

## The Ages 1641

### Chapter 1641 - Clash of Beasts

Ying Huo and Meow Meow flanked Lan Huang, now in their enlarged forms. The three charged with great force, surrounded by flames and lightning, while Tianming stood atop Lan Huang's head. A divine light from his eyes shone on Kou Mingyou as he wielded his sword, his hair fluttering from the sheer force.

After Yin Chen's first wave of attacks, Xian Xian launched the second wave. It was rooted near the astralis, protecting it while using its roots to help Tianming on the battlefield. It also used its Bloodrain Swords and Demise Greenloti, shooting sword-like petals and small loti at the enemy. Red swords pierced into the lifebound beasts of the enemy, while the loti exploded and scattered many seeds in their flesh that began draining their blood away. The moonscourge abomination and desolate night sky direwolves started itching, filling them with rage.

After the first wave of attacks, Kou Mingyou's counterattack began. With many of his beasts being wolves, they worked well together in a pack. "What kind of backwater is the Violetglory Star, anyway?!"

He smirked as his moonscourge abomination shook off many metal insects with its powerful astral force. In the next instant, the strong light coming from it turned into a black sphere and started burning. It tore a path through the lake, consuming everything in its path, including Xian Xian's projectiles, some of the vines, and even hundreds of thousands of Yin Chens. The ability, called Darkmoon Devouring, was rather terrifying.

At that moment, a Solar Explosion came from the left, followed by a Cosmic Lance from the right. The two abilities crashed together and triggered a chain explosion, even shaking Ye Chen, Bai Feng, and their Astralium Formation, triggering the alarm function and adding more chaos to the battlefield. The two sides were now in a messy melee. Lan Huang attacked the moonscourge abomination nonstop, slamming into it using its Primordial Wheel and interrupting its second attempt at using Darkmoon Devouring. As for the other wolves, they were either chasing down Meow Meow and Ying Huo or supporting the abomination.

However, Yin Chen came back in full force, angry that it had lost hundreds of thousands of its bodies. "You all... must die!" Its seven million remaining bodies turned into butterflies that swept into a storm, using their wings as blades. Countless slashes rained down on the four wolves, who were already covered in black flames. Two of them were chasing Lan Huang, while the other two were chasing Ying Huo and Meow Meow, respectively.

Normally, Ying Huo and Meow Meow didn't like to fight up close. But in such a chaotic battle, the formless Yin Chen and the distant Xian Xian would get disrupted if Ying Huo and the other two didn't draw attention to themselves. Leaving them exposed to enemy attacks could be hugely detrimental.

Xian Xian had managed to learn the Goddess Flowerfall from Tianming and was using its vines as whips. The move was almost tailor made for it, a plant with whips and flowers! It wildly lashed out at the wolves that were chasing its siblings. Meanwhile, Yin Chen's storm of blades finally arrived, cutting into the thick hides of the enemy and leaving countless wounds, pinning them to the ground. Primordial

Chaos Beasts were beyond compare and had tricks that nobody could fathom. Kou Mingyou was troubled beyond measure, having been forced back by Yin Chen's storm.

"Aaaagh!" He wildly waved his spiked club, smashing hundreds of thousands of Yin Chens dead, only to notice that Tianming wasn't even bothering to fight him and had instead gone after the moonscourge abomination with Ying Huo covering him. He wrapped the Lifesteal Silverdragon around the beast and descended, slamming a Kilofold Starcluster Fist into the beast's head, completely crushing it as it yelped in pain. The chains that bound it came into play when Tianming tossed the other end to Lan Huang, causing it to be dragged along the ground as the huge two-headed dragon stampeded around. It left a trail of blood and entrails on the ground.

Try as the abomination might, it wasn't able to shake off the chain as the blades along the chain dug deep into its flesh, lodging tightly into it. Its claws suffered damage from being dragged across the ground and through a few boulders, the shock of which also caused its mind to turn blank. Once Lan Huang started running, nothing could stop it.

Kou Mingyou and the other four direwolves witnessed the horrid scene unfolding, yet their power was too weak to stop it! Genius as he was, he wasn't able to take care of Tianming and Ying Huo, who were laying down huge pressure on him. Having shrunk, Ying Huo was even more impressive on the battlefield. Yin Chen also used its bodies to form two huge metallic centipedes that constricted two direwolves, using its thousands of legs to pierce into their flesh. Xian Xian's vines, leaves, loti, and sword-petals also managed to pin one direwolf down, while Meow Meow used its Regalfiend Wings to constantly zap one of the wolves with lightning from the air, causing it to foam at the mouth without being able to touch it at all.

#### **Chapter 1642 - Lay Down and Shut Up**

"Kou Mingyou!" Tianming called out, drawing attention to himself. This was his usual shtick. "Eat my sword!"

Using his different sword ki strands, with Frozen Glasstree as the main one, Tianming descended like a dragon as he used the Sixdragon Tribulation. The sword ki turned into dragons and came bearing down.

"Go away!" Kou Mingyou roared. His fighting style was rather rough, and his third-level solarian astralforce was far fiercer than Tianming's. He executed a seventh-realm divine art, Nightfiend Dance, Moonscourge Storm! The spiked club blurred into a black storm, fueled by astralforce and seemed to be able to counter Tianming's fusion strike. The two strikes clashed and sent off sparks in all directions. "That's all you're capable of?" Kou Mingyou finally gained some confidence from the exchange.

"Have you forgotten that I have a sovereign beast too?" Tianming smiled. People all too often disregarded Ying Huo's presence.

Kou Mingyou seemingly just remembered. Tianming's beasts had pinned down his desolate night sky direwolves so that he could directly get to him! By now, two of his wolves had torn the gigantic centipedes into many pieces, but it was already too late—Kou Mingyou didn't know where Ying Huo had gone! It was one thing for Meow Meow to expand in size, thanks to its transformation, yet Ying Huo wasn't big to begin with, and it could shrink even smaller!

"I'm over here, dimwit!" A flash of yellow the size of a small moth could be seen amidst the clashing strikes. It was a tiny sovereign beast that had worked its way behind Kou Mingyou, who couldn't resist as he was occupied with Tianming! "Let me widen that hole back here for you!"

Ying Huo also knew how to use the Ninedragon Tribulation somewhat. In fact, some of the sword ki in its body was also grade seven, while its feathers had been enhanced by Blazebane, Cosmic Blade. Let's just say that the thrust that followed felt out of this world.

"Aaaagh!" Kou Mingyou's face contorted and flushed red. Rampaging flaming sword ki entered from his bottom and left through his head in the form of blood. Fortunately, this was just a simulation in the wondersky realm, so it didn't look as realistic or gory as it should. He was almost instantly vaporized. "Li Tianming of Violetglory...." He vanished, still filled with resentment and a murderous rage.

"So long. Hope we don't meet again." Tianming smiled, feeling more confident after having defeated Kou Mingyou without his totems. That showed that his strength was still among the top, even in the Mysterium Cluster. At the very least, he could defeat geniuses from skypiercer-class worlds.

