

The Ages 1621

Chapter 1621 - Divine Soul Transformation

Without any outside pressure, the days Tianming spent in the Violetcloud Imperium were peaceful. Peace meant that he had the luxury of improving various aspects of his abilities. Every five days, he went for a soul-nourishing session. After eighteen sessions, three months had passed. Tianming enjoyed the relaxing cruise through the clouds with Mu Ziyang leading him by placing her hands beside his head. The fog from her body continued flooding into his sea of consciousness, staining it violet. The little person that was his vita swam in the fog, absorbing the nourishment for growth. Thanks to the fog, the vita homunculus' eyes, ears, and nose grew even more sensitive. Its body also grew in size; it was no different from a growing infant.

"Little one, grow up big quickly. Your future is in the sea of stars above," Mu Ziyang sang. Her maternal instincts were stimulated, as if the vita homunculus was her own child that she had painstakingly raised. In fact, Tianming's vita was like her work of art.

Her soul power spread out throughout the wide hall, forming a figure behind her. The figure's back seemed to have eight strands of fog that resembled splayed-out spider legs. Despite its odd appearance, the expression on Mu Ziyang's face was a gentle, motherly one. As her hands moved, she hummed a dreamy song to comfort Tianming's vita, allowing him to completely relax and sleep. He had never been so relaxed all his life. He seemed to forget the existence of his physical body, focusing his entire consciousness inside his vita like a lifeform without a tether. The violet clouds around him were too soft and full, making all of his worries go away. One moment, he felt like he was in a sea or river. The next, it was like he had flown up into the stars and was witnessing the beautiful ground from up above.

"You're still too small and clueless. There's an order to life, and many things that you have to learn. As long as you're obedient, I'll teach you anything and everything. I'm willing to be your soul guide. I'll guide your soul to where it belongs. The tranquility of the soul is more important than anything else." Such words echoed in his dreams.

At his most relaxed, Tianming's body and mind were completely immersed in his puny vita. He was filled with desire as he ravenously absorbed the violet clouds at a startling rate. He could feel his vita growing until it reached a certain point, then the change finally happened. He clearly felt his body completely transform. It felt like being born again. A person only truly began existing as an individual entity at the point of its birth. Only then could it grow and develop survival skills of its own.

His vita left the proverbial womb and touched the ground. That instant, his senses were even sharper than before, something that would help his comprehension abilities and cultivation a lot. This improvement had made up for the most glaring shortcoming he had. It had become a second general soul! There were still two levels beyond that. While this was just the start, it marked a huge step forward. Before, his soul was just an infant that required the protection of the Soul Tower. Without it, he wouldn't have been able to deal with Lingfeng at all.

"Phew..." he exhaled as the sensation of his physical body returned to him.

Mu Ziyang also heaved a long sigh. She sounded utterly drained. "It finally succeeded.... Souls are really hard to raise. How do you plan to thank me, brat?" she said, stroking his head with both hands before giving his ears a hard pinch.

"Ouch!" He hurriedly stood up as his consciousness completely returned to his body. The pain helped quicken his focus on his body, so it wasn't just a senseless prank. He stretched and turned back to look at her.

She was indeed drained, given how pale her skin looked. She also had heavy eyebags. All that effort had been put in just to raise him to the second general soul level. "How would you like me to thank you, Astralqueen Ziyang?"

"Are you still calling me that?"

"Big Sister...."

"You heartless brat, give me back the essence you sucked away! All of it!" she snapped.

Tianming thanked her nonetheless. Then he used the Soul Tower to remove the new violet veins.

"Mmmmaaah!" Mu Ziyang stretched her neck and lay back into her chair and turned to her side, her dress covering her in a way that accentuated her curves. Supporting her head with one hand, she said with a groggy look, "Won't you rub big sis's shoulders?"

"Sure!" Tianming put a lot of force in it and almost shattered her bones.

"You're so rough!" She rolled her eyes and pushed him away. Seeing him still giggling like an idiot, she knew she wouldn't be getting anything out of him. "That's enough. Come again five days from now."

"I still have to come? Didn't you say I could train the Violetfog Rushcloud Mantra myself?"

"By yourself? It'll take ages for you to get anywhere with it. It isn't nearly that simple. Take five days to prepare. Then, we'll dual cultivate together. Each time might last an entire day. That's even harder than nourishing your soul. Let's see if you can take it."

"Dual cultivation?" That was the euphemism he used with Feiling not long ago, and it came out of nowhere. Could Mu Ziyang really be hinting at something?

"Get your mind out of the gutter, kid! Big Sis is talking about soul dual cultivation!" Her tired face immediately flushed red.

"Alright, if you say so...." But the 'dual cultivation' he had engaged in with Feiling had also taken place between their souls, not their physical bodies....

Chapter 1622 - Frostglass Swordbody

Mu Ziyang later explained that soul dual cultivation was a continuation of the nourishment process. During that time, he would start practicing the Violetfog Rushcloud Mantra by himself with her guiding him along the way.

"You aren't from my archclan, so there's many things about the technique that you won't get. Without my guidance, your first steps will be really difficult. Training at the second general soul level will be really

slow, but if you dual cultivate with me, you'll progress at least ten times the rate. If you don't believe me, you can check it when you come back five days from now. Hmph, I'm nurturing you so hard because I want to make sure you become a flawless talent. That way, it'll count toward my contribution to the imperium. Otherwise, Big Sis wouldn't bother with all this effort," she said, lazily lying down with her arms as a pillow.

"Well, I'm new to this. Don't pick that bone with me," Tianming said.

"That's more like it. At least you look sorry to see me so worn out. When you become the sovereign, don't forget all I've done for you."

"How would I? I've always been someone who repaid my favors."

"How do you plan to do it, then?" Mu Ziyang bit her lip and smiled, giving him an enchanting look. Though she looked petite and fresh, she could instantly imbue herself with dangerous, seductive wiles.

Ugh.... Tianming could barely stand it. He cleared his throat and said, "Well, I'm planning to go to the third level of the Tranquil Battlefield, so I can't be sure I'll come back in exactly five days."

"Oh, so you're going to show off what you've learned, right?"

"Yeah."

"Why're you trying so hard? If you keep advancing, the other cultivators here will be completely terrified of you." What she meant was that Tianming was already at the peak of their expectations for him.

"I have no choice. I thought that I already measured up to Ye Chen, only for him to get five sovereign beasts out of nowhere. I've already done so much to make my comrades of the imperium happy, so I should continue keeping it up. That's where my worth lies," he said with sincerity.

"Huh... then why does it sound weird when you say it?"

"It isn't, though. I'm totally sincere."

"Is that so? It sounds like you have other thoughts. To be honest, you've set your sights on the other manna imperium, right?" She instantly saw through him.

