

The Ages 1911

Chapter 1911

As the Flameyellow Coffin was in the possession of the sun emperor, information about the test subjects of the dualgod bloodline, as well as the Li Saint Clan and the chaos skyjail, was out of Tianming's reach. Either way, it seemed clear that the sun emperor's goal was to restore the flameyellow divinities to their former glory using the coffin. In fact, he seemed to be making headway on that, considering that Tianming, Qingyu, and Li Wudi were totemancer-beastmaster hybrids.

Interestingly, Tianming's lifebound beasts had come from his father, Li Muyang, while his bane-rings had come from his mother's tenth incarnation, Wei Jing. Wei Jing had inherited the bloodline of the Li Saint Clan. While she didn't bear the Li surname, Tianming believed that she was no doubt a Li Saint Clan pureblood. If the Li Saint Clan really was the product of the sun emperor's experiments, the sun emperor would have at least played some part in Tianming's birth, making him part flameyellow divinity as well.

If Tianming got his hands on the Flameyellow Coffin, he would be able to learn more from it. There were a few questions that came to mind, such as who had brought Qingyu all the way from the chaos skyjail to the Divine Moon Realm. If the sun emperor had played a part in that, why not directly bring her to Orderia?

Apart from the matter of the test subjects, Tianming more or less had a grasp on the rest. Qingyu's old gods' blood, for instance, wasn't something that had been obtained from an astralcrypt somewhere. Instead, it was no doubt something from the days of the Flameyellow Imperial Star! Perhaps it could even have come from the coffin itself.

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"If there's an antidote to that, it might come from the coffin as well." Without the coffin, the sun emperor might not be that powerful. "Skywolf's been itching to wage another war. While they're the stronger force right now, they definitely don't know that they're taking on a fallen imperial-class world."

That was the main thing that differentiated the sun from Violetglory. Violetglory was merely a heliacal-class world, while the sun was the fallen form of an imperial-class world masquerading as a heliacal-class one. Based on how the records spoke of a ninth era, Tianming believed there was far more to its history. He didn't even know how many years separated the ninth and the tenth eras, the latter of which being the one when the fall occurred.

He took the tome with him, and with that, the left room of the wooden house had been fully explored. Looking around to ensure that that was really it, he went back to the outer room and looked at the painting once more. The vastness of the imperial star once more unfolded itself before him. Both the painting and the tome had taught him of a world that was far superior to Skyway Monostar.

"So, this wooden building that's stood for millions of years is actually a manifestation of the soul of the sky plunderer race, containing their will. What kind of people were we, to protect the remnants of this world for millions of years?" Instead of the flameyellow divinities, Tianming found that he identified with the sky plunderers far more, even though he was probably a hybrid of both.

There was still one more inner room to the right. "Since the secrets of the fusion formation probably lay in the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb, this other room likely contains half of the solar core." The current heliacal-class astralguard and fusion formations had been made by the sky plunderers. Tianming believed that he wouldn't have any problems in trying to operate them.

"The Flameyellow Guard Formation's strength is still uncertain, and the sun emperor has the other half of the solar core. Either way, having half on our side would be a bonus since I still haven't been able to figure out the formation mechanism in the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb."

For some reason, Tianming felt incredibly at peace in this building. It felt just like he was being supported by countless ancestors of the distant past. He approached the other door and lightly pushed it open, then a force pulled him right into the room. He felt like he had been dragged into an entirely different world.

"How vast!" The world around him spun and he found himself in a space of white. A gigantic white sphere appeared before him, formed from dense divine celestial patterns. It was the true solar core! Knowing that it had been made by the sky plunderers, Tianming felt much more confident about it.

"Perhaps the old Sky Palace members weren't able to enter this place at all. The solar core is basically controlled by the wooden building's will, while the members of the Sky Palace merely serve it. Even after the voidheart worm swallowed up the wooden building, all it gained control of was the Sky Palace Formation." Perhaps no 'human' had ever controlled this half of the solar core before.

He approached the spherical object that radiated a pure, white light that seemed to pulse like a heartbeat. "Huh?!" Looking through the dense divine celestial patterns, he saw a few strands of red light, nine of them in total.

"What're these?" He stretched his black arm out, looking at them with his third eye. Unsurprisingly, his arm entered the solar core, which was tens of thousands of meters in diameter and had an incredibly complex structure. With a single arm alone, he definitely wouldn't be able to reach the center of the sphere, but he could see what was there with his third eye. The patterns continued flowing all over, and eventually, he found the core through the gaps in the patterns.

"This is...?!" Tianming's eyes brightened as he discovered an ancient hunk of ice at the center of the sphere. It seemed completely dormant. Within the ice were nine ancient eyes. It was hard to imagine that the eyes had been there all this time after being frozen in ice. Perhaps they had something to do with protecting the sun.

"All nine of these are Archaionfiend Eyes!" The Plundering Eye on his arm had been made using an Archaionfiend Eye, specifically Wu You's. So far, he had unlocked two abilities, namely Vitasteal and Fatesteal, but they were still rather weak. He could only use Vitasteal on those much weaker than him, and using Fatesteal came with dire consequences.

It seemed that these were the Archaionfiend Eyes that he needed to nurture his Plundering Eye. Perhaps they were the core of their race. "If those eyes are still usable, this would be a grand haul!"

He didn't know how many eyes he could assimilate right now, not to mention, he would only be able to obtain the eyes once he had gained control of the solar core. But as long as there was hope, there would be a way. He felt like the tides were finally turning.

But in his optimism, he suddenly recalled the Primordial Chaos Beast dreams. The gigantic black arm with hexagonal scales was an enlarged version of his black arm. He recalled seeing the part where the eye should be. There were countless blood-colored eyes in the center of the giant arm's palm. While he didn't know what that really meant, the image still sent chills down his spine.

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Within the Sky Palace Formation, the ten million solarians of the Myriad Solar Sects looked at the changes in the flaming clouds above. The new barrier that sealed off the skies was the Flameyellow Guard Formation, but most people wouldn't know its name until Tianming emerged. They even believed it was a result of Tianming gaining control of the solar core and starting up the astralguard formation together with the sun emperor.

However, that didn't mean they didn't know what the astralguard formation was supposed to look like, so seeing something different did make some of them wonder. When they learned that the barrier was seemingly supported by the sky pillars that had emerged from their respective territories, they were even more surprised. Looking at the flaming veil, they had much to talk about.

Only Tianming knew the truth of the Flameyellow Guard Formation. Since none of the rest were able to come up with any sensible theories, they just accepted the appearance of the formation for what it was. It seemed that the happenings across the entire world were under the sole control of the sun emperor, whereas those who entered the Sky Palace Formation were the losers, Tianming included. After they accepted that fact, they talked less and less about it.

Occasionally, they looked at the solar core, which was the sole moral support that remained to them. All of them shared one belief: all they had to do was to support Tianming with all they had. That mindset of solidarity was thanks to Tianming coming back for them and going against the grain. Though they had lost, they were united and bound together.

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"Brother Feng," Yu Ziqian said as he interrupted Lingfeng and Qingyu's cultivation.

"What is it?" Lingfeng opened his eyes and asked.

Yu Ziqian squatted down beside him. "How'd the divine pill I gave you yesterday make you feel?"

"It's alright, better than before. You've improved at using the Divine Worldeater Cauldron, it seems."

"But of course! I can't match you in a fight, but I'm much better than you at pill refining." He chuckled and took out a few bottles from his spatial ring. Giving them an unwilling look, he said, "These are the results of today's work. One of them is as good as a grade-six pill. That means I'm a grade-six alchemy guru now—impressive, right?"

