

The Ages 1651

Chapter 1651 - For Violethorn Star's Glory

The three brothers all used heavy weapons that were grade seven! They didn't seem worse than Tianming's Lifesteal Silverdragon.

Little Dragon quickly recognized Tianming, which meant he had seen Xiao's fight and they were on decent terms. After all, these three were under Ying. That would make Xiao their young master.

Fury immediately filled the faces of the three violethorn draconians. They hadn't seen Tianming's first match when he had beaten Kou Mingyou and Ye Chen. Hence, they just saw him as someone who had just risen up from the third level of the Tranquil Battlefield and dared to ambush them. It was a laughable notion!

Violethorn draconians didn't have the habit of underestimating their enemies. They may have looked like meatheads, but they actually had cautious personalities. Their bodies swelled up as they underwent the specter clan's bloodline transformation.

When others transformed, they would have cracking noises. These three instead had deafening booms of thunder as their bodies expanded up to over a dozen meters tall. Their bodies were covered by thick dragon scales, and dense purple serpents of electricity now wrapped around every bit of their bodies.

Finally, they had a sharp, three meter long horn on their foreheads with tens of thousands of electrical serpents swimming on it. They all seemed alive as they glared at Tianming.

"Beastmaster?" They sneered as they raised their weapons. Their mighty bodies made the earth shake with every step they took.

They rushed at Tianming, either targeting him or the three lifebound beasts next to him, Ying Huo, Meow Meow, and Lan Huang!

"Kill them!" Tianming didn't say anything else as he grasped the Grand-Orient Sword and met their charge. His nine decapath era godswords appeared and assaulted the three fierce dragons headed his way. A nonabane had descended upon the field once more!

"What?" The three brothers' pupils shrank as they revealed flabbergasted expressions.

"Beastmaster? Totemancer? What the hell?"

The nine giant swords crossed the distance in that moment of confusion, as well as Ying Huo and Meow Meow's abilities of fire and lightning. Lightning engulfed half of the forest while fire engulfed the other half. In the middle were the nine decapath era godswords, while Lan Huang's Dragonprison Hell came from below as well!

"Block it!" The three quickly reacted, immediately splitting up. Lightning flickering in their eyes, they assembled into a triangle and the serpents of electricity on their bodies connected to form a giant net of lightning. It only took moments to grow to a massive size; this was their ability, Lightning Dragons Electrolock!

It was like a meat grinder as it slammed into the nine decapath era godswords and the lightning and fire abilities. Piercingly bright light flashed on impact and a huge crater formed!

Black and purple lightning bolts snaked in all directions. Even so, the decapath era godswords with their different attributes still held the advantage. They penetrated the net and countless streaks of sword ki stabbed at the triplets, knocking them away.

“So strong!” The brothers were dumbfounded as they got back up. After all, to their knowledge, a distant heliacal-class world shouldn’t have produced nonabanes.

Big Dragon raised his blade as he enthusiastically roared, “Steady, brothers. For Violethorn Star’s glory!” His violent appearance didn’t seem all that intelligent.

However, on this sort of battlefield, intelligence might be less useful than valor. Furthermore, as vassals of the faceless specters, their daily task was to just follow orders and stake their lives. Hence, the three were simple fellows who were more troublesome to deal with than smart people.

“Kill this sissy!” They angrily shouted as they fearlessly charged at Tianming like madmen, annoying him.

“Did you just call someone as violent as me a sissy?”

At that moment, the three brothers’ sacrosuns appeared and over ten thousand material stars of lightning floated around them.

The stars of electricity distorted and changed into lightning dragons. They weren’t totems or lifebound beasts, but the pure manifestation of power. Yet they were still capable of attacking and supplying energy.

With the creation of their sacrosuns, the three unleashed another ability, Violethorn Dragon Rampage.

It was their killer move. The large horns on their foreheads directly detached from their bodies and began rapidly rotating, turning into electric drills that flew at Ying Huo, Meow Meow, and Lan Huang!

The attack was fierce, which caused Tianming to slightly frown. However, it wasn’t due to their strength; rather, it was because Yin Chen had just given him some good and bad news.

On the bright side, it had found the Team Yingming astralis. On the not so bright side, only one person, Skyway Monostar’s Yanwu Ming, was guarding it.

Since that was the case, where was Ying?

Yin Chen found her. Just like the three violethorn draconians, she had left her home base to find the enemy. Tianming and Yin Chen just hadn’t run into her before. Based on her direction, if she found Team Rou’s astralis, Tianming’s team wouldn’t be able to stand up to her.

“I have to finish this quickly so I can return to protect my astralis! If I can seize it well, Ying and Yanwu Ming being apart is a great opportunity!” It was both good and bad news. The difference would be whether Tianming could defeat these three first or Ying would find his team first.

“There’s no time to lose.” Tianming and his lifebound beast advanced to meet the three horns.

Specters had bodies that were a mix between a beastmaster and lifebound beast's. Their bodies were as strong as large lifebound beasts, but they had the agility of a human. Their bodies were perfect for combat.

"I'll do it!" After becoming a sovereign beast, Ying Huo's body had become much mightier. It unleashed a Sixpath Infernal Lotus, knocking away the horn in front of it. As the flames consumed its lightning, the dragon horn that had lost the elemental support harmlessly shot past Ying Huo's body.

"Eat my sword!" Ying Huo's massive wings were used as swords to display the Sixdragon Tribulation on a violethorn draconian. Sparks flew as it clashed with a massive sword wreathed in lightning.

One had unleashed an ability, while the other had unleashed a battle art. At that moment, it almost seemed like Ying Huo was a specter itself.

The bird shot into the sky, using its Solar Wheel to crash down on Little Dragon like a meteorite.

Elsewhere on the battlefield, Lan Huang and Meow Meow were able to hold out against Second Dragon for the time being.

Finally, Tianming was accompanied by his decapath era godswords to unleash a Sixdragon Tribulation as well, his sword body and totems all perfectly joined together with explosive power.

Big Dragon, who was only slightly stronger than Kou Mingyou, was instantly turned into a bloody smear on the ground.

"Big bro!" The remaining two violethorn draconians' eyes bulged out. In the throes of the heated battle, they had forgotten that they were in the wondersky realm with no true death.

"You're asking for it!" the two remaining brothers furiously shouted.

"Hey, hey, no getting distracted!" Ying Huo's wing landed on Little Dragon, nearly taking an arm. That was how important manna imperius was. Meow Meow and Lan Huang were barely holding on against Second Dragon with Xian Xian's support. On the other hand, Ying Huo could match a genius specter by itself without showing any weakness.

An evolution was a qualitative improvement in all aspects.

"I'm here!" Tianming hadn't even arrived before his Lifesteal Silverdragon came flying in to attack. It wrapped around Second Dragon, cutting up his flesh.

The next moment, Meow Meow's abilities and Lan Huang's massive tail crashed into him.

Now that Big Dragon had fallen, his brothers were forced to suffer attacks from all sides. All the spectators had realized that Tianming could simultaneously take on three opponents. Killing these three wouldn't be difficult for him; it was just a matter of time.

Ying was fast approaching her target, which meant she had some ability to find her enemies as well. Tianming was still stuck with the violethorn draconians. It made many eager to see his duel with a faceless specter his age or Yanwu Ming, a genius beastmaster of Skyway Monostar!

Xiao was too young, and he didn't have access to his enhanced physique then, so that battle wasn't counted. Likely, Tianming would soon have a battle with a supreme genius of a deific-class world!

As expected, within less than ten minutes, Tianming had dispatched Second Dragon and Little Dragon, completely wiping out the three geniuses of the Violethorn Star.

Chapter 1652 - Ying, That Young Lady

"Skyway Tristar, Whitejade Ying." Bai Feng shouted as she stared ahead at the green fog. The faceless specters were split into different lines. Among them, the Whitejade and Crimsonjade lines were main lines.

They didn't have clan names. If one really was needed, then they would use their line names as a substitute. This woman that had appeared would thus be referred to as 'Whitejade Ying'.

"Ying!"

"Oh, Li Tianming, that jinx." The encounter made Bai Feng confused. Had he somehow seen the opponent ahead of time, or was it just dumb luck? However, she didn't have time to ponder it.

Under this new threat, Bai Huai and the rest gathered by Bai Feng's side.

"There's no hope, sis." Bai Huai softly said, shaking his head with a bitter smile. If he could make it to the Astralium Seeking, he could have requested a manna imperius from his elders. But Ying's arrival dashed those dreams.

"Luck is really fickle. Sometimes it's awesome, sometimes it's shit. We had the best possible luck on our last two battlefields, but this one is just a bad joke..." Zhong Yirou sighed.

"More importantly, where's Li Tianming now?" Qiao Xingzhou complained.

"Quiet." Bai Feng stood at the front. Clearly, she hadn't lost her fighting spirit yet.

It was at that moment that the woman they venerated appeared a hundred meters ahead of them. She immediately noticed their astralis and Astralium Formation. Her gaze pierced through the fog and saw Bai Feng and the rest as well. The woman was wearing a robe with cherry blossom designs. Despite its looseness, her delicate and slender frame could still be made out. Her figure could be said to be perfect. However, the weird part was that her skin and flesh looked like flawless white jade. It was glossy, smooth, and even translucent enough that the white blood vessels beneath could be made out. And the most distinctive feature of all was naturally her smooth head. It lacked any features like eyes, ears, mouth, or nose. There were only some outlines. Despite being a girl, she didn't even have hair. Her entire head was shiny, like a valuable pearl.

It would have made a beautiful jewel, but it was a head! Even though it was beautiful in form, it was completely different from the beauty of girls of flesh and blood, like Feiling.

To the races of the astralscape, the mysterians were a race that was strangely built. It wasn't that they were ugly, but not having a face was simply frightening.

