

## The Ages 181

### Chapter 181 - I Will See Your Whole Family Dead!

Two hours. Two hours had never felt so long before. But was it enough for an avenger who was back to take his vengeance after three years of accusations? As cruel as Li Tianming might be right now, who would stop him? And as long as Lin Xiaoting was still breathing, their battle wouldn't end.

Even the two inspectors watched on with indifference, oblivious to the Lightning Manor crying and begging at their feet. When the manor was in power and abused it to its advantage, no one stopped it. Now that its downfall was within sight, it could only beg for the inspectors' mercy. Led by the Lightning Seigneur himself, the group continuously banged their heads against the floor for two hours nonstop. They didn't even stop as blood flowed down Lin Zhao's forehead.

"Benevolent inspectors, please save Xiaoting! He's a disciple of Heaven's Elysium!"

"I beg you, Yueling Clan, please help us convince the inspectors!"

At Lin Zhao's age, losing first his sons, then his grandson wasn't a trauma he could possibly endure. No one would be surprised if his heart gave out there and then.

But wasn't it all karmic retribution? When the clan members had harmed and killed others for their own benefits, did they ever imagine that the same fate could befall themselves? Had the Lightning Manor defeated the Wei Clan, would it have shown mercy to any members of the Wei family? The Lightning Manor would probably slaughter every last member of the Wei Clan to clear a path for the 'new king' of Vermilion Bird!

"Of course not, it was Lin Xiaoting's own promise to the inspectors!"

"The inspectors won't go back on their own words."

"Not only did Lin Xiaoting snatch Li Tianming's girlfriend and rob him, that monster even killed Li Tianming's beast and pushed all the blame to that poor boy. We were all fooled for three years!"

"Li Tianming is the real hero Vermilion Bird needs, not that filthy scoundrel! He proved himself innocent in front of the entire nation, and served his revenge after three years of suffering."

Since the events of the day before, many were having second thoughts on what had happened three years ago, thanks to the last words that Mu Qingqing had left behind at the stone gate. Now that the youngster had stepped out in Wei Clan's time of need and successfully defended the family, even the most powerful and influential figures were impressed by him. When he slew the two beasts and executed Lin Xiaoting, he showed a will and determination unmatched by anyone else! The black wildsoul sealed within his sword ki was further evidence of the truth of the events from three years past.

Even those with hearts of stone were moved by that youth who sent the crowd's blood boiling, and those who had previously jeered him for his 'deeds' were now standing on his side. They roared and cheered Li Tianming on, drowning out the pleading voices of the Lightning Manor.

How could the voice of a dying clan match that of a nation's?

No amount of pleading and regret could wipe away the evils that the Lightning Manor had committed in the past, and a debt of blood can only be repaid with blood. There wasn't anyone to sympathize with Lin Zhao, and he could only watch on in despair as his own grandson slowly died under Li Tianming's sword. He even tried kneeling in Li Tianming's direction and begging for all his life's worth, as the white-haired youth had terrified him more than anyone else in the world could.

It seemed like only yesterday when Lin Xiaoting returned with all smiles and told him that he had obtained a Saintbeast War-Soul. It was like a fortune bestowed from the heavens.

"Where did you get it from?"

"A poor, powerless countryside boy."

"Did you kill him?"

"Nah, he was still yelling and screaming about sending me to hell one day. What a joke. So I killed his lifebound beast and crippled him, so he can spend the rest of his life as worthless trash. I even pushed the blame on him and made it so I was the hero of the story. Did I do it right, grandpa?"

"Not quite." Lin Zhao shook his head.

"Why?"

"You're still young and mischievous, so you want to play with your prey. But you should know that the suffering of an ant is of no value to you," Lin Zhao explained.

"So what should I have done?"

"Killed him right there and then. Find out about his background, and rid the world of those related to him as well. That would be the safest card to play."

"Alright, I'll go do it now."

"It's alright this time, just don't make the same mistake next time."

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The Lightning Seigneur cried. If only he hadn't said that last line. But now even he had to tremble before the white-haired devil, grieving about what he had done. Each time he roared, he could feel the regret burning inside him.

Yesterday, the Lightning Manor had lost most of its members in the current generation, destroying its dream of ruling the nation. Today, it had lost the only one who could take revenge for them in the future. With the death of Lin Xiaoting, Lightning Manor would be history in Ignispolis, and the heavily injured Lightning Seigneur would amount to nothing at all.

The Yueling Clan was in no position to help them, either, since it was having a headache of its own. Among its younger generation, there was no one else who could challenge Li Tianming! In other words, the Wei Clan had obtained two out of three points for the Sanctum Replacement Challenge and successfully defended its position.

During the Abyssal Trials, Li Tianming had defeated Yueling Ji and won the draconic water obelisk. At that time, there were no spectators, so the two vice-inspectors could rig the results without concern. But this time, the challenge was witnessed by tens of thousands of audience members from Vermilion Bird. As powerless and weak as they might be compared to the inspectors, could the two of them still cover up the truth this time?

“Damn it! We shouldn’t have made this event public for the Yueling Clan to build up its reputation. It’s going to be quite troublesome for us to fix it now, and if anything goes wrong and harms Lady Long’s reputation, we’ll be screwed for sure!” Song Yixue’s brows were furrowed.

“You are wrong. Our real mistake was picking Vermilion Bird, thinking that the Lightning Manor would be strong enough to help the Yueling Clan. Who would’ve thought that the Wei Manor had not only the freak, Mu Yang, but also the absurd Li Tianming. Even if we hadn’t opened the event to the public, the Lightning Manor wouldn’t be able to win and we still ran the risk of getting into trouble if we were to forcefully get rid of the Wei Clan.” Jin Yixuan felt his head aching.

Both inspectors were at a loss right now. They were much stronger than those in Vermilion Bird, but their weakness was the fear that something might go wrong. Without Mu Yang, that possibility would be almost zero. However, Mu Yang was strong enough to the point that this possibility was almost guaranteed.

If they failed to kill Mu Yang and let him run, it would no doubt be a potential threat to the Yueling Clan. And if anything happened to the Yueling Clan, they would be doomed for sure.

Their safest bet now would be to call their ‘boss’ over, but that would cast them in a bad light, as they would be proven incapable of settling such a simple matter. Mu Yang and Li Tianming’s presence had completely foiled their plans, and even they were flabbergasted at the Saintbeast War-Soul in Li Tianming’s hands.

“So the Saintbeast War-Soul really was his. That makes him the most talented youth in Vermilion Bird... no, in this entire peninsula.”

“His lifebound beasts are pretty special too, and they look like they have great potential. But more importantly, he’s a natural in cultivation, being able to use a simplified heavenly-ranked battle art at just Spiritsource!”

The inspectors knew better than anyone that the bloodline quality and stars of lifebound beasts were of utmost importance to a beastmaster. But for a cultivator himself, his own talent was based on how well he could comprehend things like spiritual energy and the will of heaven and earth. Their level of understanding would make a key difference, once they reached Heavenly Will stage, and just having a good beast would be insufficient.

That was also why the two inspectors were shocked when Li Tianming used the three Demises to crush Lin Xiaoting and his lifebound beasts. They had seen far too many beastmasters who were crowned as ‘geniuses’ because of the strength of their lifebound beasts, but this was the first time they saw a beastmaster at Spiritsource who was even stronger than his beasts! It was a special kind of talent they had never seen before, even in Heaven’s Elysium.

The two inspectors had seen Lightning Manor's pleading as well, but they chose to ignore the dying clan. Once Lin Xiaoting had lost his Saintbeast War-Soul and died, the Lightning Manor was completely useless to them.

"Looks like there's no way to take the Wei Clan down now." Jin Yixuan shook his head bitterly.

"Thankfully, we have a plan B, which we really should have opted for earlier."

"Yes, the younger generation of Heaven's Sanctum in Aquamarine had all died in Abyssal Battlefield. Murong Tianhai is about as strong as Lin Tianjian, and his father is old and useless."

"Not to mention how Sapphire Hall's been telling us they wanted to assist the Yueling Clan to overthrow the Heaven's Sanctum there for quite a while already. They're quite a strong clan, too—perhaps even stronger than Lightning Manor."

"Whatever. Let's stop wasting time here. If we reach Aquamarine today and find someone in Sapphire Hall to marry Yueling Ji tonight, we can start the challenge tomorrow, which will only take another three days."

"Hopefully it goes smoother this time. If it weren't for Lin Xiaoting, we wouldn't have picked this place anyway. Damn it!"

"Remember not to make the event public this time."

As the two inspectors arrived at their decision, Lin Xiaoting finally breathed his last. It was over.

As for Li Tianming, he walked towards his two brothers with the Saintbeast War-Soul at the tip of his sword.

Between the Aeternal Infernal Phoenix and the Genesis Chaos Thunderfiend, which would inherit the Saintbeast War-Soul?

### **Chapter 182 - The Third Primordial Chaos Beast!**

Li Tianming finally conquered his inner demon when he erased Lin Xiaoting. His gaze and disposition all changed, something inevitable after such a moment. Some people had something terrifying lurking within their eyes despite their young age. Now, Li Tianming was just such a person.

He walked toward the little chick and the black cat; those two critters had worked hard today.

"Li Tianming!" The little chick looked at him.

"Mhm."

"I enjoyed myself a lot today!" The little chick's eyes were inflamed with passion. It had always been a battle junkie.

"Nutjob. Sleeping is much better!" The black cat's eyelids were already fluttering as it drowsily swayed from side to side. Its cute appearance and attitude were a far cry from how it had just dominated the Blizzard Spirit Dragon.

"Which of you wants the Saintbeast War-Soul?" Li Tianming placed it in front of them.

“Give it to the lazy bum. If I get any stronger, it’ll get an inferiority complex.” The little chick bopped the black cat on the head. It wasn’t wrong; the current black cat was absolutely no match for the little chick.

Firstly, the little chick had abundant battle experience. Secondly, it was a cultivation maniac and had mastered many bestial arts, such as Demise of Man-Earth-Heaven. Thirdly, it had refined a beast soul before and gained its ‘Infernal Armor’, giving it one ability over the black cat.

If the little chick got the War-Soul, the gap would be even larger. The black cat hadn’t even learned one bestial art, and relied purely on aggression to fight. This trend would likely continue, based on their personalities.

Since the chick insisted on taking care of its little brother, Li Tianming made the decision. He said to the black cat, “Alright, refine this.”

“Meow?” The black cat moved closer and gave a sniff. “Eew, no! It stinks meow!”

“You’ll get stronger.”

“Will I not have to cultivate if I get stronger?”

“Yep.” Li Tianming and the little chick exchanged a grin.

“I have a bad feeling.” The black cat shivered.

“You shouldn’t!” Li Tianming and Ying Huo chorused.

For the sake of reducing its cultivation time, the black cat mustered up its courage and popped the Devil-Monarch Wildsoul into its mouth. Its lightning source was in its stomach, so that was where it would refine it. As a Primordial Chaos Beast, it wouldn’t be too difficult.

Li Tianming let the black cat back into the lifebound space.

He just had to give it some time and it would be even more terrifying.

“Ying Huo, aren’t you scared Meow Meow will bully you if you’re so generous?” Li Tianming was much more relaxed now that Lin Xiaoting had died. The rock weighing on his heart had finally shattered.

“Meow Meow? Bully me? Good joke!” Ying Huo laughed without a care.

“Yes, Meow Meow is a bit lazy. However, that suanni beast became so physically strong with the surging devilish ki after using the wildsoul. As the Genesis Chaos Thunderfiend, Meow Meow’s bloodline is the natural-born ruler of such devils. Hopefully, the wildsoul can stimulate its bloodline and let it create its own, stronger ability. Meow Meow is poorer in the technical aspects of combat, so we’ll let it tread the path of physical power and use its abilities to steamroll the opponent.” Li Tianming laughed.

“If the Devil-Monarch Wildsoul can let its body transform the same way the suanni beast did, that’ll fulfill your fantasy of a fierce tiger.”

“Yes!” Li Tianming was sick of people laughing every time he summoned his lifebound beasts. “In the future, when Meow Meow transforms, we’ll see who gets the last laugh!” Li Tianming began fantasizing.

There was no baleful aura around him, despite having just killed his hated foe. After overcoming his inner demons, the only thing left was a long road ahead of him. This route was overcast, and filled with countless experts and geniuses.