"There is no such thing. There's only two manna imperium in the imperium. How could both be given to me? I barely merited getting one already."

"Enough. Leave that to me and focus on the Tranquil Battlefield. I'll get it for you," she confidently said.

"Huh?" Tianming thought he had misheard. "Big Sister, you're one of the Pentarchy, and an influential figure at that. Why would you help me get the manna imperium?"

"Can't I? I'm even personally nourishing your soul."

"What about your father and friends?"

"Why should I care? I'm my own person." She didn't seem happy to hear them brought up. "The Violetcloud Imperium has existed for ages, and my father has already lived to an old age. If they can't see the bigger picture despite all that, it's actually quite embarrassing."

Tianming was quite surprised that she would go so far for him. He hurriedly thanked her and did whatever she asked, only leaving when she was satisfied. As he left, he turned back in her direction when the Starchasers rejoined him. "Everything's going well. Let's hope she's really doing all this for the reasons she says she is." While he wouldn't show any of his concerns in front of her, he did have his own thoughts on the matter.

He had talked to Sovereign Starfeather about soul cultivation with Mu Ziyang, and the sovereign hadn't seen any issue with it. He had said, "Even my own soul cultivation technique comes from the Violetcloud Archclan, and it isn't as good as the Violetfog Rushcloud Mantra. Since she sees you as a talent to be sculpted, and even offered to help nourish your soul, you'll progress at ten times the speed of most others, saving you a lot of precious time. As for your safety, you don't have to worry. Mu Ziyang wouldn't dare to mess around with you right now, at the very least. You've shown your value to us and the stakes have been raised much higher."

Tianming didn't bring up the violet veins on his vita, as he didn't want the sovereign to know about his Soul Tower. Not to mention, the veins weren't something he needed to worry about, anyway. However, Mu Ziyang didn't seem to notice their absence, leaving him curious to see what would happen in the future.

Next, he went to the Imperius Ruins. These coming days would determine whether he could bring his cultivation to a whole new level past his current bottleneck before he went back to the Tranquil Battlefield.

"Yin Chen already finished the five ore veins and has ten million copies now. I'll bring eight million with me into combat so it's at its most effective." When he went to ask for another five more ore veins, Astralking Xuanluan quickly agreed to the request. Tianming left a million Yin Chens to devour the ore veins on their own.

"These five are even larger than the previous veins. If Yin Chen doesn't have an upper limit, it can probably reach twenty million copies this time." An insect army of twenty million would be ridiculously powerful, but Tianming had other ideas.

"In Yin Chen's dream, every single insect looked as large as Lan Huang. That means that each of its bodies can also grow, but that hasn't happened yet. It might be a sign that even if there's an upper limit to the number, it can still grow in volume."

That could mean that there would never be enough divine ores for Yin Chen to consume. Once more, it showed that staying in the Violetcloud Imperium was the optimal choice compared to roaming the astralscape.

Apart from Yin Chen's growth, Tianming had also completely absorbed the Frozen Glasstree and enhanced his sword body. The pitch-black divine hazard tree was now contained within his albi. All five strands of the divine hazard sword ki he had absorbed so far combined was just barely able to be on par with the Frozen Glasstree in power. In other words, Blood Transience should be the core move when he executed the Sixdragon Tribulation. Now, all he lacked was a breakthrough in his cultivation.

Chapter 1623 - Melting Frost

Over the past three months, Tianming's soul nourishment had only been a small part of it. He had spent most of his time in the Imperius Ruins, searching for a way to grow his divine will with the guidance of the thousand caeli imperius. His Imperial Will often had bursts of growth, and now it was growing much faster than his Lifesbane Will. As such, he wanted to focus on the latter as well. Thankfully, the caeli imperius offered many solutions to his issues. He could resonate with every single one on some level.

Within the Imperius Ruins, he basked in the illumination of the starlike caeli. Tianming and the rest were frequent visitors of the ruins; Xiaoxiao, in particular, had never left since entering. She sat in a corner with the Archaionfiend, digesting the caeli she got from the Myriaddragon Mountains while learning new insights with the Violetcloud Imperium's caeli imperius. Tianming hadn't seen her for quite a while now, and to his surprise, she was now a first-level solarian. No doubt, the Archaionfiend's soul consumption ability was at play.

The others also had many improvements. Lingfeng had broken through and reached the first level of the Solar stage as well after the previous grand battle. Compared to Xiaoxiao, he was much stronger. Tianming had also gotten Shengui to get Lingfeng the right to go to the Astraldome.

As for Qingyu, she had been nurtured heavily back on Orderia, not to mention her nonabane talent. Currently, she was at the eighth level and had caught up to Li Haochen. She might be able to improve even faster in the future.

"Phew!" Tianming started cultivating once he greeted the rest. He noticed that since his soul had leveled up, he could communicate much better with the caeli imperius. Never had he so clearly seen their lifetimes and cultivations.

"Ever since I got a boost of comprehension from my Trisoul Prime, I was able to interface with caeli much faster than anyone can. But to think that it wasn't the limit." Wouldn't he be completely unbeatable if he had a fourth imperial soul? It was yet another thing that proved that his decision to cultivate his soul had been the right one.

"Come on!" His soul nourishment had improved the senses of his soul. He was able to benefit far more from the guidance of the caeli imperius.

"Impressive..." Ying Huo's prime bloodline, the improvement of Tianming's soul, and his three months of training at the Imperius Ruins allowed him to gain a rush of new understandings. His Lifesbane Will reached a whole new level. He couldn't help but lament that the path of cultivation got harder and harder the higher he went, though his rate of improvement was still much better than others, who needed years, decades or centuries to break through once. Even so, there were a few others around him that broke through levels even more easily than he did, Xiaoxiao, for instance. However, she trod an extreme path, so it wasn't an apt comparison. Lingfeng, on the other hand, could consume 'trash' to improve himself.

"Let's absorb nova source!" Tianming, his totems, and beasts all continued improving. Once his Lifesbane Will's growth was complete, breaking through would be much easier. His five astraldiscs continued growing bigger while totem ki filled up his bane-rings.

"Finally, the eleventh level." It wouldn't be long before he joined the ranks of seniors as a solarian. "I bet I can take on fourth-level solarrians without an issue now." His power was nearing that of Jiang Qingliu,

Gujian Qingshuang, Long Wanying, and Mu Ziyan more and more. A fourth-level solarian would be on the level of sect masters of fourth-rate factions in Orderia. Even the Azuresoul Palace was able to produce thousands of swordpupils of that level.

"In other words, I'm much stronger than those above a hundred. Perhaps I'm on par with some centuries-old seniors." That was in comparison to the stronger seniors, not just any old person. After all, there were still those that struggled to make breakthroughs throughout their lives. The closer he was to the level of sovereigns, the safer he would be.