Still, who dared to look down on them? Their three deific-class worlds proclaimed themselves as the center of the cosmos. Setting aside the mysterious wonderians, the faceless mysterians were, as far as public knowledge went, the number one race of all!

Even Bai Feng and other geniuses of skypiercer-class worlds sucked in a cold breath upon laying eyes on Whitejade Ying. In the real world, the chalk draconians were vassals of the faceless specters. Even though this was the Astraldome, there was still a strong feeling of having met their master.

Ying had no eyes, but Bai Feng could sense that she was being watched by something with the nature of a superior being looking down on an inferior.

“Chalk draconians. I’ve been to Whitechalk Star, it’s quite fun there. The Milky Way Waterfalls in particular are quite a spectacular sight to behold.” In contrast to her strange appearance, the voice that came from her abdomen seemed befitting of her age. It resembled Zhong Yirou’s in that it was soft, beautiful, and gentle like the spring breeze.

Did not having a face mean you were disliked by the astralscape? That would be a very, very wrong assumption. Firstly, Ying may not have had facial features, but she definitely wasn’t ugly. Combined with her perfect figure, she actually had a strange kind of beauty. Secondly, the mysterians never married outside, not because outsiders had no interest in them, but because they looked down on outsiders’ bloodlines. They were the race in the astralscape that embraced racial purity the most. To these mysterians from the three deific-class worlds, intermingling with foreign races was a cardinal sin. If one person committed the crime, their whole family had to die! That iron-clad law was the number one reason the mysterians had dominated the astralscape for countless years.

Thirdly, things were the exact opposite. The astralscape didn’t dislike the mysterians; rather, their unique, strange, and extreme ‘exoticness’ had created a long-lasting desire for them. After all, mysterians were the supreme race! Whether they were male or female, including Ying, they all had fervent followers throughout the Mysterium Cluster. The followers all deeply desired them from the bottom of their hearts.

Apart from being faceless, the specters were much more similar to humans than other specters, from their size, to their figures, and even to their emotions. There was even a saying that the mysterians without facial features were the most sensitive race. They instead used their hearts to communicate and understand.

Their culture had lasted for millennia, and they were truly worthy of being the supreme sovereigns who stood above the masses.

At least within the Mysterium Cluster, no one found them ugly. Foreign races all had to revere, envy, and desire them!

It was just like now, where Bai Huai and Qiao Xingzhou didn’t dare to look directly at Ying. That was especially true for Bai Huai, another specter. He viewed faceless specters as saints that weren’t to be touched. The knowledge had been imprinted upon him since he was a child.

It was only when Ying mentioned the Milky Way Waterfalls that he slightly relaxed. “The Milky Way Waterfalls are indeed beautiful. If you’re ever free in the future, our Whitechalk Star will give you the most spectacular of welcomes.”

“Mhm.” Ying didn’t know them, but she could tell that Bai Feng was their leader. She tilted her head and spoke to Bai Feng. “The next round will be the Astralium Seeking. Getting here was already quite glorious for you all. Would you prefer to forfeit yourself, or give it a try?”

Bai Feng and Ying were the same age, and faceless specters had always been a goal of hers. Naturally, her response was, “I’d like to give it a try.”

“Permitted.” Ying wasn’t surprised. It would be too mediocre if someone managed to fight to the third round of the Astralium Battlefield, but still chose to give up so close to the Astralium Seeking. The absolute lobby had over a thousand people, but none were mediocre people who would be willing to give up.

In this dark abyss, the dark green fog churned around them, but Ying was surrounded by a pure white barrier that isolated her from all of it. Within it, she looked like a pure jewel, pristine and glittering.

A three-foot-long sword appeared in her delicate fingers. It was as thin as a cicada’s wing, and cloud patterns on it joined together to form obvious divine ordered patterns. The weapon clearly gave off the sensation of being mightier than most weapons in this battlefield.

Chapter 1653 - Skycloud Soulcutter

“Big sis, that’s the Skycloud Soul,” Bai Huai said in a hoarse voice.

“Yes. It’s a grade-eight divine artifact that has the grade-eight Skycloud Soulcutter divine ordered pattern. All the divine hazards used to make it are grade-eight,” Bai Feng said in a low voice. Before, Ye Chen had taken out the grade-eight divine artifact, Grand Godless Liberty. However, that couldn’t be mentioned in the same breath as the Skycloud Soul.

“Attack!” They had to give it their best, or else it would be as simple as chopping vegetables for Whitejade Ying.

“It’s all or nothing!” Qiao Xingzhou shouted.

It was four versus one, so it couldn’t be said that they had zero chance. Under Bai Feng’s leadership, the four all executed their strongest moves. Two specters, one beastmaster, and one totemancer. Two stood in front to tank Whitejade Ying, while the other two fired arrows at her from behind. It was a good tactic.

“So fast!” When white light flashed on Whitejade Ying’s body, Bai Feng, who was in a chalk draconian’s true form, let out a startled exclamation.

Speed was born from the strength of one’s body, astralforce, and racial gifts, and a chalk draconian was much more cumbersome than a perfect and flawless faceless specter. Thus, it didn’t even take a moment for Ying to pass through the siblings’ blockade. For a moment, countless sword shadows of the Skycloud Soul covered Bai Feng.

“Chase!” Bai Feng turned around, but it was too late.

“Sis, let’s give up. The gap is too big,” Bai Huai weakly said.

“Shut up!” Bai Feng gave chase, her robust voice filling the ravine like a dragon’s roar. Alas, Ying sped up even faster, her targets clearly Qiao Xingzhou and Zhong Yirou.

“Sis Feng, save me!” Qiao Xingzhou was frightened. His celestial archer totems unleashed a dense hail of arrows; however, the white flash flickered with an incredible nimble grace and speed born granted by a powerful body. It was a speed that only Meow Meow in his Regal Chaosfiend state could match.

Qiao Xingzhou realized, much to his despair, that the faceless specter had already appeared in front of him. “No!” He was just about to shout in fright when the white sword had already stabbed through him, instantly causing his body to explode!

Qiao Xingzhou was out.

“Bestie!” Zhong Yirou, who was right beside him, had clearly seen it happen. The only thought in her mind right now was to immediately flee. Honestly, this was just the wondersky realm, which lacked true death. However, that was her subconscious reaction when seeing this god of death combined with the veneration they already felt.

Zhong Yirou had just turned around when the sword stabbed through her chest from behind. Her eyes turned red, but she had no choice but to accept it as her body dispersed.

“Too weak. A little unworthy to reach the third round.” That was Ying’s evaluation, which shattered Zhong Yirou’s heart even more. Most importantly, she couldn’t even rebut it.

“My Big Brother Tianming will beat you!” Even Zhong Yirou felt embarrassed by those words.

Ying didn’t even hear it, though, as Bai Feng had finally arrived. The two white women collided. Bai Feng’s body was covered in dragon scales as she brandished her weapon. She used both abilities and battle arts, suppressing Ying through sheer power for a few moments.

“You’re not that bad.” Sword light erupted from Ying’s sword. She was too agile and unpredictable, and it was clear that Bai Feng couldn’t stop her. Faceless specters seemed to be the perfect specter race. Their bodies were unrivaled when it came to speed, defense, and other areas.

Xiao’s struggle against Tianming before had only been because the most important aspect of his body had been negated, heavily hampering his combat ability. Ghost-like steps. The strength of a lifebound beast a kilometer in size. Boundless astralforce. The terrifying abilities of a faceless specter. All of it combined allowed Ying to control the rhythm of the battle.

“Sis!” That was Bai Huai’s last word before a white rain of sword strikes fell from above, riddling him full of holes.

Finally, Ying slowly drifted down and landed in front of Bai Feng. She didn’t have eyes, but Bai Feng felt like she had been seen through.

“Bai Feng, you’ve impressed me. You have valor to spare. Alas, you lack nimbleness. After the Astralium Seeking, come to Skyway Tristar. I’ll permit you to cultivate there.”

“Thank you, Princess Ying!” Bai Feng hadn’t expected to be appreciated so much. She kept her weapon, before falling to a half-kneel with a respectful expression. Even for the Violethorn Star, who were the running dogs of the faceless specters, only their apex geniuses could cultivate in Skyway Tristar. This was

like opening a great door for Bai Feng's future! It would make the Whitechalk Star behind her believe they had a chance to get closer to the faceless specters.

"Come, let's continue and determine the victor." Ying wagged her finger. Despite not having a face, there was still a strange sensation of her smiling.

Bai Feng deeply inhaled. Actually, she had gone slightly crazy.

"Princess Ying, Bai Feng's life will be yours from now on." Tianming wouldn't be able to understand Bai Feng's feelings towards the faceless specters. She may have rejected them before meeting them, but after meeting one, there was no way for her to push down her yearning for Skyway Monostar.

Of course, it was also partly because this particular faceless woman in front had a magical charm that Bai Feng had never imagined. It had overturned her aesthetic sense of beautiful women. In Bai Feng's heart right now, Ying was someone who was untouchably beautiful. Perhaps not having a face allowed a person's heart and soul to be seen much more clearly, as they only had what was inside left.

Clean, pure, peaceful, and quick-witted; that was the essence of Whitejade Ying. Honestly, Ye Lingfeng and Ying had even subverted Tianming's impression of specters!

He had rushed over as fast as he could after knowing that Ying had breached their base. When he arrived, it was just in time to see Bai Huai being killed and Bai Feng offering her loyalty. Panting, he took his position next to the Astralis Formation, but he couldn't resist giving Whitejade Ying several more looks due to the strange feeling in his heart.