Following his defeat, Kou Mingyou's lifebound beasts scattered away as well, leaving Tianming's beasts free. The reason he hadn't even used his totems was that Ye Chen was still taking his time with Bai Feng, so there was no worry that he would touch the astralis; there was simply no need for him to rush. The fight between Ye Chen and Bai Feng with Zhong Yirou and Qiao Xingzhou supporting her was still at a stalemate, with both sides being equal. Xian Xian did help stop Bai Feng from being killed. Bai Feng was quite powerful, being a specter, and Tianming wouldn't be able to defeat her without his beasts and totems.

Everyone from Darkfiend Heptus and the Violetglory Star saw how Tianming had defeated Kou Mingyou. It was sensational, to say the least. Apart from Ye Chen, the other three party members' expressions were of complete disbelief. They were soon filled with fear and discontent. One of them said, "It's alright, we still have Ye Chen! He's stronger than Kou Mingyou! Hold on! They're about to crumble!"

That rallying call helped restore some of their morale. They weren't wrong in thinking that Ye Chen and their combined assault was pushing Bai Feng and Bai Huai to the edge, as the two from the Bluemarked Star couldn't fight in close combat. Bai Huai was already quite badly injured and would soon be eliminated. Qiao Xingzhou and Zhong Yirou paled at their dire situation.

"It's all the fault of—" Before Zhong Yirou could lay blame on Tianming, she heard a loud explosion. Turning around, she saw Kou Mingyou vanish into thin air. "Huh?" She felt a tingle at her cheeks, completely stunned.

"Careful, Rou!"

Enemy lifebound beasts flew past her head and scraped at her with their claws, drawing much blood and almost killing her. "Ouch, it hurts!" She got up as two enemies came charging her way. Panicking, she scrambled away. Thankfully, Qiao Xingzhou covered for her and saved her. The entire time, she could think of nothing but Kou Mingyou's defeat.

"Rou, seriously! Be careful! And stop talking bad about Li Tianming! Bai Feng found an elite to join us. We should apologize to him later," Qiao Xingzhou said, demonstrating his change of heart. Now, it only made Zhong Yirou look bad.

"Huh? Weren't you the first to say he isn't capable?" she snapped.

"Enough of that!" If they kept talking, their astralis would blow up. One of the enemies had charged past them and was attacking the Astralium Formation as they panicked. They were the ones who were supposed to keep an eye out on the formation, having been fighting at the rear. With someone so close to them, there was little they could do about it! "Li—Brother Tianming! Come save us!" she cried, tears in her eyes, thinking that Tianming would save them for changing their attitude toward him. However, Tianming merely rolled his eyes and ignored them, taking his lifebound beasts toward Ye Chen instead.

"Hey, if you don't help, we'll lose our astralis!" she called out.

"Bitch, lay down and shut up," Tianming barked.

"You—" The two were rendered speechless.

### **Chapter 1643 - Genius Sword God**

Even if Zhong Yirou and Qiao Xingzhou hadn't reminded him, Tianming knew how important the astralis was. Should it be destroyed, defeating Kou Mingyou would have been for naught. Though he was heading straight for Ye Chen, Xian Xian was still in the vicinity of the astralis, and Lan Huang had also made its way back. With its huge size, it could easily keep the Astralium Formation protected inside the nine kui seas on its belly. When it deployed its Kilofold Rings and Starfiend's Sword, even the other three beastmasters, apart from Ye Chen would have a hard time breaking through, so the astralis was safe. Not to mention, the millions of Yin Chens had returned and taken their place all across Xian Xian and Lan Huang's body, using its spider form to spin a net of threads that stopped the enemy in their tracks.

Having gained the advantage after defeating Kou Mingyou, Tianming wouldn't let the Direwolves attack the astralis, though he couldn't care less about Zhong Yirou and Qiao Xingzhou's survival. Those two were shocked and humbled after seeing how he had killed Kou Mingyou. By now, Bai Huai had collapsed, but he wasn't dead yet. He had lost the ability to continue fighting for the moment, though he wasn't deemed as eliminated by the wondersky realm. Now, Zhong Yirou and Qiao Xingzhou were the weak links of the party that the three enemies targeted.

"Hey, come and help us!" Qiao Xingzhou felt horrible being chased like that and could do nothing but run pathetically.

"Hurry up!" Zhong Yirou was about to cry as well. At the brink of defeat, she no longer cared about her image. The two of them were covered in blood and grime as they were chased down.

Meow Meow immediately swallowed Bai Huai into its mouth and avoided the ability blasts of the enemy lifebound beasts. It took Bai Huai to Xian Xian, letting its flowers protect him instead of leaving him for dead.

"Thank you. I apologize for my previous offense, I was a fool for not recognizing your strength," Bai Huai said to Meow Meow.

"Hmph!" Meow Meow cast a derisive look at him before returning to Tianming's side. Tianming had gone to Bai Feng with Ying Huo the moment he'd defeated Kou Mingyou. She was the one facing the most pressure on the battlefield, as Ye Chen's Desolate Chaos Progenibeasts had already fused into a Chaos Dijiang. Bai Feng had only managed to hold on until now thanks to her wit and willpower. Had she

fought in a headstrong manner like Kou Mingyou had, she would have been defeated long ago. Bai Feng was now a slender giant around ten meters tall. She was half-human, half-beast, covered in snow-white dragon scales and sporting an explosive, bloody aura. Even while stained with blood, her ferocity didn't wane in the slightest. The gigantic warblade she wielded was also stained in the Chaos Dijiang's blood.

"You did well, friend," Bai Feng said, smashing into the ground and seeing Tianming in front of her.

"A little better than you, I'd say. You look like you're about to collapse," Tianming said.

"Nonsense. I'm feeling better than ever!" She got back up and glared at him before the two faced off against Ye Chen and the Chaos Dijiang together.

Ye Chen turned and looked at Tianming, his eyes shining from using his guardian spirit. Now, he looked like an elite senior cultivator. "Move aside," he said to Bai Feng. Tianming had been his target the entire time. He was quite annoyed that it had taken so long for him to defeat an enemy.

"Move aside? Are you stupid? Who's going to fight you one-on-one?" Bai Feng said, smiling coldly.

"You have a point." Tianming didn't really care for their petty rivalry in particular.

"You have no guts." Ye Chen stood atop his fused lifebound beasts, looking incredibly imposing. He then sank into his Chaos Dijiang, causing them to transform into the Chaos Deity. The nature of the fused being was almost specter-like. The Chaos Deity could use battle arts, abilities, and had a huge and powerful body like an enhanced specter. It was much larger than a chalk draconian like Bai Feng.

"How does that even work? Are all of you from the Violetglory Star monsters? He's your archnemesis, right? Do you have even more tricks?" Bai Feng said, turning to him with a hopeful look in her eyes.

