't be nearly as troubling. "There's only one vita, but I feel like there are two mes. One of them is the me you're familiar with, but the other feels foreign toward you. She hates and loathes you, especially after what happened."

Two of her? It sounded almost like she had a split personality. That was different from possession, so there was no risk to her body yet. Perhaps the part of her that resisted was the Lord of Perpetia, or a remnant of her personality. This time around, she had wanted to kill Tianming.

"What do we do, Big Brother?" The blue eye still remained, and she was wavering between gentle and angry from time to time.

"Maybe the only thing I can do is make the other you accept me so that you can become one again?" It felt like he had won the heart of her mind, but not her body. Nobody could tell which version of her would dominate if they combined together, so that didn't sound like a really good solution, either. At the very least, their intimate interaction had been deemed nonconsensual by the other personality that lurked within. The single blue eye glared at Tianming with veiled killing intent and cold rage.

### **Chapter 1618 - Butterfly Effect**

Every time they returned to the real world and recalled what had happened within the wondersky realm, the difference between vitae and caeli made it so that everything that had happened in the wondersky realm felt unreal. It was like how dreams felt realistic while one was dreaming, but ludicrous when one thought about what actually happened while fully conscious.

After the interfacing between Feiling's caelum and vita upon waking up, she had changed a lot. Even when Tianming wasn't touching her, her body still seemed frosty, and the blue remained in one of her eyes. Her aura seemed to give off a chill, and even she was panicking over it. Her mood waffled between panic and coldness.

"It's fine, Big Brother. This was my choice, so I won't let you feel bad about it. I'll try my best to shake off this curse," she said, forcing a nonchalant smile. However, she quickly took a few steps back and painfully looked at Tianming, as if she had been acting moments before. Her two personalities conflicting with each other seemed so torturous that Tianming found it hard to bear.

"From Xian Xian's dream, I know for a fact that the Lord of Perpetia exists. She eventually reincarnated and became Xuanyuan Xi, who eventually created the acquired godchild. Now that Xuanyuan Xi is gone, this other personality of hers must be the lord. Given the sound of her title, she probably gained eternal life using Perpetual Nirvana, something that seemed even more ridiculous than the Cyclic Mirror. What in the world did she have to do with Feiling? Was she someone with completely different memories? Or did they share the same body?"



Feiling said that she only had one vita, yet there were two of her. That showed that the Lord of Perpetia was probably different from Xuanyuan Xi. She couldn't just be a different soul, but rather Feiling herself. After all, her current vita was the result of the fusion with her original vita and Xuanyuan Xi's. However, the manifestation of a completely different personality like this was completely puzzling for him. Tianming hadn't dabbled much in the highly complex matters of the soul, after all.

"It's fine now, Big Brother," she said as she seemed to snap out of it. It was clear that their interaction had angered the other personality to the point that she felt she had been sullied.

"I should start researching souls to see if there's a way I can resolve the issue," Tianming said, standing two meters away. From now on, it seemed like approaching her would be difficult. Before, they could at least get close to each other without touching, but now they had to keep a distance.

"Big Brother... I want to be with you without having to go to the wondersky realm as well."

"Yeah, let's give it our best." Though he wanted to hug her to reassure her, the frost kept them apart. It felt like their world had collapsed. Perhaps the other personality could just barely tolerate them frolicking within the wondersky realm, but doing it in real life was the final line they shouldn't cross.

Tianming promised to do his best to find a solution. Fortunately, the most effective way to solve any problem was strength. He could only race against time if he continued growing his cultivation, experience, and soul.

"Since the reaction this time was that strong, we should hold back and see if it calms down," he said.

"Alright!" Though her gaze seemed to resist it, she did her best to nod. Her beautiful face looked like it wasn't in the right place, and it hurt him to see her like that.

Ling'er, I won't let anyone take you from me. Making that solemn vow, he made sure to burn their beautiful experience into his mind.

.....