However, Li Tianming was already mentally prepared for all this.

At the same time, in the lifebound space within his body, an egg shook in a corner.

“Eh?” Li Tianming noticed it. The egg had two colors: its left side was brown like a mountain, and had an aura as boundless as the great earth, while its right side was blue like water, with an aura as turbulent as the vast sea.

A small crack appeared on the two-colored egg. It was so tiny that it couldn’t be seen without close inspection, but it was irrefutable proof this third brother was making its preparations to hatch!

Li Tianming examined the crack. It drew a graceful, stylish and thin arc, with a shape like... a dragon’s. However, this was a dragon that was very much more stylish than the Blizzard Spirit Dragon.

Still, a crack was just a crack in the end.

“It looks like we can look forward to the birth of the third Primordial Chaos Beast soon. It’ll be a fierce beast this time... right? I wonder what its personality will be like. A cultivation maniac like Ying Huo, or a lazy bum like Meow Meow?” Li Tianming was full of expectation toward the beast itself. Naturally, he was also very interested in its bloodline, and the changes it would bring.

The Aeternal Infernal Phoenix and Genesis Chaos Thunderfiend were both terrifying existences! How exactly would the third fare in comparison? Only time would tell.

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“Li Tianming.” When Vice-Inspector Jin Yixuan stood up, silence fell.

Li Tianming had just given the War-Soul to his lifebound beast to refine, and the torrential rain had just started letting up, but the soil below still had a river of blood flowing through it.

“Please instruct me, Inspector.” Li Tianming wasn’t stupid. He was aware of who he could annoy and kill with his current strength. He was also aware of who, when he wasn’t strong enough nor did he have a deep enough enmity with, he shouldn’t come into conflict with because of impulsiveness.

The two inspectors were the latter.

Actually, they had already sent a message with how they hadn’t stopped Li Tianming, nor opened the barrier for a whole two hours. They wouldn’t feel displeasure over what was done to Lightning Manor; at most, they would feel annoyance over their plans being disrupted.

Jin Yixuan actually began to clap. “Your grasp of heavenly-ranked battle arts is shocking. It’s enough to make even me sigh in admiration. That was the foundation of how you defeated someone in Unity, despite being in Spiritsource yourself!”

Only now did many Unity stage experts realise that Li Tianming’s sword art before was actually a heavenly-ranked battle art, which made them understand exactly why they had been so profound.

“You and Mu Yang are the heroes of the Wei Clan!” Jin Yixuan smiled. It was obvious to everyone that the inspectors had given up on Lightning Manor.

“Thank you for the praise, Inspector. However, the road ahead is still long for me, and junior needs to continue working hard.” Li Tianming replied. His attitude was neither overly humble nor arrogant.

“You have a good attitude.” Jin Yixuan smiled.

“Li Tianming, your left hand has undergone the ‘bestial metamorphosis’. It’s a common sight in the Grand-Orient Realm, and you don’t need to cover it up. To a certain extent, it’s caused by the interaction of bloodlines between beastmaster and lifebound beast. However, it won’t be of any detriment to your cultivation, but will instead help it. For example, your left hand is now not only stronger than many wildbeasts, but also covered by many strong scales,” Song Yixue explained.

Bestial metamorphosis? Grand-Orient Realm? Li Tianming had kept his left arm covered up because he was worried it would cause a commotion, but it turned out it was a common sight elsewhere. After all, when beastmasters absorbed the bloodline power of their lifebound beast, a part of their body changing when they absorbed too much wouldn’t be surprising.

A partial metamorphosis wasn’t a problem, but if it was their full body, they would turn into a complete animal. That wasn’t a good outcome, but fortunately, it was rare.

As for the Grand-Orient Realm, Li Tianming hazarded a guess that it was where Heaven’s Elysium resided.

“Thank you for the information, Inspectors. I was under the impression something had gone wrong with my body, so I hid it.” Li Tianming smiled.

From now on, there was no need to hide it under such thick cloth anymore. In fact, his left arm wasn’t ugly at all. Instead, it was quite aesthetically pleasing, owing to its pure black color and regular hexagonal scales.

Without gloves, it would be more convenient to use his claw to fight, as well. As for the eye in his palm, it could use the Godsoul Canon and give him more vision.

The inspectors smiled when they heard Li Tianming. “I didn’t expect you to be the true owner of the War-Soul. Li Tianming, since you killed Lin Xiaoting and are the real genius with the Saintbeast War-Soul, follow us to Heaven’s Elysium in three days. Everything Lin Xiaoting had belongs to you, now.”

“You’ve successfully made us choose to place importance on you and give up on Lin Xiaoting! Your talent is wasted here in Vermilion Bird. The optimal choice for you is Heaven’s Elysium, the overlord of Grand-Orient Realm. Let me break it down for you: with your talent, you might still not have entered Heavenly Will within ten years in such an area with poor resources. Here, manna, spirit ores, herbs, and hazards... they’re all lacking! Worse still, the people here have too small a world view and are narrow-minded.”

“However, Heaven’s Elysium is where all the resources of Grand-Orient Realm are gathered. Countless high-quality manna, even terrestrial and celestial manna, are there! There’s also droves of geniuses competing there. And most important of all, there are powerhouses stronger than even Mu Yang and us

to guide you there. They're omnipotent, and even destroying mountains and eradicating rivers are no obstacle to them.

"Even we Inspectors aren't the actual experts of Heaven's Elysium, and are only in charge of managing countries outside of it. I know some of our arrangements this time might have made you uncomfortable, but you've proven your worth through your actions. If you can cultivate your way to success and we two gain a new genius friend, wouldn't that be a win-win?"

"Geniuses shouldn't be buried here. We see you have the desire to compete, so Heaven's Elysium is the best place for you. As someone with ambition, we ask you, are you willing to replace Lin Xiaoting and go to Heaven's Elysium? We just need to change a name. Of course, if you don't want to bother us, you can just use the name 'Lin Xiaoting'."

Both inspectors chuckled at the joke. Who would be willing to use their enemy's name?

"Li Tianming, we've said so much simply because we appreciate talent. In the end, it's up to you if you have the boldness to seize your future. Of course, to us, only ignorant fools would be fearful of challenge and turtle up in a small place like Vermilion Bird."

When the inspectors had said so much, everyone cast interested looks at Li Tianming. Would he go to Heaven's Elysium and represent the hopes of all the citizens of Vermilion Bird, and all the beastmasters of the peninsula?

### **Chapter 183 - Are You Impressed Now?**

Li Tianming turned to look at Wei Jing. He would be embarking on his own journey now, and of course the one he was worried for the most was his mother. That was also why he wished to seek her opinion before leaving.

It would be a hard decision for any mother to send her own son into a new world filled with unimaginable risks and danger. But for Wei Jing, she simply gave him a thumbs up, and he immediately understood. She wanted him to make his own decision and follow his own heart.

Because of the rigging of the Abyssal Trials and the Sanctum Replacement Challenge, Li Tianming really didn't have the best impression of Heaven's Elysium. But then again, that might have just been because of the two vice-inspectors. He couldn't tell what kind of a place the Elysium truly was simply by observing them.

On top of that, he didn't have anywhere else to go. Every beastmaster in Vermilion Bird dreamt of stepping out of the nation to explore the world beyond, and Li Tianming was no exception. After overcoming the obstacle named Lin Xiaoting, he wanted to try out new challenges and interact with more powerful figures. For that to happen, Li Tianming would have to set aside his personal grudges with the two inspectors and replace Lin Xiaoting to become the new Elysium disciple.

This wouldn't even have been an option while he was still causing trouble for the Elysium, but now the inspectors themselves had personally expressed interest in him. If he were to reject them now, it could even be a sign of disrespect and create another rift between them.

"That's right, Li Tianming, join Heaven's Elysium. That's where a genius like you belongs!" Even the crowd was cheering him on.



Li Tianming barely hesitated. He looked at the inspectors and said, "But inspectors, what if I prefer to keep my own name?"

Both Jin Yixuan and Song Yixue smiled.

"Then 'Li Tianming' shall be the new disciple of Heaven's Elysium!"

It was a deal! Li Tianming's future was set to be a challenging, yet rewarding one.

"That's the spirit. We'll give you some time to bid farewell to your family. Three days from now, we'll come and pick you up, then you'll get to explore the vast world beyond Vermilion Bird!" For the inspectors, that was still an acceptable level of change to their plan. They were set to spend another three days in Aquamarine, anyway.

"Yes sir."

After Li Tianming nodded, the two inspectors took their leave with the Yueling Clan tailing behind them.

"Yueling Ji," Song Yixue called out to the slightly dazed girl.

"Yes, Madam inspector?" Yueling Ji replied.

"This Li Tianming is not too bad. Now that you're both going to Heaven's Elysium, it won't hurt to make a good friend. Perhaps even more." Song Yixue smiled gently.

"Understood." Yueling Ji had been wholeheartedly convinced by him during their battle.

"Thankfully, there was nothing between you and Lin Xiaoting. Guess that Gelding Blight did a good deed," Song Yixue added.

"Yes, madam inspector." Yueling Ji suddenly recalled something else. "But from what I heard, Li Tianming already has a lover—the daughter of the Vermilion Bird King."

"He will forget about that good-for-nothing girl soon. Worst case scenario, you'll just need to erase her."

"Understood."

"I wonder if Lady Long is done with her vacation yet," Jin Yixuan spoke up.

"She's probably at Aquamarine now. I reckon she'll like that country, since it has really good scenery and their sanctum is positioned on an island. Aquamarine is quite a peaceful place, and would make a good home for the Yueling Clan."

"Sorry for troubling the two inspectors, and using up another three precious days of your time," Yueling Hong immediately apologized.

"Doesn't matter, we'll just take it as a road trip."

With that, the group stepped out of the stadium, leaving tens of thousands of citizens staring at Li Tianming in envy. Only Lightning Manor was still moaning and crying for their loss. When the inspectors expressed interest in Li Tianming, they knew that all was lost for the Lightning Manor.

“Back, back!” the Lightning Seigneur commanded, puking out more blood. Only the weak and old remained in the group, and they faced countless jeers and laughter from the crowd.

Lightning Manor had finally gotten a taste of their own medicine. In a world where strength was beyond all, they had no other choice but to face cruel reality. From now on, Lightning Manor was no more, and Li Tianming and Mu Yang were destined to be the peak of Vermilion Bird!

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There were many others in the stadium who were deeply absorbed in their own thoughts, one of them being Li Yanfeng, hidden beneath his black cloak. He stood in a corner of the stadium, his fist repeatedly clenching and unclenching. Finally, he let out a bark of laughter.

“Damn straight, Li Tianming. I have never been this impressed with someone before, and never would I have imagined it would be the ‘son’ I never cared about. It’s too bad I chose the Lightning Manor, and there was never any kinship between us. Even though you treated me like a real father for sixteen years of your life, I never gave anything to you.

“It was my mistake to choose the Lightning Manor. Those bastards are way more heartless than I thought. Even though I was just using them for my own benefit, and they were using me for theirs, I won’t rest until I make that bastard pay!

“I hope that before you leave Ignispolis, you’ll hear one more tale about me....” Li Yanfeng silently left the stadium, trailing behind the remnants of the Lightning Manor. No one knew that he had returned on the third day, that he was impressed by Li Tianming just like everyone else, or that he was filled with regret then and there. Of course, no one would notice him leaving, either, as most people were still cheering the young man who returned to his family a hero.

Among the crowd, Sage Chen dragged Xue Lan with him and exited the stadium.

“Are you happy now? Still want to compare with her?” Sage Chen asked.

“Never again,” Xue Lan sobbed.

“Finally. If you’re so free, spend more time educating our children.”

Of course there were more people who had all kinds of thoughts in their mind. For example, Fang Zhao and the rest of Li Tianming’s old classmates almost had their eyes pop out as they watched his battle. And on another side of the stadium, Supernal Mentor Liu Xueyao’s face was as pale as paper as she thought of what she needed to bring as a gift when she went to apologize at the Wei Manor later.

But as Li Tianming walked out of the arena, he cast one last glance at the stone gate. Was she still there?

“Her spirit must still be here. She must have seen it.”

Mu Qingqing must have witnessed the Lightning Manor’s destruction, Lin Xiaoting’s crying and howling, and of course, how Li Tianming would move towards a brighter future as a disciple of Heaven’s Elysium!