"I wonder how I compare to the people of my age at the Mysterium Cluster.... How many sovereigns can deific-class worlds like those produce?" Filled with curiosity, he had already prepared himself for the struggle ahead.

"Big Brother, are you going to challenge the third level yet? I want to see your heroics in the wondersky realm!" Qingyu said.

"Ahem... you're just covering for Shuo Yue, who wants to see my heroics, right? Let Shuo Yue come. There's no need to be shy," Ying Huo said, flapping its wings above Tianming's head.

"Stupid Ying Huo, I knew you were bullying Shuo Yue. If you don't behave, I'll get my brother to pluck your feathers off," Qingyu said.

"Tsk tsks... they said women could be the vilest of people, and they weren't lying. Poor Feng... he must be living in fear in your grasp...."

The rest broke out in laughter as the mood lightened. They soon returned to Violetpeak.

"Did Ling'er not follow you back?" Qingyu asked.

"No, why?" Tianming asked.

"She feels a little weird lately, like she's unwell. Is she sick or something?" Qingyu was good friends with Feiling and they talked about almost everything.

"Well, there is something, but it's nothing physical. It has something to do with her past and Perpetia. Do spend more time accompanying her if you can."

"Why won't you do it yourself? You're the capable one."

"I will, of course." He still couldn't bring himself to tell her that, after their night together, Feiling would turn to frost whenever he was close to her. That wasn't visible most of the time, however.

"Alright, I'll ask Xiaoxiao to join me when I go visit her then."

"Great."

Qingyu and the rest entered first, seeing Feiling still daydreaming near the lake. She was quite happy to see the two girls and gave them warm hugs. Then Tianming entered. She was just as happy to see him, but the frost appeared in her eyes. It was almost like a physiological reaction to him alone. Tianming kept his distance and smiled, but he was feeling rather bad. Even though he loved her so dearly, he couldn't even bring her any solace.

"Ling'er," he called out.

"You're back." She stood at a distance, almost avoiding his gaze.

"Yeah."

"Qingyu said you'll be going back to the Astraldome soon."

"Yes. Let's go together."

"I'll try." Since that time, her caelum had had a hard time entering the wondersky realm. Now that they were on the Violetglory Star, they all had their own heavenly locus formations, so that wasn't an issue. Even Qingyu had her own, and Tianming had given Feiling a new formation spirit core. They looked nearly identical to Tianming's own. Having changed to another core, Feiling seemed able to enter the wondersky realm without any problems. Together with Xiaoxiao and Qingyu, they reached the Soulburn Hall within the wondersky realm.

"Wow, what a beautiful sight!" Qingyu had seldom seen snow on the Flameyellow Continent. She joyfully ran across it.

"Isn't this Soulburn Hall?" Xiaoxiao instantly recognized the place, knowing that it was the secret locale where Tianming and Feiling had enjoyed each other's company in secret.

"Why's there a hole here?" Qingyu asked with naive curiosity, seeing a human-shaped hole in the snow.

"Ahem!" Tianming drew their attention away from the proof left behind by their fierce copulation.

"Ling'er...." He rushed to her like the wind, hugging her and finally feeling her warmth and gentleness.

She hugged back with all she could, almost as if she was desperate to assimilate him into her own body. Her tears flowed onto his sleeves, staining them after this catharsis following three months of holding back. She hadn't dared to approach him at all during those three months, let alone voice the pain she was suffering. Fortunately, she was still able to go to the wondersky realm.

"It'll be fine. We have a lot of time," Tianming consoled, stroking her back. If their love was fulfilled and completed during their first time, then what followed was surely the trials and tribulations that were part and parcel of a relationship. There was no such thing as love without hardship, after all. "Once we get rid of the curse, things will be better." Tianming was confident about that, given the concrete progress he had recently made.

"Alright, let's do it together." She smiled as the snow in the air melted on her face, almost like the frost curse she had been suffering from in the past few months had melted away.

"What are you doing?" The other three and the lifebound beasts were all curious as to what was going on. Why did they sound like they were parting for life?

"It's fine." Tianming let her go, and she had wiped her tears off long ago.

She smiled like usual and held his hand. "He's going to fight soon. Let's all watch and be surprised!"

"I don't have a good feeling about this. I bet my brother will be beaten up!" Qingyu said.

"Hey!" Tianming coughed and grabbed Feiling's hand tighter. Soulburn Hall still reminded him about their intimate time, but he knew that what he should really be focusing on were the upcoming battles. "Wondersky fairy, take me to the Astraldome."

Chapter 1624 - Heaven-ascending Pillar

Every time Tianming entered the Astraldome, the wondersky fairy would make an announcement in his hometown's wondersky realm. All the cultivators stopped what they were doing and began spectating, appearing as ethereal apparitions above him; they would see what the boundless astralscape had to offer by his side.

The news immediately spread across the whole star, causing even more to flock to the wondersky realm. It was hardly surprising that people were so eager to take part in this event, given that their world was situated in a relative backwater. Most of them yearned to learn more about the outside world. Even though their world alone was already so vast, exploring the depths of the unknown was an inherent part of human nature.

"Ye Chen's still fighting on the second level of the Tranquil Battlefield and only just finished his seventy-third kill. It isn't that nice to watch."

"Quick, Li Tianming just entered the third level!"

"That pillar filled with eyes is far too weird. Even while we look from here, it feels like our souls are being sucked in."

The wondersky realm was suddenly filled with people. Everywhere, from the Violetglory Pagoda to Perplexity Island, was completely crowded. All of them looked toward the projection in the sky like ducks, not minding how packed it was. Their anticipation was already at its peak, even before Tianming had taken action. It went to show how important someone like Tianming, who was fighting for their glory, was.

"Let's show the myriad races of the astralscape that even we can give birth to a genius like this!"

Everyone was filled with hope. Even those in the Divineglory Dynasty felt nervous about the upcoming match. Regardless of their sect separation, they were also Violetglorians like those on the other side.

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"Phew..." Tianming lightly breathed out. Looking up, he saw the humongous tower in the middle of the battlefield. Tens of thousands of people could be seen in the distance trying to scale the Myriadeyes Wonder, all of whom were geniuses from their respective nova source worlds. Should they succeed, they would gain honor and prestige in the real world. The gift they would receive from the Astraldome was only a small part of the equation, with the main draw being the status and cultivation resources they would be awarded on their respective worlds.

"As far as I'm aware, they're saying that those from the Mysterium Cluster are the strongest in the Tranquil Battlefield." Tianming flew toward the Myriadeyes Wonder. It was so far away that the distance and scale were hard to judge, and it took him two hours of flying to reach it. The Tranquil Battlefield's third level was so large that it could encompass a few continents. The closer he came, the larger the pillar looked. Each eye on it looked like it was as large as a star.