From the courtyard of Violetpeak, one could see the reflection of the lights from the violetstar clouds above in the lake. The clouds above looked like a sea of stars. Though the Violetglory Star was only a heliacal class nova source world, its vastness was still something to behold. Most of the cultivators of this world would never be able to leave it for the rest of their lives.

A girl in a long dress stood atop the surface of a lake under the night sky. She seemed to have aged a lot in an instant as the blue in her left eye suddenly receded. There was a change in her aura, making her seem more mature than before and giving her an extra layer of charm. Her eyes that reflected the starlight seemed really gentle.

Feiling sat on a rock beside the lake, her dress flowing with her curves and spreading out across the ground. She turned her eyes toward her reflection in the lake and three pairs of white wings materialized behind her, making her look like a fairy maiden.

The wings stretched out to a wingspan of a hundred meters. They flapped once, creating a storm near the lake that caused many ripples and splashes. Time and time again, the wings flapped, disturbing the

water in the lake until it mostly dried up. The water slowly rained down around her, making it look like a rainy night back at the Divine Capital.

"Ling'er?" Tianming called out to her. Only then did the flapping stop.

The water in the lake calmed down, but half of it was gone. Her wings scattered into spots of white light and vanished, making her look even more dreamlike. When she turned around, the chill returned to her body and she suddenly seemed foreign again. Even so, she struggled to make her cold face smile. "I was only out here to let loose."

"Alright. I'll join you." Tianming sat down on a rock twenty meters away from her, looking ahead. Perhaps that would make the other her less guarded against him. There was no telling who she was. If she really was the Lord of Perpetia, she wasn't an enemy that he could handle. While their relationship seemed smooth sailing, this mysterious persona was their biggest roadblock now. They had an even harder time than Lingfeng and Qingyu did.

At that moment, Yin Chen reported something even more bone chilling to him. He had left some of its copies at Primary, but they had remained active the entire time, even after they came to the Violetglory Star. In other words, the two worlds were close enough for the connection to be maintained.

He had left them there because of the Prime Tower, and something had happened at the Kunlan Realm all the way at Primary. Strong waves suddenly came out of the entrance, crushing a few uninhabited asteroids near it. While they weren't that big, they were still comparable to a large continent or two. Though he didn't know much about the place, he could be sure that it was unprecedented.

All this time, the Kunlan Realm was only known for the birth of primalwings. However, the incident mirrored the destruction of the Myriadragon Continent by the Primodragon Cave. The only difference was that the asteroids near the Kunlan Realm were uninhabited, not that it was relevant to Tianming.

However, Yin Chen said that it had detected that the frequency of Feiling's wing flaps were identical to that of the ripples on the lake-like surface of the Kunlan Realm! There was some kind of distant resonance at play. Yin Chen confirmed that thousands of its bodies had witnessed the same scene, so it couldn't have been an error.

"When the Flashsoul Skywings emerged from the Kunlan Realm, they flew to her in an instant. And now something like this happened! The Lord of Perpetia definitely has something to do with the Kunlan Realm... the same one that swallowed my Prime Tower."

### **Chapter 1619 - Ziyang's Guidance**

This time around, Tianming was completely certain, but he couldn't bring himself to say it to Feiling. Things were getting weirder and weirder around them. There were still matters like experimental subjects, the mysterious man waiting for him at the Skydome Battlefield, the Kunlan Realm, the Primodragon Cave, and Li Muyang's ten past lives to think about. They came one after the other without pause. Tianming had a feeling that if he didn't properly deal with these matters, he would lose her for good.

"Darn it, things are getting tough!"

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To learn more about the soul, Tianming decided to seek out Astralqueen Ziyang and learn soul cultivation from her. He had a really good impression of her since she'd helped break the tie to allow him to obtain the manna imperius.