Chapter 1654 - Azure Swordriver Storm

Tianming had always imagined the mysterians to be the representatives of ugliness. But his mind had been changed after seeing Ying. Bai Feng and she had yet to determine a victor. The expected conclusion would be Ying defeating Bai Feng before breaking the astralis and winning. But unexpectedly, Tianming had arrived on the scene.

That made Bai Feng feel slightly awkward. "At least for today, I'll pledge my life to protecting our astralis."

"It's fine, congratulations!" Tianming said, relaxed. Bai Feng gaining the interest of a peak genius of the faceless specters was her fortune. He was happy for her as long as she didn't defect today.

However, Ying wasn't very happy. She frowned with her non-existent eyebrows. She looked at Tianming for a long while, her aura gradually growing colder. She didn't speak to Tianming. Instead, she turned to Bai Feng, "Did this teammate of yours from the Violetglory Star beat my younger brother Xiao before?"

"Yes, it was me," Tianming frankly said.

"You destroyed his dreams," Ying said.

"You exaggerate. Getting to the third round would've been amazing with his skills. He would've just been here to have fun," Tianming replied.

"You speak quite annoyingly," Ying said with annoyance.

“That’s because you’re used to people speaking to you with respect.”

“I see there’s nothing left to talk about.” Ying lifted up her sword and pointed it at Tianming, emanating an ice-cold killing intent.

Bai Feng pursed her lips. “Princess Ying, I have to cooperate with him today.” She was someone who valued her word. Tianming was quite impressed with how she wasn’t bowing to Ying right now.

Tianming was more direct. “No need, Sister Feng. Yanwu Ming isn’t here, so I’ll do it myself.”

“Alright.” Bai Feng was also straightforward, so she quickly agreed with a nod.

“Still, let me say this up front. I won’t give up the chance for the Astralium Seeking just because she appreciates you. Don’t blame me if I eliminate them.” Tianming grinned.

“I get it!” Bai Feng wasn’t sure whether to laugh or cry. But honestly, she did believe Tianming had this chance.

“Where does this confidence come from?” Ying found this slightly amusing.

“From the three violethorn draconians. They’re all gone, now that I took care of them.”

“Oh....” That made Ying’s aura grow even colder. She approached Tianming, signaling Bai Feng to move away. “We’ll determine the victor without Bai Feng being involved. My only fear is mistaking you as a worthy opponent, yet you end up not having the skill to entertain me.”

“How about you try?” Tianming said, a short few words igniting the flames of battle.

Bai Feng quickly scrambled to their Astralium Formation.

The area was immediately plunged into silence, and many eyes were watching the two through the Mysterium Cluster. Among all of the Astralium Battlefields, this one had immediately been catapulted to the most watched. That was especially true for Skyway Tristar! Ying’s talent, status, and strength stood stable in the top three of the faceless specters’ junior generation. Thus, the attention she was drawing right now was nearly a hundred percent of Skyway Tristar!

That was unprecedented for Tianming. He was from far away, and no one had ever heard of the Violetglory Star before. To a deific class overlord like the Skyway Tristar, a rural heliacal-class star was nothing but meat on a platter.

The reason this battle had attracted such fervor wasn’t just because of the personal grudge due to Xiao. The other reason was the conflict between the borders and the core. Ying represented the center of the universe and the authority of the mysterians that had never been shaken, while as for Tianming, he was the representative of the cultivators of heliacal- and skypiercer-class worlds. After all, who didn’t yearn to challenge the mysterians, bringing both fame and glory to their ancestors? No matter where, the courage of those lower born to challenge authority existed!

However, Ying didn’t know anything about Tianming. There was no proof of Tianming defeating the three violethorn draconians, either. Hence, this was all still normal to her.

Tianming didn't want to hide anything, so as Ying sped toward him, he had already fully displayed his lifebound beasts and decapath era godswords. It was utterly ganging up on a lone specter with his numbers.

Still, quantity didn't mean quality. Ying was a fourth-level solarian with incredible talent and a perfect body. Her strength alone was great enough. If she defeated them one by one, numbers wouldn't matter.

"Nonabane? Lifebound beasts?" It was Ying's first time being shocked.

"That's why you shouldn't underestimate me, or this'll all be meaningless," Tianming said.

Ying pondered it for a while. It was clear that Tianming's nine totems had exceeded her expectations. However, her fighting spirit surged. "I've changed my mind. You aren't a bad opponent." Ying's fighting spirit had gone up, but her anger had fallen. Perhaps, she thought, Tianming beating Xiao wasn't undeserved.

"Come." Tianming was carrying the large Grand-Orient Sword in his hand. Perched on his left shoulder was a little yellow chick and a small black cat was at his feet. There was also the gargantuan Lan Huang, as well as Xian Xian, who was rooted to the ground and served as a backdrop. Finally, nine massive swords revolved around them.

"Yes." Ying nodded. This time, her tone was much more gentle.

"Li Tianming, would you be willing if I invited you to cultivate in the Skyway Tristar?" Ying stopped just before she was about to attack. Clearly, his nine totems had changed many of her preconceptions. Even her brother's anger was no longer so important.

"Way too far. Maybe after the Astralium Seeking, you can ask your seniors how long it'll take to get there from my hometown?" Tianming said.

"I will."

"However, I thought you mysterians rejected foreign races?" Tianming asked.

"You not joining the mysterians doesn't mean you can't cultivate in Skyway Tristar. Being my friend will benefit you much more than being in a skypiercer-class world. The three deific-class worlds are the heart of this universe."

"Amazing." Tianming sighed in praise.

Ying was different from others. It seemed that she liked to make friends, perhaps because it was beneficial to her competition with the other faceless specters her age. And Tianming could also take advantage of her to find out the distance between Skyway Tristar and the Violetglory Star.

If it's just a one or two month journey, I'll have to go on the run after the Astralium Seeking. Tianming was self-aware. He was a genius without any backing and too many secrets. His crime was being too awesome. It may have seemed all calm in the Violetglory Star right now, but there were too many unknown risks. Going to the Mysterium Cluster would be no different from suicide.

"Then, I won't be polite now. My younger brother is still hoping that I'll help him vent," Ying laughed. Her personality felt similar to Feiling's; she just didn't have a face.

“You’ve been polite enough,” Tianming laughed as well.

“Nonabanes are worthy of it,” she replied. That was normal. Truly great clans or races would instead have fewer arrogant people. Geniuses understood other geniuses the best and knew there was nothing fake about totems. But, politeness was politeness and competition was competition. Both of these geniuses wanted to go to the Astralium Seeking, so what would follow would be a no-holds-barred match.

“Please enlighten me.” Ying’s nimble body once more made its way toward Tianming. Although she looked weak, she was actually on par with Lan Huang in terms of strength, defense, and quality.

She tore through the air, causing the earth to tremble in her wake.

Tianming had no way of matching up to such a physical body, unless he could fuse Lan Huang’s massive body with his own. More frighteningly, there were also traces of sword ki on Ying, which meant that she also had a sword body like Tianming.

Sword ki exploded out from her body, forming a snow-white tempest of swords around her.

“Tianming, this is Princess Ying’s grade-eight divine hazard sword ki, Azure Sworddriver Storm,” Bai Feng said from afar.

That meant that Tianming’s advantage from the Frozen Glasstree was gone. Ying’s astralforce as a fourth-level solarian was also quite a frightening thing, and her sacrosuns were very mature. It came out, filling the area around her with stars.

The stars transformed into incredibly realistic cherry blossoms that drifted around her as swords and cherry blossoms danced around. And in the center, a young lady as pure as the moon was flitting around. However, her lack of a face gave the scene a peculiar attractiveness that could warp an onlooker’s sense of beauty.

Still, while whether it was pretty was up for debate, what was certain was the danger presented by a fourth-level solarian genius. Geniuses were all existences who could fight above their level, and Tianming was even still a constellier. He wasn’t sure if he could besiege such an opponent. This was his first time fighting against another genius that Tianming had so little confidence.

Skycloud Soul, cherrywind sacrosun, the Azure Sworddriver Storm, and a specter’s powerful body all joined together to make the current Ying a grim reaper. Her sword suddenly appeared, already stabbing at Tianming’s forehead.

Chapter 1655 - Sword Shattered Once Again

After cultivating a sword body and absorbing divine hazard sword ki, every attack of Ying’s carried the sword ki of the Azure Sworddriver Storm with it. The Azure Sworddriver Storm was a wind-type divine hazard sword ki that gathered around her Skycloud Soul. The sword activated its Skycloud Soulcutter patterns as well, and with the cherrywood sacrosun and her astralforce, each of her attacks carried quite a few abilities.

Tianming quickly responded to the aggressive attacks by splitting the Grand-Orient Sword in two. The black Grand-Orient Sword carried the power of the Frozen Glasstree, while the gold Grand-Orient Sword gathered the five grade-seven divine hazard sword kis he had.

The clash of sword ki created a screeching clang.

Ying seized the initiative and used the seventh-realm divine art, Omniflashing Blade, causing the Skycloud Soul to transform and combine with the cherry blossoms around her. The storm of sword and cherry blossoms surged forward. All of the trees in the area were immediately vaporized and ground to dust.

“Amazing.” Tianming wasn’t surprised that a supreme genius from a deific-class world would outclass Li Haochen by so much. It was the natural result of the combination of talent and resources. Tianming was using Li Haochen as the benchmark for his age group in heliacal-class worlds to compare to those from skypiercer- and deific-class worlds.

However, while Tianming may have fallen behind greatly on resources, his talent still stood at the top of the Mysterium Cluster! Using his gold Grand-Orient Sword, which was supported by five grade-seven divine hazard sword kis, he used Blooddragon Sacrifice to block the attack.