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As he joined the Wei Clan, he could see that almost everyone was crying tears of joy. Their child was now the hero that had defended the entire clan. Though, Li Tianming only did it for the sake of his grandfather, Wei Tiancang, his mother, Wei Jing, and Mu Yang, the future potentate. As for Wei Tianxiong, Wei Zikun, and the rest... he was still reluctant to acknowledge them as relatives.

But needless to say, Mu Yang and Li Tianming's extraordinary performances had brought glory to them as well, so they could no longer pick fault with him from now on.

"That's my grandson!" Wei Tiancang beamed as he looked at Li Tianming like a boy looking at his favorite toy.

"Tsk, who was the one hooting about how he wasn't your grandson? Regretting it now that he achieved more than you thought he could?" Wei Qing smirked.

"Shush, it was just me testing him," Wei Tiancang awkwardly snapped, giving everyone a good laugh. Even Wei Zikun cracked up. He might have been crippled, but the Wei Clan was saved and he couldn't have asked for anything more. Without Mu Yang and Li Tianming, the Wei Clan would be in Lightning Manor's position now. It wouldn't be a surprise if no one in the Wei Manor would have survived that scenario.

Wei Tiancang looked at Li Tianming, tears welling up in his eyes.

"The gods haven't abandoned me after all! A grumpy old man like me really doesn't deserve such good fortune. Now I'm astonished by the very grandson I refused to acknowledge simply because he wasn't brought up by me," Wei Tiancang sighed.

"Heh, are you feeling a sense of defeat now that your methods of education are proven to be a failure?" Wei Qing said. Even though he had lost his lifebound beast, at least Mu Yang and Li Tianming had taken revenge for him. They had won this battle, and he would visit his brother's grave, to drink with him and to talk about the Wei Clan's glory.

"That's where you're wrong," Wei Tiancang stroke his beard, "Exhibit one! Mu Yang proved that I have been a good mentor. Exhibit two, Li Tianming, proved that my daughter has done an exceptionally good job."

Between the two brothers, Wei Tiancang was never one to tone down his bragging.

"The world belongs to these youngsters, now. I hope to live for a few more years just to see what they'll achieve in the future!" Wei Tiancang exclaimed.

"We'll find out," Wei Qing replied. But at least for now, he was definitely satisfied with Li Tianming's performance. And he wasn't the only one, as Wei Tianxiong and Wei Zikun appeared before Li Tianming and Wei Jing.

"Tianming, today, you are the Wei Clan's hero. As your uncle, I hereby apologize for everything that I said about you in the past." Wei Tianxiong's head was bowed.

"Second sister, I apologize for trying to stop father from saving you. Please forgive my ignorance," Wei Zikun apologized sincerely as well.

“Let bygones be bygones. As siblings, we should all drop our grudges and help our father together.” Wei Jing held their hands.

No matter how much conflict there was between them, blood was thicker than water. If they had sincerely reflected on their actions, Wei Jing would naturally prefer the family to be more united.

“Come apologize to Tianming!” Wei Tianxiong beckoned to his children. As ashamed as they were, Wei Guohao and the rest had no choice but to walk up to Li Tianming while trying to avoid his gaze.

“There’s nothing wrong with being ignorant while you’re still young. Now that you learned your lesson, remember to behave like members of the Wei Clan should. While I’m not around, you’ll be the ones to uphold the Wei Clan’s image.”

That was Li Tianming’s advice for them.

“We understand, elder cousin.” All of the youngsters had their heads lowered. They, too, had learned and grown from this experience.

Seeing that, Li Tianming realized he would never regret fighting for the Wei Clan. They were his family, after all. This included not just Wei Tiancang and Mu Yang, but even Wei Tianxiong as well.

At that moment, the Vermilion Bird King arrived. Li Tianming had been anticipating his arrival, since there was something important he needed to say; he wanted to take Jiang Feiling with him.

But would the king let him? It was equivalent to sending his own daughter into an unknown world full of risk and danger, and he wouldn’t even find out if anything happened to her. What were the odds that the king would agree to that?

### **Chapter 184 - If I Become The Elysium Emperor**

“Potentate, Mu Yang, I’m here to apologize to you two.” The Vermilion Bird King approached, his face full of shame.

“The two inspectors completely prevented me from helping. I’m ashamed I didn’t really help the Wei Clan much this time, yet the Wei Clan still helped me root out Lightning Manor, which was plotting against my throne.”

Originally, the only thing he could do was help the Wei Clan resist Lightning Manor after the Wei Clan lost. However, Mu Yang had unexpectedly ended up winning against them. He had even been forced to promise the inspectors that he would support the Yueling Clan; however, it would have at least allowed Wei Manor to leave peacefully.

Yet, in the end, Li Tianming had gone against all odds and crushed Yueling Ji and Lin Xiaoting.

“Don’t be ashamed, Your Majesty. We can’t possibly derail the plans and decisions of existences like the inspectors. You had your own difficulties. Fortunately, it’s all over now, so let’s just move on. From now on, Flameyellow Scions Institute and the nation will have an even better relationship.” Wei Tiancang stroked his beard.

“Potentate, you really are magnanimous. I don’t know how to face you now.” The king shook his head.

“If Your Majesty really is uncomfortable, why not grant a small wish for my grandson, Li Tianming?” Wei Tianxang winked at Li Tianming. How could he not know Li Tianming’s thoughts?”

“Tianming, you really are incredible. Before today, I believed no one in Wei Manor’s younger generation could stop them. You really opened my eyes,” the king said admiringly.

Li Tianming nodded with a smile. Then, he signaled Jiang Feiling, who came over with trepidation in her face.

“Father.”

“When did you come out?” The king was flabbergasted. No one in the palace had notified him.

Jiang Feiling only giggled, leaving the king no choice but to smile helplessly.

“Potentate and Tianming, do you mean you want to let Tianming bring Ling’er to Heaven’s Elysium?” the king asked.

“Your Majesty, I will definitely regard Ling’er’s safety as even greater than my own life,” Li Tianming solemnly vowed.

“You say that, but Heaven’s Elysium is filled with countless geniuses and experts. Fortune abounds, but so does danger. You’ll be all alone, so how will you protect her at Heaven’s Elysium?” The king grit his teeth. From his words, it was clear he truly viewed Jiang Feiling as his daughter.

Li Tianming wasn’t able to refute him. He really didn’t know anything about Heaven’s Elysium. Here in Ignispolis, he’d had Sage Chen and Mu Yang helping him, making his revenge easier. When he got to Heaven’s Elysium, how was he supposed to compete with all those heaven-defying experts?

Firstly, Jiang Feiling’s special abilities would attract much undue attention once they were revealed. Secondly, her beautiful countenance might be a rare thing even in Heaven’s Elysium. There were many historical examples of how a beautiful woman could lead to conflict, or even war.

When he thought about it, Li Tianming realized that, even though he couldn’t bear to part with Jiang Feiling, he had trouble answering the king’s question. The coming path would be fraught with danger, and as an ordinary person, Jiang Feiling was too weak.

However, at this moment, Jiang Feiling suddenly grabbed Li Tianming’s hand and resolutely stood by his side.

“Father, sometimes in life, there comes a time when you need to make a leap of faith for someone. The first time I met him, I just knew he was someone very important to me. I don’t know if it was because of my complete synchronization or the workings of fate.”

“When I was inside him and heard his heartbeat, I could tell he was a courageous, responsible, hot-blooded, and heroic person. Although he’s done many bloody things that I don’t dare to look at, I understand them.”

“Sometimes, I already feel like our hearts are one. I know that staying in Vermilion Bird means I can live a relaxed and free life. However, I feel like my life won’t be complete without him. If this is the only chance, I plead with you to let me go with him. I want to stay with him, see the world, train with him,

and watch him grow. What I worry about isn't danger, because I already said I wanted to be with him through life and death.

"If there's danger ahead, I truly believe he'll protect me. I also want to help him get stronger and make sure he's not all alone in foreign lands. Father, I can't forget the kindness you showed by raising me for years. Maybe one day, I'll repay you. However, just this once, I beg you, let me go with him."

By the end of her speech, Jiang Feiling's eyes were completely red, but she continued holding Li Tianming's hand so tightly that her hand was red.

Looking at her profile, Li Tianming could see that she was crying. However, this only served to touch him even more.

She was fighting for it.

In the end, it didn't matter what or how much Li Tianming said. It was up to her to convince the king. Naturally, Jiang Feiling couldn't bear to leave Ignispolis, and wanted to repay the king. However, she was unable to ignore the deepest desires of her heart and wanted to follow Li Tianming!

What more did Li Tianming have to ask for with such a girl?

Li Tianming didn't believe in fate, yet their meeting seemed to have been preordained. At this point, he had already decided that Jiang Feiling was who he wanted to spend the rest of time with.

Li Tianming, what do you think?" The king shut his red eyes.

"Your Majesty, I don't know what to say. I admit I don't have backing in Heaven's Elysium. I admit the path ahead will be dangerous. However, what I can promise you is that if I bring her with me, anyone who dares touch one hair of hers or makes her unhappy will have a tragic end." Li Tianming squeezed her hand back.

This was a vow.

After Lin Xiaoting's end, it was obvious how much weight vows held for Li Tianming. By now, he had already successfully fulfilled two vows: he had avenged Midas, and helped his mother recover.

Everyone present looked at the pair of lovers, moved by their sincerity and courage. Love during the springtime of youth was passionate and impulsive, but that was exactly what made it attractive and worthy of envy.

Everyone was waiting for the king's decision.

Gritting his teeth, the king extended his hand, beckoning Jiang Feiling over, who had no choice but to comply.

The king held her hand and looked at Li Tianming. "Three days. Come by the palace before you leave, and I'll tell you my decision then."

It was understandable. Even if she wasn't his biological daughter, after so many years of raising her, no father could make the decision to send her off to somewhere dangerous on the spot. Likely, the king would spend the next three days and nights tossing and turning in bed, pondering deeply.

“Your Majesty, I’ll definitely come by,” Li Tianming said.

Jiang Feiling hadn’t given up yet, either. She gave Li Tianming one last look before returning to the palace.

What would happen would depend on the king’s choice three days hence. Li Tianming’s heart would be in his throat the entire time.

“Let’s go back home!” Finally, the crowd in the Flameyellow Stadium dispersed!

.....

The entire stadium could be seen from the top of the Flameyellow Pagoda. However, no one below noticed the two people there.

One, a woman in a black veil, was standing there imposingly with her hands clasped behind her back. She raised her hand and examined her fingernails. Her fingers were long and fair, as beautiful as the finest of jade. However, there was a violent power lurking within that couldn’t be seen from the surface.

“Uncle Chen, let’s go to the palace.”

“Yes.”

The two left the pagoda and quickly crossed Ignispolis, unnoticed.

“Uncle Chen, are you certain you can extract those ten outrageous seals?” the young woman asked.

“I’m not. The five on the right hand should be fine. However, four have been unlocked on the left hand. For those that are unsealed, her fingernails are merely a vessel, which is why I’m confident in removing them. However, the unsealed ones have already fused with her, so the chance of extracting and transferring them are low. For the sealed six, give me two or three days,” the black-robed man, Ling Yichen, replied.

“They’ll return from Aquamarine in three days. The timeline fits nicely.” The young woman’s eyes were cold.

They had made it to the palace and were standing on the walls.

“I’ll handle the king first. No one will bother us for the next three days,” Jiang Yichen said.

The young woman instructed, “Don’t kill.”

“Why?”

“If we can’t extract those four already awakened abilities, I’ll like to try having that girl attach herself to me. You saw for yourself, last night, how her Spiritual Attachment could adjust spiritual energy and aid in cultivation. A high enough synchronization could even raise my combat prowess. And I have a feeling the other three would be useful too.”

The girl’s gaze pierced through the buildings. “After this, I’ll likely take her with me to be a servant.”

“No problem.” Jiang Yichen gave a small smile as he stepped into the palace. “For three days, there shall be no interference.”

The young woman stood on the rooftop of one of the buildings, looking up at the stars in the sky. "Cultivation is a path of plunder. I barely managed to survive from the time I was eight years old through plundering and endlessly becoming stronger."