"I'm finally here." Standing at the pillar and looking up, it looked like a wall that stretched endlessly upward. "It's unbelievably tall!" The pillar seemed to have no end, with the tallest part seemingly far beyond the green fog above. Like waves, the fog kept on undulating and rumbling.

"Let's go!" Tianming started his climb. There was green light beneath his feet as he climbed past the large, green eyes. As he did so, the eyes turned and looked at him as if they were alive. They even seemed to be mocking him.

"I feel affected...." After a few eyes stared at him, he started feeling dizzy. The pillar was somehow bewildering, and the sensation only grew stronger the higher he climbed. It was as if he had found himself in an illusion formation and was approaching its center.

"Huh?" Eventually, his vision began distorting and he started seeing things that made him lose his way. When he looked down, the glowing green eyes all seemed to be looking at him. He felt a hammering in his head, but he still maintained his consciousness with his second general soul.

"Even so, I'm already starting to lose myself even though I haven't been climbing for long. Looks like the Myriadeyes Wonder is really taxing on the soul.... Must I have a third regal soul to make it to the top?" Looking up at the endless tower could easily make one despair.

"Calm down." He took a deep breath and found that he felt much better all of a sudden. Then, he noticed something when he looked at his own body: bane text had begun manifesting. "Trisoul Prime!" He finally recalled it. Apart from the Soul Tower, his own soul had transformed thanks to his Aeonian Grandbane, and one of those changes was his Trisoul Prime. His Vita Prime greatly increased his comprehension abilities, while his Terra Prime greatly enhanced his totems, and his Caelum Prime was a legacy to be inherited as he grew. Even so, he didn't know the true nature of his Trisoul Prime, only that the bane text flowed around on the surface of his soul. Now that he was in his caelum form, the ancient text began appearing on his surface, helping him maintain consciousness and allowing him to continue on.

"I've already started soul cultivation. Maybe I can learn more about my Trisoul Prime as I improve." It was an ability inherent in his Aeonian Grandbane. Ying Huo's Blazebane and Meow Meow's Blitzbane, on the other hand, were already rather well understood.

"There's quite a lot of people here, still." He saw many talented geniuses as he continued his ascent. During the first part, most of them were struggling against the illusions and few had the luxury to fight others. Tianming, on the other hand, was able to cross the first half of the pillar without much issue, thanks to the bane text of his Trisoul Prime and his second general soul.

"There are so many people from different worlds. Which ones are from the Mysterium Cluster, I wonder?" The participants were only designated based on the nova source worlds they came from, rather than the star clusters they belonged to, if any.

Tianming had to continue consciously holding the illusions at bay, ignoring the voices he heard as he continued upward.

"Die!" came a cry from behind all of a sudden, followed by a dense aura that came charging toward him.

Chapter 1625 - Illusory Outbreak

"Who?" Tianming hurriedly moved aside. He had his Lifesteal Silverdragon wrapped around his black arm. The arm was the wildest part of Tianming's body, which added to his domineering appearance. In fact, his entire appearance made him stand out like a sore thumb, with his long, white hair and black and gold eyes, the latter of which had a little fish swimming in it. He obviously didn't look like someone to be taken lightly, so who would dare to attack him? He evaded the punch as it resoundingly slammed into the pillar.

"Li Tianming of Violetglory, it's you after all! It's over for you!" said a hoarse voice.

Tianming moved aside and looked closer at the man that stood about two meters tall. He had a head of short, black spiky hair, and though he was dressed in thick beast furs, his muscles were clearly visible. Tianming thought that he might be a specter based on his sheer size, at first, but soon it was clear that this was a human.

"Feifei Zi of Longbeard Star?" Tianming did in fact see a black beard that seemingly obscured his fleshy face. He recalled Ranran Zi from before, and it appeared that these two were acquainted. No wonder he attacked me right away. No doubt Longbeard saw me defeat Ranran Zi from their wondersky realm.

"What's your relationship with Ranran Zi?"

"I'm his older sister!" said the assailant with a fierce growl.

Tianming almost coughed out blood. Was this an older sister? Looking more closely he saw two mounds on her chest, which he had assumed were pectoral muscles at first. She was a woman after all! He didn't know what else to say and merely gave her a thumbs-up. "You're a feisty one."

"How dare you insult this princess?!" Her rage caused her face to flush red. She drew out a spear and charged toward Tianming.

He rolled his eyes once more upon learning that she was a princess. Compared to Princess Shen Yu of Divineglory Dynasty, there was a world of difference. Before he could focus, she charged at him like a beast. I don't know how old she is, but she's a second-level solarian. That shows that her talent's more impressive than Princess Shen Yu's.

He couldn't bother getting entangled with her, so he planned to strike her back using his totems. However, he realized that he couldn't manifest them! "What's going on?!"

"Idiot! Totems and lifebound beasts can't be used on the Myriadeyes Wonder! We can only fight as ourselves!" The blows of her spear came raining down on him like mountains.

"Huh, who'd have figured?!" Not that Tianming was bothered by it. The same rules applied to everyone. While it did chip away at his advantages and made things a bit harder, he wasn't afraid of a challenge.

"Wouldn't specters have an advantage, then?"

"Specters don't get access to their enhanced physique, but they're free to use abilities, so they have a slight edge! But that's not all—hey, why am I explaining this to you?!" She continued raining blows down on him, not able to use any totems or beasts she had all the same.

"Sheesh, fly off!" He lashed out with the Lifesteal Silverdragon using Goddess Flowerfall, Blissful Union, though it felt a little wrong to use a move with that name. A sea of silver flowers was unleashed, within

which the Lifesteal Silverdragon roamed toward Feifei Zi at lightning speed. She wasn't able to take the sheer power of the move at all, given that she was only a second-level solarian. While Tianming didn't look as strong as her, his stronger astralforce caused her to drop her spear. Then the chain wrapped around her head and cut through her thick neck, sending her head flying. Defeated, her body scattered into fragments.

"Done deal." He put the Lifesteal Silverdragon away and kept going, knowing that defeating yet another talented genius of the Longbeard Star would cause another uproar among the Violetglorians. No doubt, Longbeard would be even angrier at him. The ones from other worlds probably wouldn't hold back against him, either, but that hardly mattered.

He looked up and saw that he was about to enter the green fog. "I wonder where the peak is?" He took a deep breath and continued onward. Then he tested it once again, and found that he indeed couldn't manifest his lifebound beasts or totems. Ying Huo and the rest were affixed to his body, able to do nothing other than talk.

"Looks like I only have myself to rely on." He sped up and entered the green fog. "The illusions are getting stronger."

Even with his Trisoul Prime, he had felt his soul affected from the very beginning. As person after person appeared before him, the nearby sound seemed to become drowned out. But sometimes they sounded as close as someone whispering beside one's ear.