The dense sword ki from Ying’s sword art and the Azure Swordriver Storm sword ki practically swallowed Tianming up. But fortunately, his even more powerful left hand burst out with the black Grand-Orient Sword. The power of the Frozen Glasstree was perfectly infused into a sixth-fusion sword strike, freezing all of Ying’s sword ki.

Not far off, Bai Feng, who was personally witnessing the battle, was in disbelief. She had long had some inkling of how strong Ying was. However, Tianming, someone from a heliacal-class world, was resisting a top three genius from a deific-class world. It not only overthrew her worldview, but kicked up a commotion throughout the entire Mysterium Cluster.

However, battles constantly changed, and so did the emotions of those following it.

“Not bad,” Ying laughed. She didn’t dislike Tianming right now. Instead, she was well and truly enjoying her fight with him. Still, she did understand she had to beat him convincingly, so as to not embarrass herself, Skyway Tristar, and the faceless specters.

Omniflashing Blade was used one last time. Her seemingly weak arm surged with power comparable to Lan Huang’s, turning into a crushing blow when combined with her astralforce and cherrywind sacrosun.

Tianming’s gold Grand-Orient Sword forcefully took the blow. Alas, for him, another tragedy occurred. The wondersky realm judged the Grand-Orient Sword incapable of withstanding the Skycloud Soul and it broke under the impact, causing the attack to land on Tianming. It knocked him away, nearly killing him.

“Seriously?” This was a depressing development. This sword was unbreakable in the real world, but the wondersky realm had broken it twice.

“I wouldn’t have to suffer this nonsense if I had that grade-nine Grand-Orient Sword.” While Tianming did think about getting it, he knew his chances weren’t high. Ying would roughly be in the top ten of the absolute lobby; if she was so fierce, what about Team Celestial Beings?

Anyway, he wouldn't dare accept it even if the mysterians did bring it over after he won. He could only dream about that mysterious grade-nine Grand-Orient Sword. Fortunately, he still had the black sword. He knew he had to give it his all if he wanted to prevent a loss.

Ying's powerful body was the basis of her suppression of him. Under that force, he violently collided with the Astralium Formation, causing it to blare alarms.

"I'm a human beastmaster and totemancer. Why am I trying to physically challenge her?" Giving up his advantage and trying to use his disadvantages to fight would be incredibly stupid. Specters were a special fusion of man and beast; Tianming trying to start a physical tussle was indeed just asking for suffering.

"Go!" The tiny Ying Huo and Meow Meow would be important supporters. Lan Huang and Xian Xian could help too. However, his nine decapath era godswords would be the most significant!

Ying wanted to chase and finish him off, but Ying Huo and Meow Meow blocked her.

Skyscorch Featherblast! Empowered by Blazebane, it was like over ten thousand sharp swords that were all covered in an incomparably hot flame.

At the same time, Meow Meow used its Soulchasing Hellthunder as well as two small but fast Cosmic Lances, firing them at Ying.

"Your lifebound beasts aren't bad," Ying chuckled and her body glowed with white light, the power of her ability complemented by her cherrywind sacrosun and immediately expanding.

"Are you not using your sacrosun because it's too weak?" As she spoke, she unleashed an ability, Snowstorm Swordrealm. Streak after streak of white light merged with the surrounding cherry blossoms, instantly creating countless snowflakes that formed a sword formation around her. The surrounding area became a land of frost.

The powerful ability took not just Ying Huo and Meow Meow's abilities head-on, but also Xian Xian's Radiant Vines and Bloodrain Swords.

Despite Lan Huang's size, it was rather agile in battle against a small opponent. That was especially true for its sword-like tail. It swept forward, smashing into Ying's newly formed Snowstorm Swordrealm. It shattered, and she leaped out into a dense field of lightning that was assailing her from all directions. At the same time, her moment of distraction almost allowed the ghostly Ying Huo to ambush her.

Her Skycloud Soul clashed repeatedly with the bird's wings. It not only failed to kill Ying Huo, but also gave it the chance to spit out Sixpath Infernal Lotus at her.

For the first time, she was covered in soot.

Ying had just stepped back when countless black roots burst out from the ground, trapping her in a ten-meter-wide sphere before attempting to dig into her flesh.

Chapter 1656 - Cherry Blossom Disaster

"Ugh!" Ying lashed out with her Azure Swordriver Storm, tearing the black roots apart. Though Evernight Curse and Trisoul Fiendsong didn't seem to be that effective, they weren't completely without effect.

While she hadn't suffered much damage after being slammed around by Tianming's lifebound beasts, she was still badly annoyed. She charged out and immediately homed in on Tianming. However, the lightning-fast black cat buzzed around in front of her without panicking, eluding her every strike.

"Bleergh!" Meow Meow even blew a raspberry with its pink tongue. She didn't know how to react, shocked by a sudden infusion of affection for cuteness that instantly wiped away her sense of annoyance. Right that instant, danger approached.

"Huh?!" She looked up and saw a sea of swords all pointing at her. In the middle of them was Tianming with the black Grand-Orient Sword, his hair fluttering in the wind. Then, all of them came bearing down. The sharp sound of swords piercing the air gave her a great shock; Tianming had used his lifebound beasts to draw her attention away from him. She had just come to understand that his totems were even more terrifying. Yet his lifebound beasts' attacks weren't letting up! Ying had lost the opportunity to break out of the group attack and suffered quite a bit from the relentless bombardment from all directions.

In battles such as these, it would be better to snap one finger rather than wound ten. Had she chosen to deal with Lan Huang and Xian Xian first, both of whom were far larger and easier targets to hit, she might have fared better. But now, facing the barrage of swords, she was forced to rise up into the air and push her astralforce and sacrosun to full power. She manifested an illusion around a thousand meters tall. It was one of her abilities.

"Try taking this strike." She used an eighth-realm divine art, Cherry Blossom Disaster. Among her peers, she was the only one to have practiced an eighth-realm divine art, which were often called sovereign divine arts as only those at the sovereign level of power could use them to their full potential. However, even being able to learn a small part of it was enough. It was clear from her execution of the move that the level of power the move could express far outstripped a seventh-realm divine art. For mana, battle arts, and lifebound beasts, any that were grade eight or above were completely different.

Even though it was only a single sword strike, it turned into a sea of cherry blossoms. The gigantic illusion looked similar to the nova source giant that Tianming brought out of the Primodragon Cave, being formed by the sword ki of the sword strike. It went charging toward Tianming's sea of swords and there was only one word to describe it: beautiful! Though Ying had neither face nor hair, she looked like a flower goddess, perfectly blending in with the sword intent of her divine art. The fog parted as the sword strike was unleashed, scattering pollen all over the place.

Using Cherry Blossom Disaster with brute strength, Ying clashed with Tianming's Myriadsword Providence in the air. The two of them were surrounded by sword formations as the totems clashed with the cherry blossoms, with neither gaining the edge. Not even Tianming's six-in-one fusion strike was able to take down Ying's attack! As the clash unfolded, the smaller versions of the many decapath era godswords flowed like beautiful rivers.

The stalemate lasted until Tianming's lifebound beasts rejoined the fray. Ying Huo and Meow Meow came to his side where Meow Meow wrapped its lightning abilities around Tianming's totems and used its abilities for sneak attacks. His sovereign beast, Ying Huo, was even more troublesome; it charged in with more bravado than Lan Huang, using its formidable store of energy to take the brunt of her cherry blossom giant.

"Agh!" Ying furrowed her brows, clearly frustrated. Though she wanted a fair fight with Tianming and his totems, she also knew that lifebound beasts were a legitimate part of his arsenal. Xian Xian then launched its Bloodrain Swords and Demise Greenloti at her, disrupting her ability and attack even further!

"You're cheating! How can you have lifebound beasts and totems?!" She was about to puke. Being a specter, she always felt like she was being ganged up on when fighting beastmasters or totemancers. However, she was used to it, and she had the advantage of being the single strongest fighting unit in a group fight. Usually, she was able to break through any group attack with a heavy blow and fighting in the wondersky realm was even more advantageous for her. Yet now, running into a 'dual cultivator' had made it hard for her to employ her usual strategies. If Ying Huo and Meow Meow weren't so agile, she might still stand a chance. However, she wasn't able to capture Meow Meow even with her specter vigor.

Eventually, the cherry blossom giant was rammed to the ground by Lan Huang and bound with Radiant Vines. That created a huge problem for her. Ying Huo and Meow Meow didn't let up on their attacks, either, and were driving her insane. "Aaaagh, this is getting annoying!"

The giant slammed Lan Huang away and tore off the Radiant Vines, regaining some freedom. However, Tianming's barrage of swords came striking at both of its flanks once more. Using his combat experience, Tianming showed the spectators for the very first time how a dual cultivator truly fought. It was likely that only Tianming, Qingyu, and Li Wudi were able to pull off such techniques in the entire universe. Totems had better synergy with the user than lifebound beasts, which only enhanced Tianming's capabilities as a beastmaster even further.

"So long, Ying!" He didn't hold back in the slightest, attacking with his four beasts and nine totems. Lan Huang roared, suppressing the giant again as he used his fusion strike with Ying Huo and Meow Meow, raining blows down on the giant and piercing through Ying's sacrosun countless times, tearing away at her defenses one by one.

"How powerful...." This was Ying's heartfelt thought. Tianming's position kept rising in her mind to the point of being able to shake her soul. As the gold Grand-Orient Sword had been shattered, Tianming didn't dare to strike her sword, the Skycloud Soul, with his only remaining black sword. Even so, his totems tore through her Cherry Blossom Disaster, raining down devastation with the full force of the Frozen Glasstree. It pierced through the Azure Swordriver Storm sword ki and froze Ying's left arm, then the black frost spread throughout her body before turning into flames.