"Archnemesis? He's a bit lacking to bear that title." Tianming said with the intent of letting those of the Violetglory Star hear it. His confident arrogance felt like an insult to their cultivators. With that said, if he was able to defeat Ye Chen here, his status in the imperium would rise once more and he could possibly get the other manna imperius.

"You're quite a boastful one, aren't you?" Though she said that, she respected his confidence.

"Come. Since we were fortunate enough to meet, let's fight shoulder-to-shoulder." Tianming gave her thick arms a tap and walked in front of her, as if Bai Feng was his lifebound beast. Behind her were Ying Huo and Meow Meow. Ying Huo turned into a brilliant sun as it charged up. Knowing its terrifying abilities, Ye Chen tried to disrupt it, only to be intercepted by Bai Feng and Tianming.

"Go!" They knew they couldn't afford to hold back against a foe like Ye Chen. Tianming stood before the Chaos Deity, his body surging with boundless sword ki. The audience from many worlds wondered where he got his confidence from. After all, he wasn't there with all of his lifebound beasts!

"Go, totems!" All of a sudden, totem swords appeared from his body, nine different gigantic swords with unique designs. Each of them looked more imposing than his lifebound beasts; he looked like a genius sword god!

"Am I seeing things?!" Bai Feng was completely petrified from shock. It felt like her scales were about to stand like hair from the shock.

"Nine totems?!" Qiao Xingzhou and Zhong Yirou's surprised gasps could be heard from behind. The former's voice was high pitched from sheer surprise.

### **Chapter 1644 - Super Specter**

It was clear that even on skypiercer-class worlds, geniuses with nine totems were rare, if they even existed at all. At the very least, they seemed superior to those with sovereign beasts, as sovereign beasts could be obtained through *mana imperius* while the number of totems was determined at birth.

Tianming knew that geniuses from higher-class worlds not only enjoyed more talent, but also better guidance and resources. In terms of pure talent, they probably weren't too far off from geniuses from heliacal-class worlds. At the very least, nonabanes still seemed to be objects of myth on skypiercer-class worlds.

Ye Chen's sovereign beasts had caused more commotion than Tianming and Kou Mingyou's own sovereign beasts, initially. However, the appearance of his totems had caused another outbreak of shock. Countless people across the astralscape tuned in to this particular battle thanks to Tianming and Ye Chen, spreading the Violetglory Star's name like wildfire.

Based on Qiao Xingzhou and Zhong Yirou's reactions, it was clear to see what kind of reaction the others across the astralscape would have. His totems had given his domineering aura another huge boost, causing many to forget that he was also a beastmaster that had relied on his beasts to defeat Kou Mingyou. They even seemingly ignored Ying Huo. While Ye Chen had anticipated all the commotion, even he didn't expect that Tianming would 'shamelessly' rely on Bai Feng's help. And not only that, he even had her fight as the vanguard.

"Ram into him, Sister Feng!" Tianming cried with the intonation of a man who would hide behind a woman.

Fortunately, Bai Feng had been annoyed by Ye Chen long enough. Fully convinced of Tianming's abilities, she listened to his every word and roared, charging into the Chaos Deity like a wild beast. With Tianming watching her back, there was nothing she had to worry about and she could go all out.

"Die for me, you ugly thing!" She swung her warblade with the ferocity of Lan Huang. Her abilities as a chalk draconian were also rather impressive. When she opened her mouth, soundwaves seemed to solidify and slam into the Chaos Deity, shaking its body and wounding the man-eating flower's head.

However, she wasn't fighting alone. Ying Huo protected Meow Meow as it used its most powerful lightning ability as suppressive fire. Ever since Lan Huang's birth, Meow Meow's lazy character had pushed it in the direction of focusing on lightning abilities rather than fighting in close quarters. With its rapid movement speed, it was the most annoying of Tianming's beasts to deal with. It started with its Soulchasing Hellthunder and went on to use Misty Hellthunder, Ninefold Chaos Thunderscape, Regalfiend Wings, Cosmic Lance, and its newly awakened Triworld Afterlife Bolts! There was no way they could miss, given the sheer size of the Chaos Deity. The power of the Aeonian Grandbane supercharged Meow Meow's abilities, allowing it to unleash power befitting of a Primordial Chaos Beast.

However, the Chaos Dijiang was actually a fusion of six beings, so it was naturally superior to each of its individual parts. They concentrated their astralforce into a shield that easily blocked Meow Meow's abilities. Not even Bai Feng's blade could really harm Ye Chen in his fully powered form.

However, Tianming's real-world abilities had allowed him to thoroughly defeat Ye Chen at the Observatory. Bai Feng and Meow Meow's assault was just window dressing; the filling still had to come from him. He didn't hold back at all, using his totemic calamity and turning his nine swords into nine thousand Myriadsword Providence swords, whooshing around wildly according to his will. This time around, he used his totems, fusion strikes, and his sword body all together! Having absorbed the Frozen Glasstree in its entirety, the power of his Ninedragon Tribulation had been raised to an entirely new level. He soared into the skies, taking a sea of swords with him, before descending toward the Chaos Deity.

Ye Chen wielded his enlarged Grand Godless Liberty to swat Bai Feng away and tank Meow Meow's bombardment. All five of his lifebound beasts that had fused with him also unleashed their abilities, spewing lightning, black flames, and toxins all over the place and destroying much of the battlefield's environment.

"Hmph!" No matter what, Ye Chen had to crush Tianming at all costs and restore his dignity in the Divineglory Dynasty. The Chaos Deity roared, shaking the entire battlefield with its power. If Tianming defeated Ye Chen again, it would be the same as Ye Chen having needlessly helped Tianming boost his interworld reputation! After all, Kou Mingyou alone wasn't enough for him to use his full power. The gigantic fused body of the Chaos Deity was quite active and agile, able to swiftly charge and dexterously swing around its huge weapon while targeting Tianming.

"Die!" Their combined astralforce, coupled with their battle art, Unfettered Wandering, raised their damage potential to new heights. Tianming had only just manifested his totemic calamity when the Grand Godless Liberty pierced through the green fog toward the sea of ten thousand swords.

But alas, Ye Chen had looked down on Bai Feng to his peril! He only had Tianming in his eyes, so Bai Feng charged toward his flank, using her specter abilities to pave a way. She slashed the defenses of the Chaos Deity open with her blade, cutting into the qilin thighs of the fused entity and knocking the entire thing down with her momentum. Ye Chen grimaced, then threw a punch that sent Bai Feng flying. Fortunately, Xian Xian broke her fall with her vines, sparing her from even more damage.

"Pathetic! You think you can defeat me with the likes of this?!" she snapped, much to Tianming's surprise. He didn't think a girl could be so fierce.

It was Tianming's chance! Concentrating the Grand-Orient Sword and his ten thousand sword totems together, he slashed down using Sixdragon Tribulation with its full damage potential. Once that strike made an opening, the sea of swords that followed would be a nightmare for Ye Chen.

I wonder if those in the Mysterium Cluster will recognize my Grand-Orient Sword.... Are their designs identical, too? It was all a guess, as he had practically no information about the other sword that had the same name as his.