"Big Brother...." Unsurprisingly, Feiling's illusion appeared before him completely naked. It was a vision from the deepest depths of his psyche, yet it had appeared just like that. She latched on to him, not resisting at all like that day.

"Fuck off." Tianming could still hold back against temptations like that. He bisected the illusion with his black Grand-Orient Sword while opening a path with the gold one.

"You... you killed the one that you most love! How cruel!" she said, looking at him with disappointment.

"I'm killing your bullshit." The black sword danced around the figure, tearing her to pieces. At the very least, he was still conscious enough to do that for now. The bane text on him brightly shone, helping him pierce the green fog around him. Even so, the wail of despair from 'Feiling' had greatly shaken his heart. Even if it was fake, nobody would be able to see one's beloved endure such a fate. The Myriadeyes Wonder was far from a pushover.

"Tianming..." a familiar couple appeared before him, "come."

He saw them clearly within the fog. It was Li Muyang and Wei Jing.

"You've finally come.... We've been waiting for too long." Wei Jing shook her head, tears flowing down her cheeks. There was nothing but deep yearning in her eyes.

"Tianming, we have very important things to tell you about the future." Li Muyang bit his lip, looking rather perplexed. "Come."

The two of them beckoned to him.

Chapter 1626 - Faceless Specter

"Come!"

Tianming was sweating so hard that he found it hard to breathe. He charged forth with both swords.
"Die!"

Bane text filled the Grand-Orient Swords as they pierced Li Muyang and Wei Jing.

"Tianming, how dare you murder your parents? Your sins know no bounds!" the two of them said in unison, their voices shaking him even more.

"Looks like the wondersky realm is getting serious. How terrifying." He turned back and saw the eyes eerily looking at him. It was as if they were mockingly smiling at him, not minding that he had broken the illusion at all.

He kept going. How much further was the top? He grit his teeth, still holding some grief in his heart as he sped up. Then the fog ahead began changing.

"There's more?!" His head was starting to hurt. Thinking that he was going to be faced with someone he knew again, he prepared to resist. Little did he expect that the fog ahead turned into white clouds, clouds that seemed alive. "What is this?"

There seemed to be some kind of life form within the white cloud that had a tentacle stretched out. It looked like the other Primordial Chaos Beast from Yin Chen's dreamscape!

"What are you, Li Tianming?" said a low voice filled with hate. "Are the lives of Primordial Chaos Beasts yours to control?"

The voice hammered against his soul. That instant, the white cloud swarmed toward him and swallowed him, making him feel like he was drowning.

"If I eat you, I'll be free!" It laughed and began wrapping its tentacles around Tianming.

"Little Sixth?" His eyes began rolling back in his head. He felt like he was going to die, as if his soul was being consumed. "No! It's just an illusion!" When he was feeling the most pain from being asphyxiated, he felt the existence of his bane text. It had saved him once more, allowing him to breathe and feel his life and soul again. "Break!"

He charged ahead like a bull. Eventually, the sixth Primordial Chaos Beast's voice began growing softer until there was nothing but green fog above him and countless eyes beneath him. The sixth egg was still within his lifebound space; the illusion was finally broken. Even in his caelum form, he felt a heavy weight on his body. "It's too tiring...."

The Myriadeyes Wonder was tall beyond imagination. The divine wondersky race that had constructed it were shrouded in even more mystery than he had originally thought. They seemed like endless clouds that enveloped everything. Fortunately, he saw a beam of light ahead.

"Am I about to reach the pathway to the fourth level?" It almost seemed too easy. There should be more tests than this.

"Go!" He quickened his steps, heading toward the light; then he saw a person fall and explode in front of him.

"Xiao, I'll show you why the flowers are red when I get to the fourth level!" the dead person cried one last time before vanishing.

Tianming zoomed past him as he exploded, entering the light and appearing in a new place. Looking down, he still saw many eyes, but it was no longer the curved surface of the pillar. Rather, it was a flat one. He stood on the platform, still surrounded by green fog on all sides. There was a void above him, and it seemed like the fourth level was beyond it. That could well be the pathway to the fourth level. The reason Tianming was sure of that was the other person that stood right in front of the void, about to enter it. Yet Tianming's arrival had caused the void to close and vanish.

"I see.... So the rule here is that you can only pass through the pathway when there's only one person remaining on the platform, right?" he asked.

"Right. After I came here, I killed five people. I was just about to go through, yet you just had to come in," the man said in a deep and hoarse voice. However, he didn't seem much older than Tianming, based on his physique. No doubt, his talent, age, and status were far superior to those of the others in the third level.

"This is interesting." Tianming seemed to have caught the bus at the last moment. If he were late, the other person would've passed through and he would have had to wait for others to come to the platform for a fight to open the path. But now all he had to do was fight this one person and he would be allowed to advance.

He looked at the words on top of the youth's head. They read 'Skyway Tristars, Whitejade, Xiao'. Seeing three labels was a novelty. Skyway Tristars referred to his nova source world, and Xiao should be his name. So what did Whitejade mean?

His opponent turned back, staring down at him from high ground. Tianming was shocked at what he saw. The person standing before him looked like he had no flesh, like the stoneswords. It looked like he was sculpted from a whole piece of white jade, his head looking especially like a perfectly smooth round jade surface. He didn't have any facial features at all and was completely bald. His head seemed to glow. There were slight dips where his eyes would be and a slight rise where his nose would be, though he had neither. He didn't have a mouth, either, with his voice seemingly coming from his abdomen. Dressed in a white robe, he completely looked like an oddity.

Bodhi had seemed to have white jade-like skin, but this person seemed to be made entirely out of jade itself. Though he lacked eyes, Tianming felt like he was being looked at. It seemed that he even recognized Tianming's surprise. "Have you never seen faceless specters before?"

Tianming shook his head. He stared for a good while and said, "Is the Skyway Tristar a world from the Mysterium Cluster?"

The specter nodded. Tianming was all too curious about what a world like that would be like. He could be certain that this jade youth before him had far more potential than anyone he had seen so far.

"Is there a Skyway Monostar and Skyway Bistar too?"

He nodded again. Though Tianming wanted to ask more, he simply raised a hand to quiet him. "Are you going to jump down? Or do you need me to send you off?"

Chapter 1627 - Lacking Good Upbringing

Even though Xiao had no eyes, Tianming felt like he was being stared at. The smooth, jade-faced man claimed to be a specter, so the faceless specters must be some kind of divergent branch of their race, and a pretty small one at that. The Skyway Tristar appeared to be a deific-class nova source world—did that mean that the faceless specters reigned supreme on that powerful world?