"It sure is." Lingfeng took the bottles. "Thanks, Gan Gangan."

"Sheesh, even someone as good-natured as you is mocking my name.... Hmph!" he snapped, drawing a giggle out of Qingyu. Yu Ziqian's name was indeed quite funny.

"I went through the trouble of refining that for you, you know. Give it a taste. I want to know how I can improve it firsthand," Yu Ziqian said.

"Try it? Sure." Lingfeng was just about to put the pills away before Yu Ziqian's suggestion. He opened one of the bottles and took out a snow-white pill. It looked incredibly smooth and tempting, like a precious pearl that didn't have any impurities within.

"This is called the soulsanct heartpill. It's—hey!"

Lingfeng threw the pill into his Primordial Gate before Yu Ziqian could finish explaining. The pill instantly disintegrated. "Not bad. It's a little sweet and it seems to be working. Thanks."

"Is that how you consume pills every time?" Yu Ziqian said, feeling a headache welling up.

"Yeah. I get better efficacy like that. Is there something wrong with it?"

"Not really, just... it's a little weird. And I find it hard to believe you can even taste the sweetness without your mouth. Oral consumption seems more direct." As he spoke, he slightly stuttered and repeated some things. While his expressions were exaggerated, they were stiff and seemed slightly forced. Lingfeng found it a little weird.

"My vita is alright, so it doesn't seem to hurt the soul." He eyed the pill a little longer before popping another into his mouth and swallowing it in one gulp. "It does taste sweet. Is that alright?"

"No problem. Thanks for being such a good brother," Yu Ziqian said, patting his shoulder.

It's the same to me, Lingfeng thought, but didn't feel the need to voice it out. He had always been a quiet one. Initially, he had thought that Yu Ziqian would go back and refine more pills, but he snuck out a red bottle and turned to Qingyu. This time, his expression seemed more serious.

"Sister Qingyu, I don't know too much about what's happening to you, but I did ask that portable grandpa of mine, so we had a few guesses about the old gods' blood. It turns out to be quite the boon, but the side effects are unavoidable. As it's not necessarily a bad thing to have, I don't really know how to console you.

"However, my grandpa taught me how to refine something called an apex face nourishment pill. I heard it's good for the face and has really gentle effects. It's made using a grade-seven divine herb called the Apex Dew. Even though it's the first time I tried refining it, I think it turned out quite well. Do give it a try. I'm not saying it'll solve all your problems, but it should at least help. And if it works, I can bring you some every day," he said in an earnest, trustworthy manner, which was out of character for him.

"Thanks, Brother Yu," Qingyu said with surprise before accepting the pills. She really didn't have much hope for them, as the curse of the old gods' blood would no doubt be hard to dispel. However, taking the pills would help with her mood, if anything, and that was decent in and of itself.

"Don't mention it. I have a lot to pay back for what your brother's done to me, you see, and I'm just getting started," Yu Ziqian said, smiling.

"Thank you." Qingyu put the bottle away. Then, she saw a flash and called out to someone behind Yu Ziqian. "Big Brother!"

Tianming was talking to Long Wanying. Hearing Qingyu call out to him, he turned around and smiled at her. He had emerged to tell Long Wanying about what he'd learned in the wooden house so that she could relay it to the Saintdragon Emperor and other core members.

"I'll be going straight back. Yin Chen will tell you more about the Flameyellow Imperial Star. I believe I can take control of the solar core after some time, ranging from two months to a year. I have to hurry up," Tianming said.

"Got it. Leave the affairs out here to me. I'll tell you what happens out here using Yin Chen," Long Wanying said.

"Alright. The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb is still charging, so we can leave it be."

"Noted."

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"As for my sister, if you have the time, do try to console her for me."

"Don't worry. Aunt Ying knows the human heart well. Leave it to me."

"Great. Then I'll take my leave." Tianming waved to Yu Ziqian, Lingfeng, and Qingyu, but didn't go over to talk to them as time was running out. However, he did notice that the Sky Palace stigma on Yu Ziqian's forehead was gone.

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Tianming didn't give it too much thought. Since the stigma vanished, that means it came from the voidheart worm. It disappeared after the worm died, I guess.

Taking over the solar core would be quite an undertaking, thus, Tianming had left it for a moment to check on the Flameyellow Guard Formation for one final confirmation and to tell Long Wanying that he would be occupied. As for the details of the Flameyellow Imperial Star, he would leave it to Yin Chen to explain that. While it would take its sweet time, time was something they had in abundance while Tianming worked on the solar core.

He quickly returned to the wooden building and entered the room on the right, once more coming before the gigantic, snow-white sphere. He had familiarized himself with it before. As it was something that had been made by the sky plunderers, it was made to be quite user friendly to any of their descendants. In fact, Tianming had far more compatibility with it than any of the Sky Palace members across the generations could ever have dreamed of. In fact, he could probably handle the solar core possessed by the celestial orderians well, too.

Over the next two hours, he tested out the surface-level functions of the solar core, allowing its mysterious energy to flow into his body through his black arm. "It's said that the best way to control the formation core is to assimilate it into my body like a divine wonder..." It wouldn't be able to be used like a divine wonder for attack and defense, however. It was just a matter of integrating the formation's core circuits into his body.

One benefit of succeeding was that Tianming would have even finer control of the astralguard and fusion formations. It would be as if he had assimilated the star itself. At the very least, it would be far more efficient than separately controlling the Ninedragon Imperial Tomb with the wheel formation. Not to mention, it made it harder for others to take the formation from him.

However, if he were to be killed, the solar core would separate from his body and be lootable, unlike divine wonders that simply disappeared upon death. That showed that the integration of the solar core into the body wasn't as deep as that of divine wonders. At most, Tianming's body would serve as a vessel for the formation core.

No doubt, the many previous generations of Sky Palace members hadn't been able to use that method, seeing as they weren't even able to enter the wooden building. The sun emperors of the celestial orderians probably weren't able to do the same, either, as they weren't sky plunderers, nor did they have any foundations of assimilating formations into their bodies like divine wonders.

All of Tianming's albi were shaped like Prime Towers, a change that had made his body more formation than living organism. The changes the Prime Tower had brought him weren't limited to just a single prime wonder. In fact, his body had inherited many of the properties of a formation. That was why he had learned that he was able to assimilate the solar core after some testing, being able to bring it with him wherever he went. Though doing so would require more time than just manipulating it normally, time was something he had since the Flameyellow Guard Formation had been activated to fend off Skywolf. Not to mention, he could ponder the ninth and final strike of the Ninedragon Tribulation during the assimilation process!

"Let's do it! As a sky plunderer, apart from the twelve eggs I got from my dad, I never got anything else. I hope my distant ancestors here went through the trouble of making it easier for me when they were making this formation." Tianming was confident that he could use his black arm as a conduit for the solar core to start leading the divine celestial patterns into his body.

"Huh? Weren't there just ten eggs? Where'd the other two come from?" Xian Xian wondered, ignorant of the fact that there was a testicle joke in there somewhere.

"Aha!" Tianming found that his ancestors had lived up to his expectations after all. After the solar core recognized him as a descendant of the sky plunderers, it took the initiative itself and started the assimilation process. Tianming's 'formation body' was incredibly compatible with the solar core. As the white divine celestial patterns flowed into his 'Prime Tower' albi, they didn't conflict with the prime and carefree wonders at all. While the human body was small, it was filled with countless mysteries, especially astral physiques. The countless tiny albi were able to store a shocking amount of things within.