### **Chapter 1645 - Rising in the Astralscape**

Tianming's strike was far too powerful. The Frozen Glasstree sword ki alone caused black crystals to manifest, tearing through the Chaos Deity's defenses and allowing the mini godswords to shatter the enlarged Grand Godless Liberty. The ten thousand swords were nothing but simple brute force. Even as the Chaos Deity's five abilities smashed into Tianming with the attack of Ye Chen's weapon, sending him

flying with astral force, that didn't stop the bombardment of his Myriadsword Providence. Blood was spilled all throughout the air.

"Li Tianming!" the Chaos Deity cried, smashing away many small totem swords with its weapon. However, that was far from an adequate defense. Many more totem swords remained to bore holes into Ye Chen's body, but he still stood thanks to his sheer tenacity!

"This fellow's a hardy one, alright! But unfortunately for him, he ran into me!" Tianming felt like his entire skeletal frame had almost been shattered by the sheer force of that blow. He saw that the Chaos Deity was waving its huge pole weapon around, still instilling the audience with awe. But as far as Tianming was concerned, Ye Chen was as good as dead. Ying Huo had managed to gather a lot of energy without being interrupted near the flank of Ye Chen. It had formed a sun about ten thousand meters wide, finally attracting some attention to itself.

"What's that?!" As countless doubts filled Ye Chen's head, a shocking explosion tore through the atmosphere as a nightmarish light instantly enveloped everything, piercing through the Chaos Deity's chest! Ye Chen had been laser focused on fighting Tianming, thinking that he could deal with Ying Huo just by defeating its master. But he was a little too late and ended up being pierced countless times by the Myriadsword Providence, followed by Ying Huo's supercharged ability. The Chaos Deity shattered into its constituent forms, all of which fizzled away like ashes.

"Ugh...." At the last moment, Ye Chen's vision dimmed. Despite having taken on the Chains of Destiny, he had still lost in such an important arena. All the nightmares that lay in the depths of his psyche instantly surfaced. He didn't even get to see Tianming one last time, having died in the wondersky realm. Amidst the storm caused by the exploding sun, he was vaporized in an instant.

All that remained for the audience to see was a gigantic phoenix that started shrinking like a deflating balloon as it perched on Tianming's shoulder. The white-haired youth lazily stretched his body as if nothing had happened. However, nobody would forget the threat posed by the sea of swords above him. Back in the first two levels of the battlefield, Tianming had only made an impression on a few thousand worlds, most of them heliacal. But now, tens of thousands of worlds were paying attention to this nonabane. Those at the core of the Mysterium Cluster could tune in to many battlefields instead of only their own, unlike the Violetglory Star, allowing his reputation to truly shock the universe! Today was definitely not going to be a normal day.

Tianming turned back and looked at the expressions of the others in the battlefield and knew that he would almost certainly be given the manna imperius when he got back. Even the three remaining members of the Direwolves were completely stunned. With Bai Feng and Tianming surviving, and Kou Mingyou and Ye Chen dead, there was no longer a chance they could win. They had been under the impression that they were winning, yet Tianming was even more insane than Ye Chen. Their expressions were now completely crestfallen.

"Is your whole planet full of sickos like you?" someone said.

"How dare you call Brother Tianming a sicko," Qiao Xingzhou angrily yelled, then shot the person with his totem arrows. He smiled at Tianming, who merely watched, dumbstruck. "Brother Tianming, I've come to an epiphany after laying there like you said! Now let me support you!" He truly had quickly



changed his stance, though it didn't come as a surprise. For someone to make it to an arena of this caliber meant that they had to be able to adapt.

"Brother Tianming, they dared to hurt your little Rou! Wipe those three uglies out and help us win!" a coquettish voice that chilled Tianming to the bone said. Tianming turned and saw a blushing Zhong Yirou.

"Fuck me sideways." For her to call him Brother Tianming so affectionately showed how shameless she could be. "Didn't you two say you were powerful? Go ahead and defeat them yourselves. We already did our part."

"We aren't as amazing as you are.... We were fools to not see that you were a nonabane. You really hid your talent well, and you're so humble too. Someone like you really deserves our respect," Zhong Yirou said, flashing her best innocent expression. Though, her praise did sound sincere.

Tianming could tell that those two were actually rather troubled by their earlier behavior. At the very least, they'd come face to face with cold, hard facts that had made them change their attitude. Now, they could easily defeat the three remaining enemies and protect their astralis, let alone finding the enemy's astralis to destroy it.

After the battle ended, Bai Feng returned to her normal appearance with her short white hair and shapely figure. The wounds she had suffered were like badges of honor, making her look even more impressive.

"You really did carry us. Impressive," she said, lightly punching him in the chest. "Thankfully, I don't like guys, or I'd have fallen for you a few times over."

As long as they survived, they could recover from any injury, so Bai Feng and Bai Huai's wounds didn't really matter.

"Should we look for their astralis now to move on to the next round, Brother Tianming, Sister Feng?" Zhong Yirou asked weakly. At the very least, she seemed to respect the strong.

"There's no rush. The parties that make it to the second round that soon are bound to be the most powerful, so if we win now, there's a high chance we'll run into them. Now that the Direwolves are all wiped out, we can take as long as we like," Bai Feng said.

"Alright."

They could finally take a breather.

"Friend, I'm sure the Mysterium Cluster has already witnessed your prowess, so you'd better ready yourself," Bai Feng said.

"Got it." Tianming nodded.

Thinking back on the battle, Bai Feng was filled with praise for him.

"Brother Tianming...." Zhong Yirou and Qiao Xingzhou came over from behind, but Tianming shooed them away. They meekly obeyed without another word out of sheer deference for him. Kou Mingyou's defeat was the appetizer, and Ye Chen's was the main course that properly satiated them.

He could only imagine what kind of uproar there was back in his hometown, with the Violetcloud Alliance gaining an edge over the Divineglory Alliance once more. Not to mention, Darkfiend Heptus and Whitechalk, two skypiercer-class worlds, had no doubt been thoroughly convinced of his abilities too. However, they didn't know where the Violetglory Star was located. Though there was one thing Tianming didn't expect: the world with the biggest reaction to their battle was the Skyway Tristar, a world at the core of the cluster. Xiao had witnessed the battle that just took place.

### **Chapter 1646 - Human Hybrid**

How vast could the astralscape of order be? Faced with the boundless unknown universe, even those who claimed to be living in the so-called center of the universe didn't have an answer. To them, the universe only encompassed the Mysterium Cluster as its center, with a minority of worlds in the far reaches of space. Living near the core was a sign of pride and status for them.

The Mysterium Cluster itself was already quite huge. Yet even though many worlds within it were interconnected, many would never leave their own star for their entire lives. Only those who stood far enough away could see how vast and glorious the Mysterium Cluster truly was; it was indeed a sight that would touch any soul.