Xiao had given him two choices: kill himself or be killed by him. Tianming wasn't in a rush to decide, however. He smiled and kept his questions going. "Before I answer that, I want to ask another question. Are faceless specters strong? How do you compare to the mysterians?" Based on what Ranran Zi had said, the Mysterium Cluster was controlled by the wonderians and mysterians, so the latter was sure to be a powerful faction as well.

"Hmph." Xiao mockingly shook his head with a smile of disappointment. "Have there been no Violetglorians who've come to the Mysterium Cluster before? Faceless specters are also mysterians. In fact, all who live on the three Skyway stars are mysterians."

Despite the tone, Xiao was being more than patient in answering Tianming's rather clueless questions. He knew that the people of the Skyway Tristar were watching him, after all, so he had to act with decorum. He was still young and didn't want others to see him as arrogant.

"I see...." Tianming nodded. Apparently there were three Skyway stars in the Mysterium Cluster, all of them deific-class worlds. The third star of the series was ruled by the faceless specters, who were also mysterians like the denizens of other stars.

"Are you saying that mysterians are rather highly regarded in the Mysterium Cluster?" Tianming asked.

The specter chuckled, "You're an interesting one. No matter how remote the worlds they come from are, everyone in the third level knows of me."

"Is that so? I guess I rose up the levels a little too quickly for the news to reach me." Normally, people took some time familiarizing themselves with the battlefield once they rose to a new level. Those around the age of a hundred had spent quite a lot of time in the nine levels of the Tranquil Battlefield and had eventually gotten to know the familiar figures that competed there. After all, the only ones who could fight in the Astraldome were peak geniuses of their respective worlds. The standards within it were extremely high, and anyone that made it in would be quite famous across the universe. Xiao was one such person, the kind that Tianming was seeking! He figured that many people spectating him would be quite surprised to learn of Xiao's status. This was a peak genius from a deific-class world.

"One last question. How old are you?" Tianming asked.

Xiao quieted down, staring at Tianming with annoyance. Tianming's earlier comment about rising too quickly rubbed him the wrong way. It was egregious that anyone would dare to be arrogant before him. Most people who started off in the Tranquil Battlefield were around twenty years old. Some rose quickly, while others had tougher luck, often remaining on the first few levels by the time they reached a century old. Those that quickly rose were always absolute geniuses without exceptions, geniuses among geniuses.

The top three geniuses from heliacal-class worlds were only average in the Astraldome. Those that could be considered absolute geniuses almost always came from skypiercer-class worlds or above. To Xiao, Tianming's claim of quickly rising was quite laughable, though it wasn't surprising since it wasn't the first time he'd seen a genius from a heliacal-class world that had conquered their own world and thought themselves above everything.

"I'm nineteen, and a third-level solarian," Xiao coldly said.

As expected, Tianming seemed rather shocked. Using the children of the sun emperor as a standard, they should at most be seventh-level constelliers at the age of nineteen. Even though it only seemed like an eight-level difference on paper, it was actually much more than that. Li Haochen, for instance, would probably be a hundred years old before he reached the third level of the Solar stage. Even Li Shenjian was still a constellier at more than fifty years of age. And Qingyu was already older than nineteen to boot!

Though he was surprised, Tianming figured it would make sense for the mysterians to have a higher standard, being from deific-class worlds. He shot Xiao a thumbs-up. "That's impressive!"

"Sure." Xiao was already losing patience. His achievements at his age only merited a 'rather impressive'? Not to mention, Tianming spoke in the tone of a senior. It was utterly infuriating.

"That fellow is really lacking a good upbringing. Bless Xiao for being so tolerant of him."

"What kind of backwater is he from, anyway? It's starting to feel like a lot of these elites from across the astralscape are mentally handicapped."

"It's normal. He's a seventh-level constellier in his twenties, so he's probably among the top three geniuses from heliacal-class worlds. It isn't surprising that someone like him was put on a pedestal on his world."

"Let's watch Xiao teach him a lesson he'll never forget."

"Yeah. The geniuses from heliacal-class worlds in the Mysterium Cluster have all been put in their place, so they aren't as arrogant as this infuriating bumpkin."

The spectators from the Skyway Tristar had a lot to say about Tianming.

"Xiao, educate him for good!"

As they expected, Xiao couldn't be bothered with Tianming anymore and drew his sword with his white jade fingers. It was a meter long and only two centimeters wide, making for a rather razor thin sword. Black divine patterns spanned across the blade, making it look rather sinister. The patterns seeped into Xiao's fingers, almost fusing with them.

"Wow, your sword looks impressive! It must be a grade-six divine artifact, right?!" Tianming said, feigning a look of surprise.

"Heh." Xiao shook his head with a chuckle. No doubt, the spectators from his world were breaking out in laughter. Any educated person would see that this was a grade-eight divine artifact, and a top one at that! Even though he seemed to hate Tianming at first, his foolishness almost made him seem adorable.

Chapter 1628 - Whitemoon Swordssource Purgatory

If a divine astralship of our cluster goes to your star one day, you'll come to understand the difference between a superior lifeform and backwater bumpkins like you, Xiao thought. He suddenly accelerated with sword in hand, turning into a white blur. Despite losing his ability to transform as a specter, his speed and agility wouldn't be matched by a normal person.

The sword rapidly moved, executing Whitemoon Swordssource Purgatory. It was among the more powerful battle arts he knew, and no doubt, it was fitting to strike fear into Tianming with. The moment the blade struck, boundless astralforce came surging out and concentrated at the tip into a beam of white moonlight that began splitting into many more beams, covering the entire battlefield with white sword ki strands. Like a purgatory of swords, it was completely airtight. A huge moon formed from a sea of white sword ki began closing in on Tianming. Without the numerical advantage, specters were more powerful in single combat against totemancers and beastmasters. People fully expected that Tianming would be eradicated in an instant.

"Make sure you ask your seniors about some basic knowledge first before you decide to embarrass yourself like this again," Xiao coldly said.

Tianming was completely expressionless within the Whitemoon Swordssource Purgatory. Since the battle had started, he stopped messing around. He manifested both Grand-Orient Swords, causing terrifying sword ki to emanate from his body and spread to the swords. He had now absorbed the entire Frozen Glasstree, forming a perfect Frostglass Swordbody. The sword ki around him caused the surrounding temperature to dip and a fatal frost to surround Xiao. Then, he used Fienddragon, Blood Transience!

"Die!" Tianming's countenance completely changed from that of a foolish junior to a slaughterer. His swords were swung with great bravado. His Frostglass Body, combined with Blood Transience, made him seem even more threatening, despite not having any of his totems with him.

The sword ki from the move fused with that of the Frozen Glasstree, creating a frost-like transient dragon that embodied the contradictory aspects of frost and flare. Instantly, a hole appeared in the sword ki manifestation of the Whitemoon Swordssource Purgatory, out of which a beam shot toward Xiao. It was far too powerful that it tore through the white moon sword ki like cotton, completely exposing the specter. Even though he had no facial features and had no expression to be read, Tianming could tell that his smooth face was quite significantly contorted.

