

The Ages 1751

Chapter 1751 - I'm All Too Willing

When Tianming left the wondersky realm, he saw Sovereign Starfeather and the others waiting for an explanation. Many other astralkings and leaders of other clans were also there. The Kilostar Capital was fully ready, and with a single word from Tianming, they would wipe out the unstable astral hole. The patriarchs of the five archclans were also enraged on Tianming's behalf.

"Astralking Tianming, we only need your word and we'll make sure the primalwingers can't escape," the Crimsonmeld Patriarch said.

"Since we started interacting with Primary, they've never been so brash. It's said that the last opening of the Kunlan Realm let out an explosive number of primalwings, considerably strengthening them. But what's the point of being stronger in a collapsing world?" the Violetcloud Patriarch said.

In truth, both large factions of Violetglory had never cared about the primalwingers. With the matter settled, Tianming looked at the various leaders awaiting his word. They weren't just doing this for him. Instead, they couldn't stand being provoked like that. "Sovereign, the matter is quite complicated. I wish to speak to you in private about it. Apologies, everyone. This concerns some rather secretive matters," he earnestly said. Even then, many of them were a little unhappy about it, though they didn't complain given Tianming's current predicament.

The Violetcloud Patriarch said, "Very well. However, we need to hear whether we're to attack Primary."

"We won't," Tianming said. "Oh, fine. Looks like it was just a waste of time."

The other patriarchs looked a little crushed, but that wasn't Tianming's concern. He went into a secret room with the sovereign and said, "My deepest apologies. This is a personal matter, and it's caused such a huge misunderstanding. To simplify things, Ling'er has some deep ties with the Kunlan Realm. The primalwingers weren't at fault for this. Instead, they were controlled by Ling'er and had no intention of antagonizing the imperium."

"What?" The sovereign looked at him with disbelief. How could a single girl control the entire primalwinger race? "Are all the people around you monsters like that?"

Tianming smiled and shook his head, not knowing how to respond.

Sovereign Starfeather fell into deep thought for a while. "Tianming, tell me honestly. Will she be a threat to Violetglory in her current state? Don't underestimate the desire of primalwingers for a stable nova source world. That isn't something you can even fathom."

"For now, there isn't. They don't have that power, either. If there's something I overlooked, I'll take responsibility and ensure that Violetglory doesn't suffer because of it."

"Very well. I trust you." The sovereign patted him on the shoulder.

"Many thanks." For Tianming to be given so much trust made him want to live up to it. Sovereign Starfeather was quite gutsy to be willing to support him.

"So, at the end of the day, this was a lover's spat of sorts?" the sovereign said, laughing.

"In a sense, but it's fine now. We already made up."

"With how weird that girl is, it's like she's made for you. You'd better keep your hands away from all those other lasses or there will be trouble."

"What? I didn't lay my hands on anyone else."

"Don't bother explaining. It'll only be seen as covering up. At your age, you already have countless fans. The girls are all going mad for you. It'd be hard to imagine you completely keeping your hands off them." The sovereign laughed at Tianming struggling to argue back. "It's really impossible to tell. You were clearly fighting at the level of an eighth-level sovereign, yet how did you get the power to face off against the primalwinger overlord?"

"It was a life-saving measure that my seniors have given me. It can only temporarily be used. I would've been killed otherwise," Tianming said. He had no choice but to bluff the sovereign about his Omnisentient Threads, as he still had to count on the sovereign since Feiling was still near Violetglory. He also created an illusion of his illustrious background. At the very least, the bluff would be able to somewhat secure a working relationship between them.

"Impressive." The sovereign shot him a thumbs-up, but he was actually praising the seniors behind the scenes. He seemed to think that Tianming did indeed have an impressive background, but was clearly facing some trouble since he had to roam about in the astralscape. Thus, he decided to invest in the sure-win relationship. His doubts were mostly cleared.

Tianming said, "If Ling'er runs into any trouble, I hope she'll receive help, Sovereign." With her still being in an unstable state, Tianming would only feel relieved enough to leave if the sovereign agreed to help. Even though he could still meet her in Soulburn Hall, there would be nothing he could do being so far away from her.

"Don't worry and leave it to me." The sovereign pointed outside and said, "Look, the primalwinger overlord is here."

Tianming recalled that he was there to deliver the Prime Tower, which Feiling had helped retrieve. It had even been restored with an additional component, making it a grade-nine divine artifact. He looked forward to what new changes that would bring as he left the Kilostar Capital with the sovereign. The primalwinger overlord seemed incredibly polite. He started off by apologizing to the sovereign and took out the long-lost Prime Tower from his spatial ring. From the outside, it didn't look like it had changed. As Tianming would have more than enough time to study it on the way back to Orderia, he put it away for now.

"Since it was all just a misunderstanding, we'll leave it at that," the sovereign said.

"We're truly sorry," the primalwinger overlord said.

"Jiang Feiling will remain in your care. If something happens to her, we'll seek you out for an explanation."

"Understood." The primalwinger overlord didn't argue at all. There was a hint of blue light coming from his eyes, making him look like a loyal servant. His trip was also not for naught; the astralkings and patriarchs had also seen his heartfelt apology and were willing to let things go.

"Return!" The Kilostar Capital returned to its original spot as the sovereign piloted it. Tianming unwillingly watched as Primary slowly shrunk from view.

"Even though that world is destined for doom, it's still a radiant flower in its final days." Like fireworks, it would beautifully bloom before eventually fading away. It reminded him of what Feiling had said.

"Perhaps there was truth in her words."

Would yearning really be the cure for what ailed them? He already missed her right after leaving her. Before returning to Orderia, he would still have to go back to Violetglory. Lingfeng and the others were still there, and he had to reclaim the Yin Chens he had left behind. Orderia wasn't Violetglory, after all. In Violetglory, he could fight without worrying about dying, but he would be risking his life in Orderia. There was only one chance for him.

The Kilostar Capital finally landed. Tianming returned to Violetpeak and explained what had happened to Qingyu and the rest. Yin Chen had already told them about it as it unfolded, but the explanation lacked detail. After hearing the full story, they were quite perturbed.

"Did Ling'er really say that?" Qingyu asked.

"Yes."

"Big Brother, did you do something bad to anger her?"

"Nonsense. I'm not that kind of person."

"It's hard to say...."

Tianming decided to let her comb over the fine details. After some thought, she said, "Based on what I know about her, she's worried that she almost got you killed and feels really bad about it."

Tianming didn't know whether this parting would be good for them.

Xiaoxiao also gave it some thought. "Why don't I go there and accompany her? I don't think I'll be able to help at Orderia anyway. If I'm at Primary, however, I can give you frequent reports about her even if she doesn't enter the wondersky realm."

"Oh?" That hadn't occurred to Tianming. Qingyu, Lingfeng, and he all wanted to go back for Li Wudi, but Xiaoxiao didn't have anything to do with him. Not to mention, there wasn't much she could do to help with the sun emperor's matter either.

"Xiaoxiao, are you sure?" Tianming asked.

"Yeah. It's pretty good here, and I'll be able to help lighten your worries a little."

Tianming felt much better with Xiaoxiao looking after things. She had also known Feiling since their days in Ignispolis, after all. What Tianming didn't know was that the Archaionfiend was already cursing at her from within.

"Are you an idiot? They're finally drifting apart, so here's your chance! Why're you staying back? To serve the madam? Sheesh, you really piss me off! Of all the people you choose to remain with, you

chose her!" The one the Archaionfiend feared the most was Feiling. It was only obedient because of the Bloodrose Curse, its eternal nightmare.

"I want to do this," she said. "Why?" asked the Archaionfiend.

"No reason. I just want to help to lighten his worries."

"You're already poisoned. Sick and poisoned.... I hope the sickness kills you quickly."

"I'm all too willing." Those words almost killed the Archaionfiend outright.

It heaved a long, exasperated sigh. "Fine, stay here if you want. Perhaps we can find a chance to consume the caeli in Imperius Ruins. Once our power grows, not even sovereigns will be our match. Without Li Tianming here to stop us, we'll rise like never before!"

Xiaoxiao ignored the beast, knowing full well what it wanted. She was increasingly firm in her convictions and wouldn't be affected by the temptation of the Archaionfiend. All it could do was throw a tantrum.

Chapter 1752 - The Tower's Mystery

As Tianming was still in Violetglory, he could get Yin Chen to ask Feiling whether she was okay with that arrangement. She quickly replied with an affirmative, perhaps a sign of the conflict in her heart. The ruler of Perpetia was a lonely figure, but Feiling herself wasn't used to solitude. The fact that she agreed showed that her memories in the past twenty years still held the initiative.