The assimilation process went smoothly, thanks to Tianming's own efforts and good compatibility. The formation core was slowly restructured within his body, which would eventually make him the formation core when it was complete. The divine celestial patterns were engraved into his Prime Tower-shaped albi one after another. He knew that things would be smooth sailing from now on, but it would still take quite a bit of time thanks to the sheer size and complexity of the solar core. He couldn't afford to have any mistakes or missing patterns, so the process would take some time to complete.

"It'll take three or four months, eh...." He breathed a sigh of relief. At least he would finish before the arrival of Skywolf. Before that, they weren't going to be of any threat.

"All that remains to be seen is what the sun emperor will be doing over the next few months. I wonder if he'll be preparing to fight Skywolf or doing something else." He was still rather worried about one thing: the celestial orderians were sending all of their god-level troops south for a sweeping operation, and

they had absolute numerical superiority. Should that really be the case, the ten billion scattered gods of the Myriad Solar Sects would suffer even more severe losses. "Though if he does that, it would also result in the celestial orderians suffering casualties. Since we lost our defensive formations, the rest of the Myriad Solar Sects already pose no threat, me excluded. They've already announced the unification of the sun, so the sun emperor probably won't go to those lengths." The sun emperor's true goal in conquering the sects seemed to be the activation of the Flameyellow Guard Formation, after all, rather than the true extermination of the Myriad Solar Sects. It would be foolish of him to expend his troops to wipe out the defeated remnants as Skywolf was creeping up upon them. Thus, Tianming, Long Wanying, and the rest didn't think the risk of the sun emperor hunting them down was high.

"Then again, he is quite the madman, so we can't count on him to be rational. We can't be careless about things." Tianming still had Yin Chen surveilling the changes across the entire sun. The three hundred million celestial orderian troops didn't leave the Myriad Solar Sects. Instead, they had spread out to conquer the other factions within the top hundred. They also stayed behind in conquered territories to set up their own defensive formations, seemingly intent on keeping the conquered territory.

That was only to be expected. The more time that passed, the greater the odds were stacked against the Myriad Solar Sects. Yet the survivors weren't in a rush. As long as Tianming was with them and they were alive, they could always rise again.

Chapter 1914

The astralscape seemed ever so cold and dark. A ship shaped like a green wolf broke through the shadowy zone in the astralscape and came flying out of a large cluster of astral debris. All of a sudden, a blinding flash of white light radiated out. Everyone in the divine astralship opened their eyes and looked into the distance. All they could see were two stars, one larger than the other, orbiting each other in the abyss-like void of space. The deafening rumble they let out shook the area around them.

"Time to go home!" The green wolf flew toward the larger Skywolf Major and was almost instantly swallowed up by its white light. All the while, the smaller star, Skywolf Minor, let out a cold glow. An hour after the return of the ship, the two stars suddenly glowed even brighter as they propelled themselves forward faster and faster with their orbital momentum. They also seemed to propel themselves with flaming and ice-cold jets before they went smashing toward the zone of darkness. Countless asteroids were destroyed in the advance.

After receiving the news of the demise of the Greenvoid Abyss, Skywolf hastened their approach instead of retreating, like a hungry wolf running across the grassy plains. The pack of wolves that were hunting their prey might have suffered a setback, but that only served to hone their killer instinct even further. They wouldn't stop until they finally got a bite!

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Soon, a month had passed since the activation of the Flameyellow Guard Formation. After the people in the sun got word of Skywolf's impending invasion, they fell into complete chaos until the Flameyellow Guard Formation was put up. During that month, the chaos in the territories of the celestial orderians gradually settled down. Preparation for the impending war was underway.

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While the war between the celestial orderians and the Myriad Solar Sects hadn't involved anyone under the Ascension stage, the upcoming war would be an astral war. Not even a farm chicken would be able to stay uninvolved in the conflict, let alone mortal humans. It was a war that all life in the sun would have to fight in!

The celestial orderians dutifully followed their ruler's instructions, As for the Myriad Solar Sects, many among them were beginning to notice a change. Some of them began unconsciously developing a respect for the sun emperor. He had, after all, defeated them. There were those that silently admitted that beastmasters were inferior to totemancers after all, and that the sun emperor was the sole ruler of Orderia who would lead all of them to win the astral war. Tianming and the Myriad Solar Sects would be forgotten as time passed.

While accepting the sun emperor as the leader of the upcoming war against Skywolf wasn't that big an issue, the question in everyone's mind was what the standing of the Myriad Solar Sects would be after the war. The beastmasters would fight in the war if it was for the survival of the sun. If they lost, they would perish along with the celestial orderians, after all. But if they won, they would still end up as slaves of the celestial orderians, who had already defeated them. That wasn't an easy pill to swallow either way, putting them in an incredibly awkward position.

Nobody knew which was the right way moving forward. Some had even already submitted themselves to the sun emperor in their minds out of fear and respect. Others wanted to fight for the sun's survival, but weren't willing to submit to the sun emperor and lose everything they had fought for or allow their descendants to be enslaved. Unlike the celestial orderians, who stood united, the Myriad Solar Sects were split into many sides. If it weren't for the Saintdragon Emperor, Northdipper Swordsage, and others stabilizing the situation from behind the scenes, internal conflict would have broken out again.

At the very least, the only thing that could be said for sure was that the sun emperor mostly had the whole of Orderia under his control. Preparations to go to war with Skywolf were also mostly complete, and with time to spare, too. As such, the Saintdragon Emperor and the rest kept a close eye on the celestial orderians' actions.

It had been a month since they had driven back the second Skywolf divine astralship, and that very day, Yin Chen brought them shocking news that sent the Myriad Solar Sects into another round of chaos.

"How could this be?! Is he insane?!" That was the reaction of everyone who heard the news. The sun emperor had just announced that he would send a force of twenty-five billion totemancers into the territory of the Myriad Solar Sects right on the eve of an invasion by Skywolf! During the past month, the celestial orderians had constructed their own makeshift defensive formations in the former territories of the many factions. The new force would use those places as supply bases during their operation to sweep up and exterminate the remnants of the Myriad Solar Sects. With the order given, the force was already being assembled.

Twenty-five billion was a huge number, basically encompassing every single god on the celestial orderian side. It would no doubt destabilize the situation in the sun even further. The sun emperor had pulled out all the stops in yet another cruel decision. There wasn't even a question now; if this operation

were to proceed as planned, the Myriad Solar Sects would be wiped out before they even had to deliberate over fighting Skywolf for the survival of the sun.

"What in the world is he planning? Even if he manages to exterminate all of us, he'll suffer huge casualties! How will he fight Skywolf with only the troops he'll have remaining?"

"Given the size of Skywolf, they easily have four to five times as many gods as we have!"

"If the celestial orderians really go through with this, we'll have nowhere to run. We don't even have defensive formations anymore, apart from the Sky Palace Formation."

"It's over...."

"We're done for...."

"The sun emperor is insane.... Everyone's going insane...."

There was no way the wave of terror could be suppressed. Soon, the news had spread everywhere. Those that had developed a modicum of respect for the sun emperor completely despaired. They had thought that submitting themselves would be the end of it, yet the mad tyrant refused to even give them the chance. Kneeling or not, they would be killed! The sun emperor would clean up his own star before he fought the astral war!

Even the common mortals living in the territories of the Myriad Solar Sects shook with fear from their impending doom. Twenty-five billion gods were nothing to scoff at. Even though the vast sun had many hiding places, it was hard to avoid extermination at the hands of such a number. Perhaps the sun would be dyed red even before Skywolf's arrival.