"If I become the Elysium Emperor, I'll be the overlord of the Grand-Orient Realm and plunder all of it. It really is a miracle that a small Vermilion Bird could have something useful to me. Once I get her and return to Heaven's Elysium, I'll be even more superior...."

### **Chapter 185 - Death of Lin Tao, the Lightning Seigneur!**

It was late night at Lightning Manor.

It had been utterly crushed, with all of its pillars gone. When the tree topples, the monkeys will scatter, and by now, even many of the guards had run away.

No one would look fondly on a clan in its sunset.

In fact, several cases of looting, burning, and killing had taken place a few hours ago, leaving the manor in complete chaos right now.

Although the rain from earlier in the day had let off, it was still drizzling. Hence, the usually radiantly-lit Lightning Manor was currently pitch-black. The usual laughter and high spirits there were nowhere to be found, and only people crying in corners were left.

A man stood at Lightning Manor's side gate. He was dressed in an oversized black raincoat that hid his identity, as well as the dagger in his sleeve.

The side gate of Lightning Manor creaked open.

"Big brother Feng...." An enchanting woman in black clothes walked over, carrying an umbrella.

"Big brother Feng, are you still well?" Liu Qing's eyes were red.

"Shh! Come with me." The man smiled. He entered Lightning Manor, and Liu Qing followed behind him.

The man was very familiar with Lightning Manor and easily made his way through it. In the current chaos, no one cared about him.

"Big brother Feng, I'm pregnant." Liu Qing halted, tears flowing down.

"So will you follow me, or abort it and stay here?" The man turned around. His eyes wavered somewhat in the darkness, but his grip on the dagger remained firm.

"It's best if you abort it. I'm a cripple now. My power will continue to disperse. In at most a year, I'll be an ordinary person and unworthy of you." The man gnashed his teeth.

"Big brother Feng, what're you here to do?" Liu Qing didn't reply, but instead asked another question, shaking.

The man's face twisted into a smile. "Let me confirm. Is the Lightning Seigneur currently in his cottage while his lifebound beast is currently recuperating in Mythic Lightning Hall? And he even chased away everyone around him?" the man asked.



“How did you know?” Liu Qing’s eyes widened.

“I followed him for a day, and spent quite a bit on bribing the guards that ran away.” The man grinned.

“Don’t do anything foolish!”

“Wait here for me.” The man blended into the darkness.

Indecision and pain flickered across Liu Qing’s face, then she followed after him. They quickly arrived at where the Lightning Seigneur was resting.

He had been heavily injured yesterday, and emotionally hurt. Not only that, but he was nearly crippled, Mu Yang’s Apocalyptic-Will having run a hole through him as well as destroying his spirit sources.

However, he remained stubborn and chased everyone away.

The man arrived in front of the cottage. He said, “Choose. Between me and him, who do you want to die? If you shout, I will die. If you stay quiet, I will continue. Make your choice.”

Finished speaking, the man gently pushed the door open and entered.

As for the woman, she stood in the rain, tears streaming down. She covered her mouth, ensuring that no noise could come out.

Inside the cottage, it stank of alcohol. Sprawled inside was an old man, the floor around him covered in blood and alcohol. Obviously, his heavy injuries hadn’t deterred him from heavily partaking in wine. As of now, even moving was difficult.

“Well, well, well. Your lifebound beast is inside Mythic Lightning Hall right now being treated and yet here you are, getting drunk,” the man chuckled. Through his shadowing, he knew everything about Lightning Manor.

“Ah, Lin Tao, I once submitted to you. However, people like you are the kind that I, Li Yanfeng, despise the most. Treacherous, conniving, and calculative. How many have you schemed against and hurt?”

“You think just because your Lightning Manor passed down a legacy, your descendants deserved wealth and glory? So even though I was stronger than those bastards of yours, you looked down on me and treated me as a lackey and cannon fodder! But, well, I was fine with that. I already knew you were arrogant.

“But what your clan never should’ve done was kick me away and humiliate me after I was defeated, making me an eternal laughingstock! I, Li Yanfeng, am very, very displeased!”

“Bunch of hyenas, what skills do you have besides breeding? Since you made me angry, I’ll show you. Let’s see who kills you, Lin Tao, after being so damn cocky your whole life!”

Outside, Liu Qing’s hands were still clamped over her mouth and she didn’t make a peep.

Li Yanfeng’s hatred had been completely internalized. As soon as he stepped inside, he ruthlessly took action. He currently still had power at the Spirit source level. For him, taking care of an old drunkard on his deathbed that had lost his mental faculties was an easy task.

His dagger smoothly slid into the old drunkard's chest.

The Lightning Seigneur's eyes shot open. Lightning flashed, revealing the black-clothed man's delighted smile.

"Old dog Lin, look carefully. I'm Li Yanfeng."

Lin Tao's eyes bulged out. As the dagger was taken out, he died unwillingly.

The matter was over.

Li Yanfeng stood up. When he turned around, he saw the woman there looking at him with a pale expression.

"Why didn't you shout?" Li Yanfeng had come here with the resolve to die and had been mentally prepared for her to shout. She could even have stopped him herself, or at least made noise, thus guaranteeing his death.

The only possibility was that she didn't want him to die.

Li Yanfeng was stunned. "You mean your choice is to come with me and give birth to that child?"

Li Yanfeng was already crippled at this point, and was ready to die.

"Big brother Feng, I love you." Liu Qing grit her teeth. In the beginning, it had merely been a marriage of convenience for her family and her brother's position in Lightning Manor.

However, that had only been true at the start.

"What did I do to deserve this..." Li Yanfeng laughed. Who would have expected that after he had been prepared to lose everything, there would still be someone with him in her heart?

"In this life, I, Li Yanfeng, have done many things. I've lost, raged, been right, been wrong. I've been cowardly, and I think I could be considered to have had a glorious period. I even killed the Lightning Seigneur! Now, after all that, I still have you. I really did profit."

He didn't just have her, he also had a child. Li Yanfeng had never loved anyone before; his wives in Flamehaven were nothing but tools to give birth.

Now, he chose to go far, far away with her.

From now on, he would peacefully enjoy his life as a cripple and a farmer.

Only one other person would ever know that this particular farmer had killed the Lightning Seigneur.

.....

On the way back, Li Tianming split from his mother and left Ignispolis. There was a place he couldn't wait to go.

At the Vermilion Bird palace, the king was likely still struggling, but Ling'er would convince him. Li Tianming didn't want to get in the way and possibly infuriate the king.

Carrying a blood-colored wine pot, Li Tianming went to a place called Mount Blueclouds, outside the city. It was where Midas was buried.

He had never visited in all these years, because he promised that the next time he came, he would bring enough of their enemy's blood to drink their fill together. He arrived at a wooden tombstone that had long since become mottled and covered in green moss. The words Li Tianming had inscribed with blood had long since faded away as well.

"Here lies Midas, my brother."

Originally, Li Tianming had come with the intent of moving Midas to the Wei Clan graves. However, now that he was here, he had second thoughts. Midas would have liked this place full of nature.

"I'm here, Midas."

Li Tianming had brought Lin Xiaoting's blood. Just as he had promised, he scattered it at Midas' grave.

He spent two days there, chatting with Midas, even though Midas couldn't hear. However, Li Tianming had the feeling it knew that vengeance had been served.

"After saying goodbye, I don't know when I can come by again. Next time, I'll bring even better news. Who knows, maybe I'll be married and have children. Midas, you have to be happy in the afterlife. Let's make a promise: in our next life, let's be brothers again, okay?"

Li Tianming simply had too much he wanted to say to Midas.

Tomorrow would be the day the inspectors brought him away.

Li Tianming returned to Ignispolis. As he entered the gates, he met a young girl. She was dressed in white clothes as she sat atop her Tri-Colored Darkthunder Bird, preparing to depart.

"Xiaoxiao, where are you going?"

Lin Xiaoxiao simply coldly looked at him, then her Tri-Colored Darkthunder Bird zoomed northward, leaving Ignispolis behind.

Li Tianming understood how she felt. She surely hated herself. And even more unbearable would be Lin Xiaoting and Mu Qingqing's sins, as well as the wild ambition of Lin Tao and Lin Tianjian. She was likely going out to explore the vast world away from Ignispolis.

"If fate wills it, we'll meet again." Although he said that, it would likely never happen.

After entering the city, Li Tianming overheard two major things that had happened in the time he was gone. First, Mu Qingqing's supernal mentor, Liu Xueyao, was removed from her position and chased out from Flameyellow Scions Institute. Mu Wan had replaced her. And second, the Lightning Seigneur had been assassinated by party, or parties, unknown. Furthermore, Liu Qing of Lightning Manor had gone missing.

When he heard her name, Li Tianming was inadvertently reminded of Li Yanfeng, and how furious he had been from Lightning Manor's attitude after losing.

He couldn't have been the killer, could he? The more he considered it, the more believable Li Tianming found it. Then he ran away with Liu Qing after the murder? Did he actually have such charm?

However, there were still some parts Li Tianming didn't understand.

Still, he really had been vicious to kill the Seigneur in a fit of fury. In fact, Li Tianming had to admire him somewhat. Li Yanfeng had gotten where he did through pure talent, without any background.

Did you kill him for me to see? Li Tianming smiled. Now, his ties to that man were completely severed.

.....

Li Tianming quickly returned to Wei Manor. However, he hadn't expected Wei Tiancang, Wei Jing, and Mu Yang to be so anxious to see him.

"Tianming, you're back! Why did you run all over the place?" Wei Jing said gloomily.

Li Tianming had informed her that he was going to visit Midas, but not the exact location.

"Is something the matter?"

"Of course! We've been looking for you for two days now!" Wei Jing said.

Li Tianming had originally thought one day was enough to say his goodbyes.

"What happened?" Li Tianming asked.

"Come with me to the Wei Clan to see two people. After that, decide if you still want to go to Heaven's Elysium."

Li Tianming was confused. He had already promised the two vice-inspectors, and the departure was tomorrow. Who could change his decision this late in the game? Wouldn't they be finished if they messed with the inspectors like this?

They quickly crossed the stone bridge and arrived at the Wei Manor proper.

Inside Sky Hall, Wei Tiancang was sitting at the side. His usual spot, at the head of the hall, was currently being commandeered by someone else, implying their status was even higher than his.

However, who in Vermilion Bird had a higher status than Wei Tiancang, other than the two inspectors?

Li Tianming lifted his head and saw an old granny.

### **Chapter 186 - Li Tianming, Sect Master of The Grand-Orient Sect!**

Seated in the most prestigious seat was an elderly lady with hair as white as snow and a hunched posture. However, her face glowed with vigor, and an exceptional aura beamed from her eyes. Despite being relaxed and smiling, she gave off a terrifying aura that engulfed the entire hall. These were all signs hinting at her extraordinary strength.

At the very least, she was much stronger than Wei Tiancang, and likely even stronger than Mu Yang. Li Tianming observed that even Mu Yang was standing beside her with utmost respect.

No matter who this elderly lady was, there was definitely something special about her!

She had a young girl standing beside her, dressed in a light orange long skirt with her hair tied neatly in a ponytail. While she didn't look very stunning at first, a closer look revealed that it was simply because she didn't put in much effort into dolling herself up. She would no doubt be a stunner if she did, with her eyes that glowed like the surface of a lake. She had an inherently elegant bearing that seemed to run in her blood, but her features were gentle and not overbearing at all.

But what surprised Li Tianming most was her pale grey hair that was almost exactly the same shade as Wei Jing's.

"Tianming, come and pay your respect to Madam Li Jingyu from the Grand-Orient Sect," Wei Tiancang hurriedly instructed.

"Let's not act like strangers. We're all relatives here, so just call me Granny Li." The old lady smiled kindly, her eyes crinkled into slits.

"Greetings, Granny Li." Hearing Wei Tiancang's instructions, Li Tianming was as polite as could be. But what was the Grand-Orient Sect?

To Li Tianming's knowledge, Vermilion Bird was located in a territory known as the Grand-Orient Realm, which was part of the Flameyellow Continent. It was a vast realm, filled with innumerable beings, and there were numerous small nations established, Vermilion Bird being one of them.

It was said that Heaven's Elysium was the ruler of the realm, but now it seemed that there was another sect of beastmasters known as the Grand-Orient Sect.