"Leave it to me," Xiaoxiao said.

"Thanks, Xiaoxiao," Tianming earnestly said.

"You're welcome." As the only person by Tianming's side who had an Omniscient Thread, Tianming felt quite weird about Xiaoxiao. While she was someone people often ignored, she was always there for him when he needed her. "You gave me caeli, resources, battle arts, and weapons, after all. I have to pay you back somehow."

Tianming had indeed won a lot of stuff for all of them since coming to Violetglory. "Payback sounds a little too much. We're helping each other. You're someone from home, after all, so helping one another is only natural."

"Yeah."

As they spoke, Tianming summoned all the Yin Chens back. They would be dormant once he returned to Orderia, after all, so there was no point in leaving them behind. He ended up with a total of twenty-five million Yin Chens, its current peak number. Tianming had tested it before and it wouldn't be able to split more, though it could still consume more divine ores. That would allow each of its individual bodies to increase in volume. Around ten million of those twenty-five million silver eggs could split into more than thirty cockroaches or three hundred ants, but more volume meant more combat capability. In his dreams, the bodies of Yin Chen made up a sea of stars, each silver egg as large as Lan Huang, so there was still quite a lot of room for them to grow.

"Once we return to Orderia, there won't be much divine ore for it. It won't be able to keep on growing." He gave it some more thought. "The Xuanyuan Dragon Sect's resources are probably firmly in my hands now that the Veildragon Palace is gone. Their stuff should also be mine. Perhaps the Empyrean Sword Sect will also help out. The only thing I don't know now is the state of the Myriad Solar Sects and Sky Palace...."

He had thrown the wheel of the Divine Sun Palace away. Even now, he didn't know where that dead star he buried it in was. By now, their preparations were complete and the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb wasn't far from Violetglory. Tianming didn't go to the sovereign for another round of farewell, and the Starchasers had been summoned back. The four of them used the chaos of the disbanding Violetcloud Army to sneak into the clouds and leave Violetglory. Once they were past the layer of violet clouds, they looked back at the beautiful star. Tianming felt rather wistful about his experiences there.

"It's thanks to Violetglory and the Violetcloud Imperium—and its people—that I was able to soar so quickly and grow capable enough to return to Orderia. I'll never forget this boon and will definitely return."

In the dark void of space was the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb, glowing a faint yellow like a huge beast of the astral void. As it didn't have a true miniature nova source, it was easier to hide. The four of them boarded it. Tianming wasn't in a rush to activate the Saintdragon Palace. Instead, he took the wheel and piloted it toward Primary. Normal warships would require three months to cover that distance, but the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb was fast enough to reach it sooner. In terms of size, it was even larger than the Kilostar Capital.

Primary glowed brightly, above which a girl stood with an old man quietly behind her. They were none other than Feiling and the primalwinger overlord, respectively.

"I'll be going now," Xiaoxiao said before leaving the ship and flying toward Primary. Tianming looked at Feiling, still in her blue dress. She seemed much quieter and more tranquil than before, being in a much better emotional state, especially after hearing that Xiaoxiao would be there to accompany her. She waved goodbye to the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb.

"Goodbye, Ling'er." Tianming took a deep breath, seeing the two girls side by side and feeling more relaxed. Then the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb began its voyage toward Orderia with the help of the star map, quickly disappearing as its deafening engines surged.

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The Saintdragon Palace finally glowed bright. Now, seven of the nine dragon palaces were activated. Even so, Tianming still knew that there were many more secrets to unlock, including the ship's origins. There was nothing else as grand as the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb in the history of the Myriad Solar Sects. Otherwise, the many sects and Sky Palace wouldn't exist as it did today. Instead, a united faction that rivaled the celestial orderians would be present. Perhaps the origins of the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb were the same as the Ninedragon Tribulation.

"There's two more strikes. If I can master them, perhaps I'll be able to unlock two more functions. One of them must be an offensive system similar to the Kilostar Capital's. Though, it won't matter if I don't have a proper miniature nova source." He was still at a loss as to where to get one. Currently, the

Ninedragon Imperial Tomb was cruising through the astralscape. According to the star map, it would take another two and a half months for it to reach Orderia.

"Violetglory doesn't have many lunar outposts, but the sun does. If I want to prevent the sun emperor from noticing my return, I'll have to stop earlier. I can't pilot it straight to Orderia."

That was a matter for later, however. To Tianming, two months wasn't a short time. But at least he didn't have to keep piloting it as the ship cruised toward its destination. He, Qingyu and Lingfeng cultivated the entire voyage for some last-minute gains.

The ship was quite large, so Tianming and Qingyu's lifebound beasts could freely roam about. The Azurecloud Divine Tree's saplings had grown a little more and took up quite a bit of space, however, much to Lan Huang's disappointment. It couldn't run as freely as it did before. Meow Meow, on the other hand, enjoyed its nap time as much as it could, not waking for a single moment. Ying Huo, on the other hand, kept trying to woo Shuo Yue. The Soulfierd simply remained by its master's side like usual.

After Tianming set a stable course, he took out the Prime Tower and went to the head of the ship. It was the largest of the nine dragon heads. Through its eyes, he could see the beautiful astralscape.

"How grand... the stars are uncountable! The mysterians must be overconfident to believe themselves the center of the universe."

The answer to that was clear. There were more than billions of stars the eye could see. After a moment of awe, Tianming turned his sights to the Prime Tower. "Long time no see, my tower. Let's see how you've changed!"

"Oh no, it's over. Without women, you're desperate enough to try funny things with a tower..." Ying Huo said, rolling its eyes.

"Would you kindly fuck off?"

Tianming stopped bothering with Ying Huo and tightly hugged the tower, closely scrutinizing its patterns and refamiliarizing himself with them. Like the Grand-Orient Sword, the Prime Tower didn't have an artifact soul. Tianming wasn't even sure if it recognized him as its owner. The yellowspring fish in the Gods in had submitted to him like the Lifesteal Silverdragon, but not these two. He closed his eyes and took a deep breath before entering the tower with his caelum.

Chapter 1753 - Prime Wonder

The first level of the Prime Tower was entirely snow white and empty as Tianming had removed the Soul and Purple Towers from it. Even today, they still played pivotal roles. He then ascended to the second level, where the Greenspark Tower used to be. His recent battles, however, hadn't utilized it much. So far, nothing about the Prime Tower looked different except for an additional thing on the second floor: a flight of white stairs. It led up to the third floor.

"The third floor is open?" The Grand-Orient Sword itself had five layers, while the Prime Tower had three floors. When he had obtained a minorsky steele back at the Voidsky Flame Pillar, a new crack had appeared in one of the five heavy doors within the sword, allowing Tianming to see a boundless imperial star.

The third floor of the Prime Tower was just as mysterious. He immediately ascended the stairs and stepped into the seeming void. Light shifted around him until he found himself in a white room once more, though it was smaller than the two floors beneath it. There was a tall, white tower in front of him that looked slightly different from the Prime Tower. The Prime Tower was a three-layered tower, while this was a nine-layered pagoda. It was quite long and slender, like the original Prime Tower, and seemed even more ancient. Every floor had a single window, upon which ancient text could be seen. Tianming didn't know how to read it, but he knew that all nine characters on the floors were formed by dense divine celestial patterns.

"Windows?" Tianming bent down to give them a closer look. Apart from the lowest floor's window that seemed slightly translucent, the other eight were surrounded by white fog. The fog on the first layer seemed slightly less dense. "Huh?"

He saw the silhouette of a person draped in white robes, heavily weighed down by countless chains, with his back facing Tianming. The word 'prime' was written on the back of his robe. Was that a person or a sculpture? Why would he be imprisoned within? The person looked a little like a monk. Tianming then recalled the existence that had told him of the Aeon Grandbane.

"Senior?!" Tianming gasped, as the person within was only as large as his thumb. But given how the nine-layered tower itself was only up to his knees, it wasn't surprising. He paused for thought before picking the tower up to get a closer look at the figure within. Even after calling out a few times, there was no response.

"This probably isn't a real person." Looking at the other sides of the tower, he soon noticed that the word on the first layer seemed blurrier than before. He stretched out his hand and rubbed it a few times and it actually came off. Then the tower began to shake and a window burst open, letting out a white fog. The robed figure within turned into fog and came out, slamming into Tianming and making his world spin.