The cluster looked like an oval disc in the darkness of space, spinning and leaving colorful trails that were comprised of dense stars comparable to Orderia or Violetglory. The closer one was to the oval disc, the more shockingly vast it would seem. Cultivators in lone worlds like the Violetglory Star simply couldn't understand the majesty of such a scale.

The Mysterium Cluster did have an apparent right to claim to be the center of the universe. Other things aside, the triangle of worlds at the core of the cluster was majestic enough. Without seeing it with one's own eyes, it was hard to imagine what a star a hundred times the size of Violetglory would look like. How vast were the lands and the seas? How varied were the peoples and clans that lived there? How many different sights would such a world offer?

After seeing Orderia and the Violetglory Star, Tianming had come to know that every star world was unique, with its own culture, history, and temperament. No doubt, the three central deific-class worlds of the Mysterium Cluster were a concentrated melting pot for all of the worlds in their vicinity.

Currently, the three Skyway Stars were rife with excitement from the youth battles in the Astraldome. Each Astralium Battlefield had drawn quite a fair number of spectators. For each mysterian that fought in them, there were many supporters. They were believers in these young talented folk. The only one among all those elite youths who had been eliminated was Xiao from the Skyway Tristar. He was only nineteen, so he would have been the youngest to participate if he had made the cut. Yet Tianming's sudden appearance had kept him from participating in this grand event, sending his mood to rock bottom.

He had tried many times to seek out Violetglory's location and tried hiring people to kill Tianming to vent his rage, though given his age, there was no way he had the clearance to do all that. On the day of the event, he was laying on a grassy plain in the wondersky realm that belonged to him, watching a projection of the battles in the sky above. He was from a deific-class world, so he could watch any battle he chose. The first round of elimination matches had more than a thousand and eight hundred people,

which were more or less split up into a hundred and eighty different matches. However, Xiao only paid attention to the fights of his fellow specters, especially his elder sister's.

"How boring. They're only there because they entered the fourth level before me. If I were there, I could easily make it to the Astralium Seeking too." Even without relying on his own abilities, his powerful elder siblings could just as easily bring him to the next event.

"There's so much useless cannon fodder...." Despite his featureless face, he seemed rather smug as he scrolled past the various broadcasts. Then, all of a sudden, he froze and locked on to one broadcast. The more he looked, the more his face seemed to contort. He even let out a low growl.

"Nine totems?!" The faceless specter finally stood up with a look of disbelief as he witnessed Tianming's performance. This was the person he hated with a passion, and now his fame was rising in the Mysterium Cluster with every breath taken. It was incredibly glorious for a mere junior from a heliacal-class world.

"Esteemed Mother!" he called out as he jumped around the field.

After a while, a cloud descended and formed a featureless, yet womanly face.

"Esteemed Mother, that guy actually has nine totems! We can look into his location now, right? With that as a reason, can't you talk to the divine wonderians about it?" Xiao excitedly said.

"No need to rush. We've looked into it," said the cloudy face. She could exist in the wondersky realm in a different form, as if it was unthinkable magic.

"Where is it?! How far?!"

"Quite far. It's three starlengths away from the Mysterium Cluster. It'll take three years with a normal divine astralship at full speed. Even with the fastest one, it'll still take at least two years."

"That's doable! Send someone there to kill him immediately! Four or five years for a return trip is acceptable!" Tianming's actions had caused him too great a loss.

"Xiao, be quiet," the cloud harshly said as it exuded a heavy pressure on Xiao that made him asphyxiate.

"Esteemed Mother, why not?" he asked, lowering his head.

"It isn't whether or not we can do it, but rather that your first reaction to hardship is revenge. That kind of attitude is not befitting of mysterians. You're still young and there's much more for you to learn. Too much."

"I understand, Esteemed Mother. I was wrong. I've desired to enter the Astralium Seeking for far too long and prepared so hard, only to be foiled by such a minor figure when I was just one step away. That's why I want to pay him back dearly for this."

"The cultivators of his hometown are three starlengths away, which means they don't have much of a grasp of the Mysterium Cluster. Given that he's a star talent, he's no doubt protected by their entire world. Unless we're willing to start an astral war, killing him isn't a possibility. Even the Mysterium Cluster's might and influence has a limit." While they could normally just send someone to demand the death of someone from another world if they could prove they were from the Mysterium Cluster, that

kind of influence didn't extend to distant worlds like the Violetglory Star. While an astral war might be able to achieve that purpose, it wasn't something a nineteen-year-old could initiate willy nilly.

"I know. We mysterians can only project our influence about one starlength away." Divine astralships were among the most precious treasures of any world; sailing for six years to and fro just to kill a young fellow was ridiculous to say the least. Xiao felt quite crestfallen.

"However, Xiao, you're right. Him being a nonabane definitely changes things," said the cloud.

"What does it change?" he asked, hopeful and agitated.

"I've been in contact with those of Monostar and Bistar. Bistar is interested in the nonabane. They might be sending people to escort him to their world."

"Will it be for nurture or imprisonment and control? It shouldn't be hard for them to fully integrate a xenorace as their own, right?"

"It's hard to tell for now. It depends on the situation."

"Have they set out yet?"

"No. They're just planning to watch for now. They'll evaluate his talent more extensively based on his performance. After all, it's quite rare for a nonabane to surface in a heliacal-class world three starlengths away. Such talent is rare, even in skypiercer-class worlds near us. Losing to such an individual is no embarrassment. You're still young, after all."

"I see. His impressive performance ended up helping me save some face, after all." When he saw Tianming at the absolute lobby a few days ago, he felt like his heart was being torn apart, thinking that Tianming was just a mediocre fellow.

"Let me emphasize that it's really unlikely that you'll get to kill him. Yours is merely a feud between immature children, but that's not the main reason," said the cloud with a change in tone.

"What's the main reason?"

"Based on his performance, his lifebound beasts are really powerful as well, and aren't inferior to his totems at all. I believe that he claims to have contracted his lifebound beasts using blood pacts, but those of Monostar and Bistar are saying that it's really unlikely that someone of his age with such impressive lifebound beasts and totems actually used blood pacts. There's a good chance that he's a legendary human hybrid! That means there's great research value in this specimen. I believe they'll capture him to research him. After all, even those of Monostar and Bistar don't have dual-cultivating talent. They've tried and tried, without any successes."

"Is that even possible? A hybrid totemancer and beastmaster?" Xiao was utterly dumbfounded.

### **Chapter 1647 - Solitude of the Strong**

It was well known that humans and specters couldn't interbreed. Even among human beastmasters and totemancers, having offspring was incredibly difficult, and even if they did have offspring, those offspring wouldn't possess both cultivation methods. As the most powerful totemancers and

beastmasters in the known universe, the humans of Skyway Monostar and Skyway Bistar were descended from the same stock. If there was to be a hybrid, it would most likely come from their worlds.

"If he's really a hybrid, Li Tianming's value will be ten times more than it is now... well, his value as an experimental subject, at least," the cloud said.

"Great! Then dissect him for all I care!" Xiao felt incredible about it.