Li Tianming kept his curiosity to himself as Wei Tiancang continued, introducing the young girl. "This young lady here is Madam Li's granddaughter, Li Qingyu. She's five years younger than you, but her power is far beyond your wildest imagination," Wei Tiancang marvelled.

Li Tianming took a closer look at the girl. There was no mistaking that she was at the Unity Stage. Just fifteen years old, but this girl was much stronger than Lin Xiaoting already! Anyone capable of achieving this in Vermilion Bird would no doubt be considered a mythical genius that only came along once in at least tens of thousands of years! That was enough proof that the Grand-Orient Sect was much bigger, and more powerful, than those in Vermilion Bird could imagine, even if it was smaller than Heaven's Elysium.

"Hello, Miss Li." Li Tianming smiled.

"Nice to meet you." The girl smiled back, giving a glimpse of her gentle personality. It was impressive for an incredible talent like her to have such a demeanor.

Li Tianming knew that even someone like Lin Xiaoting, a pinnacle talent of Vermilion Bird, barely scraped into Heaven's Elysium with the help of a Saintbeast War-Soul. It went without saying that the disciples in those sects were of a totally different caliber, compared to him.

Li Qingyu's existence alone was sufficient evidence.

"Brother Wei, Tianming isn't quite familiar with my granddaughter and I, so why don't you explain to him what we were discussing?" Even when talking to Wei Tiancang, Li Jingyu was looking at Li Tianming all a-smile.

Why did he get the feeling that this granny Li seemed particularly fond of him, looking at him almost longingly. Could it be... she had some weird fetish? But of course that was just his own absurd imagination.

Wei Tiancang beckoned Li Tianming forward and put his hand on the young man's shoulder. "Tianming, let's start by talking about the Lifesbane first. Do you know where the Wei Clan's Lifesbane comes from?"

"We have an ancestor on the maternal side surnamed Li." Li Tianming glanced at Wei Jing; she had somewhat explained this to him before.

"That's correct. But did you know that this ancestor was actually from the Li Saint Clan of the Grand-Orient Sect? What's more, did you know that the Lifesbane is in fact the reason behind why the Li Saint Clan ruled over Grand-Orient Sect, and even the Grand-Orient Realm for tens of thousands of years?" Wei Tiancang was clearly bursting with pride.

"Of course I hadn't heard that before," Li Tianming blurted out.

"Well, now you know."

But Li Tianming noticed that the word used here was 'ruled over', past tense.

"Is the Grand-Orient Sect as big as Heaven's Elysium?" Li Tianming asked.

"The two are roughly on par, but for the past thousand years, Heaven's Elysium has held a slight advantage and is the current ruler of the realm. But of course, our sect has nurtured just as many powerhouses and some of the strongest cultivators," Li Jingyu said proudly.

Were they really that strong? The influx of information took Li Tianming by surprise. So the Wei family's ancestor had branched off from the Li Saint Clan, which, by the name of it, was a powerhouse even across the entire Grand-Orient Realm.

"The Grand-Orient Realm is filled with over seven hundred nations, and its border stretches far and wide. But across the land, our Li Saint Clan has been one of the most powerful clans for countless centuries! Only the clans that have thrived for tens of thousands of years can be crowned as a Saint Clan!"

"As for the Grand-Orient Sect, it's always been a sect that's passed down through our Li Saint Clan, meaning that every sect master has been the head of the Li Saint Clan." Li Jingyu's eyes were glowing as she spoke of the glory of her clan.

Li Tianming was entranced by the magnificent new world that Li Jingyu was describing to him. Who in Vermilion Bird could have known that other than Heaven's Elysium, there was another sect with equal size and power, which nurtured talents like Li Qingyu?

Li Tianming longed to travel outside of Vermilion Bird and explore the world beyond. He couldn't wait to personally experience all that Li Jingyu had described to him with his own eyes! But that said—

"Excuse me, may I ask what does this have to do with me?" Li Tianming was lost as to what this old granny wanted.

"It has everything to do with you! Tianming, how much do you know about Lifesbane?" Li Jingyu asked.

"Quite a lot."

"You consider Lifesbane to be a curse, don't you?"

Li Tianming nodded.

"That's where you're wrong. Lifesbane is the reason behind the glory of the Li Saint Clan, and the source of the incredible aptitude for cultivation in our disciples! While Lifesbane does speed up the aging of our body and drain our life away, our cultivation speeds up by leaps and bounds once we get rid of it."

"Our ancestors have suffered from Lifesbane for a great deal of time, and they figured out a way to break the curse and convert its banes directly into talent! "

"Qingyu, show him your bane-rings."

"Yes, grandma." Li Qingyu walked up as instructed and pulled up her right sleeve, revealing three black, interlocking rings that were identical to Wei Jing's!

"Qingyu has a bloodline of three incarnations, making her one of the brightest stars of our young generation. More significantly, the three bane-rings will give Qingyu a chance to challenge the Saint stage in the future! "

Saint? Wei Jing had mentioned it before; she heard about it from his real father, Li Muyang. The mythical Saint Stage was what came after Heavenly Will, and was a stage where cultivators could even extend their own lifespan.

"Tianming, do you know how many people with three bane-rings we have across our whole younger generation?" Li Jingyu asked, to which Li Tianming shook his head.

"Within the entire clan, there's not more than ten of them, and each of them has the chance of breaking through to Saint." Li Jingyu explained.

"Oh." Li Tianming nodded. It seemed like they do have a chance, but it wasn't a guarantee.

"Most of our disciples have either one or two rings. Those with only one ring tend to be slightly more average, and most of them are capable of reaching Heavenly Will. Those with two rings are well capable of reaching the peak of Heavenly Will. But of course, all of this is based on the assumption that their lifebound beasts meet a certain standard." Li Jingyu explained.

"I see." Li Tianming continued nodding.

"Then you should know that throughout the history of our Li Saint Clan, all those with four bane-rings were the cream of the crop in the entire realm, each of them ushering in at least five hundred years of prosperity and greatness!" Li Jingyu was suddenly glowing red with excitement.

"Er, I didn't know that either," Li Tianming stuttered.

"Then why don't you show me your right arm!" She looked at him with great fervor.

In fact, Li Tianming had been slightly dazed when she started talking about those with three rings. Knowing he didn't have a choice, Li Tianming slowly pulled up his right sleeve, revealing five interlocking rings.

"Heavens above! Bloodline of FIVE incarnations! This is the first one we've seen since our first ancestor founded our clan!" Li Jingyu looked up to the sky and suddenly burst into tears.

Li Tianming stared at the old lady who had completely gone wild. Was this reaction really necessary?

"Li Tianming, you have the bloodline of five incarnations. You are our hope of becoming the greatest clan once more. Your birth is a blessing from our great ancestors!" Li Jingyu grabbed him by the arm and eagerly shook him.

"Granny Li, easy...." Li Tianming nearly lost his balance.

"Grandma, calm down." Even Li Qingyu found her grandma to be overreacting and walked up to stop her.

Li Tianming felt a little awkward when he looked at the roaring, crying old lady. He reckoned that even Li Jingyu didn't know that he had five more rings on his left hand. He didn't know how they'd found out about his 'bloodline of five incarnations', but the truth was that he, Li Tianming, had a bloodline of ten incarnations! If even someone with five rings was enough to establish a saint clan that thrived for hundreds of centuries, then what on earth did that make him?

He dared not tell the truth to Li Jingyu, because his instincts told him that she would likely faint on the spot. He turned back and exchanged glances with Wei Jing and the rest.

Li Tianming always knew there was something terrific about his Lifesbane, which had allowed him to clear three levels in no time at all. But to what extent? If four rings could promise their clan five hundred years of greatness, and the only one with five rings was their first ancestor, who'd founded the clan, then what would ten rings be capable of?

It must have something to do with the Primordial Chaos Beasts, as well. Regardless, Li Tianming knew he had to hide the fact that he had ten rings instead of five. It was fortunate that the two from the saint clan didn't find out, nor did Wei Jing and the rest tell them about it.

Obviously, Li Jingyu and Li Qingyu had been observing him from the shadows without him realizing, but didn't find out about his other five rings. It was unclear how they'd determined him to have the bloodline of five incarnations, and he could only assume that Wei Jing and the rest had told them.

Li Jingyu finally regained her calm. "Tianming, granny has something to say." She looked at Li Tianming lovingly, as if he were her own grandson.

"Yes, granny, I'm listening," Li Tianming obediently replied. He had no choice but to listen, or who knew what this old lady would do in her excitement.

"You are the greatest treasure in the Li Saint Clan, and in the entire Grand-Orient Sect. Return to your roots and follow me back to our clan, don't bother with that dogshit Heaven's Elysium. Once you return to the Grand-Orient Sect, our whole family will be by your side, and you can have anything that you want."



“If you want, I’ll even chase those two dogs from Heaven’s Elysium away for you. Follow granny, Tianming. I never had any grandsons, but I promise I’ll treat you just like my own.” Li Jingyu’s eyes were beaming.

Li Tianming, on the other hand, had no idea how to react. How could he have known that such a big shot in the Grand-Orient Sect would be so eager to have him just because of his Lifesbane? He wasn’t used to being so popular!

Still, both Wei Tiancang and Wei Jing were hinting at him to choose the Grand-Orient Sect. At Heaven’s Elysium, he would just be an ordinary disciple with no backer, and god knew what would happen to him. But in the Grand-Orient Sect, what else needed to be said with Li Jingyu treating him just like her own grandson?

But during this brief hesitation, Li Jingyu felt the need to convince Li Tianming even further.

“Tianming, my son Li Wudi is the current sect master, and he’s the boss there. He’s already agreed that he’ll accept you as his godson the moment you arrive at the sect.”

“The role of sect master has always been hereditary, passed from father to son from as long as people could remember. But too bad my son never had a son of his own. If you follow me back to our clan, you’ll immediately be crowned as the junior sect master, with only one person above you and everyone else below!”

“And when my son is gone, you shall be the new Grand-Orient Sect Master!”

Li Tianming couldn’t help but pinch himself. Was this a dream? Even his dream wouldn’t have such a plot twist!

A nobody from Vermilion Bird was to join the Grand-Orient Sect, past master of the Grand-Orient Realm, as the junior sect master? And once Li Wudi passed, he would be the new Grand-Orient Sect Master?

This was simply too good to be true!

### **Chapter 187 - To Vermilion Bird Palace!**

“So, Tianming my grandson, are you willing to be the new Grand-Orient Sect Master? Grandma has already shown you how sincere I am. If you go to Heaven’s Elysium, you’ll be like just any other disciple, and who knows what they might do to you if they find out about your Lifesbane. As for the Grand-Orient Sect, even if we’re no longer the top powerhouse, we’re still a close second...” Li Jingyu blabbered on nonstop. Before Li Tianming could even say anything, she had already called him ‘Tianming my grandson’....

“Granny Li, this is quite an important choice to make, so do you mind letting me and my family discuss it in private for a bit?” Li Tianming asked.

“Naturally, naturally! Qingyu, let’s take a stroll.” Li Jingyu smiled.

“Madame, please stay seated. We can find somewhere else to discuss.” Mu Yang hurriedly stopped her, signaling Li Tianming, Wei Tiancang, and Wei Jing to join him outside.

“Tianming,” Wei Tiancang patted his shoulders, “according to Wei Clan’s ancestral records, we are indeed a far branch of the Li Saint Clan. Madame Li may sound like she’s exaggerating, but she wasn’t lying when she said the Grand-Orient Sect ruled the lands for millennia.

“Even now, the sect should still be one of the strongest powerhouses in the entire realm, and you’re the only disciple across this entire peninsula who’s qualified to make it in there. Disciples of the sect at your age should all be Unity, at a minimum, right now. The sheer scale of the place is definitely hundreds, or even thousands of times bigger than what we have in the Sanctum!

“Another thing is that the Grand-Orient Sect is on rather bad terms with Heaven’s Elysium. With your bane-rings, I don’t suppose they’ll just let you go easily. Perhaps they might even get rid of you straight away to erase all chances of you returning to the Li Saint Clan. You’ll be in danger the moment you’re revealed to have five rings, let alone the fact that you actually have ten.”

Wei Tiancang was more familiar with the clan’s history, so Li Tianming was inclined to believe whatever he was saying. In the entire sanctum, the three standing in front of him right now were the only people who knew about Li Tianming’s special physique. They were all seniors that he had complete faith in.