Long Wanying's eyes were bloodshot with rage when she received the news. She had no idea why this was happening, and no way to counter it. All she could do was head to the solar core, knowing that Tianming was probably the first one to learn of the news. By now, this young man was the sole remaining pillar of support for them.

"Aunt Ying, wait a bit. I'll come out in an hour," Tianming said, calming her at her most anxious moment.

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Tianming didn't make Long Wanying wait for very long and emerged from the solar core an hour later.

"Is it done?" she asked. At the sight of how calm and energized he seemed, she felt a little more relaxed. Her eyes were filled with hope, thanks to him.

"Not quite. There's too much energy. Once it's done, I'll be able to control the astralguard and fusion formations with my thoughts as long as they're within range, but there's too many divine celestial patterns that need to be absorbed. It'll still take another three months or so." Tianming would no doubt be incredibly occupied during that time. He didn't have a single moment to spare between absorbing the solar core and pondering the ninth strike of the Ninedragon Tribulation.

He only occasionally headed into the wondersky realm to check if Feiling showed up. Xiaoxiao had been there once to tell him that they were doing fine, so he could go about his usual business. Though they

were both busy, at least they were making some hopeful progress. He wouldn't have left the solar core if it weren't for the fact that something had happened outside.

"Alright.... Tianming, Yin Chen should have informed you about the sun emperor's new orders, right? He's sending troops to exterminate us before the invasion arrives from Skywolf. It's insane and reckless." Long Wanying was filled with both hate and a begrudging awe for the sun emperor. Even though he was a tyrant, he never behaved in any predictable manner, constantly a few steps ahead of everyone else.

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"Yeah, I heard about it," Tianming said, nodding.

"What do you think about it?"

"Nothing much. The sun emperor's actions aren't out of character for him, considering his previous deeds. I wasn't counting on completely being left in peace these few months, either." There was still some time before Skywolf's invasion, and there was no way the sun emperor would let him peacefully grow within the confines of the Sky Palace Formation.

"Then what should we do? The Saintdragon Emperor, Northdipper Swordsage, Ninesun Martial Lord, and the rest are still able to communicate with the cultivators from their factions, but once they scatter even further, we can only count on Yin Chen." She furrowed her brows with worry.

"Don't worry, Aunt Ying, I have a way to turn this around. We can get the sun emperor to take back his order to deploy."

Long Wanying teared up from the sheer relief at hearing that Tianming had a plan. She gave his ear a hard pinch. "Then say it sooner! Don't act mysterious and keep me waiting!"

"Ouch! Haha! Forgive me, please!" Once she let go, Tianming cleared his throat and looked at the formation above them. "The Sky Palace Formation is a grade-nine divine formation, but it's also an extension of the fusion formation that's controlled by this solar core. It was built for the purpose of protecting this half of the solar core. Actually, its true range isn't this small. It just hasn't truly been activated yet. While I don't have full control of the solar core right now, I should be able to extend the range of the Sky Palace Formation to cover ten times the area the Aeonidragon Formation once covered."

Tianming had already discovered the issue some days ago. The Sky Palace Formation was almost like an outer part of the fusion formation that the sky plunderers had constructed to protect the solar core, and this half of the solar core seemed more important than the sun emperor's, since that one wasn't protected by a formation of the same caliber.

The Sky Palace formation might be an extension of the fusion formation, but in fact, it merely looked like a small pimple growing out of the bigger whole. But that was just its unactivated state. Tianming had already assimilated the part of the solar core that allowed him to expand the formation such that it would at least touch the flaming clouds above. In its strongest state, it looked like a huge pillar that supported the astralguard formation. That would also greatly expand its area of coverage, and it was a grade-nine divine formation, which was far tougher than the Aeonidragon Formation could ever be.

"Ten times?!" Long Wanying remained stunned for quite a while after hearing that. "Ten times the area.... That would encompass the entire Voidsky Realm! So all the gods of the Myriad Solar Sects can evacuate here!"

"That's right. The Sky Palace Formation was supposed to cover that much area in the first place." The Voidsky Realm was the main wellspring of nova source at the south pole of the sun. Apart from it, only the north pole had nova source that dense.

Tianming gave it some thought and continued, "The Myriaddragon Mountains was able to hold up to ten billion gods. The other top ten sects, as well as the many cultivators from the second-, third-, and fourth-rate sects add up to around five billion. While the Voidsky Realm isn't huge, if everyone keeps their lifebound beasts inside their lifebound spaces, we'll be able to fit them here."

"It's ten times the size of Myriaddragon Mountains. It won't even be packed," Long Wanying exclaimed. Back when they'd evacuated to the Myriaddragon Mountains, there had been barely any space to breathe. Many lifebound beasts had felt their sanity crumbling during that time.

"Aunt Ying, I already had Yin Chen notify all of the god-level cultivators of the Myriad Solar Sects and asked them to spread the word. They'll be coming south to avoid the celestial orderian troops, so I need you and the rest to help settle them down."

"No problem, that's my forte." Her anxiety had vanished completely. "Child, you always bring us hope when we need it the most. The sun emperor will no doubt flip out at hearing what you did."

"I'm grateful to my ancestors and seniors who made it all possible." If it weren't for the precursors that built the Sky Palace Formation, not even Tianming would be able to escape. Though it was a little late, they still managed to tide it over and survive.

Back during the scattering of the Myriad Solar Sects, Tianming had used Yin Chen to monitor the locations of the cultivators and stay in contact with them. With Yin Chen and the cultivators themselves spreading the word, few, if any of them, would be left in the wild.

The celestial orderians were still preparing for the extermination plan, but by the time they headed south, everyone would have already evacuated into the Voidsky Realm. Tianming had taken action too fast for the sun emperor to react. For normal gods, traveling from the north pole to the south pole of the sun was no easy feat. A force of twenty-five billion would easily take months, so they were bound to be too late.

Chapter 1916

The wooden building had been found at just the right time to save them from certain extinction. No doubt, Tianming's part in defeating the voidheart worm played a gigantic part in it.

"Honestly speaking, I can't see how we can lose if we manage to extend the range of the Sky Palace Formation. Even though we'll still lack cultivation resources in the long term, that's a matter we'll only have to contend with decades from now," Long Wanying said.

They still had enough resources, caeli especially, to last for some time, as most of the cultivators had evacuated prior to the celestial orderian attacks. Not to mention, an area that was ten times the size of Myriaddragon Mountains would still possess a decent amount of nova source, and the occupying armies

of the enemy still hadn't had time to exploit the resources there yet. Her estimate of decades was incredibly conservative, as they could potentially go a few centuries with the resources they already had, though that didn't mean being cooped up in one area would be comfortable.

Tianming spread the news to gather at the Voidsky Realm using Yin Chen. Anyone that received word would just have to head south.

"Everyone that's part of the Myriad Solar Sects will have some friends. If they use transmission stones to notify each other on top of Yin Chen giving out notices, we shouldn't be leaving anyone behind. The normal celestial orderian troops will need even more time than the three hundred million elites from before to head south, so we can still make it." Even so, Tianming didn't put off expanding the Sky Palace Formation. "Let's go!"

The billions of gods who had just suffered a nightmarish invasion by the celestial orderians had finally received some good news. Wave after wave of people headed toward the Voidsky Realm near the south pole of the sun. The flaming pillar that emerged from the south pole had become a symbol of hope for those who were running for their lives. Those who were too slow would probably perish on the way, so nobody dared to dally lest the sun emperor's troops catch up to them.