"Huh?" He was stunned for a moment and he immediately retracted his caelum, letting his vita reassume control of his consciousness. Suddenly, he was back in the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb. He looked around and noticed that the Prime Tower had changed in his hands. It was growing taller, with each floor turning into three separate floors. Eventually, it became a nine-layered tower with open windows on all the floors. Aside from the first floor, the ancient characters on the other eight still seemed intact. The Prime Tower had changed, possibly being restored to its original form.

"Senior, why are you on the second level now?" Tianming looked at it blankly. The first floor was now empty and the fog on the second floor seemed a little less dense than before. The figure still sat there in chains, unmoving, but the angle was different. His back was no longer directly facing Tianming; instead, one of his ears was visible. Tianming tried rubbing off the ancient text on the second floor, but it didn't work. Perhaps the first floor just happened to be unsealed when he had tried it the first time. There didn't seem to be any other changes apart from its appearance. As he mulled in thought, the Prime Tower suddenly melted into a white liquid and entered his body.

"What in the world?" He noticed that his albi had changed. The white liquid seemed to infuse every single one of them. Tianming's Lifesbane Will was also shaped like the Prime Tower, which stabilized his five astral discs, yet this liquid was different as it was a physical object. Every single droplet was a part of

the tower, and when they entered his albi, they served to reinforce them. However, it didn't just seem to be as simple as strengthening his albi. His expression changed as blinding white light poured out of his body. It sounded like a collision of stars. The sight and sound startled everyone on the ship.

This was the largest change to his physical body that Tianming had ever experienced. Even absorbing sword ki was merely an act of storing it in his albi, but this time, the Prime Tower changed every single one of them. Even though it wasn't visible to the naked eye, he knew that every albus in his body was being reforged into the shape of a nine-layered tower. Eventually, his body was a composite structure made up of countless towers. He looked the same on the outside, but in reality he couldn't be more different. Countless divine celestial patterns appeared on every single tower-albus. Tianming knew that the patterns had come from the character he had rubbed off. They didn't vanish, but had instead appeared all over him. In other words, unlocking a layer of the tower would cause the ancient text to spread in the form of patterns. They didn't seem to do much individually, but all the albi combined gave Tianming a shocking revelation.

"Is this... a divine wonder?" It was a formation crafted in human flesh! He didn't have that kind of talent at all, yet the Prime Tower had changed his albi, giving them divine celestial patterns that combined into a formation in his person. Even though it was only a basic one, for now, there were still eight layers of the tower, each of them sealed by an ancient character made up of complex patterns.

"It looks like divine wonders aren't exclusive to divine wonderians, but are available to anyone with a high competency in formations.... To think that one would manifest from fusing with the Prime Tower...."

From that day onward, the Prime Tower itself had disintegrated and taken the form of a formation in his body. Tianming now had another trick up his sleeve. Unlike the Imperealm Sword Formation, which had the Grand-Orient Sword as its base, this divine wonder was embedded in his body. The Imperealm Sword Formation itself was relatively weak, as the Grand-Orient Sword was incomplete, but the formation made up of countless albi was sure to be powerful.

"Start!" He could control the formation as he willed. It began gathering the nova source from all around him and forming a field. Blinding white light shone all around him and turned into an illusory representation of the Prime Tower.

"Looks like the divine wonder can increase my defense by quite a lot. It's a portable defensive formation. I wonder if it can do much more?"

When he thought it, a kilometer-tall manifestation of the Prime Tower appeared just like Weisheng Xi's chess pieces had. They were manifestations of a formation's power, but behaved like physical objects with actual mass. Tianming could move it however he pleased. "This must be far heavier than the chess soul wonder, huh...."

He lightly moved it, placing it on the ground, but that alone caused the ship to shake and lose control. "It's like I'm carrying an entire mountain with me, and this is only the first level! No doubt, it can grow even more powerful. Even now, it's already better than Weisheng Xi's divine wonder. This will surely prove useful. Let's call you my prime wonder, then." Now he had attainments in beastmastery, totemancy, and divine wondermancy.

He wondered if his body could serve as a divine astralship now that he had a divine wonder. He knew how crazy the real sizes of the Prime Tower and the Grand-Orient Sword were, and that this divine wonder was only in its infancy. "Perhaps one day my body can be as fast as the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb and as powerful as the Kilostar Capital." So far, the Prime Tower hadn't been nearly as useful as the Grand-Orient Sword, but this miracle seemed to completely change Tianming.

Chapter 1754 - Secret of the Azurespirit

As a formation in the body, prime wonders were independent from lifebound beasts and totems. They were a third type of cultivation, separate from the previous two categories. Tianming's current fighting style involved his own body as the base, while his lifebound beasts, totems, and divine wonder would surround him. In terms of raw power, his lifebound beasts were the best and his divine wonder was the weakest. As for the Gods in, cyclic sacrosun, and pandemonium sacrosun, all of those counted as his main body's.

All in all, Tianming had the richest arsenal of all the people he knew. After he got his divine wonder, he spent some time familiarizing himself with it and discovered its uses. So far, it had two effects: the first was that it could turn into a shield in the form of the Prime Tower. As long as he was within range, he could use Prime Tower Shield on anyone he wanted, including himself and his beasts. Any attacks that entered the divine wonder formation would be dampened.

The other function was that it could absorb large amounts of nova source and manifest as a physical Prime Tower of immense weight, so Tianming named that use the Prime Mountain. It basically worked like Weisheng Xi's chess soul wonder. On the battlefield, the Prime Mountain would definitely pack quite the punch. Being a formation, it wouldn't break unless it ran out of nova source. In that sense, it was far tougher than totems.

"This way, I'll be more than powerful enough even without my totems or lifebound beasts." He would be just like Weisheng Xi. He didn't think that the Prime Tower would have such an unimaginable use. His understanding of divine celestial patterns was a far cry from that of the divine wonderians, so the best he could do was use them. Eventually, he put it into practice with his beasts and totems to great effect.

"Currently, only Ying Huo and Meow Meow are sovereign beasts, while the others are still seven-star divine beasts. It's a shame that Violetglory ran out of manna imperius."

He looked at Orderia on the star map. Being the territory of the celestial orderians, most of the manna imperius that appeared there fell into their hands. However, as they weren't able to use them, they would give them to the Veildragon Palace instead. In other words, the sun emperor might have some manna imperius in store. "Man, they're really hard to get."

Perhaps one of the three deific-class worlds in the Mysterium Cluster would have them, but the chances of obtaining one were low nonetheless.

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As their voyage had just begun, they would still be cruising for quite some time.

"Oh, wait!" He recalled something really important. "The Azurespirit!"

Weisheng Moran had said that it was a locator for the divine wonderians. As far as Tianming was concerned, Orderia was a far more secretive place than Violetglory. Based on what Weisheng Moran had told him, the dreamless celestial emperor wanted to bring the divine wonderians to Orderia, and there was no way that would be a good thing.

"She thought that I would run with the Azurespirit and never return. I bet she didn't expect that I'd come back after a year. Man, this thing is really quite troublesome." He looked at his left eye using the third eye on his palm. His golden left eye radiated a certain majesty, and it contained a little azure fish swimming in the periphery of his iris, seeming rather satisfied.

"Will I have to pluck my eye out?" Losing an eye was quite a significant loss, yet if he couldn't remove it, would he have to bring the Azurespirit back?

"This belongs to the dreamless celestial emperor in the first place. If he's a divine wonderian, then what in the world is this?" He recalled that Weisheng Moran had a lifebound beast, while Weisheng Xi and Weisheng Xii didn't. The relationship between Weisheng Moran and the dreamless celestial emperor also seemed rather odd. He couldn't be sure whether the dreamless celestial half-man-half-woman people were actually divine wonderians.

"Oh, wait, the dreamless celestials are man and woman in one body, but they can't split into two people." Perhaps that was the main difference between them and the divine wonderians.

Tianming looked at the azure fish as it swam about happily without worry. It was almost as if it had a will of its own. "If you don't come out, I'll have to pull my eye out." As expected, it didn't respond to his threat. "Seriously... What is it?" It used to be Weisheng Moran's iris, and it was called the Azurespirit. He kept a close eye on the fish.

"Weisheng Moran said that it would automatically benefit me... What did she mean by that?" He had to deal with this before reaching Orderia, so he paid it his full attention. He tried discerning the mysteries of the fish.

"Huh?" He suddenly thought of a way thanks to the Prime Tower. "It looks like an aggregate of divine celestial patterns, almost like the Cyclic Formation from back then." Perhaps it was a kind of formation core? As the Prime Tower had made his own body a formation, he got a new idea.