Through his recent exploits in the wondersky realm and his travels through the xenomemory space, he had come to understand how important soul cultivation was. Even though he was a tenth-level constellier, his vita was still at the first divine soul level, which was rather awkward, as most on his level were at least at the second general soul level. Ye Chen was at the third regal soul level while Lingfeng was at the fourth imperial soul level, easily able to rank among the top five of soul cultivators.

While Lingfeng couldn't do much to help with Feiling's situation, Tianming wanted to do it himself regardless. Lingfeng's cultivation technique was inherited from the Primordial Demonlord, after all, and like Tianming's own legacy, it wasn't something that could just be taught to others.

Mu Ziyang was the most accomplished soul cultivator that Tianming had ever come across. The Violetcloud Archclan had a legacy of millions of years, being an ancient clan of totemancers. Their totemancers were the strongest in the world. Since Lingfeng said that Mu Ziyang had a fourth imperial soul as well, she was no doubt an expert in her craft.

"Even though I have the protection of the Soul Tower, it's not an excuse to be lazy about soul cultivation. The Soul Tower is currently like a snail's shell. Once the outer shell is crushed, the snail within dies." That was a fatal weakness that had to be remedied at the soonest possible moment, hence his visit.

He headed toward the Refinement Residences, escorted by the Starchasers along the way.

"Astralqueen Ziyang, Tianming requests an audience," he said, humbling himself since he was there to seek guidance.

Soon, the doors opened. Out of the violet mist came a long and slender thigh, but the person didn't step out, instead beckoning at him with her leg. Right as Tianming was about to step in, a voice came from within. "You may enter, but send the Starchasers away. They're annoying." Unsurprisingly, Mu Ziyang knew from his polite tone that he was there to ask for something, so she set some conditions.

"No can do," refused a Starchaser.

"Everyone, please," Tianming said. The world was filled with dangers, and if he lived in fear of them and wasn't able to do anything, he would be better off going home and living forever in mediocrity.

Tianming thanked the troubled Starchasers and entered. Right after that, the door closed behind him. She can't be plotting to kill me, right? Thinking about it more, he realized that she wouldn't benefit from killing him now, given his reputation. Not to mention, Ye Chen was still a potential future threat for them.

Soon, he heard a gentle panting coming from the hall within. Tianming was reminded of Feiling in the wondersky realm; things were perfect back then. It was a shame that they ran into new obstacles. He quickly cleared his throat and mind.

A barefoot girl walked out of the fog, giving him an odd look. "Tell me. What weird thoughts did you have, coming to seek me out like this?"

"Astralqueen, you're overthinking things. My parents are still around, so I'm not in a rush to find a godmother," Tianming said.

"Sheesh, you're a mean one, you know that!" She almost burst from those words. Was that a dig at her age? Even though she looked so young? "Hmph, you'd better watch your mouth." Though she said that, she didn't have any intention of holding it against him. Tianming also went so far as to test her and see if she would be angered by it. Her reaction was satisfactory, which meant that he could bring up his request.

She knocked him on the head and crossed her arms. "Out with it!"

"Alright. Well, I got something called the Shellsoul Manual from the second level of the Tranquil Battlefield. As I'm not well versed in soul cultivation, I've come to ask you whether the technique is well suited for me."

"It is." She chuckled and leaned toward him with a smile. "It was perfectly made for you! Don't you always hang out with that old tortoise, Shengui? His lifebound beast is a millennium tortoise, and this technique mimics a tortoise's shell. Once you master it, you'll be tortoise buddies."

"For real? Then I'll start looking into it. It isn't like I have any other choice. I heard all the soul cultivation techniques of the imperium are held by the Violetcloud Archclan anyway," Tianming said with disappointment. He waved toward her and said, "Thanks for clearing my doubts. I'll take my leave now."

"Wait!" She rolled her eyes. "Don't you know that once you pick a soul cultivation technique, changing to another will be more difficult than starting afresh? To be honest, the Shellsoul Manual's upper limit isn't that high. You won't be able to reach the fourth imperial soul level."