"Aagh!" she cried in pain, though her strong will kicked in as she cut off her arm with her sword. Many in the Mysterium Cluster fell silent as they watched her amputate her own limb.

Chapter 1657 - Yanluo Tribe

Ying's face was even paler than before. After losing an arm, her cherry blossom giant shattered into a rain of flowers, making it even harder for her to resist Tianming's Myriadsword Providence. However, she didn't struggle to fight back by using face reveal. Instead, she used an ability innate to all faceless specters, Skyway Godsong. She had no mouth, but used her whole body to resonate, creating a piercing sound much like that of metal scraping against metal! Right as Tianming was about to kill her, the sound suddenly dealt him a lot of pain. Even Ying Huo and the rest were affected.

"Li Tianming, you're powerful, but you can't win!" Ying felt quite frustrated for being hammered to this degree. Her praise for Tianming only applied insofar as she was still the winner. Yet now she had lost an arm, and that was a big deal! She had basically lost a third of her combat potential! Even if she used some other crazy ability, there was still a chance she could be killed by Tianming, so she used Skyway Godsong to drive him back. The next instant, she charged out of the encirclement and rapidly escaped in a different direction.

"Give chase!" Being so close to defeating her, Tianming didn't want to give up at all. He summoned his beasts back to him while Meow Meow turned into a Regal Chaosfiend, crackling with lightning and immediately zipping away with Tianming on it. The spectators in Skyway Tristar had nothing to say about that. Turning and running was definitely not something faceless specters did.

"Sister Feng, defend the astralis!" Tianming roared.

"Okay...." Bai Feng stood there with a blank look, hurriedly nodding. Yin Chen, who hadn't joined in the fight, reported a new development to him. Skyway Godsong was really loud and sharp, allowing it to spread far and wide. Yanwu Ming picked up on this ancient specter method of communication in the distance and understood what it meant, so he immediately gave up on their astralis and charged toward the direction of the sound.

"Ying's really smart and prioritizes the bigger picture. Once she was certain she couldn't defeat me, she immediately called for help." As Yin Chen's speech was too slow, there was a delay in relaying the message. By the time Tianming had heard it in full, some time had passed. No doubt, Yanwu Ming had some headway. Skyway Godsong was able to help him pinpoint Ying's location; they had already agreed upon it before the battle had started. If it weren't for the fact that she was confident she could defeat Tianming and the other four alone, she would have used it to call Yanwu Ming long ago.

"They're getting closer to each other with every passing moment!" Once they met, it would be a huge problem for Tianming. Yanwu Ming was about as strong as Ying, after all.

"What do we do, boss? Time is short, and she's really fast!" Meow Meow said. It would be difficult for Tianming to kill her while she was on the run. The longer he stayed on her trail, the riskier it would become.

He furrowed his brow in thought. "Yanwu Ming left, so their astralis must be defenseless. I have a chance if I go there to attack it, but it's risky, as our astralis is also as good as defenseless. If I don't chase her down, she'll definitely turn back and crush our astralis."

Since she was willing to run, that showed that she cared more about winning than defeating Tianming. He had a sudden spark of inspiration. "Yin Chen!"

"What, speak!"

"How long would it take for you to gather all of your bodies at the enemy astralis to destroy it?" If Yin Chen had a chance of destroying it, he could hold Yanwu Ming and Ying back; there was a good chance of success there. Letting the two of them go to Team Rou's astralis was a bad idea. One of them could already hold Tianming back, so there was no way Bai Feng could take on the both of them.

Yin Chen had some three million bodies near the enemy astralis, observing it. Combined, they could deal quite a lot of damage. This could be the key to their victory.

"I will... give it... a try... hold on," it said using its monotone, mechanical voice. However, Tianming found it rather reliable.

"I'll count on you, then!" Once Ying joined Yanwu Ming, Tianming couldn't afford to send any of his other lifebound beasts away. And if he didn't stop the enemy, Yin Chen wouldn't have a chance to deal with their astralis, either.

Yanwu Ming had already left the astralis, so Yin Chen approached it at a rate much faster than a normal cockroach's crawling speed. However, Tianming had asked it to hold back on attacking first as the Astralium Formation would sound an alarm once it was attacked, so he had to make sure as many bodies as possible were gathered for maximum damage output! Yanwu Ming could well turn back if he was still close to the astralis, though that could be viable as well. Perhaps Meow Meow could catch up to Ying before she got back to Yanwu Ming's side.

The problem now was that Yanwu Ming was a beastmaster as well. If he left a lifebound beast or two behind to stop Yin Chen, or used them to aid Ying instead of going himself, that would make things much harder for Tianming. So, he quickly reached a decision. I can only order Yin Chen to attack after seeing Yanwu Ming. Only then will we stand a chance.

Tianming kept chasing down Ying as Yin Chen gathered its bodies to the enemy astralis as quickly as it could. While it was no longer actively surveilling, it could still periodically report on Yanwu Ming's location, giving Tianming ample time to prepare.

Ying evaded left and right as Meow Meow launched attacks at her. While her right arm was gone, she seemed to have recovered her breath. "It's useless. Your lifebound beast may be fast enough that I'm unable to catch it, but it won't be able to catch me either."

Even if they caught up, Tianming would find it hard to crush someone of her level mid pursuit. "You're afraid of Yanwu Ming, right? It's a shame. He's almost here. If you turn back now, you'll still make it."

Tianming saved his energy and didn't say a word.

"Sheesh, why are you so persistent? You already managed to take one of my arms. That's more fame than you could've ever gotten for the rest of your life! You've already made your ancestors proud! Yet, you're still trying to defeat us and enter the Astralium Seeking? That's our dream! We would never let you win! It's impossible!"

Tianming's persistent pursuit only made her even more annoyed. "Ying, we're fighting fairly here in the Astralium Battlefield. Nothing you say will make a difference. Once we leave the battlefield, you'll still have my respect," Tianming said.

"Fine!" Even though his words on fairness made sense, she still found it hard to let go of her sense of superiority over a lower life form like him. As a faceless specter, being forced to run for the sake of a technical victory was quite humiliating. "Yanwu Ming, hurry!"

The way she saw it, once she met up with Yanwu Ming, Tianming would no longer be able to escape. It wasn't like Tianming knew where their astralis was, so whichever choice he made, there was no way he

could win. Little did she know that Tianming was going to go with the flow and let her summon Yanwu Ming away from their astralis! Even so, it wasn't without risk. If he wasn't able to stop them for long enough, Yin Chen wouldn't have enough time to destroy their astralis.

Even if we fight now, we aren't fighting near my astralis, so there is still some advantage to the situation. The mere thought of facing off against the two of them was nightmarish. However, he still had hope; he still had Yin Chen. Without needing to hide, Yin Chen gathered at a rapid rate. While Yanwu Ming did see a lot of metal insects on the way there, he didn't pay too much attention to them. It wasn't the first weird thing he had seen at the Astralium Battlefield, anyway.

Finally, Ying's Skyway Godsong was cut off. Through the green fog, a loud bestial roar could be heard. Yanwu Ming had called out his lifebound beasts to aid Ying, and they immediately broke into a fight.

"Yin Chen, attack!"

"Got it."

The silver insects near the enemy astralis numbered up to five million. They turned into bladed butterflies and began flying at their top speed before centering in on the Astralium Formation. The blades on their wings collided against the formation, generating a lot of sparks. Every time they rammed into the formation, they regrouped for another attack. The formation immediately sounded the alarm, a sound that was quite similar to Ying's Skyway Godsong. Yanwu Ming's expression immediately changed; Ying was also initially relieved that he had arrived, but now she was utterly distraught.

"Who's attacking our astralis?!"

Tianming immediately asked, "Yin Chen, will it work? How long will it take?" It was the crucial moment. If it couldn't do it, or if it took too long, Tianming's chances of victory would be far too slim.

"Calm down. Don't panic."

"Dammit, don't leave me hanging! Tell me! Will it work or not?"

"Calm down. Don't panic."

"Dammit!"

Yin Chen was a most troubling lifebound beast indeed. What was worse was that Ying immediately reacted. "Yanwu Ming, let's go back together! Quick!"

The two of them couldn't be bothered with fighting at all. Their astralis had a far higher priority! As Yanwu Ming also had lifebound beasts, Yin Chen's surprise attack would only have one chance to work.

"Once the two of them make it back, they can easily work together to take care of me." Even though he was supposed to hold them back, he had no choice but to actively attack them now. Though the chances of him winning were small, he still had to go all out. "I'll stop them even if I die in the process!"

The Astralium Battlefield was exciting because once the astralis was destroyed, the losses of both sides no longer mattered. Dead contestants wouldn't be able to revive in the next round, but dead lifebound beasts or destroyed totems could. In other words, the fighters themselves were the key, encouraging far more desperate methods of engagement.

"Do you think I'll let you leave?!" Tianming stood atop Meow Meow's head with half of his Grand-Orient Sword remaining. With his other hand, he lashed out with the Lifesteal Silverdragon and used Goddess Flowerfall. Silvery flowers spread throughout the green fog wherever the silver dragon crossed. Though Tianming still hadn't been able to get a clear view of Yanwu Ming, there was quite a lot of commotion where his lifebound beasts were. Tianming charged toward him, betting on the fact that he wasn't nearly as fast as Ying.

"Who's this?!" Yanwu Ming cried when he joined up with Ying.

"A black horse from a heliacal-class world! He has nine totems and managed to cut off my arm!" Even though it was a hard thing to admit, Ying told Yanwu Ming.

"There's actually someone like that?!" He found it incredibly odd, too. Usually, Ying and the violethorn dragonians would go their own ways while he defended the astralis, and that would allow them to defeat most, if not all of the other teams.