"What're you thinking? Dissecting is quite unlikely. However, he might be made to become breeding material for the rest of his life with women from the various clans."

"Various clans? Surely you don't mean faceless humans? Didn't we forbid interclan marriage to preserve pure faceless blood?"

"It's hard to say if that'll apply here."

"I see." Things seemed to be going out of hand with the hybrid matter.

"Xiao, it isn't certain whether he's truly a hybrid yet, so don't mention it to anyone."

"Understood, Esteemed Mother!"

"All you need to focus on these days is calming your mind and recovering. Look at your sister as an example and learn from her and your other siblings' performances."

"Got it! Big Sister just easily won the first round. She joined up with Yanwu Ming from Skyway Monostar and three other violethorn draconians and wiped out the useless enemy team in an instant! She's in the second round now and met up with a party with only three remaining members. It probably won't take long for them to win. It looks like there'll be a third round for them, too, but that won't stop them from going to the Astralium Seeking. Her party seems like they're going to be in the top ten, at least."

"That's right. Hopefully she places in the top ten. There's too many competitors and it's hard to say now who the Grand-Orient Sword will go to. The Astralium Battle is only a warmup to cull the chaff. The hundred-odd that make it to the second part of the event are the key. Perhaps everyone among them is capable of becoming a sovereign one day, and a powerful one at that."

"I see...." Not being able to participate in such a grand event was still a huge regret on his part.

"Esteemed Mother, I have another question."

"Speak."

"Apart from the three mysterians in the Celestial Beings, there's a divine wonderian as well. What of the last girl? She's unheard of, and her origins are a mystery."

"That isn't something you have the right to know." The cloud face disappeared without another word.

.....

Bai Feng had wasted a full day without ending the battle to avoid running into the more powerful parties. Tianming had long found the astralis' location, but he didn't reveal it and let the rest look for it themselves. They had time, after all.

"Let me break the Astralium Formation," Bai Feng said. It was a rather tough one and even she took quite a while to break it before finally crushing the astralis, cementing their victory in stone.

"Team Rou wins!" a booming voice announced. After that, they sank into the ground and were transported to the next battlefield.

It should be interesting to fight as a team with Ling'er, Feng, and the rest. I should bring them with me if there'll be other fights like these. Tianming believed that their talents were also among the best. Feiling and her mysterious age and experience; Lingfeng and his fourth imperial soul, not to mention the legacy of the Primordial Demonlord; and as for Qingyu, she also had nine totems and a lifebound beast. As for Xiaoxiao, she had at least as much talent as Ye Chen but had started late. Thanks to the Archaiionfiend, though, she also improved with great speed. All they needed was more time. Fighting with Bai Feng and the rest just didn't feel as good as fighting with his own friends.

.....

Soon, the second round of fighting began. After finding their own astralis, Tianming spread Yin Chens out. To be safe, they still used the same full-defense formation from their last match. The million Yin Chens spread out to the woods, rivers, mountains, and underground caverns. It was basically on every single tree in the area.

"Found it." What Tianming found laughable was how the enemy party, named Solitude of the Strong, only had one remaining member. In other words, they had lost four members in the previous match even though they eventually managed to destroy the opponent's astralis.

"Our luck is pretty good." The sole remaining member of the enemy party was slightly weaker than Kou Mingyou. Bai Feng and the rest waited near their astralis for two days, but seeing that there was no sign of attack, they launched their own. Tianming nudged them little by little toward the enemy astralis.

"What the hell? All five of you are here? Looks like you all got a good deal this match," the enemy said before giving up. He had tried to fight against all five of them, but couldn't even take care of the chalk draconian siblings.

"Our luck was amazing!" Zhong Yirou said, beaming with smiles. They had easily gone through the first two matches.

"There's eighteen hundred people in this match, so there'll probably be another match later. If all five of us can move on to the Astralium Seeking, that would be ideal," Qiao Xingzhou exclaimed.

The way the math worked for three rounds of fights to leave around a hundred remaining out of a thousand and eight hundred was rather interesting. If half of all participants, that is, an entire team, was necessarily going to be eliminated through each round, it would take about four rounds in total for every surviving team before only around a hundred were left. However, at least five or more people were eliminated, according to the current format, as defeated members of the winning team were also eliminated along with the losing side. For instance, in Solitude of the Strong's previous round, nine out of ten people were eliminated. If they were lucky enough, they probably wouldn't need to fight more than two rounds. Like before, Tianming's party waited a few days before destroying the astralis.

"There should be a third round too."

"As long as we win, we'll be able to enter the Astralium Seeking."

Tianming saw that the four of them seemed rather excited.

Bai Feng, noticing his doubts, said, "Actually, our seniors never counted on us making it into the top ten. That's why for us, even being able to move on to the second part of the event will be a glorious achievement that brings honor to our kind. My brother and I will probably be heavily rewarded."

Just like Tianming, the main goal for their participation in this event was to win recognition and rewards from the people of their home worlds. It wasn't realistic for people from fringe worlds like them to get, let alone keep, the actual rewards, anyway.

### **Chapter 1648 - Encountering Team Yingming**

"Xingzhou and I will also be rewarded by our seniors if we pass the first event. My father promised to reward me, at least!" Zhong Yirou happily said. No longer against Tianming, she put on a much more innocent and cutesy act, constantly calling him 'Brother Tianming' without batting an eyelid. But despite her personality, she was still the daughter of a sovereign. The other participants no doubt also had really high statuses, with many being princes or princesses.

"If we can count on Sister Feng and Brother Tianming to enter the Astralium Seeking, just think about the rewards we'll receive!" Zhong Yirou began daydreaming.

"Forget it. Be prepared to be eliminated in the next round," Tianming scoffed.

"You meanie! Brother Tianming, don't hold that against me for so long!" she said, tugging at his sleeve. Her personality wouldn't be so easily changed.

Eventually, they were transported to the battlefield of their third match. This would almost certainly be the final fight in the first part of the event. As they looked around the fog they were in, the atmosphere began to grow tense.

"Get yourselves together and nobody slack off. This is the final fight," Bai Feng reminded sternly.

"Got it."

"Split up and protect the astralis according to plan."

"Yeah!"

The five of them roughly positioned themselves around the astralis, alertly watching the green fog around them. Ghostly wails rang in their ears as the winds blew. The environment around them was unnerving and dark. Nobody knew who, or where, their enemies were.

"Let's hope we didn't get matched with a powerful party," Zhong Yirou said, patting her chest nervously.

"Let's not count on having as much luck as we did in the second match. The ones who're able to make it to the third match will no doubt be powerful. They must be from the core of the Mysterium Cluster. Even the weakest of them would be on the level of Kou Mingyou," Qiao Xingzhou emphasized with a clear mind.

"Alright! But it's fine. We've already done really well to make it to this point."

"We can't let our guard down. At least, Sister Feng and Brother Tianming badly want to win and go to the second event. Since they brought us all the way here, we still have to do our best to win," Qiao Xingzhou said.