"Is that so? That's a shame, then."

"Seriously, you...!" She held back the urge to grab him by the nape of his neck and shake him silly. "Stop playing the fool. Didn't you want Big Sister here to teach you? You're a man, so stop using silly tricks for once! Sit down."

"Okay." Tianming obeyed her and sat down on the floor.

She circled behind him and stood less than half a meter away. Being so close to her, Tianming felt that her alluring fragrance would be a threat to many elites. He was really nervous that she would kill him. There were many people who wouldn't hesitate to use unconventional methods, after all, like Li Wushuang and the sun emperor.

## **Chapter 1620 - Soul Cultivation**

Everything about Mu Ziyang, including her looks, attitude, and behavior, was filled with deceit. Though she looked open minded and generous on the surface, seeming so harmless that others would put down their guard around her, she was actually the one in the imperium that had the most chance to become the next sovereign. In other words, her power would be no less than Li Wushuang's.

Let's bet on it, Tianming thought, shutting off the Soul Tower. He figured that she would inspect his vita. If he let her discover the Soul Tower, he would lose a trump card he could use when it really counted.

"Hey, I'm going to teach you now, so what should you call me?" she asked, looking at his white hair from behind.

"Great Grandmaster?"

"Are you trying to make me sound old?!" She gave his head a powerful whack. Though her fingers were fine and small, the slap felt like being bumped into by Lan Huang.

"Master!" Tianming hurriedly corrected himself.

"Master your ass. I want to be addressed as the Fairest Nation-felling Big Sister Who's Loved By All."

"That's a little long..." he whined, though did as he was told. By then, her palms were sandwiching his head. Using his third eye, he could see that as she spoke, her eyes were shining with a violet light. Violet fog also began forming around her body, making her silhouette much bigger. The fog was actually a manifestation of her soul powers. While it was harmless against flesh, Tianming immediately felt a threat once he had put the Soul Tower away. To his weak vita, the fog appeared like a humongous giant that could crush it at any time. It entered his ears and reached his sea of consciousness where his vita resided.

"It's still just a first divine soul, and an uncultivated one at that.... How did a weakling like you even make it this far? Nobody on your level would dare to leave their soul that weak! You really are a lucky one. If any one of your enemies had been a master of soul techniques, you would've been crippled for good."

"Well, I just haven't met a good teacher until now," Tianming said, obscuring the fact that he had the Soul Tower's protection.

"Tch, you and your sweet mouth. No wonder that pretty girl you keep got tricked," she said, rolling her eyes. Then, she sighed and continued, "Even so, you were lucky that your soul was unharmed and you met me. In fact, you're like a piece of unsculpted jade for me to shape."

"Are you saying I'm pure and innocent?"

"Your vita is. It's not as lewd as you're making it sound."

"Just tell me how to cultivate it!" If his vita grew stronger, his caelum and terra would change, too. He wanted to join the fight at the Myriadeyes Wonder of the Tranquil Battlefield's third level, but without the Soul Tower, he wasn't sure he would be able to go far with his current soul. Hence, this was crucial.

"You don't have to cultivate it for now," Mu Ziyang said.

"Why?"

"I'm going to teach you the strongest soul cultivation technique of the Violetcloud Archclan, the same one I'm using. Only that will fit your talent as a nonabane. However, you can only start using it at the second general soul level." As she said that, it was as if she had become a different person. Her gaze was distant and the fog around her made her look like a master of the soul.

"Doesn't that mean I can't use it at all? I didn't even make it to the start."

"Don't worry. Big sister here will use my fourth imperial soul's violet fog to nourish your soul and raise it to the second general soul level. That way you'll have the purest second general soul in all of history. After that, you can start using the Violetfog Rushcloud Mantra. That'll allow you to grow much faster than anyone else."

"Nourish my soul? Is that even possible?"