They all craved to survive and rise up another day. Not to mention, hiding in the wilderness was no way to live, especially compared to the safety provided by a defensive formation. Most of them hadn't even seen a grade-nine divine formation before. Not to mention, they would be even safer from the invasion of Skywolf, thanks to the Sky Palace Formation and the Flameyellow Guard Formation. Going to a safer place was a no-brainer, and people flocked to the south in an endless stream. The Saintdragon Emperor and the rest were also pumped to hear the news.

"The Myriad Solar Sects finally have a place to fight the celestial orderians and Skywolf to the death from! And it's even the Sky Palace Formation, of all things!"

It was the greatest news to grace them since the fall of the Myriaddragon Mountains, especially for the Emphyrean Sword Sect and a few others that didn't even stay to fight the celestial orderians for real and instead chose to evacuate. They had left their homes to survive, but now they survived for the chance to take back their homes!

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Half a month later, Tianming emerged from the wooden house to find the Voidsky Realm packed with people. The Myriad Solar Sects looked like they had been restored to their former glory. Long Wanying had informed him that there were more than twenty billion fighters in the Voidsky Realm. The sun was incredibly large, much larger than the Flameyellow Continent ever was, which was why the Voidsky Realm alone could hold so many people. The fact that it could become a new stronghold for them to fight back from showed that Tianming's decision to evacuate instead of fighting to their deaths was the right one. They had managed to retain most of their forces.

"It's no wonder I've gotten so many more Omniscient Threads without doing much lately. There's around twenty billion of them now," Tianming muttered. The new ten billion people joined the other ten billion that were already with him and heard a lot about his amazing exploits. Coupled with the

newfound sense of security the Sky Palace Formation provided, their faith grew. Their prior despair and desperation made for fertile soil in which faith thrived. In a way, Tianming had won them over while they were feeble.

Regardless, it was still a good thing that he had formed a bond with them. He found that everyone inside the formation seemed to radiate hope. Finally finding a reason to keep fighting, many of them invested all of their time in cultivating and refining their basics.

"They all used to be from different factions, with some having generations of grudges with each other, but now all of them are fighting for survival shoulder to shoulder!"

The Voidsky Realm was filled with life and activity, making for a merry environment that all of them had contributed to. It was hard to imagine them building this atmosphere after their crushing loss at the Myriadragon Mountains. Tianming was happy for their sake, as well as his own.

"Rest assured. The Saintdragon Emperor, Northdipper Swordsage, and the rest have all returned to the formation. Leave the matters out here to us," Long Wanying said.

"Very well. I'll be counting on you seniors," Tianming said.

"How are the celestial orderians doing so far?"

"They stopped heading south. They probably already know that it'd be pointless." The fact that the Sky Palace Formation had expanded its range was indicative of Tianming defeating the voidheart worm. The Myriad Solar Sects would be far harder to deal with now, compared to when they were huddled up in the Myriadragon Mountains.

"I bet the sun emperor's still dreaming of killing you. Looks like the alliance will prevail against the other two sides after all," Long Wanying said.

Some time back, Tianming had been involved in a three-way conflict with Bodhi and Sovereign Xi. However, he couldn't afford to antagonize either side back then, as the common folk of the Flameyellow Continent could've been wrapped up in the trouble. But this time around, the Myriad Solar Sects were much stronger, having the Sky Palace Formation to back them up.

"Well, not exactly.... We'll probably chase Skywolf away before settling our differences with the sun emperor." Even if the sun emperor was a madman, Tianming was certain of one thing: he would never sell the sun out, and neither would Tianming. It was more than likely that they would actually work together to drive Skywolf away first.

Tianming was quite relieved by the present circumstances and left the rest of the matters to Long Wanying and the others. Instructing Yin Chen to continue monitoring the celestial orderians, he returned to the wooden building.

Chapter 1917

Tianming continued operating the solar core nonstop. Eventually, close to four months had passed. Sovereign Greenvoid had said that Skywolf would be descending five months after his arrival. No doubt they were already on the horizon, but Tianming and the rest were unable to see it thanks to the

Flameyellow Guard Formation sealing the sun. Perhaps one would be able to see Skywolf beyond the flaming clouds, or even the many troops they were preparing for the invasion.

"Looks like the sun emperor's planning to completely ignore us and face off against Skywolf alone." If cooperation was an option, the sun emperor would have reached out to them long ago. "I wonder if he's really that confident, or just plain stupid...."

At this point, the Myriad Solar Sects had practically been left to their own devices, though it wasn't like they had a say in whether they could fight, as the controller of the Flameyellow Guard Formation wasn't them. There was still a chance they would be exterminated by the sun emperor if they left the Sky Palace Formation. As such, the forces the Saintdragon Emperor and the rest had gathered were on standby.

Tianming continued assimilating the solar core at full speed. "This is only half of the solar core, so it controls half of the astralguard and fusion formations. However, half means different things to each formation. Half of the fusion formation basically regulates the part of it that extends toward the southern hemisphere of the sun, allowing me to control the distribution of nova source. But half control over the astralguard formation means a different thing. The formation itself isn't segmented into two parts. Instead, it has two layers. The upper layer is controlled by the sun emperor, while I control the lower, and the two layers can operate independently. When both are active at the same time, they can fortify each other."

In other words, Tianming could deploy the astralguard formation across the entire sun even though he only had half of its controls, but it was limited to the lower layer. It was nothing to scoff at, but only half as powerful as the full thing at best. But that was already good enough for Tianming, since the astralguard formation would be deployed under the Flameyellow Guard Formation.

"At the very least, it'll be able to do something against Skywolf when they come." The sun emperor should also share the same goal of driving Skywolf away. "We should turn our focus from internal conflict to driving the invaders away!"

Even then, Tianming couldn't let his forces leave the Sky Palace Formation, since there was no guarantee that the sun emperor wouldn't come after them. Regardless, hostilities between the celestial orderians and the Myriad Solar Sects were temporarily put to rest.

Tianming had finally completed his first goal before the arrival of Skywolf, having fully assimilated the solar core. The moment that happened, it felt like he had completely fused with the star, becoming a part of the fusion formation that could still burn for millions of years. His stomach felt like it had been filled with tens of millions of years worth of nova source and the sun itself was like a heart, the beat of which shook his mind. He even had the illusion that he had become the star itself, his eyelashes manifesting as the many trees and plants, his body taking the form of mountains and rivers, and his arms becoming the tallest mountain peaks. His heartbeat and the sun's rumbling seemed to be in sync.

"The sun emperor definitely has no way to control his solar core like I do mine." The change he had experienced was separate from those brought about by his cultivation, yet it shook him to the core even more. It felt like his horizons had expanded far beyond the universe he knew. He had gained the perspective of a star as it looked out toward the endless astralscape and was even able to feel the minute changes inside the fusion formation.

"I wonder if shutting off the nova source distribution around the Myriadragon Mountains and the other places would cause the Flameyellow Guard Formation to cease working...." That was the first thing that had occurred to him. If it worked, the sun emperor's plans would be completely ruined, and there didn't seem to be a reason why he couldn't do just that.

He activated the divine celestial patterns in his body, turning himself into the solar core itself. Then he blended in with the fusion formation and targeted the Myriadragon Mountains. "I'm not actually trying to deactivate the Flameyellow Guard Formation, but I have to test it to see if it works. Maybe I have some control over that formation too, after all!" If he did, he would have far more leverage against the sun emperor and wouldn't be led around by the nose like before.

Soon, he found the part that controlled the Myriadragon Mountains. He realized that the flaming pillars looked like gigantic straws that pierced deep down into the sun, even through the fusion formation. In other words, the pillars weren't drawing power from the fusion formation, but rather from what was contained within!