"I wonder if you're a formation embryo of sorts...." The divine wonder formation was the most important thing to divine wonderians, and the Azurespirit also seemed quite important to the dreamless celestial emperor, given how worried he was that Tianming would destroy it. Perhaps it was something that could grow, a kind of premature formation that was supposed to be implanted into a body.

Tianming had heard of something like that before at the Astraldome. The formations in the bodies of divine wonderians started off as divine wonder embryos, which would slowly evolve as they were improved upon. The embryos were something their seniors had prepared for them before being implanted in their bodies. After the initial direction was set, the youths could add their own understanding into their formations, slowly inscribing divine celestial patterns on their albi to turn the embryo into a full-fledged divine wonder.

"If I suppose that the dreamless celestials are a distant offshoot of divine wonderians with only a part of their blood, then it isn't out of the question for the dreamless celestial emperor to have a divine wonder

embryo. However, he probably lacks the proper methods to develop it, or maybe he's using Weisheng Moran's body to nurture this divine wonder embryo...."

At the end of the day, it was just empty speculation without any evidence. "I'll just assume you're a divine wonder embryo, then. You've been in my body for so long, so it's about time you grew into a little divine wonder too, right?" He tried gathering nova source around the Azure Spirit. All formations needed nova source to run. At the same time, he used his left index finger to give the Azure Spirit a light tap. It didn't avoid him and Tianming's finger slightly pierced into his sclera, causing blood to seep into the Azure Spirit. Then it suddenly began rapidly swimming around his eyeball. Tianming saw his blood infusing into the fish's body, causing the divine celestial patterns within it to change.

It suddenly split into two, then four, then eight, and beyond! It didn't take long for countless fish to split and enter Tianming's albi. Once more, he experienced how 'wondrous' these divine wonders could be. The little fish split into countless more fish that were smaller than his albi, but there were enough of them to infuse into every single one of his albi! Something similar to the birth of prime wonder had occurred. Though it wasn't nearly as grand, it was already impressive enough for the Azure Spirit to enter each of his albi.

"So after a divine wonder embryo is activated, it starts to divide and infuse itself into one's albi to form a divine wonder formation!"

Chapter 1755 - Carefree Divine Wonder

Cultivators make divine celestial patterns out of divine ordered patterns. A combination of divine celestial patterns could make miracles like the strongest of fusion or astralguard formations, allowing them to harness the energies of the universe. With that as a foundation, divine wonderians created wondersky realms, as well as divine wonder embryos for their next generation. While they couldn't be compared to fusion formations, they were still miracles in their own right. Tianming was filled with respect for them in that regard.

By now, he was mostly certain that the Azure Spirit was a divine wonder embryo. It had split up into fish smaller than his own albi and infused itself into them, giving him a second divine wonder. The fish weren't able to change the shape of his albi like the Prime Tower did; instead, they behaved like normal divine wonders, turning into a marking made up of divine celestial patterns that were imprinted upon the albi. They looked like the little azure fish from before. When the billions of patterns across his albi fused together, the divine wonder was formed.

"I wonder what it can do...." He didn't feel any explosive changes, unlike the time he had fused with the Prime Tower. Instead, the power from the Azure Spirit was clean and pure, making him feel quite worry free and relaxed.

"What's this sensation?" He took out Godsins and took a bit of the toxin out to put into his body. It began corroding his flesh, but right after that, countless fish swam out of his albi to consume the divine hazard before spitting it out of his body. The Galactic Godsins had been chased out of his body. He tried other divine hazard sword ki only to have the same result.

"I guess the function of this divine wonder is that it expels any negative forces from my body. It isn't like healing, but detoxification. Looks like it works well against divine hazards like Galactic Godsins."

It was similar to the Greenspark Tower, but for a different aspect. The Greenspark Tower had already fused into his body and basically functioned similarly to a divine wonder. The combined effect of the Greenspark Tower, Purple Tower, and a now real divine wonder layered upon each other.

"You're quite useful. I guess I'll call you the carefree wonder."

It was quite interesting that his body was filled with little fish. While the carefree wonder didn't have any offensive capability, it was Tianming's second divine wonder and a gift from Weisheng Moran. He was quite happy to have found it. Not to mention, it was only in its beginning stages and could still contain surprises in the future.

"The question is whether the locator function still works after it changed from an embryo into a divine wonder." There was no way for him to tell. "Guess all I can do is to approach Orderia first to awaken the Yin Chens there and communicate with Weisheng Moran for more information. If the locator still works, I'll have to figure something out."

One thing was for sure: there was no way to simply remove the Azurespirit from his body just by plucking out his eye anymore. Once the divine wonder had formed, it would be stuck with him for life. The dreamless celestial emperor's plans for the Azurespirit had been completely dashed. Even so, he got a brand new divine wonder out of it. The prime wonder boosted his offense and defense, while the carefree wonder allowed him to not worry about invasive toxins, making him even more confident. After a day or two of messing with them, he had more or less mastered them.

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Three youths sat at the head of the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb, watching the stars zoom by. While the journey was a relatively lonely one, they could enter the wondersky realm any time they liked, so it didn't feel too different from when they had lived at Violetpeak.

As Tianming had been messing with his divine wonder, he hadn't entered the wondersky realm recently, though Lingfeng and Qingyu often went. According to them, Xiaoxiao had entered twice and everything was normal. Feiling remained at the lake that was the entrance of the Kunlan Realm. A lot of primalwings were assimilated into her three pairs of wings, causing her Sapphire Skywings to constantly change. It sounded like she was working quite hard to merge both her past and present. She had said she wanted to return to Tianming in a much better state than before. The moment she entered Soulburn Hall, Tianming would no doubt rush there.

"The astralscape is truly huge," Lingfeng said, leaning against a pillar. His red eyes radiated respect. Any normal person being thrust into the infinite void would no doubt feel a sense of existential terror. There was little else but eternal silence.

"It's said that cosmic wildbeasts roam the astralscape," Qingyu said.

"Have you seen them?" Lingfeng asked.

"No. How could I have, you dummy?"

"Ahem, please don't flirt in front of me. I can't take it," Tianming said. With Feiling away, he felt quite empty, like he was lacking something. Even back at Taiji Peak Lake, when they were functionally

separated, or when she was inside of Xian Xian's flower, it didn't feel like that. "By the way, Feng, have you entered the sixth level of the Tranquil Battlefield, the Tranquil Hall?"

"I have."

"How was it?"

"They have close to a hundred thousand caeli imperius, far more than the Imperius Ruins in Violetglory. It's like there's no end to it." The Mysterium Cluster had tens of thousands of nova source worlds, most of which had histories stretching back millions of years, so that wasn't too much of a surprise. With enough time and space, countless powerful elites would be born.

"How's the quality?"

"Above average, I would say. They come from rather powerful sovereigns of their time and are a little better than Violetglory's. Violetglory's caeli mostly come from totemancers, and there aren't any specter sovereigns. Most of the totemancers are also from the Pentarchy, so the variety is really limited. Tranquil Hall, on the other hand, contains caeli from all kinds of races across the astralscape. There's a lot of variety and it's a huge help to me."

"That's great. I'll check it out in a bit." That was the whole point of bringing the rest with him to the sixth level. If they never made it there, they wouldn't have caeli to train with after leaving Violetglory. It wasn't that training would necessarily be impossible, but they would be at a disadvantage relative to other cultivators who still had access to them.

"It's good and all, but I can't go," Qingyu complained.

Tianming merely laughed.

"Laughing is all you know how to do. You didn't even bother to take me."

Chapter 1756 - Tranquil Hall

The others had entered the sixth level of the Tranquil battlefield when Qingyu was still at the third level, so she felt quite a bit of pressure. That in turn helped instigate her desire for more power, and the more she did, the more stimulated the blood of the ancients in her body grew.

"We'll wait for you at the sixth level and stop going further up. With how much better the fifth level has been lately, it shouldn't be that hard to catch up," Tianming said.

"I know, I was just joking," Qingyu said. After that, she finally decided to go to the Astralium Seeking.

Tianming also entered the wondersky realm, but before he did, he registered his new gains with the wondersky realm. "Divine wonders are indeed the signature techniques of divine wonderians. Registering them is really convenient." Both the prime and carefree wonders were properly and easily recorded. The formation probably treated Tianming as it would a divine wonderian.