The green fog was quite thick, and Tianming still hadn't gotten a good look at Yanwu Ming for now. Wordlessly, he cut a lot of gigantic branches off with the Lifesteal Silverdragon, allowing it to blend in as it was sent flying toward Yanwu Ming's lifebound beasts. The whip loudly cracked, drawing a lot of blood.

At the same time, Meow Meow's Soulchasing Hellthunder struck, enveloping the entire area in the vicinity of the three of them. Tianming dared to take the offense, despite facing off against two others, much to the surprise of the spectators of the Mysterium Cluster. Their battle drew the attention of most of the spectators there.

Only now did Tianming finally get a good look of Yanwu Ming. As expected, his face was featureless as well! He was a faceless human, and he gave Tianming an almost identical impression as the faceless specters. In fact, the faceless specters were the ones who looked really human-like. But on closer inspection, Tianming did spot some differences. For instance, faceless specters came from the Whitejade and Crimsonjade lines, perhaps more. At their base was this jade-like material that made their bodies look more pearlescent than fleshy.

Faceless humans, on the other hand, seemed to have living flesh, and even hair, but that only made their featureless faces even more uncanny. There was, however, some black text on his face that read 'yan'. It was as if that character had taken the place of his features and was the center of his consciousness. The character designated him as one of the Yanluo tribe of beastmasters, who were one of the different groups of faceless humans. Other faceless humans could have other characters on their faces that marked them as a member of another tribe.

The Yanluo tribe was among the top of the faceless humans, being comparable to the Crimsonjade line of faceless specters. In fact, his name gave a clear indication of his origin. 'Yan' denoted his tribe, 'Wu' was his surname, and 'Ming' was his given name. Among mysterians, faceless specters didn't have surnames, but the faceless humans of Skyway Monostar and Skyway Bistar were all surnamed 'Wu', though their surname occupied the middle of their full name for historical and cultural reasons.

Sometimes, it was possible to tell someone's origin from their name alone. The faceless humans had tens of millions of years of historic legacy, far more than the celestial orderians, who only had millions.

Tianming knew how much trouble Yanwu Ming would be with one look. Perhaps he ranked in the top three of his peers in his deific-class world. Unsurprisingly, he had five lifebound beasts, all of them sovereign beasts. To mysticians, sovereign beasts weren't big deals; the type of their lifebound beasts was the real differentiator. Tianming was shocked to see that all five beasts were as faceless as their master.

Chapter 1658 - Faceless Beast Rakshasa

The five gigantic silhouettes in front of Tianming looked like humanoid ghouls. Their bodies were clad in vast dark robes that flapped in the green fog, which made them feel unlike normal lifebound beasts. Instead, they seemed like some kind of monster. Their heads were the only parts of them that weren't black. Instead, there had huge, oval white faces that looked completely smooth, save for the 'Yama' character, though these were crimson red and seemed like they were dripping with blood. They looked like they were crying tears of blood.

Lifebound beasts like these, much like nimbus emperors and starbeasts, were unique ones that didn't quite fall under the category of animals. They had weird forms, and some looked like demons that had crawled out of hell. Though they almost seemed like totems in that regard, they had corporeal bodies that gave an impression of a ghost that haunts rivers and lakes.

"How terrifying...." All of Meow Meow's hair stood up when faced with the five lifebound beasts. It didn't even feel that way against Ye Chen's Desolate Chaos Progenibeasts, and the main reason for that was the robes those lifebound beasts wore. As they flapped in the air, it made them look incredibly ghostly in nature. And even though they didn't have a face, Meow Meow felt like they were looking at it. Those in the Mysterium Cluster acknowledged these to be among the most terrifying lifebound beasts in the universe, the faceless beasts, rakshasas.

Faceless beasts were their general designation, while rakshasa referred to the specific type. It was said that they were born as six-star divine beasts from the get-go, making it much easier for them to evolve into sovereign beasts. Their unconventional physiques also made it hard to guess how they would attack. Even so, Tianming couldn't afford to care about such fine details. He had Xian Xian and Lan Huang emerge to dominate the battlefield as Yanwu Ming was about to finally meet up with Ying.

"Ignore him! Let's go back!" Ying cried.

"Got it." Yanwu Ming looked at Tianming before turning back with his faceless rakshasas. As far as he was concerned, this new dark horse didn't interest him as much as winning did.

"Don't think I'll let you leave." Tianming summoned his godswords and used Myriadword Providence, shooting nearly ten thousand swords toward them.

"Since that's the case, you should go back, Ying. You're faster," Yanwu Ming said.

"Alright." Ying didn't hesitate at all and sped up, turning into a white beam that shot toward the location of their astralis.

"Meow Meow, Ying Huo!" Tianming knew that was how it was going to turn out. "Don't let them stop Yin Chen!"

Before Tianming even gave the order, Meow Meow turned into a bolt of black lightning and shot toward Ying. It undid its Regal Chaosfiend transformation and got even faster after shrinking. Ying Huo turned into a chick and grabbed onto Meow Meow's tail, hitching a ride.

"This is fucking fast!" Ying Huo was being wildly flung around from behind the small cat much like a kite.

"Sit tight, my chicken!" Meow Meow had only just run into someone who could match it in speed for the first time. Even without Tianming's instruction, it was already ready to take up the challenge. The two of them launched abilities nonstop as they zipped across space. Though they were in their smaller forms, their abilities were still powerful. The two of them had fought together for so long that they instinctively knew how to synergize their attacks best.

"Is there an end to this?!" Ying was being blasted all over before she could even go far. Annoyed, she stopped and turned back, her smooth face glinting with killing intent.

"Oh no, that hag's angry! Cat Bro, help me evade!" Ying Huo cried in the face of the strong wind.

Being called a hag made Ying even angrier. There was no chance she would keep running without at least venting now. As Tianming wasn't with them, she knew that she would definitely be slowed down if she let the two beasts constantly harass her. "I'd better just get rid of those two so that I can make it back faster!" She turned around, wielding her sword and slashing it toward the two of them.

"Fuck! The ugly bitch is really angry!" Ying Huo chirped, loosening its grip and splitting up from Meow Meow. Powerful sword ki came surging over where it used to be.

"Ugly?!" That was a taboo word among the mysterians. Anyone who described them as ugly would suffer familial execution as punishment. Even Ying Huo wouldn't know that this little comment had absolutely inflamed the audience of the Mysterium Cluster, though it wasn't surprising given how brash and clueless it was about these proud races.

"Yanwu Ming!" Ying cried.

"Alright, I'm coming." He seemed to be quite a calm person.

Ying was quite troubled by the beasts, and it wasn't surprising that she would want to get rid of them first. However, Yanwu Ming couldn't afford the risk, so he sent three of his faceless rakshasas back first.

Tianming, Lan Huang and Xian Xian immediately gave chase, but the other two rakshasas blocked their way, suddenly unleashing a powerful black storm that slammed against Tianming's totems and beasts, flinging them away. That single moment allowed the three rakshasas to vanish as they rapidly flew back toward their astralis.

"Looks like stopping them all is unrealistic. Guess it's a gamble either way!" Tianming immediately got back up. While the three beasts had escaped, he had to at least ensure that Yanwu Ming and Ying were held back here! This would no doubt be the most critical moment, and Yin Chen was their best hope.

"Letting his lifebound beasts return is better than letting Ying go back. She's much faster, after all."

He was already pushing himself to the maximum. Right as the three of them were getting back up, Yanwu Ming and his two remaining beasts came charging. He seemed quite confident in his rakshasas and Ying, so he didn't plan to return any longer.

"Yanwu Ming, do a face reveal! We can't afford to delay!" Ying cried, her rage making her impatient.

"Alright." Even after all that, Yanwu Ming remained calm. The word on his face began morphing, and Ying's face also changed. When Tianming had fought against Xiao, he didn't notice it too much, but it was clear that a face reveal was a last resort for mysterians. When he asked Bai Feng about it, he was shocked by what he heard.

Face reveal was an innate talent of mysterians and it had two main effects. The first was that it could greatly increase the speed, attack, defense, and explosiveness of the user. Additionally, it could also bring their body to a half-deathless state. They could freely regenerate, even restoring severed limbs and surviving decapitation, making it even more effective than Tianming's Greenspark Tower. The only way to get rid of them was completely grinding their body to shreds, and that was the real reason the face reveal was used.

As Tianming had defeated Xiao with a single strike, his deathless state hadn't managed to manifest. In other words, it was as if all mysterians had a better version of the Greenspark Tower. Naturally, they could only use their face reveal for a limited time, and only under certain conditions. This innate skill of theirs earned the mysterians another name: the Undying Ones, which sounded far more impressive than faceless humans or faceless specters. It was also thanks to their face reveal ability that they managed to reign supreme over the three deific-class worlds in the Mysterium Cluster.

Ying's face reveal showed how incredible it was. When Tianming's face appeared on her smooth, featureless face, the stump where her arm used to be immediately grew back into a full arm that looked as good as new. Her body shook as she glowed with a bright white light, a sign that her abilities had been boosted. Now, the beautiful jade woman with an impressive figure sported Tianming's face. She was still bald, and wore an expression Tianming seldom wore. It was as if he was looking at a twisted version of himself. "The Undying Ones... mysterians truly are amazing."

Regenerating a severed arm was proof of that. Yanwu Ming's face reveal was even faster as the character on his face morphed into Tianming's features. He looked more like Tianming with his masculine facial structure, but what made it even more eerie were his lifebound beasts. The two remaining faceless rakshasas manifested his face, but in gigantic proportions. Their bestial expressions severely contorted his looks, though.

"Say, can you change into someone else? If even your lifebound beasts take on my face, it won't be fun," Tianming said, trying to draw out the battle.

"This shows that I want to kill you. Only the faces of dead people appear on our faces," Yanwu Ming said. The aura of mysterians could be felt from him.