"Yeah...."

The two of them noticed that they were growing more nervous. All the while, Tianming was sending Yin Chens off to scout the area. Bai Feng and the rest drew their weapons and laid in wait. Tianming closing his eyes, Tianming held his Grand-Orient Sword and mimed the seventh move of the Ninedragon Tribulation. It was a crucial move that he still only had little insight into so far. But based on how powerful Blood Transience was, it would be even more powerful.

Two hours later, Yin Chen had spread out quite far. "There's someone."

"More details. What's their party name?"

"Three people. Team Yingming."

"Yingming?" It was quite the odd-sounding name. Could it be an amalgamation of the names of two people?

Yin Chen could only see the silhouettes of the three but not their cultivation level. The three of them were still looking for their astralis and were some distance away from Tianming, so an encounter wasn't likely anytime soon.

"Are there only three of them?"

"I can't... be certain...." In other words, there was a chance that they split up.

"Sister Feng!" Tianming went to her side for the moment.

"Why're you here? What if someone comes to us from the south? You won't be there to stop them," she said, troubled.

"I have something to ask you. There's a kind of specter with a rhinoceros horn on their foreheads, but it looks to be coated in triangular, purple dragon scales. Do you know of such a group of people?" he asked in a hushed voice.

"I know all too well. They're violethorn draconians. On some level, they're related to us chalk draconians by blood. It's said that they used to be a branch clan of ours, but now they've grown powerful. Their home world, the Violethorn Star, was moved to be near Skyway Tristar. Now, they're the subjects of the faceless specters. Core members of their group are even allowed to cultivate on Skyway Tristar," Bai Feng said.

"Looks like they're rather troubling to deal with."

"What do you mean? Don't tell me you saw a violethorn draconian nearby?"

"No, I just thought about the triplets we saw at the absolute lobby," he said, feigning ignorance.



"Triplets?" I know them. Those three are indeed the most talented of the young violethorn draconians. All of them are probably slightly better than me, but we haven't actually fought before, so I can't be sure," she said with a shrug.

"I see...."

"Those three.... By the way!" She slapped her thighs and continued, "They're quite impressive. They managed to team up with Yanwu Ming from Skyway Monostar and a faceless specter of the Whitejade line from Skyway Tristar, Ying. Their party is Team Yingming, I believe. The five of them could probably rank in the top ten."

"Impressive...." Though Tianming praised them, he knew that this was a big deal. It would be incredibly hard for them to win this match.

"By the way, didn't you defeat Xiao? Ying is Xiao's elder sister," Bai Feng said.

"What a coincidence," he helplessly laughed.

"What's so coincidental?"

"Forget it." He cleared his throat and turned back to her. "Well... just be mentally prepared. I have the kind of luck that'll make me run into the people I fear running into the most. It's almost magical. Just make sure to remain calm no matter who we encounter later."

The three of them were said to be slightly stronger than Bai Feng, but that was still acceptable. The worst part of all this was that the triplets were only minions of two stronger mysterians! Xiao's sister, Ying, and Yanwu Ming from Skyway Monostar were no doubt far stronger than Bai Feng.

They're still split up for now, and I know their locations more or less, the three violethorn draconians in particular. Looks like sitting here and waiting is a losing formula. I'd better make use of Yin Chen's unique trait to launch a preemptive attack! He took a deep breath and said to Bai Feng, "Sister Feng, I want to leave for a bit."

"What for?"

"Umm... to take a piss?"

Bai Feng scowled at him. "Nonsense! There's no need to piss in the wondersky realm!"

"Fine, just think of it as me going in stealth to find their astralis!"

### **Chapter 1649 - Qiang of the Crimsonjade Line**

The revelation that Tianming was a nonabane had attracted a lot of attention. Many elites from powerful worlds had access to watch all the battles in the wondersky realm. They could immediately tell that Team Rou was facing off against Team Yingming, a party that had the potential to rank in the top ten! Team Rou's luck in the second round obviously hadn't carried over to the third.

"This'll be exciting...."

"Not really. Li Tianming just had bad luck. Overall, Team Rou's powers are rather mediocre. They might not even be able to defeat the three violethorn draconians, let alone Yanwu Ming or Whitejade Ying. Those are the top talents of the mysterians."

"For the nonabane to be able to go to the second part of the event, he'll need at least four teammates that are about his level of power. The difference in power between the two teams is just far too huge."

Such discussions echoed throughout the audiences of countless worlds. The third set of matches would be the last for the first part of the event. As such, those that survived and made it to the third match were the strong ones. Quite a few of them had come from the two deific-class worlds, Skyway Monostar and Bistar respectively. Yanwu Ming and Ying's presence only helped Tianming's reputation spread across the three Skyway worlds even more. Their wondersky realms were all linked, and any mysterian could visit them without restriction.

Xiao suddenly stood up on the grassy plains, unable to hold his laughter back when he saw his sister facing off against Tianming. "A wonderful coincidence!" He felt utterly vindicated. "It's your fault for stopping me from joining the Astralium Seeking event! You won't be able to go, either!"

He was already counting on his sister to give Tianming a debilitating blow. Even though Tianming wouldn't actually die in the wondersky realm, it would still soothe Xiao somewhat.

"Xiao," someone called out from behind. When he turned around, he saw red clouds form the shape of a person who didn't have any facial features. However, he was blood red, unlike Xiao's white body. Every inch of his body seemed covered in glittering blood jade.

"Qiang!" Xiao seemed a little nervous. He took a while to calm down and said, "What'd you come here for? I don't want to be involved with anyone from the Crimsonjade line."

The youth called Qiang chuckled. "Don't be so nervous. I did defeat quite a lot of you Whitejade folks, but I have nothing against a brat like you. I'm just here to ask you about Li Tianming."

"I see...." Xiao breathed a sigh of relief, though it wasn't easy to tell from his featureless face. He knew that although Qiang looked friendly, he was actually a fiendish slaughterer who was currently at the ninth level of the Tranquil Battlefield. He had a shocking title: he was a precentennial paragon, probably the highest honor anyone from the new generation could receive. If it weren't for the fact that he was still too young, he could have left for the Skydome Battlefield, given his strength.

"Ask anything you want," Xiao said with his head lowered. Even with his high status, this wasn't someone he could just shrug off. Qiang was easily the strongest person under the age of a hundred, and was everything Xiao dreamed of becoming.

"Tell me everything you learned about Li Tianming in your very first encounter with him. Spare no detail," said the youth shrouded in bloody mist. His head looked like a smooth, oval gem that seemed semi-transparent, through which his blood vessels, brains and undeveloped eyeballs could be seen.

"Alright!" Even though there was a lot of conflict between the Crimsonjade and Whitejade lines, Xiao still worshiped Qiang. He dutifully told him everything he could remember.

"Is that all? He's located three starlengths away? Looks like the humans of Bistar are quite concerned about him."

"Yeah, that's all I know." Xiao looked up, curious. "You seem to be quite concerned about him, too. Why is that?"