“Tianming, your grandpa is right. In the Grand-Orient Sect, you’ll have Madam Li’s help, and even the status as the junior sect master. We’ll be a lot less worried if you have sufficient backing, considering how easy it is for you to get in trouble,” Wei Jing added.

“What do you mean? I’m never one to get into trouble.” Li Tianming stuck out his tongue.

“Haha...”

“Oh, right... mother, how did they find out my five bane-rings?” Li Tianming asked.

“They initially found out about me, first, and had been observing me in Wei Manor. They didn’t pay any attention to you, since you only had one bane-ring then, but then you went into the pagoda for your cultivation. Even when the Sanctum Replacement Challenge happened, they didn’t pay much attention to you, since they thought you only had one ring.

“Apparently your case of having the rings appear one after another was an occurrence that they’d never seen or heard of before, so they even assumed your hair was dyed. Only after you’d defeated Lin Xiaoting did they begin suspecting there was something more to you, but even then they only guessed that you have three rings. It was a reasonable guess, since the Wei Clan is a very distant relative with a thin bloodline, so even three rings would be impressive enough.

“That was when they approached us and asked me how many bane-rings you have, even asking me if I wanted to bring my son to the sect with me. I avoided answering her directly and tried probing her, first. When I heard that five bane-rings was the most that they’d ever heard of, I just told them you have five. Even that was enough to drive Madame Li mad, and she’s been pestering us to find you ever since, haha...” Wei Jing had been hosting the pair from the sect ever since they’d revealed themselves, and she knew Li Tianming would return to say his farewells before joining the inspectors.

For Tianming, the bane-rings on his right arm were simply too obvious. Even if he hid them under his sleeve, he couldn’t make sure that no one found out. But the scenario was different for his left arm,

since the bane-rings blended in so well with his black arm. The tiny black dots were almost impossible to find under the little chick's left wing, too, and as for the black cat... Well, it was black to begin with.

Li Tianming considered himself lucky that the grandmother and granddaughter pair didn't witness his ten days of change in the Flameyellow Pagoda. He won't be surprised if Li Jingyu ended up in a coma if that had happened.

"Grandpa, Uncle Yang, mother. So you support me joining the Grand-Orient Sect?" Li Tianming asked seriously.

"Based on the older records from our clan, Madam Li's words, the blood relation proved by the Lifesbane, the hierarchy of Heaven's Elysium, and the animosity between the two factions, I say that joining Grand-Orient Sect is the optimal choice," Mu Yang explained.

To top that all off, they already had a bad impression of the Elysium, thanks to Jin Yixuan and Song Yixue.

"Mother, you have three bane-rings, and you should be similar to Miss Li's standard. Are you going to join me in the Grand-Orient Sect?" Li Tianming asked, since she was Li Jingyu's initial target.

"I'm not going anywhere. I'm staying in the Wei Manor to take care of your grandpa," Wei Jing replied.

That didn't come as much of a surprise. Even if her body was that of a twenty year old, she was forty at heart and lacked the passion that youngsters like Li Tianming had. There was also twenty years of missed time between her and her father, so she would want to stay to make up for that. Somewhere in her heart, she might even be waiting for Li MUYANG.

"You don't have to worry about us here, they still have me." Mu Yang patted his shoulder and smiled. The promise of the strongest beastmaster in Vermilion Bird was reassuring enough for Li Tianming.

"Honestly, Madame Li was really interested in me, at first, and was trying to convince me to join them with all sorts of methods. I had to expose you to distract her, so I could get some peace of mind," Wei Jing laughed.

"Are you really still my mother?" Li Tianming didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

All jokes aside, since the three seniors were all in favor of him choosing the Grand-Orient Sect, Li Tianming had made up his mind, too. He would also be at ease knowing that his family back home didn't have to worry about him.

"Tianming, I'll wait for you to come back and share the tales of your adventures with me," Mu Yang said.

"Of course, nothing can stop me now."

"Stop boasting, Madame Li is still waiting for your answer." Wei Jing peeked in the hall and saw that Li Jingyu was still pacing nervously. It was evident how important someone with five bane-rings was to her.

"So, have you made up your mind?" Li Jingyu instantly grabbed Li Tianming's hand upon their return.

"Granny Li, I decided to join the Grand-Orient Sect," Li Tianming said frankly.

“Heavens above! Our ancestors haven’t given up on us, and our Li Saint Clan has hope once more!” Tears flowed out of Li Jingyu’s eyes.

“Huh, why does it sound like there’s no hope if I don’t join?” Li Tianming muttered under his breath. Why did he get the impression that he wasn’t there to be the junior sect master, but rather to save the Li Saint Clan.

Wasn’t the junior sect master a role with utmost power, where a snap of his fingers would bring money and pretty girls over? So why did it sound like he was going there to help them, instead?

“Of course not. Tianming my grandson, have you packed your things yet? We’re leaving right away.” Li Jingyu laughed.

“Now?”

“Yes, now. Better get back before someone else takes the junior sect master spot,” Li Jingyu answered.

“Excuse me?”

“That was just a joke, haha.... Tianming my grandson, let’s go!”

“Sorry, Granny Li, please give me sometime to pack.”

“Before that, granny has a gift for you here. This is a spatial ring, a special beastial item that’s made using spatial ore with blue heavenly patterns. The ore has the unique ability to store items in a separate dimension, and this ring contains a two meter diameter sphere that can be used to store all kinds of treasures and weapons. It’s a handy item for when you’re travelling. But take note the spatial ring is not meant to store living things, and trying to put a lifebound beast inside will instantly rip it apart .”

Li Tianming gawked at the ring, not having known that such amazing items existed.

“Tianming, while the spatial ring is made up of materials that are used to forge grade six beastial weapons, the ring is definitely worth way more than most grade seven weapons. Only two people have one in the entire Vermilion Bird Kingdom, one of them being the king and the other your grandfather. Thank Madame Li for giving you such a precious gift,” Mu Yang hurriedly explained.

The spatial ring was an extremely precious gift. While it wasn’t useful in battle, it meant that Li Tianming would no longer have to carry his weapons and spirit ores with him on the go, which would make life much more convenient. And if he were to bring Jiang Feiling with him, he could also help carry her essential items like clothes and accessories.

“Thank you, Granny Li.” Li Tianming reached out his hand to accept the spatial ring.

“Call me Grandma.” Li Jingyu tilted her hand a little and avoided him.

“Grandma....” It was a price Li Tianming was willing to pay for the spatial ring. He would be getting a new godfather anyway, so one more grandma was nothing much.

Not to mention, the pretty Li Qingyu would now be his younger sister?

“Aha!” Li Jingyu was glowing with elation. “I finally have a grandson, too!”

Li Tianming had obtained a spatial ring. It wasn't difficult to use, and Wei Tiancang taught him how to operate it. Li Tianming kept his luggage, the Grand Thunderflare Sword, Blazing Dragon Chainblade, and some clothes inside the ring, and still had plenty of room to spare.

"Tianming, here's what I promised you." Mu Yang suddenly brought out a wooden box that was rather large and heavy.

"What is that?"

"Didn't I promise you to give you a grade seven beastial weapon when you left Vermilion Bird? Brother Chen gave you the Grand Thunderflare Sword, so I can't do worse than that." Mu Yang smiled.

"Is it a chain?" While Li Tianming was doing well with his sword arts, he didn't intend to give up on chains.

"That's right."

"Can I take a look?"

"Wait till you reach the Grand-Orient Sect," Mu Yang said.

"Trying to hide it, eh? Must be quite a good weapon."

"Definitely not bad at all." Mu Yang grinned.

Both of them laughed heartily, as that was what Li Tianming had told Wei Tianxiong when he defeated Wei Guohao.

"Tianming my grandson, are we ready to leave?" Li Jingyu could wait no longer.

Li Tianming turned around to say his farewells to Wei Jing and the others. It was difficult to depart from a family that was finally reunited, but everyone wore a smile. As tough as his future endeavors might be, they chose to trust Li Tianming.

"See you."

"See you."

Who knew when they would see each other again? But Li Tianming knew that he would come back one day. At least, the Grand-Orient Sect didn't seem that far away.

"Before we leave, I need to make a trip to Vermilion Bird Palace," Li Tianming told his new grandma after leaving the Wei Manor.

"Your mother already told me that we're picking up my granddaughter-in-law first." Li Jingyu smiled.

Damn. It seemed like she wasn't satisfied with just picking up a grandson, but also wanted a great-grandson as well to go with it.

"Let's go to Vermilion Bird Palace!"

**Chapter 188 - Exterminate The Li Saint Clan In A Decade!**

Will the king allow me to bring Ling'er away? He was hesitating when I said we would go to Heaven's Elysium. However, in the Grand-Orient Sect, I have the connections of blood and Lifesbane to the Li Saint Clan. He should agree now, Li Tianming thought on the way to the palace.

Li Jingyu was still admiring him, while Li Qingyu maintained her gentle and elegant demeanor.

When Li Tianming looked at her, she smiled and said, "Hello, big brother Tianming."

"Just a question, but little sister Qingyu, what stage are you now?" Li Tianming asked.

"Qingyu isn't that talented, so I've only reached fourth level Unity," she replied.

Li Tianming was dumbstruck. An "untalented" fifteen year old had reached fourth level Unity. Vermilion Bird's premier genius, Lin Xiaoting, had only just barely reached Unity at twenty. This simple comparison made it obvious what kind of existence the Grand-Orient Sect was.

"Big brother Tianming has a Five Bane-Ring Physique. You'll catch up to me soon enough," Li Qingyu consoled, afraid he was discouraged.

"Right. You were born in Vermilion Bird, so you awakened later. No need to care about your current cultivation. Look forward, toward your eventual goal of the Saint stage! When you reach that, you'll be able to live two centuries, at the very least. If you can accomplish it before seventy, you'll be one of the Grand-Orient Realm's powerhouses."

Seventy? That was a distant concept.

They quickly arrived at Vermilion Bird Palace.

Suddenly—

"Ling Yichen is here?" Li Jingyu's gaze turned cold as she quickly pulled Li Tianming and Li Qingyu into the palace.

Li Tianming, however, was confused. Who was Ling Yichen? In fact, that name sounded rather similar to Jin Yixuan and Song Yixue!

As soon as they entered the palace, they encountered six people. Li Tianming recognised three of them: Jin Yixuan, Song Yixue, and Yueling Ji. He had only expected to see them tomorrow, unaware that the Sanctum Replacement Challenge in Aquamarine had already finished and the group had hurried back to Vermilion Bird.

However, most importantly, Jiang Feiling was in that group. Her expression was slightly pale, and she even looked slightly frightened. Li Tianming immediately felt blood rush to his head; what had they done to Jiang Feiling?

Li Tianming hadn't seen the last two before.

One was a middle-aged man, dressed in black. He was frighteningly skinny and had a gloomy gaze, as well as hands like a crow's talons. However, the pressure he gave off was startling, enough to lower the temperature of the palace. Furthermore, the two vice-inspectors, Jin Yixuan and Song Yixue, were respectfully following behind him and reporting the events in Aquamarine to him.

Li Tianming also vaguely heard Jin Yixuan say that Murong Canghai was dead, his family line gone, and how they were now free of worries.

Li Tianming had already known that they wouldn't give up on making the Yueling Clan into a Sanctum clan. Now, they seemed to have succeeded; it was unfortunate for the Aquamarine Sanctum.

Clearly, this middle-aged man was the leader of the two vice-inspectors.

However, the young woman in the lead had an even more noble status. Her face was covered by a veil and her eyes were filled with a harsh light of contempt, as if she was the ruler of the world. Everyone she laid eyes on would have to assume a kneeling position in front of her.

That gaze alone was enough to allow Li Tianming to personally experience the level of the geniuses of the Grand-Orient Realm!

As for Li Qingyu, her personality was too gentle, unlike this tyrannical woman.

Although she was beautiful and possessed an exquisite figure and pretty eyes, her icy aura would deter anyone from talking about her external appearance. She was clearly the leader of this delegation, and even the middle-aged man obsequiously stood by her side.

Both parties met at the gate of Vermilion Bird Palace.

"Big brother!" Jiang Feiling anxiously shouted as soon as she saw him. However, she was surrounded and had no way to get to Li Tianming.

Li Tianming's eyes narrowed.