"If we weren't in the wondersky realm, I'd be terrified of your words." Tianming shrugged. "In the last round, that Xiao fellow also used my face, only to be cut in half by me."

Yanwu Ming furrowed his brow and turned back to Ying. "Is he the one who got in Xiao's way?"

"Yes."

"Do it."

"Alright!"

They didn't let Tianming buy any more time. Ying went straight for Ying Huo and Meow Meow so she could return faster. Instantly, the two of them were in critical danger. Before Ying had used face reveal, she alone could already fight Tianming and his four beasts and nine totems!

Abilities of white light, lightning, and flames blasted all over the place. Ying Huo and Meow Meow's only advantage was their smaller sizes that allowed them to evade and last for a while. If Lan Huang were there, it would be killed in an instant!

Though they were in danger, Tianming couldn't pay them any heed. Yanwu Ming was trying to kill him with his rakshasas; there was no choice for Tianming but to resist. Xian Xian's black roots dug into the ground, stabilizing itself as it used all the abilities of its five flowers. However, Lan Huang was the only one left to defend it.

The two rakshasas with Tianming's face immediately turned into loud, black storms, within which black flames could be seen. It was their ability, Rakshasa Fiendsun. The move was similar to Solar Explosion, but even more powerful, and two beasts were using it at the same time. Even after Lan Huang had evaded it by rolling away with its Primordial Wheel, the aftershock still sent it flying and left a bloody hole in its body. That only went to show how silly the simulation of the wondersky realm was. It could record the mysterians' undying tenacity, yet Lan Huang couldn't rely on the Greenspark Tower in here, the biggest trump card it had.

"A nonabane?" Yanwu Ming's reaction wasn't that huge as he continued bearing down on Tianming with his beasts. "If you have a chance to go to deific-class worlds of totemancers, you'll learn that the number of your bane-rings isn't everything. A heliacal-class world without a history or legacy can only give you pitifully limited resources. Residing there will only give you an inflated sense of pride, keeping you blind to the real vastness of the universe beyond it."

Yanwu Ming had already struck a number of times as he spoke. He deployed his sacrosun in the center of his two beasts, creating countless black stars. They were all made of solidified astralforce that could be tapped into by the beastmaster and his beasts.

Eerie squawks of crows filled the battlefield as the stars turned into a crow-like form, then flew in a huge wave around Yanwu Ming and his rakshasas, giving him an air of majesty. A huge sword wheel manifested in front of him, a wheel with eight swords linked together that looked like a bagua diagram. It was called the Wheel of the Lifeless and wasn't one bit inferior to the Skycloud Soul.

The Wheel of the Lifeless began rapidly spinning as it flew around Tianming, circling him with the other two beasts. There was a difference of five levels between them, on top of the fact that the two rakshasas were also sovereign beasts, so Lan Huang and Xian Xian were heavily suppressed. Thankfully, Tianming had his totems to even the odds. He flanked Lan Huang with the Eastdivinity Acme and Westvoid Progenifiend and defended Xian Xian with the Northapex Perpetuity and Southsky Chaospit.

"Kill them!" Yanwu Ming ordered as he joined his beasts in the attack. Countless black crow suns descended at the same time. He was among the top three geniuses of his deific-class world. When Tianming beheld his power, he came to the epiphany that there were geniuses beyond geniuses. It was hard for him to even get his second manna imperius, yet it was something Yanwu Ming could easily obtain.

The storms of blackness surrounding Lan Huang and Xian Xian wailed like possessive banshees. The rakshasas' strength stemmed from their formlessness. They roared with Tianming's features on their faces, causing them to crack open in a ghastly manner. Tianming had never known that his face could make such an expression. Countless dark claws stretched out of the black robes, around a hundred of them, piercing into Lan Huang's body and slashing at Xian Xian's branches. It was quite a gory battle. Even though they weren't fighting in real life, Tianming couldn't help but feel bad for his beasts. The enemy was much stronger than him, and had a rather easy time hurting Lan Huang and Xian Xian. While Xian Xian's broken branches weren't a big deal, Lan Huang was losing huge chunks of flesh. The simulation of the wondersky realm was real enough for it to look like it hurt.

"As expected, these are just wildbeasts bound by blood pacts, right? They're so useless, like they have no leader," Yanwu Ming said, smiling as he struck with his sword-wheel. He used Soaring Hell, causing the grade-eight divine artifact to descend upon Tianming like a bladed cage.

The Wheel of the Lifeless clashed with Tianming's other five totem swords, its sword ki grinding away at the trees around them. Yanwu Ming himself was quite powerful, despite being a beastmaster. Given his power, he could even take on sixth-level solarian seniors in the real world, which was why Tianming was having such a hard time. Both he and Ying were incredibly talented people from deific-class worlds.

"If only I were one or two levels stronger!" This battle was causing Tianming to desire strength even more.

Chapter 1659 - Shattered Era, Cosmic Swordsurge

In terms of strength, being able to take on two opponents alone was enough to cause a sensation in the three deific-class worlds. Almost no one wanted to believe that Tianming, a man capable of slaughtering two absolute geniuses, was from a remote heliacal-class world. In fact, it was amazing that he had lasted up to now. But since he was reaching his limit, he knew there would come a time when he couldn't hold on any longer. As the single strongest fighting unit, Ying would be a failure if she couldn't even defeat two of Tianming's lifebound beasts. Her greatest feat was defeating an elder at the sixth-level Solar stage.

"Fuck! Cat Bro!" Ying Huo shouted.

When Tianming looked over, Ying's Skycloud Soul had caught up to Meow Meow. She raised her sword and split Meow Meow into two.

"Meow!" The two halves of its corpse broke apart and blood splattered everywhere. If this were the real world, Meow Meow would be dead.

"Meow Meow!" Tianming's heart skipped a beat.

"Who asked you to come after me!" Pleased with herself, Ying glared at Tianming with his own face and chased after Ying Huo.

"Ugly old hag!" Ying Huo was covered in wounds, both of its wings severed by Ying so it could no longer fly.

"You dare run your mouth?!" Moving so quickly she was invisible, Ying soon caught up to Ying Huo and thrust out her sword. Despite Ying Huo expanding its body into a thousand meter large phoenix, it failed

to dodge her attack. The moment the phoenix's head was cut off, its body went limp. Thus, Ying Huo and Meow Meow had perished in battle. Even if it wasn't real, the terrifying scene became Tianming's nightmare. However, it was only beginning!

Eyes smoldering, Ying set her gaze on Tianming after slaughtering two of his lifebound beasts. Instead of returning to the astralis, she shot toward Tianming, saying to Yanwu Ming at the same time, "I've figured it out. Three of them are dead and Bai Feng remains at their astralis. Li Tianming's lifebound beast might be the one that attacked ours. As long as we kill him, his lifebound beasts will be gone."

That was the rule of the Astralium Battlefield. Once Tianming died in battle, all his lifebound beasts would instantly be eliminated.

"You're right, but I don't want you interfering with me," Yanwu Ming said.

"You're wasting time! Will you bear the responsibility if our astralis is destroyed? Besides, you'll lose if you fight him yourself!" Ying coldly said. She obviously felt that it was a humiliation to have her arm removed by Tianming.

Yanwu Ming laughed. Though he was non-committal, Yanwu Ming didn't prevent Ying from joining him in battle. With Ying's impending attack, it was truly a one versus two battle, and Tianming was beginning to collapse.

"Distract him!" Ying sternly shouted. Amidst the fluttering cherry blossoms in the sky, she descended, the Skycloud Soul in her hand expanding to a kilometer in length.

Lan Huang was in the middle of fighting a faceless rakshasa. Just as it was gaining momentum, Ying's sword struck. The power of the grade-eight divine artifact pierced its back, nailing Lan Huang to the ground and causing its blood to pour out like a river. Although Lan Huang might still survive such an injury in the real world, the wondersky realm deemed it dead. Lan Huang's body broke apart and dissipated.

"Damn woman! How dare you barge in on my fight—" Lan Huang's thunderous roar resounded before abruptly disappearing.

Smoldering with anger, Ying zeroed in on Xian Xian. After slaughtering Xian Xian, the lifebound beasts that had previously crushed her would all be wiped out.

"Why let it come to this? You could've died with your dignity intact. I even invited you to cultivate on Skyway Tristar. Why couldn't you restrain yourself? Look at what a sorry sight you've become!" Ying glared fiercely at Tianming.

Relying on his totems, Tianming had gained an advantage against Yanwu Ming, only to turn around and witness Ying slaying Lan Huang. Seething with rage, he taunted, "Do you want me to cut you some slack so you can enter the Astralium Seeking with your dignity?"

"You!" Ying was enraged.

"Cut the crap, Ying! All this talk is meaningless. Just kill him." Yanwu Ming got up from the ground. The three bloody holes in his chest that had been left by Tianming's Frozen Glasstree were healing at a speed visible to the naked eye. However, his expression was hideous. Despite using face reveal, he had

failed to block Tianming's attack, which meant there was a high possibility of defeat had they fought alone, and he wasn't the only one who realized the fact; the spectators in the Mysterium Cluster knew it as well. In a one-on-one duel, neither Ying nor Yanwu Ming could triumph over Tianming. Unfortunately, the reality was that Tianming must face two opponents, thus his defeat was certain.

"Bring it on!"

At the very last moment, Ying reduced the Radix World Tree into smithereens with just a slash of her sword while the two faceless rakshasas tore apart Xian Xian's flowers. Tianming's final lifebound beast on the scene had perished in battle.

"Little Li..." Xian Xian's spiritform disappeared before his eyes, its expression most heart-wrenching.