"Nothing much. My son is in Celestial Beings. I'm just trying to learn more about a potential enemy for his sake."

"I see. How meticulous of you."

"I'll be taking my leave now." The youth disappeared in the wind. The fact that his son was able to join the Celestial Beings team meant that he was no doubt among the top of faceless specter youths under thirty. The father and son pair were the best of the best.

Qiang himself was quite a miracle, being around ninety. He bore a son in his sixties, which was considered really early, as far as faceless specters were concerned. His own parents were thousands of years old. Usually, those who gave birth too early would end up with children that rarely, if ever, inherited much talent from their parents.

However, Qiang's son was different. He was almost like a clone of Qiang, having the same looks and talent, as well as the same growth experiences. Even those who had met both of them would think that they looked more like siblings than father and child, perhaps even twins. They were quite the miraculous pair among the mysterians, with nobody among them that didn't know of their reputation. Even their goals and aspirations were aligned, with the son tracing in the steps of the father without any deviation.

"I really hope that the next one to join the Astralium Seeking and dominate there will be me! Once Celestial Beings makes it to the second round, they'll automatically disband and compete with one another. I hope Long will bring glory to Skyway Tristar and outshine the ones from Monostar and Bistar, perhaps even the divine wonderian!"

The faceless specters saw no point in competing with those from skypiercer- and heliacal-class worlds. Their glory only mattered when measured against other mysterians and the divine wondersky race!

Incidentally, the mysterious girl that joined hadn't shown her skills yet. In the past few days, Celestial Beings had only needed one person to win all three of their matches. They were already waiting for their prey on the supergravity star, Astralium.

After fantasizing about their bright future, Xiao turned his eyes back to the broadcast. "Huh?!" He was shocked to find Tianming leaving his party. Based on his trajectory, it was highly likely that he would run into the violethorn draconians!

## **Chapter 1650 - Fierce Tigers of Violethorn**

"Yin Chen, you haven't found the other two and their astralis yet?" Tianming was cutting through a mountainous area filled with green fog by himself.

"Not yet. Don't worry... too anxious."

The Astralium Battlefield was huge. Using invisible cockroaches to cover it wasn't a very fast process with all the mountains and seas it had. The astralises didn't have fixed locations. Sometimes, it would be obvious. Other times it would be hidden deep underground or in the sea. Thus, Yin Chen had to do a deep dive before an area could be considered checked.

This time, Team Rou's astralis was located in a ravine deep underground. Green fog filled the area, and it was very dark as well. It was an advantage for them.

According to Yin Chen, the violethorn draconians were quite close to him.

Tianming hid and stealthily approached them. "Check in all directions with me as the center." He wanted to avoid having the other two drawn over when he started the fight. He had the confidence to give challenging the three violethorn draconians a shot, but all five of the opposing team would be a questionable choice, however. Yin Chen needed to guarantee that Yanwu Ming and Ying weren't around to quickly give backup before Tianming would dare to take action.

"The five of them are all strong. Fortunately, they don't have my scouting abilities, so I can reduce their numbers before they find my astralis!" It was risky, but it was his only chance. Yin Chen's specialties were the most important part of this, or else he would have been another headless fly. As for the audience, he just needed to give a performance that convinced them it was all one big coincidence.

An hour later, Yin Chen was sure that the last two weren't anywhere nearby. These three violethorn draconians had no backup.

"Very good." Tianming didn't know their plan, but he knew they dared to split up because they were a strong team. These three had clearly been tasked with finding their opponent's astralis.

If Tianming did nothing or had no vision, after finding the target, they could either directly attack or return to bring Yanwu Ming and Ying over. That was the safest method for strong teams. After all, the most important thing was defense. They would never lose as long as they held their astralis; winning would just be a matter of time.

However, they never could have expected that Tianming would have such a reliable lifebound beast that had been tracking them from the start.

"The enemy's astralis and other two members?" Tianming continued asking while he stealthily moved onward.

"Very soon."

Tianming had released all the Yin Chens to grant him map vision. It wouldn't take very long before every nook and cranny in the Astralium Battlefield had been searched.

"Let's do this." Tianming finished his preparations.

He crossed a valley, heading in the direction Yin Chen directed him. He quickly heard chatter up ahead. The three violethorn draconians were all relaxed, laughing and joking as they searched. Their confidence in their team was plain to see.

"We had good luck the previous two rounds. There really aren't any decent opponents outside of the mysterians."

"I expect the same this round. With Yanwu Ming and Ying, we three brothers have a free ticket to the Astralium Seeking."

"This'll bring glory to our race!"

“Don’t get careless at the last few steps.”

Tianming’s gaze pierced through the fog and landed on three stalwart figures that looked similar to each other. As Yin Chen had said, their most distinctive feature was a large horn on their foreheads, as well as triangular dragon scales. Purple electricity crackled on the scales, a hint they had lightning-based skills.

“Three specters, and they all have manna imperius.” Tianming frowned. This would be trickier than he had predicted.

There was a dense field of stars in their eyes. They weren’t faceless specters, so their eyes were particularly radiant, seeing as how there were over eight thousand stars inside.

Normally, specters had lower requirements for universal manna than beastmasters, which was why the triplets could all have one. Still, it showed the depth of their backing. The Violethorn Star really was a favored servant of the faceless specters.

They were different from the chalk draconians. These violethorn draconians were even bolder and more rough. They breathed out purple air as well, and were accompanied by the crackling of electricity. Specters sometimes seemed more like humanoid beasts than anything else.

Specters like Lingfeng, who didn’t have any special physical characteristics, were on the rarer side.

Their breathing filled the air like thunder.

“I’ll finish this fast!” A cold light flashed in Tianming’s eyes.

“He’s made his move!” Exclamations rang out through the Mysterium Cluster.

Tianming’s four lifebound beasts other than Yin Chen appeared in the area. Xian Xian rooted itself in the ground before rising up next to the ancient trees around the area. Radiant Daffodil. Scarlet Lily. Evernight Rose. Fiendsong Mare. Demise Greenlotus.... Its attacks filled the sky, crashing down onto the three targets.

“Who!” The three violethorn draconians were given a fright when they found there was a hidden enemy in their midst. The three had simple names from the text shown above their heads: Big Dragon, Second Dragon, and Little Dragon.

“How dare some rando pop up from nowhere and ambush your three granddaddies!” Big Dragon gave a furious roar that made the forest shake as a dark purple guillotine appeared in his hand. Its blade was enormous and weighty, with lightning dancing on it. The sharp edge was more than capable of bisecting lifebound beasts in its path.

“Where are you! He’s here, some Violetglory’s Li Tianming!” Second Dragon quickly found Tianming. His weapon was a long spear that also had purple lightning twined around it.

“Sounds familiar. Isn’t this the guy that beat Xiao? It has to be!” Little Dragon was momentarily hesitant before gaining confidence. Killing intent poured out of him as he drew a giant, purple sword that somewhat resembled the Grand-Orient Sword and slashed at Tianming!”