"Done deal!" He now had even more things to use in the wondersky realm. After Weisheng Xi and comma girl left, he was unparalleled among the younger generation. If Violetglory was considered to be under the jurisdiction of the Mysterium Cluster, then Tianming would be number one in the cluster. Many people in the Astraldome did in fact consider Tianming to be worthy of that title.

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Tianming went to Soulburn Hall, but nobody was there. The moment he entered the Astraldome, the wondersky fairy made an announcement.

"What's with all the fanfare? I'm only going to cultivate," Tianming said. Little did he expect that many people wanted to look at him even though he wasn't fighting. He entered the Tranquil Hall, a large, seemingly boundless expanse. Battles were forbidden there and were only carried out quite some ways away from the hall.

"From now on, I'll count on this place for caeli!" It started off way back at the Old Deepstar Path back at the Flameyellow Continent. Now, he had reached Tranquil Hall for caeli imperius from all kinds of worlds, making great strides as he progressed. The two billion Omnisentient Threads seemed to be Violetglory's limit. Unless he proceeded to become its savior, he wouldn't be able to go far beyond that. Now that he no longer had an obstacle to vault past, he had to take his cultivation step by step.

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Over the two-month-long voyage, Tianming only did three things: cultivating at Tranquil Hall, training his swordsmanship in the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb, and waiting for Feiling in Soulburn Hall. His Lifesbane Will continued growing in Tranquil Hall. While the growth couldn't compare to his Imperial Will's, it was more stable and had fewer bottlenecks. After getting the prime wonder, his understanding of the Lifesbane curse seemed to grow. However, he understood that people on his level, like Yanwu Dao, only broke through once every few years. It would be highly unlikely for him to break through after only two months.

"Looks like I'll have to get used to finding a new way to surpass myself and grow my divine wills on my own." He knew that he already had it easy, being much faster than most people when he had started off.

According to the star map, they were getting closer and closer to Orderia. They were about a star's distance away from there, meaning that they would be able to reach the outposts in around five days. He recalled the sun emperor, countless celestial orderians, dead Li Wushuang, and the stubborn Li Wudi. All those memories made his expression turn grave.

"I bet they won't expect me to return so soon." He had been desperately on the run just a year back, but now he was returning, not wanting to shock and awe, but to look for an opportunity to save his godfather and perhaps learn the truth about the 'experiments' he spoke of. His heartbeat intensified more and more.

"Tianming, where's Qingyu?" Lingfeng asked, feeling a little worried. He hadn't seen her nearby. Tianming, on the other hand, knew everything about the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb thanks to Yin Chen.

"She's at the Silverdragon Palace." That was the palace at the upper left head of the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb. Usually, Qingyu didn't go there. Perhaps she only did so now because some issue had popped up regarding her bane-rings. Tianming exchanged glances with Lingfeng before the two of them headed there to seek her out. Eventually, they saw a white-robed girl huddled in a corner with her back facing them.

"What's wrong?" the two of them asked.

"Don't... don't come here," she said in a hoarse voice.

"Qingyu, don't panic," Tianming said. But Lingfeng had gone to her already.

"Don't look at me, please...." Though she tried to block her face with her hands, Tianming already saw the centipede-shaped scar on it. It wasn't huge, but it stood out. Her hoarse voice also made her sound possessed.

"Big Brother, take Feng away," she begged, lowering her head.

"We won't leave." They had been expecting this, so they were mentally prepared. Hiding her away wasn't the solution.

Tianming pulled Lingfeng along with him as they approached her. He said with a firm voice, "It's fine. Look up and let me see."

Qingyu still struggled to hide it.

"There's some problems we must face head-on to have a chance of solving," he emphasized.

"Qingyu, don't worry. Brother Tianming and I will think of a way to fix this. Please don't give up," Lingfeng gently said despite his anxiety.

"Okay...." She wasn't a weak person, just startled by the sudden changes. Slowly, she looked up at the two of them. "I... why am I so unlucky for this to have happened to me?"

"It's a little unfortunate," Tianming said. The fate of Li Wushuang wasn't something any girl would want to go through. No matter how much power one gained, it wasn't worth it if they ended up looking as ugly as a corpse. It was clear from Qingyu's face that the blood of the ancients was starting to show its effects.

"I just came back from the wondersky realm and wanted to tell you some good news, but this sudden change scared me." She still tried to avoid their gaze.

"What good news?" Tianming asked.

Qingyu glared at him and said, "Sigh, what kind of big brother are you? Is that all you care about even though my face is like this?"

"Calm down. I'm only trying to divert your attention to something else, you know."

Qingyu grit her teeth and said, "I'm a second-level solarian."

"That's quick!" Tianming finally understood that he was the slowest one to progress of all of them.

"The problem is that these changes happened right after I broke through. I think it also has something to do with returning to Orderia. The closer we come, the more anxious I feel. And the more I fear it, the more it wants to show itself." She was referring to the wraith within her bane-rings.

Tianming gave her a closer look. Her bane-rings did indeed show some changes, and he knew it would only continue worsening. "If it has something to do with Orderia, I shouldn't have brought you back."

"That won't do! I want to save dad!" she insisted. Li Wudi was among the most important people to her.

Lingfeng grit his teeth. "If Orderia has something to do with this, the sun emperor's probably involved as well. This was his fault to begin with, so he probably has a way to undo it. If we take him down, we might be able to help you recover."

"Feng's right. Only the sun emperor knows anything about the ancient blood. Maybe he has a lead."

Lingfeng didn't panic and instead considered his options. He had matured quite a bit more than before.

"Him...." Qingyu still seemed quite fearful of the sun emperor.

"Don't worry. We've come back to fight him. It isn't like we haven't offended him yet or anything."

"Thanks for giving me hope." Her expression began to stabilize.

"What's there to thank me for? Tough it out. Cowering away like that in the face of trouble doesn't suit you," Tianming said.

"You say all that... but wait until you get a freaking centipede on your face. Not to mention, I don't know how much worse this can get yet," she said, almost on the brink of crying.

"Hey, look at the bright side. No matter how ugly you become, there's still someone who'll cherish you!" Tianming's words caused the other two to blush. He was quite thick skinned. He stood up and patted Lingfeng on the shoulder. "Well, take care of her while I think of something."

"Alright!"

Tianming stopped after taking a few steps. "By the way, we'll be leaving the ship in four and a half days to hide it before going to Flameyellow."

Qingyu's tears began to flow. "Big Brother, can we see grandma?" When Li Wudi was wasting away after being crippled, Qingyu had been raised by her grandmother, Li Jingyu.

"Of course."

She smiled for real this time, as if she had forgotten her worries. Four days passed in a flash. The gigantic ball of fire they were familiar with finally showed up in their vicinity.

Chapter 1757 - Giving Back to the People

They were finally home. After hiding the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb in a dead star that resembled the Ninefold Hell, the three of them took the Soulfliend, which couldn't enter a lifebound space, and headed home. The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb was easy to hide as it didn't use an actual nova source, but rather the saplings of the Azurecloud Divine Tree. Using their astral physiques, they flew straight toward the sun.

While Tianming was a genius that had overcome even the best of the Mysterium Cluster, he'd only really seen two nova source worlds. Compared to the beautiful and elegant Violetglory, the sun was fierce and explosive. Even from far away, they could feel the burning flames wafting over their skin. The flames seemed to intensify those in Tianming's own eyes. He recalled the grand battle of the Myriadragon Mountains where the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect had turned its fate around at the Primodragon Cave,

gaining a huge victory over the celestial orderians. However, Li Wudi was still chained down, something that still bothered Tianming to this day.

"This time around, we'll free him for good!" He knew who they were going up against: the sun emperor that basically controlled the whole of Orderia, Sovereign Wudi. He was unlike the other sovereigns Tianming had encountered.

"Have you awakened?" Tianming asked Yin Chen. They were getting closer and closer to Orderia.

"Will soon." Yin Chen numbered twenty-five million in the lifebound space, and those were bodies that had evolved beforehand, so they were much stronger than those left behind in Orderia. Having remained dormant for an entire year, the Yin Chens that were left behind had entered deep hibernation, so waking them up would take some time. They also weren't aware of anything that had happened in Orderia during that time.

"Help me locate Weisheng Moran first," Tianming instructed. The bodies that were awakening were still calibrating themselves. After an hour, Yin Chen told Tianming that the bodies near Weisheng Moran were gone, so they had lost track of her.

"I see. Keep looking for her and find out what recently happened in Orderia and how everyone is doing. I'll head back to Flameyellow first."