"Too bad for you." Tianming smirked as the sword ki slammed into Xiao.

Panicking, Xiao immediately tried to block with his sword, rapidly striking back and barely able to hold back Blood Transience. Even so, the sword ki from the Frozen Glasstree had still damaged his jade body, leaving a lot of chips and scratches and even completely freezing up one of his arms and half a shoulder. He slammed into the ground and groaned in pain, causing his frozen arm and shoulder to smash into smithereens. Even though it was just his caelum, it still hurt quite a lot.

"You're still alive after all that?" Tianming was quite surprised to see that, but it soon made sense. It appeared that the wondersky realm determined that specters had a strong life force, so Xiao had survived on a technicality despite losing a sizable portion of his body. They were known to have survived such wounds, after all.

"You're a decent one, I'll give you that," Xiao said with a low growl as he struggled to stand up, turning his featureless face toward Tianming and visibly radiating anger. "However, you're obviously a few times my age. Stop pretending and preying on the young. What's the point of that?"

Xiao felt totally embarrassed. Tianming's naive act had made him assume that he wasn't that old to begin with, yet there could only be one explanation for his explosive display of strength: he was faking his age! He felt cheated, and the spectators from his world raged.

"What a shameless fellow!"

"With how many stupid questions he asked, I thought he really was a newcomer to the Tranquil Battlefield! He must've lingered here for ages!"

"What a fool. To think that someone who's been here so long can be so ignorant as to dare to offend us mysterians.... Doesn't he fear the consequences?"

The Mysterium Cluster didn't just reign supreme in the wondersky realm, they were actually influential in the real astralscape. They were angry and felt cheated, but the Violetglorians knew that there was no deceit in Tianming's actions at all. He truly was a newcomer to the scene!

Even though Tianming couldn't see it, he knew that this would cause even more waves out in the real world. Looking at Xiao, he put his swords on his shoulders and said, "You sound so sure. What if you're wrong? What if I'm in the same age range as you are?"

"How dare you mess with me! I'll remember your name and origin—you'd better go back and ask your seniors what kind of mistake you've made today." Xiao stood up, exuding even more threat than before despite the loss of an arm. He was surrounded in a white fog as his jade body brightly glowed. "Do you think faceless specters are pushovers?" They were ultimate lifeforms in the astralscape of order! All fell before them! His body immediately began changing. Clearly, he had used an ability he had suppressed. Tianming saw his face rapidly change as two slits appeared where his eyes would be. Then the spot where a mouth should be cracked open and changed color. A nose and ears appeared, along with eyebrows. The faceless specter had gained a face.

Chapter 1629 - Thousand-face Prison

What shocked Tianming even more was that the specter's face was identical to his own! If it weren't for the difference in physique, Tianming would have thought he was fighting himself, though Xiao didn't become a complete copy as his expressions were clearly different.

"Why did you turn into me?!" Tianming said.

"Stop playing the fool. This is just a face reveal, a trait of our people."

Apparently the face reveal involved turning their face into the opponent's, but what was the point of that? As Tianming was mulling it over, white fog suddenly came out of Xiao's face. After the face change, he seemed stronger than before. The fog immediately surrounded Tianming and seemed like an ability. Eventually, many cloudy faces could be seen within the fog, up to a thousand of them surrounding Tianming. Every one of them was Tianming's own face, save that each one stretched tens of meters across. They were able to emote as if they were alive.

"What in the world is this?" Tianming wondered as he looked at the confusing sight.

"Thousand-face Prison!" Xiao growled as he glared at Tianming, sword in hand. Clearly, the thousand fog faces were connected to Xiao's own face.

"Well, I don't care what this is. I'll just destroy it." Tianming used even more force and charged in for the kill. This time he used all six divine hazard sword ki strands in his body, embodying the Silverdragon, Whitedragon, Blackdragon, Blazedragon, Blooddragon, and Fienddragon! The six dragons fused together as the strikes blended together and formed the Sixdragon Tribulation.

"Die!" This was the strongest strike he could muster without his totems and lifebound beasts. He rose into the sky and slashed, causing six dragons to come bearing down.

"Ugh!" Almost instantly, Xiao pulled back the thousand faces and put them between Tianming and himself. Then their eyes projected white sword light as their mouths opened up to unleash a loud scream. Fog came pouring out of their noses, all of them trying to stop Tianming's attack with their own. Xiao wielded the faces like he would a thousand shields; his sword also emitted divine hazard sword ki.

"Break!" Tianming's strike was furiously fierce. When his sword fell, the overwhelming sword ki neutralized the attacks from the thousand faces and directly struck them. The sound of shattering glass rang out as the faces crumbled.

"Huh?!" This time around, Tianming saw Xiao's surprised expression.

"Die!" The chaos of elements cared nothing for any defense Xiao put up. The Grand-Orient Sword immediately smashed into his head, tearing his mimicked face apart.

"You!" Xiao raged, but Tianming had completely crushed him and turned him to dust. He was killed right then and there! The Thousand-face Prison also vanished, causing the fog to recede, though Xiao's groan of unwilling rage still lingered in the air.

Tianming shrugged, basking in his victory. "Interesting technique you have there. But in the face of absolute strength, not even your tricks can do much."

Though the battle had been really short, the nineteen-year-old third-level solarian had left a deep impression on Tianming. "If he'd been older, possibly around thirty and a level or two higher, then he'd be hard to deal with."

Not to mention, Xiao had underestimated Tianming and didn't go all out before Tianming defeated him, though his trick did seem rather intriguing.

"So there are some races that can stand at the peak of the food chain. Looks like there's a good reason why they rule a deific-class nova source world." Tianming recognized their formidability. He couldn't even imagine having such a backing and legacy. Even so, that didn't dampen his fighting spirit; defeating Xiao was only the start of his rise in the Astraldome.

"The folks from Skyway Tristar must be accusing me of bullying someone much younger than me by using my age advantage... but they're far away and have nothing to do with me. It's good enough that my fans know how strong I really am." He wanted to see what it was like in his hometown's wondersky realm right now. Even so, the fight had left him a little dissatisfied.

"Xiao was far too young to be a good match, and I can't use my totems nor lifebound beasts here, so it's pretty pointless." He looked up at the hole in the sky, the pathway toward the fourth level. "Let's hope there's others on the level of Xiao there, but older. Hopefully an absolute genius of my age! If I defeat a few more, I'm sure I'll be able to ask for another manna imperius, right?"

With that in mind, he put away his sword and entered the hole above. He had heard that most disciples under the age of thirty wouldn't be able to enter the fifth level. In other words, the strongest of those under thirty would be gathered at the fourth level. That would be a most exciting battlefield!