"No wonder the consumption of nova source is that high! It's an imperial-class astralguard formation, after all." The astralguard and fusion formations the sky plunderers had built for the sun were just heliacal-class ones. Tianming wasn't able to cut off power to the flaming pillars. He finally understood why the sun emperor chose the territories of the Myriad Solar Sects. Those were places that were dense with nova source, meaning those parts of the fusion formation were weaker and would allow more nova source to seep out. That, in turn, made it easier for the flaming pillars to plunge through the fusion formation. Places like the Azurecloud Continent with less dense nova source, for instance, had a thicker part of the fusion formation covering it.

"If it keeps sucking it away like that to support the formation, we'll be consuming a century's worth of nova source every day! In a hundred days, we'll have used up ten thousand years' worth! Dammit!" Only after getting control of the fusion formation did he understand how bad that was. The sun emperor was like a rich scion that spent without regard for his finances. Even Skywolf probably hadn't spent that much energy moving their stars all this way. On the flip side, it showed how powerful the formation was compared to a normal astralguard formation, which could only draw power from the fusion formation.

"I thought those things were pillars, but they're actually straws.... Dammit." There was nothing he could do about the Flameyellow Guard Formation. While he could activate part of the astralguard formation, there wasn't a need for it right now.

"Skywolf, oh Skywolf, you took over the Sky Palace with the voidheart worm and thought the sun wouldn't have an astralguard formation to drive you back... only to find that not only do we have an astralguard formation, but also an additional imperial-class one on top of our normal formation! Looks like it'll take you quite some time to get over this gift."

In a way, the Myriad Solar Sects stood to profit the most from this, since they were so far removed from the conflict. The only thing that was a bit of a shame was that Tianming still had no idea how to progress in the Ninedragon Tribulation, so he wouldn't be able to control the Flameyellow Fusion Formation just yet.

"At least there isn't a need to rush it." With the solar core dealt with, nothing could stop Tianming from approaching the frozen Archaionfiend Eyes. "I wonder if I should leave one for Wu You.... Forget it. That

fellow always gets in my way, so I shouldn't care either!" Perhaps it was still plotting against him in Xiaoxiao's lifebound space.

"Don't mind if I do." The eyes were a legacy left behind by his ancestors, so who else should enjoy the benefits of them?

"The ice around them is a divine hazard.... No wonder they remained frozen for so long." He used the flame divine hazard sword ki strands in him to melt it away, though he was careful not to damage the eyes. Once thawed, they seemed to awaken and let out a thick killing aura as they glared at him.

"Die, sky plunderer! Die!"

"The heavens have prophesied your extermination! You dare defy the heavens, you mad monsters!"

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The voices of the Archaionfiends' remnant wills rang out in his mind nonstop.

"Sky plunderers, we Archaionfiends will exterminate your descendants in full!" came an even louder roar.

Tianming wasn't shaken by that in the slightest and used his left arm to grasp one of the large eyes. Then he crushed it with his claws, after which his Plundering Eye sucked it up into itself as if it was swallowing it whole. "So I can absorb a second eye after all!"

That meant more could be absorbed, but he didn't continue right away. Instead, he tried to see what changed after absorbing the second eye. He noticed an even denser aura of blood coming from it, one so strong that it made even him a little dazed. The aura caused him to appear even more imposing and it took quite some effort for him to suppress it.

"Looks like there's quite a bit of change. Eight more to go!" One after the other, he thawed the eyes and absorbed them. More and more evil thoughts flooded into his mind. By the time he absorbed the last one, his eyes were completely bloodshot. Looking at the final eye, he cracked a cold smile.

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Tianming now had nine Archaionfiend Eyes in his Plundering Eye. The last remaining eye was held between his fingers. A baleful light shone in his eyes, a result of being infected by the Archaionfiends' murderous wills.

However, his mind still remained clear.

With such a violent and murderous will, I'm never going to believe Archaionfiends are simple and honest with no conflict with the world, only the purpose of helping heaven and earth erase caeli, Tianming spat in his heart. He pinched the eye. It was like an overinflated ball as it burst into blood, which quickly surged into his Plundering Eye.

When the Archaionfiend Eye was cleanly absorbed, the number of Archaionfiend Eyes in his hand reached ten.

“It seems my Plundering Eye didn’t undergo any changes, outside of looking more baleful.” He was feeling slightly annoyed. He had been expecting some new abilities.

When the Plundering Eye had first formed, there were nine gray points. One had become white, granting Fatesteal, while another had become red, granting Vitasteal.

But now there were still seven gray points! That implied that there were still seven more special abilities for the sky plunderers.

Normally, the Plundering Eye had an inner and outer circle. The inner circle was the image of a black and white yin-yang fish in the form of a taiji diagram. The outer circle was formed by the nine points revolving around the inner circle. However, after absorbing Archaionfiend Eyes, the entire Plundering Eye had temporarily turned blood-red except for those nine points. Of course, Vitasteal was already red, so it blended in with the redness of the Archaionfiend Eyes.

Tianming’s black arm was currently paralyzed and the evil thoughts in his mind were growing stronger. As expected, as he stared at the Plundering Eye, the thick red began receding, revealing the taiji diagram beneath.

All of the redness fled to the outer circle, gathering at one of the unactivated gray points. With all of the color gathered in such a small area, it became much more dense until it appeared black, signaling that another gray point had been unlocked. It was actually rather similar to the unlocking of the seals on Feiling’s fingernails. Nine gray points, three of which had become black, white, and red! What did this new black point offer? Tianming couldn’t help feeling anticipation.

Although he was a sky plunderer, his understanding of the race was very superficial. After witnessing the history in the Sky Plundering Palace, he felt even more belonging and yearning. Hence, he desired the identity of a sky plunderer so that he could get something from his bloodline.

Finally, the black point finalized, located beside the white Fatesteal and he could feel his left black arm undergoing incredible changes from the moment of activation to when it was finally settled.

Tianming clenched his black arm’s fist and suddenly had a notion. This arm of his was the critical foundation of the sky plunderers! As such, its might would definitely be unfathomable when it was truly revealed. “When I first used Fatesteal, I remember that the whiteness in the white point also spread out through the whole eye and turned it pure white.” Vitasteal also worked like that.

Hence, he needed to get the black point to release all of its blackness through the main eye to know its true power.

Tianming was a man of action. “Let’s do this!” The black point slightly shook and its blackness began diffusing through the main eye.

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The entire Plundering Eye turned pitch-black. Tianming was stunned to find that the infection of ‘ink’ seemed to have revealed the true form of the Plundering Eye. The taiji figure before was most likely just a form of camouflage for it, and its true appearance was ten eyes all crowding inside that one eye. Although compound eyes would have much more, the eye’s current appearance was still enough to be

frightening. Due to the infection of blackness, the ten eyes had also turned black, looking sinister as they stared at Tianming.

The eyes were also a source of vision for Tianming, so he was currently looking at himself as well. He saw the ten black eyes in his palm, as well as the gold and black pupils on his face. The more he looked at the ten eyes, the more uncomfortable he became. It seemed they had boundless power that wanted to suck him in. So what exactly did it do? Not knowing made him confused. Fatesteal and Vitasteal had instantaneous effects, but this new skill didn't seem to have any changes.

His caelum seemed to be drawn into this eye's world. It sounded impossible, but it was a fact that it happened. His caelum's point of view was dreamlike. It entered the world of darkness within the eye and proceeded on. Black mist churned inside the dead-silent world.