"Yes. Unlike normal cultivation, it's possible to receive direct assistance for soul cultivation. Naturally, you'll have to rely on yourself for the basics. The only difference is that seniors like us can help a bit more directly," she proudly said.

"So you finally admit that you're a senior."

"Hey, stop paying attention to useless details!" As she sat close behind him, it was hard to avoid some bodily contact. After feeling something bounce against the back of his head a few times, Tianming awkwardly pulled his neck in. It's fine... Focus on the important things. The thought of that made it feel even weirder. How would the nourishing even work? Either way, he could use the Soul Tower at the last moment if something was wrong.

"Close your eyes and imagine you're sleeping. Forget your worldly worries. There's only a world of happiness. Think about the person that gives you warmth... recall how good she feels," Mu Ziyang said. Her voice rang in his ear in a trance-inducing fashion as the violet fog continued flooding into his sea of consciousness, making him feel like he was afloat. It was like being in the wondersky realm. Tianming was tempted to snap out of it using the Soul Tower, but recalling Feiling's situation caused him to suppress that urge. He emptied his mind and felt much better; he no longer sensed any threat coming from Mu Ziyang.

After the initial trouble, he felt like he was flowing with the current. It was incredibly relaxing. Mu Ziyang's fourth imperial soul felt like a sea of clouds that surrounded him. His uncultivated soul freely moved about in the clouds with her guidance, slowly growing.

"The key to the Violetfog Rushcloud Mantra is this violet soul fog. It lingers within every soul, even those of mortals. The goal of the technique is to expand that fog," she explained. As the fog entered his soul, it gradually grew. He felt like his divine soul was being nourished in her fourth imperial soul like a child being nourished by its pregnant mother. His soul was growing stronger and fighting to be birthed. The day it left the womb would be the day his soul became a second general soul. After that, he would be able to train on his own.

"This sensation is a little weird..." Tianming said.

"That's right. I've never nourished anyone's soul before. Why does it feel like I'm carrying a child?" she said.

Though it was weird, the growth of his vita was plain to see. It was much faster than the rate of normal soul cultivation, though it couldn't compare to Lingfeng's. He was an exception with eighty thousand vitae inside him.

The soul-nourishing process was a relaxing one for Tianming, but incredibly draining for Mu Ziyang. When she was finished, she waved and leaned against her chair with furrowed brows. "Now piss off, you energy vampire... Big Sis is worn out. I need to charge up. Come back in five days!"

Tianming was more awake than he had ever been, but she was as weak as a limp noodle. "Thank you!"

He immediately left after thanking her. Then he checked on the state of his vita—it was indeed larger and stronger than before. It was also encompassed in a violet fog that surrounded his vita like blood vessels. He didn't think too much about it, but he put the Soul Tower back just in case.

What he didn't expect was that Soul Tower would suck up all the violet veins in his vita like nothing. "What in the world?"

After that, his vita seemed a little worn out. "Did the Soul Tower just cause Astralqueen Ziyang's efforts to be in vain?"

Right as he was worrying over it, he noticed that his vita was the same enlarged size as before, just without the veins. The tiredness also only lasted for a moment. "What does this mean?"

He wasn't really sure. Mu Ziyang had nourished his soul and strengthened it, but it caused violet veins to appear, which the Soul Tower sucked away. Even then, the progress remained.

"I'll just come again in five days. I wonder what her reaction will be when she notices the veins are missing."

Five days later, he came again and Mu Ziyang seemingly unwillingly started nourishing his soul. It was the same relaxing process. However, she didn't seem to notice the disappearance of those veins. It seemed that she wasn't able to tell how much violet fog there was within him, and could only inspect the size of his vita with it.

"Let's do this, then." Every time he left, he used the Soul Tower to suck away the violet veins. His soul continued growing and the day it became a second general soul wasn't far off. At the same time, he continued making progress with the Frozen Glasstree and Imperius Ruins. He had a feeling that his next breakthrough would see him rise to fame once more on the third level of the Tranquil Battlefield.