"Will do." Yin Chen was still quite useful as a strategic tool. As the many bodies in Orderia had lost contact for so long, quite a few of them had turned back into normal metal so it would take a few days to fully awaken them.

"The Divine Moon Realm and Flameyellow...." All three of them shared experiences in those places. Beneath Orderia was the lower layer of the astralscape. Soon, they would be able to see the countless mortal realms on the Welkin Plane. They were like flecks of cosmic dust that the Welkin Plane attracted. Eventually, the dust and asteroids would gather over billions of years and form continents, on which life prospered. The lifeforms in the mortal realms were completely insignificant to the other starfaring races of the astralscape, but it was home to Tianming and the rest. Everything about the environment, from the temperature and ambiance to the sights, was gentle yet magnificent.

"The Divine Moon Realm is quite pretty in its own right, too," Qingyu said as she looked at the moon while passing through. When they were still with the Decimo Dao Palace, her relationship with Lingfeng was nothing special. Their feelings only really sprouted for one another in the Divine Moon Realm. Before awakening her nonabane talent, Qingyu had been quite weak. The two of them had relied on each other there.

"I wonder how they're doing...." Tianming thought of Huiye Shi and smiled as they continued their descent. He wanted to return to the Flameyellow Continent far more than he did the Divine Moon Realm.

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Eventually, a man-shaped continent entered their vision. The chaos skyjail was located near the head of the continent. Though it didn't seem that special, compared to the other mortal realms on the plane, a closer inspection revealed that it was more than met the eye; especially the chaos skyjail. It wasn't a

kind of formation. Instead, it was like the world itself had been cut off there. The more powerful someone was, the harder they would be pushed back by that barrier.

"We're coming!" When Tianming descended enough, he felt the Omniscient Threads return to him. His dynasty had returned! The whole continent immediately seemed inflamed. Everyone knew that their emperor had returned. The threads manifested one after another, connecting to his Imperial Will. While the Omniscient Will from the threads was weak, they had reached tens of billions, making him seem like the true ruler of the world. In Violetglory, he would at most be a minor king. Here, billions of cultivators immediately felt his presence.

"The Human Emperor is back!"

"It's Li Tianming!"

Almost everyone turned their heads and looked at the sky. Apart from the sun and the moon, their emperor seemed to be the next brightest thing in the sky. Waves of feelings of agitation washed over Tianming, making him tear up as well. Home was wherever his family was. It wasn't the continent itself, but rather, the people on the continent that walked the same path as him that all seemed to be welcoming him back.

He noticed something else when he was still descending from the skies. It was a kind of feedback! Back then, their Omniscient Will had nourished him, allowing him to crush Sovereign Xi and fight a hundred thousand gods and even stop the fall of the moon. Yet now, Tianming was a god himself, a solarian. His divine will was far greater than before, and when it reconnected with the wills of the people, his cultivation insights seemed to be directly channeled to the saints, samsarans, and even those at Heavenly Will through the threads! It was far more effective than insights gained from caeli. It was a free gift from Tianming and everyone felt their own heavenly wills growing at a staggering rate.

Tianming himself was quite shocked at the revelation. "Just like they helped me, I'm helping them in return!" That was the true essence of Imperial Will. The cultivators that benefited from this exchange suddenly experienced explosive progress. Tianming alone had brought up the average level of Flameyellow's cultivation singlehandedly. Even if that didn't make them gods all of a sudden, it was still significant. Their cultivation would nourish each other as long as the threads were there!

"It seems like our relationship is symbiotic." Unlike the honorary followers of Violetglory, those in the Tianming Dynasty were family. He had far closer ties to them and felt really moved that he was able to give back to them. That was the core of his path of cultivation.

"What Flameyellow lacks is resources. Even though I brought up the upper limit of their cultivation, possibly enabling them to become solarrians or constelliers and giving their heavenly wills a chance to grow, I still can't solve the problem of the lacking spiritual energy." He wanted to strengthen his dynasty if he could. The benefits of tens of billions of believers, however, didn't amount to even half a million Violetglorians right now, but if their cultivation grew, who knew how much more benefit it would bring? They were the most precious of his treasures. Each Omniscient Thread was firmly communing with him. Even though he had left for so long, the threads hadn't decreased in number, but had actually increased instead. The name of the Human Emperor was engraved deep in the hearts of the people.

"Perhaps we can help them migrate to Orderia if possible. That place has more than enough land relative to the population," Ying Huo said.

"It's a good idea, but it'll require the use of the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb. Even then, it'd take months, at the very least. There is no way the celestial orderians would sit by and watch it happen."

Tianming wasn't worried that the Myriad Solar Sects wouldn't accept them, however. The Azurecloud Continent alone had a lot of space. The problem was that the denizens of Flameyellow were still too weak. It wouldn't require more than a casual effort for any Orderian to wipe out his dynasty if they were brought there. Perhaps any migratory effort could only take place after Tianming had as much influence in Orderia as he did in Violetglory.

"We'll take it slow. I'm still young, and as long as I'm alive we'll have more than enough time." His Omniscient Threads could still increase in number. Perhaps, one day, all life on the continent would be connected to him. While it was a beautiful place, Flameyellow was weak and lacking in spiritual energy. But if they could go to the sun for nova source and enjoy being guided by Tianming's Imperial Will, even the weakest members of his dynasty could grow to be on par with 'higher lifeforms'. That was what giving back really looked like.

With how powerful Imperial Will was at the Solar stage, even the short time since Tianming had returned had immediately caused many people who were stuck at the peak of the Samsara stage to break through to the Ascendant stage, forming their astral physiques. With him around, there would be no lack of ascendants. Even though the continent used to have ascendants far back in its history, they had long perished, with one only showing up in the past ten thousand years. But now, even the specters from the Ninefold Hell would no longer be the match of Flameyellow humans.

The prodigal son of Flameyellow had returned to repay his favors. If it weren't for the fact that he had to return to Orderia for a rescue mission, he would be willing to stay and grow with them for the rest of his life.

"Let's keep going!" He felt like the continent had changed a lot in his few short years of absence.

Chapter 1758 - Migration Plan

First, they began construction of a new capital for the Tianming Dynasty at the Specter Mountains. Taiji Peak Lake would be the second imperial core. Tianmingpolis was located at the heart of the human-shaped continent. It fit well, as there were major arterial road networks linking it to all other parts of the continent. Li Caiwei, the former master of the Yinyang Demon Sect, remained there to run things. Xuanyuan Dao, on the other hand, stayed at Taiji Peak Lake to manage the Old Deepstar Path and guide the future generations of imperial citizens.

Apart from them, most of Tianming's friends and family were at Taiji Peak Lake. As for the chaos skyjail, Ye Shaoqing remained to manage the Decimo Dao Nation. Tianming's seniors and friends, such as Master Mu Wan, Bai Zijin, and the other 'high-tier mounts' remained at Taiji Peak Lake. Jiang Qingluan was also among them. Having returned without Feiling, Tianming couldn't quite bring himself to see her.

Most of his interpersonal relationships were rather simple. Jiang Qingluan, for instance, was almost like a lower-level lifeform compared to a god like Tianming. But as far as he saw it, she was the elder sister of his wife, who wouldn't hesitate to beat him up.

Quite a lot of people were waiting for him at Taiji Peak Lake. While the chaos skyjail itself was protected, it was nevertheless not an ideal place to live. As such, Tianming had most of the people he knew move out of it. Xuanyuan Dao naturally helped a lot with accommodating them.

They gathered near Taiji Peak Lake with their breath held. When three beams of light descended from the heavens, they all cheered with the brightest of smiles. That person had changed the entire world as they knew it!

"Wow, what a merry crowd! Is everyone here to welcome me?" Tianming said, feigning a smug look. Everyone could feel the power from his Imperial Will and had been a little nervous. They were worried that he would now be an unapproachable mighty god who didn't laugh or cry. But when they saw him acting like the youth from back then, they relaxed.

"Self-conscious much? I'm here for my Ling'er," said a beautiful girl in green with a look of displeasure. Jiang Qingluan was still as beautiful as before. Thinking back, the whole euphemism about breasts being heavenly pattern barriers had started with her. Now, her 'heavenly pattern barriers' had leveled up even more than before.

"She's doing well. I'll bring her here next time," Tianming said, brushing it off.

"Any babies?" Jiang Qingluan said, glancing at him.

"Well... I'm trying my best," Tianming said.

"Useless! Your cousin Wei Guohao already has three children!"

Facing his ex-rival and god of the continent, Wei Guohao awkwardly scratched his head and smiled. "I didn't think that my procreation skills would match his cultivation skills..."