Tianming landed. Ahead of him, a massive figure rose out of the ground, its ascent causing heaven and earth to shake. Tianming examined it before realizing it was a black arm. It reached into the skies to grab the stars and separate the sun and moon!

It was like the massive black hand in his dreams; however, its divine majesty was still inferior. He still felt awe, but he didn't feel stifled.

Suddenly, the palm of the arm that had burst out of the ground turned to face him. A Plundering Eye was located in the center of the palm. It also had a taiji circle inside, but the nine points in the outer circle weren't gray. Instead, they were red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet, black, and white. That was likely the complete form of the Plundering Eye.

At that moment, the black color activated and blackness spread to the inner circle, dying the entire eye black. It was exactly the same as Tianming now.

"My clan's junior, the forebear lights the way. A rare opportunity, remember this well!" The scene and voice were likely planted into the sky plunderer's bloodline. Any descendant that entered this realm would experience 'the forebear lights the way'.

"Yes!" Tianming nodded respectfully.

"When the black eye opens, the Fiendsky Arm appears. This is the foundation of our race, and proclaimed as the hardest arm in the universe! Only the indestructible and invincible arm can pluck out the stars, blot out the sun, and seize the heart of beauties! Only the strongest of arms, the most nimble of fingers, and the most insightful of Plundering Eyes can steal fortune from heaven and earth, seize sunlight, moonlight, and the rules of the heavenly dao, never tiring forever!"

"Seize the heart of beauties..." Tianming coughed. "Exactly what I wanted." The hardest arm in the universe! The proclamation was quite exciting. If it was hard enough, it could break anything and resist anything. Holding a beauty with it was another matter, too....

However, this 'the forebear lights the way' was so inappropriate, Tianming quickly realized that the sky plunderers might be quite an interesting group of people.

"Junior, remember: only one thing is harder than the Fiendsky Arm of our sky plunderers' men!" The voice was solemn.

“There’s something even harder?” Tianming displayed shock.

“And that’s the Fiendsky Arm of our sky plunderers’ women! Once she has a hold on you, your Fiendsky Arm won’t be able to save you!”

Tianming was speechless. He really wanted to tell this senior that when he was giving a lecture, he shouldn’t talk dirty. However, the term ‘Fiendsky Arm’ gave him a feeling of déjà vu, as if he had heard of it before.

“What is the Fiendsky Arm?” The giant arm paused before sternly continuing, “The Sky Plundering Hand and the Fiendsky Arm! Once they’re activated, you can use a nova source inner core to temper them. As long as you can handle it, the arm, from the scales to the flesh, can be infinitely strengthened, until they’re harder than any weapon in the world. It’ll also possess mighty physical power!

“No other body of flesh and blood in the universe can withstand the tempering of a nova source inner core except for our Fiendsky Arm! Remember, to inherit an arm representing everything of the sky plunderers, you need to endure! This arm is our everything, and it can never be broken!”

In other words, the Fiendsky Arm was like having an innate body refining technique. Tianming had trained in sword bodies before, which could only attack but not defend. However, the Fiendsky Arm was an all-rounder. It was hard, which made both attack and defense possible, but there were also other changes, as that senior had said the arm inherited everything of the sky plunderers.

The method was also very simple! After opening the black dot, the Fiendsky Arm could endlessly strengthen itself through the tempering of a nova source inner core as long as it could be endured.

The voice reverberated again, but this time the black hand flew out from ground as well, imposingly soaring into the clouds. “When your Fiendsky Arm reaches a certain level, only then will you have the qualifications to learn the three great secret arts of our sky plunderers. One finger, one palm, and one fist! Three moves to bring peace and stability to the world and become peerless!”

Tianming watched as the hand folded four fingers back, leaving only the middle finger. The finger shone with black light, looking incomparably sturdy as if it were a black pillar holding up the sky.

“Watch this—Skypierce Finger!”

When it was unleashed, Tianming was pulled into the sky, following the hand into the world of stars above.

Chapter 1919

The middle finger was like an astralship as it advanced frighteningly fast. It had become the sharpest of spears, and as it stabbed out, the cosmos seemed to be pierced through and the sea of stars parted.

Ahead, a world the size of the Divine Moon Realm appeared. “Let it be you then!”

The Skypierce Finger and the world collided.

On the opposite end of the stellunar source world, black light pierced through—the finger had actually penetrated a stellunar source! That meant that even the fusion formation had been broken through. The next moment, stellunar source began spewing out of the two holes like a balloon leaking air. And

the very next moment, the entire world exploded. Piercingly bright light and debris swallowed Tianming up.

"Still remaining are the Skyveil Palm and Skyseal Fist, the other supreme techniques of my race. Find me when you've mastered the Skypierce Finger! Remember, remember! The might of this finger, palm, and fist are decided by the strength of the Fiendsky Arm. If you want to be as mighty as me, the nova source inner core is the only path forward!"

While he was stunned, Tianming's caelum was thrown out of that world. "The Skypierce Finger!" he couldn't help but spit out, "Why's it the middle finger? If Ling'er uses her middle finger, too, does that mean it'll be a face-off between middle fingers?"

That was an unbearable image to imagine.

Tianming returned to the quiet wooden house. There was no longer any activity there. "Still, it's definitely true that that Skypierce Finger was mighty." He looked at his Plundering Eye. It had returned to normal with the taiji circle and three of the nine dots lit up.

When the black dot was activated, it would be in the training mode for the Fiendsky Arm. It hadn't been strengthened yet, so there was no way it was 'the hardest arm in the universe' yet. A divine artifact like the Godsins would easily be able to chop it off. It needed tempering!

The Fiendsky Arm was the sky plunderer's innate ability.

"Coincidentally, I can reach the nova source's inner core now. The nova source there is the most terrifying." It was likely even scarier than grade-nine divine hazards. It was the purest, most violent and explosive form of power.

The Fiendsky Arm didn't absorb elemental hazards. Instead, it used nova source inner cores for tempering. It was like forging a weapon that needed repeated tempering. Tianming had the premonition that tempering his arm would be even worse than absorbing sword ki. However, he was still willing to give it a shot! Otherwise, this third sky plunderer ability he had activated wouldn't even be of use and he wouldn't be able to use the Skypierce Finger.

"Fatesteal may be the peak of the nine abilities, but I don't dare to use it. Vitasteal is the first ability, but it isn't that useful. The Fiendsky Arm is the foundation of the sky plunderers, so there's no reason not to train it." Basically, today was the day that Tianming truly stepped on the path of the sky plunderers. "In the past, my black arm didn't have any special characteristics, so no one in the Mysterium Cluster paid much attention. Firstly, there were already many people with strange appearances. A weird arm was common, and it didn't have any shocking techniques either. But now that I'm starting to cultivate it, people may start paying attention to it." Still, he decided to courageously advance!

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"Did your black arm make you go nuts? You want to temper yourself here?" Ying Huo looked at the endless expanse of flaming nova source ahead, and even it was frightened. Fortunately, the fusion formation was protecting them, so they weren't swallowed up. Their location was already considered the core of the sun.

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Tianming had relied on the fusion formation's passageway to safely reach the core. They were surrounded by deafening booms. The rampaging nova source was like a massive monster howling and smashing into the fusion formation. There seemed to be countless such beasts there.

It was like he had returned to the center of the storm at Primary. They were at a peaceful spot, but all around them, the world was in turmoil. Tianming felt like a mortal that might be torn apart at any moment. It reminded him of when he was young; he had stood in the center of the vast sea and been filled with deep terror toward his surroundings.