"Li Jingyu?" The man frowned. "Why is a member of the Li Saint Clan here for no good reason?"

"Let me ask you that: why is an inspector of Heaven's Elysium here?"

"Vermilion Bird is a tributary state of Heaven's Elysium. It's my territory. Why wouldn't I be here?" Ling Yichen sneered.

The two were like fire and water as soon as they met.

"Well, this is my son Li Wudi's illegitimate son! I've searched all over the Grand-Orient Realm for him to bring him back to the Grand-Orient Sect," Li Jingyu replied.

Illegitimate son? Excuse me? Wasn't he supposed to be a foster son? Li Tianming didn't think too much of it, since Jiang Feiling was in their hands.

"This is Li Wudi's illegitimate son? Excuse me, this is a disciple of Heaven's Elysium we recruited three days ago. We're currently bringing him back!" Jin Yixuan said.

"Forget it. He's a member of my Li Saint Clan, a talented heir of three banes. You'll chase him out anyway, even if you bring him back," Li Jingyu said.

"An heir of three banes? I couldn't tell." Song Yixue examined Li Tianming.

“Since that’s so, we don’t want him anymore. Let’s go,” Ling Yichen said. There were no benefits to bringing a genius from the Li Saint Clan back, and he would likely get scolded instead. Friction had existed between the two groups for millennia.

Heaven’s Elysium had stepped on the Grand-Orient Sect to dominate the Grand-Orient Realm.

“Wait.” Li Jingyu pointed. “You can go, but leave my granddaughter-in-law behind.”

“Granddaughter-in-law?” Ling Yichen looked at Jiang Feiling. He sneered, “You must be joking, this is Lady Long’s new servant girl.”

“Servant girl?” Li Tianming was even more furious now. It seemed that the young woman was the so-called Lady Long.

When Li Jingyu saw Li Tianming’s expression, she panicked, because she could infer exactly how important the girl was to Li Tianming.

“Lady Long, could you let her go? That’s my granddaughter-in-law, and I won’t let you bring her back to Heaven’s Elysium,” Li Jingyu said in a low voice. Her current attitude was very dignified, a far cry from her rash behavior in Wei Manor.

“What will you do if I say no?” This was the first time Lady Long spoke, and her voice was laced with sheer arrogance.

“If you don’t, you all should plan to never leave Vermilion Bird,” Li Jingyu said.

She was the mother of the Grand-Orient Sect’s sect master, while the other side was an inspector of Heaven’s Elysium. In terms of status, she was probably higher, but Li Tianming wasn’t sure what that meant in terms of combat prowess. However, it was likely that she was stronger if she dared say such things.

“Li Jingyu, do you know what tier of genius Lady Long is? If you offend her, can those invalids left in your Li Saint Clan do anything but suffer when the time comes?” Ling Yichen said coldly.

“Boss, what Li Saint Clan? They already lost their title as a Saint Clan five hundred years ago. They’re the ones who keep lying to themselves and proclaiming they’re a Saint Clan,” Jin Yixuan sniggered.

Li Jingyu considered Lady Long. “Naturally, I do recognize her. I’m even aware she’s a candidate to become the future Elysium Emperor.”

Despite Li Jingyu’s gaze, the young woman didn’t flinch in the slightest.

“Good that you know. Considering her rise and fortune, she’ll be one of the three strongest in the realm within decades! You’re old already, so you should have some self-awareness about what’ll happen if you offend her.” Ling Yichen smiled.

“Correct. Your clan is no longer the Saint Clan it was a millenia ago. That absolute trash, Li Wudi, is the weakest sect master in history! Even I could kill him with one hand tied behind my back.” Song Yixue was even more rude.

The inspectors expected these words to frighten Li Jingyu. However, they were underestimating her.



Li Jingyu merely pursed her lips and said, "Cut the crap. I'm an old lady, so why would I care about some Lady Long? It doesn't matter how heaven-defying the genius is, they're still a chickling in front of me. I'll butcher her if you dare touch my granddaughter-in-law!"

"Heaven's Elysium will exterminate my clan? Sure, she'll be dead, but we'll still come out the winners! Ling Yichen, you're just a lackey. If you believe you can keep yourself alive, you're welcome to try to bring my granddaughter-in-law away."

Li Jingyu began approaching them and the three inspector's faces turned ugly.

"Li Jingyu, do you really want to do this?"

The inspectors admitted that her words were true. The whole reason Heaven's Elysium gave the elysian children servants was because the elysian children were only peerless when it came to others their own age. There still existed a gap between them and the older generation.

If Li Jingyu really did take a hard stance, something may very well happen to Lady Long. And it was true—Lady Long's value was far beyond the old and weak left in the Li Saint Clan.

"Lady Long, we may not necessarily lose if we fight her. However, I'm afraid she'll target you. She's famous for being a crazy old codger who'll always defend her relatives. No one can stop her when she goes crazy..." Ling Yichen said with a headache.

"Then let them go." Yueling Long didn't have an angry reaction. Instead, her eyes just grew colder. She wasn't an idiot, and knew that her life was the most precious of all.

Song Yixue released Jiang Feiling, who quickly hurried to Li Tianming's side. He finally relaxed when he saw that she wasn't really injured, other than being frightened.

Frankly, Li Tianming felt very grateful toward Li Jingyu. If it weren't for this "grandmother", Jiang Feiling would surely have been taken away today.

To become a maid? Serve Lady Long?

To Li Tianming, all these "peerless geniuses" weren't worth a fart. It would be better if this "Lady Long" became Jiang Feiling's maid instead!

Just as Jiang Feiling returned, Lady Long stepped forward, her eyes ablaze. "Li Jinyu. I'll remember how you threatened me today. In twenty years time, I'll make my way to the Grand-Orient Sect to exterminate your Li Clan. We'll see who in your sect dares to stand up for you. Who knows, maybe a decade will be enough for the Li Clan to be exterminated!" Her words were filled with venom.

## **Chapter 189 - Genius Of The Grand-Orient Realm**

"Who taught you to be so vicious at such a young age?" Li Jingyu snorted.

In truth, this wasn't a threat that could be laughed off. Who knew how terrifying Lady Long would be after a decade had passed?

"You've really wasted so many years of your life cultivating. How could you still not know the rules of this world? The strong eat the weak, as well as seize everything, kill everything that threatens them, and

wipe away all enmities. Only through eliminating grass by the roots when you face enemies can you dominate everything.

“Today, you threatened my life. Another day, I’ll exterminate your whole clan! That day won’t be far off. That is the creed I live my life by, and my path of cultivation!” Every word of hers was delivered imposingly.

Li Tianming suddenly broke into the conversation with a chortle. “Alright, alright, stop bragging. I get it. You’re super duper awesome and badass, and one day, the world shall tremble at your feet, you’re the main character, you’re a special snowflake, blah blah blah....”

Lady Long’s eyes immediately shifted to him, evaluating him. “Ant!”

In this confrontation, a random illegitimate son of Li Wudi wasn’t worth her attention.

As for Li Jingyu, Lady Long’s words did concern her. It could be seen that she really was wary of future retribution.

Li Tianming could tell from the conversation that the Li Saint Clan wasn’t as glorious as it once was. Also, even though Li Wudi was the Grand-Orient Sect’s sect master, his word there wasn’t law. It seemed Li Jingyu had exaggerated somewhat. After all, she had been trying to entice Li Tianming.

It seemed challenges would await him when he went to the Grand-Orient Realm.

However, Li Tianming wasn’t worried about it, since he had approved of Li Jingyu and Li Qingyu because of their sincerity towards him.

He didn’t mind joining them and facing these challenges. Regardless, he did need challenges, resources, and status to accelerate his growth.

“Big brother, she, she stole five of my sealed abilities...” Jiang Feiling said worriedly.

“What?” Li Tianming was startled. He had originally thought she was fine when he saw she was unharmed. However, when she raised her right hand, he saw that she had lost the strange seals on those fingernails!

“I don’t know how that person did it, but he took those five seals and transferred them into a sphere for her to store them. He also wanted to take away the seal on my left hand, but failed. According to him, it’s because the five seals on my left hand form one complete whole, and I’ve already unlocked four. However, the fingernails on my right hand are only a vessel and they haven’t merged with my bloodline, so they were vulnerable. She then forced me to Spiritually Attach to her. It was a grade seven attachment and raised her strength, so she wanted me to be her maid. Fortunately, you came.”

Although she was unharmed, she still hated to part with those five seals, as she wanted to help Li Tianming more in the future.

Originally, Li Tianming hadn’t had a positive impression of this Lady Long. Now, it was completely ruined. He had already promised not to let anyone touch one hair of hers. However, not three days after he’d made that vow, this Lady Long had come along and gone much further than a hair.

“Illegitimate son of Li Wudi. She’s a good treasure, and you don’t qualify to own her! For the next few years, help me take care of her. When I exterminate the Li Clan, I’ll bring her away. If you take care of her until then, I promise to spare you your life.”

Li Tianming laughed coldly when he heard that. Did he really need to be told to protect Jiang Feiling? He asked Li Jingyu, “Grandma, could you help me seize those five seals back?”

He didn’t feel very pleased to let that arrogant Lady Long just take them like that, even if it didn’t feel as bad as with the matter of the Saintbeast War-Soul.

“I expect she used the Saint Origin Sphere to capture it, then stored it in her spatial ring. It’ll be troublesome to snatch it from her. After all, just now I was just threatening them and not actually attacking. If I really do attack, it’ll escalate to something unresolvable. For now, we’ve kept my granddaughter-in-law safe, which is the most important thing. For those seals, it’s not impossible for you to get them back in a few decades. After all, with your bane-rings, your talent isn’t any lower. You just have a later starting point.”

Li Tianming understood where she was coming from—life was indeed the most important thing.

Just threatening the other side had been met with a proclamation of clan extermination. An actual fight would probably have severe repercussions for Vermilion Bird; besides, it would be for the best if he could do it himself.

“Then it’s alright, big brother. I still have five,” Jiang Feiling hurriedly said.

Li Tianming raised his head. “Lady Long, you said that you’ll exterminate my whole clan in a decade, right?”

“Yes.”

“No need to wait a decade. I’ll go to Heaven’s Elysium myself before then, and remove your head in front of all of Heaven’s Elysium while I take back my Ling’er’s seals,” Li Tianming said. It was delivered with utter calm, but a dangerous light was in his eyes, exactly the same as when he executed Lin Xiaoting.

His words brought Li Qingyu and Li Jingyu some shock. However, it also finally made Lady Long laugh, so amused she was by Li Tianming.

“That is absolutely the biggest boast I have heard in my life.”

“Well, Lady Long, I have you, the best of the best, to learn from,” Li Tianming “gratefully” replied. He despised this Lady Long, and their grudge was irreconcilable.

“Ignorant fool.”

Li Tianming’s words made Lady Long’s expression lose all mirth. With Li Jingyu here, she couldn’t do anything, and talking more with Li Tianming would only debase herself. Only contempt and derision were in her eyes. Elysium child and junior sect master sounded equal, but was that really so?

“Li Jingyu, when the time comes, remember to lead the whole clan into battle for me to kill.” With those parting words, Lady Long brought her posse and left.

During the entire conflict, Yueling Ji had only dared to stay at the back and keep quiet. Not even Li Tianming was aware Lady Long was Yueling Ji's younger sister.

Li Tianming finally understood when Li Jingyu told him Yueling Long's name and legend. The internally decided victor of the Abyssal Trials and the Yueling Clan taking over the Aquamarine Sanctum were all orchestrated by Yueling Long!

"Don't you fear this genius of the Grand-Orient Realm?" Li Jingyu asked.

"Why should I? It's not like she has three heads and six arms. She's only human." To Li Tianming, no one could snatch away what belonged to him or Jiang Feiling. Not Lin Xiaoting, not Yueling Long, not anyone!

She wanted to massacre the Li Clan in a decade? Perhaps, with the right opportunity, they wouldn't need a decade, nor would it happen to the Li Clan. The ten Primordial Chaos Beasts and first ten banishing physique ever had given Li Tianming boundless confidence.

There could only be one verdict for making Jiang Feiling unhappy: death.

Despite how flippant Li Tianming seemed to be toward Yueling Long, killing intent was already stirring in his heart. He was now someone who wanted to spoil his wife, and Yueling Long had been the first to touch this taboo.