"Hmph, stop boasting. If it weren't for Jiang Qingluan mentioning you, you wouldn't get any screen time today," Wei Lingxuan said, rolling her eyes.

"I don't want to hear that from you of all people."

There were far too many people Tianming had to catch up with, but the seniors took precedence. He bowed to Wei Tiancang and asked how he was doing. The others, seeing that he wasn't throwing his weight around, truly relaxed and acted as they normally would. It was quite a merry gathering, and Tianming felt like he had really returned home.

"Tianming, have you seen your mother? I miss her a lot." Wei Tiancang seemed to have aged a lot and didn't seem to have long to live. The main reason Tianming returned was to help him and Li Jingyu extend their lifespans, which wouldn't be difficult. With the cultivation resources and caeli he had, they could live a few hundred more years as empyrean saints.

"Once or twice, I guess."

"How is she doing? What about that kid Mu Yang? Is he treating her well?" No matter the true identity of his daughter, Wei Tiancang felt regretful toward her. At the very end, their misgivings had been resolved, and now he only missed her.

"He's treating her fine. Even though they aren't in the best of situations, they should be okay."

"Good.... All is well, I hope." Wei Tiancang shook his head and continued, "Grandpa here is merely a frog in the well. I don't know how you fared up on the sun or whether you've gotten some kind of official position, but one thing I do know more than you is the importance of human connections. Make sure to make some good friends out there and earn people's respect. Always tread on the right path and help those in need. When you have many friends with you, nothing can keep you down." No matter how big the astralscape was, getting along with people would always be important.

Tianming understood much about the principle of helping others, thanks to his Imperial Will, and Wei Tiancang put it even more succinctly. "I will listen to your advice."

"I can tell that you've grown a lot. And even after all that, you still didn't turn your back on your home and know when to show respect to others and life itself. That's the most precious thing. I've seen too many people who lose themselves after some minor achievement. People like these always meet the end of their paths someday, but you won't."

"Understood. Grandpa, I brought a lot of gifts for you. At the very least, you'll get to live for a few more centuries."

"Haha, what more can a man ask for after getting such a wonderful grandson?"

"Grandpa, don't think you're that old. I've met people in their eighties who still consider themselves young."

"Such people exist? People in their eighties should already be halfway into their coffins!"

That aside, Qingyu met up with her grandmother. To stop others from worrying, she covered the changes in her face with a veil. After finding out that Qingyu was getting together with a decent lad like Lingfeng, Li Jingyu almost cried out to her friends to celebrate.

Despite the cold weather of Taiji Peak Lake, human warmth didn't fail to spread. No matter how powerful other worlds were, it was like Flameyellow was a miniature paradise separated from all that. Most people were on relatively equal ground, unlike the crazy hierarchies built to suit people who lived for millennia elsewhere. If the people here got stronger, they did so together.

Li Caiwei was quite talented in terms of management. Tianming had met many other seniors and friends, including Xuanyuan Dao, Ouyang Jianwang, and Yi Xingyin, reminiscing the past over drinks. Their impression of Tianming was that he both seemed like he had and hadn't changed. Some even went so far as to flatter him, saying that his looks had improved. He even ran into Xuanyuan Muxue, who was now good friends with Jiang Qingluan. She had changed a lot since becoming Tianming's staunch believer and was the one who'd benefited the most from his Imperial Will, being close to Ascension in her twenties. Her talent was similar to Huiye Shi's.

"I haven't seen the snow here for a long time," he melancholically said, thinking about their fights here.

"Do the stars above not have snow?" Xuanyuan Muxue asked. She was the same cold, quiet girl from before... at least on the outside. Within, she was burning with curiosity.

"I've only gone to two nova source worlds. The first was hot as an oven, while the other was like a much larger Divine Moon Realm, tranquil and beautiful."

"The sights must've been stunning, huh?"

"They're serviceable. They have their own charms, but nothing can compare to the snow here," he said, smiling.

"Are you sure your homesickness isn't playing tricks on you?"

"No, I mean it. I've seen many races across the astralscape. In comparison, the Archaic House of Xuanyuan isn't faring too badly. You just lack the opportunities and legacies that others have."

"Really?" A newfound confidence oozed out of her third eye.

Chapter 1759 - Chaos Worldbangle

The more truths of the astralscape that people in mortal realms learned about, the more crestfallen they would feel. However, Tianming knew what Xuanyuan Muxue was thinking. She believed everything he said without question.

"Muxue, if there's a chance, I want to move all the living beings of Flameyellow to the sun. That way, our people will have a much better future and won't have to look up to others any longer. What do you think? Are you willing to go through that?" It was only an idea for now, and he had to ask them whether they even wanted it. Xuanyuan Muxue, being a descendant of the Archaic House of Xuanyuan, had to be consulted as well.

"It sounds fine, but having to leave home and go to other people's territory.... Will we really be able to call that our new home?"

"Muxue, if you see the astralscape for yourself, you'll know that Flameyellow is only a short distance away from the sun. The origins of the Archaic House of Xuanyuan stem from the Xuanyuan Dragon Sect in the first place, so there are distant siblings on the sun waiting for you. That's also not to say that you have to abandon your home after you grow stronger. At that level, you can come and leave as you please. It won't change the fact that Flameyellow is our home. In fact, if we're all stronger together, we'll stand an even better chance of protecting our home."

"So the sun isn't a foreign land, then.... Then it doesn't sound too bad." She still seemed a little dazed, however.

"There's something even more important." He looked up at the sun. "Since the gods of the Divine Moon Realm descended, we now understand that the astral worlds aren't that far off from us. The only reason we had more than two hundred thousand years of peace is because those people above couldn't be bothered to come down. It isn't as if they aren't strong enough to come here. Flameyellow is indeed beautiful, but its beauty is far from eternal. Once truly powerful people come down, it'll wither like a flower being trampled. That's the bloody law of nature. The strong feast on the weak. We're only alive because they aren't hungry enough for now. Only true strength can guarantee true peace."

"I understand." Her strong will shone through her eyes. After Tianming pointed her in the right direction, she seemed far more optimistic. "I don't know what the others will think about this. But at the very least, I want to go with you to the sun and grow strong enough to protect our home. That's something our ancestors warned us about two hundred thousand years ago."

"If I can convince you, I can convince the world," Tianming said. He was feeling rather confident now. "From now on, I'll make that my goal."

Since the moon fell, Tianming had come to understand that the people of Flameyellow were far too weak. He didn't want to experience being helplessly held at the throat by others any longer. Being able to migrate to the sun to forge their own lives was what Tianming would aim for from now on, but the sun emperor and the celestial orderians would be huge obstacles to that.

"We must respect strength, but never let it instill fear in us. All people are essentially equal. The only things that set us apart are legacies and bloodlines. Once we're powerful enough, those with your bloodline will be at the top of the hierarchy as well."

"Understood." Xuanyuan Muxue was Tianming's first true convert.

Tianming was still waiting for Yin Chen to get itself together and find out the situation at the Azurecloud Continent. Since he was touring Flameyellow, he decided to head to the far west to check on the specters, who had settled down over the years. Even without stellunar source, they were still able to lead stable lives. "Bodhi, I've been fair to you, haven't I?"

He then went to the capital to check on Li Caiwei, who seemed really busy dealing with all of the empire's matters.

"Hey, Sis." He descended straight into the city.

Li Caiwei appeared quite haggard with her unkempt pink hair. She was dressed in a loose, relaxing robe that vaguely highlighted her figure, adding a bit of spice. She looked up and couldn't bother batting an eye. "I heard you returned quite a while ago. You left me waiting for so long, so cruel."

"Nonsense. I'm the Human Emperor, you should be the one to come prostrate yourself before me! And yet, you complain."

"I could put up a better act than you," she said, rolling her eyes as she stood up and stretched. "Hey, don't look so intently. I'm not a loose person. I work for you, but I won't sell you my body."

"Tch, I've been to other astral worlds with tons of girls who're more beautiful than you. I can't even count the number of fangirls I have."

"Like I'll believe that. They all have two eyes and one nose, so how much better can they be, anyway? Even if they have superior cultivation, they can't beat my refined cultural senses." She was quite confident in that aspect, having seduced her fair share of people. At the very least, Tianming could say that she was prettier than any mysterian.

"Come, let's chat." He flew to the tallest point of the imperial complex, overlooking the newly constructed capital. While it wasn't as grand as the cities in the stars, it was his city and he was filled with pride at the sight of it. He hadn't felt nightfall for a long time and watched as the lights were lit up across the city, feeling a rare comfort.