This was the power of the universe itself! It was violent and explosive, but it could also nurture life and was the source of all energy. There, anyone would learn more respect for nature.

"It seems that even solarians are insignificant before nova source. A human's power can't possibly stand up to the universe. Even a sovereign is just a slightly larger ant. However, these ants are smart. They know how to seal up nova sources so they can slowly use them." Fusion formations were the foundation of humanity's slow 'conquest' of nature. Tianming's heart was filled with respect. In recent times, he had the habit of not wasting time. He immediately prepared the Fiendsky Arm for tempering.

As he had already merged with the solar core, it was simple for him to extend an arm out of the passageway. There wasn't any physical difficulty, only the mental courage needed.

"It's truly the hardest arm in the universe. It may just be able to compete with my feathers," Ying Huo sniggered.

"Stop asking for trouble before I crush your balls." Tianming glared.

"Ah, so that's why you're training your hand," Ying Huo disdainfully scoffed.

Tianming couldn't be bothered with it. His Fiendsky Arm was already through the gap and that senior had already said the arm couldn't be destroyed by the tempering. Tianming didn't slide it through inch by inch, but straightforwardly extended all of it in.

His arm vanished into the maelstrom and his face immediately turned red. He was hanging from the wall, unable to extricate his arm at all. His mouth flapped open, but no sound came out.

After a short pause, he let out a piercing shriek. "HEEEEEELP!"

It felt even worse than grade-eight divine hazard sword ki.

"Ehhhh, and here I thought you could hold on?" Ying Huo sinisterly said.

"Then you try?" Tianming's face alternated between green and purple as he panted.

"Nah, I think I'm good. I don't need tempering. It's only weirdos like you who were born inferior that need hard work later on to make up for it."

Fuck! When he thought about how this was going to be a regular thing for the Fiendsky Arm, Tianming found himself very unlucky.

Yes, it was easier than learning the ninth sword, but it hurt so fucking bad!

Chapter 1920

Tianming felt all of his internal organs churning and twisting and his soul felt like it was leaving his body from all the pain. His cries resembled a pig being butchered. There wasn't anyone there, so he didn't need to act strong. If he cursed louder, he could vent a bit of the cowardice in his heart.

Actually, he knew that, in the coming war, he didn't have a path of retreat. Hence, perseverance was the only way forward.

"My, my, my! What a disgrace to the civilized!" As for Ying Huo, it was sniggering and jumping around on Tianming's head.

"Get lost! Don't make me throw you outside!" Tianming grit his teeth.

"Throw me, throw me! I was born to eat nova source. I may just suck the sun dry if I go in," Ying Huo cheerfully bragged.

However, their presence helped distract Tianming. Despite all the pain, he could feel his arm growing noticeably stronger. Every moment of tempering accelerated its transformation, making it more physically powerful!

The strength of his left arm had long since left his right arm in the dust.

"A while longer and it'll be even more perfect. I might even be able to start on the Skypierce Finger. The problem is that Skywolf must almost be here!" He could already feel their shadow looming.

Sealed inside the Flameyellow Guard Formation, the myriad sects couldn't see the situation beyond the sky. However, Yin Chen had heard from many celestial orderians that Skywolf would reach the sun's vicinity within a month. That meant that, outside the Flameyellow Guard Formation, you could already make out two super nova source worlds shining with white light in the middle of the darkness that was space. They were like two starving wolves from the abyss, or two white eyes of different sizes leering at the sun.

The celestial orderians had prepared for war, and had indeed let up on the myriad sects for the time being. Tianming could now watch the two go at it from the side. However, he couldn't be irresponsible when the fate of the sun hung in the balance. His Myriad Solar Sects were also always battle-ready!

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The Ninedragon Imperial Tomb had completed charging and become his greatest weapon.

"Half a month before the jaws of Skywolf clamp down on the sun! That'll be the day war erupts." The time he had left was getting less and less. That was why he had immediately started on the Fiendsky Arm and cultivating the ninth sword after he had finished merging with the solar core. There was no time to lose! He had also made preparations to activate the lower layer of the astralguard formation at any time.

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On the Flameyellow Continent of the Welkin Plane, a blood-colored ring had appeared in the skies above. It was completely silent, seeming like an eye in the sky.

The people of the Tianming Dynasty had a greater understanding of the cosmos, so they didn't dare to be rash. In these troubled times, even gods hid away. That blood-colored ring was the astralship from Skyway Tristar that had come to the Flameyellow continent. Suddenly, a streak of black and gold light fell down from the astralship. It was a giant sword!

The giant sword landed near Tianmingpolis, resulting in earthquakes throughout the continent as smoke spread from the landing site. The nearby mountains collapsed and rivers churned.

"Don't approach!" Li Caiwei hurriedly ordered. The terrifying power emanating from there made her feel even more respect for the astralscape. She looked up and saw that the blood-colored ring hadn't left yet.

Inside the blood-colored ring, Qiang of the Crimsonjade line of the faceless specters was surveying the world below with his companions.

"This is my first time at the Welkin Plane. The idea of flat continents made of dust from the astralscape made me think it would be some desolate place. Primitive people with strange forms would live barbaric lives, not even knowing the basics of cultivation. I never expected that, with just a little light, they would actually have gods here," someone remarked.

"Not just gods, but they even have a complex civilization. Apart from being weaker and lacking vision, their matters of love and hatred aren't much different from ours," Qiang mildly said.

"Sure, but no one would stay here." The logic was simple—there was nothing there. If they stayed there, let alone improving, their power would even regress. It wasn't difficult to become the emperor there, but any random schmuck that came from the astralscape would be able to kill them. Hence, although the dust worlds were interesting, they would always keep them at arm's length.

"People walk to greater heights, while water flows downward. That's an eternal truth," Qiang seriously said. He looked toward the east. Although he had no eyes, it was clear that he was gazing with seriousness. "As expected of a dust continent comma girl's clan is paying attention to. Interesting, there's a chaos skyjail here. This is the second chaos skyjail our Mysterium Cluster has found."

"Sovereign Qiang, should we examine it?" a subordinate asked.

Qiang shook his head. "We can't. If they're paying attention here, that means this is their territory. It's enough to mark down this spot on a star map. When you go to the wondersky realm later, tell the seniors that we've delivered the grade-nine Grand-Orient Sword and mention the chaos skyjail as well."

"Then what about the Voidsky Organisation's hunt?"

"Don't mention it for now. We'll see if there's any profit to pick up."

"Sure!" having reached a tacit understanding, everyone laughed.

"Honestly, I'm quite curious about comma girl and the power behind her's status in the realm of chaos. The seniors are taking them so seriously."

They started discussing the possibilities.

“Indeed. Sovereign Qiang said that that grade-nine Grand-Orient Sword was internally determined to be a gift for comma girl. It was already sent out in advance to the drop-off point she specified. However, after the Astralium Seeking, she changed the location, but our seniors didn’t get angry.”

“Right, the people from Skyway Monostar were actually already halfway there before they had to turn around. Coincidentally, they met us and we were heading in this direction, so we took over for them. Why’d she change the location?”

“That’s enough. Just watch the show.” Qiang cut off their discussions.

They had all been looking down. However, now they looked up in the sky. Hanging in the sky was a fiercely blazing golden sun, next to which were two white stars. Flameyellow now had three suns, one golden and two white. One of the white suns was three times the size of the golden sun and was incomparably bright and eye-catching.

People had already discovered the two white suns half a month ago. Flameyellow’s temperature was climbing. Taiji Peak’s snow that had never melted before was completely gone by now. Everyone knew that a war of higher beings was going on up there.