Ying and Yanwu Ming surrounded Tianming, one on the left and the other on the right. Two faceless rakshasas swept across the sky like a black storm. With only his totems left, there was no possibility of him escaping their encirclement.

"That's enough!" Watching his beasts being slaughtered caused a wave of sadness that Tianming couldn't fight, despite telling himself ten thousand times that it was all fake. His opponents' attitude stimulated him even more.

"Enough? Are you throwing a tantrum? It's your turn!"

Yanwu Ming was equally furious. The Wheel of the Lifeless and faceless rakshasas shot toward Tianming. At the same time, a gloomy-faced Ying charged in for the kill, demonstrating the Cherry Blossom Disaster once more. A siege by two top geniuses proved thrilling. There was almost no chance of Tianming winning, but the man facing this desperate situation grit his teeth, his eyes fiercer than anyone could imagine. The image of his lifebound beasts' deaths constantly replayed before his eyes. In the fight against these terrifying opponents, the emotions in his heart built up like a volcano, waiting to erupt.

"They're already gone, so why should I care about losing my totems?"

Since his lifebound beasts had been slaughtered, the destruction of his totems meant nothing! As Yanwu Ming and Ying attempted to slay him with one blow, Tianming released a mighty roar, retreating with his head bowed. The nine godswords whizzed past in a nonagonal formation, eight swords in all directions and one sword in the center, exploding in tremendous power—engulfed in flames, the Eastdivinity Acme; entwined with a black inferno, the Westvoid Progenifiend; like the union of yin and yang, the Southsky Chaospit; gloomy and cold, yet covered in blooming flowers, the Northapex Perpetuity; representing heaven and earth, a shining star and a vast plane, the Ordinem and Welkin Imperius; symbolizing life and death, one bursting with life and the other wrapped in death, the Sentient Karma and Postmortem Cycle, and the last one in the center was the Infinium Spatium that possessed the power of space. Nine swords moved as one, rumbling through the air.

Tianming channeled the power from his bane-rings into the totems. The nine godswords burst with a dazzling sword light, the power of fire, ice, heaven, earth, life, and death shooting out in a destructive conflagration. Tianming had never used his second totemic calamity. If his first totemic calamity, Myriadsword Providence, was fragmentation and rebirth, then his second totemic calamity was fusion and destruction. Like the birth of the Myriadsword Providence, his second totemic calamity emerged as

his totems grew. After reaching the Violetglory Star, it had gradually become clearer. However, Tianming was afraid to use it because the price was the destruction of his totems.

This move involved unifying all of his totems, merging ten swords and combining ten powers to cause an explosion. Of course, the explosion of his totems didn't mean complete destruction, but heavy damage; it would take at least a month for his totems to recover. In the real world, he might not be able to use his totems for more than a month, so his second totemic calamity should only be used as a last resort.

Because it was equivalent to his trump card, Tianming was reluctant to reveal it. But now, he had no choice! There was an advantage to fighting on the Astralium Battlefield. It didn't matter if his lifebound beasts perished or his totems were destroyed. As long as he emerged victorious and passed this level, all would be restored in the next battlefield. By revealing his cards, he could no longer catch his opponents off guard in the future, but that also meant he could use the second totemic calamity without paying the price. His goal was to enter the Astralium Seeking and meet the Celestial Beings. At the same time, the death of his lifebound beasts was driving him to destroy his opponents.

In order to get the wondersky realm to scan his second totemic calamity, Tianming risked the destruction of his totems to use the ability while cultivating his divine soul with Mu Ziyun. Its lethality surpassed that of the power accumulated by Ying Huo for fifteen minutes and could damage both soul and flesh.

With his life on the line, Tianming manipulated the nine godswords, his gaze focused on his opponents.

"What I hate more than the pride that's ingrained deep in your bones is that you're the first ones to slaughter them before my eyes. I'm furious, even if it's not real! So let's all die together!"

The Shattered Era, Cosmic Swordsurge was extremely profound. When divided, the Myriadword Providence formed countless smaller swords, but combined, the Shattered Era could pulverize the world.

Chapter 1660 - Change My Mind

Nine godswords suddenly shattered, turning into countless broken blades. Ying and Yanwu Ming frowned at the piercing sound that assaulted their ears. The fragments merged into a giant sword that resembled primal chaos. When Tianming had first laid eyes on the Cosmic Swordsurge, he knew that it might be an ultimate move that would accompany him for a long time. How powerful was an attack that resulted from the explosion of totems? The moment the Shattered Era, Cosmic Swordsurge was unleashed, an enormous sword shot toward the opponents close at hand, tearing everything in its wake! This attack would cause destruction of cataclysmic proportions.

Ying didn't think that Tianming had any chance of fighting them, especially since he had lost all his lifebound beasts. Thus, she bore the brunt of the attack. The Cherry Blossom Disaster formed a giant heading on a collision course with Tianming's totems. Cherry blossoms, swords, and specter physique alike were shattered before Ying's incredulous gaze.

"How can this be!" Eyes wide, Ying was swallowed up on the spot, followed by Yanwu Ming's faceless rakshasa above her, its two black storms torn apart by the surging sword light.

"What?!" His expression instantly changing, Yanwu Ming quickly fled the scene. "That's impossible!" Even if he couldn't believe it, the power of the exploding totems struck him with a force equivalent to the Big Bang. Smashed to the ground by the after-effects of the explosion, Yanwu Ming's body was pierced by the dense sword fragments, his face covered in countless wounds. He let loose an ear-piercing scream as he struggled to climb to his feet. The face belonging to Tianming gradually disappeared, which signified the end of his face reveal. From this point on, his wounds would no longer heal on their own; he had fallen to his most vulnerable state. It was clear the mysterians' strength had a time limit.

"Ying!" Blood poured from his wounds. His eyes, ears, mouth, and nose disappeared, and remaining on his face was the twisted word "Yan". He received no reply. Ying was gone.

"The Astralium Seeking!" The reality of his situation made his heart bleed. His goal was to reach the top ten in the Astralium Seeking, but he had yet to make it through. At that moment, all he felt was red-hot rage. In a two-on-one fight, his opponent had turned the tide with a counterattack while he had become the loser and was forced to serve as a foil, an experience he found completely incomprehensible.

"Hey." Upon hearing the cold voice, Yanwu Ming looked up to see the young man who was wielding a black sword. The anger in his gold and black eyes gradually faded, leaving behind indifference.

"Now do you see? If I were born in a deific-class world, top geniuses like you would be nothing." Tianming thrust his sword into the word "yan". Without his face reveal, Yanwu Ming was no longer invulnerable. One strike from Tianming was enough to kill him.

Yanwu Ming was dead! The entire Astralium Battlefield fell silent in an instant and was shrouded by green mist once more. There were no lifebound beasts or totems, only one man with a black Grand-Orient Sword in hand. Everything else was destroyed, even the other half of his sword. The brutal nature of battle was evident.

Thank goodness for the wondersky realm. If the nine godswords were to explode in the real world, my flesh and will would've suffered as well. Taking a deep breath, he looked around. Without a doubt, the five geniuses of Team Yingming had all perished at his hands.

"The power of Cosmic Swordsurge is terrifying. It can actually kill two geniuses who could each take on sixth-level solarrians by themselves. It's a pity I can no longer keep it as a life-saving move." It would eventually be exposed anyway, so he had no regrets. "At least I avenged the little ones."

Tianming had emerged victorious in the Astralium Battlefield. Just as he was about to head over to where Yin Chen was, rustling sounded from behind him. He turned around and saw Bai Feng blankly staring at him like a fool.

"What's up?"

"You're amazing..." Bai Feng said in a hoarse voice.

Tianming laughed.

"But aren't you afraid of offending the mysterians? Won't you be targeted even if you enter the top ten in the Astralium Seeking?" Bai Feng asked.

"I don't know." Tianming looked up at the sky, as if staring back at those watching him. "This is no small occasion, and with that many people watching, shouldn't fairness be guaranteed? Besides, it was a fair duel. How can it be considered offending the mysterians? If a deific-class world wants me, I'll definitely join them. As the saying goes, there's no concord without discord. Ying and Yanwu Ming won't hate me for this."

His clever words were meant for all to hear. However, Tianming was almost certain that he would have to leave after the Astralium Seeking. An adventure to the deific-class world? He wasn't planning to go, because the danger couldn't be avoided by remaining low-key and modest, hence his decisiveness.

"Let's go enjoy the fruits of our victory, Sister Feng. I told you I'd carry you. I've done that, haven't I?" Tianming smiled.

Bai Feng looked confused.

"Damn it! I didn't like men to begin with, but now I'm starting to change my mind," Bai Feng said with a bitter smile.

On the way to the astralis, Tianming communicated with Yin Chen. "Have you broken through?"

"Calm down... don't panic," Yin Chen said.

"How close are you?"

"Ninety percent... left?"

Tianming almost vomited blood. "Damn it! Thank god I wasn't counting on you!" Half a day had passed and that was all Yin Chen had accomplished? If he hadn't slaughtered Yanwu Ming, the latter's lifebound beasts would have returned in a while.

When he reached Team Yingming's astralis, Tianming easily broke through and green light enveloped them. "Astralium Seeking, here we come."

This time, he didn't have any grand ambitions. By defeating Ying and Yanwu Ming, his goal of obtaining the second manna imperius might have been achieved. All of the Violetglory Star would go crazy for him. Judging by Ying and Yanwu Ming's strength, Tianming knew that he had little chance of winning against the top five mysterians. Although he longed for the grade-nine Grand-Orient Sword, Tianming didn't see any possibility of obtaining it. What lay between them was more than just the disparity in strength, but also in background. After leaving Orderia, Tianming realized he was merely a wanderer in the universe. Without the protection of his parents, there were few who were worthy of his trust.

"I'll give it my best and stop when I have to."