"Not bad, right? Are you happy with the fruits of my labor?" Li Caiwei stood with her hands behind her back, the wind fluttering her hair. Her face seemed filled with peace.

"Well, it's lacking a bit of something."

"What is it?"

"A red-light district, of course. We can always do with more beauties of the night."

"Go to hell, you man thing!" she joked. It was a peaceful world, so Tianming never expected it to be the same as the Divine Capital anyway.

"Thank you for this."

"Just pay me well. I want to rise up to the Solar stage, so carry me all the way up there or I'll strike! I've only gotten one paycheck all these years. It's a miracle I lasted this long."

"But of course. Here you go, all the good stuff." He handed her a spatial ring, expecting her to count the things inside, but she merely put it on. It was a ring with a pink diamond. She held it up in the moonlight and said, "It looks great. You really gave it some thought, it seems. I won't mind even if it's empty."

"It isn't empty, of course. There's something really important inside."

"What is it?"

"Ten thousand pictures of beautiful men, all suitors I can get you. You aren't young anymore, so you should get married."

"No way, men are all useless things."

Tianming heartily laughed; he hadn't felt so relaxed in a long time. "That aside, let's talk about some serious business."

"There's nothing about you that's serious. I bet you're just trying to cut my salary," she said, face suspect.

"I'm serious." He told her about his plan to move them to the sun.

"I'll go," she said without any thought.

"Really? Won't you miss home? You've put so much effort into the empire and even built this city. Don't you think it'll be a waste?" He had thought it would take more convincing than that.

"What's there to consider? Without power, there won't even be a place to call home. We have to be able to defend it at the very least. Home isn't the place, but the people in it. Where the people are is where home is. With you having my back, I naturally want to climb higher."

"Alright." He was thankful for Li Caiwei and Xuanyuan Muxue, who had more or less similar thoughts as him. It meant that, for the most part, his ambitions were in line with the interests of the people as a whole.

"When I'm more powerful, I can come back and make this place better," she said.

"Yeah."

"The question is whether I'll still be the one you count on if I go to the sun."

"It'll still be you, of course. Always."

"Hmph, at least you have a heart." While she looked young and behaved no differently from any young girl, nobody else on the continent near the age of hundred had managed to maintain their looks to this degree.

Even though Tianming didn't seem to be doing much since returning, he did grow much more relieved after his talks, especially with Li Caiwei. She had also given him quite a lot of ideas. After ending his trip, he would have a new goal to strive toward. But for now, he was still outside the chaos skyjail. He met Ye Shaoqing and heard him complain about the tens of children that had come about as a result of his harem. After that, he asked, "Did you find that old brother of mine?"

"I know where he is. That's where I'm going next," Tianming said.

"Good. He's tough, so take your time. He's back after fourteen years of being at rock bottom, so another few years won't be a big deal. Just make sure you're ready when the time comes," Ye Shaoqing said. As a senior, he understood Li Wudi far better than Tianming.

"Understood, Master!"

"You're already a god among gods, yet you still call me master? Aren't you embarrassed?"

"Fine, Old Ye. Are you happy now?" There were some things that would never change. Even after all he had experienced, this person would always be the first one to be his proper master.

"That's enough. I have to go back to change a dozen diapers, and at night, a troupe of beauties will line up to beat me up. My plate is full," he said before he left.

By then, Tianming had seen most of the people he wanted to. Before leaving for Orderia, he had decided to head to the Abyssal Battlefield in search of the chaos worldbangle.

Chapter 1760 - Full Ascension

Tianming made a rough estimate. It'd been around a year and a half since the mysterians' ships had left for Violetglory. "There's only about six months left before they reach Violetglory, which isn't far away from here. If the ship sending the grade-nine Grand-Orient Sword also departed at the same time, it won't have reached Flameyellow yet." He couldn't be sure whether or not comma girl was telling the truth, so he had to prepare for the worst. However, she didn't mention when the chaos worldbangle would arrive. He wasn't sure if that was a trap; all he knew was that people from the realm of chaos were really limited in what they could do in the realm of order.

"I should have them look for it." He used his Omnisentient Threads to get around a billion Flameyellow humans to head to the Abyssal Battlefield in search of anything that seemed out of place. Through the threads, he was able to tap into their senses. The moment they spotted something, he would immediately know. That made it incredibly convenient for him to do anything he wanted on Flameyellow.

He waited at Taiji Peak Lake as the billion people, all of whom were rather capable cultivators, formed groups that would ensure their safety in the Abyssal Battlefield. With Tianming organizing the search, it proceeded rather smoothly. There were quite a few bottomless pits on the continent, making it quite easy for large numbers of people to pass through at once. Around half a day later, they located the chaos worldbangle.

With a single glance, Tianming was certain that it wasn't something from the Flameyellow Continent, nor the realm of order for that matter. It had a fundamentally incompatible quality with the matter in this realm, making it stand out. When Tianming's henchmen brought it back, he was waiting at the bottomless pit's entrance.

"Human Emperor, please take a look." They were all honored to be able to serve him.

"Your efforts are much appreciated." Tianming took the ring, but was careful not to touch it directly. Instead, he placed it on a rock and closely observed it. It was a black bracelet with a simple, yet ancient design. It looked incredibly old and had complex patterns on its smooth, glossy surface. The inner side of the bracelet seemed covered in sharp, saw-like teeth. Even though it was old, the teeth were still sharp. If he put it on, they would no doubt bite into his flesh.

What was with this design, anyway? Who would put on something that would hurt them? He furrowed his brow. It didn't really matter what it looked like, however. It didn't seem to be a divine artifact; instead, it looked to be sculpted from a piece of natural material rather than being forged. Yet it didn't seem to be raw divine ore either. It contained a kind of energy that Tianming had never seen before, something that was almost... negative. If the energies of astral discs revolved in one direction, the energy in this bracelet revolved in the opposite. While normal energy sources radiated out, the energy of the bracelet seemed to radiate inward like a vortex, seemingly drawing in those who looked at it.

He wasn't sure if comma girl had said something along the lines of him learning the truth if he put it on, yet the bracelet seemed to be giving off that impression. "Only a fool would put you on."

He rolled his eyes at the spikes that looked like locks. If he put it on, it would bite into his flesh. If he wasn't able to remove it and got enslaved, or something along those lines, it would be the worst-case scenario. But he tossed the item into his spatial ring just in case. While he didn't trust comma girl, he did want to keep it just in case it could be used for something. The bangle seemed to completely quiet down inside the spatial ring.

"What about my parents, grandparents, and brothers in the realm of chaos, and that supposed portrait of me that's a hundred thousand years old? Is that more nonsense?" He shrugged, not knowing what to make of it. He didn't think that comma girl would really allow the grade-nine Grand-Orient Sword to be sent all the way here. Soon, he almost entirely forgot about the chaos worldbangle.

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Time quickly passed, and Tianming had been in Flameyellow for some six days, during which the people of Flameyellow all grew stronger. Even those within the chaos skyjail could feel the Imperial Will's influence and were growing in strength.

"One day, perhaps all the people of Flameyellow will be able to ascend!" Most of the seniors he knew, such as Xuanyuan Dao, Ouyang Jianwang, Yi Xingyin, and the rest had managed to ascend. Even Xuanyuan Muxue would sooner or later be able to with his exclusive tutelage. Eventually, the Flameyellow Continent's spiritual energy would no longer be enough to support the demand for it. Tianming wanted to transplant one of the saplings of the Azurecloud Divine Tree to the chaos skyjail, which would ensure its safety. However, suddenly increasing the density of spiritual energy on the

continent might also draw unwanted attention. It definitely wouldn't be good for this paradise, so he gave up on that notion.

"Looks like migrating away is better for Flameyellow in the long run." He turned his gaze to the sun, where his current nemesis was, feeling the desire to conquer that world.

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Two days later, Yin Chen finished organizing the bodies it left behind in Orderia and brought important news. "I found... Weisheng Moran," a metal cockroach agitatedly said, though its speech pattern hampered the rate of its speech.

"How's she doing?"

"Blood grudge... inside body... much suffering... dreamless celestial... emperor wants... you to... go to... his nation... to hand... over the... Azurespirit in... order for... him to... release her."

"Wasn't the one infected by the blood grudge the dreamless celestial emperor himself? Why did it pass on to Weisheng Moran?" Perhaps the special blood relation between those two allowed it to be easily transferred. In other words, she was the one suffering instead of him.