Well, she wasn't actually his wife yet, but when Jiang Feiling had pleaded with the king to let her brave the world with him, she had become the most important girl in his life.

Now, Li Tianming brought Li Jingyu along to find the king. He had fainted, and Jiang Qingluan was by his side, bawling in the midst of despair when she saw Li Tianming bringing Jiang Feiling back.

"Ling'er!" Jiang Qingluan was incredibly emotional, and her tears turned into happiness. She looked at Li Tianming, knowing he was the reason why she came back.

"Good job. You didn't let Ling'er down after she spent three days pleading with father and me to let her go!" Jiang Qingluan smiled, causing tears to fall again. She really couldn't bear to part with Jiang Feiling; they had grown up together, and she was even closer to her than her real sisters. After all, it was difficult for royal princesses to get along.

"So you agree?" Li Tianming asked.

Jiang Qingluan grit her teeth and glared at him. "We'll see what my father says. Ling'er is too great, so we can't make things too easy for you."

Not long after that, the king woke up. Li Tianming introduced Li Jingyu and Li Qingyu to him. Coincidentally, he had heard of the Grand-Orient Sect and the Li Saint Clan before. He was stunned to hear that Li Tianming had a high level bloodline of the Li Saint Clan flowing through him.

"Your Majesty?"

"Li Tianming, if something happens to my daughter, I'll hold you accountable!" the king threatened.

"Yes."

It was only a single word, but it made the king relax.

Next came the touching scene of the two sisters bidding each other farewell. Li Tianming felt very moved to see it, but when he thought of how he was going to bring away Jiang Feiling, he nearly burst out laughing.

“Jiang Qingluan, if I do manage to stabilise my position there and gain authority, I’ll bring you over there to cultivate so you can continue being with Ling’er,” Li Tianming whispered in Jiang Qingluan’s ear before leaving.

“Really? So you do have a conscience. Also, before you come to Vermilion Bird to ask for her hand, you’re not allowed to touch Ling’er!” Jiang Qingluan winked at him.

“Relax, I won’t touch her.” So saying, he tightly held Jiang Feiling’s hand.

Was that called not touching? Jiang Qingluan grit her teeth, but she was powerless to do anything. After all, Li Tianming was her ticket to the vast outside world. In fact, it was only due to the uncertainty regarding the junior sect master position that he wasn’t bringing her along already.

The next journey had finally begun!

They got on Li Jingyu’s lifebound beast. It was a high-tier eight-star beast, even better than Mu Yang’s Ink Qilin. It was called the Raging-Sea Kunpeng, a rarely seen dual-species lifebound beast. Normally, only dual-types were heard of.

Being a dual-species beast meant it was two races in one. The kunpeng had two forms: one was a bird, the peng, that could take to the skies, and the other was a fish, the kun, that could roam the seas. In the past, the Li Saint Clan had even been called the ‘Kunpeng Clan’.

The Wei Clan’s goldrocs were descendants of the peng half of the kunpengs.

Now in the form of a bird, the Raging-Sea Kunpeng shot into the sky. Within a day, they crossed thousands of kilometers worth of mountains and rivers.

By daybreak, they reached the Grand-Orient Sect.

The instant Li Tianming saw the vast, ancient sect, he immediately knew he had correctly chosen to go there.

“Tianming, my grandson, come in with me... to become the junior sect master!” Li Jingyu urged him as soon as they arrived, as if he waited any longer, the opportunity would be lost.

End of Volume 2: The Bane of Life

Next, Volume 3: The Grand-Orient Sect

### **Chapter 190 - Get Your Ass Out Here, Li Wudi!**

Volume 3: The Grand-Orient Sect

Endless clouds spread out before Li Tianming. An uninterrupted series of mountain peaks broke through the clouds, upon which countless rivers flowed.

It was like a land of immortals, filled with flora and birdsong.

And among the mountains, hazy outlines of tens of thousands buildings could be seen on the steep mountain peaks!

Without fail, every single building would be considered a spectacle if it were in Vermilion Bird. Together, they seemed to link up to form a dragon hidden in the clouds, with its body hidden and only its head revealed. From his position, Li Tianming could only see the tip of the iceberg when it came to the Grand-Orient Mountain Range.

What struck Li Tianming the most wasn't only the Grand-Orient Sect's scale, but also the thick spiritual energy present! An endless amount of it roared past, then gathered in his body. Cultivating here would bring twice the results with only half the effort.

Astride his shoulder, the little chick inhaled deeply, one single breath leaving him intoxicated.

"The Grand-Orient Sect is even bigger than I imagined! Furthermore, this is them after having been dethroned as the overlord of the Grand-Orient Realm—I expect the current Heaven's Elysium is even more grand. Still, the Grand-Orient Sect can't be that inferior, looking at it." Li Tianming was moved, his shock a natural reaction to seeing such a place for the first time.

Regardless of his talent, he was still from a small kingdom, after all.

"It'll really be impressive if you can really become the junior sect leader of this place. It won't be difficult to give up Ling'er and establish a harem!" The little chick snorted, which earned it a glare from Jiang Feiling, upon receipt of which it hurriedly shrank back.

"Junior sect master?" Li Tianming shook his head. On the way here, Li Jingyu had already come clean. She had admitted that she was going all out in trying to lure Li Tianming over.

Li Tianming really could become the junior sect leader if he came. However, the current sect master was derided as the weakest in history; what prestige could the junior one have?

However, Li Tianming remained openminded. Regardless of how hard it was to explain, he would still end up countless times stronger than if he had stayed in Vermilion Bird. At least, what he was looking at wasn't an illusion.

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"Those shameless bastards! I leave for just a bit, and here they are revolting again!" Li Jingyu turned furious as soon as they arrived. She led Li Tianming, Li Qingyu, and Jiang Feiling to one of the outermost mountain peaks of the sect, Fatepath Peak.

Fatepath Peak was far from the main mountain peaks, and even seemed to be at the foot of the mountain range. From afar, it looked run down, with weeds covering the land and lacking in any sense of grandeur.

No one would expect it to be the official residence of the sect master.

According to Li Jingyu, one of the Li Saint Clan's four great bloodlines, the Wind Bloodline, resided on this peak. They were also the leader of the four great bloodlines, due to the existence of the Apex Branch.

Back in its heyday, the power of that single bloodline had been even mightier than the then-rising Heaven's Elysium.

The kunpeng quickly reached the mountain peak in a blink of an eye.

Atop the peak was an old and dilapidated palace. It had a board attached to it, inscribed with the words "Kunpeng Sacred Hall". The sign was mottled with moss, old, and even covered with dust, clearly marked by the passage of time.

Li Tianming reached the hall's gate, finding a dense throng of people numbering in the hundreds congregated outside.

They all seemed to be in a bad mood as they gathered outside the black gate. Several of them were even heavily knocking on the gate, each hit heavy enough to cause much of the hall's dust to shake off.

"Li Wudi, get your ass out here! If you don't, we'll drag you out, even if we have to take this place apart! Don't think you can just hide away here! Our whole Wind Bloodline was ruined by you. Now that our legacy is at risk, you still dare to hide your face?"

"Today, all the people from seven branches have gathered here. We're not here as a joke!"

Li Tianming had thought the numbers were a little on the high side, and it turned out that most of the Li Saint Clan's Wind Bloodline had shown up. It was clear just how low the bloodline had fallen.

Li Jingyu said that the Wind Bloodline consisted of eight branches, one main and seven sides. The main branch was known as the Apex Branch, while the seven side branches were known as the Seven Starry Wind Branches. They were the Alpha Ursae Majoris Branch, Beta Ursae Majoris Branch, Gamma Ursae Majoris Branch, Delta Ursae Majoris Branch, Epsilon Ursae Majoris Branch, Zeta Ursae Majoris Branch, and the Eta Ursae Majoris Branch.

Any of these side branches were massive clans that could shake the Grand-Orient Realm... thousands of years ago. That was even notwithstanding the fact that other than the Wind Bloodline, there were still three other great bloodlines!

All four great bloodlines were led by the Apex Branch. It was also this very branch that Li Wudi and Li Qingyu hailed from. It had even produced hundreds of figures with four bane-rings in its time; however, it had still fallen to this state today, eliciting pity.

Even the seven side branches of the bloodline were now forcing their way into the Kunpeng Sacred Hall. A man from the Alpha Ursae Majoris branch was there. He was middle-aged, and his cold gaze and narrow eyes combined to make him seem like a snake. This man was the branch leader, Li Xuanhe.

"Just break the gate down and drag him out," Li Xuanhe said.

In response, many strong young men prepared to break the gate down.

Li Tianming could see from one glance this Li Xuanhe had an imposing presence, and he seemed to be another figure of Li Jingyu and Ling Yichen's level. There were five or six more people in the crowd of similar level to him, proof that, despite its decline, the Li Saint Clan was still something far beyond Vermilion Bird's ability to imagine.

“Li Wudi, you can’t hide anywhere today!” the branch leader of the Beta Ursae Majoris Branch, Li Chenhong, shouted. Dressed in blue robes, his sturdy figure gave the impression of a mountain.

“How dare you hide away for so many years after ruining our bloodline! Today, we’re going to drag you out here and humiliate you!”

The Seven Starry Wind Branches were filled with angry people. Just as they were about to destroy the gate, the kumpeng landed with such a heavy impact that over ninety percent of the people were sent flying.

Only those like Li Xuanhe and Li Chonghe were able to remain stable. Their eyes narrowed as they looked at the white-haired Li Jingyu, who leaped down from the kumpeng.

All of the Li Saint Clan’s hair tended towards white. Li Jingyu was already old, so it was hard to tell, but Li Qingyu’s hair was a light grey that was similar to Wei Jing’s. Not many youths had a color the same shade. As for the rest of the Li Saint Clan members present, it was slightly darker.

Hence, Li Tianming’s silvery hair immediately drew some attention. However, they mostly assumed it was dyed, which was considered a derided action here.

“Matriarch, you’re finally back. We’ve been waiting.” Li Xuanhe narrowed his eyes, which didn’t contain the slightest iota of respect in them.

“Waiting? Waiting for what, to drink the water I use to wash my feet? What the hell are all of you crowding around here for? Get lost!” Li Jingyu sounded furious as she held Li Qingyu’s hand. Her annoyance implied this wasn’t a rare event.

“Matriarch, we’re not leaving today. There’s a big matter Li Wudi needs to come out for today! If he doesn’t, then Matriarch, make the decision,” Li Tianyu, the Delta Ursae Majoris Branch leader, said with a voice like a gale. He had long, fluttering hair and his eyes seemed to hold a storm within them.

Li Tianming needed to adjust to the sudden appearance of so many experts as soon as he arrived.

“Just spit it out.” Li Jingyu glared at them.

“No. This matter is too big. Matriarch, please open the gates so we can talk inside!”

“You dare go so overboard?” Li Jingyu said furiously.

“Haha. We all know what state the Apex Branch is in. How could I not dare?” Li Xuanhe sniggered, prompting a round of laughter all around. Obviously, they hadn’t come with good intentions.

“I’m really curious to see what a bunch of trash like you can do.” Li Qingyu grit her teeth, out of breath from her exasperation. She pulled Li Qingyu along, motioning for Li Tianming to follow.

“Trash? Matriarch, it’s your son that’s the most trash sect master in all of our sect’s history! Even an ordinary disciple can refer to him by name, because there’s no respect. And you actually want to say that we’re trash?” Li Xuanhe’s cold laughter drifted over from behind.

Li Jingyu stopped, but after suppressing her anger, she opened the gates to the Kumpeng Sacred Hall and the group of people quickly swarmed in.



Li Tianming saw a massive hall. Right in front of it was a towering and majestic seat that overlooked the entire place! However, it was already rotting, and it was aesthetically at odds from the rest of the hall, obviously moved over from somewhere else.

“Li Wudi, get your ass out here!” As soon as they entered, the troublemakers immediately started making a racket.

“All of you shut up! Li Xuanhe, Li Tianyu, whatever fart you want to let out, just let it rip!” Li Jingyu snapped.

Li Qingyu gently patted her grandma’s back, and everyone crowded in and exchanged looks.

“It seems Li Wudi won’t be appearing.”

“Whatever. He’s useless anyway, so just let the Matriarch choose.”

They had a quick discussion, then Li Xuanhe stepped forward.