Naturally, he would first have to collect his reward before going there. As Tianming expected, the audiences from Skyway Tristar and Violetglory had different reactions. In the former, many supported Xiao and complained about the injustice of the alleged age difference. Xiao had wanted to go to the fourth level to prove himself as one of the best disciples under thirty. Many absolute geniuses from peak clans shone there, some of whom were his elder siblings. He had prepared for quite a long time to make his advancement, only for Tianming to cut him off right before he had achieved his goal. That wasn't even the worst part. People had been expecting him to teach the bumpkin a lesson, only for the exact opposite thing to happen.

"Those fools know nothing but showing off in front of young folks like you. Don't worry, Xiao. Those of us on the fourth level will utterly trash him!"

That instant, all the faceless specters within their age bracket entered the fourth level of the Tranquil Battlefield.

There was a completely opposite reaction among the Violetglorians. The seniors who were aware of the status of the faceless specters were all stumped when they saw Tianming crush Xiao.

"If this goes on, he'll really be on par with the absolute geniuses of his age across the entire astralscape!" It was a stifling thing to consider. Then again, that was assuming that all of the best people in the universe had access to the Astraldome, something that was still in doubt.

Chapter 1630 - Astralium Seeking

Within the Soulburn Hall in the wondersky realm, Xiaoxiao crossed her arms as she walked around in the snow. After some thought, she said to the others, "I'll go outside and see how they're reacting."

"Alright." Qingyu was also curious about the outside, but she couldn't leave as Feiling didn't feel too well. They had permission to enter Soulburn Hall as long as Tianming didn't explicitly lock it down.

Unsurprisingly, Xiaoxiao saw that the entire realm was filled with activity. Tianming's impressive performance had caused them to deeply worship him. For a youth in his twenties to defeat another from a deific-class world caused his reputation to skyrocket.

"Seeing their expressions, I think it's about time," the Archaionfiend said.

"About time for what?" Xiaoxiao asked.

"For the same thing that happened at the Flameyellow Continent to repeat! One day, their faith in him will brainwash them to the point that he'll be able to use their power. That's the most terrifying thing about him," it said with a whimper.

"Isn't that good?"

"Well, it certainly isn't bad. If only you'd be more open minded and consume the caeli imperius inside the Imperius Ruins, we'd be able to progress much faster than he can! At the very least, you'd hold a position in his heart. But now, when he comes back out, you'll still be a nobody to him."

"Wu You, it seems you've forgotten the suffering you've been through. Looks like I'll have to remind you of that lesson."

"Sigh, why will nothing stick? Do you have no ambition at all?"

"Shut up."

"Come on, at least discuss it with him. Those caeli imperius will go to waste if they're left uneaten." At the end of the day, it was still driven by its instinct to devour souls. The slightest hope made it antsy.

"Xiaoxiao, you have to think for both of our sakes. Just come up with a way to kill that woman. Then you'll be the main girl and my Bloodrose Curse will also be removed! Everyone's happy!"

"If you say anything more I'll tell Ling'er everything you told me."

"Sigh! Even though you like him, you're doing nothing but staying in a corner like a blade of grass on the roadside. You did it to yourself, you useless thing."

Xiaoxiao stopped. She quietly turned toward Perplexity Island and the countless cultivators that looked toward Tianming's projection in the sky. The way they looked at him was just like Xiaoxiao looked at him. All the way back at the Flameyellow Continent, she had already become one of Tianming's faithful followers, able to lend him power through his Omniscient Threads. Her divine will was also connected to his Imperial Will like that of many others. In a way, she was a senior of these budding faithful Violetglorians! She had experienced everything they were experiencing now, especially during the narrowly avoided moon crash.

"Wu You, you don't understand me at all. I don't like him—I worship him. It's faith, and I wanted this for myself. Do you understand?" she said, seemingly relieved.

The Archaionfiend rolled its eyes. "Fine. They're believers, and you're the leader of the believers." Even so, it wasn't happy that this was how things would be resolved. "I'm the Archaionfiend, yet now I have to worship that brat just because I'm doing symbiotic cultivation with you. I really messed things up for myself. If only I hadn't chosen you back then!"

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After Tianming stepped into the pathway, everything around him changed. Unsurprisingly, he was transported back to the green hall where he had claimed rewards before. He was quite familiar with the place now. Without delay, he directly entered it and picked up a green glass ball before entering the space within in his caelum form. It was yet another battle art, one of the easiest rewards to fulfill in the wondersky realm.

"The Kilofold Starcluster Fist...." What surprised Tianming was that this move had reached the peak level of a seventh-realm divine art. As divine artifacts afforded huge damage potential, divine arts that used them were incredibly powerful. As such, divine arts using punches, finger, and palm strikes were rather

unpopular, though there were gauntlet-type divine artifacts that could still augment one's attack power, rare as they were.

There were also benefits to this kind of divine art. If one were ever disarmed or have their weapons broken, a powerful barehanded technique would still allow one to use astralforce explosively and effectively. Tianming's tough black arm was just right for that move. Even without a gauntlet, his arm was comparable to grade-six divine artifacts in terms of destructive potential, and top-tier ones in terms of durability.

He also had a powerful sword body. While it didn't help with his defense, it gave his attacks a huge boost. He could even use this technique in tandem with his sword ki, basically using his bare hands as swords, which was its own distinct style of fighting as well. Specters with powerful bodies usually favored these bare-handed moves.

"So I gather the power of astralforce and let it swirl around my arm a thousand fold, constantly compressing it before I strike out heavily. It's rather crude and explosive. It's a shame that I don't have a sacrosun yet, or it would be even more effective."

Fortunately, he wasn't far off from becoming a solarian. However, with neither of his constellations working well in the wondersky realm, perhaps his pandemonium sacrosun and cyclic sacrosun wouldn't work well there, either.

"Either way, it's a good move to add to my arsenal." He looked up, seemingly imagining the countless stars above clustering into the form of a fist before instantly descending to the ground, smashing everything underneath it and shaking the entire continent. It was filled with boundless power. Whether Tianming would be able to unleash that kind of power still depended on his own cultivation. Normally, only a solarian would be able to use the full power of a seventh-realm divine art.

"The Astraldome has treated me rather well. Apart from the Shellsoul Manual, the rewards have been rather suitable for me," Tianming said.

"The Shellsoul Manual suits you too, you know," Ying Huo teased.

"Shut up." When he memorized the technique and left the hall, the building seemingly melted away as his surroundings blended together. It was a sign that he would soon reach the fourth level, the place he badly wanted to be.

"Let's go!"

Tianming's wondersky fairy suddenly appeared among the lights. "Li Tianming of the Violetglory Star, the Astralium Seeking is about to start at the fourth level of the Tranquil Battlefield. Will you be participating?"